

# Two-Year Creel Survey Results (2023-2024)

Broadalbin-Perth Science Research



## INTRODUCTION:

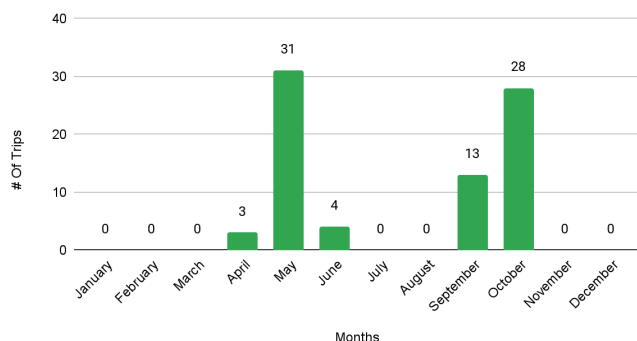
Creel surveys are performed to gain insight into recreational angling perceptions, efforts, and harvests to inform future decision-making. Creel surveys are a valuable tool for fisheries managers to use in understanding the systems they manage and how the public interacts with them. A creel survey is an assessment tool used to sample the fishing activities of anglers on a body of water to make estimates of harvest and other fishery parameters.

Data is collected on what species are fished for, catch, harvest, lengths of fish caught, marks (fin clips or tags), and hours of fishing effort. Collecting completed trip data provides the most accurate assessment of angling activities and it avoids the need to disturb anglers while they are fishing.

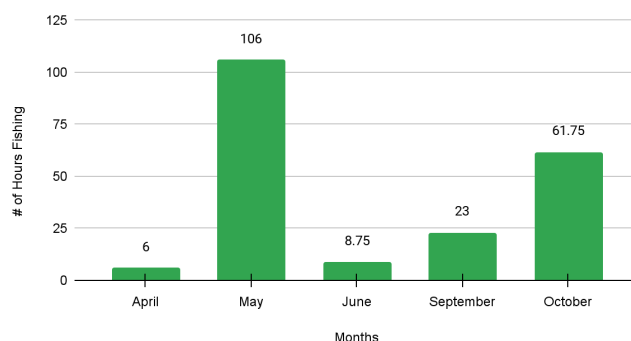
The data collected are estimates based on the best information available and not a complete accounting for effort, catch, and harvest. Accurate estimates require a sufficient and representative portion of the angling activity on a lake. The accuracy of creel survey results depends on good cooperation and truthful responses by anglers when data is collected.

The data collected for this report was obtained and analyzed by members of the Broadalbin-Perth High School Science Research course during 2023 and 2024. Fishing trips were conducted by both the research class and the Broadalbin-Perth Fishing Club in the southern basin of the Great Sacandaga Lake. *Since the data collected was limited to these two groups, this report is considered a modified version of a complete creel survey and merely a progress report of the Great Sacandaga Lake fishery. A more detailed and comprehensive report for 2023 and 2024 is available in separate documents.*

**2023 & 2024 Fishing Trips by Month**



**# of Hours Fishing per Month**



**Total Number (#) and Percent (%) Fish Caught During the 2023 & 2024 Creel Surveys**

Fish Species	Total # of Fish	% Fish
Smallmouth Bass	1,032	67.5%
Walleye	414	27.2%
Yellow Perch	34	2.2%
Northern Pike	16	1.0%
Brown Trout	1	0.1%
Panfish	31	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2023 & 2024 Creel Survey: Total Fish Caught & Recorded**

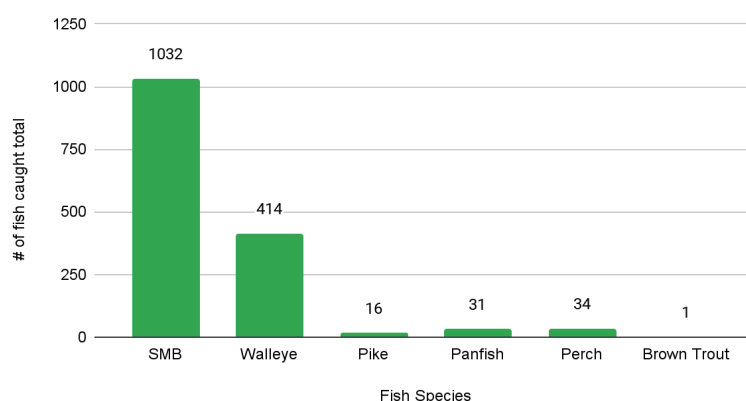


Table 1. Overall Data Summary for 2023 & 2024 Creel Surveys

CATEGORY	DATA
Fishing Season (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)	2 Springs
Total # of Angling Trips	38
Total # of Angling Hours	120.75
Average # of Angling Hours per Trip	3.73
Total # of Fish Caught	1,036
Average # of Fish Caught per Trip	28.69
Total # of Fish Harvested	0
Total # of Fish Released	1,036
Total # Bass Caught	960
Total # of Walleye Caught	41
Total # of Pike Caught	4
Total # of Perch Caught	0
Total # of Panfish Caught	30
Total # of Brown Trout Caught	1

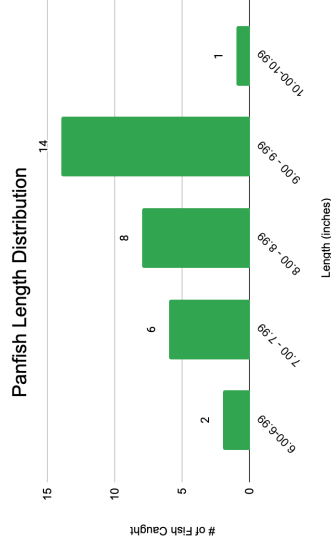
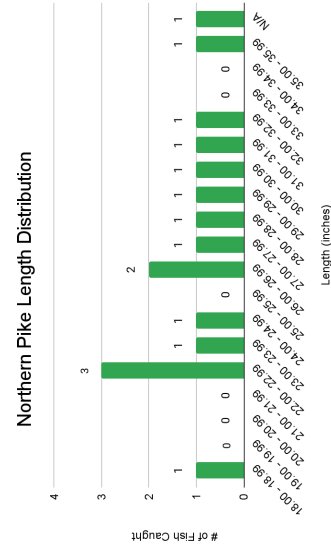
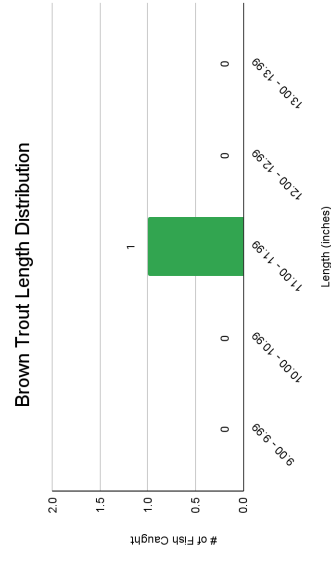
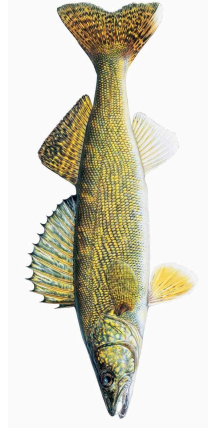
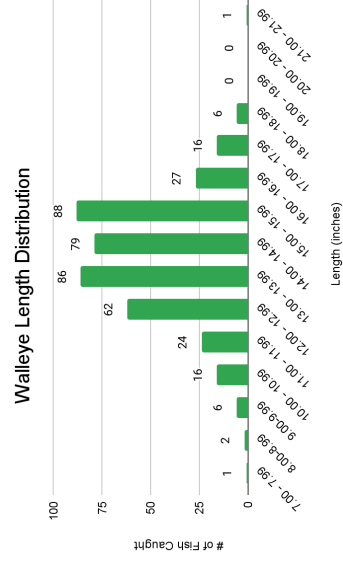
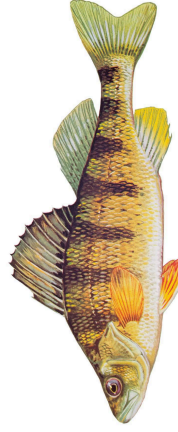
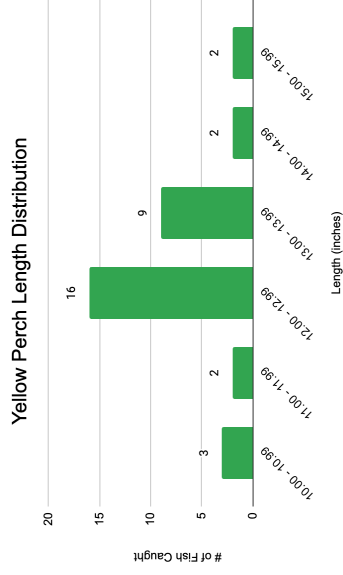
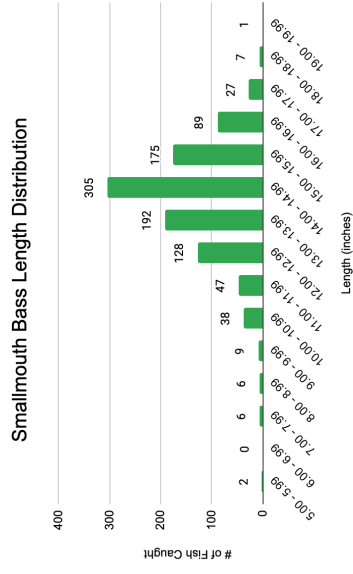
CATEGORY	DATA
Fishing Season (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)	2 Falls
Total # of Angling Trips	41
Total # of Angling Hours	84.75
Average # of Angling Hours per Trip	2.08
Total # of Fish Caught	492
Average # of Fish Caught per Trip	11.95
Total # of Fish Harvested	1
Total # of Fish Released	491
Total # Bass Caught	72
Total # of Walleye Caught	373
Total # of Pike Caught	12
Total # of Perch Caught	34
Total # of Panfish Caught	1
Total # of Brown Trout Caught	0

CATEGORY	TOTALS
Fishing Season (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)	Total (2 years)
Total # of Angling Trips	79
Total # of Angling Hours	205.50
Average # of Angling Hours per Trip	2.93
Total # of Fish Caught	1,528
Average # of Fish Caught per Trip	20.89
Total # of Fish Harvested	1
Total # of Fish Released	1,527
Total # Bass Caught	1,032
Total # of Walleye Caught	414
Total # of Pike Caught	16
Total # of Perch Caught	34
Total # of Panfish Caught	31
Total # of Brown Trout Caught	1

Angling Hours per Month:

April - 6.00 hours  
May - 106.00 hours  
June- 8.75 hours  
September - 23.00 hours  
October - 61.75 hours

**Figure 1. Length Distribution (inches) per Species - 2023 & 2024 Totals**



# WALLEYE TAGGING PROGRAM



## SUMMARY:

Since 2023, the Broadalbin-Perth Science Research class has tagged 2,000 juvenile walleye in the Great Sacandaga Lake. Each hatchery-raised walleye has a pink or yellow "tattoo tag" behind its left eye. Using different colored dyes each year will help the researchers account for the walleye's age when fishermen catch them. This data will allow investigators to document how quickly or slowly the walleye are growing in the lake.

This study is in conjunction with the GSLFF stocking efforts to improve the lake's fishery.

## ATTENTION FISHERMEN:

If you catch a walleye in the Great Sacandaga Lake and it has a pink or yellow tag behind the left eye:

1. record the length of the fish
2. the date it was caught
3. the general location it was caught
4. take a clear photo of the walleye and its eye tag

To submit this information & receive a \$25 gift certificate to local bait shops, scan the QR Code or contact Brian Henry at [henryb@bpcsd.org](mailto:henryb@bpcsd.org)

