

Management Summary-Saganaga Lake

- Lake Trout and Walleye are the primary management species (2016 Management Plan)
- Current management goals: Maintain a Lake Trout population with a minimum gill net catch of 1.0 fish/net (in deep sets), with some fish over 25 in. Maintain a Walleye population with a minimum gill net catch of 6.0 fish/net (in shallow sets), with some fish over 30 inches.
- Additional species present include Cisco, Black Crappie (first sampled in 2014), Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch, Rainbow Smelt, and White Sucker.
- Walleye fry stocking was resumed in 2009, and occurs in 2 of every 4 years.
- Current evaluations: Evaluate the Walleye special regulation implemented in 2015 and the contributions of stocked Walleye to the fishery.
- Special Regulations: Minnesota waters only, Walleye, minimum size limit 17", possession limit 3. This regulation is intended to improve Walleye recruitment by limiting harvest of small Walleye. The Narrows, Sea Gull River, Sag Falls, and Maligne River are closed annually to fishing during Walleye spawning period (April-May)
- 2017 survey summary
 - Survey only targeted MN waters of Saganaga
 - Walleye catch goal not met, similar to catches since 2008
 - Highest mean weight of Walleye observed since 1985, 17% exceeded 20 inches, size goal met
 - Strong natural Walleye year classes in 2012 and 2015 accounted for 61% of sample
 - Walleye from the 4 stocked year classes only comprised 20% of the sample
 - Walleye growth rates had slowed, at current rates Walleye require 5 or 6 seasons to reach 17 inches
 - Lake Trout catch and size goals met, reproduction appeared consistent
- Additional lake surveys scheduled for 2020, 2023, and 2026 to evaluate effectiveness of Walleye regulation. Management plan revision scheduled for 2024.