

Great Sacandaga Lake Walleye Diet Study

Introduction

This study, conducted by Broadalbin-Perth High School science research students, will begin January 2022 and will continue over the next several years. The main goal of the project is to study growth rates of walleye in the reservoir. An important aspect of the study is to learn what the walleye are eating. Besides helping to understand the walleye's eating habits, the diet study will contribute to a better understanding of the forage fish and macroinvertebrate (insects and crayfish) communities in the lake. We will also be determining the age of the fish by analyzing the gill plates of legal walleye.

The key factor in this study is strong angler participation in providing stomach samples and gill plates. We need your help!

Collecting the Stomach Samples & Gill Plates

It is very important that stomachs be taken from all legally harvested walleye during each trip. Even if the stomachs are empty they provide much information on feeding habits. In addition, with the use of a microscope and advanced identification techniques the researchers can often identify the remains of severely digested food items.

Both gill plates will need to be collected as well to help verify and confirm the age of the walleye.

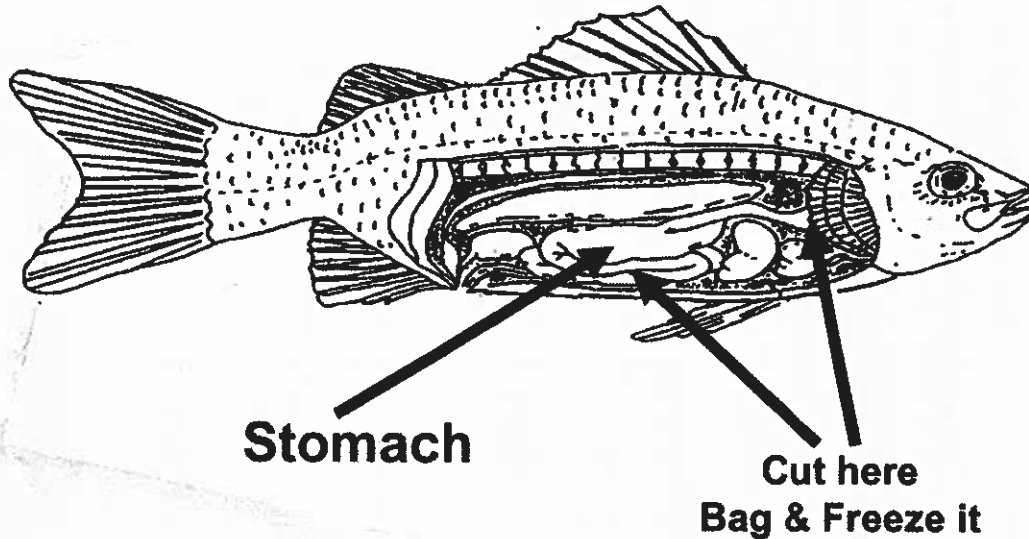
Filling out the label (Please use pencil so the writing will not bleed)

Species	<u>Walleye</u>	←	<i>Walleye will be the only species examined</i>
Length (inches)	_____	←	<i>Enter length in inches</i>
Date Caught	_____	←	<i>Record the date the fish was caught</i>
Location	_____	←	<i>Record the general area of the lake where fish was caught</i>

Depth	_____	←	<i>For example 20 feet down in 25 feet of water</i>
Angler	_____	←	<i>Enter the Angler's name</i>

Removing & Storing the Stomachs and Gill Plates After Cleaning the Fish

Stomach Removal



The entire stomach needs to be removed and be sure to check the mouth and throat because food often can be found in that area. Place each stomach in a plastic freezer bag with a completed label and freeze it immediately. Both gill plates will also need to be removed and placed in the same bag. A YouTube link is listed below to provide instructions for the removal of the gill plates.

<https://youtu.be/Owni2bHUqDE>

Drop Off Station for the Frozen Stomach and Gill Plate Samples:

Broadalbin-Perth High School
Main Office
100 Bridge Street
Broadalbin, NY 12025

7:30 am- 2:30 pm
Monday - Friday

Please Contact Brian Henry with any questions or comments.

Email: henryb@bpcsd.org

Phone: (518) 954-2600

Species <u>Walleye</u>	Species <u>Walleye</u>
Length (inches) _____	Length (inches) _____
Date Caught _____	Date Caught _____
Location _____	Location _____
_____	_____
Depth _____	Depth _____
Angler _____	Angler _____
Species <u>Walleye</u>	Species <u>Walleye</u>
Length (inches) _____	Length (inches) _____
Date Caught _____	Date Caught _____
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_____	_____
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Date Caught _____	Date Caught _____
Location _____	Location _____
_____	_____
Depth _____	Depth _____
Angler _____	Angler _____

Walleye Diet Study Data Cards: Cut along the dotted lines