

Hello all,

If you attended the last two membership meetings you have heard that we had a dismal spring walleye survey. Walleye density has dropped to only 0.8 fish per acre, down from 1.85 fish per acre in 2022. We have recently received another blow to our Walleye Rehabilitation Program. Mike Pruel, with the Mole Lake Fisheries, conducted a fall shocking survey on September 14th. They move along the shoreline electroshocking the water as they go. They then count and inspect the fish that surface. They did find a number of fish from last year's fall stocking, but they were not in good condition. They had not grown much and were very thin. They surveyed another lake that they stock (Crane lake) and found the fish to twice the weight as in Roberts. It is Mike's conclusion that there is not enough small forage fish for them to eat. Perch, bluegills, and small bass are all competing for the same food source as are the newly stocked walleye.

Mike, and Greg Matzke (DNR), both concur that we should not stock fingerlings this fall, only adding to the competition for the available food source. The DNR will stock in 2027 and see where we go from there.

I will be meeting with Mike and Greg this winter to discuss our rehabilitation program and will have updated information for you at the next meeting.

Gus