




North American Journal of Fisheries Management >

Volume 36, 2016 - [Issue 6](#)

309 | 13 | 0
Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

ARTICLE

Do Water Level Fluctuations Influence Production of Walleye and Yellow Perch Young-of-the-Year in Large Northern Lakes?

James H. Larson , David F. Staples, Ryan P. Maki, Jon M. Vallazza, Brent C. Knights & Kevin E. Peterson

Pages 1425-1436 | Received 19 Aug 2015, Accepted 15 Jul 2016, Published online: 10 Nov 2016

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/02755947.2016.1214645>



Sample our
Environment & Agriculture
Journals

>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article  Figures & data  References  Supplemental  Citations  Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

[Read this article](#)

 Share

Abstract

Many ecological processes depend on the regular rise and fall of water levels (WLs), and artificial manipulations to WL regimes can impair important ecosystem services. Previous research has suggested that differences in WL between late summer and early spring may alter the suitability of shoals used by Walleyes *Sander vitreus* for spawning. Other species, such as the Yellow Perch *Perca flavescens*, are unlikely to be affected in the same way by WL fluctuations because their spawning requirements are quite different. We used 11–23 years of data from six northern Minnesota lakes to assess the effects of WL fluctuations on the abundances of young-of-the-year (age-0) Walleyes and Yellow Perch. In two lakes (Rainy Lake and Lake Kabetogama), a change in WL management occurred in 2000, after which these lakes saw increased age-0 Walleye

abundance, while the other study lakes experienced decreases or no change. Rainy Lake and Lake Kabetogama also had increases in age-0 Yellow Perch, but another study lake did also. We used partial least-squares regression to assess whether WL metrics were associated with variation in age-0 Walleye and Yellow Perch abundances, but WL metrics were seldom associated with age-0 abundance for either species. Our analysis suggested a potential influence of WL regulation on age-0 Walleye abundance, but we found no evidence that early spring access to spawning shoals was the mechanism by which this occurred.

Received August 19, 2015; accepted July 15, 2016 Published online November 10, 2016

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Any use of trade, product, or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. We thank J. C. Nelson for assistance in creating [Figure 2](#) and Robert Kratt for assistance in creating [Figure 1](#).

Related Research Data

[The effects of water-level manipulation on the benthic invertebrates of a managed reservoir](#)

Source: *Freshwater Biology*

[Preference for Rocky Habitat by Age-0 Yellow Perch and Alewives](#)

Source: *Journal of Great Lakes Research*

[An extension of the floodpulse concept \(FPC\) for lakes](#)

Source: *Hydrobiologia*

[Spawning Substrate Preferences of Yellow Perch along a Sand-Cobble Shoreline in Southwestern Lake Michigan](#)

Source: *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*

[Partitioning total size selectivity of gill nets for walleye \(*Stizostedion vitreum*\) into encounter, contact, and retention components](#)

Source: *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

[Quantity, Structure, and Habitat Selection of Natural Spawning Reefs by Walleyes in a North Temperate Lake: A Multiscale Analysis](#)

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
13

A comparison of the effects of water-level policies on the availability of walleye spawning habitat in a boreal reservoir >

Jason T. Papenfuss et al.
Lake and Reservoir Management
Published online: 26 Mar 2018



Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research

Help and information

- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

 Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG