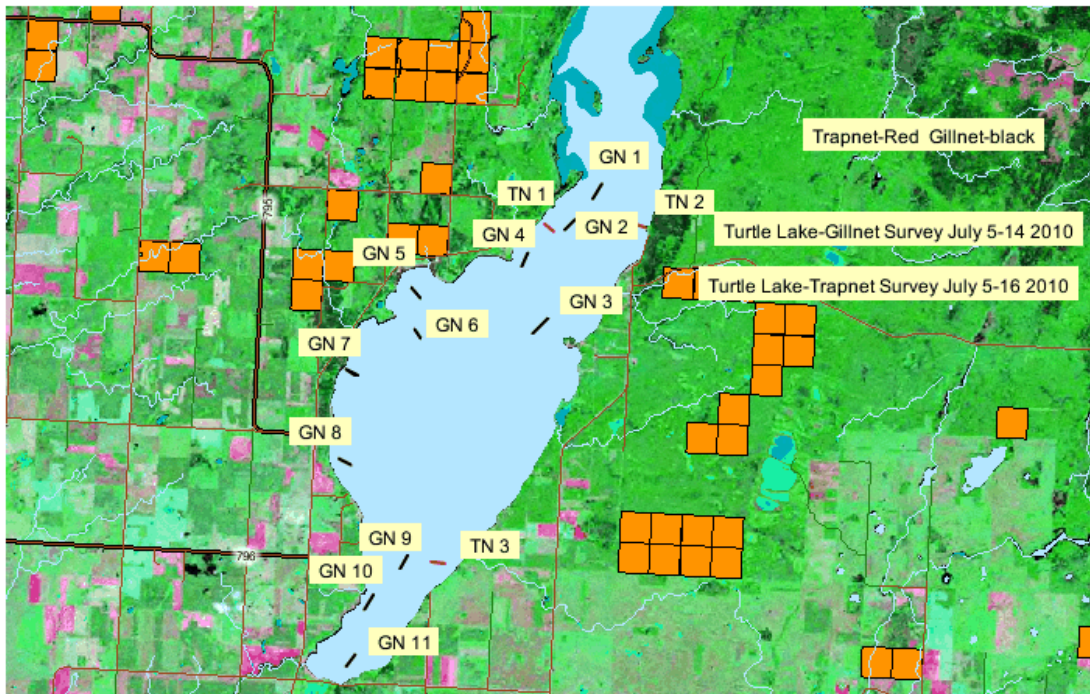


**SASKATCHEWAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
FISHERY STOCK ASSESSMENT-TURTLE LAKE-2010
FIGURE1. GILLNET & TRAPNET LOCATIONS**



Lake Name: Turtle

Location: 53-36, 108-38

Category: 2

Monitoring Frequency: 6 years

Survey Date: July 5-14, 2010-Gillnet Survey, July 5-16, 2010-Trapnet Survey

Gear Used: Gill Net, Trap Net

Study Objective: Update file

Table 1. Physical Attributes	
Surface Area (ha)	6,421
Maximum Depth (m)	6.3
Mean Depth (m)	14.3
Volume (m ³)	403,690,000
Conductivity-uS	580
pH	8.91
Secchi (m)	4.0
Surface Water Temperature (°C)	20.8

Table 2. Fish Species	
Primary Species	Other
Walleye, Pike, Whitefish	Burbot, Cisco, White Sucker, Perch

Introduction

Turtle Lake is a popular destination for angling and recreational activities. In 1992 it was estimated that over 1000 cottages were located on this lake. While an estimate for 2010 is not available, with the creation of new recreational subdivisions (within the last 10 years) as well as additional lots being added to existing subdivisions, the number of individual lots has likely increased significantly.

Commercial fishing dates back to the early 1900's, with whitefish the predominant species caught (Figure 24). The whitefish population fluctuated significantly at least 3 times. The population declined from 1907 to 1910, recovered in the 1920's but declined again in the 1930's. The population was considered excellent from the mid 1940's to the early 1960's, and collapsed once again, after 1963. Over harvest and intermittent spawning success were the reasons given for the population decline (1967-1 Fisheries Technical Report-W.W. Sawchyn). An extensive whitefish stocking program was conducted between 1969 and 1984, with poor success (Table 6). The commercial fishery was terminated in 1978.

Between 1944 and 1962, over 14 million walleye eggs and fry were stocked (Table 6). The 1964-65 test net survey indicated poor walleye stocking success. The study concluded that "The apparent lack of success in the program of walleye stocking suggests an abandonment of this management approach in favour of more careful supervision and careful control of the now flourishing pike fishery" (1967-1 Fisheries Technical Report-W.W. Sawchyn). Walleye stocking was terminated.

The test net survey in 1973 (D. E. Snell) once again indicated a sparse population of walleye, however, there was a significant change in the fish populations since the 1964-65 survey (Table 5, 5a); specifically, a 50% decline in the pike population. As a result, one of the survey recommendations was to restart the walleye fry stocking program at Turtle Lake; it was reasoned that a decrease in pike should substantially increase the probability of a successful walleye stocking program. Also, there was a high angler demand for walleye. Walleye fry stocking resumed in 1974 and 1975, and from the early 1980's until 2009 walleye fry (and fingerlings) were stocked almost annually (Table 6). Due to logistical problems at the Diefenbaker Lake walleye spawn camp, a lack of walleye fry production resulted in the decision not to stock walleye in Turtle Lake in 2010.

In 1976, test netting indicated a poor walleye population, however, in 1979 test netting indicated a significant increase in the walleye population, which was attributed to good natural reproduction and stocking success.

The 1985 survey indicated a sparse walleye population, with fair pike and whitefish populations.

Beginning in 1986, a walleye fingerling stocking program was introduced between 1986 and 1991 (Table 6). Test netting was conducted in 1990 by the Saskatchewan Fisheries Laboratory (Saskatoon) to assess the fingerling stocking program (Evaluation of Walleye Fingerling Stocking Programs in Three Saskatchewan Lakes, Technical Report 91-4, W. K. Liaw). According to the 91-4 Technical Report, there was an "eight fold increase in the standing crop of walleye in Turtle Lake due to recent stocking of fry and fingerlings". "The present data suggest that unlike Greig Lake, fry and fingerling stockings may be equally successful in Turtle Lake, provided that large numbers (in the order of millions) of fry are used. This is probably because

Turtle Lake is more fertile than Greig Lake and provides more suitable zooplankton as food for the newly stocked walleye fry.” The report recommended a stocking rate of 1.3 million fry or 128,000 fingerlings every other year until natural reproduction is capable of establishing a healthy self sustaining stock. Based on historic stocking rates, the recommended fry stocking rate was met or exceeded from 1983 to 2002; after 2002 the rate was often dependant on the annual availability of walleye fry produced at the Fort Qu’Appelle Fish Culture Station for all lakes on the provincial stocking list.

The 1992 and 1997 test net surveys indicated a moderate population of walleye had been established, with catch rates at an all time high. By 1997, the pike population had declined, although within the historic range (Table 5, 5a).

An exploratory 2 day live catch trap net survey in 2000 caught 91 walleye and 13 pike (99 white suckers and 3 burbot). Most of the walleye were caught in the Indian Point set, as compared to a trap net set on the west side of the lake.

A trap net survey in 2003 confirmed that the walleye population had become established, as indicated by the numerous year classes (Figure 9), while the pike population (Figure 17) had remained stable compared to the 1997 survey (Table 4b, 5a).

The recent 2010 trapnet (Table 4a) and gillnet survey (Table 4) indicate an increasing walleye population. The pike population is stable, albeit the population has declined from the population highs that occurred in the 1970’s (Table 5, 5a).

Methods

Gill Net Sets: 1320 meters of gill net consisting of 11-120 meter standard gangs were set and picked up at 11 locations, from July 5-14, 2010, in depths ranging from 3.4 to 13.5 meters. The 120 m nets are 1.8 m deep and consist of 20 m panels each of 3.8, 5.1, 7.6, 10.2, 12.7 and 14.0 cm stretched 210/3 multifilament mesh. The sites chosen were at or near locations used in the 1985 testnet survey (Figure 1). Sixteen locations were chosen in the 1985 survey, but due to the large number of walleye caught in the 2010 gillnet sets, in addition to three live trapnet sets in 2010, the number of gillnet locations were scaled back. All nets were left in overnight and picked up the next day, the duration of sets ranging from 18-22 hours.

Flesh samples were collected for mercury analysis from 10 walleye and 10 pike; otolith ageing samples were taken for walleye and whitefish, cleithrum bone ageing samples were taken from pike.

Trap Net Set: Three 1.8 meter deep live capture trap nets with 137 m leaders were set perpendicular to shore in three locations (Figure 1), from July 5-16, 2010, for a total of 29 net days. The sites chosen were at the same locations used in the 2003 trapnet survey (5 locations were used in 2003). Similar to the 2003 survey, TN sets #1, and #3 were set with the leader not to shore (“open ended leader”), to facilitate setting the trap net in water of sufficient depth. TN set #2 was set with the leader starting at the edge of a large scirpus weed bed.

Gill Net	Location (WGS 84)	Depth (m)	Mesh Size (Inshore/Offshore)
1	12 658541E 5944872N	3.4 - 5.2	3.8-14.0 cm
2	12 657987E 5944134N	6.9 - 5.4	3.8-14.0 cm
3	12 657415E 5941346N	11.7 - 11.6	3.8-14.0 cm
4	12 656853E 5943153N	6.1- 4.7	3.8-14.0 cm
5	12 653991E 5942034N	5.4 - 4.6	3.8-14.0 cm
6	12 654256E 5940876N	11.1 - 11.0	3.8-14.0 cm
7	12 652421E 5939661N	5.3 - 3.5	3.8-14.0 cm
8	12 652678E 5937320N	3.5 - 3.0	3.8-14.0 cm
9	12 654306E 5934790N	13.5-12.4	3.8-14.0 cm
10	12 653446E 5933802N	6.2 - 7.0	3.8-14.0 cm
11	12 653139E 5932192N	4.0 - 5.0	3.8-14.0 cm
Trap Net			Leader Length (m)
1	12 657349E 5943916N	3.5	137
2	12 659755E 5944224N	3.3	137
3	12 655432E 655432N	3.3	137

Results and Discussion

Gill Net Catch

Table4. Total catch from 11 overnight **Gill Net** sets at Turtle Lake (July 5-14, 2010)

Species	No	*CPUE: #/100m gill net				Percent of Catch			*PSD	*RSD-P	*0 Wr
		2010		Historic Range	2010	Historic Range	2010	2010	2010		
		#	80% C.I.		%						
Walleye	395	30	±13.4		1-30	40		1-40	68	26	93
N.Pike	67	5	±2.0		3-12	7		7-16	64	7	93
Perch	66	5	±2.6		1-5	7		1-7	2	0	80
Whitefish	54	4	±2.3		1-7	5		1-35			
W.Sucker	185	14	±3.7		12-20	19		13-35			
Cisco	204	16	±14.4		1-55	21		4-7			
Burbot	5	≤1	±1.1		0-1	≤1		0-1			
Total	976	75				100					

* See Appendix A

Trap Net Catch

Table4a. Total catch from 3 **Trap Net** sets at Turtle Lake (**July 5-16, 2010**)

Species	No	*CPUE: #/ net night				Percent of Catch			*PSD	*RSD-P
		2010				2010			2010	2010
		#	80% C.I.			%			2010	2010
Walleye	372	13	±3			69			93	66
N.Pike	52	2	±≤1			11			50	14
Perch	8	≤1	±≤1			5			-	-
Whitefish	2	≤1	±≤1			5				
W.Sucker	18	≤1	±≤1			5				
Cisco	0	0				0				
Burbot	10	≤1	±≤1			5				
Total	462	19				100				

* See Appendix A
29 net nights

Trap Net Catch

Table4b. Total catch from 3 **Trap Net** sets at Turtle Lake (**July 3-13, 2003**)

Species	No	*CPUE: #/ net night				Percent of Catch			*PSD	*RSD-P
		2003				2003			2003	2003
		#	80% C.I.			%			2003	2003
Walleye	384	12	±2.3			39			87	17
N.Pike	125	4	±≤1			13			33	20
Perch	0	0				0			-	-
Whitefish	118	4	±1.4			13				
W.Sucker	280	9	±1.1			29				
Cisco	0	0				0				
Burbot	66	2	±≤1			6				
Total	973	31				100				

* See Appendix A
32 net nights

Table5. Gill Net **CPUE** & % of total catch for all species sampled in Turtle Lake, 1973 – 1992

Species	1973		1976		1979		1985		1992	
	CPUE	%	CPUE	%	CPUE	%	CPUE	%	CPUE	%
Walleye	<0.5	1	1	1	3	6	<0.5	<0.5	11	15
N.Pike	3	7	11	12	8	16	4	9	12	16
Perch	1	1	5	6	<0.5	1	1	3	<0.5	<0.5
Whitefish	4	8	<0.5	1	1	2	4	9	7	9
W.Sucker	11	19	11	13	17	35	12	24	20	27
Cisco	33	64	55	67	19	40	28	55	24	32
Burbot	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	1	(<1.0)
Total	52	100	83	100	48	100	49	100	75	100

Table5a. Gill Net CPUE & % of total catch for all species sampled in Turtle Lake, 1964 & 1997

Species	1964-65								1997	
	CPUE	%							CPUE	%
Walleye	1	2							13	27
N.Pike	6	9							4	8
Perch	2	3							0	0
Whitefish	3	4							13	27
W.Sucker	16	24							18	36
Cisco	38	58							1	2
Burbot	<0.5	<0.5							0	0
Total	64	100							49	100

Primary Species:

a) Walleye

- Gill net test nets indicate a good population, with a Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) value of 30 (measured as number of fish/100 m of gillnet) (Table 4). With the exception of the 1985 survey, catch rates have been increasing steadily; more than double the rate from the previous 1997 gillnet survey (Table 5, 5a). The CPUE for the 2003 and 2010 trapnet surveys (measured as number of fish/net night) has remained steady, at 12 and 13 walleye caught/net night (Table 4a, 4b).
- Condition factor is rated as good, with a mean relative weight (**0 Wr**) of 93 (Table 4), compared to 90 in 1990 survey and 101 in the 1964-65 survey-see Appendix A for definitions.
- A good percentage of the population is of quality angling size, as indicated by the PSD and RSD-P numbers of 68 and 26 (Table 4) for the 2010 gillnet survey, and the corresponding numbers of 93 and 66 for the 2010 trapnet survey. The upper size lengths continue to increase, from a maximum fork length of 59.9 cm in the 1964-65 gillnet survey, to 65.1 cm in the 1990 gillnet survey, 66 cm in the 2003 trapnet survey (71 cm, if data from all 5 trapnet sets included), and 78 cm in the 2010 trapnet survey.
- Thirteen year classes present (Figure 7).
- Natural reproduction is occurring, as indicated by the young of year walleye caught in beamish traps set in the Moonlight Bay area by a local bait fisher and submitted to the ministry for measurement (Figure 6). Walleye fry were not stocked into Turtle Lake in 2010.
- Stomach contents included insect remains, stickleback, spot tail shiners, perch, cisco, and possibly whitefish.

Figure2. Fork Length frequency histogram-Walleye-2010 Gillnet Survey

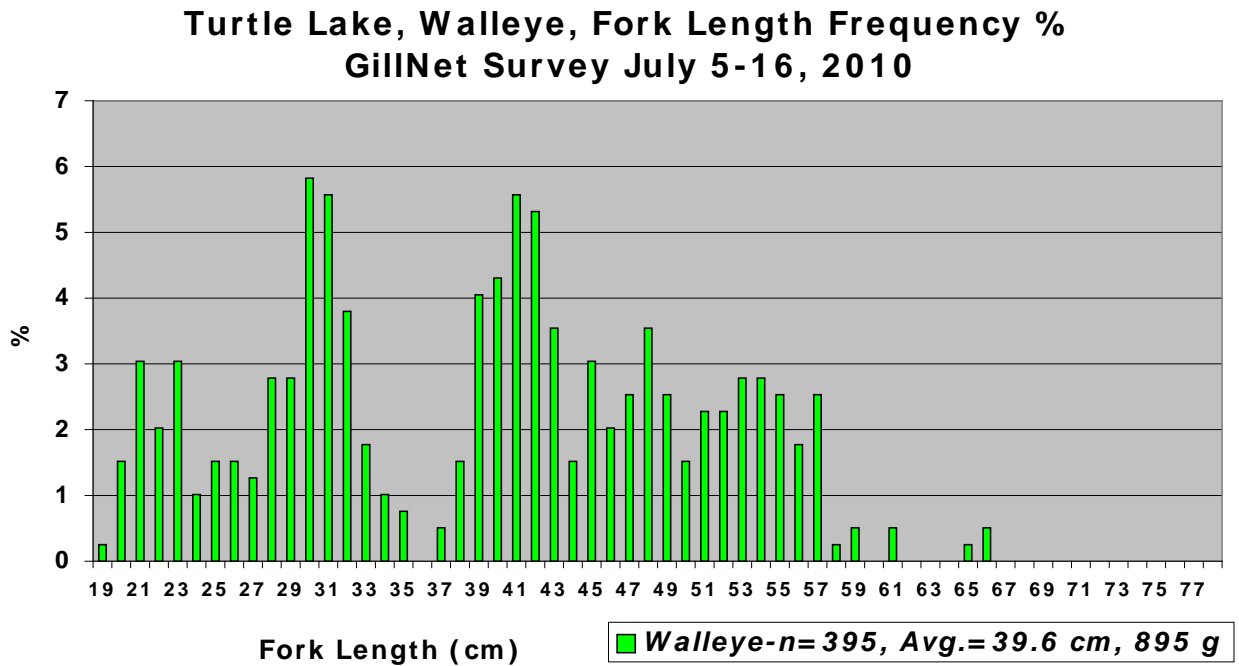


Figure3. Fork Length frequency histogram-Walleye-2010 Trapnet Survey

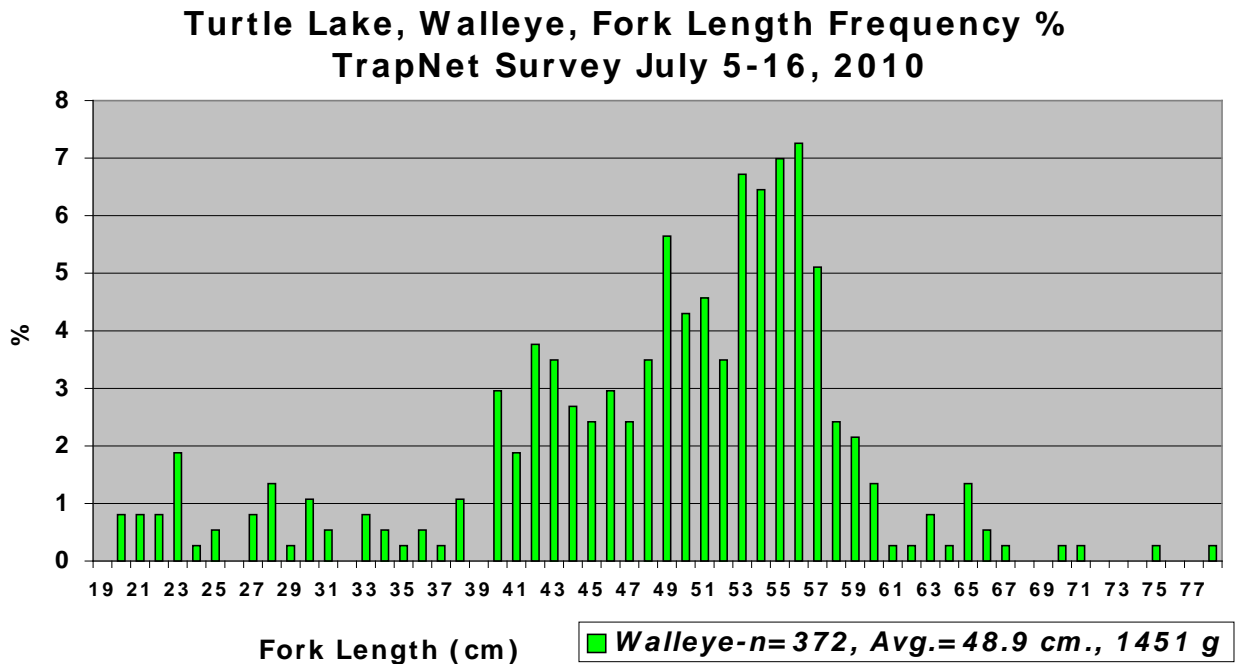


Figure4. Fork Length frequency histogram-Walleye-2010 Gillnet & Trapnet Survey

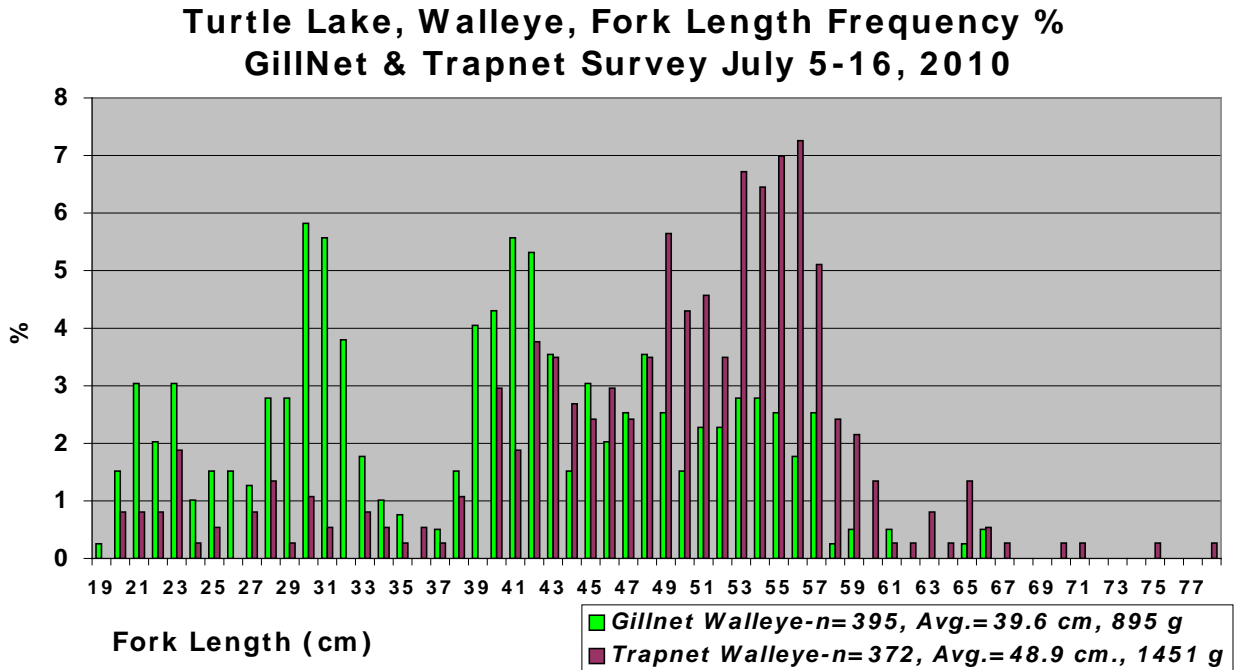


Figure5. Fork Length frequency histogram-Walleye-2010 Gillnet & Trapnet Survey-
Combined

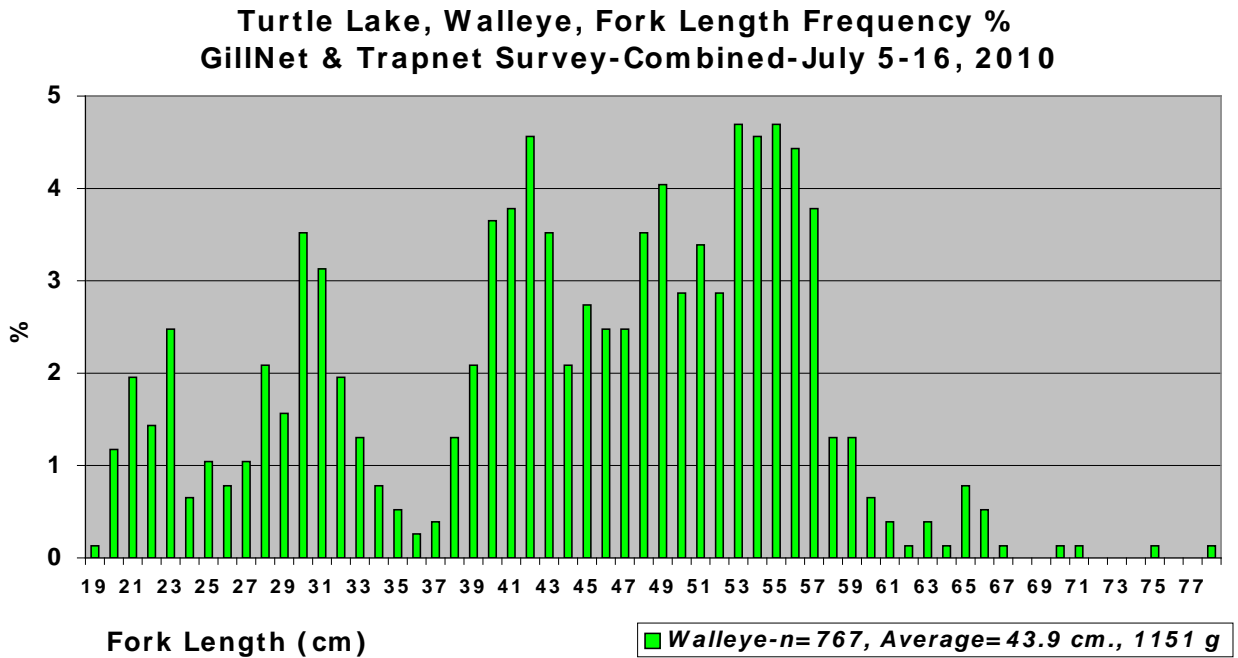


Figure6. Fork Length frequency histogram-Walleye-2010 Gillnet, Trapnet, Beamish Trap Survey-Combined

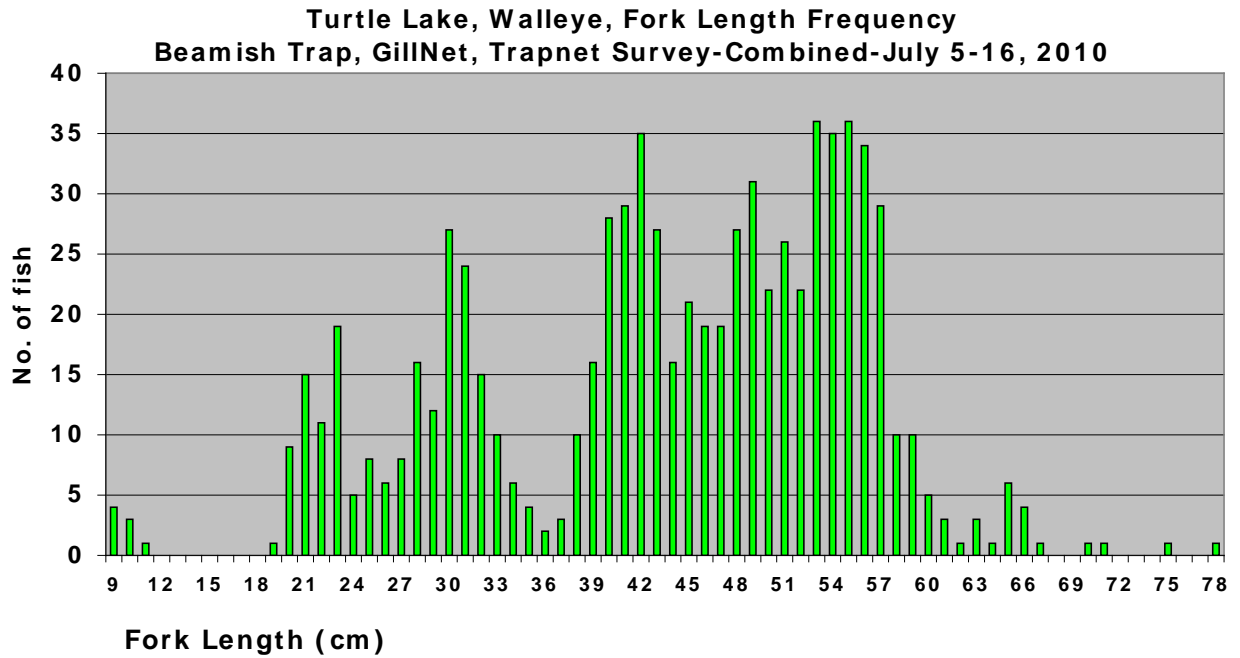


Figure7. Walleye-Age Frequency histogram-2010

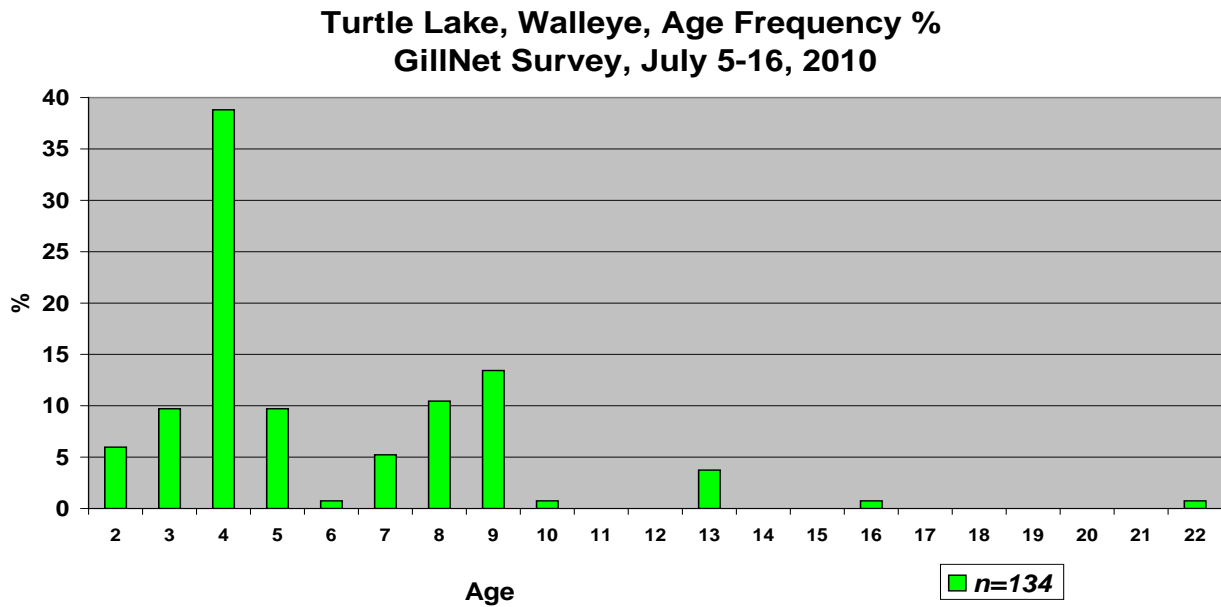


Figure8. Walleye-Mean Length at Age-2010

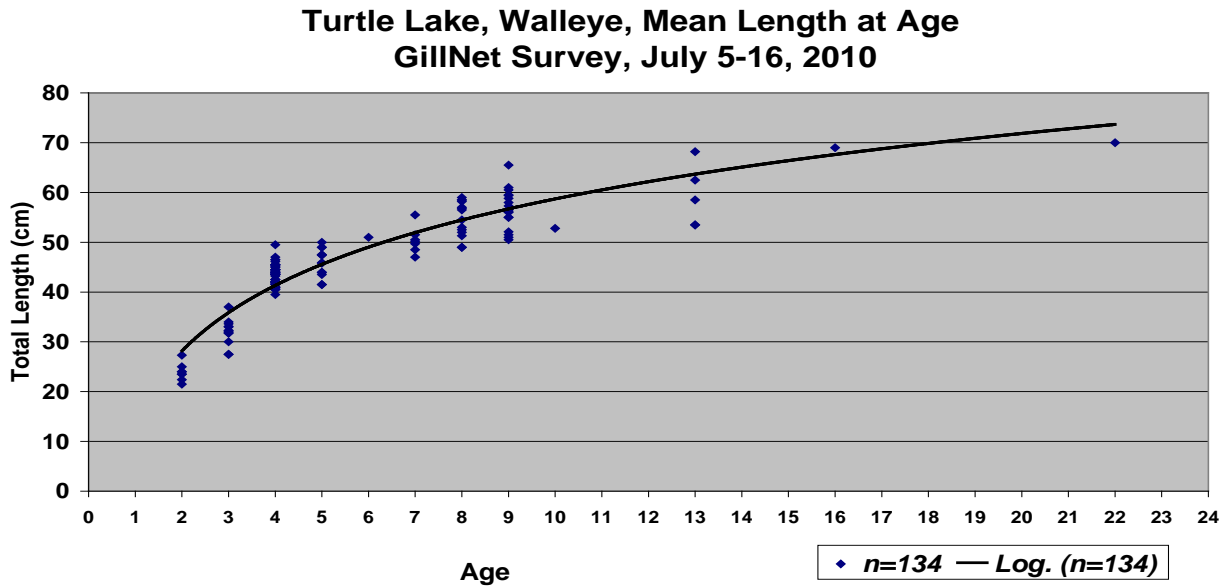


Figure9. Fork Length frequency histogram-Walleye-2003 Trapnet Survey

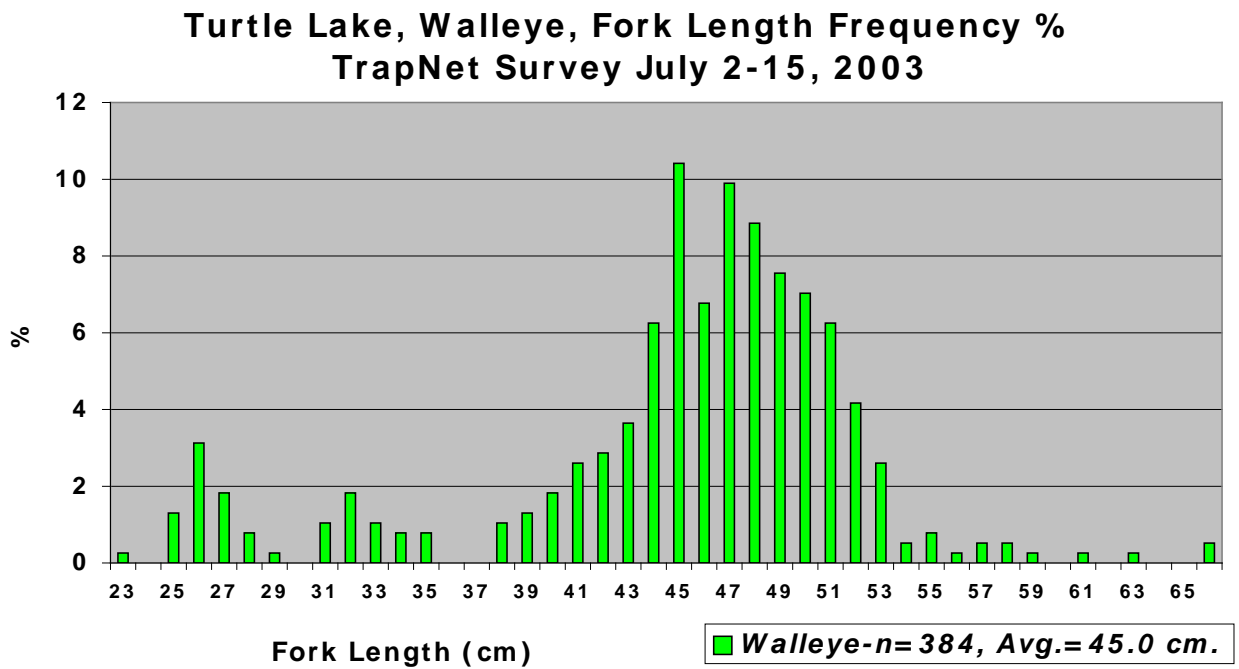
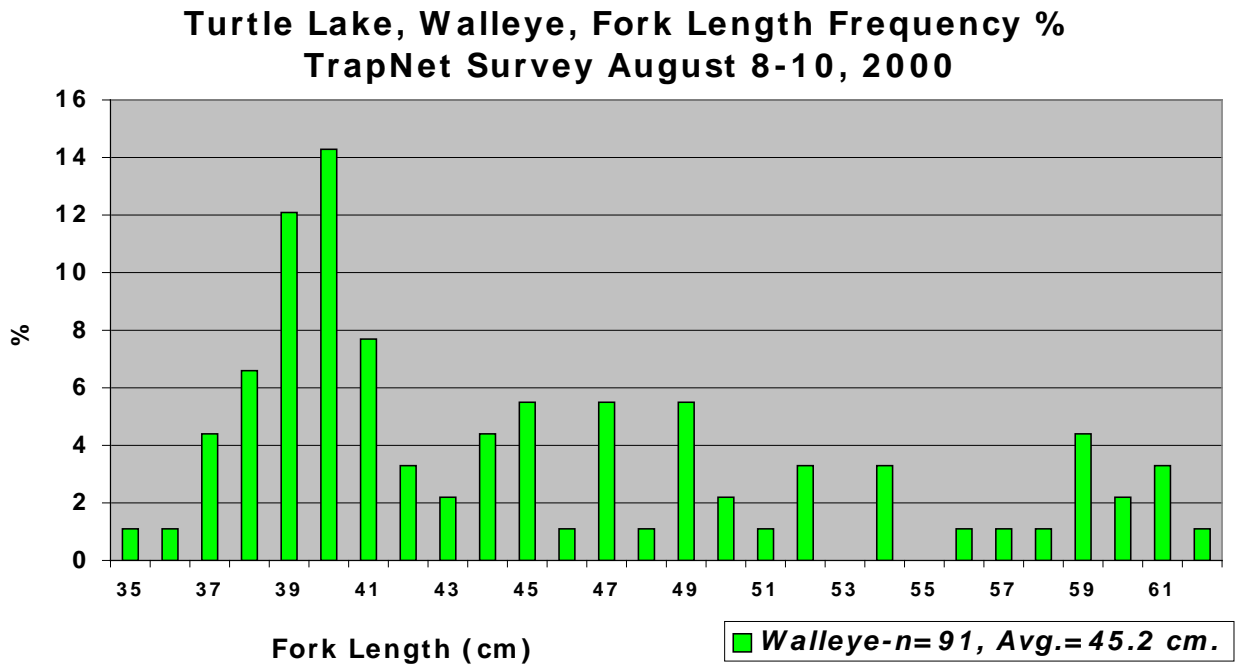


Figure10. Fork Length frequency histogram-Walleye-2000 Trapnet Survey



b) Pike

- Gill net test nets indicate a fair but declining population, with a Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) value of 5 (measured as number of fish/100 m of gillnet) (Table 4). Catch rates have been variable, with the highest values of 11 and 12 recorded in the 1976 and 1992 surveys. (Table 5, 5a). The CPUE for the 2003 and 2010 trapnet surveys (measured as number of fish/net night) also indicate a decline, at 4 and 2 pike caught/net night (Table 4a, 4b).
- Condition factor is rated as good, with a mean relative weight (**0 Wr**) of 93 in 2010 (Table 4), compared to 96 in 1997, 95 in 1992, 91 in 1990, and 97 in 1985 - see Appendix A for definitions.
- A fair percentage of the population is of quality angling size, as indicated by the PSD and RSD-P numbers of 64 and 7 (Table 4) for the 2010 gillnet survey, and the corresponding numbers of 50 and 14 for the 2010 trapnet survey.
- Eleven year classes present, indicating good natural reproduction (Figure 15).
- Stomach contents included stickleback, perch, cisco, whitefish, white sucker and walleye.

Figure11. Fork Length frequency histogram-Pike-2010 Gillnet Survey

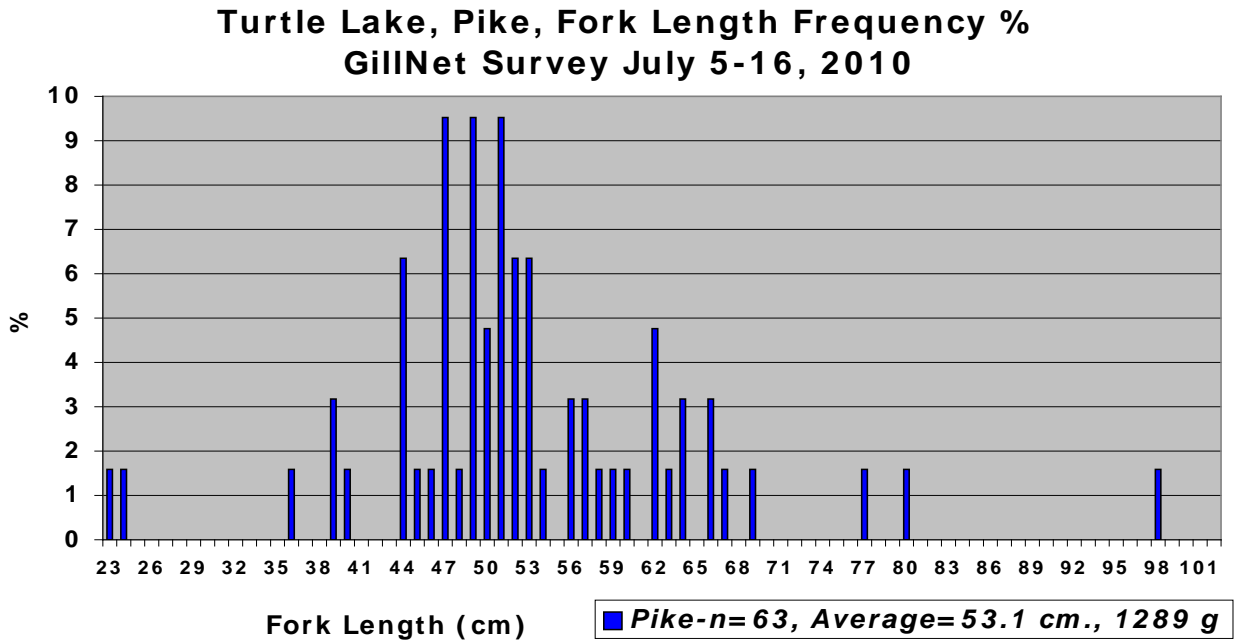


Figure12. Fork Length frequency histogram-Pike-2010 Trapnet Survey

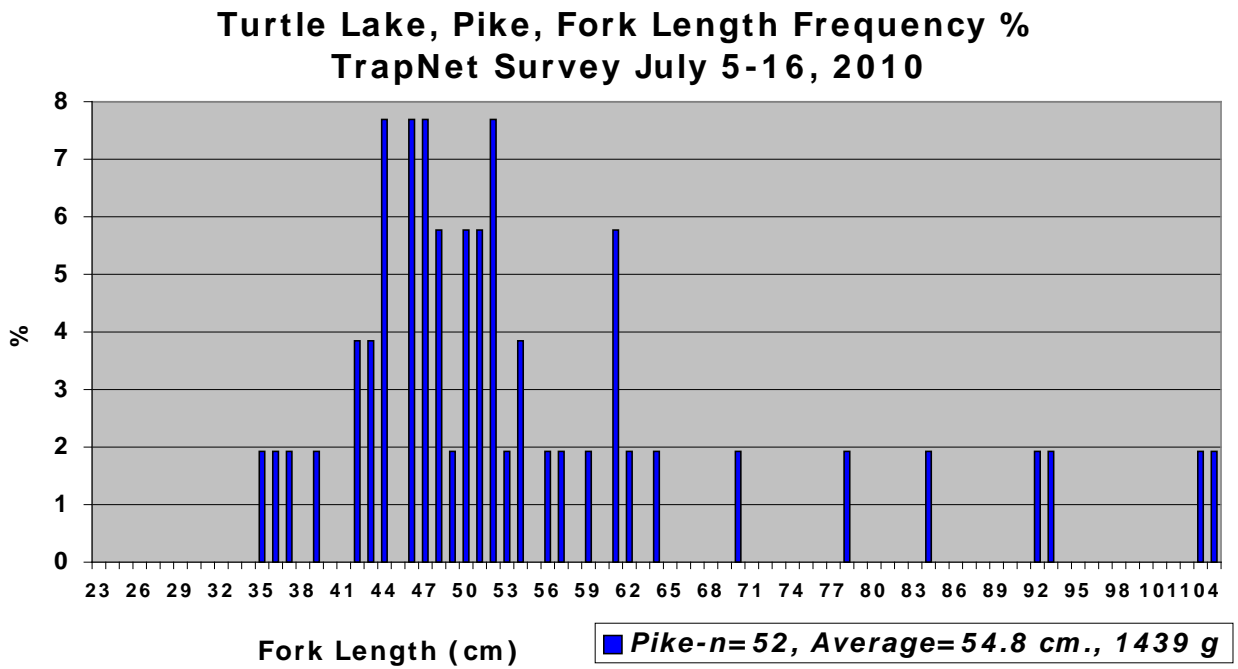


Figure13. Fork Length frequency histogram-Pike-2010 Gillnet & Trapnet Survey

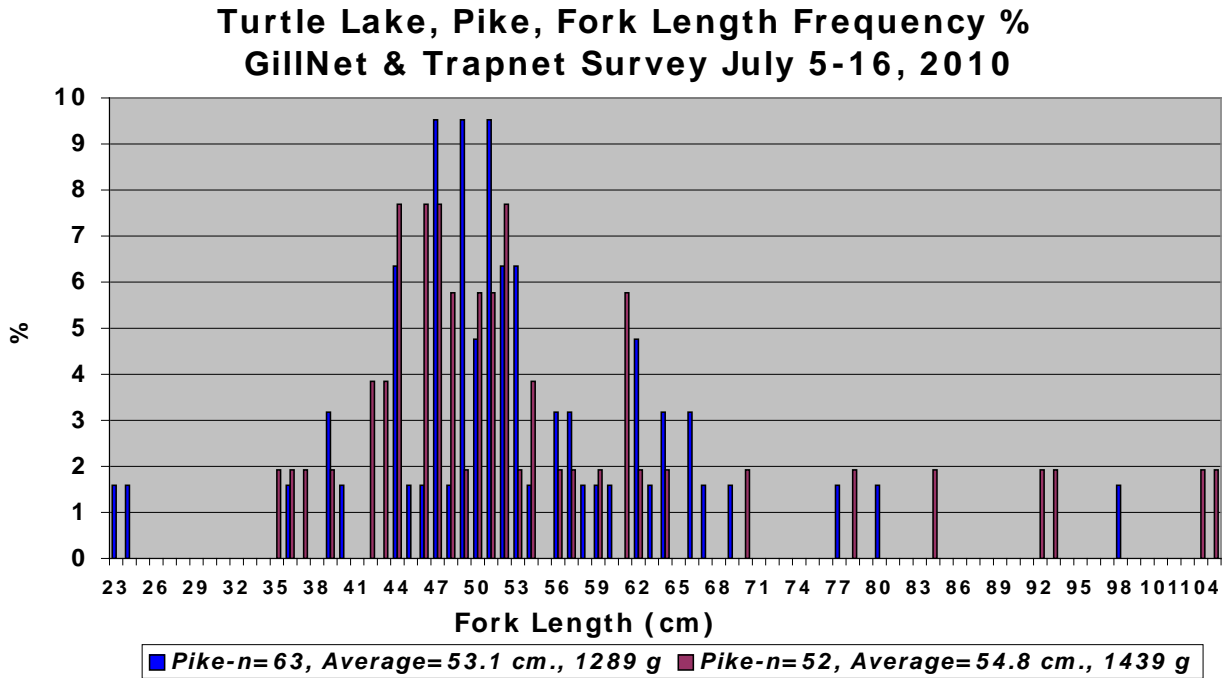


Figure14. Fork Length frequency histogram-Pike-2010 Gillnet & Trapnet Survey-Combined

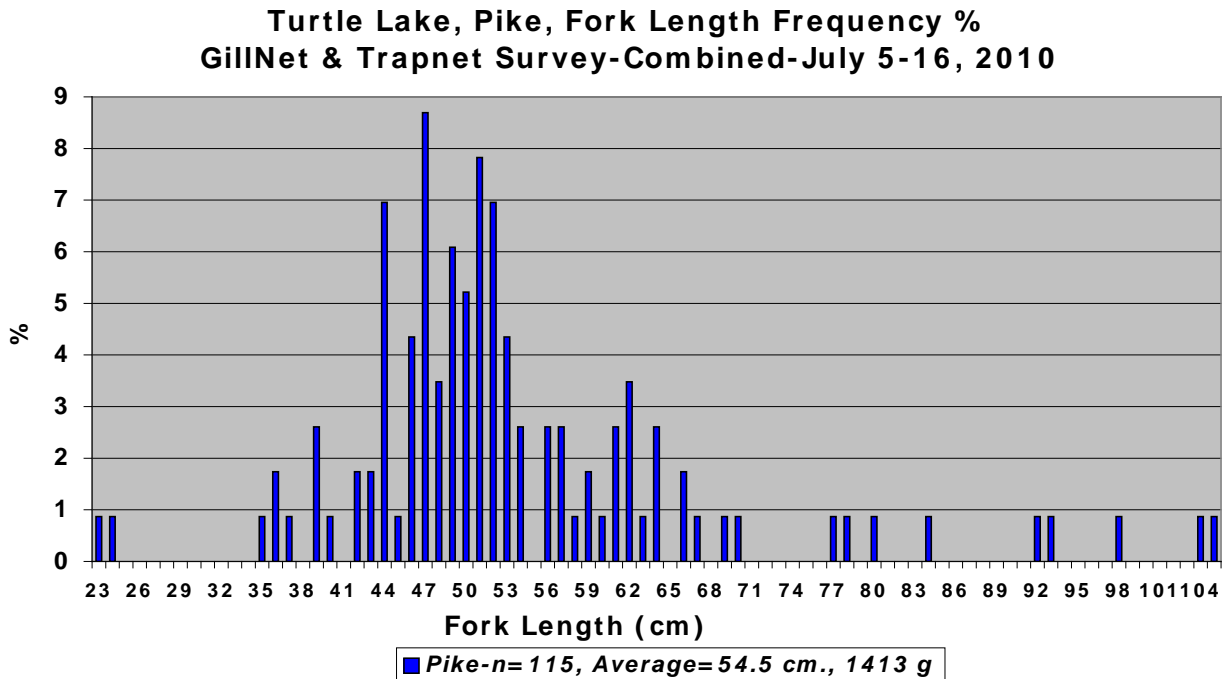


Figure15. Pike-Age Frequency histogram-2010

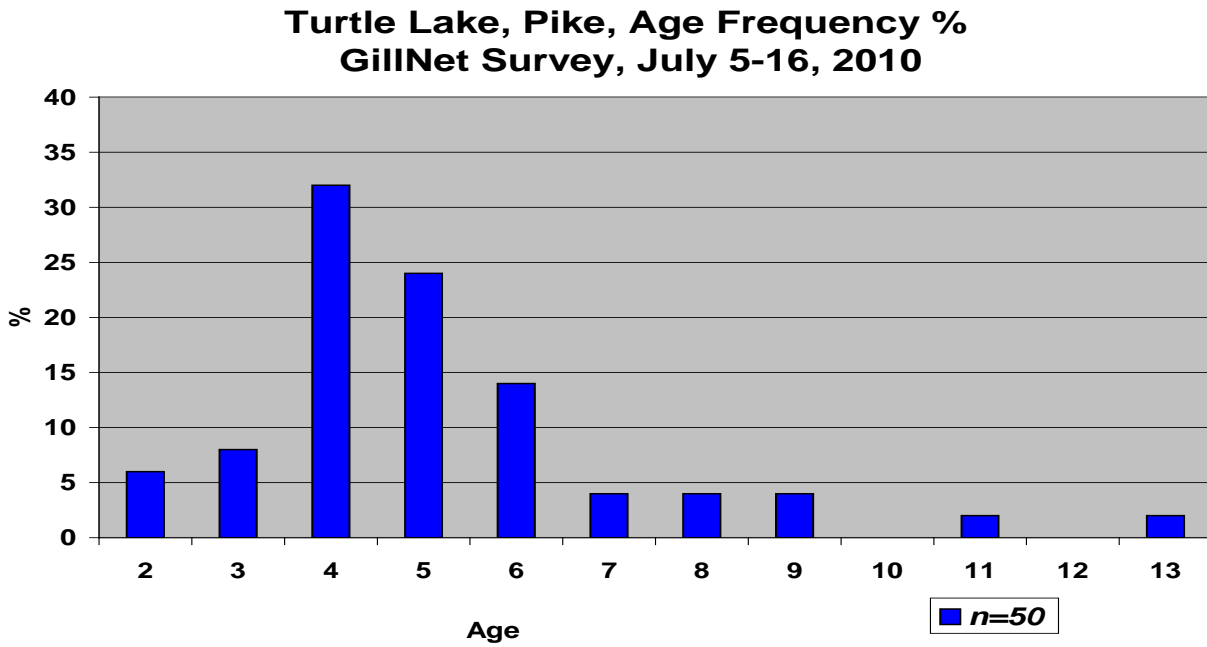


Figure16. Pike-Mean Length at Age-2010

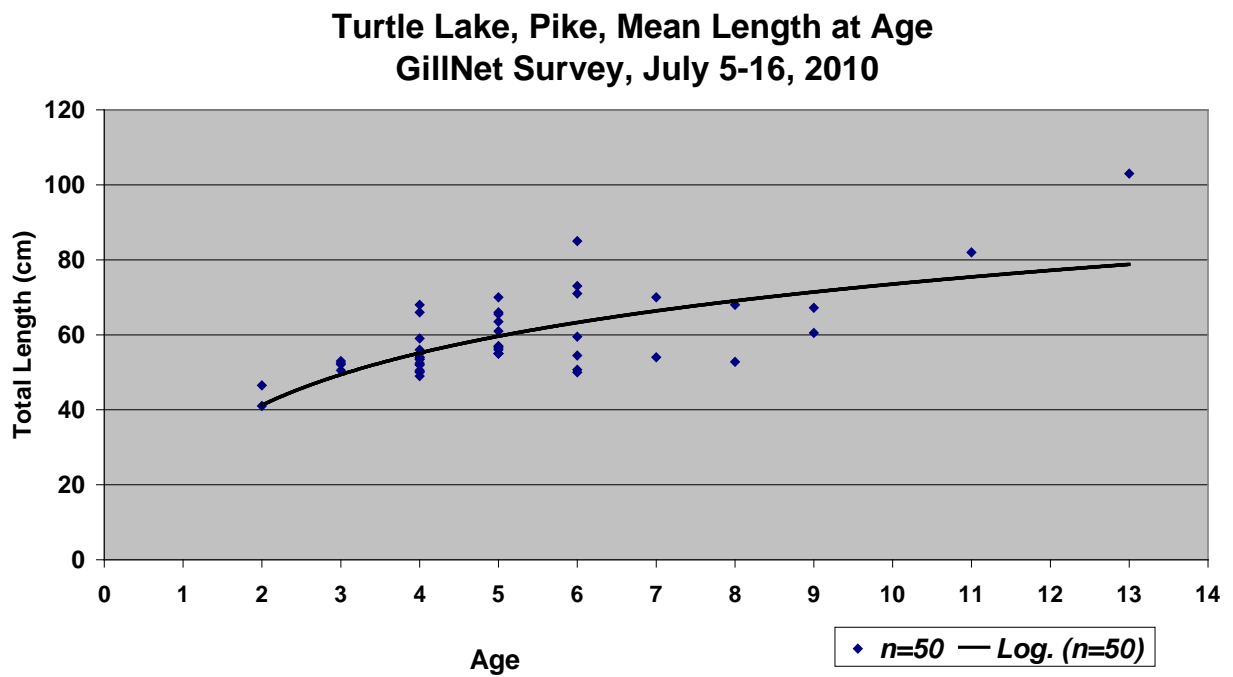
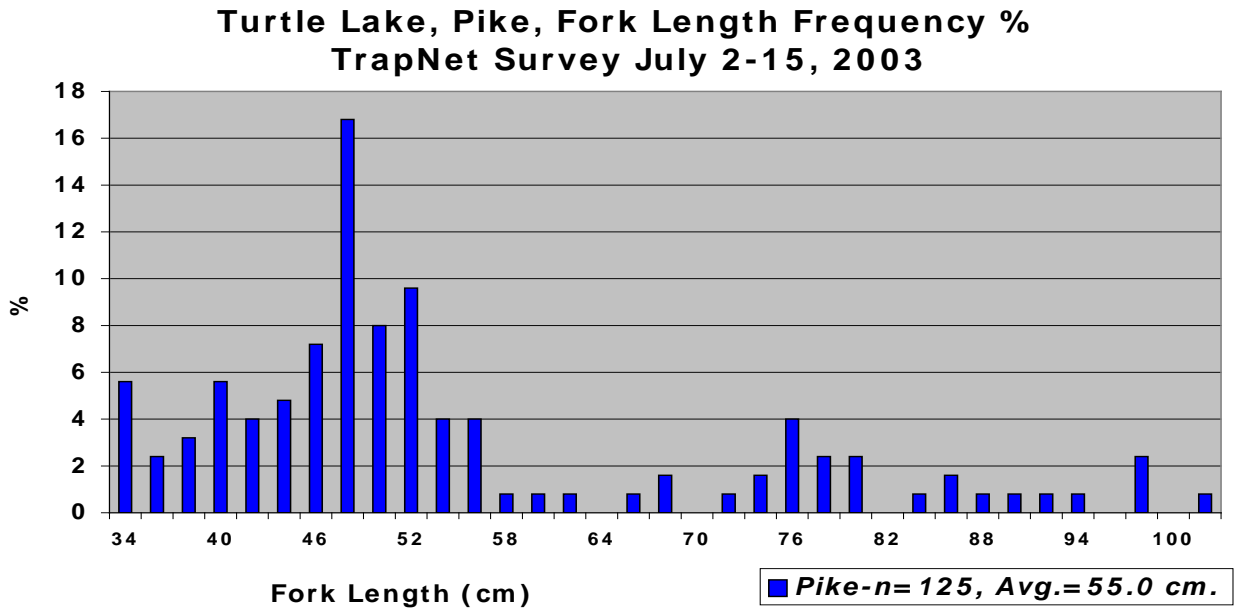


Figure17. Fork Length frequency histogram-Pike-2003 Trapnet Survey



c) Yellow perch

- Test nets indicate an increased population of perch, with a CPUE number of 5, the highest value recorded for this species (also recorded in the 1976 survey). As indicated by the PSD and RSD-P values of 2 and 0, only a small percentage of the population is of angling size (Table 4). The size of fish ranged from 14.5 cm (34 g) to 20.5 cm (90 g).

d) Whitefish

- Test nets indicate a fair population, with a CPUE number of 4.
- Two to 5 year old year classes indicate recent natural recruitment success (Figure 19). Intermittent spawning success for this species was noted in the 1967-1 Fisheries Technical Report-W.W. Sawchyn.

Figure18. Fork Length frequency histogram-Whitefish-2010 Gillnet Survey

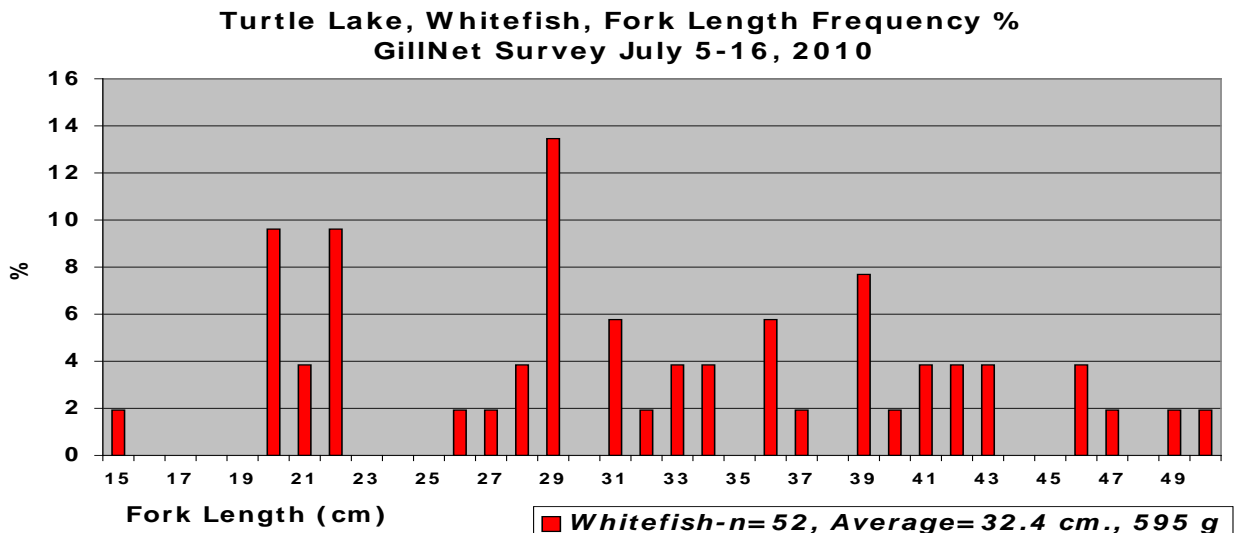


Figure19. Whitefish-Age Frequency histogram-2010

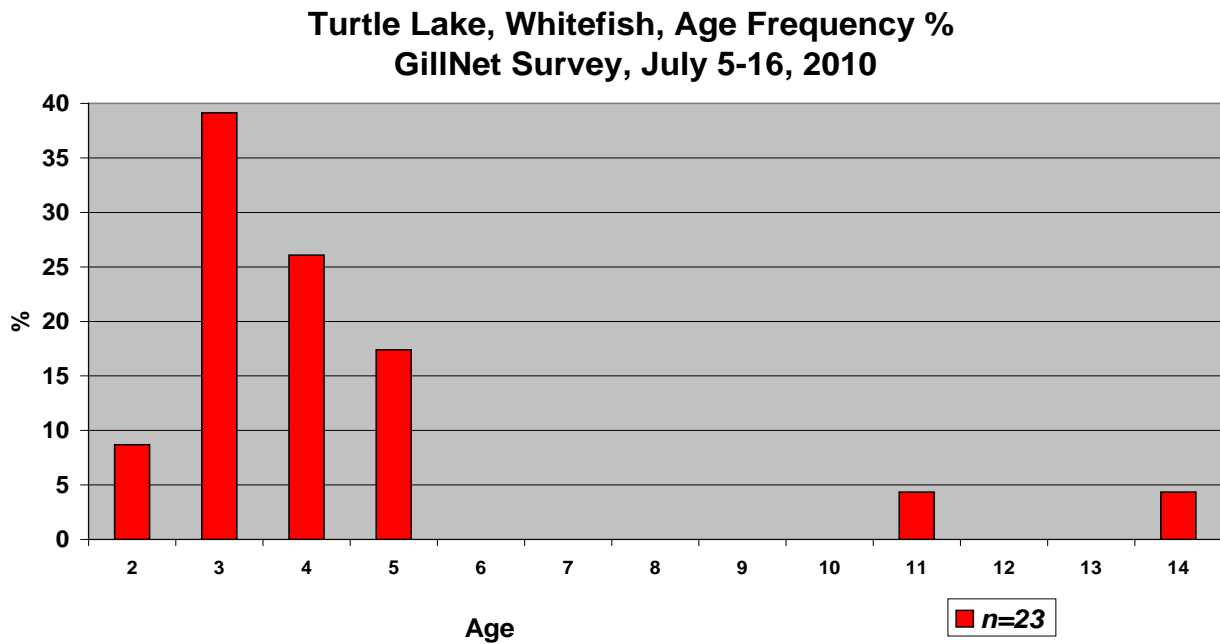


Figure20. Whitefish-Mean Length at Age-2010

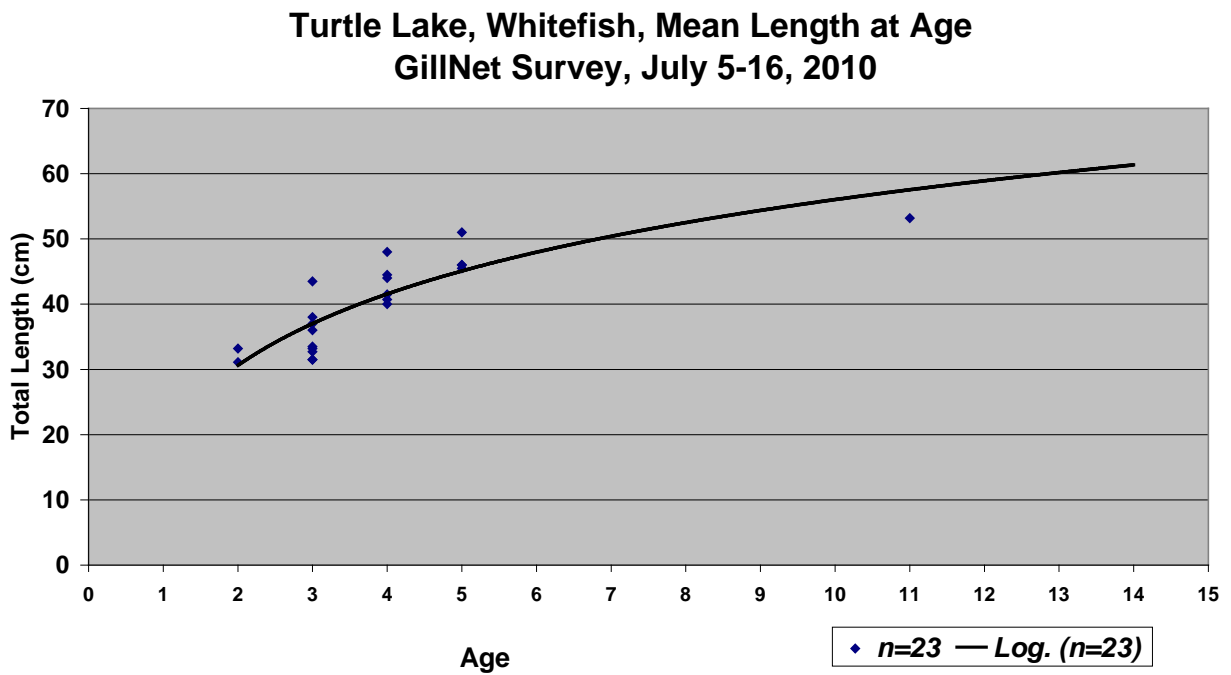
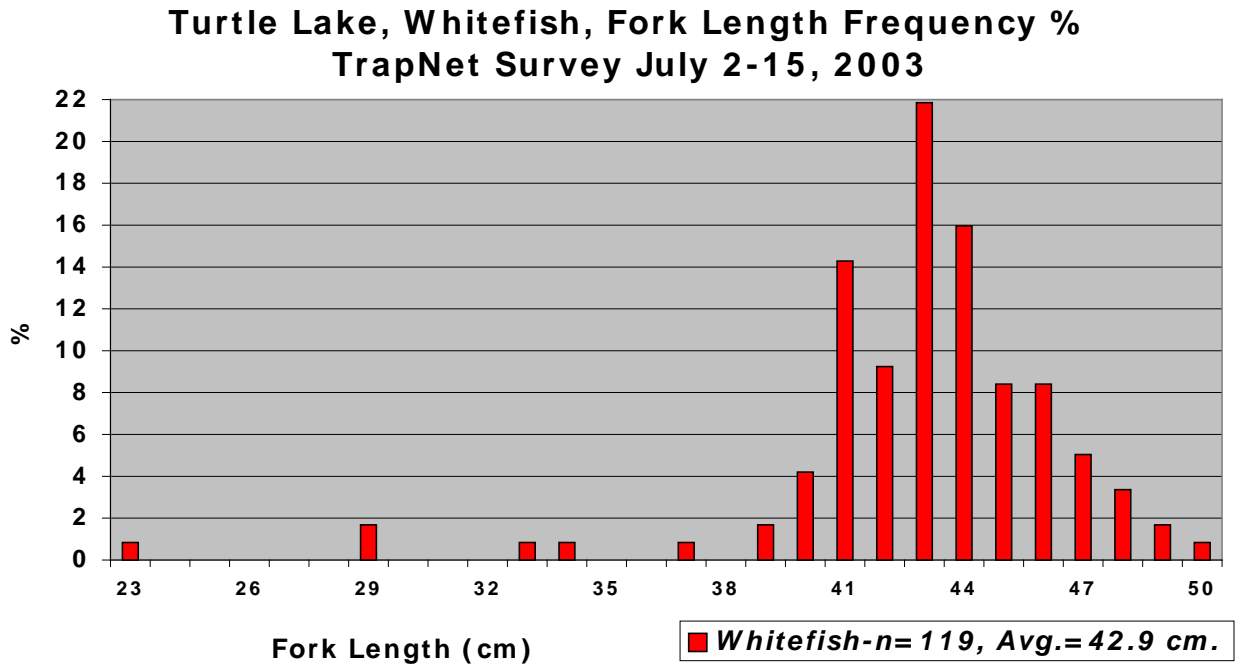


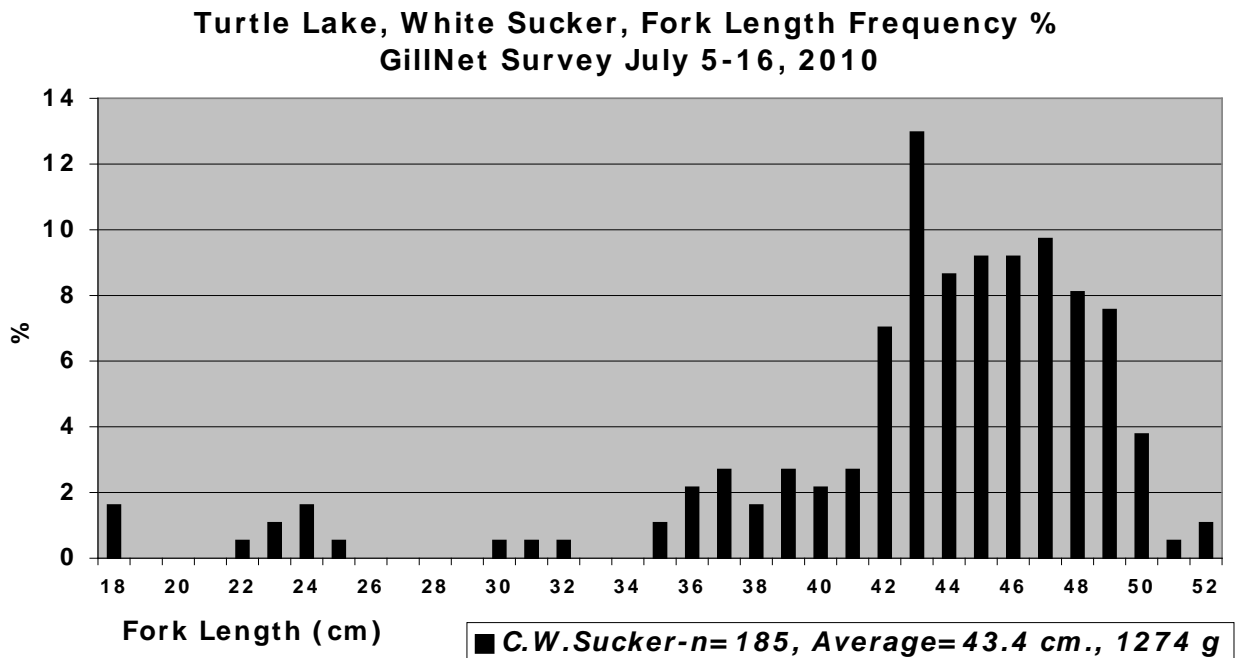
Figure21. Fork Length frequency histogram-Whitefish-2003 Trapnet Survey



e) White sucker

- Test nets indicate, as usual, an abundance of white suckers, with a CPUE of 14.

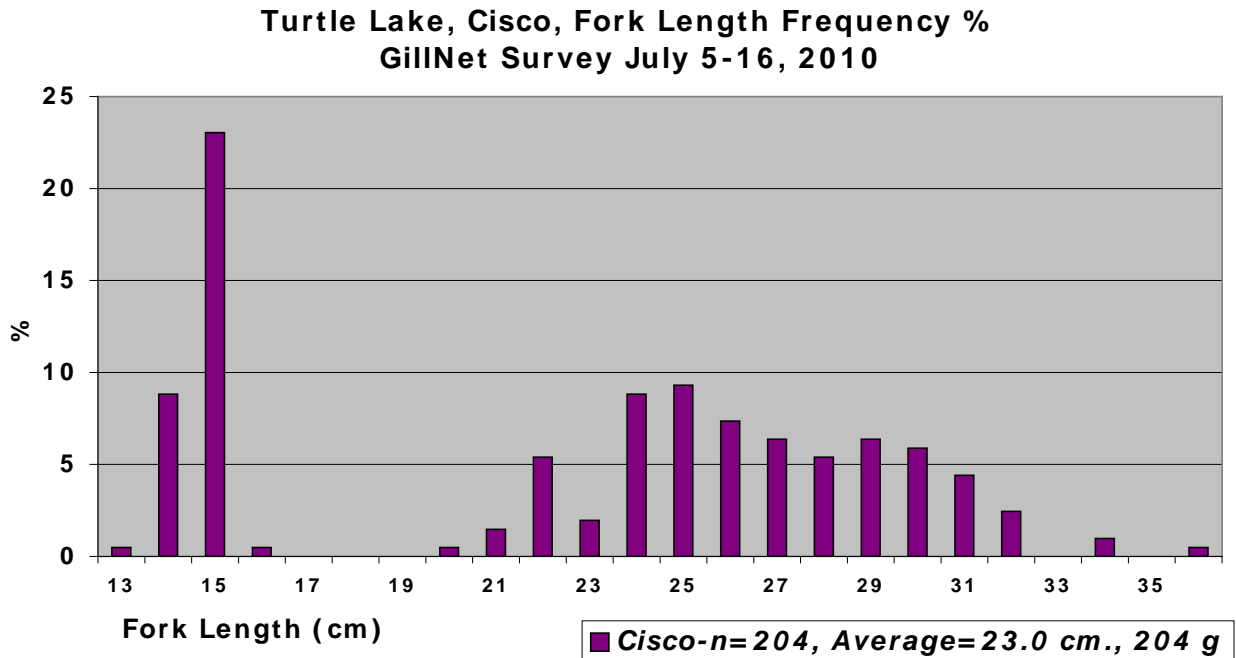
Figure22. Fork Length frequency histogram-White Sucker-2010 Gillnet Survey



f) Cisco

- Although abundant with a CPUE of 14, the population has declined, relative to historic numbers (Table 4, 4a).

Figure 23. Fork Length frequency histogram-Cisco-2010 Gillnet Survey



g) Burbot

- Test nets once again indicate a sparse population, with 5 burbot caught in the gillnets, and 10 in the trapnets. Those fish caught ranged in size from 45.5 cm to 70.5 cm. One female burbot measuring 57.4 cm was determined to be 6 years of age (otolith).

Management Recommendations

- Discontinue walleye stocking. As indicated by the high catch rate, numerous year classes and evidence of natural reproduction, the walleye population has become established.
- Monitor the baitfish catch for presence of young of year walleye fingerlings to confirm that natural reproduction for walleye is occurring on an annual basis.

Table 6. Stocking history of Turtle Lake

Walleye	1000000	Fry	11-Jun-2009	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	05-Jun-2008	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	29-May-2007	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	16-May-2006	Diefenbaker Lake
Walleye	600000	Fry	03-Jun-2005	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	28-May-2004	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	29-May-2003	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	11-Jun-2002	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	1000000	Fry	31-May-2001	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	1000000	Fry	27-May-2000	Fish Culture Station

Walleye	1000000	Fry	28-May-1999	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	1000000	Fry	25-May-1998	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	1000000	Fry	28-May-1997	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	600000	Fry	05-Jun-1996	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	30-May-1995	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	1000000	Fry	27-May-1994	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	2000000	Fry	25-May-1993	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	58959	Fingerlings	07-Aug-1991	Meadow Lake Rearing Ponds
Walleye	157295	Fingerlings	14-Aug-1990	Meadow Lake Rearing Ponds
Walleye	82400	Fingerlings	14-Aug-1990	Meadow Lake Rearing Ponds
Walleye	28640	Fingerlings	18-Jul-1989	Glaslyn Dugout
Walleye	88000	Fingerlings	24-Jul-1988	Meadow Lake Rearing Ponds
Walleye	1292	Fingerlings	21-Jul-1988	Glaslyn Dugout
Walleye	4674	Fingerlings	04-Sep-1986	Glaslyn Dugout
Walleye	5800000	Fry	29-May-1986	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	2000000	Fry	22-May-1986	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	1800000	Fry	04-Jun-1985	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	800000	Fry	28-May-1984	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	400000	Fry	10-Jun-1983	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	13-Jun-1982	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	09-Jun-1975	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	1000000	Fry	05-Jun-1975	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	12-Jun-1974	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	08-Jun-1974	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	200000	Fry	11-Jun-1962	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	300000	Fry	04-Jun-1960	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	400000	Fry	02-Jun-1960	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	800000	Fry	01-May-1957	Laronge Hatchery
Walleye	1064000	Fry	01-Jun-1956	Laronge Hatchery
Walleye	300000	Fry	01-May-1952	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	800000	Fry	02-Jun-1951	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	28-May-1949	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	500000	Fry	01-May-1946	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	1000000	Fry	04-Jun-1945	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	6100000	Eyed Eggs	04-Jun-1945	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	800000	Fry	01-May-1944	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	700000	Fry	04-Jun-1943	Fish Culture Station
Walleye	900000	Fry	01-May-1941	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	800000	Fry	01-May-1984	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	6046	Fingerlings	01-Sep-1981	Turtle L. Rearing Pond
Lake Whitefish	375000	Fry	04-May-1980	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	875000	Fry	03-May-1980	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	875000	Fry	01-May-1980	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	875000	Fry	01-May-1980	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	1950000	Fry	27-Apr-1976	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	1050000	Fry	25-Apr-1976	Fish Culture Station

Lake Whitefish	1050000	Fry	23-Apr-1976	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	780000	Fry	07-May-1974	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	1120000	Fry	30-Apr-1974	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	1500000	Fry	23-Apr-1969	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	600000	Fry	11-May-1947	Fish Culture Station
Lake Whitefish	950000	Fry	17-Apr-1944	Fish Culture Station

Table7. Oxygen / Temperature profile of Turtle Lake-July 9, 2010

Depth (m)	Water Temp °C	DO (ppm)
Surface	20.8	12.1
1	20	12
2	18.7	12.3
3	18.5	12.3
4	18.4	12.3
5	18.3	12.3
6	18.3	12.2
7	18.3	12.1
8	18.2	11.8
9	18	11.1
10	17.6	9.4
11	17.1	7
12	14.6	0.32

Figure24. Commercial Production History-Whitefish

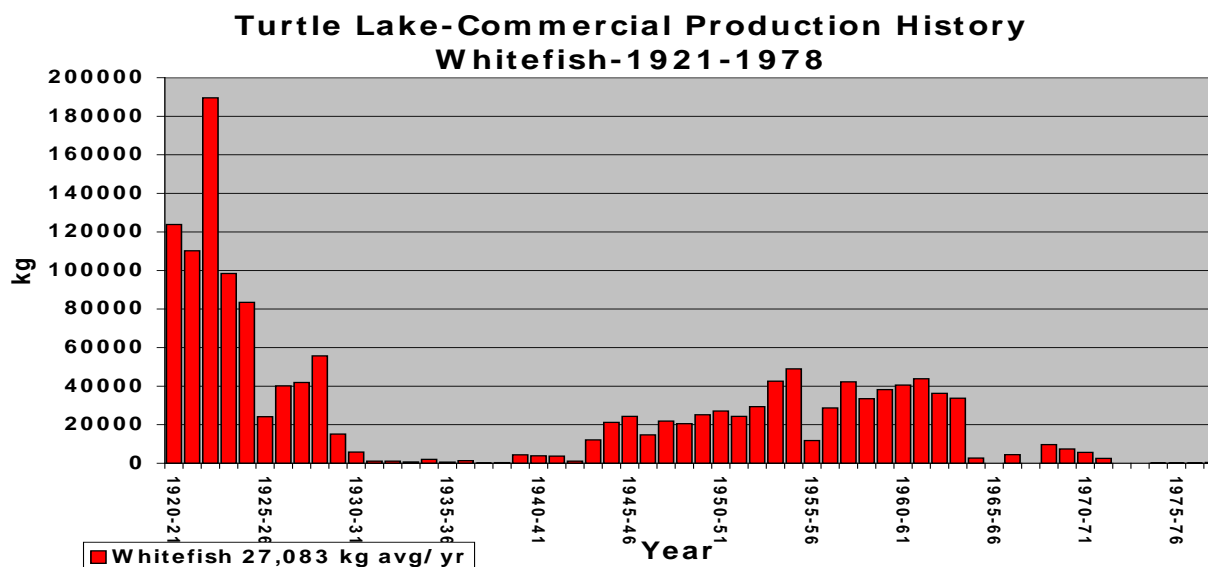


Figure25. Commercial Production History-Walleye

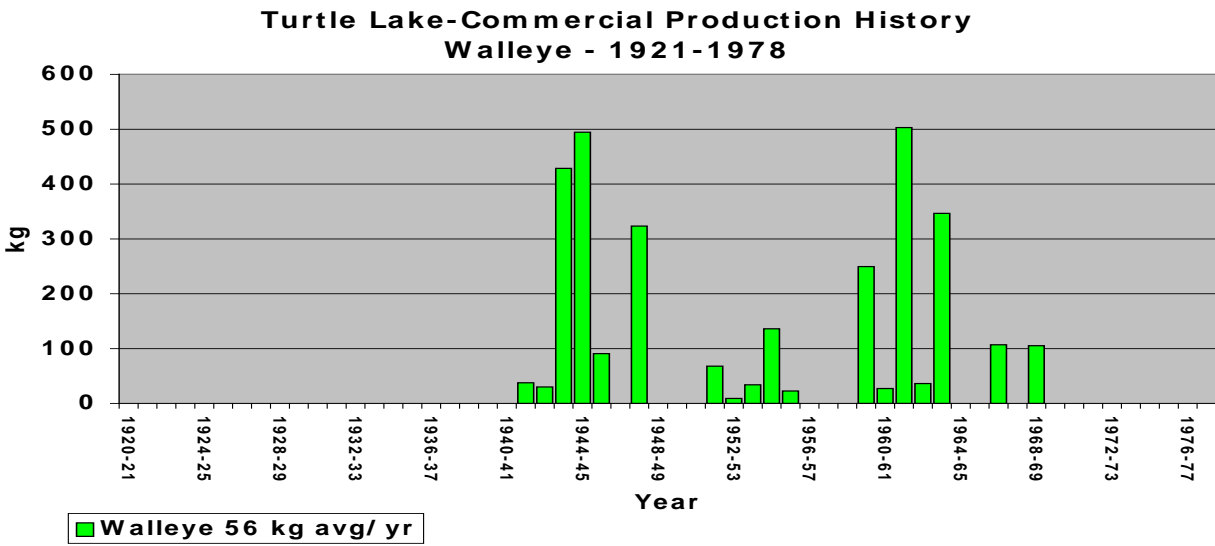
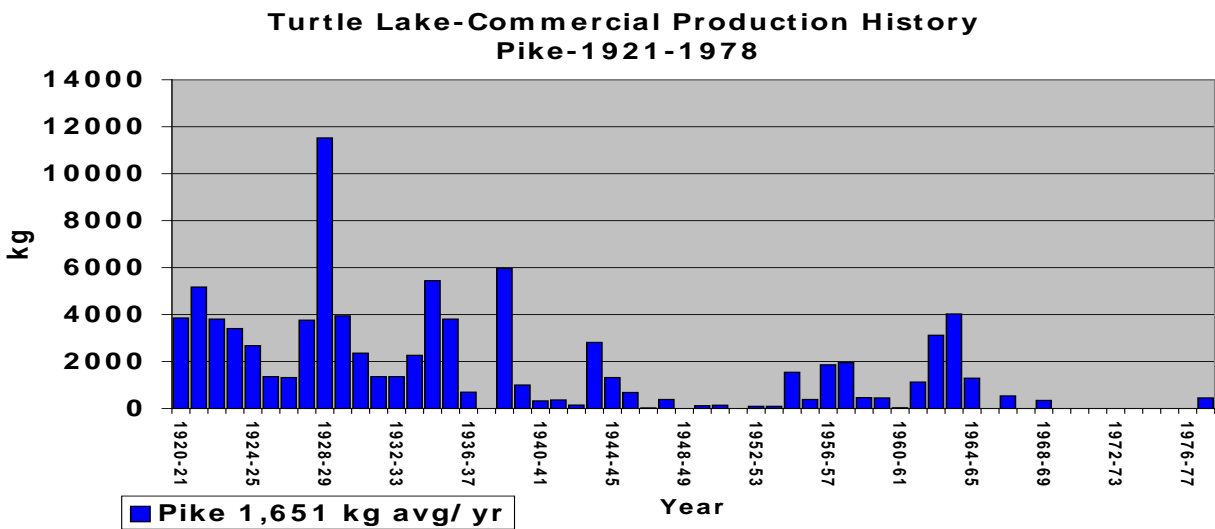
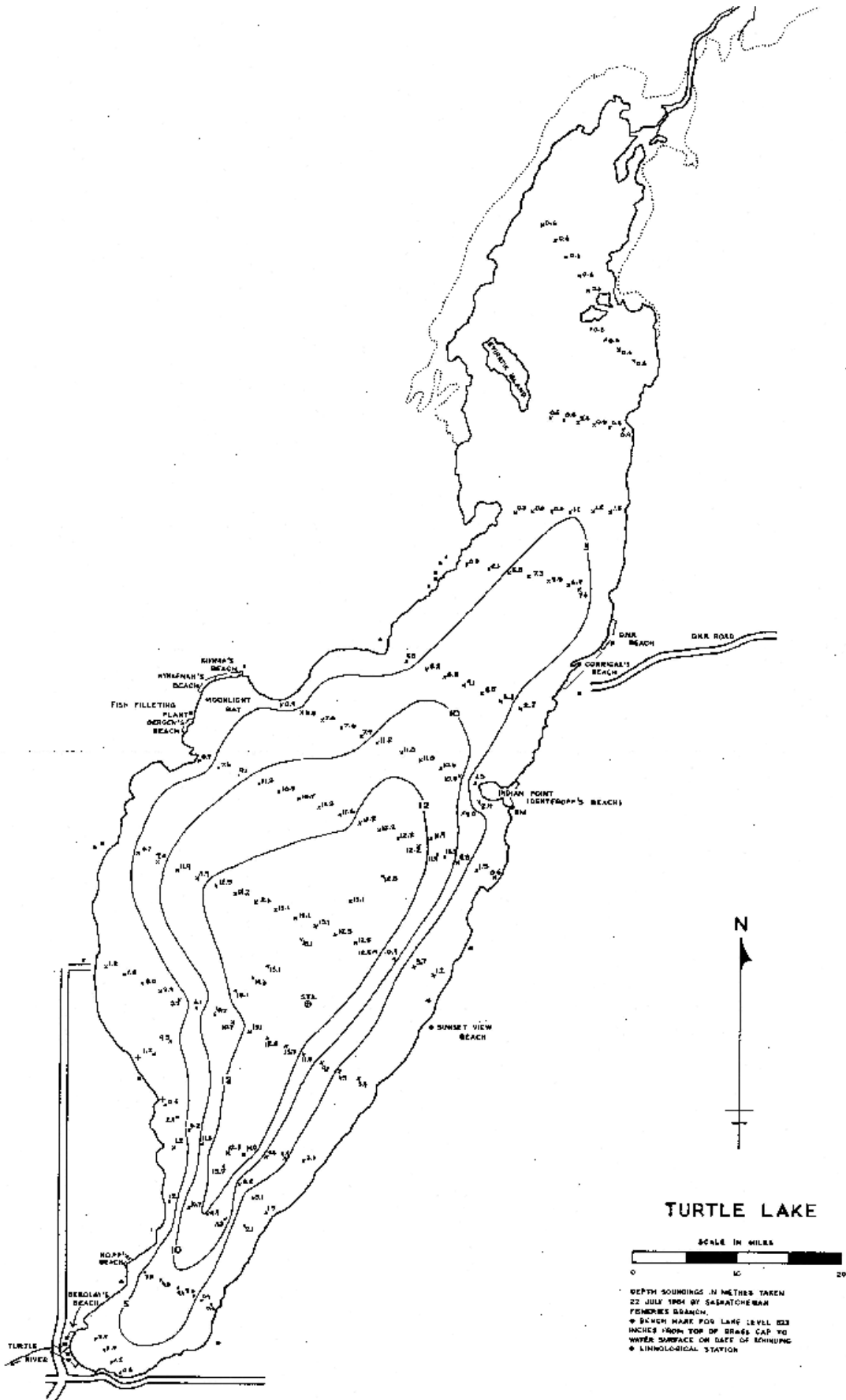


Figure26. Commercial Production History-Pike





TURTLE LAKE

SCALE IN MILES

0 10 20

● DEPTH SOUNDINGS IN METRES TAKEN 22 JULY 1964 BY SARGENT & Lundy
 ○ BENCH MARK FOR LAKE LEVEL 1233 INCHES FROM TOP OF BRASS CAP TO WATER SURFACE ON DATE OF SOUNDING
 ⊙ LIMNOLOGICAL STATION

Appendix A. A brief explanation of catch per unit effort (CPUE), proportional stock density (PSD), relative stock density (RSD), relative weight (Wr) and length class designations.

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) is the catch of fish in numbers or in weight taken by a defined period of effort. Defined as the number of fish caught per 100m gill net per net night, or as the number of fish caught in each trap net per night.

Confidence Interval (CI). A measure of sampling error. An 80 per cent confidence interval for an estimate is the range which will contain the 'true' figure on average 80 times out of 100.

Proportional Stock Density (PSD): Percentage of stock-length fish that are also quality length

$$PSD = \frac{\text{Number of fish} > \text{quality length}}{\text{Number of fish} > \text{stock length}} \times 100$$

Relative Stock Density (RSD-P): Percentage of stock-length fish that are also preferred length

$$RSD-P = \frac{\text{Number of fish} > \text{preferred length}}{\text{Number of fish} > \text{stock length}} \times 100$$

PSD and RSD-P are unitless, numerical descriptors of length-frequency data and usually calculated to the nearest whole digit.

Relative weight (Wr) is a condition index that quantifies fish condition (i.e., how much does a fish weigh for its length). A Wr range of 90-100 is a typical objective for most fish species. When mean Wr values are well below 100 for a size group, problems may exist in food and feeding relationships. When mean Wr values are well above 100 for a size group, fish may not be making the best use of available prey.

Length class designations (cm) for walleye, northern pike and yellow perch

Species	Stock	Quality	Preferred	Memorable	Trophy
Walleye	25	38	51	63	76
Northern pike	35	53	71	86	112
Yellow perch	13	20	25	30	38

Stock Length:

- Defined as the minimum length fish of recreational value. Designation is based on 20 – 26% of the world record length for the species.

Quality Length:

- Defined as the minimum length that anglers would like to catch. Designation is based on 36 – 41% of the world record length for the species.

Preferred Length:

- Defined as the length of fish that anglers would prefer to catch. Designation is based on 45 – 55% of the world record length for the species.

Memorable Length:

- Defined as the minimum length of fish that anglers would remember catching. Designation is based on 59 – 64% of the world record length for the species.

Trophy Length: Defined as the minimum length of fish worthy of acknowledgement. Designation is based on 74 – 80% of the world record length for the species.