



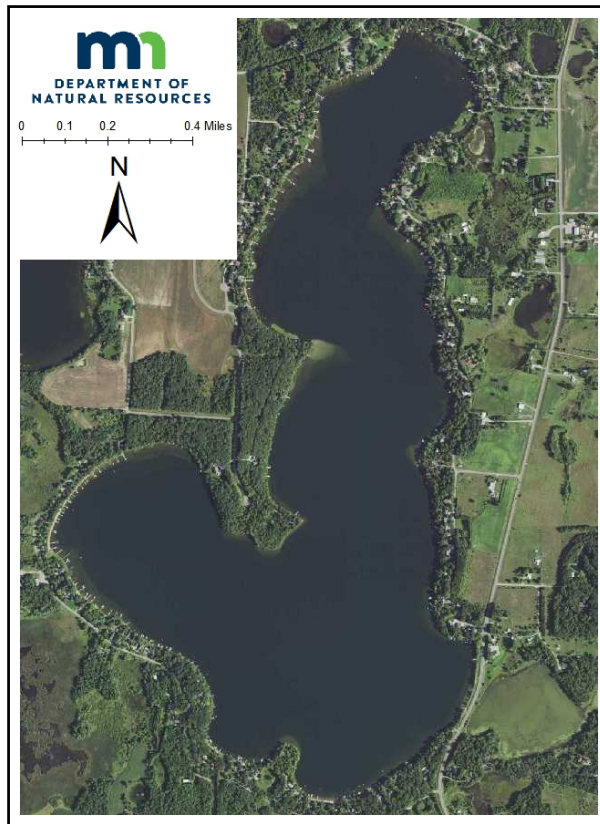
Big Fish Lake Experimental Regulation Review

Joe Stewig | Area Fisheries Manager



- Lake History
- Northern Pike Data
- Timeline
- Questions

Lake Stats



➤ Big Fish Lake

- 558 acres
 - Avg. Depth – 26.4' (Max. – 70')
 - Total P – 3 ppb
 - Chl-a – 12 ppb
 - Secchi – 16.5'
- Impaired for Aquatic Consumption (MPCA 2007)
- Walleye stocked during odd numbered years (368 lbs.)

Lake History

- 1909 – First stocking records
- 1947 – First lake survey
- 1950 – Walleye stocking begins
- 1975 – NPSA purchased (1975-93)
- 1980 – NOP catch 17.5/net
- 1986 – WAE catch 9.8/net
- 1987 – PA purchased and developed
- 1988 – Angling effort (32 hrs./ac)
- 2005 – NOP Regulations put in place
- 2007 – Fish consumption advisory
- 2010 – NOP catch 20.1/net
- 2015 – Most recent fish surveys (Ice-out, BLG, Standard Summer)
- 2018 – NOP Regulation Review; New NOP Zone Regulations enacted

Sampling History

➤ Pop. Assessments:

➤ 1947, 1975, 1980, 1986, 1991, 1997, 2005, 2010, and 2015

➤ Ice-Out Assessments:

➤ 2005, 2010, and 2015

➤ Experimental Regulations (2005):

➤ **Northern Pike: 24” – 36” protected slot; 3 fish bag limit; 1 fish > 36” allowed in possession.**

➤ **Pike Problem**

- Competition slows growth
- Decline in forage base (YEP)
- Reduces effectiveness of Walleye stocking

➤ **Goals of regulation**

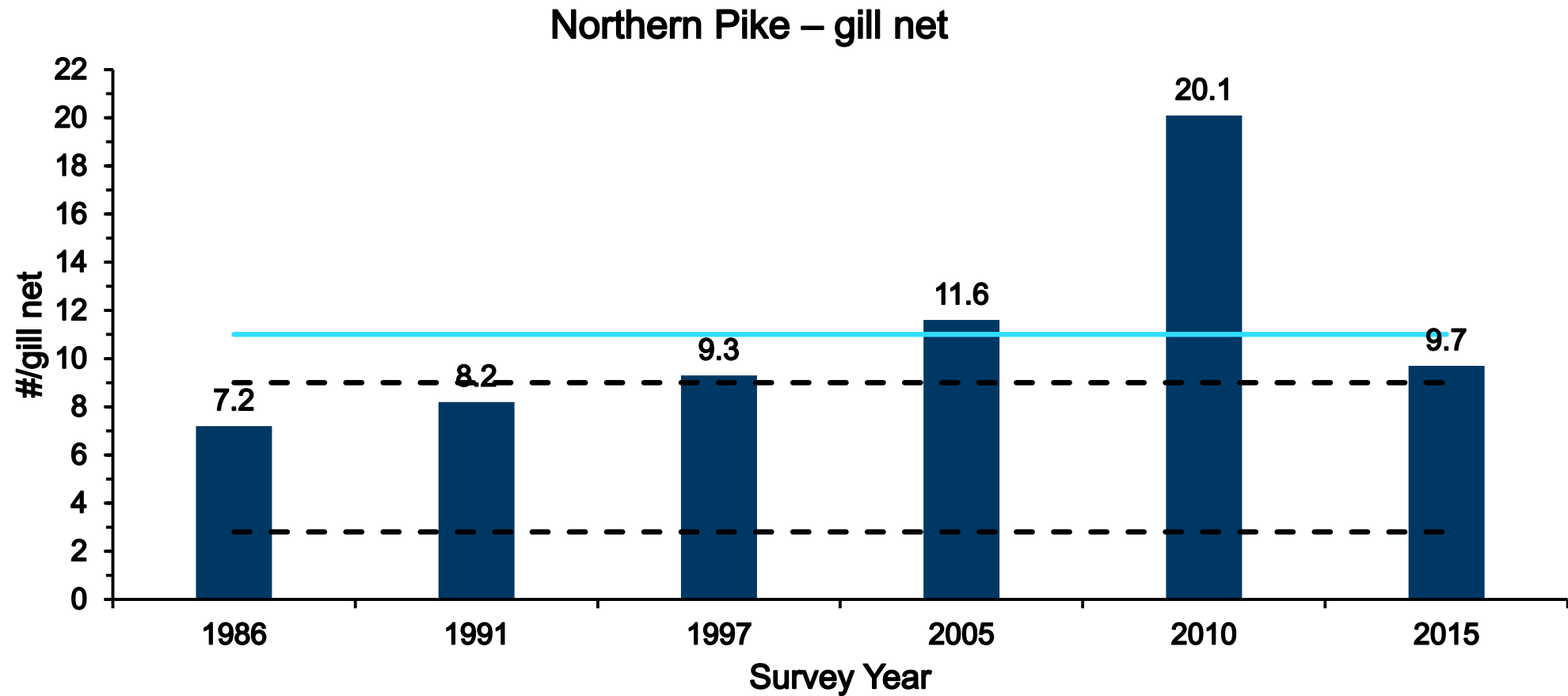
- Decrease GN catch to <7/net
- Increase % of NOP > 21 inches to 40%
- Increase the average size of NOP to 24 inches

Outline

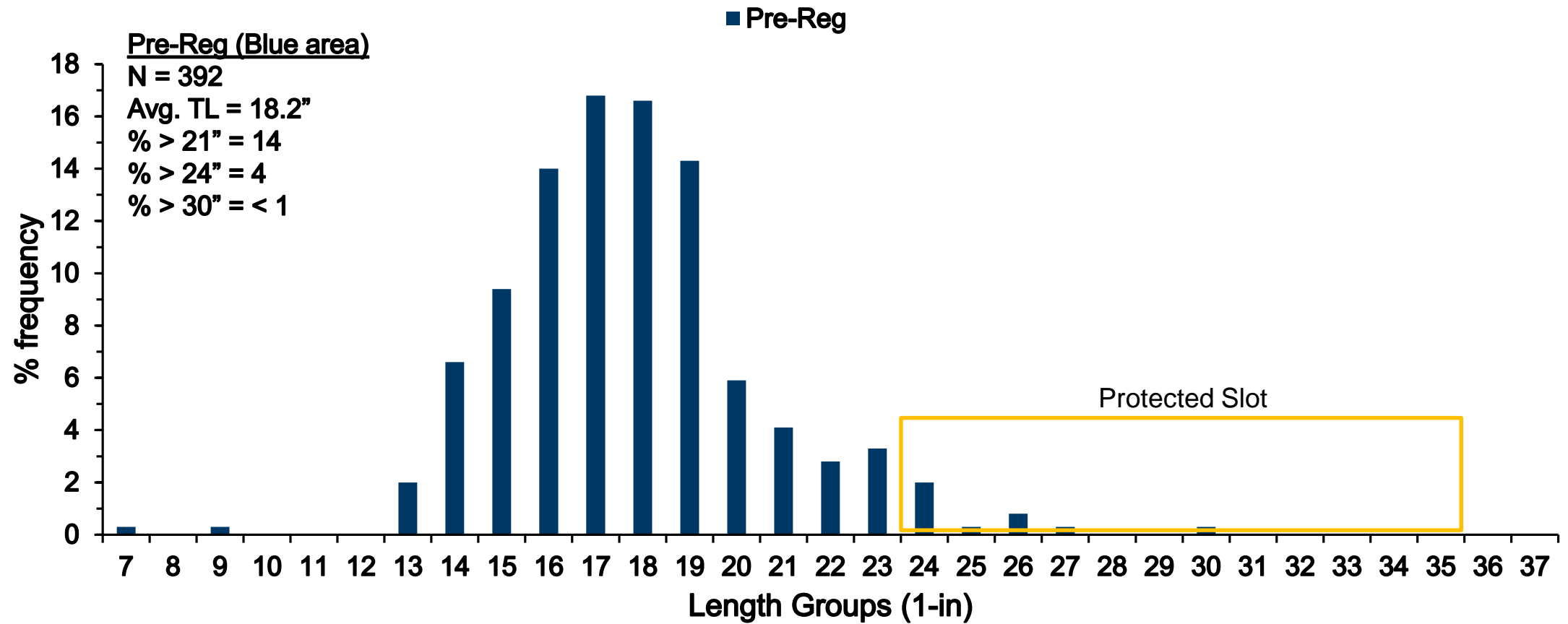


- Lake History
- **Northern Pike Data**
- Timeline
- Questions

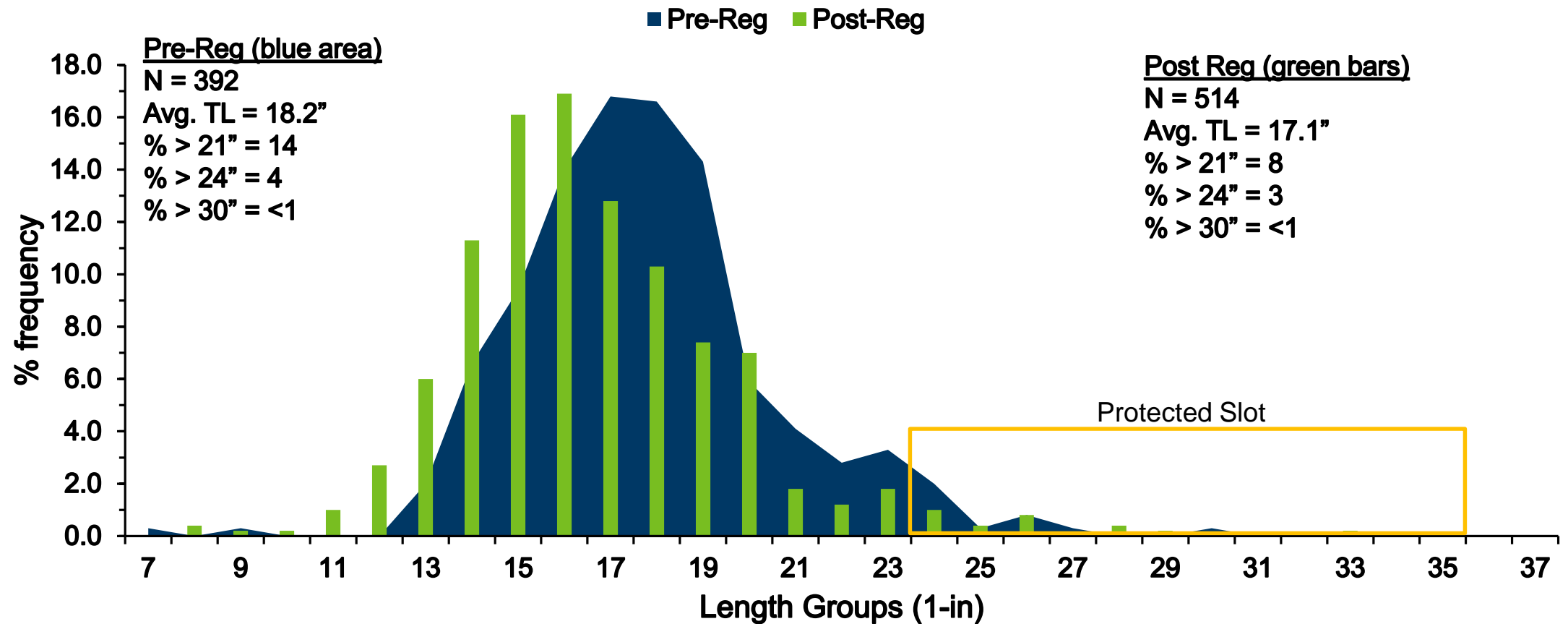
Northern Pike CPUE



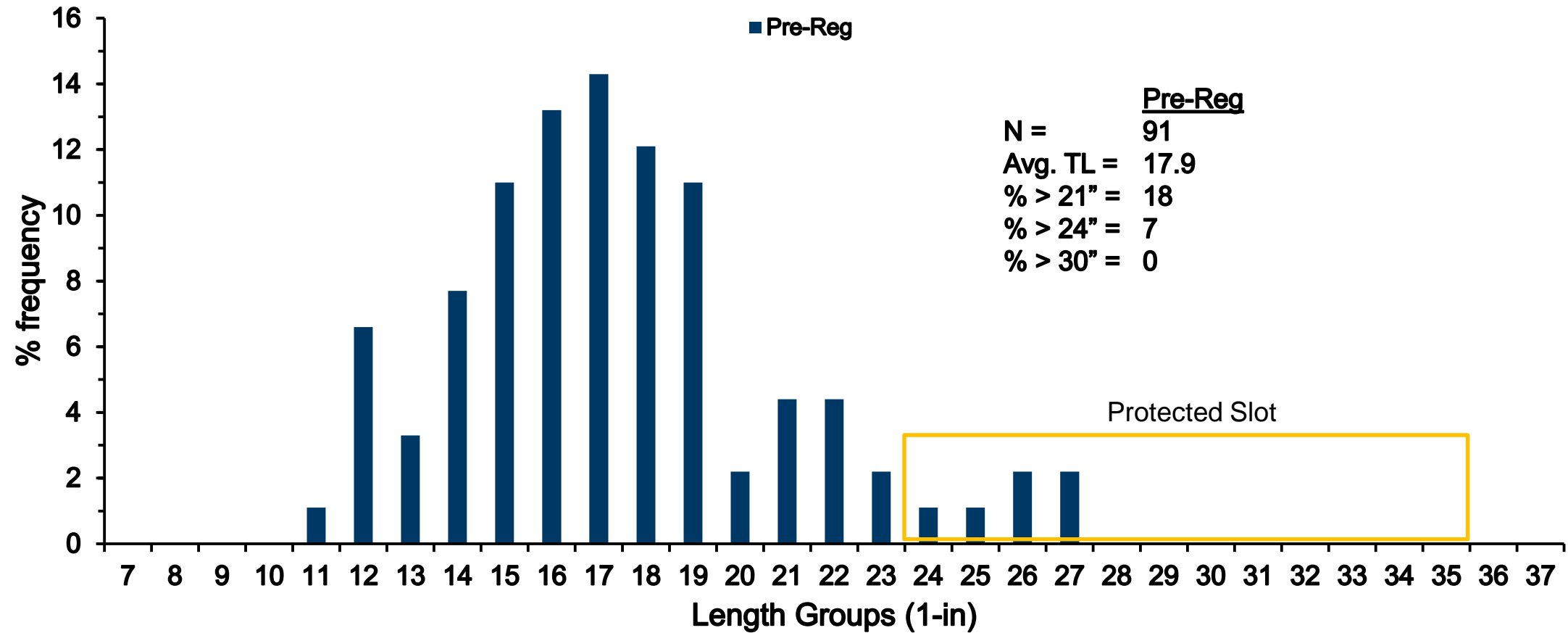
Ice-Out L-F



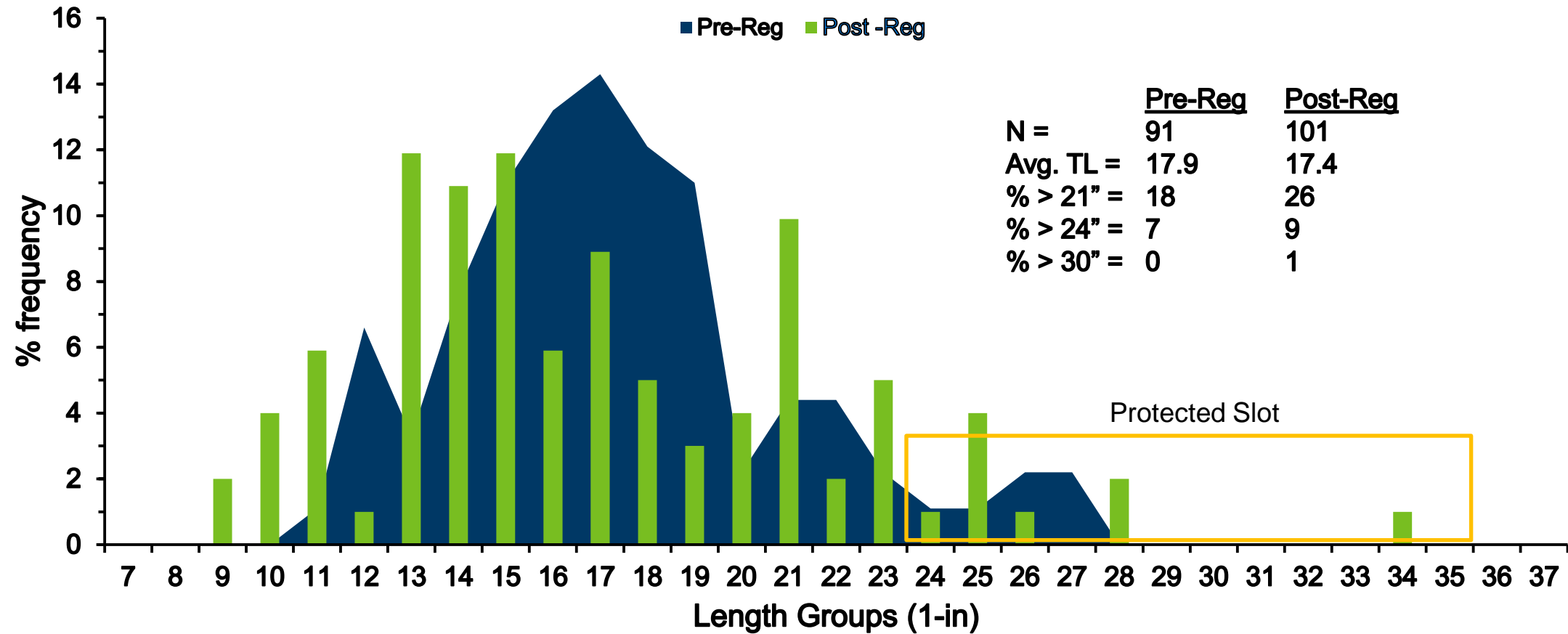
Ice-Out L-F



Gill Net L-F



Gill Net L-F



Size Structure

	Ice-Out			Gill Net	
	<u>Pre-Reg</u>	<u>Post-Reg</u>		<u>Pre-Reg</u>	<u>Post-Reg</u>
N	392	514	N	91	101
Avg. TL (in)	18.2	17.1	Avg. TL (in)	17.9	17.4
Avg. Wt. (lb.)	1.3	1.1	Avg. Wt. (lb.)	1.3	1.4
% > 21"	14	8	% > 21"	18	26
% > 24"	4	3	% > 24"	7	9
% > 30"	<1	<1	% > 30"	0	1

- Population still high!!!
- GN catch still >7/net
- Ice-Out Data
 - Decreased avg. size
 - Decreased size structure
- Gill Net Data
 - Decreased avg. size
 - Slight increase in % >21"



➤ Goals of Regulation

➤ ~~Decrease GN catch to $\leq 7/\text{net}$~~

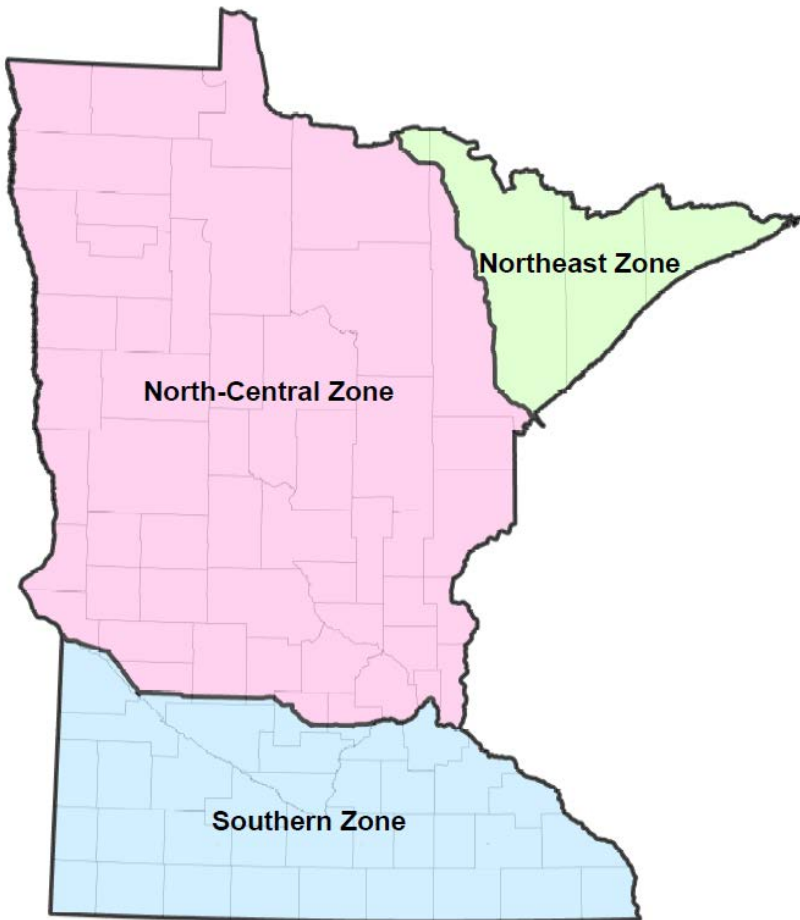
➤ ~~Increase % of NOP $\rightarrow 21$ inches to 40%~~

➤ ~~Increase the average size of NOP to 24 inches~~

➤ Continue with existing regulations

➤ ****Drop current regulation and revert to statewide regulation****

“New” Pike Regs



Zone	Angling Reg	Spearing Reg
North Central	10 fish bag limit 22-26” PSL 2 fish allowed over 26”	10 fish bag limit 1 fish between 22-26” and 1 over 26” or 2 over 26”
Northeast	2 fish bag limit 30-40” PSL 1 fish allowed over 40”	2 fish bag limit 1 fish allowed over 26”
Southern	2 fish bag limit Min. Size Limit – 24”	2 fish bag limit Min. Size Limit – 24”

More Info: www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index.html

Outline



- Lake History
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- **Timeline**
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- Public Input Meeting – Sept. 26, 2018
- Decision – December 2018
- Implementation – March 1, 2019
- Continue to monitor the fish population every 5 years



Questions???

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