

Northern Pike Management in Deep Creek Lake



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What is a trophy?



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Why is Deep Creek Lake Special?



Northern Pike Management in Deep Creek Lake Management



Initiated a tagging study in 2014

- Growth Rates
- Movement
- Catch/Harvest Information
- Age



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Tagging Information



Ice fishermen harvest rates seem disproportionately high

- Similar angler attitude to Minnesota creel data
- Numerous ice-angler reports of catching and harvesting large Northern Pike

Angler preference survey conducted to see if there was support for a regulation change aimed at **reducing harvest, developing the trophy potential of the fishery, and potentially reducing pickerel biomass as a result**



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Preference Survey Results



- 117 respondents, 53% resident anglers
- Overwhelming support (88.8%) to develop the trophy fishery in Deep Creek Lake
- A 40" minimum size limit with a closed season was preferred over a 42" minimum size with no closed season (53.2% vs 40.5%)
- Most interviewed anglers really, *really* dislike pickerel



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Time for a Management Change?

- Based on results of preference survey, Inland Fisheries decided to propose a regulation change in July 2015
- 8 public comments were received with mixed opinions
- During the same period, Inland Fisheries staff decided to take a closer look at the proposed regulation
- We decided to table the regulation change until more empirical data can be collected on the Northern Pike fishery in Deep Creek Lake



Northern Pike Management in Deep Creek Lake Future Direction...

Continue tagging effort

Fall electrofishing surveys

Spring trap netting surveys

Summer YOY seining surveys

Creel surveys (could benefit other DCL fisheries as well)



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Questions?



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Northern Pike Management in Deep Creek Lake Preference Survey

****EXTRA SLIDE****

- Conducted from mid-February through April 30, 2015
- Roving survey of ice anglers in cooperation with NRP
- Drop box survey in western Maryland tackle shops
- Online option

ATTENTION DEEP CREEK LAKE ANGLERS!

The DNR Fisheries Service is considering a change to northern pike management in Deep Creek Lake and we need your input!



Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey about your fishing experiences on Deep Creek Lake over the past year! Results from this survey will help us to best manage this resource.

Only submit one survey per angler. Please do not complete another survey if you have already participated in this effort.