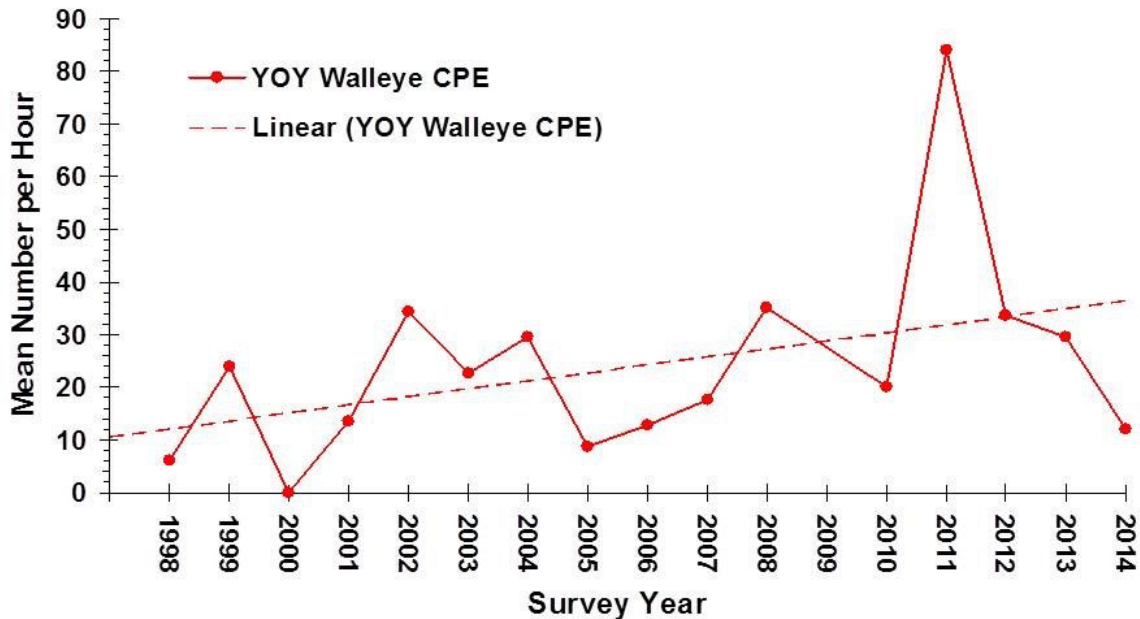


Young of Year (YOY) Walleye Catch per Effort (CPE) Big Sand Lake Electrofishing, 1998-2014



To get an estimate of young of the year (YOY) walleye abundance, the DNR does a nighttime using electrofishing boat equipped with a generator and flood lights. We sample Big Sand with this equipment annually, . Since we don't stock Big Sand with walleye anymore, this estimate is used as an index of walleye natural reproduction. We have been doing that sampling almost every year since 1998. Attached is a .jpg with a chart of results. Although YOY walleye abundance was somewhat lower in 2014, we have seen some very impressive results in recent years, and a generally increasing trend. We think that improvement may be due to the special walleye regulation that provides some protection to walleye brood stock. The results from last week's sampling was about 30 YOY walleye per hour electrofishing, a pretty good increase from last year. Those types of fluctuations are very typical of naturally reproducing populations.