



Gull Lake: DNR Management Update

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Summary

- ▶ Intro
- ▶ Pike Data
- ▶ Bass Tournaments
- ▶ Smelt
- ▶ Winter Creel

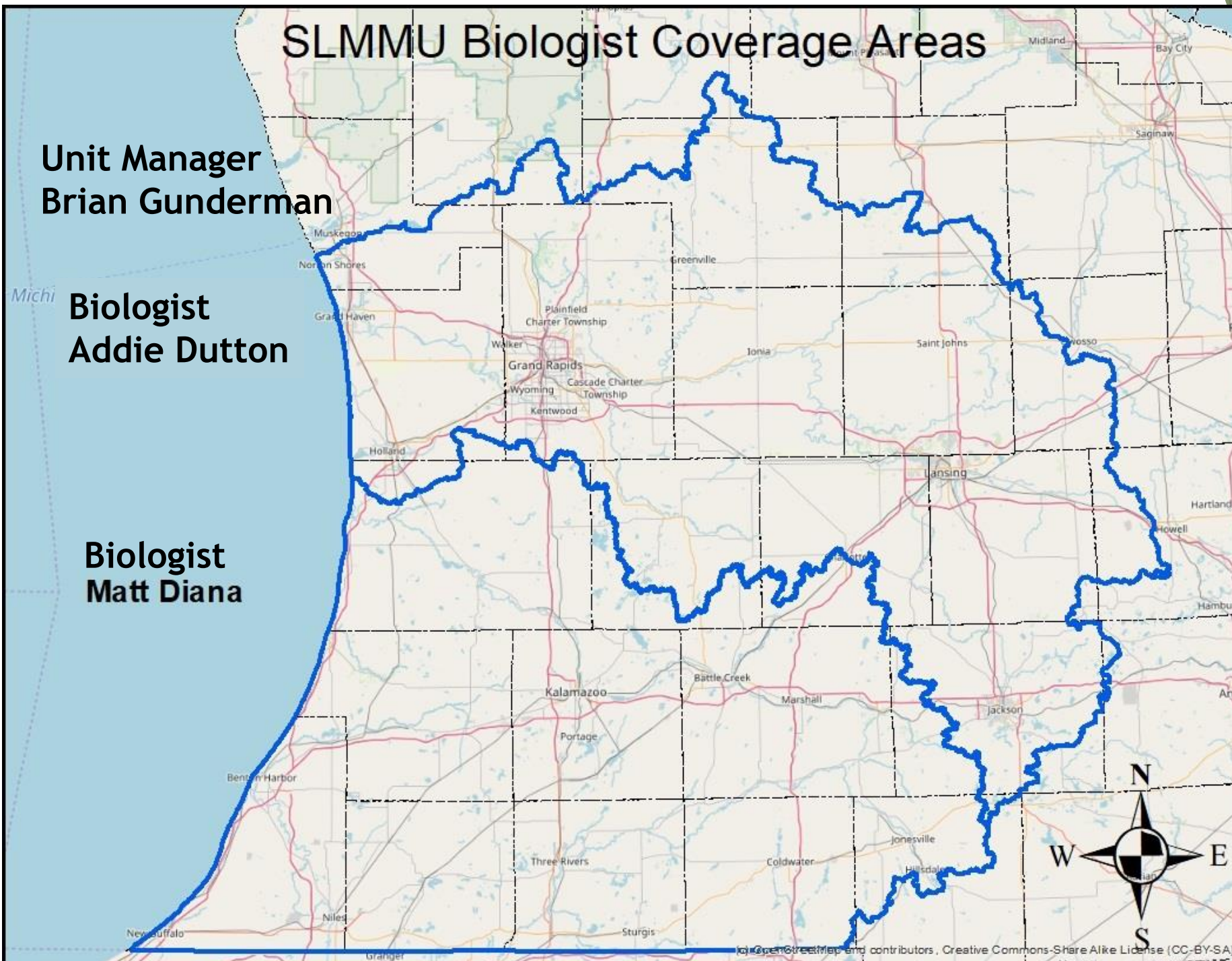


SLMMU Biologist Coverage Areas

Unit Manager
Brian Gunderman

Biologist
Addie Dutton

Biologist
Matt Diana



Gull Lake Pike



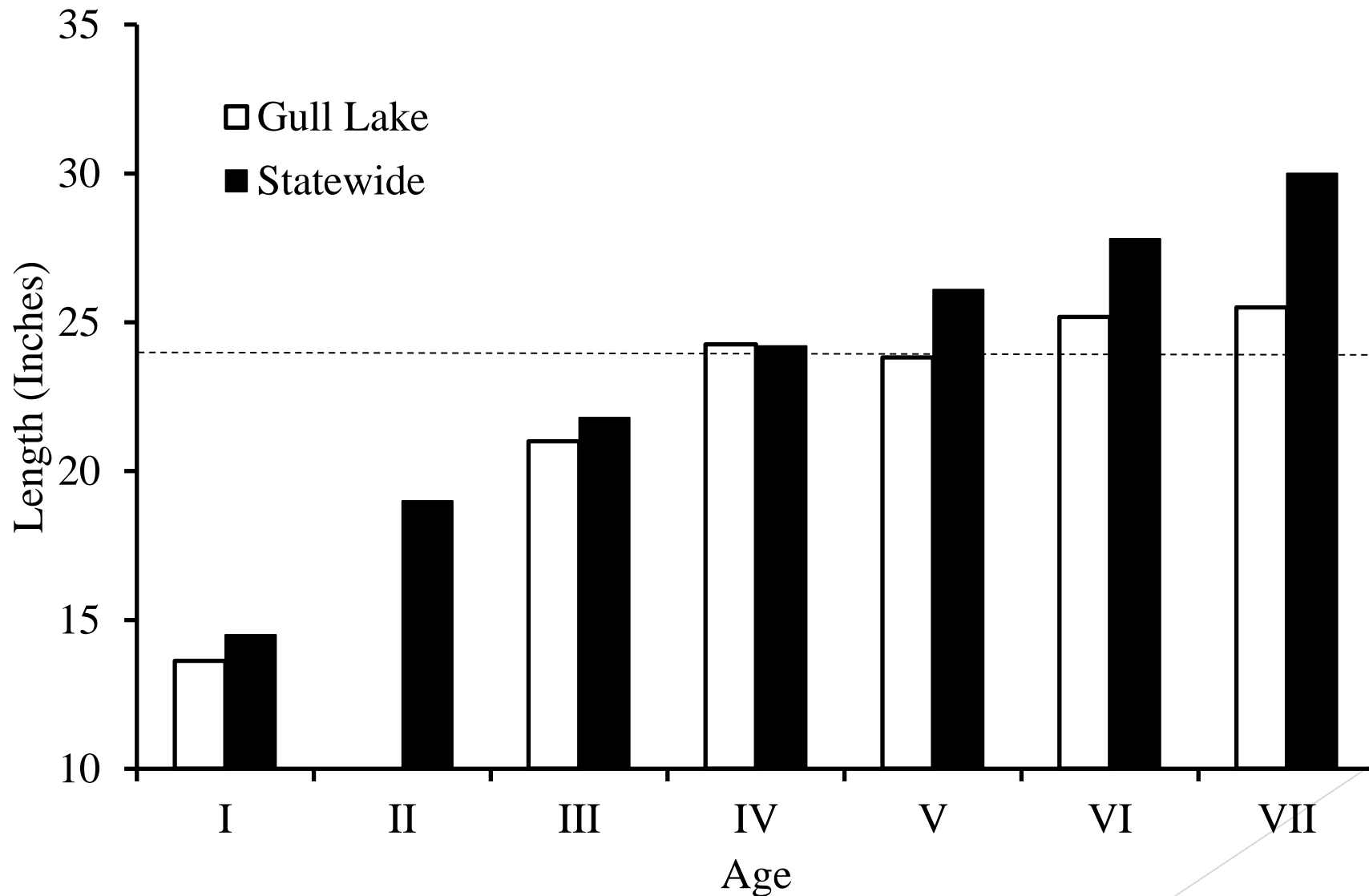


Pike Aging and Growth

- ▶ Anglers collected spines in 2018
- ▶ 69 fish turned in
- ▶ Most fish were 20-25 inches
- ▶ Slightly low growth
- ▶ Few big fish



Pike Growth



Management Options

Harvest Based Fishery

- Maintain current regulation

Manage for Quality

- Protective Slot Limit
- No harvest 24 to 34 inches

Angler and GLQO preference

Support and Outreach Education



Bass Tournaments





Fishing Tournaments

Department of Natural Resources

[Search Tournaments](#)[Register Tournament](#)[< BACK](#)[SHARE](#)

BAM Barry County

May 29, 2018
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Closed to Public
Anticipated Boat Count 20

Bass

BOAT RAMP DETAILS

A-08-031

Prairieville Twp. Park

Gull Lake

Barry County

Lat: 42.42632, Long: -85.42888

Features:

92 Parking Spaces

[Water Craft Controls](#)

Contain various game fish

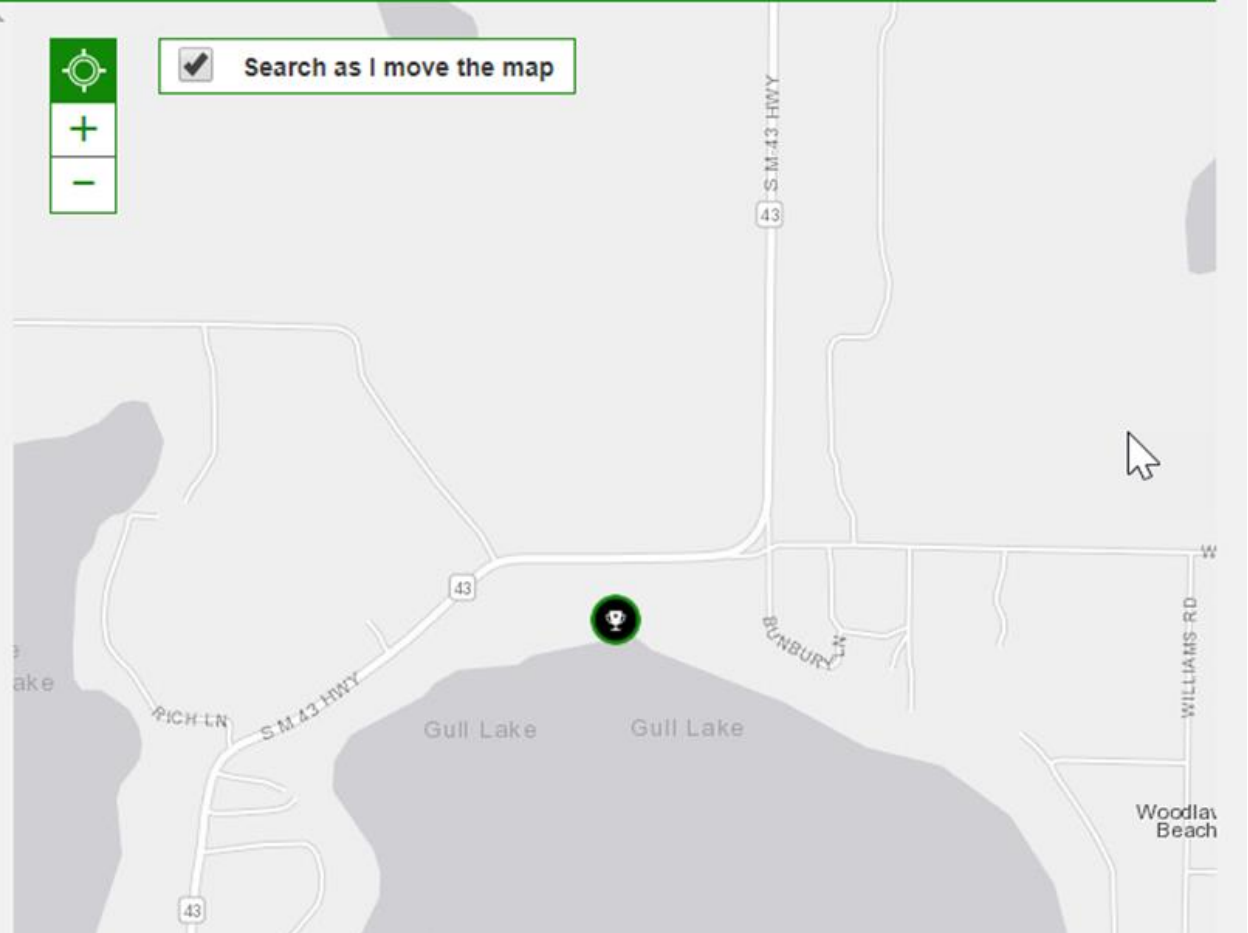
[Master Angler](#)

[Site Fees](#)

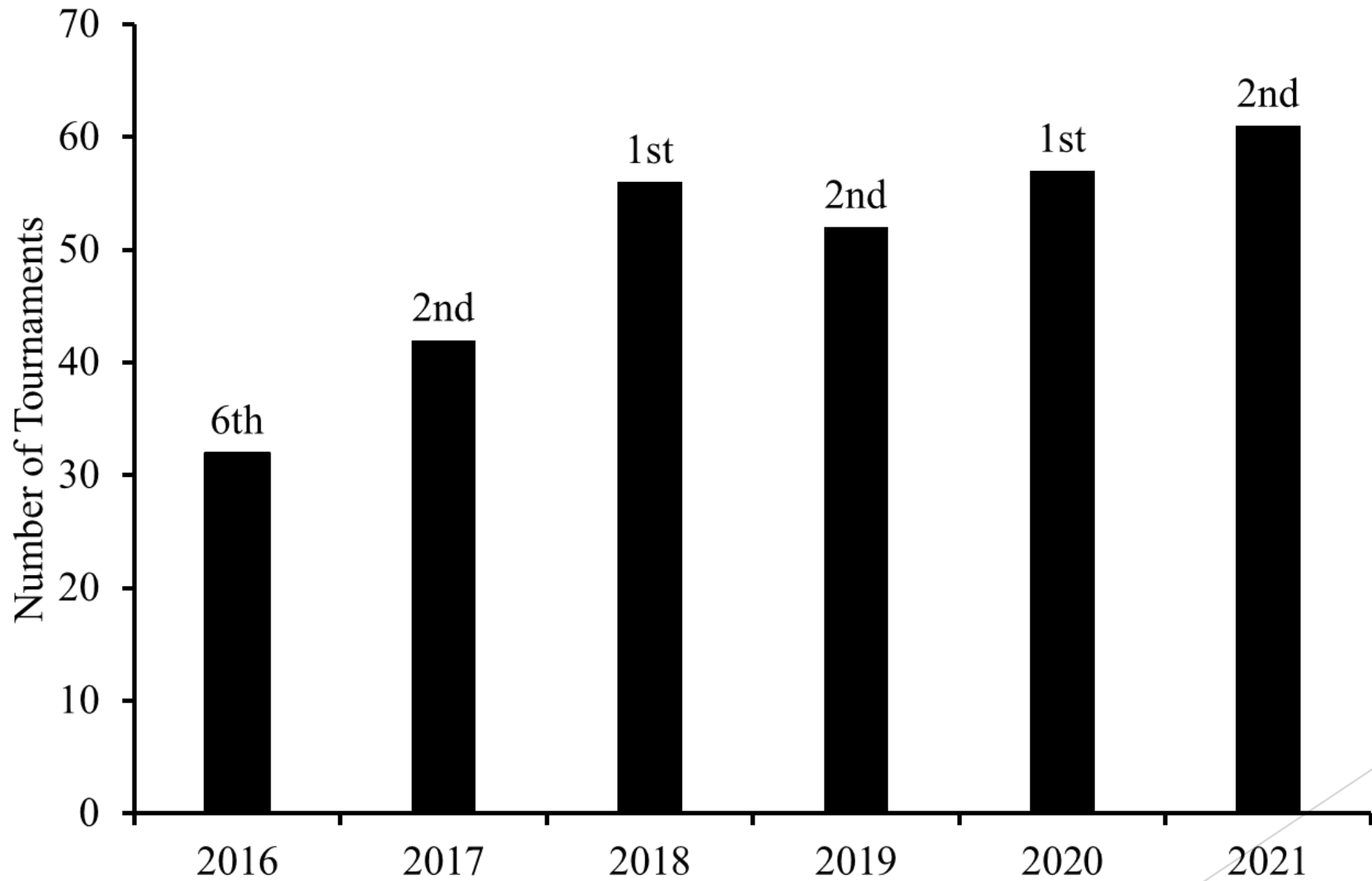
[Lake Bathymetry](#)

[Stocked by the DNR](#)

A hard-surfaced ramp in areas of limited water depth or limited size of water body



Gull Lake



Tournament Data

- ▶ 80% June - August
- ▶ Averaged 18 boats (33 anglers) per tournament (6-40) in Gull Lake
 - ▶ statewide average (14 boats, 25 anglers)
- ▶ Average annual catch of 2,000 to 2,500 fish
- ▶ Average bass size 2.2 lbs, big fish 4.1 lbs
 - ▶ Heaviest 6.55 lbs in 2021
- ▶ Statewide Evaluation



Smelt

- ▶ Population established by stocking in 1950 - 1953
- ▶ Crashes in late 1970s, 1983
- ▶ Restocked in mid 1990s
 - ▶ Lakes Michigan and Huron
 - ▶ Smelt Again Committee of Gull Lake
- ▶ Population boomed in 2005
- ▶ Fish kill in 2016
- ▶ Poor ice fishery in 2017/2018 and few fish spawning in 2018.



GULL LAKE VOLUNTEER FISHERIES SURVEY

The Gull Lake Quality Organization and MDNR are conducting a volunteer fisheries survey of Gull Lake to provide information for future management of the lake. Please take a moment to fill out and return this survey even if you did not catch any fish.

Thank you for your cooperation!

1. Date Fished: _____
2. Name: _____
3. Number of anglers: _____
4. Number of hours fished: _____
5. Species targeted: _____

SPECIES	# KEPT	# RELEASED
Largemouth Bass		
Smallmouth Bass		
Northern Pike		
Bluegill or Sunfish		
Yellow Perch		
Black Crappie		
Rock Bass		
Rainbow Trout		
Lake Trout		
Smelt		
Other Species		

Please record lengths for any northern pike, rainbow trout, or lake trout caught.

Species	Fish #								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Northern Pike									
Rainbow Trout									
Lake Trout									

Please email completed survey forms to MDNR Fisheries Biologist Matt Diana at dianam@michigan.gov or mail them to 621 N. 10th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080

Winter Creel

- ▶ 2018-2019
- ▶ 33 angler trips reported
- ▶ Smelt CPE 10.9 fish per hour
- ▶ Averaged 73 fish per trip
- ▶ Improved Annually through 2021-2022
- ▶ Large spawning even in 2020
- ▶ Multiple year classes reported in 2021 catch

Questions?

Results of Angler Age Structure Collection for Northern Pike and Winter Creel on Gull Lake, Barry and Kalamazoo Counties.

T1S/R9W/Sec 1,2,12; T1S/R10W1/Sec 6,7,8,17,18,20; T1N/R10W/Sec 36; and T1N/R9W 10W/Sec 31.

Surveyed May 2018 through May 2019

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