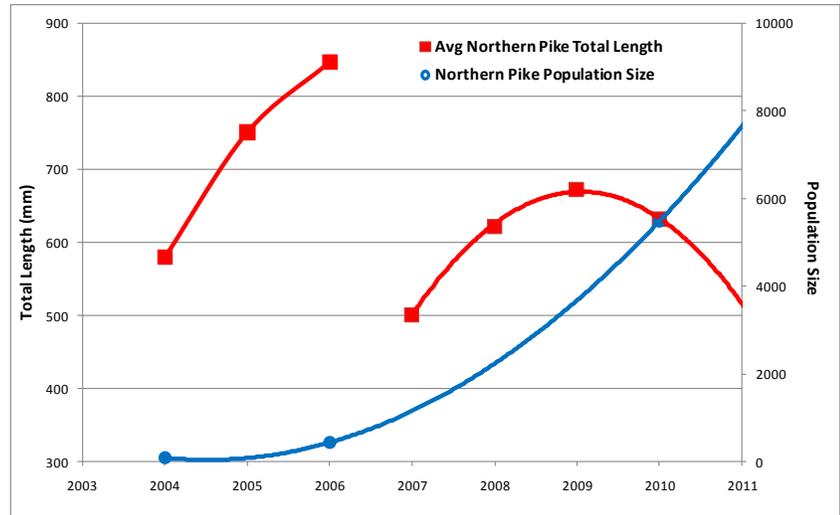


Invasive Northern Pike in Washington: The Kalispel Perspective. June, 2011

Status:

Northern pike, first surveyed in Box Canyon Reservoir (BCR), Pend Oreille River (POR) in 2004, have rapidly expanded in number and range within the reservoir and downstream.

- 2010, estimated population growth from a few hundred to over 5,500 adults (**likely >10,000 reservoir-wide**)
- Abundance of most **other species declining** significantly
- Significant increase in angler interest. Estimated increase effort between 1990-2010 from ~4,000 angler hours to ~76,000 angler hours.
- Northern pike size structure **decreasing in quality**, no longer a "Trophy" fishery. Stunting.



Local / Regional Threats:

Northern pike **threaten local native species** and are a significant threat to **salmon/steelhead** fisheries in Washington State and the lower Columbia River.

- Salmon/steelhead impacts (tribal, commercial, recreational) wild and hatchery.
- Potential undermining of significant investment (>\$500,000,000) in new FERC Licenses for Box Canyon and Boundary Projects focused on restoring native fisheries (e.g., fish ladders, hatchery operations, habitat recovery)
- Native species recovery/conservation in POR (ESA listed and others)
- Impacts to Kalispel largemouth bass hatchery operations
- Illegal introductions to other waters (already occurred in Newman and Liberty Lakes in Spokane County)
- Population stunting (larger ecological impact)
- Downstream movement to Columbia River imminent and potentially disastrous (Okanagan River, John Day Pool)

Kalispel Plans:

Continue providing leadership on the issue. Focus on long-term sustainable management of POR waters.

- Information/Education Campaign
- Declassify NP as a game fish and keep on WA invasive species list
- Monitor BCR NP population (SPIN gill nets) and warmwater fishery (netting, trapping, electrofishing)
- Explore methods to **drastically reduce** pike abundance in BCR (mechanical removal, angler incentive, derbies/tournaments, and liberalized regulations/mandatory retention)
- Seek funding to implement large-scale suppression/control program

