

# RAD Walleye Tool User Guide

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### 0.1 Overview

The ‘RAD Walleye Tool’ was conceived as a method for connecting research on the future of walleye natural recruitment back to fisheries managers in Wisconsin. The tool was developed by Colin Dassow, Ralph Tingley III, Alex Latzka, Abigail Lynch, Greg Sass, and Craig Paukert as a joint project between the University of Missouri, U.S. Geological Survey, and Wisconsin DNR.

A companion paper describing the tool and some of the broadscale patterns in the tool has been published in *Fisheries Management and Ecology*. This guide it designed to assist users in navigating the tool and understanding the data it shows.

The tool itself is designed with the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework in mind. The goal being that users of the tool can use the information provided by the tool to inform their decisions (or their advice to those with decision-making authority) about whether to Resist, Accept, or Direct for an individual walleye population in Wisconsin. Because of the nature of the tool, the primary user groups are Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologists and other staff, and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Biologists, staff, and member tribe conservation departments. More detail on RAD strategies for Wisconsin fisheries can be found in Dassow et al. (2022) and Feiner et al. (2022). For the application of the RAD framework to a specific case study and to see how the RAD framework can be integrated with the Ojibwe worldview see Shultz et al. (2022).

Conceptually the tool is predicated on comparisons between a user-selected lake, other lakes it currently resembles, and other lakes it will resemble in 2050. The idea here is that this 3-way comparison can provide context for how the user-selected lake compares, in relative terms, to other similar lakes now. This can aid in making RAD decisions by providing context as to how a given lake is performing relative to other similar systems now, and what might be expected in the future.

**0.1.0.1 Ceded Territory Users** The majority of the walleye lakes in Wisconsin fall within the 1837 and 1842 Treaty Ceded Territories and consequently the majority of walleye lakes which are likely to be analyzed in this application are within the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin (CTWI). Management of walleye (known as Ogaa in Ojibwe) populations in this region is done jointly by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and the individual tribes they serve. Users of the app working in this region are reminded of the co-management structure

here and will need to seek additional input from co-managers of the resource. This is especially true for management decision concerning walleye and muskellunge. Specific information on spring tribal harvest of ogaa and maazhi-ginoozhe (muskellunge) in the CTWI is provided on the ‘Creel’ tab of the app and described in the corresponding section below.



Figure 1: Map of Ceded Territory (grey area) in Wisconsin

**0.1.0.1.1 Acknowledgements** The tool presented here would not be possible without the work of dedicated employees, past and present, at both the WDNR and GLIFWC who have collected these data over many decades. Their work and the generosity of the WDNR and GLIFWC in making these data available are essential to the creation and continued relevance of the work presented here. Funding for CJD and GGS was provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Program and the WDNR. This work was supported by the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit which is sponsored jointly by the U.S. Geological Survey, Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri, the Wildlife Management Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We also thank Gretchen Hansen for her assistance in model development for the natural recruitment, adult presence/absence, and upstream probability of adults predictions. Doug Beard also provided feedback on the tool development.

## 0.2 Start-up

The app can be launched by clicking [here](#).

Upon opening the app the user should see the general layout of the app. The app is set up to have a side bar on the left for entering the desired lake and species information, and a main page filling the rest of the space. The main page is split into 2 parts, 1) the top portion of the page displays basic lake information, and 2) the bottom portion provides tabs containing the different data types that can be used to aid in decision-making.

1. Begin typing the county name containing the lake you're interested in and the search bar will show choices closest to what you're typing (Figure 2)
  - Alternatively, if you know the WBIC of the waterbody you may select the 'Search by WBIC' tab in the upper left and enter it there
2. Begin typing the lake name you're interested in and the search bar will suggest lake names in the county you've chosen that match what you're typing
3. The app will automatically update itself to the information for the lake you choose
  - If desired, enter in the names of species, in addition to walleye, that you wish to see information for.
    - not all information types in the app will have data to display for every lake due to limitations of sampling effort

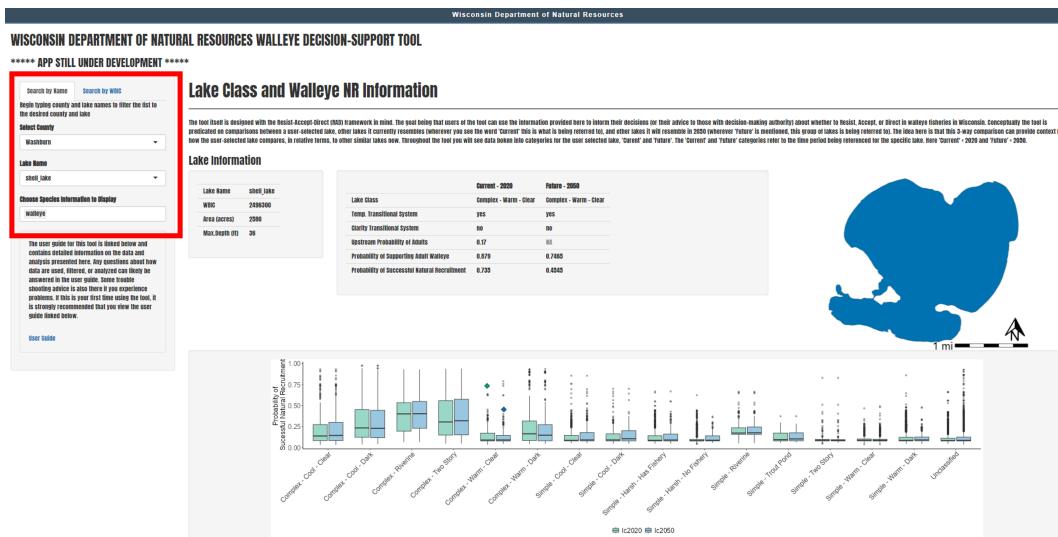


Figure 2: The red box on the left indicates where the user can enter the information to select a lake to view.

Completion of the 3 steps above will populate the app with the relevant data for the user to begin exploring. Because of the volume of lake and the on-the-fly filtering that app it doing, it may occasionally be sluggish to update the lake choices when you update the county of interest or the lake choice box might take a second to appear after the app is initially opened, give it a second and it'll get there.

### 0.3 Error/Warning Messages

Despite the best efforts of the development team, there are bound to be a few bugs that need to be ironed out over time. Because of this, the user is bound to encounter the occasional error message where they are expecting to see a plot or data table. This is an indication that the code used to produce that graphic is for some reason not working. It may be the case that the necessary data to produce the graphic does not exist for the selected lake and a message alerting the user to this needs to be added in lieu of the raw error message produced by the app.

For this and any other error messages you encounter, feel free to contact Colin Dassow for assistance. Email is probably best for this kind of assistance if you're able to provide a few key details the error can likely be explained fairly quickly... solving it may be another can of worms.

Email: colin.dassow@wisconsin.gov

Provide (if possible):

- Lake-county combination you were using
- Description or screen shot of where in the app the error occurred.
- Is this something unique to this lake (in which case it may be that the data doesn't exist for that lake), or does the error occur regardless of the chosen lake?

## 0.4 Basic Lake Information

Several boxes are populated describing lake size and depth (Figure 3). Importantly, here the current (2020) and future (2050) lake classification is given for the selected lake. The lake classification system groups lakes together based on similar abiotic and biotic characteristics. This classification is what is used to group lakes together and make comparisons between the selected lake, lakes it currently resembles, and lakes it will likely resemble in the future. Further details on how lake classes are determined can be found in Rypel et al. (2019). Also displayed here are the model predictions developed by this group to describe the probability of successful natural recruitment, adult survival, and adult survival in connected streams for the given lake. This information provides some quick description of how suitable the habitat in the lake is for walleye. Further information on the models and model output can be obtained by contacting Colin Dassow and a paper detailing the model is currently in prep for publication.

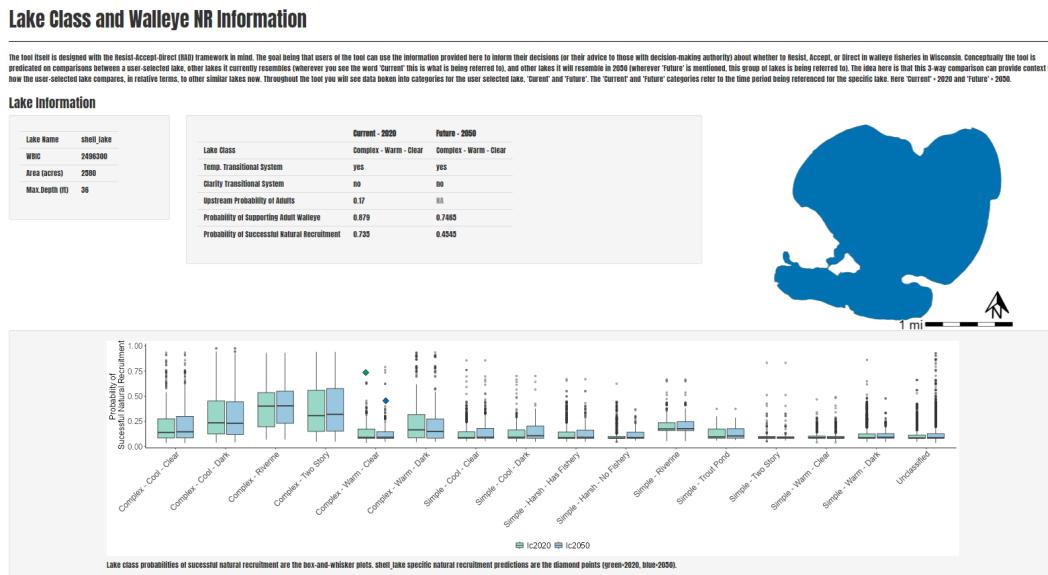


Figure 3: Basic Lake information that is always visible at the top of the page

## 0.5 Data Tabs

Below the 'Basic Lake Information' section is a series of tabs containing specific types of data for the selected lake, others it currently resembles, and others it is likely to resemble at mid-century(Figure 4). This 'Additional Lake Information' section is where the bulk of the content of the app is situated. The following subsections below will cover each tab in depth.

Not every tab will be of major importance to the user depending on the lake in question as certain metrics are more telling for some systems than others. Additionally, some lakes will not have data to display for some tabs. Typically a message will display alerting the user to the fact that no data exists for that lake or lake class and the data tab in question.



Figure 4: Tabs housing specific kinds of information comparing the selected lake to its lake class averages now and in 2050.

**0.5.0.1 Data Updates** Annually the data in the app will be updated to include recent surveys. Currently, all the data used in the app are up to date as of January 2024. The exception to this is the fishing regulation data, this is only up to date through 2020, as the regulations table in WDNR's Fisheries Management Information System is updated the app will follow.

### 0.5.1 Regulations

Here the current fishing regulations for all the major gamefish (Walleye/Sauger, Largemouth Bass, Small-mouth Bass, Muskelunge, Northern Pike, and Panfish) are displayed for the user-selected lake (Figure 5). In addition to the written description of the current regulation, the functional start date (when the regulation in its current form was first implemented) and any additional restrictions are listed to proved the user with an idea of how long the current regulations has been in place.

**Additional Lake Information**

Summary/Download | **Regulations** | Walleye Stocking | Creel | Population Metrics | Length-at-Age | Alternative Walleye Lakes & Travel Costs | Non-native Species

**2020 Fishing regulations for shelf\_lake**

Species	Reg. Source	Functional Start Date	Reg. Type Description	Gear Restriction	Other Restrictions	Additional Info
all species	state	2015-07-01	Gear Restriction	Motor Trolling is allowed with up to 2 hooks, baits, or lures, per angler.	Catch and release fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is open year round unless otherwise noted.	<input type="checkbox"/>
largemouth_bass_and_smallmouth_bass	zone	2012-04-01	No minimum length limit and the daily bag limit is 5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
muskellunge_and_hybrids	zone	2020-04-01	The minimum length limit is 40" and the daily bag limit is 1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
northern_pike	zone	1997-04-01	No minimum length limit and the daily bag limit is 5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
panfish	state	1998-04-01	No minimum length limit and the daily bag limit is 25.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
walleye_sauger_and_hybrids	wbic	2015-04-01	No minimum length limit, but only 1 fish over 14" is allowed and the daily bag limit is 3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Figure 5: Regulations for the user selected waterbody (note these are only as up to date as is available online in WDNR databases, may not reflect current regulations if there has been a recent change.)

Below the table describing the current regulatory regime for the selected lake, there are a series of plots that describe the regulatory characteristics of other lakes within the same lake class as the selected lake now and at mid-century.(Figure 6). This information is provided for all the major gamefish. For each of the gamefishes, a histogram describing the frequency of different regulatory sources (waterbody specific, county, zone, state) is shown. This allows the user to see how other similar lakes tend to be regulated, and the user can click on the bars in the plot to prompt the app to open a table with information about the lakes contained within that bar. This can be used to provide a quick reminder of what the regulation is for a particular source as the regulation description is also listed for each lake. There is a panel of check boxes above these histograms where the user can choose what regulatory information to display if there are certain parts of the regulations, like start date, that are particularly important to the user. By default, the WBIC, lake name, county, regulation source, written regulation description, and comments are shown.

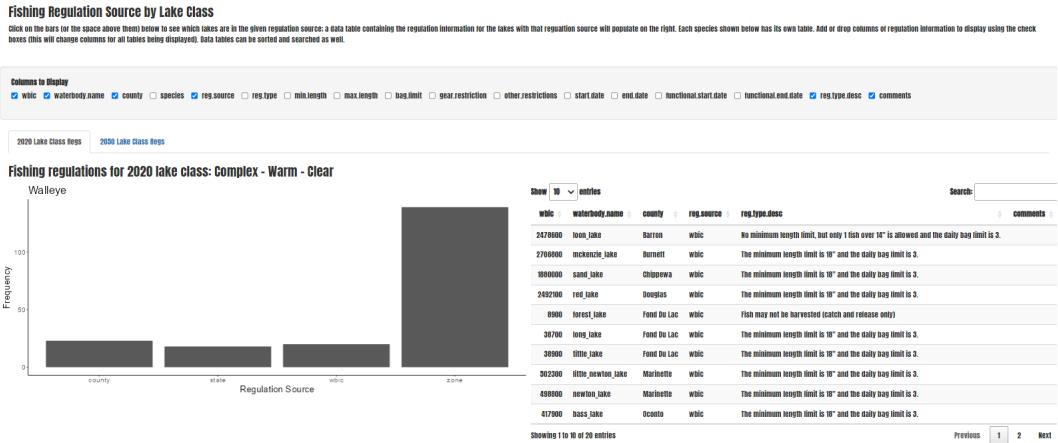


Figure 6: Summary plots and table of the regulation information for 2020 and 2050 comparison system. Click on the bars on the plots to generate the tables to the right of each plot.

Altogether, the goal of this tab is to provide the user with a picture of how the selected lake is managed now, how similar lakes are managed (i.e. are there other regulatory structures that should be considered for the selected lake?), and how other lakes the selected lake will be similar to at mid-century are managed.

**0.5.1.0.1 Data Note** Currently, the 2020 fishing regulations are shown in the app. This was the most complete set of regulation data on hand when app development began.

## 0.5.2 Stocking Records and Model Predictions

The ‘Walleye Stocking’ tab will only be of use if the user-selected lake has been stocked or if the user is considering stocking and wants to see what the stocking histories are for similar lakes, or what model predictions for stocking survival are for a given lake.

This tab is comprised of two main types of information; 1) stocking receipt data to understand the stocking history of a system, and 2) model predictions of stocking success to understand how likely potential stocking efforts are to pay off for different stocking sizes and densities. First, the stocking receipt data. If no stocking history exists for the selected lake a message will appear notifying the user of this. Regardless of whether or not the selected lake has been stocked, the app will at minimum display the stocking histories for lakes within the selected lake’s current and mid-century lake classification. Stocking histories include both the distribution of stocking densities for the major age classes (the user can again click the check boxes at the top of the panel to turn on/off certain age classes of stocked walleye), and the stocking density through time for the current and future lake classifications as well as the selected lake if the lake-specific data exists (Figure 7, 8).

Next, the stocking model data. A model of stocking success for Wisconsin lakes was originally published by Lawson et al. (2022) for a subset of walleye lakes in Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory. The results of this work have been incorporated into the app to provide estimates of stocking survival for the year 2020 and 2050 for any lake statewide with the necessary predictor data (secchi depth, growing degree days at 5C, and lake area) for a range of stocked fish sizes and densities. Growing degree day data necessary to use the Lawson et al. (2022) model were obtained from Winslow et al. (2017). Secchi information was obtained from Rypel et al. (2019), and lake sizes were obtained from the Wisconsin DNR. Model predictions here are meant to outline the boundaries of potential combinations of stocking length and density that could be used. By presenting model predictions for the extreme lengths and densities the user will be able to understand the maximum and minimum survivals that might be expected for the chosen lake, and thus what the expected survival might be for any combination of stocking length and density they might choose. This information

## Additional Lake Information

[Summary/Download](#) [Regulations](#) [Walleye Stocking](#) [Cred](#) [Population Metrics](#) [Length-at-Age](#) [Alternative Walleye Lakes & Travel Costs](#) [Non-native Species](#)

### Stocking History for shell\_lake

Choose walleye stocking age classes to display below. The selected lake, and mean values for its current and future lake classes are displayed (left) as well as boxplots of the same data (right). When no stocking data exists for a given lake or lake class it won't be displayed on the plot.

Select Stocked Age Classes to Display  
 fingerling  large\_fingerling  small\_fingerling  fry

### Stocking Histories for shell\_lake and its 2020 and 2050 Lake Class

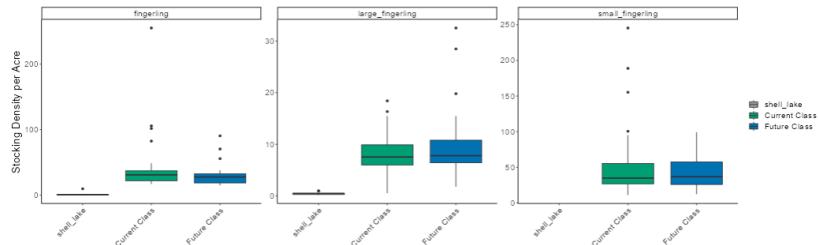


Figure 7: Distribution of stocking densities for the selected waterbody and its comparables (number fish/per acre).

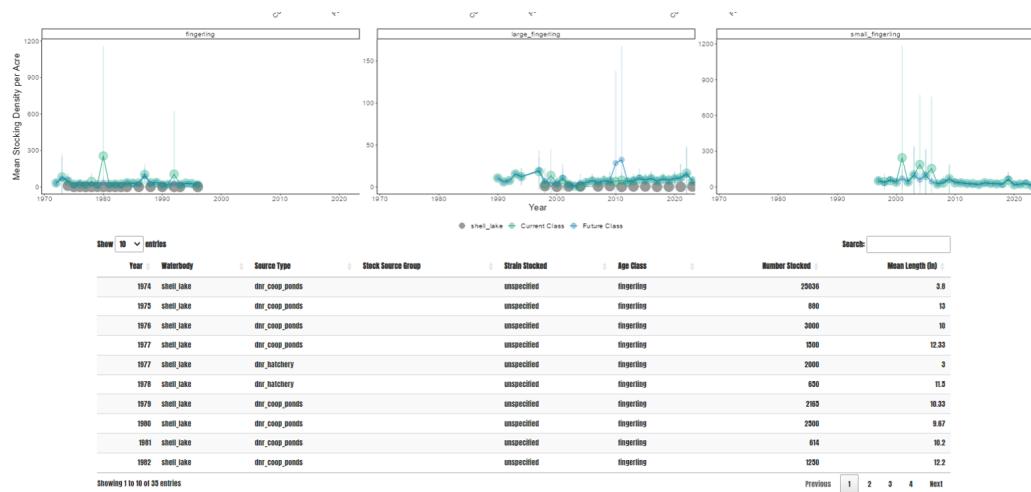


Figure 8: Stocking events through time for the user selected lake and its comparables

is presented for the use selected lake with columns for 2020 and 2050. A second table is provided for lake class averages for the current and future lake classes (Figure 9).

The tables below show stocking success predictions using the model developed by Lawson et al. 2022 (specific details on the model and its implementation here can be found in the app's user manual). Predictions are as percent survival to fall age-1 under current (2020) and future (2050) climate conditions. Lake class mean and standard deviation are provided alongside the lake specific model predictions. The box on whisker plot visualizes the data in these two tables to further contextualize how the chosen lake compares to other lakes with similar characteristics now and at mid-century. Where the data do not exist to make a model prediction, a message will be displayed indicating the case of this.				
Density Stocked	Mean Length Stocked	Time Point	Survival Prediction	
0.10	1	Current (2020)	0.68	
0.10	1	Future (2050)	0.64	
0.10	7	Current (2020)	0.31	
0.10	7	Future (2050)	0.66	
33.00	1	Current (2020)	0.37	
33.00	1	Future (2050)	0.33	
33.00	7	Current (2020)	2.89	
33.00	7	Future (2050)	2.76	

Lake Class Average	Density Stocked	Mean Length Stocked	Average Survival Prediction	Survival Prediction Standard Deviation
current	0.10	1	0.54	0.09
current	0.10	7	4.22	0.64
current	33.00	1	0.29	0.04
current	33.00	7	2.30	0.33
future	0.10	1	0.32	0.12
future	0.10	7	4.10	0.56
future	33.00	1	0.28	0.07
future	33.00	7	2.23	0.33

Figure 9: Stocking survival predictions from the model presented in Lawson et al. (2022). Predictions are presented for the 2020 and 2050 time period.

Finally, using an average cost per fish for each of the stocked age classes, average annual stocking expenditure for a lake is calculated for the current and future lake classes. If the user-selected lake has a stocking history then an approximation of the annual stocking cost for that lake is also displayed.

In summary, the data presented on this tab are designed to provide the user with some context as to the stocking history for the selected lake and how that compares to similar systems. This may be of use in deciding whether to start/stop stocking or change stocking rates as the future of walleye in a particular lake are considered, specifically in light of the ‘Resist-Accept-Direct’ framework alluded to in the ‘Overview’ section.

**0.5.2.0.1 Data Note** The stocking receipt data in the app will be updated on the typical annual schedule. If you’re using the app and notice missing data that should be there, feel free to reach out to Colin to solve the issue.

### 0.5.3 Creel Surveys

The ‘Creel’ tab is split into two sub-tabs that provide information on the recreational angling creel surveys and the spring tribal harvest creel surveys.

The recreational angler creel tab provides the user with a brief overview of angler catch lengths and catch rates for the selected lake and its current and future lake class averages. This information is provided for not just walleye, but any of the gamefish species entered by the user in the top-left portion of the app where the county and lake of interest are provided. There are check boxes on this page as well to allow the user to customize which species’ creel data are displayed.

The data table at the top of this sub-tab shows the number and age of creel surveys for the lake (Figure 10). Second, a table for the distribution of catch-per-unit-efforts (CPUEs) for the selected lake and it’s current and future lake classes. The minimum, lower 25% quartile, mean, upper 85% quartile, and maximum angler CPUE are shown for each species in the selected lake and its current and future lake classes. Again, as with the other data tabs, a specific lake may not have creel information available at all or for a specific species selected by the user. In these instances the lake-class averages are still displayed to give the user some idea of what might be expected in the focal lake.

The frequency of different lengths of fish recorded by the creel clerk are displayed for the selected lake and its current and future lake classes. Here the relative frequency is used instead of the raw frequency to more easily compare between the selected lake and its current and future lake classes. A reminder to the user here that the lengths displayed here are for fish physically measured by the creel clerk. For the most part this means the fish has been harvested, but this is not without exception (Figure 11). Furthermore, if the frequency of lengths appears to show many fish measured at a length that is currently excluded from harvest, it may be that the lake was creeled at a time when that size was available for harvest under different regulations.

**Additional Lake Information**

Summary/Download    Regulations    Walleye Stocking    Creel    Population Metrics    Length-at-Age    Alternative Walleye Lakes & Travel Costs    Non-native Species

Fisher catch information are provided below, where available, for both the angling fishery and spring tribal harvesting for waterbodies within the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin.

Angling Creel    Tribal Harvest

Creel information is displayed for the selected lake and it's 2020 and 2030 lake class if available. At the bottom of each plot there is more plot specific information about the data presented.

Choose Species Plots to display  
 walleye    black\_crapo    yellow\_perch

**Creel Information for shell\_lake**

Show: 10 entries	Number of Years Credited	Total Number of Interviews	Most Recent Survey	Years Credited
	3	127	2013	1994, 1999, 2013

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Previous    1    Next

**Catch-per-unit-effort Distributions**

Show: 10 entries	Species	Number of Creel Samples	CPE min.	CPE Lower Quartile	CPE Mean	CPE Upper Quartile	CPE max.
	shell_lake	black_crapo	97	0	0	0	0.09
	Current Class	black_crapo	4097	0	0.02	0.02	0.67
	Future Class	black_crapo	5798	0	0.02	0.02	0.67
	shell_lake	walleye	779	0	0	0	0.1
	Current Class	walleye	4321	0	0	0	0.2
	Future Class	walleye	7876	0	0	0	0.2
	shell_lake	yellow_perch	146	0	0.01	0.01	0.12
	Current Class	yellow_perch	2126	0	0.01	0.01	0.44
	Future Class	yellow_perch	3313	0	0.01	0.01	0.44

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

Angler CPE metrics of the selected lake, it's 2020 lake class, and 2030 lake class catch-per-unit-effort distributions at the trip level for each selected species. If a species is not shown but is selected in the check box above, then no creel CPE information exists.

Figure 10: Basic information about the age and abundance of creel surveys on the user selected waterbody

The last graphic on this tab displays the number of fish harvested per trip plotted against the number of anglers on that trip (Figure 11). Because creel data samples anglers at the group level, if a group of anglers brought back a number of harvested fish the creel clerk does not distinguish who harvested what as long as the group total is within regulatory limits. Again, a reminder that some creel surveys occurred under different regulatory conditions than what may currently persist for the lake.

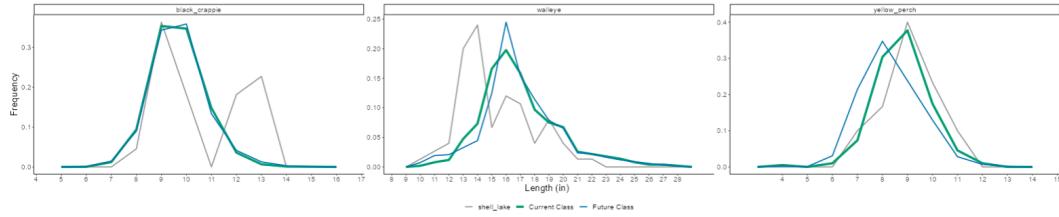
The tribal harvest tab is generally split into information pertaining to the ogaa (walleye) portion of the fishery and the maazhi-ginoozhe (muskellunge) portion. The relevant data types here are the safe harvest limit of ogaa and maazhi-ginoozhe, the tribal harvest declaration, and the proportion of the safe harvest limit that the harvest declaration accounts for. For each data type, the values shown are the raw values for the selected lake, and the mean values, plus one standard deviation, across lakes in the current and future lake class of the selected lake.

The top portion of this tab uses box-and-whisker plots to generally show whether the selected lake is above, below, or average compared to all the other lakes in its current and future lake class (Figure 12). Next, the same information is shown in more detail by placing the values for safe harvest limit, harvest declaration, and proportion of safe harvest declared in chronological order to show how these metrics have been changing across time while still maintaining the comparison between the selected lake and average values for its current and future lake classes. This is followed by the raw data for the selected lake that is used to create the plots above should the user be interested in specific values for specific years. This data comes directly from GLIFWC and is shared with WDNR annually. Finally, the last figure on this tab is designed to show how specific tribes use the fishery on the selected lake. The plot here shows what proportion of the total harvest declaration is attributed to each tribe for the lake (Figure 13). Often only one tribe will harvest a specific lake, but there are some lakes that are used by multiple tribes. The purpose of this plot is to get the user thinking about how changes to the ogaa and maazhi-ginoozhe fisheries for the lake, whether they are changes in co-management or environmental change, will effect some tribes more than others.

**0.5.3.0.1 Data Note** The creel data will be updated annually, as only a small fraction of lakes are creeled each year, very few changes should be expected to the creel data set from one year to the next. Compared to angler creel information, the spring tribal harvest is monitored completely and a considerable

### Catch Length Distributions

Relative frequency of the observed fish lengths in creel records for each species and group. Using relative frequency instead of the actual frequency allows for more direct comparison between the distribution of catch lengths for one lake compared the distribution of catch lengths for all the other lakes in it's current/future lake class.



### Number of Fish Harvested Per Trip - shell\_lake

The number of harvested fish of each species at the trip level. Each point corresponds to the number of fish harvested per angling trip and the number of anglers on that trip. Small amounts of random noise have been added to points to reduce overlap and better show sample size.

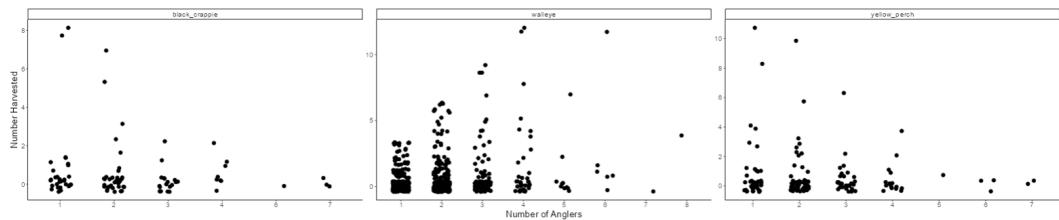


Figure 11: Creel catch lengths and angler party size and harvest information.

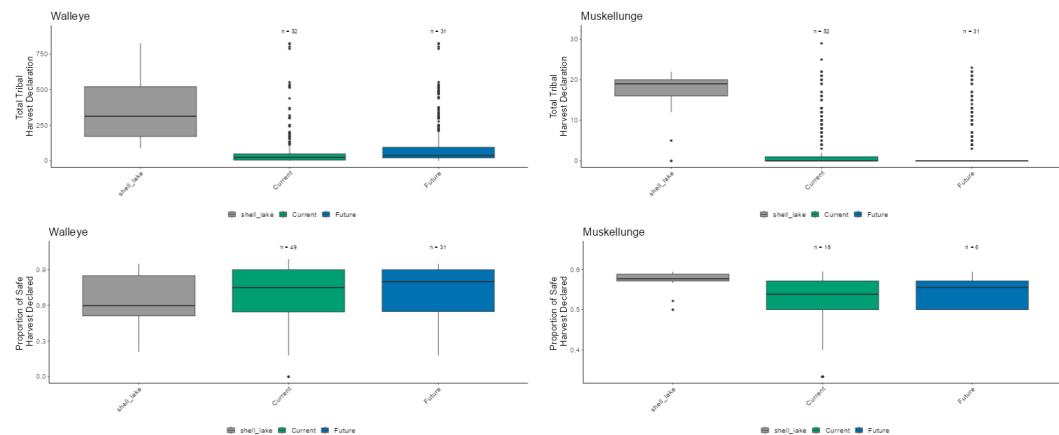


Figure 12: Distribution of safe harvest and declaration data for ogaa and Maashi-ginoozhe.

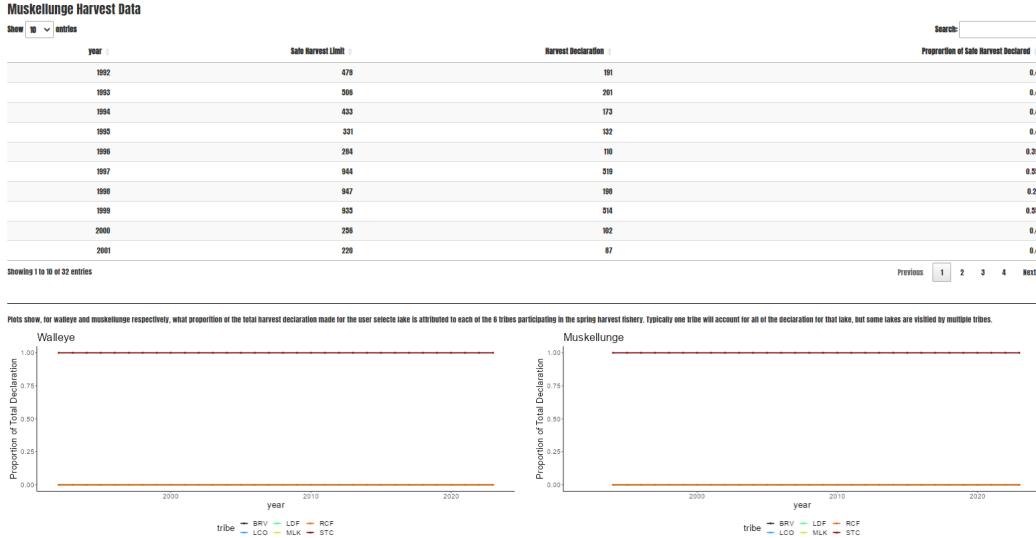


Figure 13: Use of the selected lake by the Ojibwe tribes in the CTWI

amount of information will be updated from one year to the next for this sub-tab.

#### 0.5.4 Population Metrics

This tab is split into two sub-tabs, ‘Standardized CPE Samples’ and ‘Walleye Population Estimates’. Because this app is centered on walleye, the first piece of information the user will see on the ‘Standardized CPE Samples’ tab is the distribution of young-of-year (YOY) walleye catch rates taken during fall electrofishing surveys (measured as catch-per-mile). Catch-per-mile distributions are shown for YOY, or age-0, as well as age-1 walleye (Figure 14). By comparing the distribution of catch rates for the user-selected lake and the current and future lake class of that lake, the user can see if the chosen lake typically has a higher, lower, or about equal catch rate compared to lakes with similar characteristics.

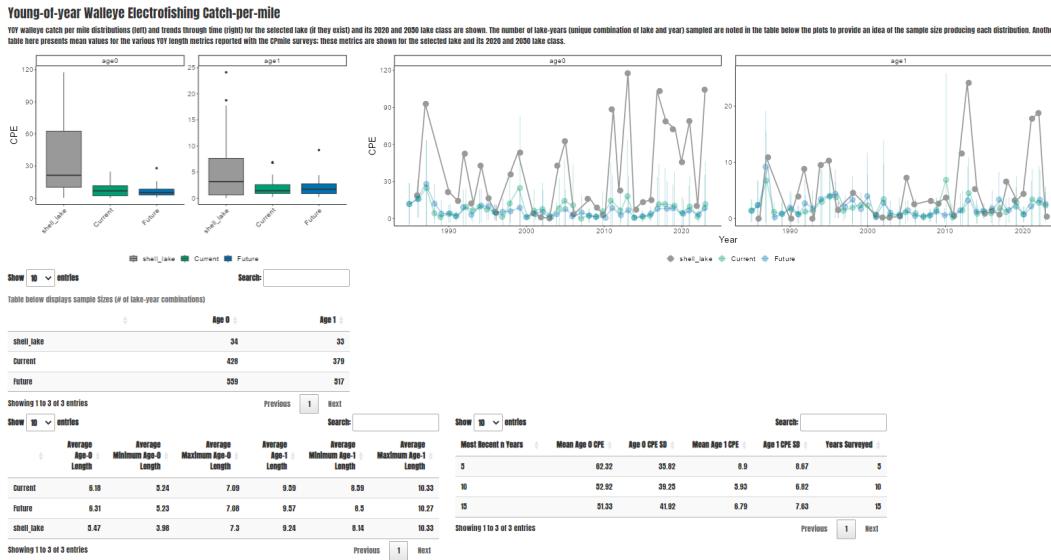


Figure 14: Distribution and chronological presentations of YOY walleye electrofishing catch rates.

The same data are also shown through time to give the user an idea of whether or not catch rates have been trending upwards or downwards through time compared to other lakes with similar characteristics. Additionally, some summary length information is also provided for the minimum, mean, and maximum length of age-0 and age-1 walleye captured during fall surveys for the user selected lake and the lake-class averages for the current and future lake classes.

Aside from walleye CPE data, the user may be interested in catch rates for certain other commonly sampled species. Using the species specified by the user in panel where the lake was selected, the app pulls all the relevant CPE data from standardized electrofishing surveys and fyke net surveys (Figure 15). These data are separated by gear type. Similar to the YOY walleye data, the distribution of CPE values for the user-selected lake and its current and future lake class are shown for each species selected by the user. Different CPE metrics are also available for the user to chose from. Aside from the default ‘CPEmile’ which is the total catch per mile, the user may elect to see CPE for different sizes of fish. For example, ‘CPE8’ may be chosen which will trigger the app to update the CPE plots to include a separate column comparing the catch rate of fish 8 inches or larger in the user-selected lake and its current and future lake class. For some species there may not be data available for a given CPE-size pairing in which case the plot will will include the selected CPE measure along the x-axis but no data will be displayed above it.

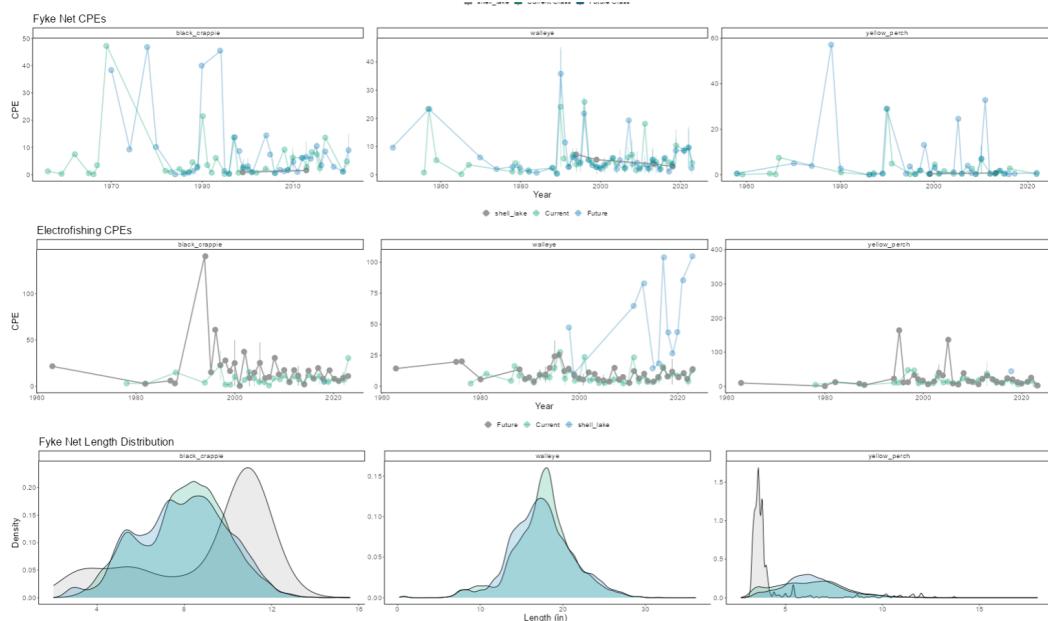


Figure 15: Sampling of the various catch-per-effort metrics available in the app for walleye and other desired gamefish species for fyke net and electrofishing gear types

The second sub-tab, ‘Walleye Population Estimates’ contains any walleye population estimates available for the selected lake. First the plot through time of the raw number of fish estimated to be in the stock with the 95% confidence interval is shown for just the user-selected lake (Figure 16). Alongside that is the population size expressed in terms of density (number per acre) so that comparisons can be made between the population density in the user-selected lake through time and the temporal trends in density for its current and future lake class (Figure 16). Below that is a table displaying the details of any population estimate available for the user-selected lake.

#### 0.5.4.0.1 Data Note

Nothing outside of the standard annual updates of this survey data.

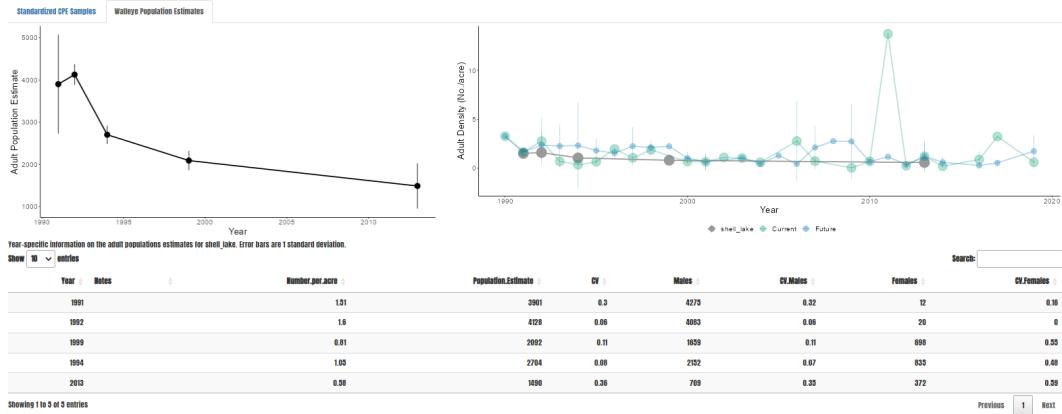


Figure 16: Walleye population estimate information presented in the 'Population Metrics' tab.

### 0.5.5 Length-at-age

This tab displays length-at-age data for any species of interest entered by the user upon start-up. Additional species can be added at any time in the same panel in the upper left-hand side of the app page. The purpose of this tab is simply to show how length at age in the selected lake compares to the lake class averages for its current and future lake classes.

The first figure shows length-at-age for species selected by the user across the user-selected lake and its current and future lake class (Figure 17). For all three strata, the mean length is calculated for a given age and plotted as the point along with one standard deviation for the mean. In some cases a standard deviation cannot be calculated when only a single observation is available for a given age or if the the standard deviation is small, the lines may not extend beyond the point boundary.

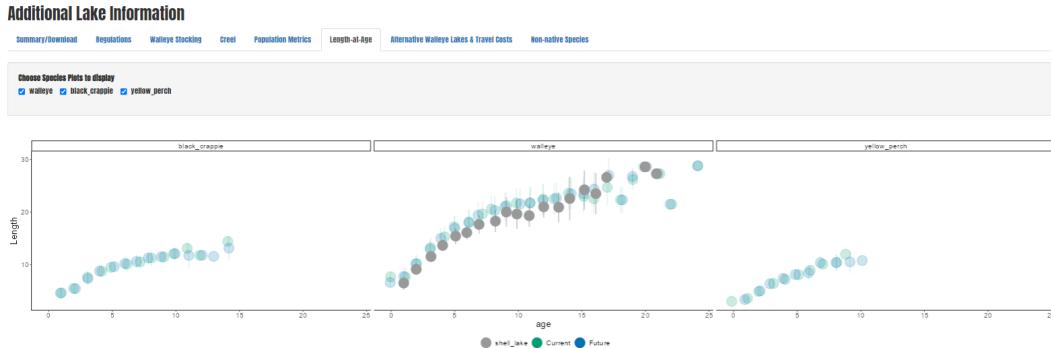


Figure 17: Length at age information for the desired gamefish species, lengths are presented as averages ( $\pm 1$  standard deviation) for all aged fish of a given age. In some cases no standard deviation can be calculated if only one fish of a given age has been recorded to date. In other cases standard deviations are so small that the vertical bars do not extend beyond the boundaries of the circle noting the average..

The data table shown here shows the number of fish aged and by what structure for each species of interest and sex. Similarly, below this data table is the same information grouped across sexes but shown though time to get an idea of how much and how recent the aging sampling has been for the selected lake (Figure 18).

**0.5.5.0.1 Data Note** The age data provided here was pulled from the WDNR fisheries information management system. Aging data is imperfect and further information on the data provided here can be

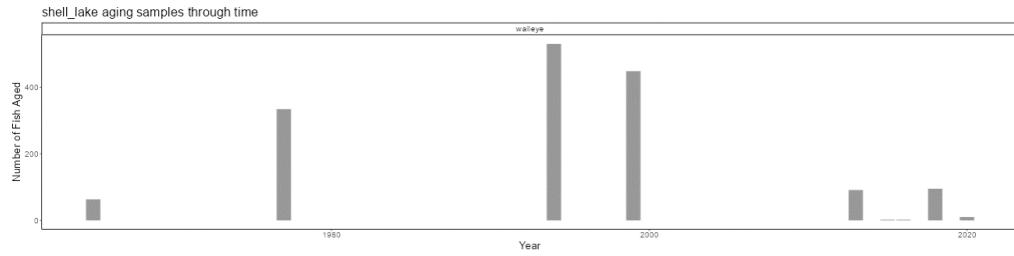


Figure 18: Chronological distribution of ageing samples taken for the selected lake.

obtained by consulting aging protocols for the department. Feel free to contact Colin Dassow with any questions as well.

### 0.5.6 Alternative Walleye Lakes & Travel Costs

This tab is split into two sub-tabs, ‘Substitutable Walleye Options’ and ‘Travel Costs’. The first tab is designed to present the user with alternative walleye lakes within a few different driving radii (Figure 19). The idea here is that depending on whether or not the user-selected lake is maintained as a walleye fishing option, anglers may choose to divert their angling effort to one of several substitute options. An understanding of the number and characteristics of the nearby walleye lakes can help the user understand whether the loss of the selected lake would result in a major lost fishing opportunity or if there are enough quality alternatives around that anglers in the area would still be able to seek out walleye fishing options. This information is presented for both the years 2020 and 2050. The individual bars on each of the plots can be clicked to produce a table describing the lakes that make up that bar. The information provided in the table gives the user a brief look at the likely current state of walleye in those systems.



Figure 19: number of lakes withing 30, 45, and 60 mi driving radii of the user selected lake. Lake class is noted on the x axis. These plots can be clicked by the user to pull up the identity of the lakes in each bar of the plot.

The second tab, ‘Travel Costs’ is designed a little differently from the rest of the app which is centered around the user-specified lake. Here, the focus is on angler populations and what fishing opportunities are available to anglers based in specific regions. This sub-tab can help the user understand what alternative angling options are available to anglers coming from different cities to their region to fish. In other words, instead of thinking about alternative fishing options that are close to the user-selected lake, think about what alternative fishing options are available to the anglers that come to your area. The user may enter any city within the U.S. though we expect the user to mainly be interested in anglers traveling from different places within Wisconsin and the bordering states (Figure 20). In addition to specifying a starting location for an angler, the user also specifies what lake classes to consider and how many lakes of each lake class to consider (Figure 20). For example, the user may be interested in the 5 closest complex-cool-clear lakes for an angler in Wausau, WI because one of the lakes they manage is complex-cool-clear lake with an uncertain

walleye future that attracts anglers mainly from central Wisconsin. This sub-tab would tell the user what alternative lakes are available to these anglers, how far they would have to drive and how long that drive would take the angler. Again, all of this is to describe what the cost might be for different angler groups to go fish somewhere else if the walleye opportunity in the user-selected lake were to go away. This information is presented for the years 2020 and 2050 because as lakes change over time, the cost of traveling to an equivalent walleye fishing opportunity will change as more lakes become unsuitable for walleye, something captured by the changing lake classifications, anglers may have to travel farther and farther to reach the remaining walleye fisheries around the state (Figure 20).

The screenshot shows the 'Travel Costs' sub-tab of a web application. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Substitute Walleye Options' and 'Travel Costs'. The 'Travel Costs' tab is active.

**2020 Travel Distances and times from Wausau, Wisconsin to the 10 closest lakes for the chosen lake class(es).**

WIC	Lake Name	County	Lake Class	Straight-line Distance (mi)	Driving Distance (mi)	Driving Time (hr)	Latitude	Longitude
1564200	crescent_lake_130n_r00e_s21-10	crescent_lake_130n_r00e_s21-10	Complex - Cool - Clear	44.53	53.18	0.93	43.350603	-91.517100
2784000	roberts_lake	roberts_lake	Complex - Cool - Clear	33.47	33.18	0.93	43.450630	-91.789900
2944000	metenaga_lake	metenaga_lake	Complex - Cool - Clear	33.32	33.18	0.93	43.340425	-91.741435
1535000	Kaubishine_lake_upper	Kaubishine_lake_upper	Complex - Cool - Clear	37.83	33.18	0.93	43.799427	-91.740032
1543200	katherine_lake	katherine_lake	Complex - Cool - Clear	38.57	33.18	0.93	43.304740	-91.715500
1530100	hasbrook_lake	hasbrook_lake	Complex - Cool - Clear	60.75	53.18	0.93	43.837480	-91.302474
1538600	blue_lake_(rusk)	blue_lake_(rusk)	Complex - Cool - Clear	61.14	33.18	0.93	43.830242	-91.706577
1612600	spirit_lake	spirit_lake	Complex - Cool - Clear	62.88	33.18	0.93	43.799689	-91.134234
3333000	birch_lake	birch_lake	Complex - Cool - Clear	64.07	33.18	0.93	43.369640	-91.820040
1615200	snipe_lake	snipe_lake	Complex - Cool - Clear	66.95	33.18	0.93	43.930632	-91.363329

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries

**2050 Travel Distances and times from Wausau, Wisconsin to the 10 closest lakes for the chosen lake class(es).**

WIC	Lake Name	County	Lake Class	Straight-line Distance (mi)	Driving Distance (mi)	Driving Time (hr)	Latitude	Longitude
2344000	high_lake	high_lake	Complex - Cool - Clear	62.8	94.32	1.7	46.153922	-91.549527

Search: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous | Next

Figure 20: The location of the fisher origin desired by the user is entered in the red box shown here. Also in the red box, the user may enter the number and type of alternative fish options they want to consider for fishers coming from the selected point of origin.

In addition to the calculation of driving distance and time to other walleye lakes for anglers coming from user-specified cities, there are some basic tables to outline the cost in dollars for anglers traveling from different areas of the state to the user-selected lake. These costs take into account the cost of fuel and vehicle maintenance associated with the added mileage using the American Automobile Association's travel cost calculation guide.

Lastly, instead of using a threshold of 0.5 probability of NR to define what might constitute an 'alternative' walleye fishing option, 'quality' walleye fisheries are generally defined as have at least 3 adults/acre. The last table displayed describes the minimum travel distance from a selection of cities around WI to the nearest 'quality' walleye fishery regardless of lake class. This information is provided for the current walleye fishing landscape and the likely landscape in 2050. The change in travel distance to the closest 'quality' walleye opportunity is also shown as well as the change in cost in 2020 dollars and the median income for anglers living in that city. All of this again is to describe what the increased cost might look like for anglers seeking walleye fishing opportunities around the state and how significant any increased cost might be for them if they have to travel farther to find the nearest quality fishery.

**0.5.6.0.1 Data Note** An 'alternative' walleye fishing option here is defined as a system with a natural recruitment probability  $\geq 0.5$ , meaning only lakes with NR probabilities  $\geq 0.5$  were counted when producing the plots and tables in this sub-tab. 'Quality' walleye fisheries are those with at least 3 adults/acre of water.

## 0.5.7 Non-native Species

This tab is fairly straightforward compared to previous tabs. First, the user can use the AIS smart prevention tool to see what common non-native species might be able to establish themselves in Wisconsin lakes and streams to see what potential risks exist for the lake they're interested in (Figure 21). Immediately below this, the confirmed non-native species present in the selected lake are shown. In order to provide some context, the percentage of other lakes in that same lake class with each of the common non-native species is also shown for the 2020 and 2050 lake classes of the user-selected lake (Figure 21). Finally, a summary table comparing the total number of non-native species in the user-selected lake to the average number of non-native species for it's 2020 and 2050 lake class.

The following non-native species are present in Shell Lake: Banded Mystery Snail, Chinese Mystery Snail, Curly-Leaf Pondweed

Percentage of Complex - Warm - Clear systems that contain each non-native species for the 2020 and 2050 lake classes.

Species	Current (2020)	Future (2050)
Banded Mystery Snail	99.00	90.00
Curly Leaf Pondweed	3.00	3.00
Eurasian Water Milfoil		
Chinese Mystery Snail		
Purple Loosestrife		
Rusty Crayfish		
Water Hyacinth		
Zebra Mussel		
Japanese Knotweed, Fallopia japonica		
Hybrid Eurasian/Northern Water Milfoil		

Mean number of non-native species for 2020 lake class: Complex - Warm - Clear and 2050 lake class: Complex - Warm - Clear for shell\_lake

Species	Current (2020)	Future (2050)
Number of Systems	99.00	90.00
Mean Number of Invasives	3.00	3.00

Figure 21: AIS SMART prevention tool is highlighted by the red box. This link to an external tool and help the user understand the vulnerability of their system to invasion of common non-native aquatic species in the state. Sumary information on the non-native species present is also provided on the page in the text and tables below the red box.

**0.5.7.0.1 Data Note** The data used in this tab are publicly available and taken directly from WDNR. They describe the confirmed presence of various non-native aquatic plant and animal species. As non-native species spread this data will need to be updated as WDNR confirms the presence of a given species.

## 0.5.8 Report Download

*this tab is the least developed, still seeking input from users on what they would like to see here*

Here some brief summary text describing the probability of natural recruitment in the user-selected lake compared to other lakes with similar characteristics is shown.

Most importantly, the goal of the this tab is to remind the user that any decision taken with respect to walleye management in the selected lake will fall into one of the 3 RAD categories described in this tab (Figure 22). The goal of this app is help the user balance the short-term management goals for specific lakes with the likely long term reality of that lake with respect to walleye fisheries. The purpose of including the RAD triangle here is to remind the user to position their actions within Resist-Accept-Direct framework given the likely future of the selected lake. Ultimate decision-making authority may not rest with the user of the app but this app can help the user advise those with decision-making authority. An option exists for the app user to download a summary report for the selected lake that provides some figures and text about

how the selected lake compares to other similar lakes now and in the future (Figure 22). This information is largely presented as percentiles instead of raw numbers. The thinking here is that this is easier to digest for most potential readers who may not have a fisheries management background. The content of this report still needs improving and suggestions from app users are especially welcome here. Feel free to reach out to Colin with those suggestions.

**Additional Lake Information**

Summary/Download    Regulations    Walleye Stocking    Crest    Population Metrics    Length-at-Age    Alternative Walleye Lakes & Travel Costs    Non-native Species

shell lake is a Complex - Warm - Clear system with a probability of natural walleye recruitment better than 100% of other Complex - Warm - Clear systems. Its predicted probability of natural recruitment is 0.735 and its future lake class is Complex - Warm - Clear where the predicted probability of natural recruitment is better than 95% of all Complex - Warm - Clear systems in 2050

This information can be used to decide which of the 3 categories described below best describe the management goals for this lake. This can aid in deciding what management actions related to walleye are most appropriate here.

**Resist**  
Maintain the walleye fishing opportunity in the system with whatever actions are necessary.  
  
Actions to resist change are feasible and expected to succeed within management horizons, resources to support resistance are available, and current/historical conditions are preferred

**Accept**  
Allow the system to transition away from a walleye fishing opportunity without intervention.  
  
Changes either cannot be feasibly managed, are not impactful enough to warrant a response (and may even be desirable by some stakeholders), or there is a lack of will despite sufficient knowledge or resources.

**Direct**  
Take actions to direct the system towards a new state that is more desirable than what would likely occur by simple accepting decline of walleye.  
  
When change is so dramatic that resisting is untenable and there is a feasible opportunity to direct the system towards a more desirable outcome.

Adapted from: Thompson et al. 2021. Responding to Ecosystem Transformation: Resist, Accept, or Direct? *Fisheries* 46(18-21).

Download a report that can be shared with general public  
Download Report

Button to download Summary Report

A red arrow points to the "Download Report" button.

Figure 22: Summary of the walleye recruitment and population size information, as well as the RAD context, is provided here. The red arrow points out where the button is to download a report to be shared with others.