

Squeers Lake Fact Sheet

Background

- Lake trout were perceived to be overharvested in Squeers Lake in the 1970s
- In 1979, it was declared a sanctuary lake
- Squeers is designated a Quetico-Mille Lacs Fisheries Assessment Unit lake in 1981
- Our annual nine-day winter fishing event has taken place since 1985

Squeers Lake

- 384-hectare lake
- Has an average depth of 37 ft. and a maximum depth of 113 ft.
- Fish community consists of lake trout, northern pike, white sucker, yellow perch, sticklebacks, sculpins, and several minnow species

Objective

- To determine whether the lake trout population can sustain itself when anglers are removing 2 kg/ha (total weight of all fish harvested divided by lake area) of lake trout from the lake each year

What MNR does

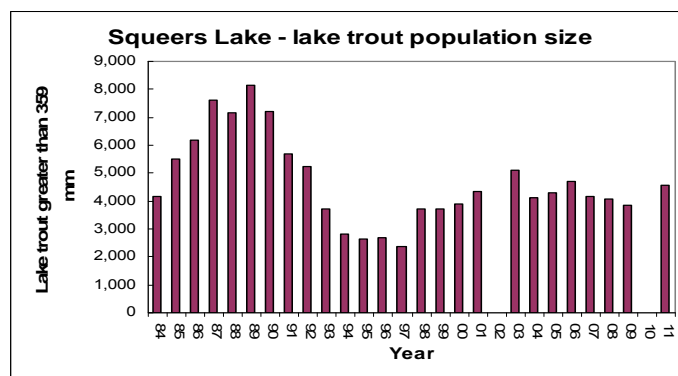
- Lake trout, captured either by angling or gill netting around the spawning shoals, are tagged each fall
- For example, in 2011, 525 lake trout were tagged with gold tags
- We also measure each fish, record their gender, and whether there are any clips or tag numbers from previous years

How anglers can help

- We determine the fish population based on the presence of tags and clips on angler-caught fish
- All fish kept are sampled by MNR for length, weight, sex, maturity, and stomach contents
- Otoliths (ear bones) are removed and used to determine the age of these fish



MNR crew member holding a tagged lake trout from Squeers Lake.



The bars represent the number of adult lake trout in Squeers Lake.

Year	Number of anglers	Number harvested	Mean fork length (mm)	Mean age (yrs.)
1985	187	405	377	9.7
1986	517	734	361	8.5
1987	566	1073	367	8.6
1988	782	1131	353	8.1
1989	736	1488	358	8.2
1990	686	1386	368	8.9
1991	992	1630	364	8.8
1992	955	1533	358	8.5
1993	1182	1973	349	7.9
1994	925	1520	355	7.5
1995	829	1451	354	6.8
1996	563	1053	344	6.5
1997	1030	1561	336	6.4
1998	949	1629	342	6.3
1999	1184	1686	347	6.5
2000	559	1107	353	6.4
2001	801	1079	366	6.8
2002	0	0		
2003	1082	1705	379	7.1
2004	1024	1131	375	7.1
2005	869	1184	367	6.9
2006	887	1376	369	6.9
2007	865	1292	374	6.7
2008	1091	2106	359	6.2
2009	923	1771	367	6.7
2010	290	285	363	5.8
2011	880	1798	368	6.4
Totals	21354	35087		

Results from the Squeers Lake winter fishery.

