



Cowanesque Lake, Tioga County

Adult Walleye Survey

Introduction

[Cowanesque Lake \(link to ACOE Cowanesque Lake info page\)](#) is a 1,085-acre impoundment owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. Cowanesque Lake has numerous amenities available for visitors including disc golf, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and fishing.

The Area 4 Fisheries Management Office conducted a single night-time boat electrofishing survey on Cowanesque Lake in April of 2026. The objective of the survey was to assess the success of Walleye stockings in the lake that were resumed in 2011 at varying stocking rates (Table 1).

Table 1: Year, total number stocked, and stocking rates of fingerling Walleyes at Cowanesque Lake.

Year	Total Number Stocked	Stocking Rate (#/acre)
2011	11,000	10.1
2013	82,000	75.3
2014	22,000	20.2
2015	22,000	20.2
2018	22,000	20.2
2019	37,290	40.2
2020	44,000	40.4
2021	22,000	20.2
2022	22,000	20.2
2023	22,000	20.2
2024	22,000	20.2
2025	22,000	20.2



Area 4 Fisheries Biologist Riley Phelps with an adult Walleye collected from Cowanesque Lake.

Methods

Night-time boat electrofishing occurred on the evening of April 8th, 2026, primarily targeting adult Walleyes. Muskellunge and Striped Bass were additional targeted species during the survey. Electrofishing gear was deployed in one section of Cowanesque Lake in two subsequent passes. After each pass, collected Walleyes were measured and then released.

Results

A total of 15 Walleyes were collected in 0.715 hours of electrofishing effort. Walleyes ranged from 15 to 24 inches in length (Table 2, Figure 1). The total electrofishing catch rate for Walleyes during this survey was 21 fish per hour. A 40-inch Muskellunge was also collected during the night-time electrofishing survey.

Table 2. Total length and catch of Walleyes at Cowanesque Lake during night-time boat electrofishing on April 8, 2026.

Length (inches)	Catch
10	0
11	0
12	0
13	0
14	0
15	1
16	1
17	3
18	0
19	3
20	3
21	1
22	1
23	0
24	2
25	0

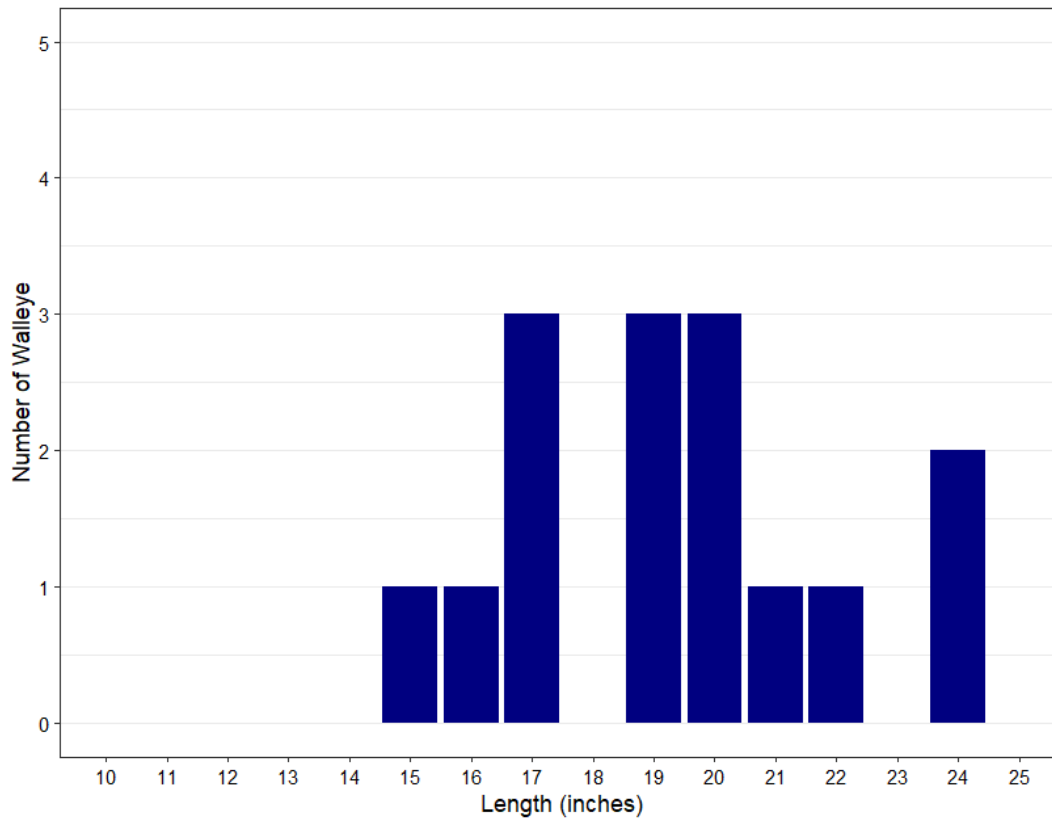


Figure 1. Length-frequency distribution of Walleye collected at Cowanesque Lake during night-time boat electrofishing on April 8, 2026.

Discussion

Cowanesque Lake was very turbid (visibility roughly 4 inches) during this survey and may have limited the ability to collect fish. Catch per hour in this survey was lower than the [2021 survey \(link to 2021 Walleye survey of Cowanesque Lake\)](#), but all collected fish were above the minimum size limit for harvest. Anglers should have good opportunities to harvestable-sized Walleyes from Cowanesque Lake this season.



Area 4 Fisheries Biologist Riley Phelps with a 40.3 inch, 19.2-pound Muskellunge collected on April 8, 2026 from Cowanesque Lake.

*Riley Phelps
Fisheries Management Area 4*