

Q1. What is the current walleye stocking schedule for Sugar Lake? How many are stocked each time?

We (DNR) currently stock 357 lbs of walleye fingerlings or the equivalent (fingerlings, yearlings, and adults) annually. This equates to 1 lb of fingerlings/littoral acre (LA)/year, which is currently twice the rate that is recommended based on our statewide stocking study.

Here is link to the last 10 years of stocking data [Lake Stocking Report: Sugar \(86023300\) | LakeFinder | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

In a perfect world, we would like to stock fingerlings that are 15 – 20/lb, which would equate to anywhere from 5,355 – 7,140 annually. Unfortunately, due to factors out of our control, our walleye ponds don't work that way and we routinely have carry-over (yearlings and adults) in our ponds. These fish are obviously larger, but you get fewer fish to stock. Survival is assumed to be better as well because they are larger size. We do use a correction factor if we are stocking larger fingerlings, or yearlings and adults so that we stock the equivalent as if we were stocking 15 – 20/lb fingerlings. So based on the last 10 years of stocking data we have stocked on average 4,132 walleye/year (3,449 fgls, 502 yrls, and 181 adults). Does this make sense?

Q2. Based on the walleye sampling, what would your recommendation be for additional walleye stocking?

Based on our lake survey catches, I wouldn't recommend stocking anymore walleye. The walleye catch has ranged from 2.1 to 8.8/net with a long-term average of 4.1/net. This is within the range of what we would expect to see for the lake class (1.2 – 6.3/net). While we have seen a decrease in our catch rate over the last 3 surveys it is not out of the ordinary to see this as some stockings tend to take better than others. While I generally let Lake Associations stock walleye on top of our stocking, I usually steer them towards stocking in our off years, but making sure we are not exceeding that 1 lb/LA/year. If the Lake Association wants to stock walleyes, then we (DNR) would probably back off our stocking to every other year.

Q3. What would the cost of this additional stocking be?

Typically, the private sector has charged \$20 - \$25/lb for walleye fingerlings. However, I talked to another Lake Association about a month or so ago and they said that prices were up to \$2.70/fish!!! This equates to somewhere between \$40.50 - \$54/lb depending on the size (15 – 20 fish/lb). So, you would be talking about \$14,500 – \$19,250 to stock 357 lbs of fingerlings!!!

Hope this helps and answers your questions.

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