

2023 Banks Lake Walleye Fishing Prospects

During October 2022, WDFW conducted the Fall Walleye Index Netting Survey of Banks Lake, Grant County, WA. Results showed an increase in the average number of Walleye caught per net from 2019 (4.9 Walleye/net) to (5.8 Walleye/net) in 2022 (Figure 1). The average size of Walleye collected in 2022 was 15 inches with the largest slightly above 30 inches. Sixty-three percent of the Walleye collected were 12–20 inches and 16 percent were 20 inches or larger (Figure 2). Anglers harvested an estimated 20,357 Walleye in Banks Lake during 2019, and we expect a similar harvest estimate for 2023. Walleye angling during 2023 should be similar to 2022 with a few more 13–15-inch fish in the catch. The majority of Walleye were caught by anglers during May and June, with many anglers fishing the Barker Flats area adjacent to Steamboat Rock. The most successful techniques for catching Walleye include trolling worm harnesses (slow death hook), trolling crankbaits, or vertical jigging with blade baits.

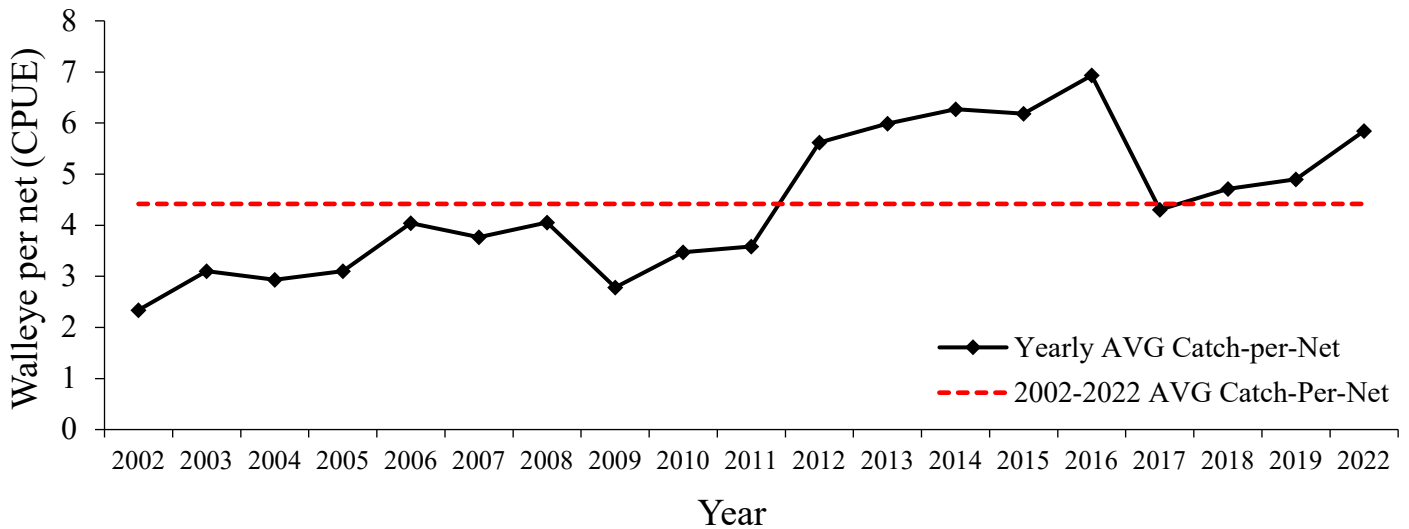


Figure 1. Average catch per net of Walleye caught in Banks Lake during 2022 compared to the 2002–2022 long-term average.

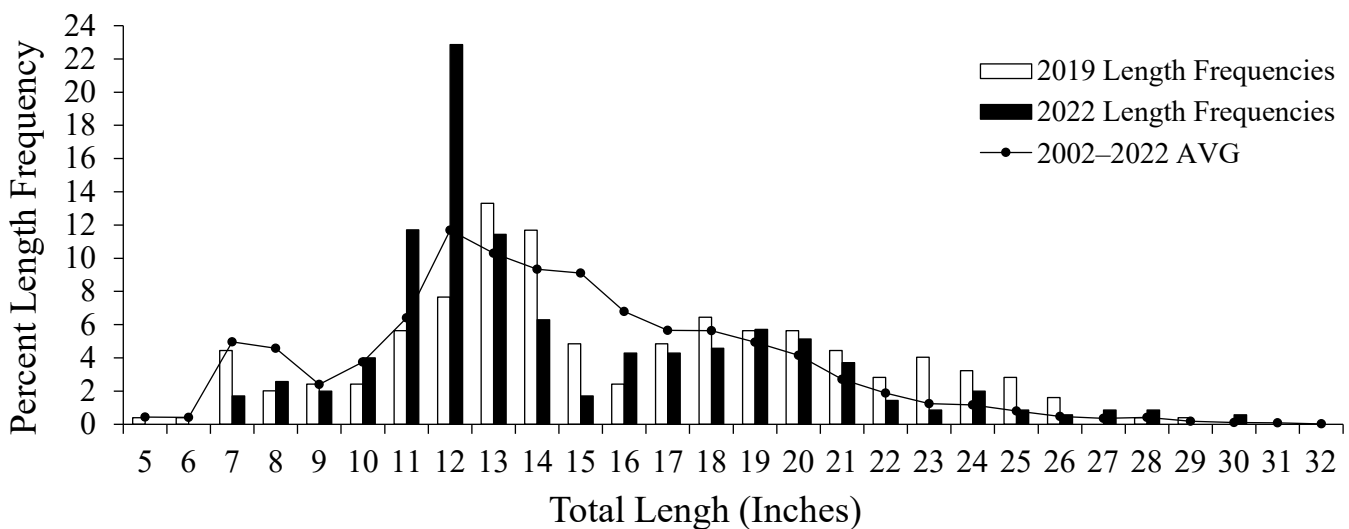


Figure 2. Percent length frequency of Walleye caught in Banks Lake during 2019 and 2022 compared to the 2002–2022 long-term average.