

Management Summary-Gunflint Lake

- Lake Trout and Walleye are the primary management species (2017 Management Plan)
- Current management goals: Maintain a Lake Trout population with a minimum gill net catch of 1.0 fish/net, with some fish up to 25 inches. Improve the Walleye population to attain a minimum gill net catch of 4.0 fish/net, with at least 25% of that catch consisting of age-5 or older fish. Gill net catch is combined catch in deep and shallow sets.
- Additional species present include Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Cisco, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch, Burbot, Rainbow Smelt, Longnose Sucker, and White Sucker.
- Walleye stocking resumed in 2008 at a frequency of 1 of 3 years (fingerlings, 2,022 lb/stocking)
- Current evaluations: Determine if population goals for Walleye can be met under the current fingerling stocking program, and without implementing special regulations. Determine if Lake Trout harvest on Gunflint Lake is sustainable under statewide regulations.
- Special Regulations: Walleye spawning areas on the Cross River and Little Gunflint Lake are closed to fishing during the spawning period (April 1-May 31) annually. MN-Ontario Border Waters regulations and seasons apply.
- 2015 survey summary
 - The Lake Trout catch failed to meet the goal, but included nine year classes indicating natural reproduction continued at adequate levels
 - The Lake Trout size goal was met; several fish over 25 inches were sampled
 - The Walleye catch also failed to meet the management goal for the lake, although it was within the expected range for the lake class
 - Only 12% percent of Walleye sampled in 2015 were age-5 or older, suggesting mortality rate (fishing or natural) remained high
 - Stocked year classes from 2008, 2011, and 2014 comprised 64% of the total catch
 - Walleye growth remained fairly fast, averaging 15 inches by the end of their 4th year
 - Northern Pike remain at low density, but high of quality
 - Cisco and Smelt abundances remained consistent with past findings
- Creel survey planned for 2019 or 2023, management plan revision scheduled for 2025