10-Brook Trout Bag Limit Summary

Coldwater Resources Steering Committee
September, 2016
Gaylord
Upper Peninsula 10 Brook Trout Bag Limit Regulation Study

• Study will run during 2013-17 on 11 UP rivers
  – Treatment rivers with 10 fish bag
  – Experimental control rivers
  – Additional rivers chosen for potential expansion of the regulation in 2015

• Electrofishing, creel, postcard, and online surveys will be used to obtain both biological and fishing-related information
Going in

• 10-brook trout bag predicted to have minimal effect on populations (based on biology, field and angler surveys, computer simulations)

• Opportunities to harvest more fish predicted to increase angler interest/participation/effort
Electrofishing

Numbers of legal-sized fish

- Treatment \(\downarrow\) (-58%)
- Control \(\uparrow\) (+47%)

Creel survey estimates

Data from 4 streams (Treatment & Control)

- Local pop. depletion under 10 bag?
- Decreased effort under 10 bag?
Residence of brook trout survey respondents

- **Online**: 37% UP, 53% LP, 10% Out of state
- **Postcard**: 26% UP, 66% LP, 8% Out of state
- **Creel**: 37% UP, 50% LP, 13% Out of state
When you catch a legal-sized trout, what do you usually do with them?

N=383

- Keep: 65%
- Release: 35%
How does/would having a 10-brook trout bag limit on a river influence how often you'd fish there?

- More: 24%
- Less: 10%
- No effect: 66%

N=362
In your opinion, how does/would having a 10-brook trout bag limit affect a river's brook trout population?

N=383

- Positive: 10%
- Negative: 49%
- No effect: 41%
Importance of factors that helped you choose where to fish

- Quality of fishing
- Know the river
- Close to home
- BKT bag limit
Which brook trout bag limit do you personally prefer for all UP rivers?

N=384

- 5 fish: 43%
- 10 fish: 57%
Preliminary indications

Minimal effect on populations?

- UP brook trout populations highly variable
- 10-fish bag has potential to deplete local pops

Increase angler effort?

- Bag limit relatively unimportant to most anglers
- Decreased effort due to 10-fish bag?
- Majority of anglers prefer 5-fish bag
Thank you

Questions and comments?
Residence of brook trout survey respondents

Online:
- UP: 37%
- LP: 10%
- Out of state: 8%
- 53%

Postcard:
- UP: 26%
- LP: 8%
- Out of state: 15%
- 51%

Creel:
- UP: 37%
- LP: 13%
- Out of state: 9%
- 41%
Age Min: 14  
Max: 83  
Avg.: 46  
Pct. Male: 96%
## Creel survey statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream</th>
<th># Anglers</th>
<th>Kept fish</th>
<th>Caught fish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% Limit</td>
<td>Avg. #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Cr. (2013-14)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Cr. (2015)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Mile Cr. (2013-14)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Mile Cr. (2015)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Br. Tahq.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Tahq.</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Electrofishing brook trout catches in 1000-ft reaches of 10-bag study streams

- Tahq. R. 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016

- E. Br. Tahq. 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016

- Upper Rock 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016

- *Bryan Cr 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016

- Two-mile Cr 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016

- Yell. Dog R. 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016

- Mullig. Cr. 2013
  - 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016
Population trends by size group for Treatment and Control streams