

STATUS OF SEA LAMPREY CONTROL IN LAKE HURON

Adult Sea Lamprey:

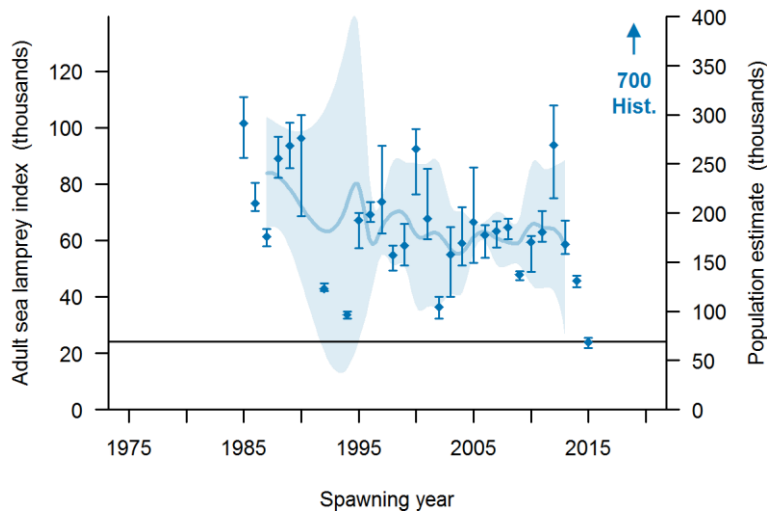


Figure 1. Index estimates with jackknifed ranges (vertical bars) of adult sea lampreys, including historic pre-control abundance (as a population estimate) and the five-year moving average (line) with 95% CIs (shaded area). The population estimate scale (right vertical axis) is based on the index-to-PE conversion factor of 2.87. The adult index in 2015 was 24,000 with jackknifed range (22,000-25,000). The point estimate met the target of 24,000. The index target was estimated as 0.25 times the mean of indices (1989-1993).

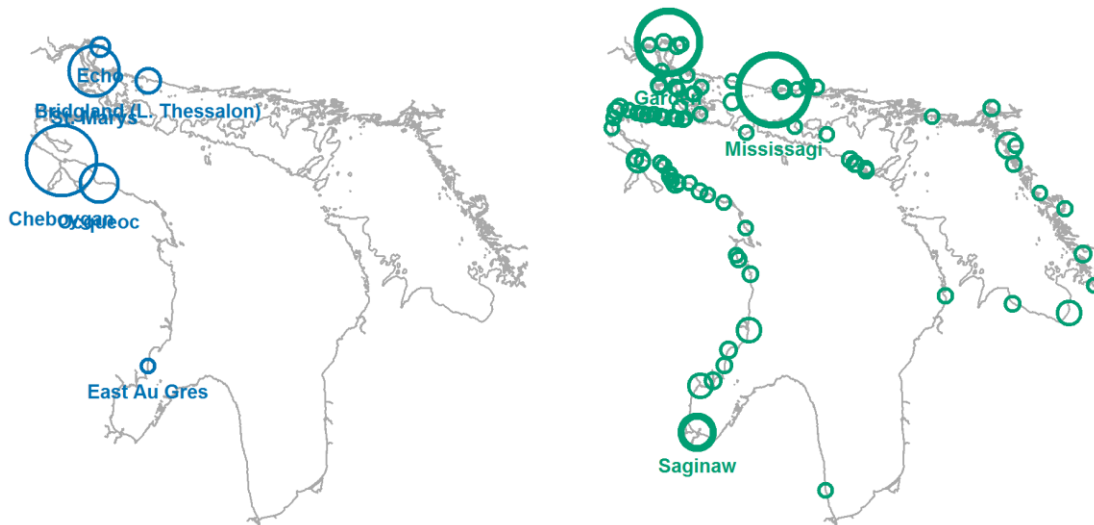


Figure 2. LEFT: Estimated index of adult sea lampreys during the spring spawning migration, 2015. Circle size corresponds to estimated number of adults from mark-recapture studies (blue) and model predictions (orange). All index streams are identified. RIGHT: Maximum estimated number of larval sea lampreys in each stream surveyed during 1995-2012. Tributaries composing over half of the lake-wide larval population estimate are identified (Mississagi 8,100,000; Garden 7,000,000; Saginaw 2,700,000).

- The adult index estimate is meeting the target.
- Sources to watch include the St. Marys River, productive tributaries in the northern portion of the lake (e.g. Cheboygan and Mississagi rivers), and the Manistique River (Lake Michigan).

Lake Trout Marking and Relative Abundance:



Figure 3. Number of A1-A3 marks per 100 lake trout > 532 mm from standardized assessments plotted against the sea lamprey spawning year, including the five-year moving average (line) with 95% CIs (shaded area). The marking rate of 3.9 in spawning year 2015 met the target of 5 A1-A3 marks per 100 lake trout > 532 mm (horizontal line).

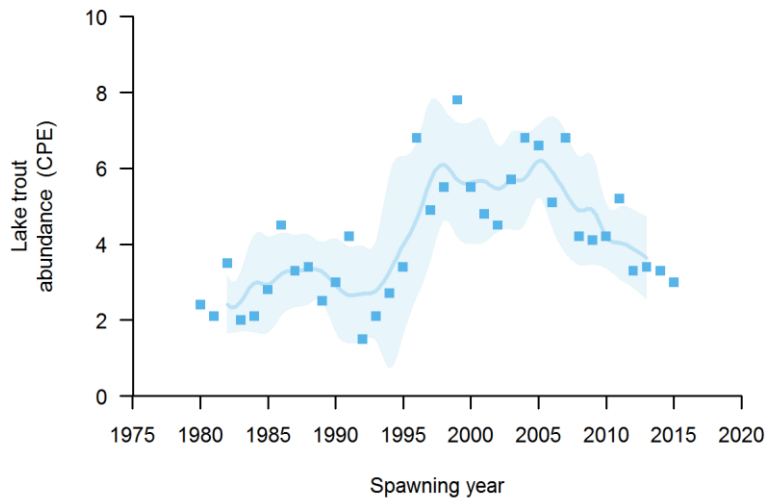


Figure 4. Lake trout relative abundance from standardized surveys (spring 2-6 inch mesh) in U.S. waters of the main basin plotted against sea lamprey spawning year, including the five-year moving average (line) with 95% CIs (shaded area). CPE = geometric mean of fish/km/net night of lean lake trout > 532 mm (21") total length.

- The marking rate is meeting target for the first time in the time series; the dramatic decrease in the early 2000's was likely in response to the first large-scale treatment of the St. Marys River during 1999.
- During the early 1990s, marking and mortality on lake trout were so large that restoration efforts were suspended until the 1999 large-scale treatment of the St. Marys River.
- Lake trout abundance appears to be declining, but relative abundance of wild lake trout has increased dramatically in many areas during recent years.
- Marking rates on whitefish and ciscoes have been increasing and may be important initial hosts for juvenile lampreys.
- The Commission, in collaboration with management agencies, is building lake trout marking and abundance databases to advance the assessment and guidance of the program.

Lampricide Control - Abundance vs. Field Days, TFM, and Bayluscide:

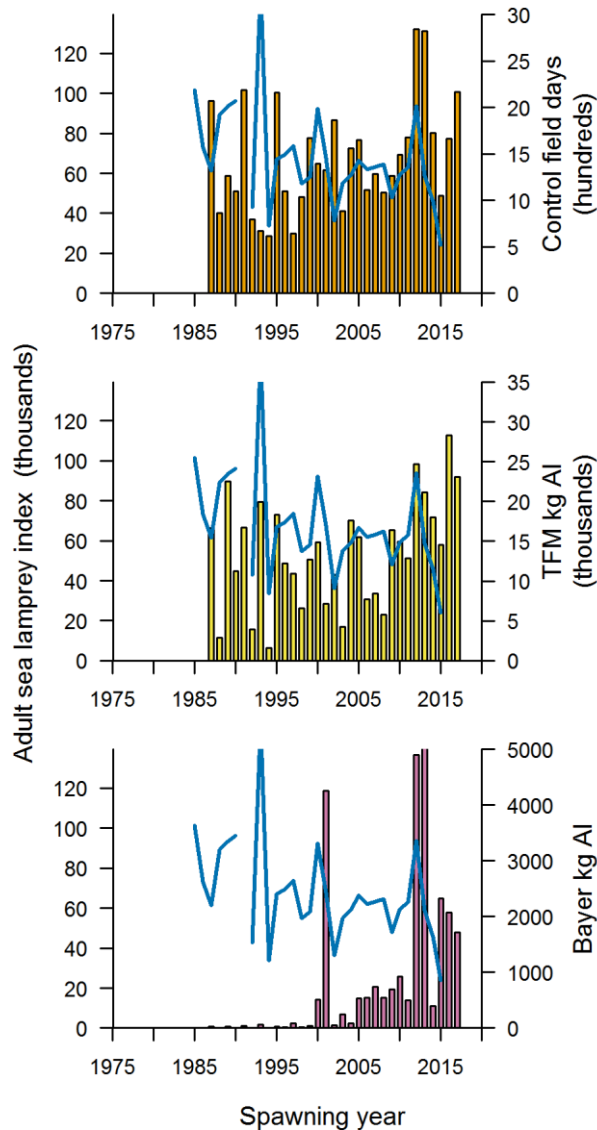


Figure 5. Index of adult sea lampreys (blue lines) and number of control field days (orange bars), TFM used (kg active ingredient; yellow bars), and Bayluscide used (kg active ingredient; purple bars). Field days, TFM, and Bayluscide are offset by 2 years (e.g., field days, TFM, and Bayluscide applied during 1985 is plotted on the 1987 spawning year, when the treatment effect would first be observed in adult sea lamprey populations).

- Twenty-eight tributaries were treated during 2013, 13 during 2014, and 28 during 2015 (2015 to 2017 spawning years).
- Two lentic areas were treated during 2013, one during 2014, and six during 2015 (2015 to 2017 spawning years).
- The Lake Huron - North Channel large-scale treatment strategy was implemented during 2010 and continued through 2012, and included treatment of the St. Marys River and other tributaries from the Spanish River in the east to the Carp River in Detour Passage. Large-scale efforts have continued to focus on northern Lakes Huron and Michigan.