

Largon Lake 2021 Northern Pike population survey

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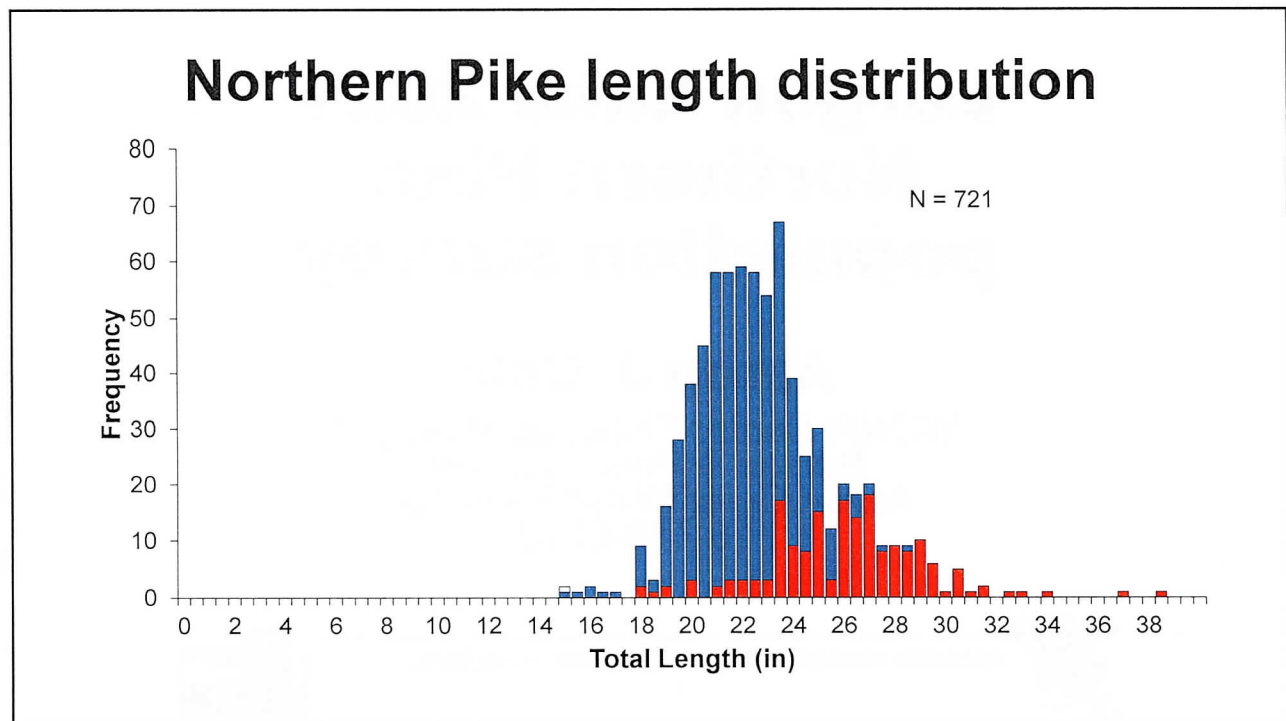
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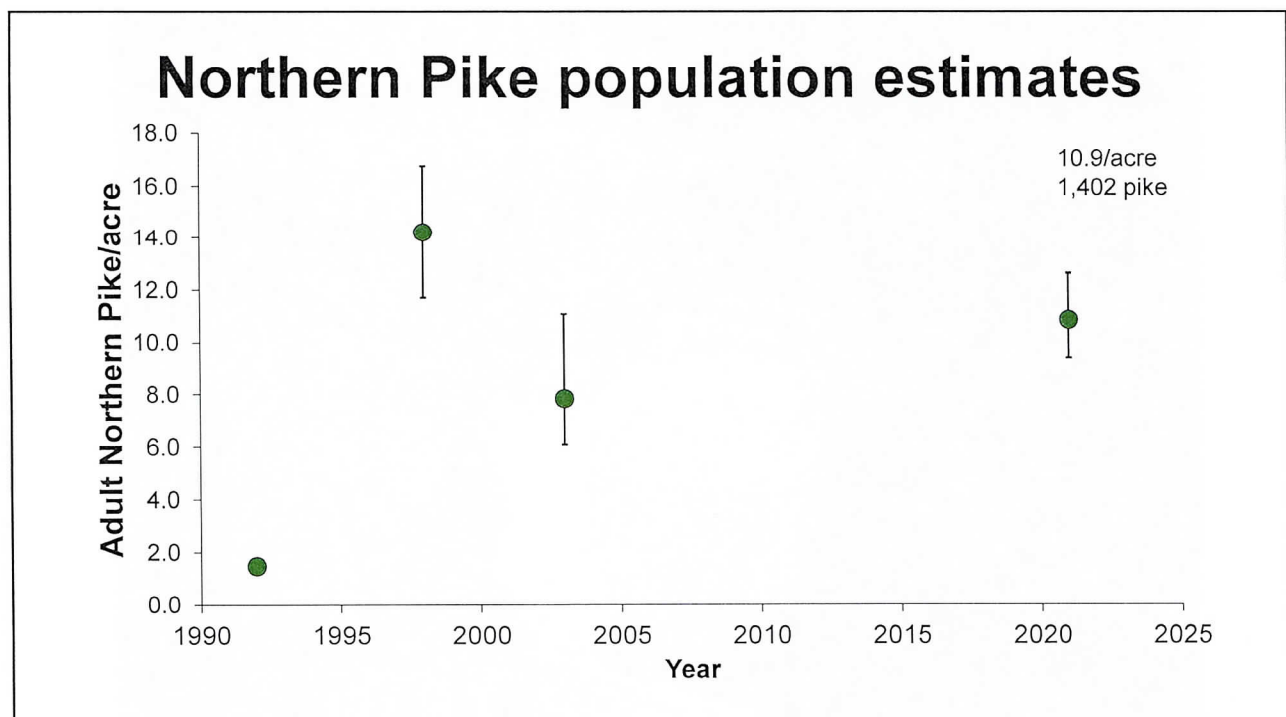
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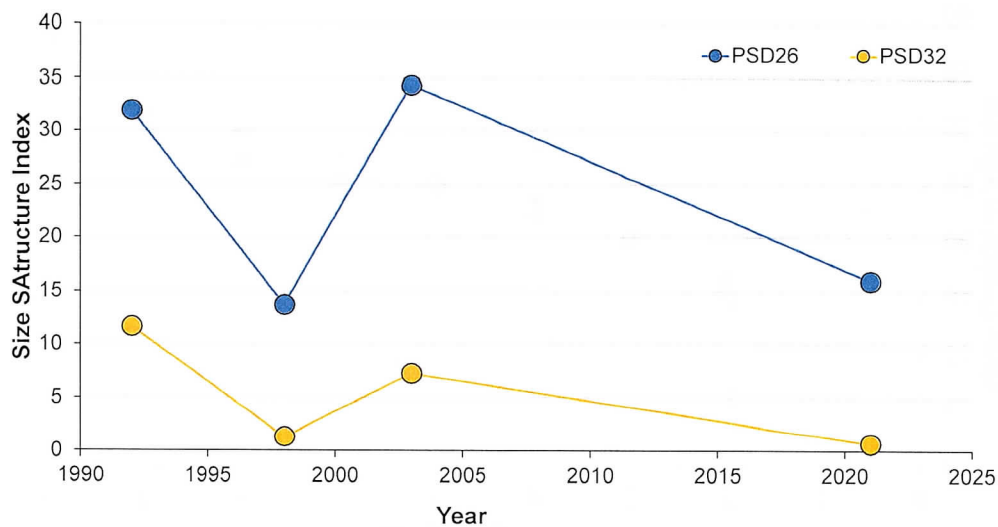


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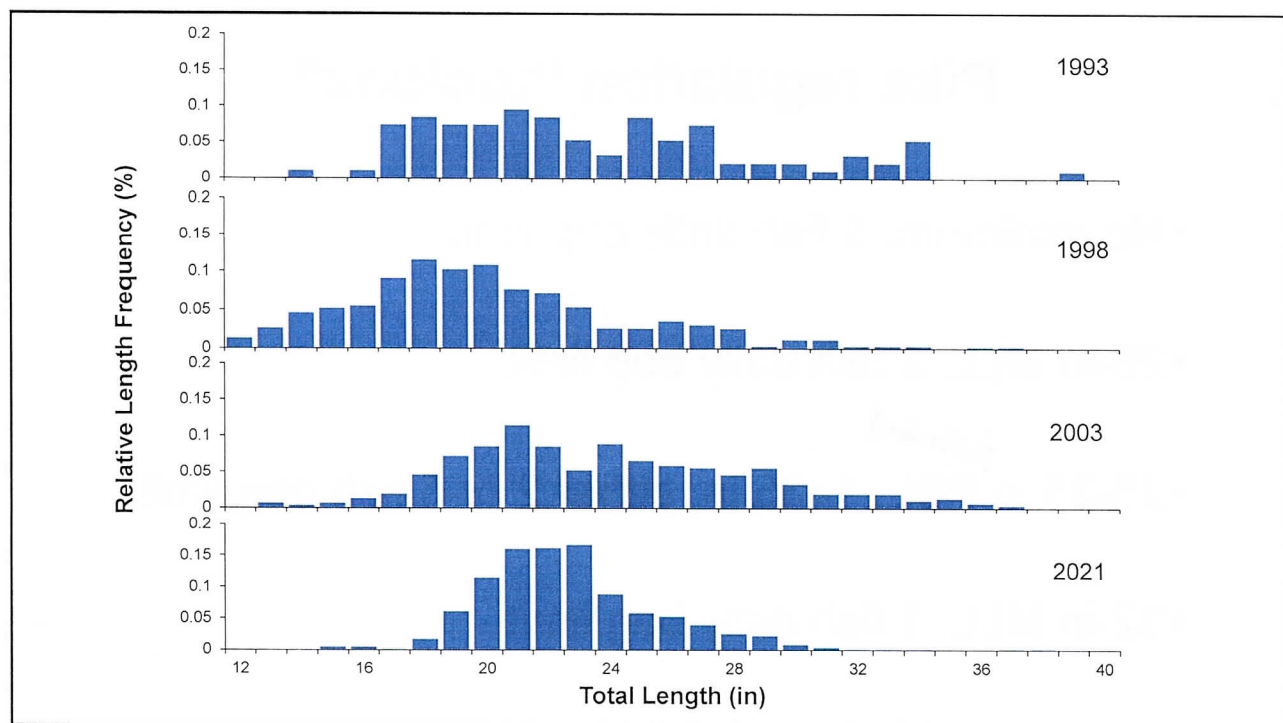


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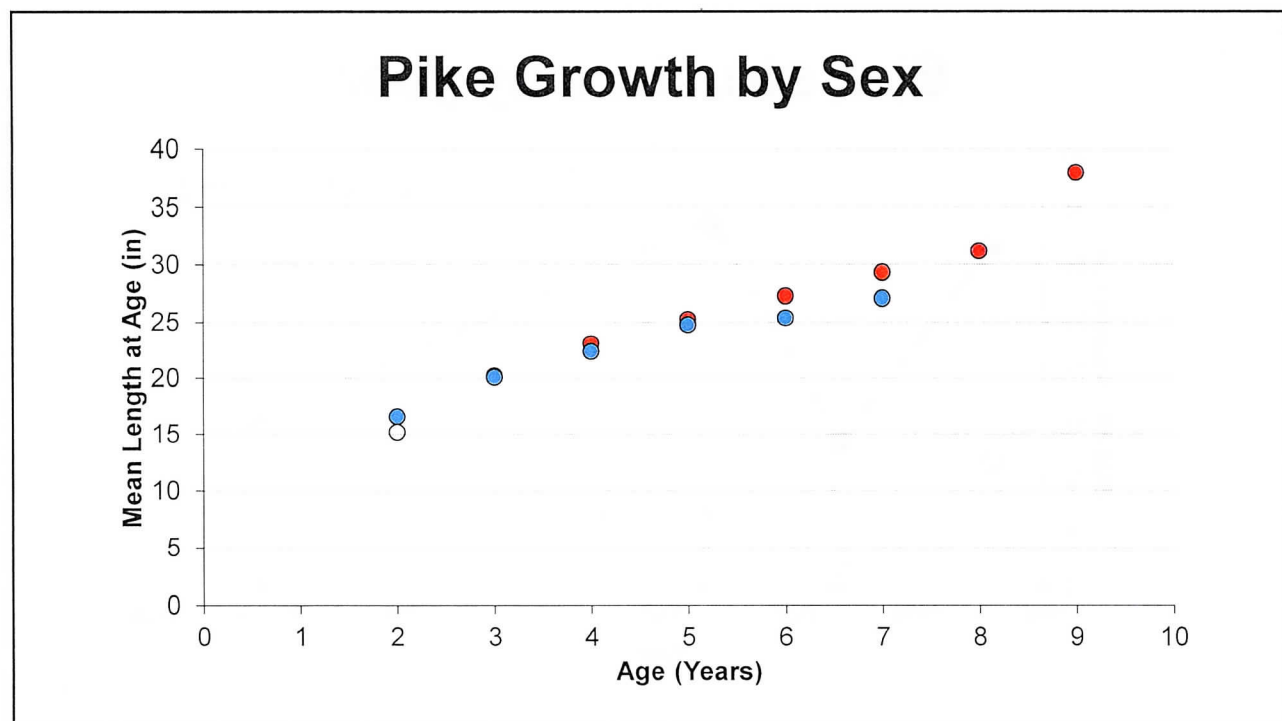
Size structure by year



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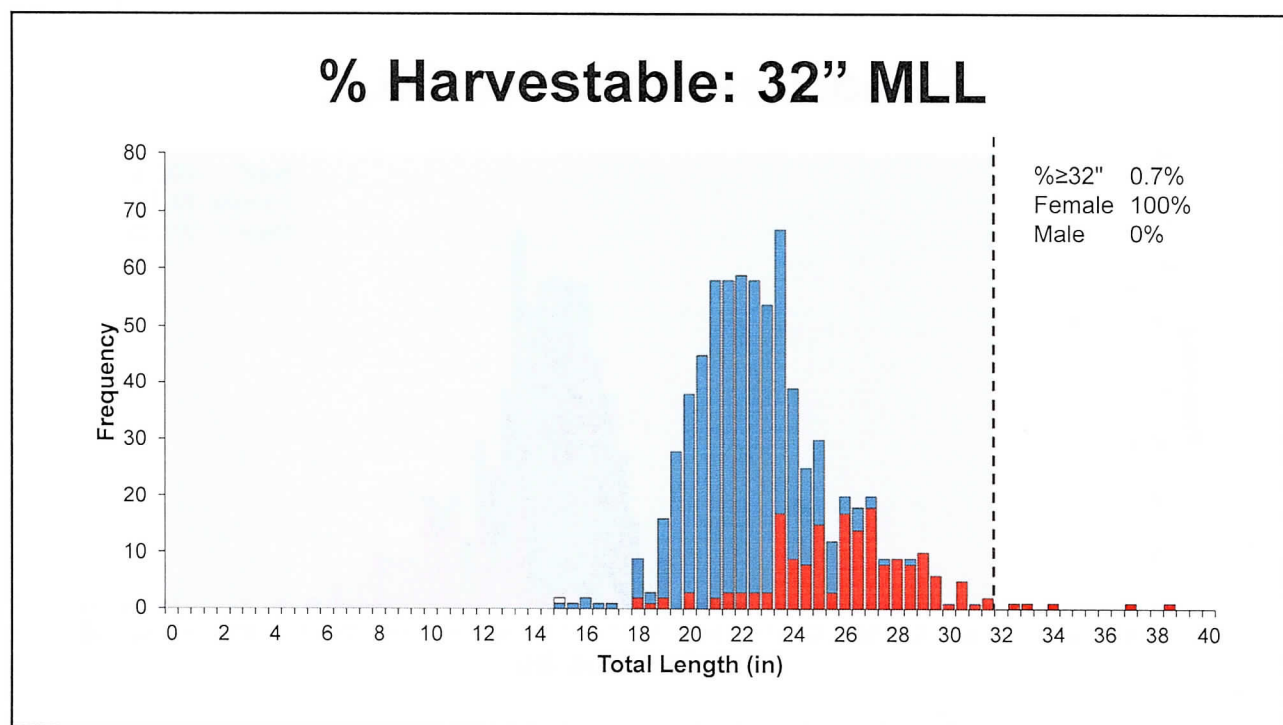


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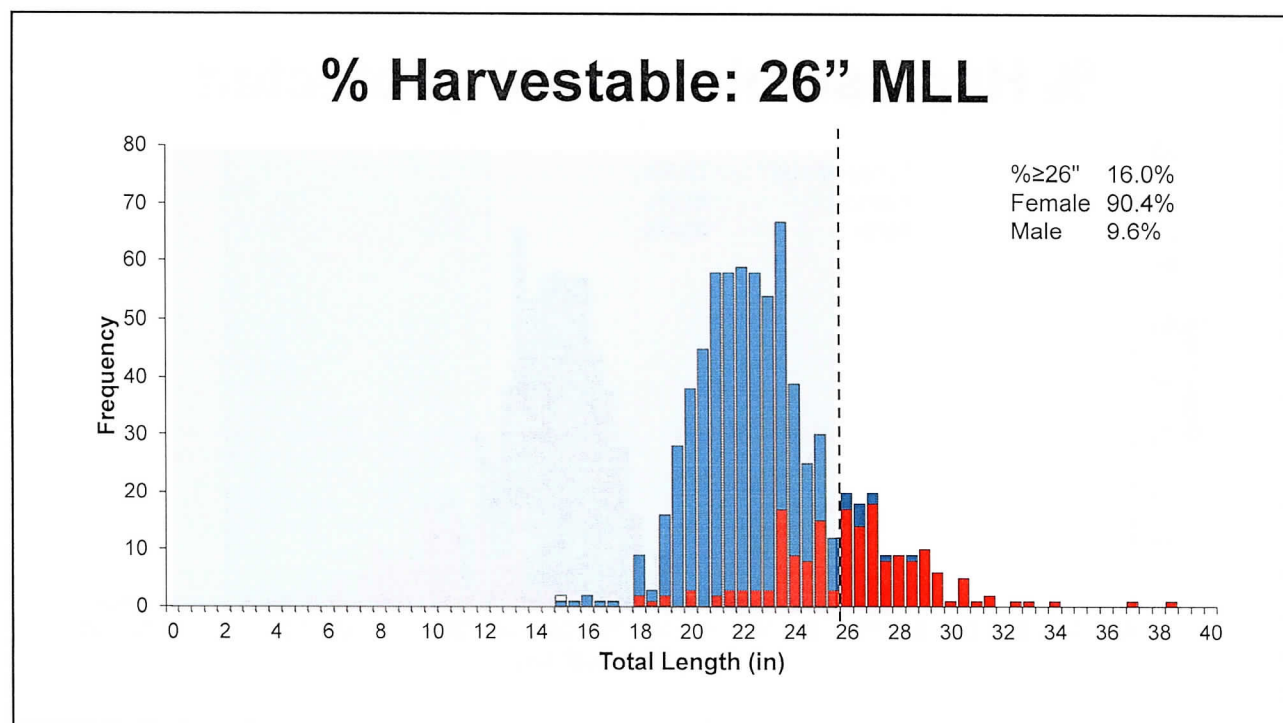
Pike regulation “toolbox”

- No minimum, 5 fish daily bag limit
- 26-in MLL, 2 fish daily bag limit
- 25-35 in PSL, 1 >35 in, either 2 or 5 fish bag limit
- 32-in MLL, 1 fish daily bag limit

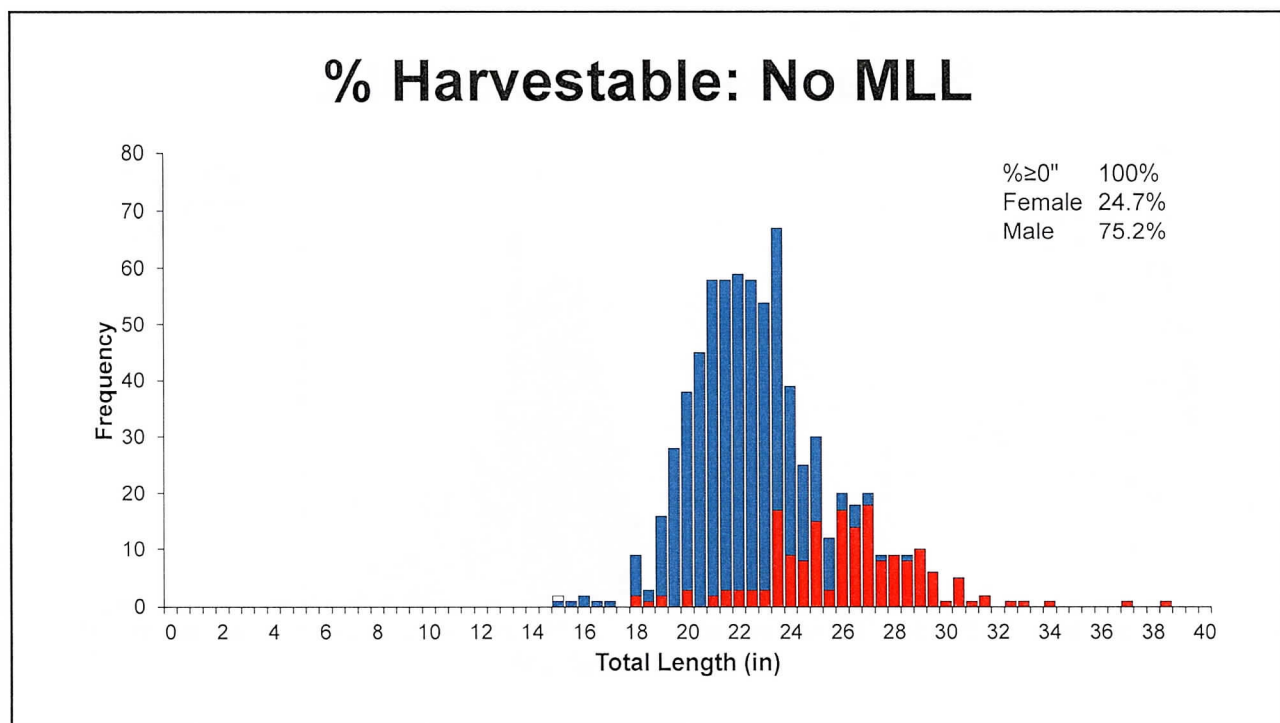
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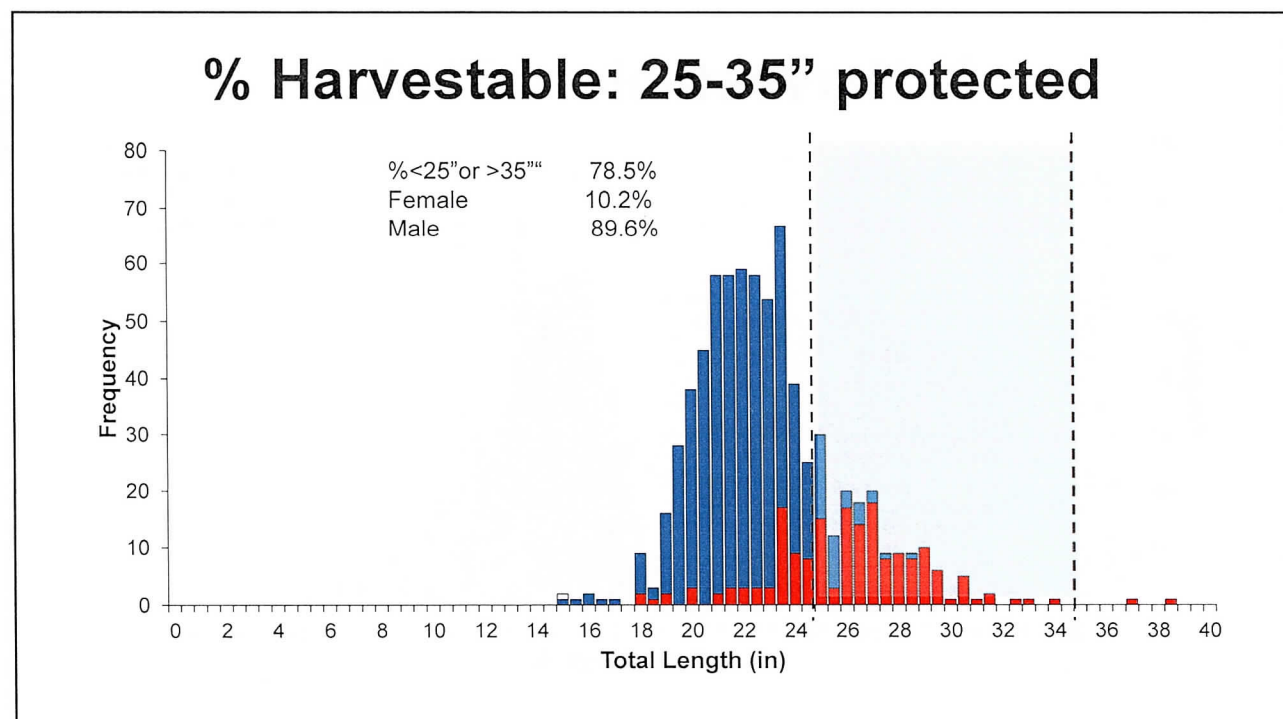
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Conclusions

- Abundant pike population
 - Good growth rates
 - Lower size structure
- Current population can withstand more harvest
 - Virtually no legal harvest with 32" MLL
 - Reducing pike density should improve size structure
 - High population suppresses recruitment
 - No harvest of smaller pike (after winterkills)

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Conclusions

- Northern pike are dominant predator
- Largemouth bass population still low
 - 6/mile in 2019 late spring night shocking survey
 - Historically had desirable bass population
 - Harvesting some pike may allow for bass to return

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Where do we go from here?

- **Status Quo – 32” MLL; 1 fish bag limit**
- **Revert to base regulation: No MLL; 5 fish bag limit**
 - Could be implemented in May 2022 through NR20.35 process
- **26” MLL; 2 fish daily bag limit**
 - Would not be implemented until May 2024
 - More thorough process and must be on Spring Hearings
 - Presented at WCC Spring Hearings in 2023
 - Only “odd” numbered years are rule making years for WCC

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Timeline for special regulation

- Submit regulation proposal
 - Internal review process
 - WDNR Northern Pike Team
 - WCC warmwater committee
- Present at the 2023 WCC Spring Hearings
 - 2022 Spring Hearings are advisory only
- Would be implemented in 2024



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