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# Response of Yellow Perch to Changes in the Benthic Invertebrate Community of Western Lake Erie

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marginally more than in the 1980s, suggesting that submaintenance feeding episodes were less frequent. In recent years, yellow perch growth rates have increased modestly, and yellow perch abundance has rebounded. The growth rate of age-3 yellow perch during the year before spawning explained 49% of the variation in age-0 recruitment, indicating that adult growth and condition may influence recruitment. We suggest that increases in benthic macroinvertebrate abundance are responsible, in part, for the increases in yellow perch growth and recruitment. We also suggest that yellow perch diets are a useful indicator of changes in the benthic community.

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