



**Proposed Fishing Regulation Change
Holter Reservoir Yellow Perch and Walleye
November 12, 2019**

Note: New language is indicated in *italics* while deleted language is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~. Page numbers are from the 2019 Fishing Regulations booklet.

Page 66 change:

Holter Reservoir

Up to American Bar Gulch (approximately 4.6 miles downstream from Hauser Dam)

- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Walleye: ~~10~~ 5 daily, only 1 over 25 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Combined trout and Kokanee Salmon: 5 Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon daily in any combination and 10 Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon in possession in any combination.
- Yellow Perch: ~~50~~ 25 daily and ~~no~~ in possession.
- Northern Pike: No limit.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

Rationale: Fisheries management for Holter Reservoir is guided by the Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan 2010-2019. The plan goal for Yellow Perch is to maintain a three-year average abundance of 6 perch per net and it recommends reducing the perch daily bag limit when three-year average abundance falls below 10 perch per net. Yellow Perch abundance this year was 1.8 perch per net (Figure 1) for a three-year average catch of 7.5 perch per net (Figure 2). The department is recommending reducing the daily bag limit from 50 perch daily with no possession limit to 25 perch daily and in possession. The department also recommends implementing this regulation on January 1 to have the more conservative bag limit in place for the winter ice fishing season.

The 2010-2019 management plan goal for Walleye is to maintain a three-year average abundance of 4 Walleye per net and to take additional management action should the three-year average fall below 2 Walleye per net. Walleye abundance this fall was 1.5 Walleye per net (Figure 3) for a three-year average abundance of 2.4 Walleye per net (Figure 4). Although relative abundance is above the 2 Walleye per net trigger, the department believes that action is warranted since abundance has remained below management goals since 2016 and average Walleye abundance since 2016 is 2.75 Walleye per net, which is below the management goal. The department is recommending reducing the Walleye daily bag limit from 10 daily, only 1 over 25 inches to 5 Walleye daily, only 1 over 25 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit. Implementing a Walleye regulation is not as time sensitive as the perch regulation, since minimal Walleye harvest occurs during the winter ice fishing season. However, adopting a Walleye regulation by December ensures the new regulation would be in the regulation booklet, which is published and implemented by March 1.

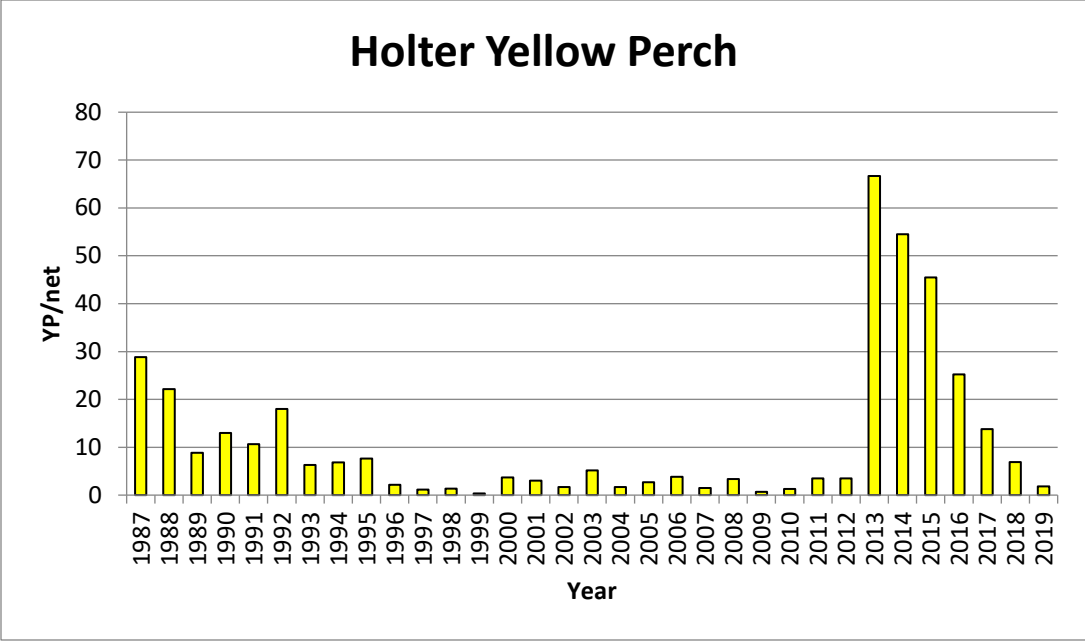


Figure 1: Annual relative abundance trends for Yellow Perch from fall gillnets in Holter Reservoir.

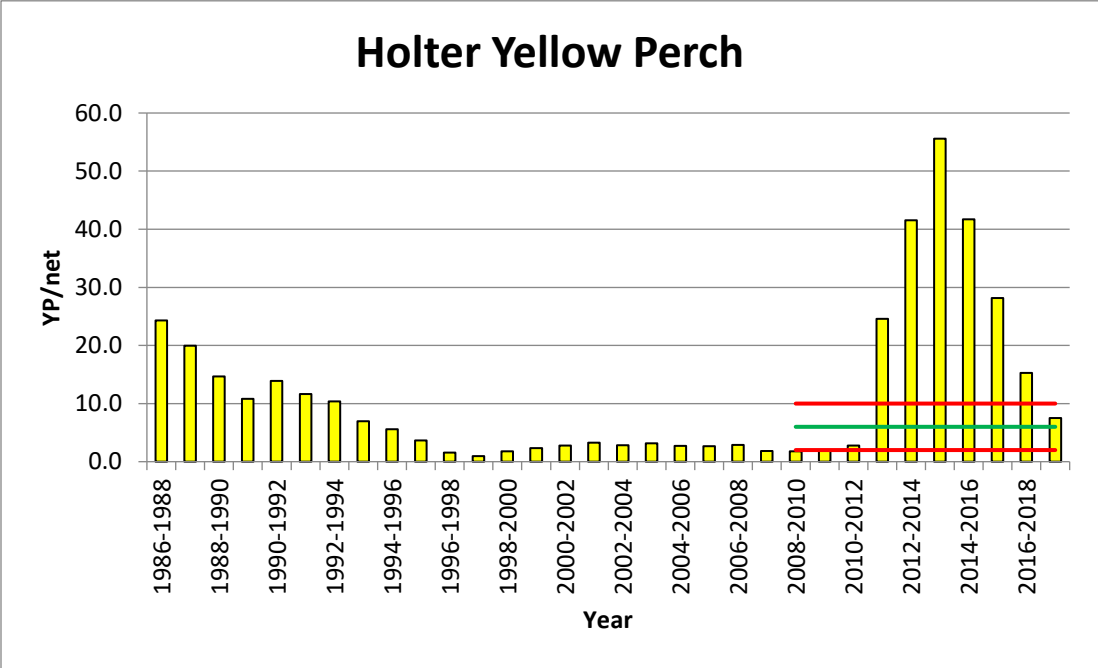


Figure 2: Three-year average relative abundance trends for Yellow Perch from fall gillnets in Holter Reservoir. Green line indicates management goal and red lines are management thresholds.

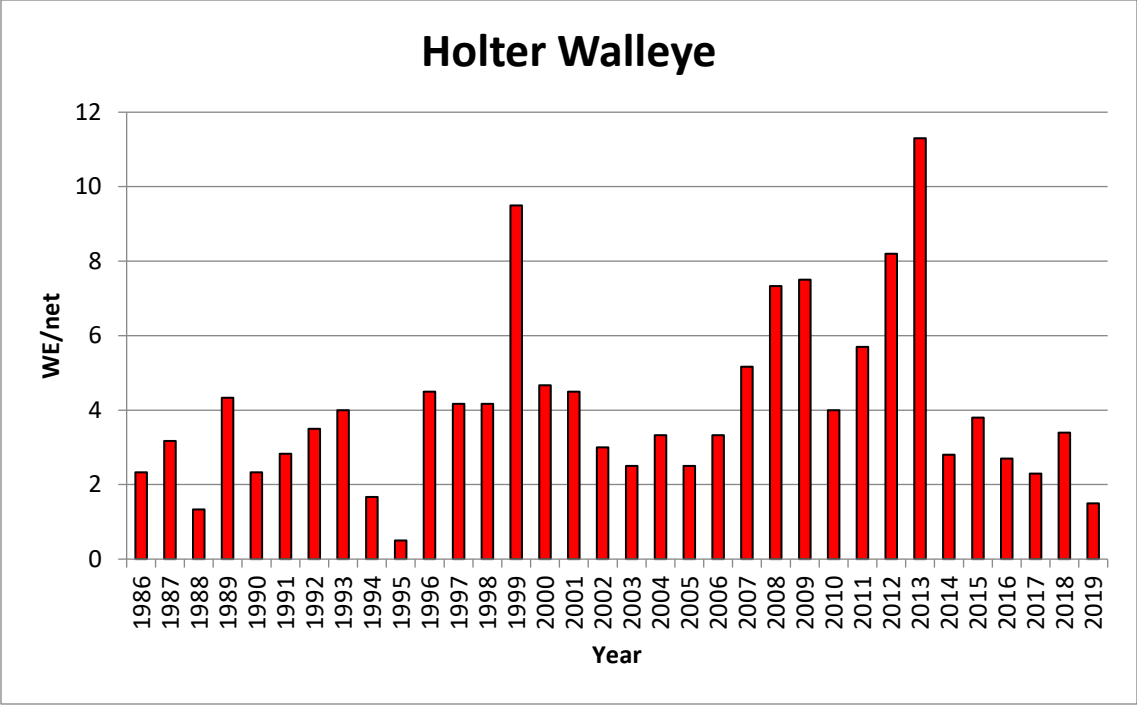


Figure 3: Annual relative abundance trends for Walleye from fall gillnets in Holter Reservoir.

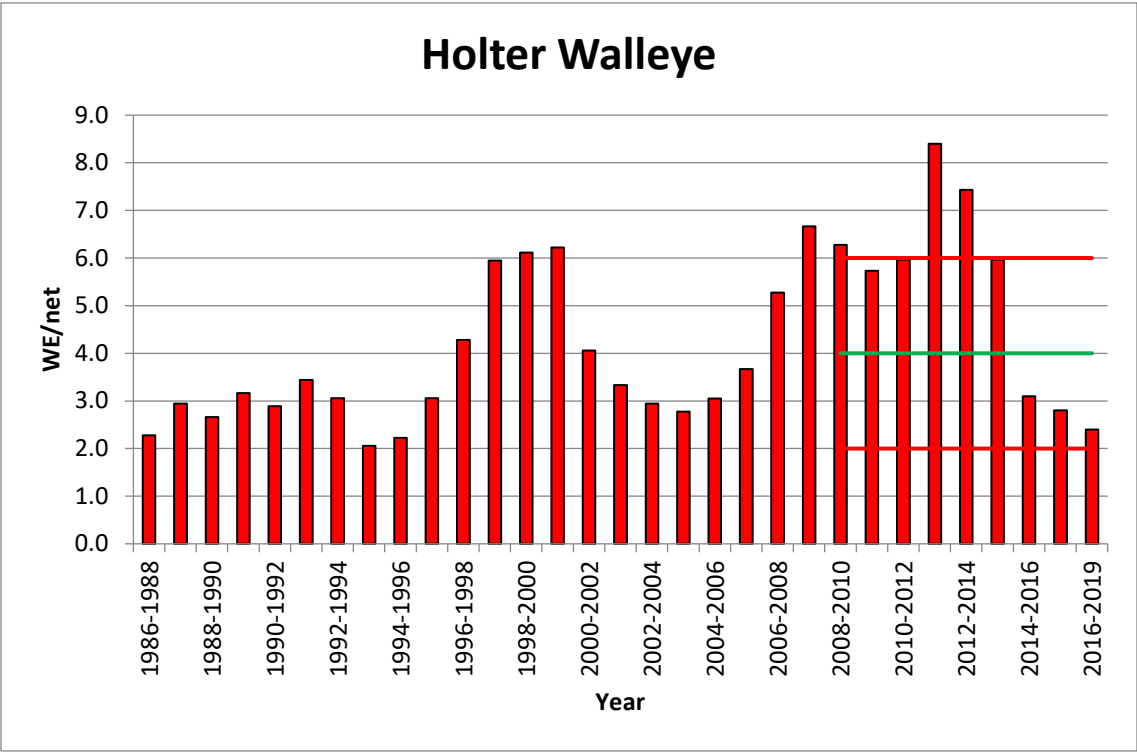


Figure 4: Three-year average relative abundance trends for Walleye from fall gillnets in Holter Reservoir. Green line indicates management goal and red lines are management thresholds.