

# Sauk River Chain of Lakes

# Fall Newsletter



## SAUK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES

ASSOCIATION

*"Stewards of the  
Sauk River Chain of Lakes"*

WEBSITE: WWW.SRCL.ORG

OCTOBER 2021

### President's Report

by John Rocky, President

Welcome to the Fall 2021 Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL) Association Newsletter. As I write this article, it is a beautiful 81-degree sunny September 30th day. Hopefully, you enjoyed this past Summer as I did - experiencing all the beauty of the Chain of Lakes.

This year marked a significant number of accomplishments for our SRCL Association:

1. We created a new logo for the SRCL and created a clothing line with our logo.
2. We spent a record amount of money fighting aquatic invasive species, specifically curly-leaf pondweed (CLP).
3. We hired a company to mechanically harvest CLP. Something we talked about for four years!
4. We had a record number of members and amount of money received in dues.
5. We received a record amount of money running the gambling operations at Shady's Longshots!
6. We purchased and deployed 15 haz-

ard buoys to mark rocks and hazard areas across the Chain.

7. We added an Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor (ILIDS) at the Long Lake public access to improve boater education.

8. We awarded a land use grant to a homeowner for improving their property to protect runoff into the lake.

Did I get your attention? Did you notice the 'We'? These accomplishments and the many other things that your SRCL Association does takes volunteers, and it takes a TEAM (a group of people with different skills and tasks working together to support a common goal!)

Your SRCL Board is looking to expand the TEAM! We want you to join our team!

As you read the committee reports in this newsletter, find something that you are curious about or interested in and reach out to the committee chair. There are many ways to help with our mission! Contact information for our board members is on our website at srcl.org.

And finally, a shout out and thank you to Shady's Long Shots Bar and Grill. We are excited to continue managing their gambling operations with Wednesday Bar Bingo and Friday Meat Raffle starting in mid-October.

The SRCL Board thanks you and our 500+ members that continue to support us and the Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

John Rocky



## WE WANT YOU!

### Membership Levels



Regular Business Membership



Elite Business Membership

## Aquatic Invasive Species Management

by Brad Matuska

We would like to address any confusion that may have resulted from the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association's (SRCLA) management of the aquatic invasive species called curly leaf pondweed (CLP) in the Chain of Lakes. The SRCL fielded a number of communications from property owners that had misunderstandings. Hopefully, they can be addressed here.

The DNR limits what lakes we can treat and the amount of the areas we can treat. For example, we wanted to do a treatment on Zumwalde Lake, but our permit was denied. In addition, we can only chemically treat a maximum of 15 percent of CLP-infested littoral acres. So, if a lake has 100 acres of CLP, we can only treat 15 acres.

The SRCLA does not treat CLP in front of individual properties. We are charged with managing CLP in the entire Chain of Lakes. Please manage your frontage and use the information at [srcl.org](http://srcl.org) to help. With the combined effort of the SRCLA doing navigational routes and individual

properties owners doing their frontage, we can get in front of CLP!

Because of CLP's prevalence in the entire Chain of Lakes and cost of over \$700 per acre to treat, the SRCLA simply does not have the financial resources to treat it all. However, we can be strategic in our approach, and the Board of the SRCLA weighs multiple variables in deciding which areas to treat.

When doing treatments, the SRCLA only treats CLP and not native plants or algae. Please be aware, chemical and mechanical treatments are a temporary fix. To really address excessive aquatic plant growth, we need to reduce the nutrients in the Chain. Please consider refraining from fertilizing your lawns. The majority of your fertilizer ends up in the Chain!

The SRCLA is thankful for the non-profit gambling funds generated at Shady's Longshots! The SRCLA spent over \$50,000 to chemically and mechanically treat over 70 acres of CLP. This is the most

ever spent!

Details of the treatments can be found at [srcl.org](http://srcl.org). The SRCLA thanks Limnopro and Weeds Up for their work!

In addition, the SRCLA did aquatic plant surveys before and after treatments and will continue to use best management practices in trying to minimize the impact of CLP. In addition, the SRCLA is continuously monitoring the advancements to manage zebra mussels and surveying for any other invasives (i.e. starry stonewort) to prevent infestations.

Please remember to Clean, Drain, and Dry all your equipment when entering or exiting the water. If you purchase a dock or lift that is coming from another body of water, remember that it is required to have that equipment sit on land for at least 21 days. For any questions about aquatic invasive species, please contact Matt Pelant at [mdpelant@icloud.com](mailto:mdpelant@icloud.com) or David Hinson at [davidhinson@outlook.com](mailto:davidhinson@outlook.com).

Tired of **WEEDS** in the Chain? Stop Fertilizing Your Lawn!



# SAUK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

EST 1982



## SAUK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 369, Richmond, MN 56368  
[srcl.org](http://srcl.org)

We are **Stewards of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes**.

**For Information on becoming a member of the association, please visit our website [srcl.org](http://srcl.org).**

Membership dues fund projects and help us communicate with our members and the community. The more members we have, the stronger our voice and the more we can accomplish! Anyone who uses the lake is welcome to join.

**Your SAUK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES (SRCL) ASSOCIATION  
manages the Gambling  
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PO Box 369  
Richmond, MN 56368

Name:

Business Name:

Current Address (street, city, state, zip):

Lake Property Address (street, city, state, zip):

Lake you live on:

Home Phone:

Email Address1:

Cell Phone1:

Email Address2:

Cell Phone2:

### MEMBERSHIP DUES CONTRIBUTION

Individual/Family Membership Level:

\_\_\_\$40 Sunfish    \_\_\_\$60 Crappie    \_\_\_\$80 Walleye    \_\_\_\$100 Catfish    \_\_\_\$150 Bass

*(All Individual/Family Memberships receive a **SRCL Association Membership Decal**. See [www.srcl.org](http://www.srcl.org) for more information.)*

Business Member: \_\_\_\$75 *(Business name included in Membership Listings in the SRCL.org, Spring and Fall Newsletters.)*

Business ELITE Member: \_\_\_\$150 *(Business Member benefits PLUS your logo linked to your website/Facebook in SRCL.org's Business Carousel.)*

Donate additional amount for a specific area?

*(please identify additional amount into appropriate area below)*

Walleye Stocking: \$ _____	Invasive Species \$ _____ Control	General Fund: \$ _____
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### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DONATING YOUR TIME?

*(please circle interested area below)*

Invasive Species	Fisheries	Invasive Species Control
Land Use	Water Quality	Road Cleanup
Gambling – Bingo night	Gambling – Meat Raffle night	Board Member

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Jill Graham

**Crappie**

Micheal & Jeanne Purnick

**Sunfish**

Jeff & Cindy Kummer  
Jim & Laurie Meyer  
Randy & Mary Rothstein  
Steve & Chris Stang  
John & Hilda Tschumperlin  
Skippy & Emily Virchow  
Jean Weber

**Bolfing Lake**

**Bass**

Troy & Sarah Atkinson  
Garth & Kathy Fagerbakke  
Thomas & Kathryn Graham  
Rodney & Lois Maetzold  
Bret McElwee

**Catfish**

Bill & Jennifer Cahoy  
Trent & Lynn Negaard  
Barb Zobitz & Greg Taft

**Walleye**

Bob & Diane Leverentz  
Paul Pearson

**Crappie**

Roxann Dorweiler  
Paul & Amy Schmidtbauer  
Tom Klein

**Sunfish**

Thomas Bolfing  
Edward & Mary Cotter  
Rick & Lynn Farr  
Jennifer Olson & John Wolfe

**Brown Lake**

**Catfish**

Cindy Becken & Dean Olson

**Cedar Island Lake**

**Bass**

Walter & Bonnie Eskuri  
Deborah Lein & Dale Norell  
David & Teresa Metz  
Robert & Cynthia Waldon

**Catfish**

Brian & Kerry Bechtold

Joe Dahlquist

Tom & Janet Jacobson

Scott & Penny Luepke

Rodney & Katy Peterson

Derk Schultz

**Walleye**

Brett & Jamie Anderberg

Randy & Susan Antolak

Steven Coborn

James & Suzanne Dube

Jack Gabler

David & Kim Kohorst

Donald Lee Family

Lynn Litchy & Tim Lunsford

Douglas & Kristy Petermeier

Chuck & Deb Pille

Gary & Tracy Terharr

Tim Tschlangen

**Crappie**

Mike & Sue Iten

Todd & Ann Kirchner

Duane & Jessica Krueger

Michael & Sharon McCarney

Wanita Misico (Timothy & Brian Irwin)

Anthony & Angela Terwey

Andy & Mary Woychek

**Sunfish**

Rick Antolak

Troy & Kelly Boettcher

Sharon Clemons & Cherise Erickson

Steven & Carol Dahlson

Bill & Carol Eisenreich

Donald & Mary Holthaus

Loren Malziewski

Lisa Koll & Shazad Ahmad

Thomas & Dona Lauman

Scott & Sandi Maselter

James Negley

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**Bass**

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Members continued on page 5



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Members continued from page 4

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 Rick & Michelle Schrantz

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 Cindy & Lowell Haagenson  
 Gregory & Mary Ann Johnson  
 Brent Koosman  
 Romie & Jen Schmitz  
 Richard & Lynda Seitz  
 Jeremy Skow

**Crappie**

Jeremy & Nicole Geiger  
 Reid & Ashley Kubesh  
 Amy Hunter & James Leinen  
 Tammy Middendorf  
 Michael Miller  
 Barbara & James Platten

**Sunfish**

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 John & Ruth Heinen  
 Stephen & Dawn Jensen  
 Dennis & Kathleen Needham  
 Edward & Sandra Neuenfeldt  
 Kenneth & Nancy Oksendahl  
 Pete & Rita Peterson  
 Margie Rothstein  
 Gary & Judy Schloeder  
 Michael & Carolyn Scully  
 Chad & Carolyn Stang  
 Lavon Suckut  
 Clyde & Mary Lou Terwey  
 Rick & Roxie Theisen  
 Robert & Jenifer Walker  
 Galen & Angela Wax  
 Mark & Kim Wenner  
 Margaret Smith Wenner  
 Brian & Mary White  
 Dave & Julie Wik

**Great Northern Lake**

**Bass**

David Hinson  
 Robert & Mary Eichinger  
 Richard & Mary Gallea  
 Jeff & Jackie Lund  
 John Rocky

Kurtis Scepaniak

**Catfish**

Jason Kron  
 Tom & Mary Lynch  
 Steven & Kathleen Mooney  
 Chuck & Lori Kuebelbec  
 Richard & Sheila Pulju  
 Virgil & Lavonne Stang

**Walleye**

Kendall & Tamah Dahlquist  
 Mallisa & Scott Maurico  
 Lane & Melissa Laubach  
 Rick Pflipson & Pam Gibbs  
 James & Cynthia Rowe

**Crappie**

Kurt & Bonnie Hemmesch  
 Philip & Correne Keefauver  
 John & Lois Rausch  
 Joel & Mary Roos  
 Joey & Dee Ruegemer

**Sunfish**

Jim & Yvonne Betts  
 Gregg & Sherry Bryant  
 Doug & Laura Giese  
 Rodney & Theresa Keefauver  
 Betty Larson John & Carol Marshall  
 Steve Nash & Sherry Peterson  
 Stephen Prozinski  
 Vernon Salzl  
 Tom & Chris Wicklund  
 Wilbert & Geradine Wuertz

**Horseshoe Lake**

**Bass**

Scott Loehrer  
 Charles & Jodee Montreuil, Jr  
 Todd & Diane Roorda  
 Todd & Meghean Shea  
 Jerrad & Sharon Sunde

**Catfish**

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 Chic Dwight  
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Tom & Cindy Adamson  
Pamela Goodwin  
John & Peggy Beckius  
Stephen Bernu  
Kenneth & Deborah Blasing  
Kip Cameron  
Dave & Vanessa Ebling  
Aaron Foix - Brown Family  
Doug & Jodi Friedrichs  
Wendell & Marilee Giese  
Joe, John, & Mary Jo Haeg  
Jerry & Melissa Isaacson  
Tom & Casy Kraus  
Tom & Ila Macik  
Dylan McIntosh  
Thomas & Laura Meyer  
Jason Mortenson  
Scott & Patti Savoy  
Peter & Tammy Steil  
Todd Vanauker  
**Crappie**  
Anthony & Viola Barthel  
Thomas Bruening  
Mike & Lisa Daum  
Leo & Jean Dehmer  
Julie Flammang  
Tom Gilmore & Vera Novak  
John & Liz Ginther  
Amy Hiltner  
Ryan & Lori Peterson  
Delores Praught  
Richard & Diane Ruegemer  
Mike & Debbie Singler  
Duane Steil  
Barry & Denise Tipka  
James & Lillian Wawra  
Mark & Kim Welle  
Jeremy & Janene Willner  
Don & Kathleen Winter  
Britta & Nate Zarbok  
**Sunfish**  
Sheila Anderson  
Jim & Maureen Atchison  
Brian & Sheila Athmann

Carl & Tracy Bisson  
Robyn Bitz  
Roger & Barree Boettcher  
Thomas & Sandra Brunner  
Charles & Doreen Chirhart  
Neil & Kay Cook  
William & Lynda Dimmel  
Mark Dipasquale & Karen Mattson  
Larry & Mary Donnay  
Dennis & Dru Dukart  
Everett & Myrna Engebretson  
Raymond & Juanita Ernhart  
John & Carol Fjelsta  
Don & Kelly Fohrenbacher  
Kevin & Charlene Graff  
David Grass  
Michael & Beth Gray  
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Greg & Katie Hartley  
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James & Mary Merchlewicz  
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Kevin & Elizabeth Mortinson  
James & Diane Olsen  
Matthew Puffer & Jane Carlon  
Harvey & Mary Schmitt  
Thomas & Eileen Schoenecker  
Mary Schommer  
William & Mary Schrobilgen  
Robert Sommers & Andrea Adamson  
Brien & Kristine Spanier  
Lee & Cindy Steckman  
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Daniel & Jeanette Taufen  
Norman & Lavon Venske  
Mark Walker  
Darrell & Bonnie Ward  
Steve Weeres  
Fred Wells & Mary Elfering  
Jody Woller  
Duane & Lynn Yurek  
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**Bass**  
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Members continued on page 7

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**Walleye**  
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 Julie Pung  
 Keith & Jennifer Schaefer  
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 Pamela Winter  
**Crappie**  
 Morris & Teresa Bellis  
 Jerry Gill & Leslie Hagman  
 Garrick & Rachel Grace  
 Jay & Lou Landowski  
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 Ronald Schmitz & Diane Polman  
**Sunfish**  
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 Dale & Debra Guggenberger  
 Ralph & Dorothy Hansen  
 Deb Harren  
 James Johnson  
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 Donald & Lorraine Jungles  
 Evelyn Kalthoff  
 Randy Kleve  
 Dave & Kim Jacobucci  
 Michael & Pattie Liestman  
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 James & Jane Olson  
 Jody & Linda Gueningsman  
 Gerard & Ann Salzer  
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**Catfish**  
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 Bruce Ferch

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 Monica Kahout  
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 John & Connie Selden  
 Linda Smith & Mary Bahe  
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 Roger Bechtold  
 Pervez & Ruth Mistry  
 James & Karen Stoos  
 Terry & Sandy Wolff  
**Crappie**  
 Curt & Amy Bertram  
 Ed & Wanda Hanson  
**Sunfish**  
 John Kruchten & Sharon Bahe  
 Gerald & Pamela Kruzel  
 Mark & Sheryl Lindgren  
 Mark & Julie McCauley  
 Jim & Deb Schaaf  
**Krays Lake**  
**Bass**  
 Joseph & Mary Wenner  
**Catfish**  
 Kenneth & Joyce Bertram  
 Larry & Carol Zeman  
**Crappie**  
 Dean & Heidi Howard  
 William & Kelly McKinney  
**Sunfish**  
 Willard & Bernie Backes  
 Jen Dauer  
 Craig & Paulette Martinson  
 Bryan & Mary Messer  
 Mark & Denise Nierenhausen  
**Little Cedar Island Lake**  
**Bass**  
 James Okerstrom  
**Catfish**  
 Greg & Margaret Spanier  
**Walleye**  
 Dion Bagaason  
 Chris & Patty Jackson  
 Mike & Sheri Kealy  
 Thomas & Nancy Sherman

**Crappie**  
 Layton & Linda Zellman  
**Sunfish**  
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 Gerald & Nancy Fiecke  
 Anne Howard  
 Edward & Rosanne Jones  
 Steven & Katherine Reid  
**Long Lake**  
**Bass**  
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 Jerry & Janet Kolasa  
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 Kyle Schroeder  
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 Brian & Jodie Steffensmeier  
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 Arthur & Margaret Kuechle  
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 Randall & Deborah Spotts  
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**Sunfish**

Cory Peitz  
**Park Lake**

**Catfish**

Patricia Decker  
 Mark & Bonita Johannes  
**Crappie**

Matt & Shauna Noska

**Sunfish**

Charles Hise  
 David & Virginia Johannes  
 Patrick & Kristine Kelly  
 Ken & Sylvia Raschke  
 Gary & Jeanine Schnobrich

**Sauk River**

**Catfish**

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**Sunfish**

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 John & Dolores Maile  
 Tom Niehaus

**Schneider Lake**

**Bass**

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 Jeremy & Sue Schneider  
 Gary & Ana Theisen  
**Walleye**  
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 Wayne & Pamela Karg  
 Brianna & Nathan Larison  
 Tim & Kersten Thellin  
 Doug Torborg  
 Alan & Barbara Weber

**Crappie**

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 Tom & Helen Goebel  
 Thomas & Rosalie Hall  
 Mike & Amanda Henry  
 Todd & Delores Howen  
 Gary & Rita Moening

**Sunfish**

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 Stephen & Victoria Dibrito  
 Marvin & Evelyn Huss  
 Alice Jungels  
 Curtis & Deborah Lembeck  
 James & Mary Leuer  
 Lyle & Barbara Lingofelt  
 Richard Lockhart  
 James & Lou Ann OConnor  
 Norb Poepping  
 Bernard Schneider  
 Wallace & Carol Simdorn

**Zumwalde Lake**

**Bass**

Anthony Jr & Mary Couri  
 Larry Reisinger  
 Wayne & Adelaide Turkowski  
**Catfish**

Max & Emily Johannes  
 Nancy Lindell

**Walleye**

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 Steve Torning  
 Steve & Jill Vardsveen  
 Ron & Alice Zumwalde

**Crappie**

Jim & Mary Fredrickson

**Sunfish**

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 Lee & Cathie Bolyard  
 Dennis & Barbara Gregory  
 Cory & Stacey Hertzog  
 Ryan & Ashley Mareck  
 Jamie & Kim Morford  
 Stanley Plattner  
 Linda Possin  
 Michael & Deane Stuber  
 Craig & Andrea Swanberg  
 Denis & Elenore Torborg  
 Bernhard & Ann Warling  
 Scott Zika

**Friends of the Chain**

**Crappie**

Dan Athmann

**Sunfish**

Charles & Lynn Reichert

# Gambling Committee Update

by John Rocky

We have had a great year so far with our gambling operations at Shady's Long Shots as it has become a preferred destination for golfers, lake residents, and people from all around central Minnesota! As of October 1, 2021, we have received a total of \$60,000 from our SRCL Gambling Fund into our SRCL Operations account. These proceeds will allow the SRCL to continue to fund projects aimed at protecting and improving our Sauk River Chain of Lakes. Please continue to support Shady's Long Shots and thank them for supporting our SRCL Association!

Bar Bingo Starts Wednesday, October 13 at

6:30 p.m. Only packets will be sold prior to the start of Bar Bingo. The cost is \$15 for the 10 games. There will be NO individual sales between games. The bingo game format will be the same as last year.

Meat Raffle starts Friday, October 15 at 6 p.m. Raffle tickets will be purchased at the front table. Volunteers will NOT go around the bar to sell tickets. There will be three rounds of five games in which patrons can purchase raffle tickets at the front table. Each game will have color-coded tickets to align with the number of the game. The person with the winning ticket will come up to the front table to verify the tick-

et and receive their prize.

Our committee would like to thank our past volunteers for Bar Bingo and Meat Raffle and encourage you to sign up again this year! For information on signing up please reach out to our new Gambling Committee chair Karla Smetana at 320-492-6244 or visit the following links:




- Bar Bingo - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040849AEA922A5FC1-barbingo>
- Meat Raffle - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040849AEA922A5FC1-meat>



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# SRCL Apparel Available

by Susan Antolak

We are very excited to have our new logo Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL) Association clothing available again for sale! Just in time for the holidays!

We will be selling SRCL t-shirts, 1/4 zips, and hats with our new logo for both men and women.

Our store will reopen again from

October 16, 2021, thru November 16, 2021. Please go to the SRCL web store and place your orders at <https://www.wildvein.com/srcl-apparel>. (It will only be open to ordering apparel during the dates above.)

Your order will be shipped to you in about three to four weeks after the store closes.

We were proud to be sponsors of the Richmond River Lake Days in July. In August, the ROCORI Area Community Foundation honored the SRCL as the area nonprofit to benefit from this year's Concert for a Cause – Free Fallin'.



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# AIS Transport Prevention Using I-LIDS by Steve Weeres

Managing the problem of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the Sauk River Chain of Lakes requires a multi-pronged approach of measurement, control, and prevention.

As part of our preventive strategy, the Board has partnered with a Minnesota company Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC to purchase, install and manage a network of its Internet Landing Installed Device Sensors (I-LIDS) at the four public access points on the Chain; Highway 23, Highway 22, Highway 71, and Long Lake. The I-LIDS is designed to increase the boater's awareness of the need to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

When a boater is detected, I-LIDS plays multiple educational messages and triggers the camera to capture and transmit high-resolution videos of the boat's condition over the Internet to a remote server. There the videos are reviewed by trained personnel as part of an ongoing service provided by Environmental Sentry Protection. Videos are reviewed for compliance with State Law relating to the transfer of aquatic plants on the boater's equipment. Videos of potential violations are further reviewed and posted on a secure website where we can review the videos for confirmation.

The SRCL board has established a collaborative agreement with the Stearns County Sheriff's office to investigate AIS violations and issue a

warning or citation to the boater.

Statistics for the I-LIDS operation at the access points on the chain for the timeframe May through August are as follows:

Highway 23 access point: 2735 raw videos generated, 1474 videos of interest reviewed, 0 potential violations identified.

Highway 22 access point: 15333 raw videos generated, 2061 videos of interest reviewed, 7 potential violations identified.

Highway 71 access point: 8071 raw videos generated, 2080 videos of interest reviewed, 0 potential violations identified.

Long Lake access point: 8753 raw videos generated, 2020 videos of interest reviewed, 0 potential violations identified.

The Board believes that the presence of the I-LIDS at our access points emphasizes the importance of proper cleaning and inspection procedures needed to ensure the AIS-safe launch and retrieval. From the data above, we note a low number of violations indicating that there is a consistent effort to Clean-Drain-Dry. We are always looking for new ideas to promote awareness of AIS transfer. If you have an idea or are aware of effective methods others have implemented, contact the author at [steveSRCLB@gmail.com](mailto:steveSRCLB@gmail.com).





**Spring 2022 Road Clean-Up**  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Here is a call to action for anyone willing to make an immediate impact on water quality. We will be doing our annual spring Adopt-a-Highway clean up on May 7<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting). We are responsible for the two mile stretch of Hwy 22 from the public access to the Cozy Corners Main entrance. We will meet at the Hwy 22 public access at 9 a.m. If you are interested in volunteering please email or text me and I will add your name to the list. This is definitely a project where many hands make for quick work. I look forward to hearing from you all. Thank you all.

Aaron Schwartz  
[aarschwartz@gmail.com](mailto:aarschwartz@gmail.com) \* 320-309-1492



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# Water Quality

by Aaron Schwartz

Hello Everyone, I am Aaron Schwartz, the chair of the water quality committee. I joined the board in the spring of 2020. I have lived on Koetter Lake for the past four years, with my wife, Krysten, and our two daughters, Addison (7) and Emilia (3), and our dog Rem. I jumped at the opportunity to join the board as I wanted to get involved in the preservation of this great water system for our children and their children.

For those that are new to the Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL) Association, I wanted to take a moment to break down the role and responsibilities of the Water Quality Committee. My role is two pronged, the first is to oversee the water sampling and data collection for the water quality of our system, the second is to coordinate the Adopt-A-Highway program that we as an association sponsor.

### Water Sampling

As mentioned above, my role on the board is to oversee the water sampling that occurs across our water system. We take water samples from six of the lakes on the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes. Those lakes are a mix of both flowage and non-flowage lakes, they include, Horseshoe, Cedar Island, Zumwalde, Schneider, Krays, and Knaus. Once each month from May through September, we head out to designated locations in each of these lakes to perform the following:

take two water samples from a depth of 4-6 ft, take a water clarity reading with a Secchi disk, and fill out a general survey of the weather conditions and water appearance. We as an Association have continued our partnership with the Sauk River Watershed

District (<https://srwdmn.org/>) for the processing and analysis of the water samples and the Secchi disk reading data and add them to our ongoing historic data set. The SRWD will then submit back to us the year's results via a report. This report is typically delivered around the beginning of the year. The 2020 result are currently available on the SRCL website ([www.srcl.org](http://www.srcl.org)) for those that wish to review. The are three main data point that we monitor are Total Phosphorus (read nutrients), Chlorophyll-a (read green color), and clarity depth.

### Road Clean-Up

The other role of the Water Quality Chairman is coordinating the road cleanup of our Adopt-a-Highway stretch of Hwy 22. The association has expanded those efforts beyond the two-mile stretch of road to include the public access on Hwy 22 as well as the bridge area on County Road 71 and the public access and fishing area on also on Co Rd 71. Our responsibility for the Adopt-a-Highway is to pick up litter two times a year which we typically try to complete the first week of May and the first week of

October. We ask for 12-18 volunteers to make this process go quickly. I am so thankful for all the volunteers that take time out of their busy schedules to help prevent this road trash from entering our water system. Like most things, many hands have made for light work. Over the last three events that I was a part of, we have removed on average 18 bags of trash within an hour or so of work. Again, thank you to everyone that has volunteered their time.

If you are interested in volunteering for road clean-up events or are interested in getting involved in other ways, please feel free to reach out to me via phone (320.309.1492) or email at [Aarschwartz@gmail.com](mailto:Aarschwartz@gmail.com).

## Financial Report

by Charlie Montreuil

The balance sheet for the Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL) Association continues to remain strong. The SRCL has total checking and savings in excess of \$61,000. Added to these are our certificates of deposit amounting to nearly \$28,000. This gives us total assets of \$89,000.

The assets remain strong because of three major factors; your contributions to membership, the strong contributions we are receiving from our gambling operations (\$30,000 over the last three months), and nearly \$8,000 in grants from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Stearns County to help control aquatic invasive species.

As we discussed in the annual meeting this year, we have made significant strategic expenditures in the following areas:

1. Aquatic invasive species. We have spent over \$25,000 in chemical treatments and \$24,000 in mechanical treatments of the invasive species curly leaf pondweed. We spent \$6,500 in plant surveys before and after the treatments to measure the effectiveness and to determine if there were other infestations of invasive species.

2. Internet Landing Installed Device Sensors (ILIDS). To help monitor and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, we invested over \$17,000 in upgrades, operational costs and the purchase of an ILIDS for the Long Lake pub-

lic access.

3. Buoy purchases. To help boaters navigate through and around underwater hazards, we spent over \$4,000 to buy buoys and materials which were placed in strategic locations on the Chain.

4. Land use and water quality. We continue to ensure that we help maintain proper land-use and ensure water quality by monitoring our water in conjunction with the Sauk River Water District. We spent over \$7500 in these areas.

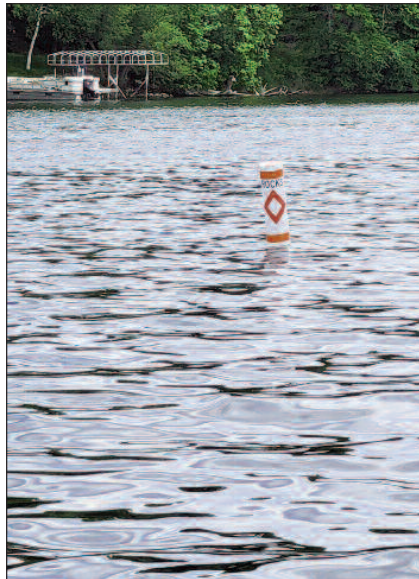
When you add it all up, we have invested over \$84,000 to help create a better experience on the Chain. We are positioned to invest even more next year.

## Rock Buoys Added to the Chain in 2021

by Troy Atkinson

This year the SRCLA was able to purchase and put out on the Chain 15 buoys to mark rocks. We hired the Stearns County Water Patrol to put them in and take them out as they have the proper equipment for handling these buoys. The Water Patrol just took out the buoys on Sunday, September 19th, and they held up well, so we are able to reuse them all next year. They did need a deep cleaning as they were rather scummy and were covered in Zebra Mussels- some worse than others, but we hope they were a great addition to the lakes and your boating experience this year.

If anyone finds or knows of any new rocks that we need to mark for 2022, please email [Troy@pierceinsurance.com](mailto:Troy@pierceinsurance.com).



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## Land Use Grants Available — by Troy Atkinson

We started a new grant program this year to help landowners to reduce or eliminate runoff into the lake from their properties. We are striving to do this by adding native grasses and buffers between your yard and the lake to reduce the chemicals and fertilizers in our yards from getting into the lake. We did have some interest in the program, and I had discussions with a few homeowners. We did have one grant that was approved for this year, but with the dry summer the project was delayed so, we will pay that out next year once they get the work finished. We will include some pictures and details of the project on our website when we are able to get it.

For many landowners, they take great pride in their lawn and yard. While we understand the enjoyment that a nice lawn and landscaping can bring, we also want to make sure our

water is a source of pride and joy. So, some compromise may be necessary to preserve both your yard and the waterfront. We are continuing to learn how our action on the land influences our water and ways we can minimize our impact. We have a few ideas we are going to explore this winter that hopefully will inspire more of our property owners to take a closer interest in some simple and easy, but still eye-pleasing, ways to work towards the long-term goal of a cleaner and healthier lake we can all enjoy.

If anyone is interested in learning about the Land Use Grants to help pay for the cost of creating a lakeshore that truly reduces the runoff into the lakes, or if you are interested in helping us with some brainstorming and research this winter, contact Troy@pierceinsurance.com.

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**Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCL)  
Land Use Assistance Contract/Application**

**General Information**  
 SRCL Department:  Yes  No  Other (state below)  
 Amendment  Cancelled   
 (Board meeting #) (Board meeting #)

**Applicant**  
 Land Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conservation Practice Location**  
 Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contract Information**  
 I (we), the undersigned, do hereby request cost-share assistance to help defray the cost of installing the following practice(s) listed as described on the second page of this contract. It is understood that:

- In no case shall the SRCL provide cost-share assistance to a land occupier or landowner for the reapplication of a practice that was removed by the land occupier or landowner during its effective life without consent of the SRCL board or that failed due to improper maintenance. The specific operation and maintenance requirements for the conservation practice listed are described in the operation and maintenance plan prepared for this contract by the conservation district technical representative. If title to this land is transferred to another party before expiration of the aforementioned life, it shall be the responsibility of the land occupier or landowner who signed this contract to advise the new owner that this contract is in force.
- Practice(s) must be planned and installed in accordance with technical standards and specifications of the: USDA Field Office Technical Guide, and guidance from State of Minnesota and/or Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Items of cost for which reimbursement is claimed are to be supported by invoices/receipts for payments and will be verified by the SRCL board as practical and reasonable. The SRCL board has the authority to make adjustments to the costs submitted for reimbursement.

**Applicant Signatures**  
 The land occupier's signature indicates agreement to:

- Grant the organization's representative(s) access to the parcel where the conservation practice will be located.
- Obtain all permits required in conjunction with the installation and establishment of the practice prior to starting construction of the practice.
- As part of practice certification, the project site may be photographed. These photographs may be used by the SRCL for but are not limited to: reporting, documentation, and publications.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner/Spokesperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Land Occupier (if different from applicant signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Address (if different from applicant information): \_\_\_\_\_

**Conservation Practice**  
 The land project for which cost-sharing is requested is \_\_\_\_\_

- What is the primary objective of project? \_\_\_\_\_
- How will this project help our lakes? \_\_\_\_\_
- Effective life of project? \_\_\_\_\_

**Technical Assessment and Cost Estimate**  
 1. Total project cost estimate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Who has approved or engineered the project? \_\_\_\_\_

Entity: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

- What percent is being paid by a government entity? What entity? \_\_\_\_\_
- How much are you needing or looking for to make sure project gets completed? \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Authorized for Financial Assistance**  
 The SRCL Organization Board has authorized the following for financial assistance, to be funded to applicant after project is completed.  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ (enter program name and fiscal year)

Board Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Authorized: \_\_\_\_\_

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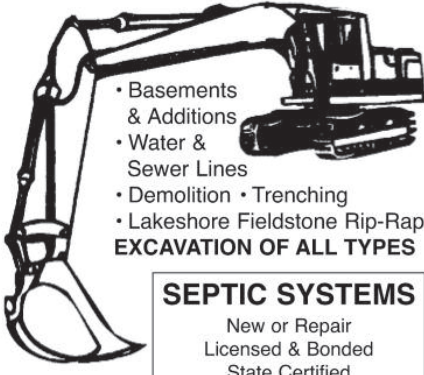
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# Fisheries Report

by Matt Noska

We are excited about the state of our fishery here on the Sauk River Chain of Lakes. We have been working closely with our local Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) representative Joe Stewig to ensure our fishery remains healthy. Joe and his team continue to partner with us through lake surveys, electro studies, and limit adjustments. We are in our first year of the new bluegill 10 fish daily limit, and the feedback has been very positive. We will continue to work

with Joe and his team to make sure that the Sauk River Chain of Lakes remains the best fishery in Stearns County. Below is a detailed look at what the MN DNR has done throughout 2021 here on the chain.

### Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL) 2021 Lake Survey Summary

In 2021, Sauk Rapids Area Fisheries staff conducted lake surveys throughout the SRCL. Sampling consisted of spring targeted Bluegill/Black Crappie surveys on Horseshoe and Cedar Island Lakes and

summer gill nets (all lakes). The Sauk River Chain of Lakes are surveyed every three years with gill nets and every six years with trap nets and bass electrofishing. This year was gill nets only and in 2024 the survey will consist of gill nets, trap nets and bass electrofishing. Spring targeted Bluegill/Black Crappie assessments will be conducted every four to five years, and Young-of-the-Year (YOY) Walleye are sampled annually in October.

Sampling	Frequency (yrs)	Next Survey
Summer Gill Nets	3	2024
Summer Trap Nets	6	2024
Spring BLG/BLC	6	2024
Spring LMB/SMB	4 – 5	2025
Fall Walleye	annual	2021

A spring targeted Bluegill assessment was conducted on Horseshoe and Cedar Island Lakes from May 19 – 21, 2021 once water surface temperatures reached 60 F. Spring targeted Bluegill surveys tend to be better representative of the overall

size structure as opposed to summer trap net assessments. Sixteen trap nets were set into each lake and checked daily. A total of 548 Bluegills were sampled from the two lakes and ranged in length from 3.5 – 10 inches with an average length of 7.7 inch-

es. Ninety-eight percent of the Bluegills caught were longer than six (6) inches and 43 percent were longer than eight (8) inches!!! The Bluegill population remains healthy in the SRCL.

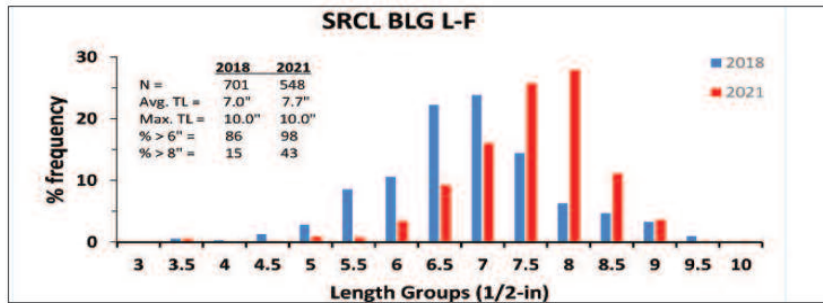


Figure 1. Length frequency of Bluegill collected during spring targeted sampling on Cedar Island and Horseshoe Lakes (2018 and 2021; lakes combined).

Black Crappie continue to do well in the Chain even though their numbers have dropped significantly from what they were in the 1980s and 90s. Spring sampling was conducted simultaneously with the

Bluegill sampling in 2021 and sampled 346 crappies. Crappies ranged in length from five (5) – 13 inches with an average length of 9.3 inches. Ninety-one percent of the crappies sampled were longer than

eight (8) and 30 percent were longer than ten (10) inches. Most of the fish were between eight (8) and nine (9) inches and should provide good fishing over the next few years.

Fisheries Report continued on page 16



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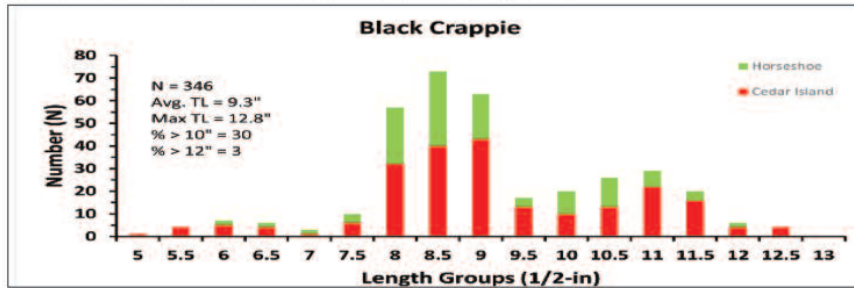


Figure 2. Length frequency of black crappie collected during spring targeted sampling on Cedar Island and Horseshoe Lakes (2021).

Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass were not sampled in 2021 but will be sampled again in 2024. With that in mind here is a summary from the 2018 spring bass electrofishing. Two hundred and forty-two Largemouth Bass were sampled in 2018 and ranged in length from six (6) – 20 inches with an average length of 11.6 inches.

Forty-two percent of the catch were longer than 12 inches and 21 percent were longer than 15 inches. While not as numerous, we did sample 116 Smallmouth Bass mostly out of Horseshoe and Cedar Island lakes. Smallmouth Bass also ranged in length from six (6) – 20 inches with an average length of 13.6 inches. Seventy-

five percent were longer than 11 inches and 52 percent were longer than 14 inches. The SRCL is a destination lake for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass anglers judging by the number of permitted bass tournaments that are held there each year.

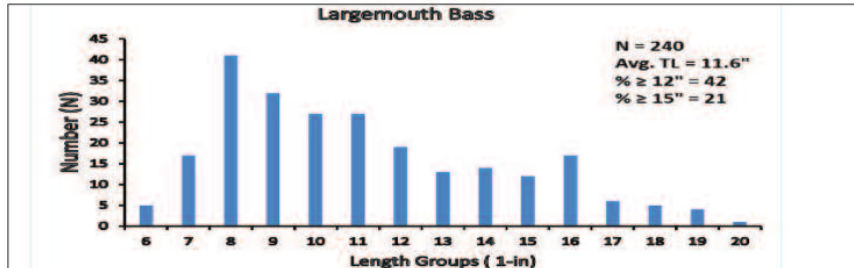


Figure 3. Length frequency of Largemouth Bass collected from the SRCL via spring electrofishing 2018.

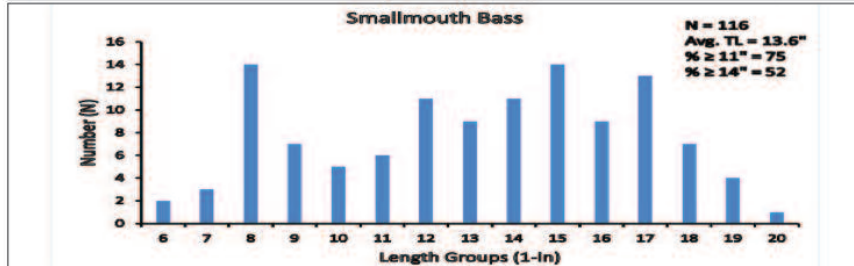


Figure 4. Length frequency of smallmouth bass collected from the SRCL via spring electrofishing 2018.

Channel Catfish abundance continues to decrease with a decreasing trend over the last three surveys. The catch in 2021 (12.3/gill net) was the lowest since 2003; however, the average size has increased. Four hundred and thirty-two catfish were

caught in 2021 ranging in length from nine (9) – 29.1 inches with an average size of 21 inches and three (3) pounds compared to 20 inches and 2.7 pounds in 2018. Catfishing continues to be terrific on the Chain during both the summer and

winter months, and the local conservation officer has mentioned that he is seeing many anglers taking advantage of the increased bag limit that was put in place in 2015.

Fisheries Report continued on page 17

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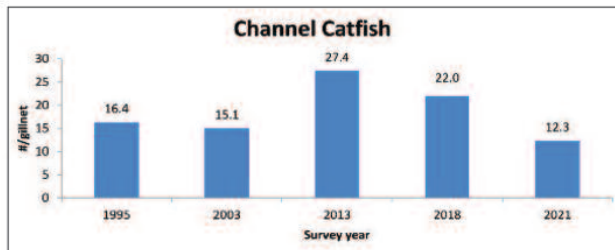


Figure 5. Historical gill net catch rates of Channel Catfish (lakes combined) for the Sauk River Chain of Lakes (1995 - 2021).

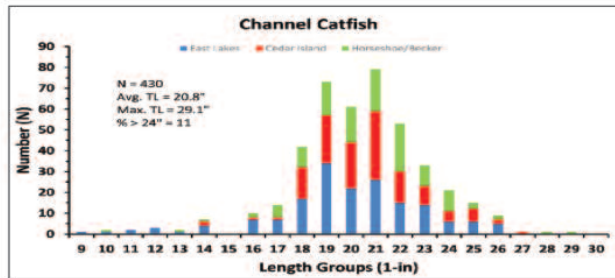


Figure 6. Length frequency of Channel Catfish collected from summer gill netting on the SRCL (2021).

Northern Pike have never been over-abundant in the SRCL with catches ranging from 2.7 - 7.0/gill net. The catch in 2021 (4.9/gill net) was lower than 2018 (7.0/gill net), but still within the range of expected values for the lake class. One hundred sixty-two pike were sampled in 2021 and ranged in

length from 15 - 34 inches with an average length and weight of 21.5 inches and 2.1 pounds. Sixty-three percent of the pike caught were smaller than 22 inches while nine percent were longer than 26 inches and three percent were longer than 30 inches.

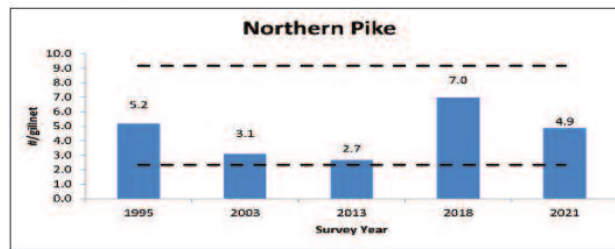


Figure 7. Historical gill net catch rates of Northern Pike (lakes combined) for the Sauk River Chain of Lakes (1995 - 2021). Dashed lines indicate the upper and lower level of what we would expect to see for lakes similar to the

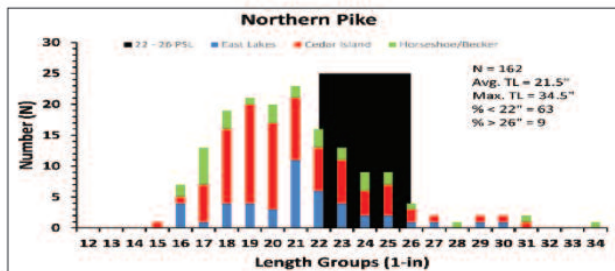


Figure 8. Length frequency of Northern Pike collected during the 2021 gill net survey. Black shaded area is the 22 - 26 inches protected slot for pike as part of the North Central Zone.

David Neiman cell 320-980-7480 Sean Grefe cell 320-980-7452

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### Fisheries Report continued from page 17

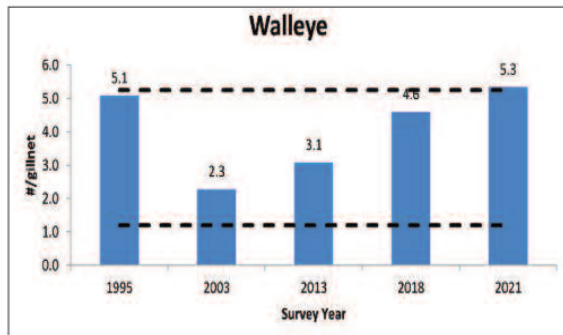
The Walleye population in the SRCL had been sustained through fry stocking Horseshoe (275,000 – 675,000 fry) and Cedar Island (755,000 – 1,355,000 fry) Lakes since 2001 and prior to that through fingerling stocking. The SRCL Association has also done some supplemental stocking as well (100,000 fry each year we stock). However, in 2015 during a routine fall young-of-year (YOY)

Walleye assessment, we noticed some Walleye that were too big (nine (9) – 11 inches) to be YOY. Upon ageing a sub-sample of these fish, we verified that they were from the 2014-year class a year in which we did not stock Walleye. We have always

assumed that some natural reproduction of Walleye was occurring within the Chain, but to what extent was unknown. After 2015, we started conducting annual fall YOY Walleye assessments in order to document natural reproduction. Since 2015, we have documented excellent natural reproduction in 2016 (107 YOY/hr), 2018 (149 YOY/hr), 2019 (120 YOY/hr) and to a lesser degree 2020 (74 YOY/hr) many of these catches rival the catches during stocked years. For perspective, we consider anything between 25 and 50 YOY/hr to be successful. Another interesting thing we observed during the 2018 gill net survey was that 52 percent of the Walleye sampled were produced during non-

stocked years (2014- and 2016-year classes).

That brings us to our 2021 gill net survey. The catch in 2021 (5.3/net) was the highest on record and slightly higher than 2018 (4.6/net). One hundred eighty-three Walleye were sampled and ranged in length from nine (9) – 27 inches with an average length and weight of 16 inches and 1.5 pounds. Fifty-nine percent of the Walleye caught were longer than 15 inches and 12 percent were longer than 20 inches. Walleyes from the survey have not been aged yet, but it is safe to say that a majority if not all will be related back to naturally reproduced years!!!



**Figure 9.** Historical gill net catch rates of Walleye (lakes combined) for the Sauk River Chain of Lakes (1995 – 2021). Dashed lines indicate the upper and lower level of what we would expect to see for lakes similar to the Sauk Chain.

To build on what we've observed during our fall YOY Walleye shocking (2015 – present) and our 2018 and 2021 gill net surveys, we have put a hold on all Walleye stocking and have ramped up our sampling effort on the SRCL to every three years to better monitor Walleye recruitment. We also will continue to monitor Walleye natural reproduction through annual fall electrofishing and plan any future stocking accordingly. Stocking is not off the table, but naturally reproduced fish typically have a genetic advantage over stocked fish. Therefore, if we get two (2) consecutive years where we collect < 25 YOY/hr during fall electrofishing then we will fry stock the following year.

The SRCL was designated for

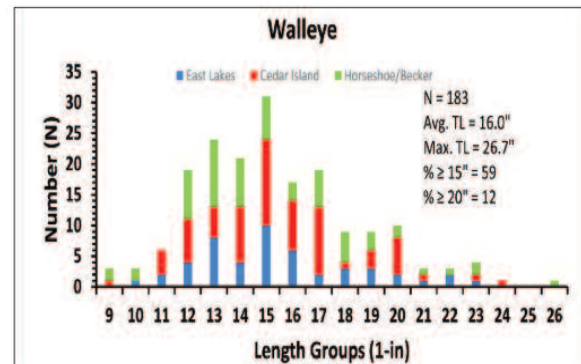
Muskellunge Management in 2011 and in May 2011, 132 adult Muskies were stocked into Cedar Island Lake in order to jump start the population. We followed that up with 1,030 fingerling (nine (9) – 14 inches) stocked in October 2011. Since then, 1,030 Muskellunge fingerlings are stocked every other year. In 2013, we started tagging the fingerling Muskies with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags in order to monitor growth information over time. As far as population assessments go, Muskellunge generally take six to seven years to recruit to our sampling gear so our first attempt to assess the Muskie population will not likely take place until 2025. Even then we would only have approximately 5,000 fish roaming the SRCL that is

if they all survived. ☺ We have heard of anglers catching a few, but we would love to hear about your catch or if you would be willing to share your photos for our files that would be great.

Send photos to: Joe Stewig - Area Fisheries Manager  
Sauk Rapid Area Fisheries Office  
1035 South Benton Drive  
Ph: 320-223-7867; Email: joe.stewig@state.mn.us

And Ann Warling, SRCL Administrative Assistant at ann.warling@gmail.com for posting on the SRCL Website.

Happy Angling!!!



**Figure 10.** Length frequency of Walleye collected during the 2021 gill net survey.



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Board Member	Role/Committee	Phone	Email
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Charlie Montreuil	Treasurer	612-8819-1331	cfraven@aol.com
Ann Warling	Administration	218-821-1031	ann.warling@gmail.com
Keely Frakes-Rau	Gambling Manager	320-290-5111	tkrau@meltel.net
Karla Smetana	Gambling Volunteers	320-492-6244	admin@flexiblepipetoolco.com
Aaron Schwartz	Water Quality	320-309-1492	aarschwartz@gmail.com
Susan Antolak	Marketing/Public Relations	320-597-4864	susan.antolak@roberthalf.com
Troy Atkinson	Land Use/Rock Buoys	320-492-7041	troy@pierceinsurance.com
Steve Weeres	ILIDS	612-229-3941	steveSRCLB@gmail.com
Brad Matuska	Aquatic Invasive Species		brad@mississippitopsoils.com
David Hinson	Aquatic Invasive Species	651-808-1083	davidhinson@outlook.com
Matt Pelant	Aquatic Invasive Species	320-260-8995	mdpelant@icloud.com

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