Lake Pend Oreille "State of the Lake"





Ponderay Events Center April 4th, 2019

Acknowledgments

- Funding: Avista Corporation, Bonneville Power Administration
- Hickey Bros. Research, LLC
- Numerous agencies and cooperators
- Anglers and other public supporters

Public Outreach Tools https://idfg.idaho.gov



Featured



HB 230 Combines Price Lock and Depredation Management / Access Fee

In the Spotlight



Regions



Public Outreach Tools https://idfg.idaho.gov/region/panhandle



Parihandia Region figure 1 Evence Farragul Shooting Range + Report

Panhandle Region

The Panhandle of Idaho boasts three of Idaho's big lakes and fishfilled rivers. These northern waters are home to coldwater natives, such as Westslope cutthroat, rainbow, and bull trout, as well as tiger muskie, lake trout, kokanee, chinook, and bass. Nine of Idaho's eleven big game animals can be found in North Idaho - white-tailed deer, elk, mountain goat, moose, bear, mountain lion, and wolves. The area is an outdoor enthusiasts playground.

News



Coeur d'Alene Lake Cutthroat Trout Conservation Project Resumes

THEFT, MARTIN BA, 2017 - 4754 PM MEET

Biologists with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Coeur d'Alene Tribe aire resuming efforts to give cutthroat trout a better chance of survival in Coeur d'Alene Lake.

perhande region - northern pike (apox lucius)



Lake Pend Oreille "State of the Lake" public meeting is March.

Websendary, March 22, 2047 - Scoll Fid MDT

Idaho Fish and Game staff will give a presentation summarizing fisheries information and activities related to the Lake Pend Orelle fishery from the past year

partiandieregan fahrer



State record alert: Hayden Lake angler catches and releases ongest northern pike winnelsy, stards zz, south 4 58 PM MOVT

Elevations in the Panhandle range from 1750 feet on the Kootenai River at the Canadian border to 7709 feet in the Sellicity.

Events



the Lake" Public Meeting The Lake Pend Oreilie "State of the Lake" public meeting is held annually. This year the meeting le set for Thursday

Office



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DFG Panhandle legion	Posts		Idaho Hunting	Reports
idfg panhandle	IDFG Panhandle Region Published by Andy Dux [?] - March 22 at 3:10pm - Q	ě.	Community	
lome	Lake Pend Oreille "State of the Lake" public meeting	set for March 30th.	Montana Wild	
About	IDFG staff will give a presentation summarizing fishe	Media/News Company		
Photos	will be provided afterwards for question and answer.	Anyone interested in		
Events	the Lake Pend Oreille fishery is welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!		Korell Outfitters Outdoor, Recreation & Fitness	
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Fishing Rules and Fish Management Plan

New fishing rules (2019-2021)
NEW: Clark Fork River mouth defined
New Fish Management Plan (2019-2024)



Free Fishing Day June 8, 2019 • June 13, 2020 • June 12, 2021 http://debc.gov Fisheries Management Plan 2019 – 2024 Commencement Resources



Lake Pend Oreille Fishery Background

Diverse, multi-species fishery

13 sport fish species caught (2014-15 survey)
7 coldwater, 3 coolwater, 3 warmwater

200,000 hours of angler effort (2014)
\$13 million economic value (2012)

Angler Creel Survey: 2014-15



Traditional LPO Fishery

- Bull Trout native (ESA listed)
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout native
- Kokanee established in 1930s
 - Historically supported most popular fishery in Idaho
 - Primary prey source for predators
- Gerrard Rainbow Trout introduced in 1941



1949 world-record bull trout, 32 lbs.



1947 world-record rainbow, 37 lbs. 2010 derby-winning rainbow, 25 lbs.

Fishery Decline - Factors

Bull Trout and Westslope Cutthroat Trout

- Tributary habitat loss/degradation
- Introduced species
- Kokanee decline started in late-1960s
 - Spawning habitat loss
 - Hydropower operations
 - Introduced species

Trophy Rainbow Trout and Bull Trout fishery

- Low kokanee abundance

Fishery Recovery Goals

Restore kokanee population that supports consistent harvest fishery and trophy Rainbow Trout fishery



Maintain/enhance Bull Trout population and restore harvest opportunity Restore consistent trophy Rainbow Trout fishery

Maintain/enhance Westslope Cutthroat Trout population

Non-Traditional Fishing Opportunity

- Numerous non-native species are established
- Most appear compatible with traditional fishery
 - Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Panfish, Brown Trout, Lake Whitefish, etc.
 - Add recreational value to fishery
- Three species are a threat to traditional fishery
 - Lake Trout, Walleye, Northern Pike
 - We manage against these species

Management Actions

- Hatchery stocking
- Water management
- Kokanee spawning habitat enhancement
- Tributary habitat enhancement and protection
- Harvest management (fishing rules, enforcement)
- Fish passage
- Lake trout suppression
- Experimental walleye suppression

Lake Trout Threat Emerged Late-1990s

- Delayed response to mysid shrimp
- Predation limiting factor for kokanee
- Threat to Bull Trout population
- Options:
 - Suppress Lake Trout
 - Do nothing risk fishery collapse
- Lake Trout Management Goals:
 - Reduce to late-90s abundance
 - Maintain low density population

Lake Trout Suppression

 Contracted commercial fishing company - Hickey Bros. Research Angler Incentive Program (\$15/fish) to remove LKT Removals began in 2006 Funded by Avista and BPA Research and monitoring - Telemetry, population estimates, catch rates, growth, etc.





Commercial Netting









Netting Strategy

Adult netting
Target spawning areas
Sept. - Oct.
Juvenile netting
Target "nursery" areas
Oct. - April



Lake Trout Removed



Fish Donation

Total 2018: ~7,600 lbs Lake Trout

Thank you for bringing nicky, Karan Markes Jula Huturt 8. hung

mick + Jan Chappele Joen Hegge Kathy & Ron Corder Betterlivi Janly

Charde + Rachel Hanna family From Laly

Sadane Ogd 15 Jumer sel Monua Shepperd Thank you So Much Roadee bund

Netting Bycatch



Kokanee Population Status





Millions of Fish









Kokanee Biomass Trend



Age-3 Kokanee Length and Weight



KOK Age 2 Size







Hatchery Kokanee

- Egg take
 - 6.0 million late-run

→ 4.6 Million kokanee fry to be released in LPO





Lake Trout Population Status

Lake Trout Abundance



Lake Trout Catch Rates



Size structure of 3 main components





Rainbow Trout Fishery Monitoring

11/28/2014
Rainbow Trout Fishery Monitoring

- Difficult Off-shore fish, typical research gear doesn't work
- Continue to work with anglers

 \rightarrow Gathering fin rays from tournament fish

→ New: Angler log books (catch rates/fish sizes)



Lake Pend Oreille Rainbow Trout Angler Logbook

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) genuincly appreciates your participation in the Lake Pend Oreille Rainbow Trout angler logbook program. Data obtained from these logbooks provide valuable information for monitoring and managing the Rainbow Trout population in Lake Pend Oreille, ID.

Instructions:

Please record the total length (to the nearest % inch) for every Rainbow Trout caught on Lake Pend Oreille. When able, please also provide the weight for Rainbow Trout caught on Lake Pend Oreille. For every fishing occasion, please provide the date, number of anglers, number of rods used, total hours fished, total number of Rainbow Trout caught, and total number of Rainbow Trout kept. Please also provide the species and total length for other species caught while fishing for Rainbow Trout on Lake Pend Oreille. A fish species abbreviation chart is provided below for your convenience. This logbook is for fish caught in Lake Pend Oreille, ID only.

Abbreviation
RBT
BLT
LKT
KOK
WCT
BRN
WAE
SMB
LMB
NPK
YEP
NPM
BLC
LWF

Questions? Need additional pages?

Please contact Nicky Graham (nicole.graham@idfg.idaho.gov) or Matt Corsi (matthew.corsi@idfg.idaho.gov), (208) 769-1414

Rainbow Trout Fishery Monitoring





Rainbow Trout Growth



Link Growth to Kokanee Abundance





Bull Trout Redd Trend



Mysid Population Status



Role of Mysid Shrimp

- Introduced in LPO from 1966-1969
 - Well-established by 1975
 - High density sustained over time
- Abundant food source for juvenile lake trout
- Compete with kokanee for zooplankton





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- <u>Compete with kokanee for zooplankton</u>





Mysid Population Trend

2018 Mysid Densities ~26% of 1995-2011 Adult/IMM Average



2008











11





2017



1-1-46 1-9-46

























Future Sustainability



LPO Tributary Creel Survey

- Surveyed Clark Fork River, Lightning Creek Drainage, and Pack River Drainage
- February November 2018
- Objectives:
 - Evaluate spring Rainbow Trout fishery
 - Better understand fishing effort and catch rates for all species
 - Baseline for future comparison



Fishing Effort



Fishing Effort



Clark Fork River – Angler Catch



Clark Fork River – Angler Catch



Creel Survey - Summary

- Very low effort in Pack River and Lightning Creek
- Clark Fork River
 - Rainbow Trout primary focus Feb-April
 - Cutthroat Trout important component all year
 - Diverse fishery in summer and fall
 - Growing Walleye fishery
- No evidence that catch-and-release Rainbow Trout fishery is problematic
- Better fishing access is needed

Sullivan Springs Spawning Channel Maintenance

- Habitat work completed in 2015
- Maintenance of gravel necessary
- Manual gravel conditioning done annually
- Thanks to LPOIC volunteers for their help!



Sullivan Springs Spawning Channel Maintenance





Before

After

Sullivan Springs Spawning Channel Maintenance





2019 Plans

 Lake trout suppression continued - AIP and gillnetting Annual population trend monitoring - Kokanee, Lake Trout, Bull Trout, Mysis shrimp Cutthroat Trout trend survey Rainbow Trout studies - Angler log books, growth rates, telemetry Bull Trout survival/abundance study Hatchery kokanee stocking •

2019 Plans

- Tributary population surveys
- Tributary habitat improvement projects
- Improved access to Clark Fork River
- Experimental Walleye suppression continued
- Walleye research continued
 - Telemetry, diet, etc.
- Smallmouth Bass pilot study
 - Tagging, develop strategy for lakewide population survey

Fishery Status Summary

Kokanee population in flux

- Abundant food source for predators
- Fishery suffering from small fish size
- Lake Trout remain at low density
- Rainbow Trout trophy fishery continues to improve
 - Fast growth rates = better trophy potential
 - Angler logs suggest good catch rates
- Bull Trout population strong and stable
- Cutthroat Trout prevalent
- Mysid shrimp at remain at fairly low density

Fishery Status Summary

- Smallmouth Bass population strong and stable
- Variety of other species contributing to fishery
 - Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass, Brown Trout, etc.
- Fishery is performing well
 - Diverse, good catch rates for most species
 - Kokanee the primary exception
 - Trophy potential of fishery is exceptional and still improving
- Sustainability?
 - Northern Pike appear to be increasing
 - Walleye rapidly increasing

Walleye Research and Management









Walleye were first collected in Lake Pend Oreille in 2006, the first year of the LKT suppression program. They were probably here earlier.

Silve. Beach

KOØTENAI

Belmont

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Walleye Population Trend


Why are we concerned?



Walleye Biology:

Well-suited to establishing in new environments:

- Can begin eating fish at < 2 inches</p>
- Walleye are highly effective predators
 - Especially for trout, kokanee, and soft-rayed fish species
 - Diverse diet can switch prey easily
- Mature at early age when growth is fast (2-4 yrs)
- High reproductive potential, ~36,000 eggs per pound body weight
- Can spawn in variety of habitat types (main lake shoals, rivers, flooded vegetation)
- Commonly live 10-20 years or more

Walleye Introduction:

Walleye and Northern Pike: Boost or Bane to Northwest Fisheries? MANAGEMENT **ABSTRACT** Introductions of nonnative walleye (Stizostedion vitreum) and northern pike (Esox lucius) have created popular recreational fisheries in many Northwestern waters. Rising demand for expanded angling Introductions of nonnative walleye (Stizostetion vitrum) and northern pike (Esox lucius) have created Popular recreational fisheries in many Northwestern waters. Rising demand for expanded angling opportunities for these species, especially walleye, has been met with growing concern about long By Thomas E. McMahon and David H. Bennett Popular recreational fisheries in many Northwestern waters. Rising demand for expanded angling opportunities for these species, especially walleye, has been met with growing concern about long term risks associated with the introduction of a top predator. Proposed introductions are often conopportunities for these species, especially walleye, has been met with growing concern about long-term fisks associated with the introduction of a top predator. Proposed introductions, and long-range troversial because of potential prey depletions, reductions in salmonid populations, and long-range term risks associated with the introduction of a top predator. Proposed introductions and long-range inversial because of potential prey depletions, reductions in salmonid populations, and long-range movements of the species from the point of release. We urge a cautious approach to future introductroversial because of potential prey depletions, reductions in salmonid Populations, and long-range novements of the species from the point of release. We urge a cautious approach to future introduc-tions of these species in the northwestern United States and outline some approaches for evaluating movements of the species from the point of release. We urge a cautious approach to future introducing tions of these species in the northwestern United States and outline some approaches for evaluating risks and benefits. Stricter risk assessment procedures for species introductions have been adopted ions of these species in the northwestern United States and outline some approaches for evaluating risks and benefits. Stricter risk assessment procedures for species introductions have been adopted by many states, but illegal introductions of both species are a continuing problem. Greater efforts are risks and benefits. Stricter risk assessment procedures for species introductions have been adopted by many states, but illegal introductions of both species are a continuing problem. Greater efforts are needed to educate the public about the risks of illegal transplants, and stronger statutes are necessary by many states, but illegal introductions of both species are a continuing problem. Greater efforts are needed to educate the public about the risks of illegal transplants, and stronger statutes are necessary to discourage this activity. wine worthwest unstrates that weighing potential recreational and introductions against potential longintroductions against prinetitian not term ecosystem effects is fraught with complex biological and social to discourage this activity. waterbodies (Colby et al. 1987; with complex nonogene and seven considerations. In this article, we Waterbacters (Caroy et al. 1987). Knight and Vondracek 1993). Coloniwonueranous, in this article, we review the current distribution of opularity of nonnative Amenia and voluciaces 17937. Uno zation of new waters beyond the walleye and northern pike in the zauori or new waters beyond the point of release is an additional conregion and summarize case studies walleye (Stizostedion vit-Point of renewse is an automatic son cern. Some western states prohibit describing how local systems have eum) and northern pike (Esox lucius) as sport fishes responded to pike and walleye intro cern. Some western states protection stocking of walleye into certain d in recent years in waters (Idaho Department of Fish responded to pike and walleye ductions. Our aim is to outline waters ucano Department or rish and Game [IDFG] 1982; Colby and approaches for evaluating fisks and tern United States The walleye fishery ang Same (1989), 1996, Sany and Hunler 1989), However, demand for enefits of proposed introductions Normover (200). The walleye tishery in Lake Roosevelt, Washington, pro-vides 200,000 angler-hours of fishing annuality at catch when of the each the annuality of catch when of the each the angling opportunities continues to ornenes or proposed mnounc and for curtailing illegal ones. mount, especially for walleye, and viues any owner anguer invites or userned annually at calch rates of 0.5 fish/h mount, especially for waileye, and Idaho (IDFG 1982) and Montana Current Distribution armuany at catch rates of U.5 tish, with fish in the 2-kg to 5-kg size Colby and Hunter 1989) have con-Walleye and northern pike we range commonly caught (Hallock Comy and Collect 1999 Investoring ducted environmental assessments waiteye and normern pike were first introduced to the Northwest in range commonly caught (Hallock and Fletcher 1991), Northern pike in Coeur Alene Lake, Idaho, exhibit de Signature consult, ester of the aucuea environimental assessments to guide stocking policies. Unfortuthe 1940s and 1950s (Brown 1971; to Sume succords boundes, outorta-nately, while state agencies have ini-Beamesderfer and Nigro 1989) and now occur throughout the Columbia nareay, wrone source openness nave t failed detailed environmental rethe highest growth rates of the North America, and catchnaueu ueraneu environmientai re-views to evaluate risks and benefits now occur mrougnout me comm and upper Missouri River basins of fish >12 kg are common (Rich of proposed introductions, illegal anu upper nausuuri arvei vaana (Figure 1). Their range continues to ol proposed introductions, inegal introductions of both species may be rising (Vashro 1990, 1995). tish 214 kg are common court These and other trophy fishexpand as they colonize and are received national publiciexpana as mey colonize and are introduced into additional water. ng magazines and televiaug (vasoro 1990, 1990). Throughout North America the thus fueling interest infougnous worth America an use of species introductions as a management tool has come under angling opportunities management tool has come under increased scrutiny (Moyle et al. 1986; Spencer et al. 1991; Bain 1993), Wall-One of the more significant wall he region. Proposed bodies. One of the factor seguritient ways ten controversial eye introductions in the region was to the upper Columbia River system Walleye Spencer et al. 1771; peur 12937, mair eye and northern pike management ed risk to the region's to the upper Columbia River system (Figure 1). Although the history of nid fisheries (Conover Thomas E. McMahom is an associate professor in the Biology Department, Fish d Wildlife Protentin, Manlana Stale University, Bozenan, MT 59717-0346; uvgure 1)- Annougu ne neseory or its introduction is unclear, a popular Thomas E. McMahon is an associate professor in the Biology Department. I and Wildlife Program. Monitaria State University Bogerman, MT 59717-0346; unit measures associated and the Bennett is a evolves or in the Fish and can be troublesome because potenand Wildlife Program, Montana State University, Bozentan, MT 59717-0346; ubin@msu.oscs.montana.edu. David H. Bennet is e professor in the Fish and Wildlife Resources Department. University of Idaho, Moscow. ID 83844-1136: can we accurrescome occasse poor tial top-down effects have been ubijm6msu.oscs.mortana.edu. David H. Bennett is a professor in the Fish and Wildlife Resources Department, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1136; disemet@suidaho.edu. dbennett@uidah0.edu. 6 + Fisheries

Not a new issue:

Pros:

- Popular sportfish
- Adds diversity of fishing opportunity
- Cons:

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- Difficult to sustain popular recreation fisheries
- Native species impacts
- Difficult to sustain prey base

Walleye Diet - Fall 2016



Sampled in deep water (kokanee habitat)

Kokanee most frequent item in stomachs

Walleye Diet - 2017 nearshore survey



- High prey diversity
- Perch and warmwater fish group most frequent
- Kokanee common (margins of kokanee habitat)

What proportion are harvested?



Tagged 466 walleye for harvest rate estimate

Walleye Summit – March 2018

- Invited panel of Walleye experts to Idaho
 - Dr. Nigel Lester
 - Dr. Mike Hansen
 - Dr. Mike Quist
 - Dr. Eli Felts
 - Dave Lucchesi



 Reviewed Pend Oreille situation and provided feedback

Walleye Summit – Summary

- Unanimously agreed that Walleye pose a major risk to sustainability of existing fishery
- Currently monitoring and research approach is scientifically sound
- Can Walleye population be controlled via fishing?
 - Possibly more difficult than Lake Trout
 - Highly unlikely that angler harvest alone will be sufficient
 - Targeted suppression probably necessary

Walleye Summit – Summary

Recommendations:

- Proactive management essential to minimize risk
 - Cannot afford to wait to see if they cause fishery decline
- Transition research to focus on "fishing power"
 - Monitor angler harvest rates
 - Assess feasibility of targeted netting as a tool
- Document distribution using telemetry
- Identify sources of recruitment (MT or ID)
- Evaluate trends in diet
- Promote angler harvest

Walleye Research Questions

1. What are their current densities?

Low to moderate, but rapidly growing

2. What proportion are harvested?

- About 16%
- 3. What are they eating and how do they fit in the LPO food web?
 - Cool/Deep Kokanee, Warm/Shallow Perch
- 4. Where do they spawn?

5. What are distribution and movement patterns?



Walleye Telemetry Study – 2018 Results



March and April – 12 fish

 Staging at CFD and in CFR

May – 15 fish

 Staging at Sandpoint, Sunnyside, CFD and in CFR, some spawning

Already well distributed



June – 9 fishConcentrated at CFD

July – 11 fish

- Concentrated at CFD
- Several up toward CGD
- Moving shallow and west







2018 Pilot Telemetry Summary

- We have identified some general habitats used by Walleye
- High use of CFR, CGD, and warm shallow basins west to Sandpoint and into POR (highly mobile)
- No movements into Pack or Priest Rivers
- Spawning areas not specifically documented, but Clark Fork, Pack River Delta assumed

Walleye Suppression Feasibility – 2018 Results



Spring 2018 Walleye Suppression Netting Can we manage walleye densities?



Gillnetting (April 16 – May 4)

Walleye Gillnetting Bycatch – 2018



Walleye Research

Samples collected for:

- Structures for age and growth analyses
- Muscle for future food habits studies (SI)
- Ovaries for fecundity analyses, pop. modeling, spawn timing
- Water of origin analyses (Microchem.)

Spawn late April into May



Food Bank Donations



3580 pounds of fish donated

Netting Plans 2019

- Targeted walleye netting (April 15 May 3)
- Evaluate catch trends and size structure
- Continue collecting tissues and structures (food habits grad. project 2020)
- <u>Did three years of suppression netting (measurably)</u> change population structure and/or densities (FWIN 2020)?</u>



Walleye Research Questions

- 1. What are their current densities?
 - Survey in 2020
- 2. What proportion are harvested?
 - Continue to learn from AIP
- 3. What are they eating and how do they fit in the LPO food web?
 - Food habits graduate student 2020
- 4. Where do they spawn?

5. What are distribution and movement patterns?



Telemetry Plans for 2019

- Develop Vemco array 30 VR2W passive receivers (listening stations)
- Will tag LKT, RBT, and WAE with multiyear tags
- We will still actively track tagged fish!
- Determine larger scale
 movement "patterns"
- Provide anglers more useful data



Experimental Walleye Angler Incentive Program

- Objectives:
 - Increase fishing effort
 - Encourage anglers to harvest walleye
 - Maximize potential for angling to be an effective tool for controlling walleye



Two Ways to Win



Tagged Fish

- 50 fish tagged in LPO
- Microscopic tag in fish's head
- Anglers can't tell if they are tagged
- Each worth \$1,000

Monthly Lottery

- Each head submitted = 1 entry into the lottery
- Ten \$100 awards drawn per month

Walleye AIP

Design Considerations:

- Fiscal uncertainty
- Potential for non-LPO Walleye



Data Slip



LPO Angler Incentive Program

Species (Check only one): () Lake Trout () Walleye
Angler Name:
Street:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone Number:
Idaho Fishing License No.:
Month fish were caught (If fish were caught in multiple months please bag heads separately):
Number of heads submitted by location:
Clark Fork River downstream of Cabinet Gorge Dam Lake Pend Oreille north of Windy Pt. (north half of lake) Lake Pend Oreille south of Windy Pt. (south half of lake) Pack River
and upstream of Albeni Falls Dam (Walleye only) Priest River (Walleye only)
By signing below I certify that I have read and understand the rules of this program (<u>https://idfg.idaho.gov/lake-pend-oreille-ander-incentive-program</u>) and all the information above is true and correct.
Signature:Date:

Drop-Off Locations



Freezer Locations North 40, Ponderay Arnie's Conoco, Kootenai Peck Landscape Supplies & Farm Store, Sagle Glengary Bay Boat Launch, Sagle Garfield Bay Public Boat Launch, Sagle Hope Marine, Hope Holiday Shores, Hope Bonner Park West, Priest River MacDonald's Hudson Bay Resort, Bayview Fish & Game Field Office, Bayview Fish & Game Regional Office, Coeur d'Alene



Take Home Messages

- Walleye now established and rapidly increasing in Lake Pend Oreille
 - Population doubling every three years
- Walleye have diverse diet in Lake Pend Oreille
 - Kokanee are being consumed (red flag)
- Angler harvest rates currently low
- Panel of experts:
 - Walleye population growth threatens stability of fishery
 - Learn more about population
 - Assess ability of angling and netting to keep population in-check

Take Home Messages

- Walleye fishery exists
 - Fishing opportunity likely will be present into the future
- Walleye need to be managed to maintain acceptable balance in fishery
 - Harvest-oriented angling important tool
 - Other removal measures may need to be considered
 - Research and monitoring important to inform future management decisions

Questions?