

# Missouri River and Lake Oahe Walleye Tagging



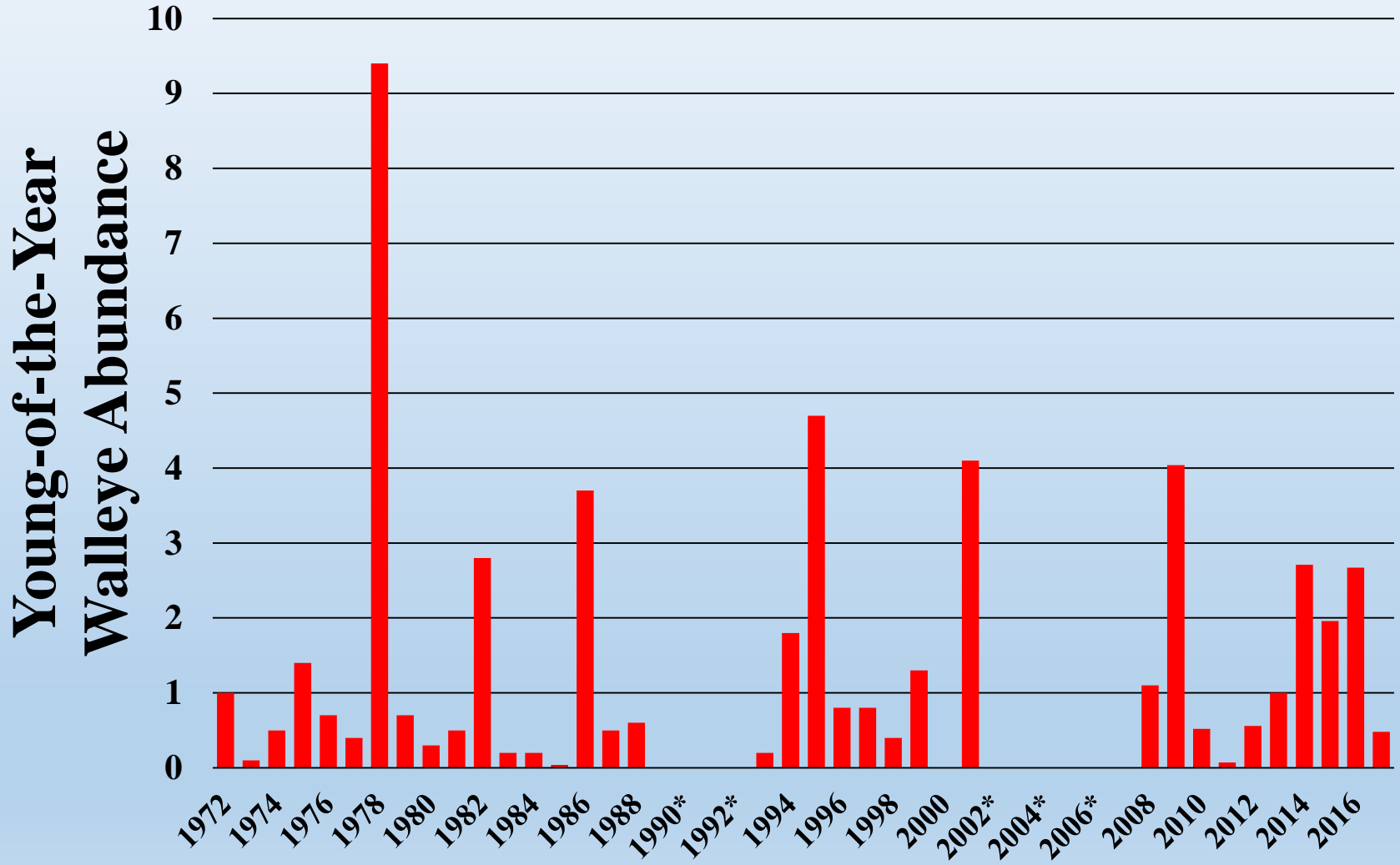




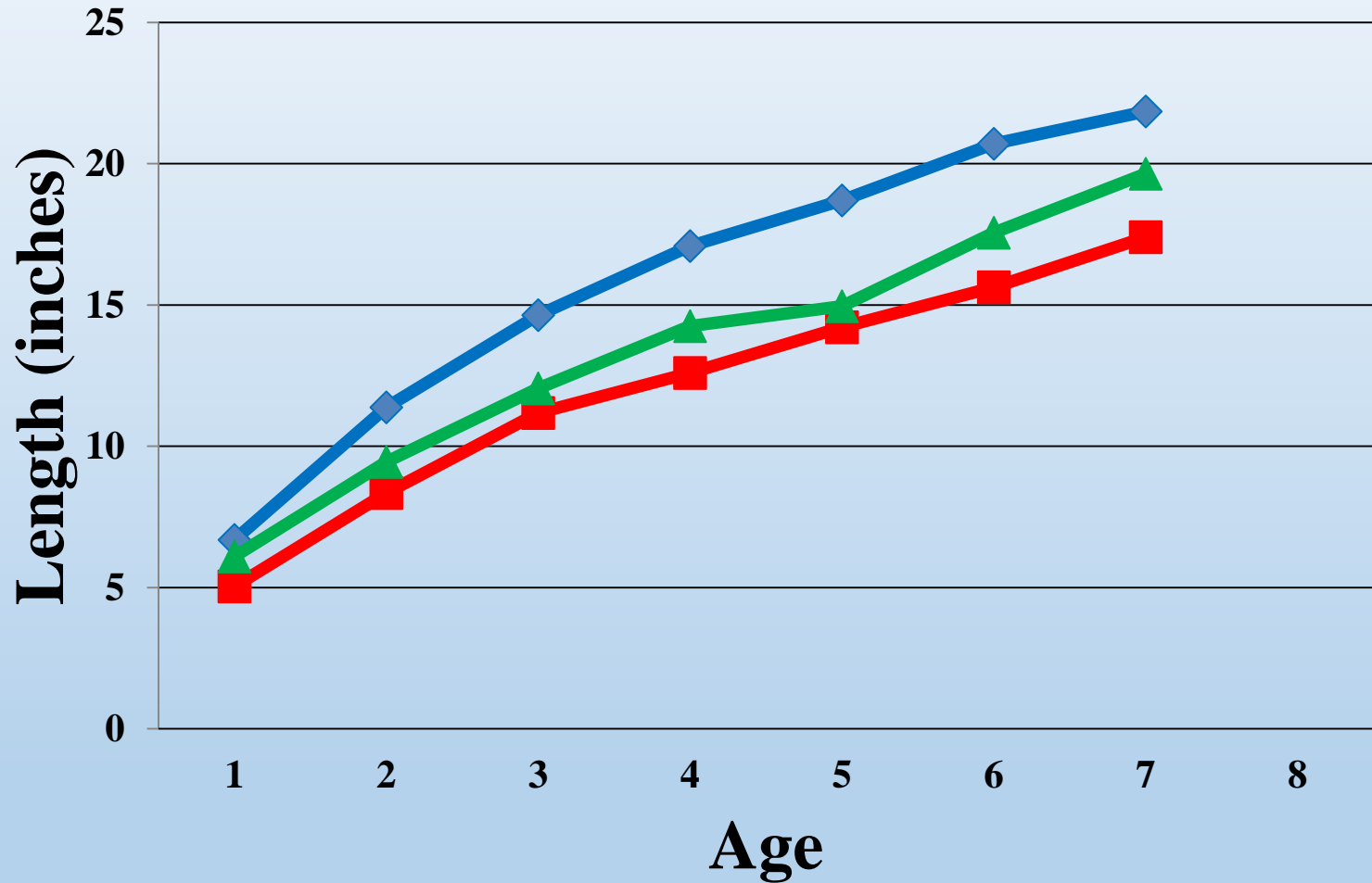
# Three Keys to a Successful Fishery

- Recruitment
- Growth
- Mortality

# Recruitment



# Growth



◆ North American Average    ■ Oahe    ▲ Missouri River

# Mortality

- Total Mortality
  - Natural Mortality
  - Angling Mortality

# Walleye Tagging Totals

- 34,378 walleye tagged 2013-2016
- 8,000+ tag returns from anglers









# Regional Walleye Populations

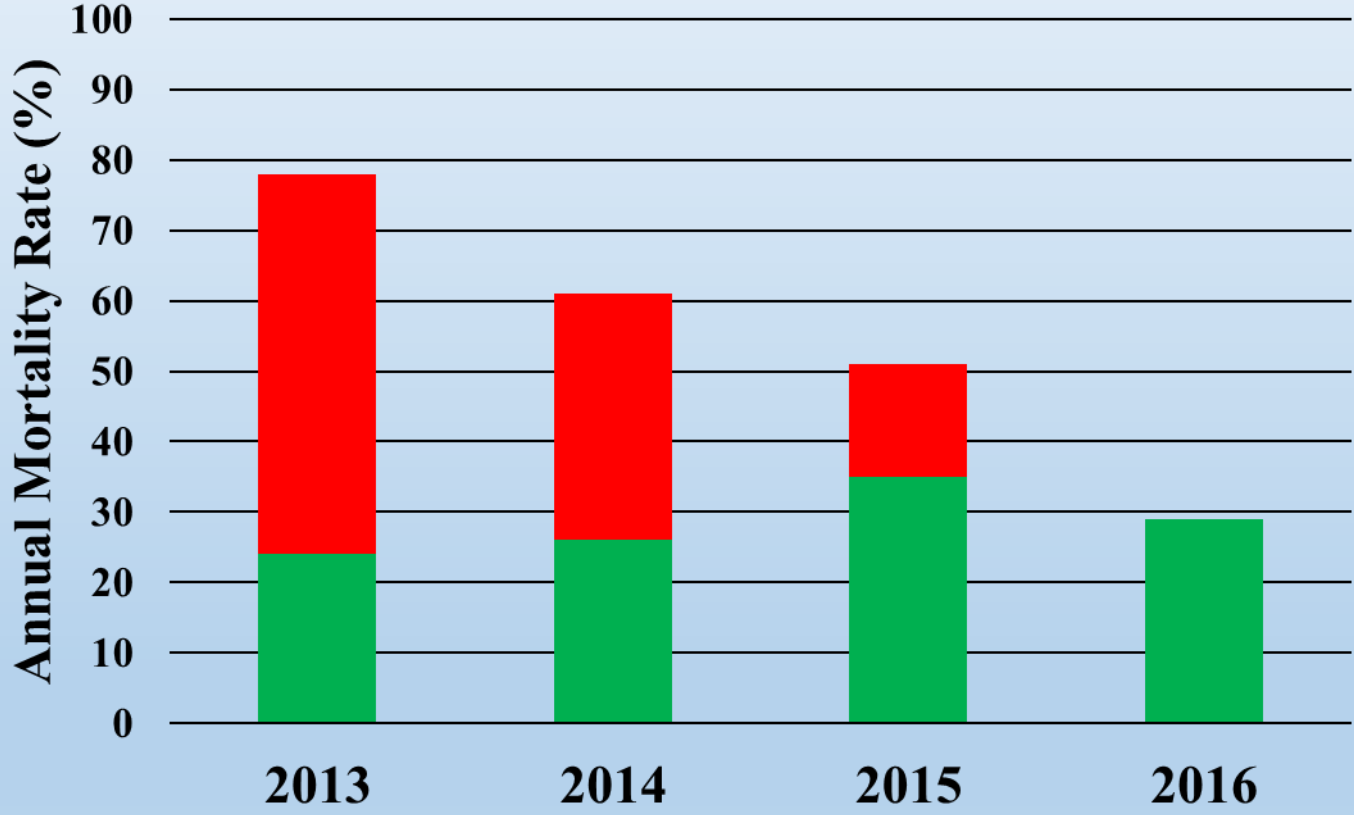
- Riverine – Garrison Dam to Double Ditch
- Transition – Double Ditch to Locke Creek
- Middle Oahe – Locke Creek to Whitlock Bay
- Lower Oahe – Whitlock Bay to Oahe Dam

## Movement Within Regions

## Spawning Site Fidelity

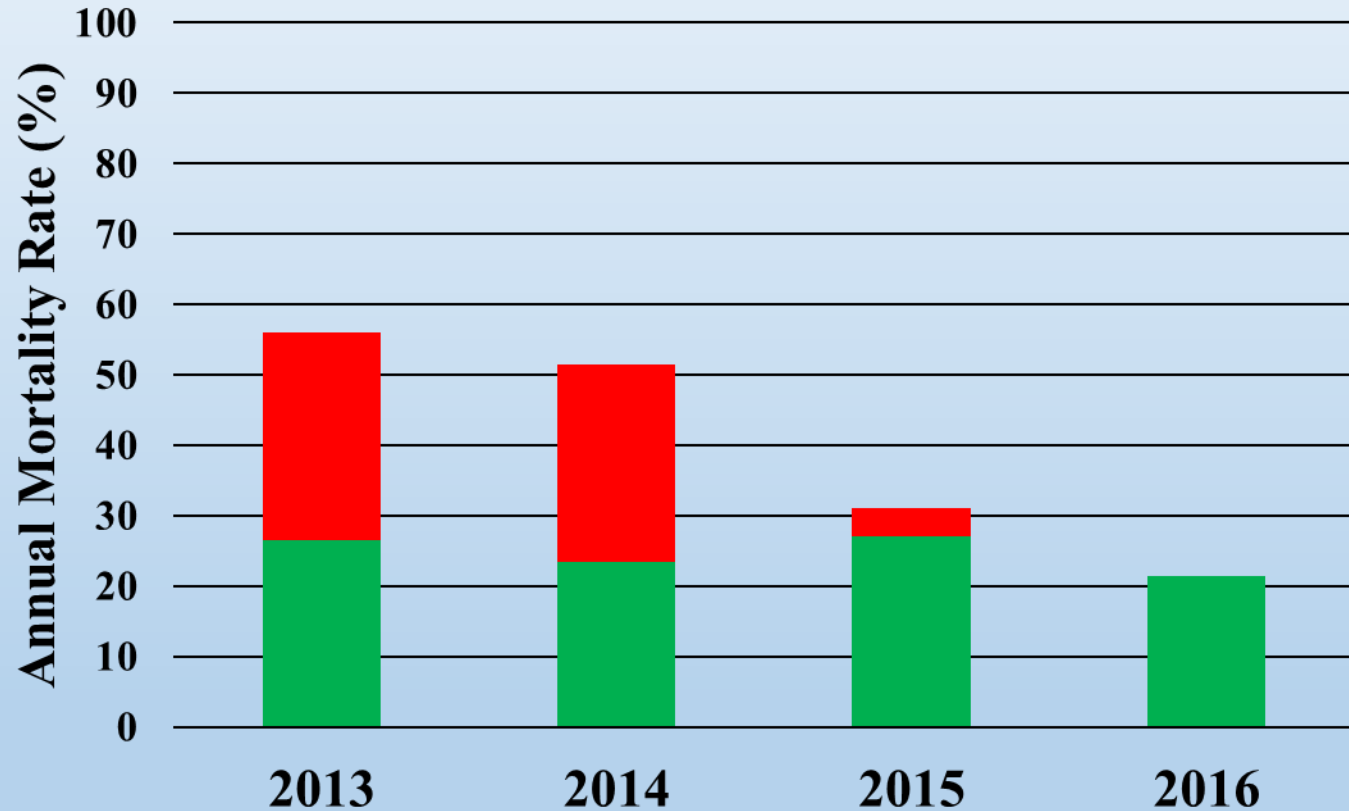


# Riverine Region Walleye Mortality

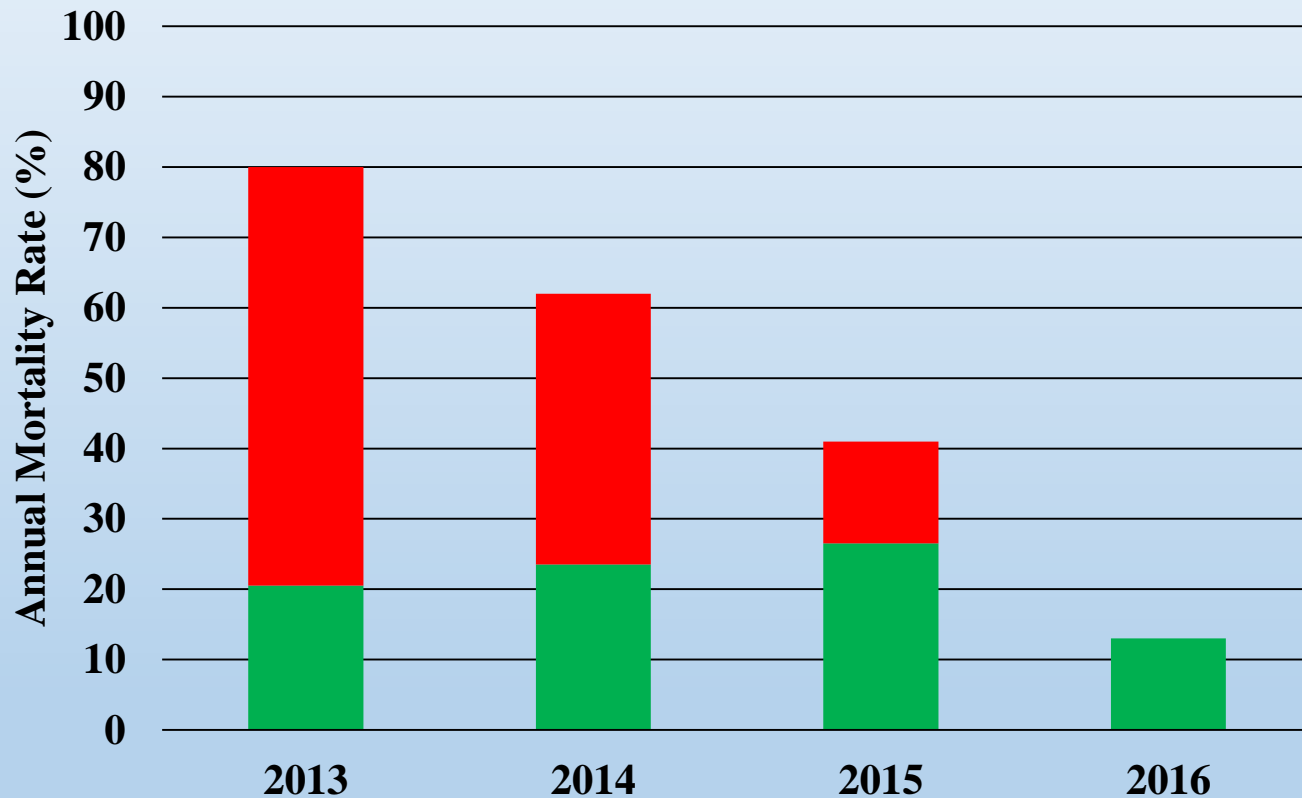




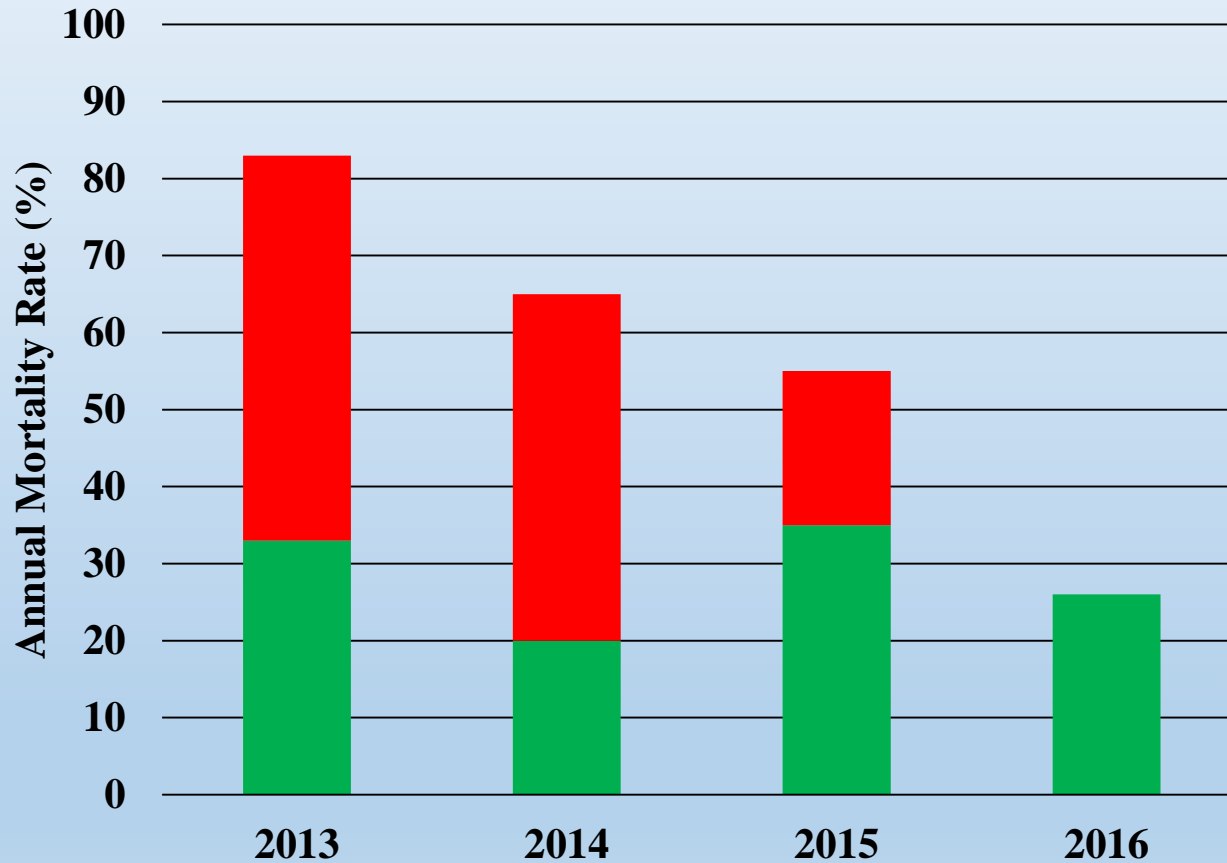
# Transition Region Walleye Mortality



# Middle Region Walleye Mortality



# Lower Region Walleye Mortality





**Mortality rates were very high following the 2011 Flood but have declined recently.**

**Angler harvest is acceptably low and is not having a negative impact on this fishery.**



# **Length Limit Evaluation**

**Minimum Length Limit – ex. no harvest of fish under 15”**

**Exclusive Slot – ex. no harvest of 15-20” fish**

**Reverse Slot – ex. only harvest of 15-20” fish**

**Maximum or 1-Over – ex. 1 over 20”**

# **When would a 1-Over 20” regulation be beneficial?**

**Biologically – when recruitment of new walleye into the fishery is limited by the number of mature females and anglers are harvesting a high proportion of mature females in the population.**

**Socially – when the regulation would lead to anglers catching (not necessarily keeping) more big fish.**





# **2015 Missouri River and Lake Oahe Creel Survey**

**Creel Clerks interviewed 1,126 anglers (498 parties) and measured 2,205 walleye.**

**20" or larger walleye account for 1% of harvest.**

**No individual anglers harvested more than 1 walleye 20" or longer.**

**In no case did the number of walleye 20" or longer exceed the number of anglers in the party.**

**A 1-over 20" regulation would not have prevented the harvest of a single walleye among the 1,126 anglers interviewed.**

# **What determines the quality of the Missouri River and Lake Oahe Fishery?**

**Mother Nature  
and  
US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

**Anglers**

**NDGF**























# Tag Encounters to Date:

- 19 Angler Reports
- 4 Harvested
- 15 Released









