

# Great Sacandaga Lake Three-Year Creel Survey Results (2023-2025)



Broadalbin-Perth Science Research

## INTRODUCTION:

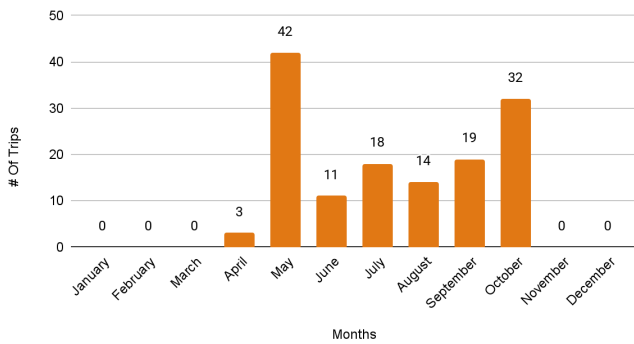
Creel surveys are conducted to gain insight into recreational angling perceptions, efforts, and harvests, informing future decision-making. Creel surveys are a valuable tool for fisheries managers to use in understanding the systems they manage and how the public interacts with them. A creel survey is 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 activity and avoids disturbing anglers while they are fishing.

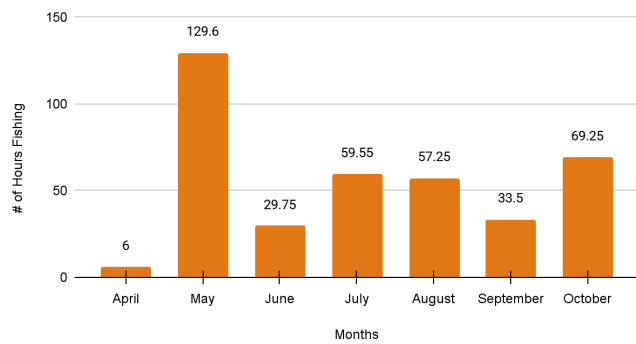
The data collected are estimates based on the best information available and not a complete accounting for effort, catch, and harvest. Accurate estimates require a sufficient and representative portion of the angling activity on a lake. The accuracy of creel survey results depends on good cooperation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

The data collected for this report were obtained and analysed by members of the Broadalbin-Perth High School Science Research course during 2023-2025. Fishing trips were conducted by both the research class and the Broadalbin-Perth Fishing Club in the southern basin of the Great Sacandaga Lake. Aaron's Guide Service also contributed data during the 2025 fishing season. *Since the data collected was limited to these 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, 2024, and 2025 is available in separate documents.*

**2023-2025 Creel Surveys: Fishing Trips by Month**



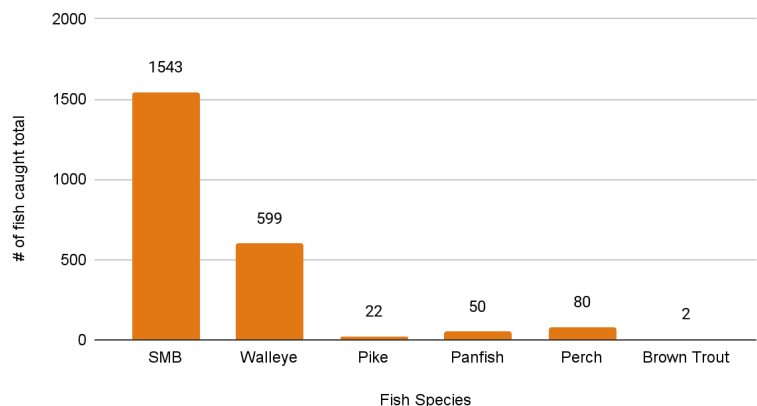
**2023-2025 Creel Surveys: # of Hours Fishing per Month**



**2023-2025 Creel Surveys:  
Total Number (#) and Percent (%) Fish Caught**

Fish Species	Total # of Fish	% Fish
Smallmouth Bass	1,543	67.2%
Walleye	599	26.1%
Perch	80	3.5%
Panfish	50	2.2%
Pike	22	1.0%
Brown Trout	2	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>100%</b>

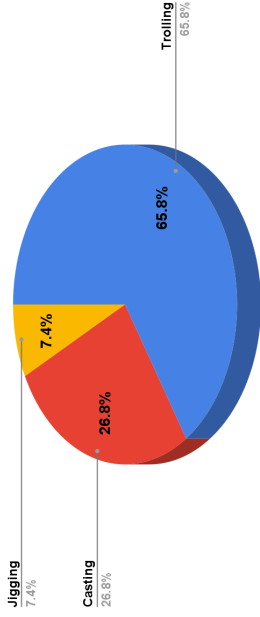
**2023-2025 Creel Surveys: Total Fish Caught & Recorded**



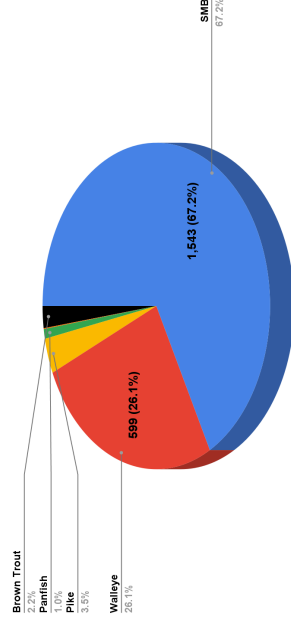
**Table 1. Overall Data Summary for 2023-2025 Creel Surveys**

CATEGORY	TOTALS
Fishing Season (Spring, Summer, Fall)	2023-2025
Total # of Angling Trips	139
Total # of Angling Hours	384.90
Average # of Angling Hours per Trip	2.77
Total # of Fish Caught	2,296
Average # of Fish Caught per Trip	16.52
Total # of Fish Harvested	48
Total # of Fish Released	2,248
Total # Bass Caught	1,543
Total # of Walleye Caught	599
Total # of Perch Caught	80
Total # of Panfish Caught	50
Total # of Pike Caught	22
Total # of Brown Trout Caught	2

**Percent (%) Method of Fishing**



**Percent (%) of Fish Species Caught**



**Table 2. Number (#) of Hours Fishing and Trips per Month**

Month	# of Trips	# of Hours
January	0	0.00
February	0	0.00
March	0	0.00
April	3	6.00
May	42	129.60
June	11	29.75
July	18	59.55
August	14	57.25
September	19	33.50
October	32	69.25
November	0	0.00
December	0	0.00
TOTAL	139	384.90

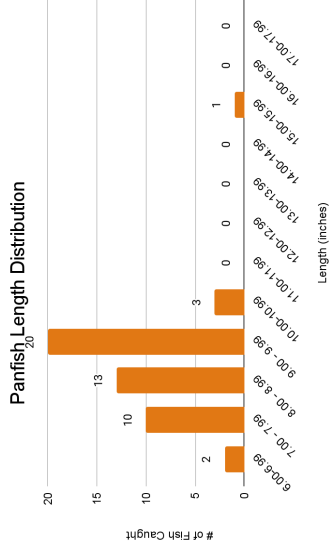
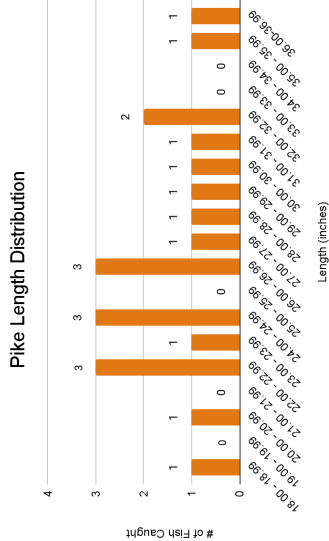
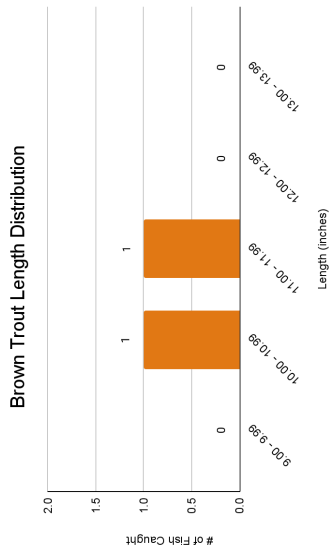
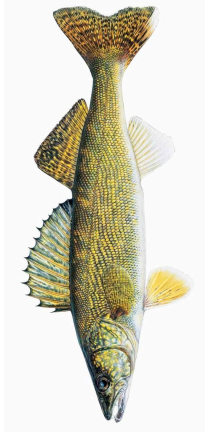
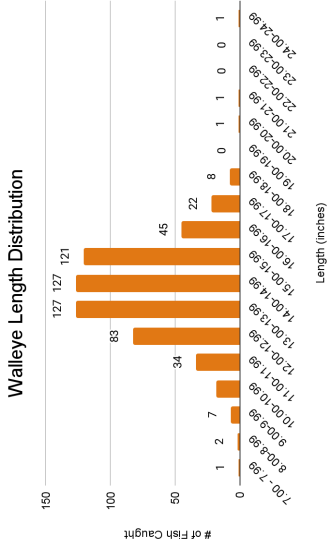
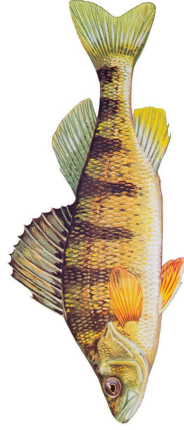
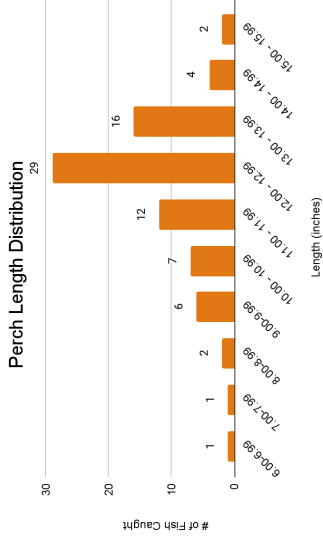
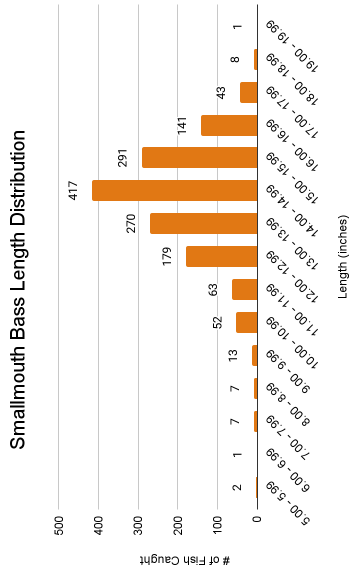
**Table 3. Number (#) and Percent (%) of Fish Caught per Fishing Method Used**

Method	# Fish Caught	% Fish Caught
Casting	1,511	65.8%
Trolling	615	26.8%
Jigging	170	7.4%
TOTAL	2,296	100%

**Angling Hours per Month:**

- April - 6.00 hours
- May - 106.00 hours
- June - 8.75 hours
- July - 59.55 hours
- August - 57.25 hours
- September - 23.00 hours
- October - 61.75 hours

# Figure 1. Length Distribution (inches) per Species: 2023 - 2025 Totals



# WALLEYE TAGGING PROGRAM



## SUMMARY:

Since 2023, the Broadalbin-Perth Science Research class has tagged 3,000 juvenile walleye in the Great Sacandaga Lake. Each hatchery-raised walleye has a pink, yellow, or blue "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, yellow, or blue 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 to complete the survey or contact Brian Henry at [henryb@bpcsd.org](mailto:henryb@bpcsd.org)



2025

2024

2023

