

Lake Erie Hatch Results: 2024 Walleye and Yellow Perch



Why do we need information on the hatch of Yellow Perch and Walleye?

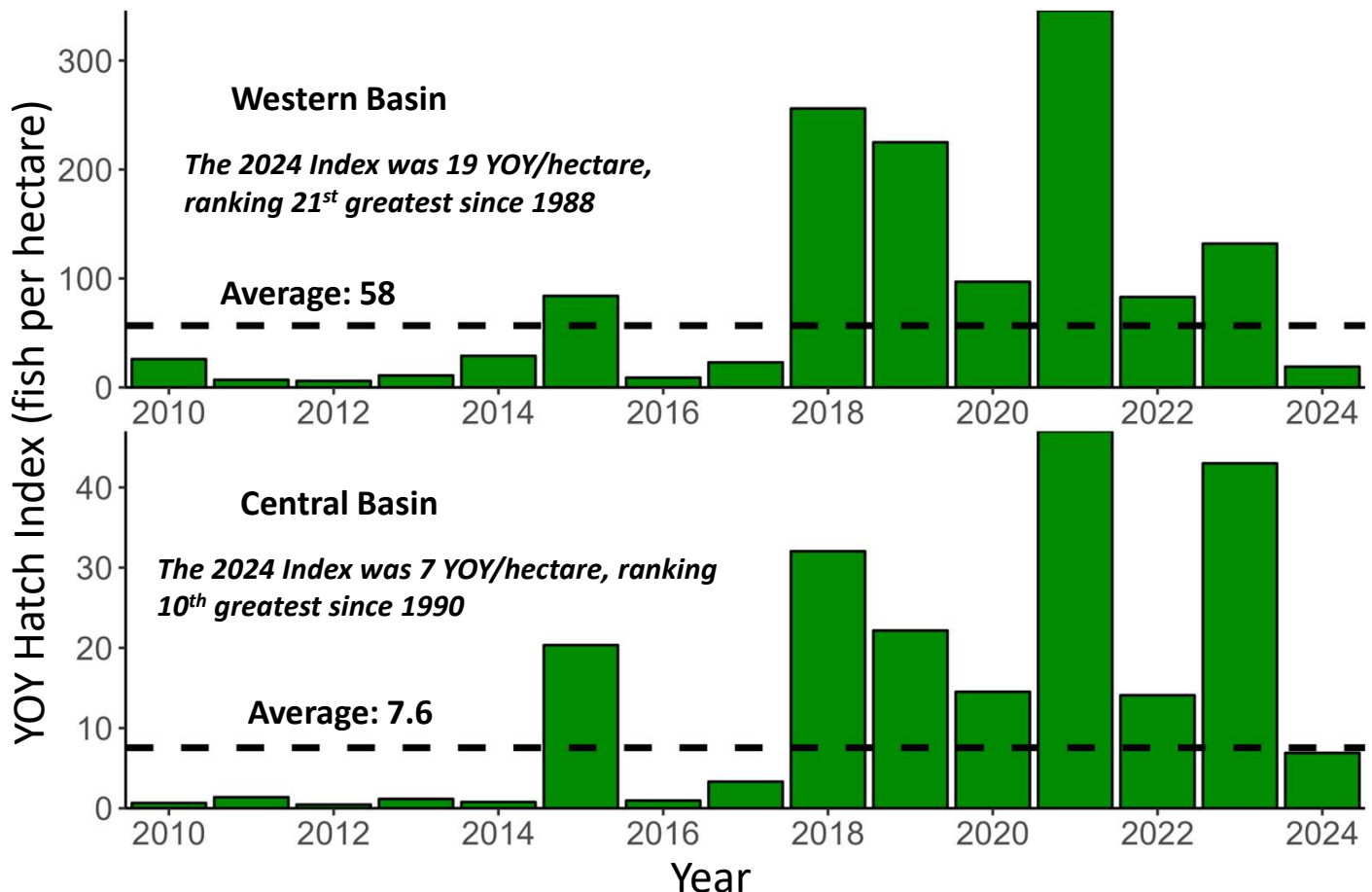
The Division of Wildlife conducts trawl surveys to assess the success of yellow perch and walleye reproduction, or hatch, each year. Results are used to predict the number of each species entering the adult population as 2-year-old fish. This information is reported as the average catch of young-of-year (YOY, fish hatched this year) per unit of sampling area (hectare, 1 hectare \approx 2.5 acres).

How do we collect the data?

Since 1988, Ohio and Ontario have conducted trawl surveys in their respective waters of the Western Basin and combined results to provide an interagency index of hatch success. Ohio also has conducted surveys in Ohio waters of the Central Basin since 1990 to provide additional insights.

Walleye Results

The 2024 survey had below average catches, much lower than the previous six years. The 2024 walleye year class will likely contribute to angler catches in 2026 but won't be as abundant as other year classes from 2018-2023.



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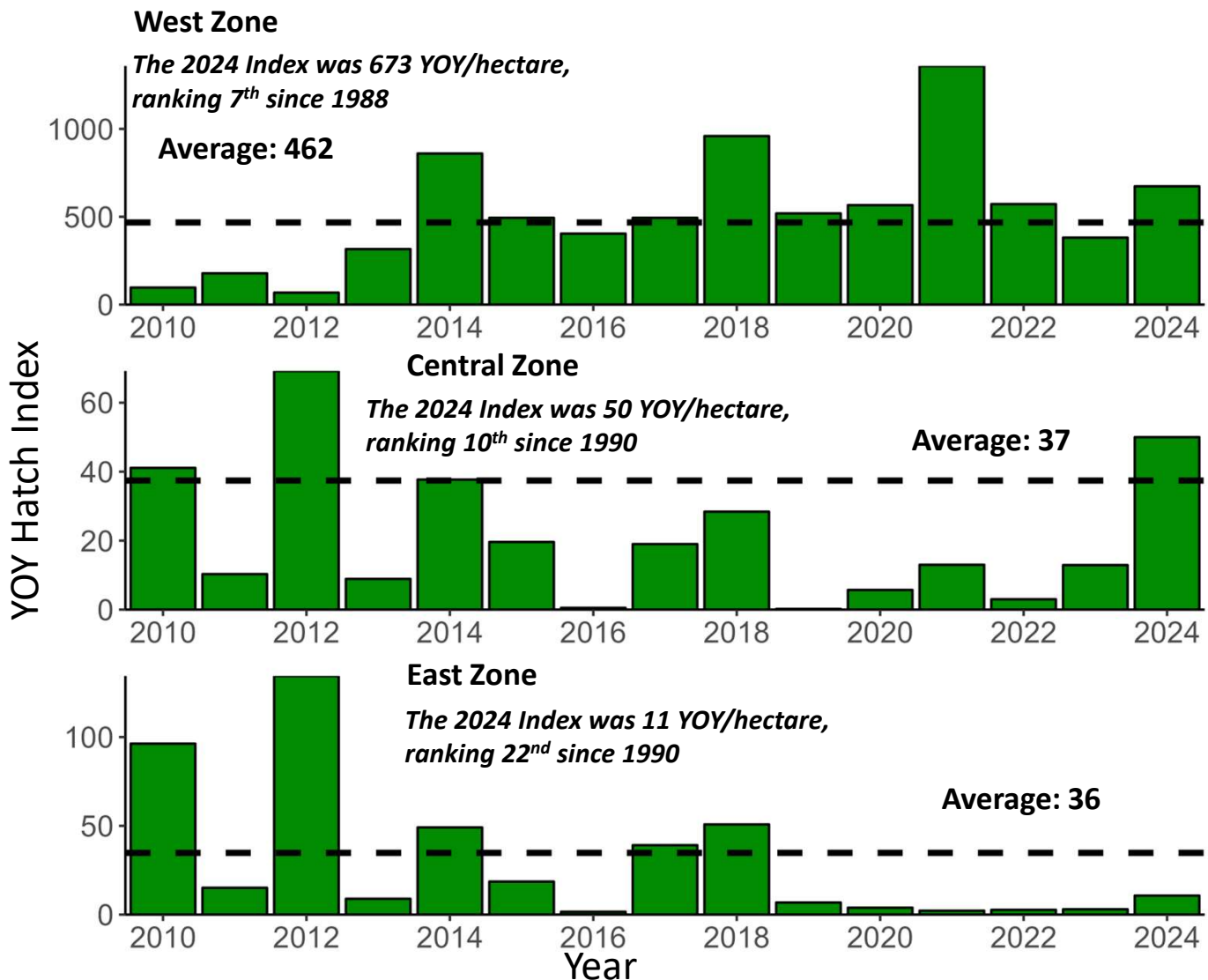
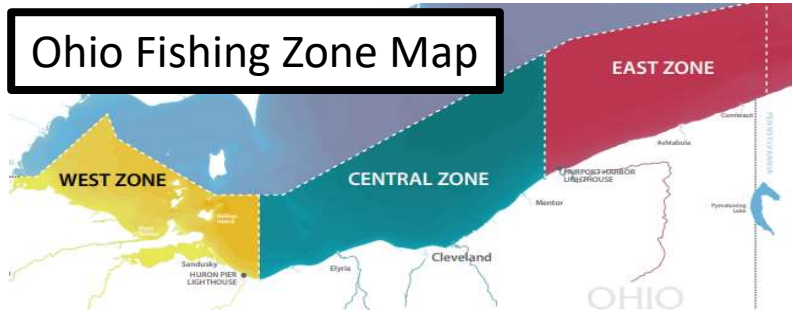


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Yellow Perch Results

- Yellow perch results are reported by regional management zones: West, Central, and East.
- The West Zone continued a trend of good hatches, with above-average catches in the Central Zone for the first since 2014. East Zone catches were low.
- 2024 is the first year that more than one zone had above average hatches since 2018.



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