WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAKE SUPERIOR CREEL REPORT 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lake Superior Fisheries Management Team conducts an annual creel survey of the open-water and ice fishing seasons in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior spanning from Superior, WI (Douglas County) to Saxon Harbor (Iron County). In addition, DNR staff gather mandatory daily harvest reports from all charter trips (Sport Trolling License) and from all guided trips (Wisconsin Guide License) in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior.

The harvest and data from this creel survey are important for numerous reasons. First, lake trout harvest estimates from management unit WI-2 are monitored closely to ensure the sport harvest does not exceed the portion of the quota allotted to sport fishing. Second, lake trout sport harvest, fishing effort and sizes of harvested lake trout are important inputs into a statistical catch-at-age model, which is used to estimate population size and ultimately set the lake trout total allowable catch in WI-2. Third, harvest estimates of all species from the creel survey are used to evaluate the effects of fishing regulation changes on sport fishing harvest. Lastly, harvest results are continually used to monitor "return-to-creel" rates of stocked fish.

METHODS

We estimated the sport fishery harvest in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior during the normal lake trout sport fishing season (Dec. 1 through Sept. 30). Fishing effort, harvest and harvest rates were determined from 1) a series of randomized creel surveys during the ice fishing season (WI-2 only) and the open-water fishing season and 2) mandatory licensed charter and guided trip reporting.

In summary, the creel survey fishing effort (angler-hours) was estimated through a series of random vehicle/trailer counts at public access locations and then extrapolated those effort values to the total number of fishing days. Creel clerks interviewed anglers, who provided information such as the number of anglers in the party, time spent fishing, relative location fished, species targeted, number of fish harvested and biological characteristics (e.g., length, fin clips, etc.) of harvested fish. From this information, anglers were separated into various “fisheries” (see more details of different fisheries below) in order to allocate the estimated effort to various fisheries. Harvest rates (number of fish per angler-hour) were also calculated from interview information. Harvest rates and total effort were calculated for each fishery by

day type (i.e., weekend/weekday) at each location (e.g., Ashland route) within each month. Harvest estimates were calculated by multiplying the harvest rate by the total effort (angler-hours) within each of these groupings.

Harvested fish were identified and measured to the nearest tenth of an inch. Fin clips and any tags that were present were recorded. Maxillae (or a jawbone) were also sampled from a subset of lake trout to obtain estimates of fish ages. The Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior are divided into two management units: WI-1 or the Western Arm region (west of the line running north-south from Bark Point; 46 deg. 53.21 min. N, 91 deg. 11.16 min. W) and WI-2 or the Apostle Islands region (east of the Bark Point line; Figure 1). Creel results were separated by management unit.

Interview and count (effort) data were entered into a Microsoft Access database and subsequently run through a program in the statistical program R (R version 4.4.2) to obtain harvest and effort estimates. Original functions to calculate creel statistics and randomize creel schedules were developed by Dr. Derek Ogle of Northland College.

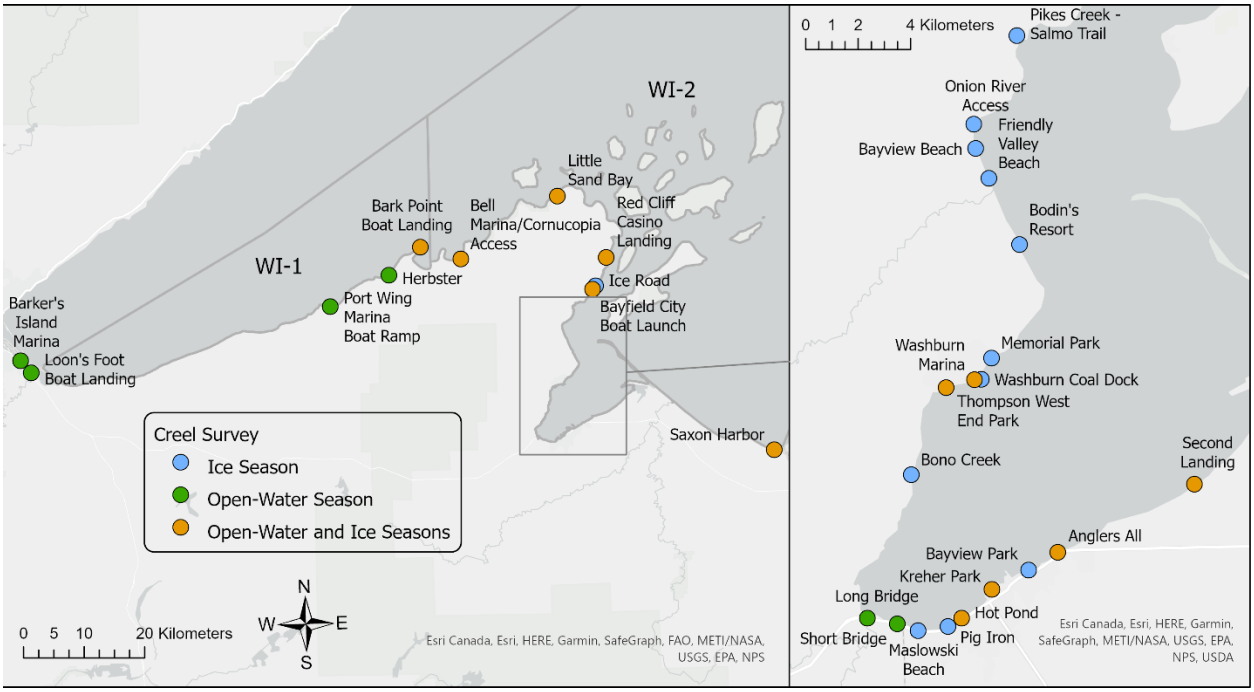

Figure 1. Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior, management units WI-1 and WI-2, and all ports sampled in the DNR Lake Superior Creel Survey (blue - ice season only; green - open-water season only; orange - both ice and open-water seasons).

DECEMBER OPEN-WATER SURVEY

We conducted an open-water creel survey along the main shore from Dec. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2024, at access points near Washburn and Bayfield. Trailer counts and interviews were

obtained using a stratified, access-point survey method. Interviews were conducted in the same manner as the open-water survey method (below).

ICE CREEL SURVEY

We also conducted an ice creel survey near Ashland (i.e., Second Landing-Long Bridge) from Dec. 14, 2024 to March 16, 2025, and near Washburn/Bayfield ("S" Curve-Bono Creek access through the northernmost area of fishing activity) from Dec. 20, 2024 – March 15, 2025. Vehicle counts were obtained using a stratified, access-point survey method. Two separate vehicle counts were made daily, starting at approximately 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. for each site in each random route. Vehicles present in morning and afternoon checks were not counted twice. Interviews for the ice creel survey were conducted at the access point. Any number of anglers in a single vehicle was considered an angling party. Anglers interviewed in the ice fishery were separated into three different fisheries: Ice Shallow Water (less than 60 feet), Ice Deep Water- "Bobbing" (greater than or equal to 60 feet) and Northern Pike Ice Spearing.

OPEN-WATER SURVEY

We conducted a single-loop time interval creel survey during the open-water fishing season in Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior. The following locations were surveyed (start date): Ashland (April 16), Saxon (March 13), Washburn (April 9), Apostle Islands (Bayfield, Red Cliff, Little Sand Bay; April 11), Cornucopia and Port Wing (April 9) and Superior (May 1). The open-water creel survey ended on Sept. 30, 2025.

Creel clerks obtained trailer counts and interviews using a randomized, single-loop time interval method (i.e., bus route). Using the time interval procedure, clerks counted vehicles with boat trailers and harbor boats at each access site. Boats going out to fish or returning from fishing were counted as a fraction of the time the clerk spent at the site (i.e., individual boat count = [creel shift in minutes – minutes at site] / creel shift in minutes). A boat beginning to fish was added to the initial count, and a boat stopping or returning from fishing was subtracted from the initial count.

Creel clerks interviewed angler parties returning from fishing at the access point. We treated the total number of anglers onboard as an angler party and categorized angler parties by fishery. For example, if the boat was fishing for cool-water species such as northern pike, walleye or yellow perch in a predominately cool-water area, we recorded it in the "Open-Water Cool" fishery. If the boat was trolling for trout and salmon (i.e., cold-water species), we recorded it in the "Open-Water Cold" fishery. If the boat was strictly practicing catch-and-release smallmouth bass fishing, we recorded it in the "Smallmouth Bass Only" fishery. If the boat was targeting lake whitefish, we recorded it in the "Open-Water Whitefish" fishery. If the boat was fishing for "anything that bites," we considered the area and habitats the boat fished to determine which fishery. Finally, if the party was not fishing, we placed it in the category "Pleasure Boating" and did not apply this effort to harvest rate estimates.

We did not count boats from chartered or guided trips in effort estimates at a site due to mandatory reporting (see below). We also excluded sailboats from counts unless fishing gear (e.g., downriggers or rods) was present. Saxon Harbor and ports within Superior, Wisconsin are considered boundary waters with Michigan and Minnesota, respectively. We did not include effort and harvest of parties fishing in non-Wisconsin waters in this report. If anglers

fished across state boundaries in a single trip, we assigned half the effort/harvest to Wisconsin.

Lastly, creel clerks also asked anglers for their primary zip code of residence during interviews. We created density maps of the primary residence of anglers fishing Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior using a kernel density function in ArcGIS Pro.

CHARTER AND GUIDED TRIP REPORTING

We collected effort and harvest estimates from chartered trips (Sport Trolling License) in a mandatory online reporting system. Information on the number of anglers, hours fished, location (grid) and the number of various species harvested were included in online reports. Similarly, we collected harvest, catch and effort information from guided trips (Wisconsin Guide License) via an online daily reporting system.

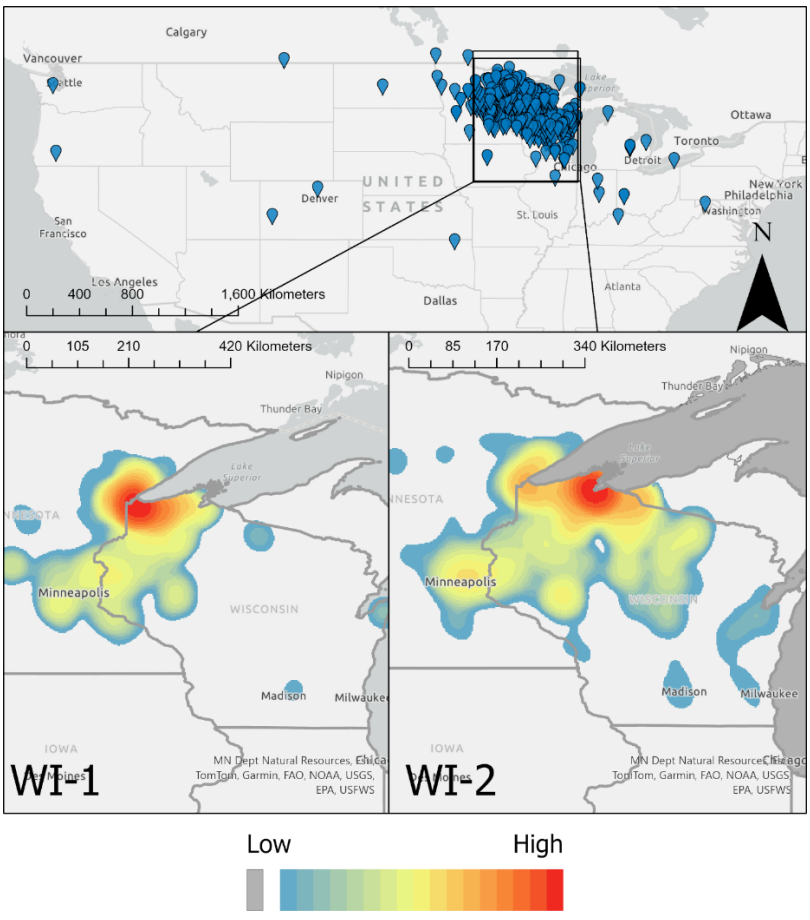

Figure 2. Top map: individual zip code locations of angler primary residences observed during the 2025 DNR Lake Superior creel survey. Bottom maps: density of primary residences of Lake Superior anglers interviewed in the 2025 creel survey fishing in WI-1 (bottom-left) and WI-2 (bottom-right). Red shades represent areas of higher density and blue shades represent areas of lower density.

RESULTS

MANAGEMENT UNIT WI–1

The 2025 Lake Superior Creel Survey in WI-1 included 698 creel interviews of angler parties (1,591 anglers interviewed) resulting in an estimated 62,077 angler-hours in WI-1, including charter and guide trip reporting (Figure 3). The total harvest in management unit WI-1 was 11,825 fish. Walleye (5,550), lake trout (3,305) and coho salmon (2,259) were the top three species harvested and accounted for 94% of the harvest (Figure 4). The total trout and salmon harvest was 5,840.

The 2025 total effort in WI-1 was down slightly from last year but higher than the recent average effort (60,160 angler-hours). Total harvest was slightly lower (6%) than last year (12,549) but 19% higher than the recent average of 9,916. Walleye harvest was lower than last year's bumper year (highest since 2002; Figure 4), but 33% higher than the recent average 4,162. Lake trout harvest was 19% higher than last year (2,789 fish) and similar to the recent average (3,243; Figure 7). Coho salmon harvest was considerably higher (151%) than last year (900) and 52% higher than the recent average (1,486). The total trout and salmon harvest was slightly higher than recent seasons (Figure 4).

ANGLER DEMOGRAPHICS

During the 2025 survey, we interviewed anglers from 3 U.S. states and 54 U.S. counties fishing in WI-1 (Figure 2). Approximately 70% of anglers were Wisconsin residents, and 30% were Minnesota residents (Figure 2). Highest densities of WI-1 anglers were from the Superior-Duluth area (Figure 2). WI-1 anglers were represented by 26 of 72 Wisconsin counties in 2025 (Figure 2).

OPEN-WATER COLD (targeting trout and salmon)

The Open-Water Cold fishery accounted for 31,127 angler-hours in WI-1 (50% of the total fishing effort). The total harvest in this fishery was 6,407. Lake trout (3,156), coho salmon (2,031) and walleye (658) were the top three species harvested and accounted for 91% of the harvest in this fishery. The total trout and salmon harvest in this fishery was 5,431. Lake trout harvest rate was highest (0.1014 fish per angler-hour), followed by coho salmon (0.0652 fish per angler-hour) and walleye (0.0211 fish per angler-hour). The trout and salmon harvest rate was 0.1745 fish per angler-hour, which was higher compared to recent years (Figure 5).

The 2025 Open-Water Cold effort was 7% higher than last year (28,965 angler-hours) and 7% lower than the recent average (33,432 angler-hours). Lake trout harvest was the highest since 2019 (3,319) and 11.5% higher than the recent average (2,830). Lake trout harvest rate was the highest since 2017 (0.1035 fish per angler-hour) and higher than recent average (0.0867 fish per angler-hour; Figure 7).

OPEN-WATER COOL (targeting cool-water species)

The Open-Water Cool fishery accounted for 29,628 angler-hours in WI-1 (48% of the total fishing effort). The total harvest in this fishery was 5,022. Walleye was the top species harvested (4,747) and accounted for 95% of the harvest in this fishery. Walleye harvest rate was 0.1602 fish per angler-hour.

The 2025 Open-Water Cool effort, walleye harvest and walleye harvest rate were all lower than last year, which was the highest since 2002, but higher than their respective recent averages.

CHARTER

The 2025 Charter fishery accounted for 962 angler-hours in WI-1 (<2% of the total fishing effort). The total harvest in this fishery was 291. Lake trout was the top species harvested (144) and accounted for 49% of the harvest in this fishery. Overall harvest rate was 0.3025 fish per angler-hour. Lake trout harvest rate was 0.1497 fish per angler-hour.

The 2025 Charter effort down slightly (2%) from last year (981) and 51% lower than the recent average (1,979 angler-hours). Lake trout harvest was 41% lower than last year (246) and 63% lower than the recent average (388).

Please refer to the DNR Lake Superior Charter Fishing Report 2025 for a more detailed account of the 2025 Charter fishery.

MANAGEMENT UNIT WI–2

The 2025 Lake Superior Creel Survey in WI-2 included 2,653 creel interviews of angler parties (5,411 anglers interviewed) resulting in an estimated 263,676 angler-hours, including charter and guide trip reporting (Figure 3). The total harvest in management unit WI-2 was 75,976. Yellow perch (19,827), coho salmon (18,840), lake whitefish (13,831), lake trout (7,595), brown trout (4,765), splake (2,598) and walleye (2,362) were the top seven game species harvested and accounted for 92% of the harvest (Figure 4). Total trout and salmon harvest was 34,008.

The WI-2 2025 total effort was 51% higher than last year (174,918) and the highest since 2021 (265,780). Yellow perch and coho salmon harvest and harvest rates were the highest observed in the past several years. Lake whitefish, brown trout and walleye harvest was the second highest the past several years. Splake harvest was higher than the previous two seasons and similar to the recent average (2,386). Lake trout harvest was the lowest since 2017 and 34% lower than its recent average (11,434). The total trout and salmon harvest was the highest the past several years (Figure 4).

ANGLER DEMOGRAPHICS

During the 2025 survey, we interviewed anglers from 16 different U.S. states and 116 U.S. counties fishing in WI-2 (Figure 2). Approximately 85% of anglers were Wisconsin residents, and 13% were Minnesota residents (Figure 2). Highest densities of WI-2 anglers were from the Chequamegon region (Figure 2). WI-2 anglers were represented by 55 of 72 Wisconsin counties in 2025 (Figure 2).

DECEMBER OPEN-WATER

The December Open-Water fishery accounted for 943 angler-hours in WI-2 (<1% of the total fishing effort; Figure 3). The total harvest in this fishery was 513, with a harvest rate of 0.5440 fish per angler-hour. Brown trout harvest was the highest (247), followed by coho salmon (98), lake whitefish (85) and splake (83). The trout and salmon harvest was 428 with a harvest rate of 0.4539 fish per angler-hour, which was near the recent average (Figure 5).

Angler effort, total harvest, coho salmon, brown trout and splake harvest were all down considerably from the previous year. The overall harvest rate was higher than last year (0.4519 fish per angler-hour) and the recent average (0.4465 fish per angler-hour).

ICE < 60 FEET - SHALLOW

The Ice < 60 feet - Shallow fishery accounted for 85,787 angler-hours in WI-2 (33% of the total fishing effort; Figure 3). The total harvest in this fishery was 28,039. Yellow perch (15,282; 55% of harvest), coho salmon (3,311), lake whitefish (2,731), splake (1,713), lake herring (1,595), rainbow smelt (1,473) and brown trout (1,034) were the top seven species harvested in this fishery. The total trout and salmon harvest was 6,058. The overall harvest rate was 0.3268 fish per angler-hour. Yellow perch harvest rate was highest (0.1781 fish per angler-hour), followed by coho salmon (0.0386), lake whitefish (0.0318), splake (0.0200), lake herring (0.0186), rainbow smelt (0.0172) and brown trout (0.0121). The trout and salmon harvest rate was 0.0706 fish per angler-hour.

The 2025 Ice < 60 feet - Shallow fishery total effort was 521% higher than last year's ultra short season (13,823 hours) and 18.2% higher than the recent average effort (72,602 hours). The overall harvest was higher than last year (5,628 fish) and 16.4% higher than the recent average (24,082). The harvest of each individual species was higher than last year. Yellow perch, coho salmon, lake herring, splake, northern pike and walleye were also higher than their respective recent average harvest. Lake whitefish, brown trout, rainbow smelt, lake trout and burbot were lower than their recent average harvest. The overall harvest rate was lower than last year (0.4071 fish per angler-hour) and lower than the recent average of 0.3410 fish per angler-hour. The harvest rates of coho salmon and lake herring were higher than last year and higher than their respective recent averages. The harvest rates of lake whitefish and brown trout were higher than last year but lower than their respective recent averages. The harvest rate for splake was the same as last year but lower than the recent average. The harvest rates of yellow perch, walleye and northern pike were all lower than last year but higher than their respective recent averages. The trout and salmon harvest rate was higher than last year but lower than the recent average (Figure 5).

ICE ≥ 60 FEET - BOBBING

The Ice ≥ 60 feet - Bobbing fishery accounted for 19,823 angler-hours in WI-2 (8% of the total fishing effort; Figure 3). The total harvest in this fishery was 7,492. Lake whitefish (5,343; 71% of harvest), lake trout (855), lake herring (441), coho salmon (247), splake (183) and brown trout (91) were the top species harvested in this fishery. The total trout and salmon harvest was 1,376. The overall harvest rate was 0.3779 fish per angler-hour. Lake whitefish harvest rate was the highest (0.2695), followed by lake trout (0.0431), lake herring (0.0222), coho salmon (0.0125), splake (0.0092) and brown trout (0.0046). The trout and salmon harvest rate was 0.0694 fish per angler-hour.

The 2025 Ice ≥ 60 feet - Bobbing fishery total effort was considerably higher than last year (337), the highest since 2022 (28,942) and 46% higher than recent average (13,602). The total harvest was the highest dating back to 2003 and 93% higher than the recent average (7,492). The lake whitefish harvest was the highest dating back to 2003 and 112% higher than the recent average (2,523). Lake trout harvest was lower than the recent average (953). The overall

harvest rate and the lake whitefish harvest rate were both higher than their respective recent averages. The lake trout harvest rate was lower than its recent average.

OPEN-WATER COLD (targeting trout and salmon)

The Open-Water Cold fishery accounted for 92,733 angler-hours in WI-2 (35% of the total fishing effort; Figure 3). The total harvest in this fishery was 21,874. Coho salmon (13,765), lake trout (4,234) and brown trout (2,780) were the top three species harvested and accounted for 95% of the total harvest in this fishery. The trout and salmon harvest was 21,435. The overall harvest rate was 0.2359 fish per angler-hour. Coho salmon harvest rate (0.1484 fish per angler-hour) was the highest followed by lake trout (0.0457) and brown trout (0.0300). The trout and salmon harvest rate was 0.2311 fish per angler-hour.

The 2025 Open-Water Cold fishery total effort was 9% lower than last year (101,878) but 7% higher than its recent average (86,921). The total harvest was the highest in recent years. Coho salmon harvest was the highest on record and 143% higher than the recent average (5,676). Lake trout harvest and harvest rate were both lower than the recent average (7,786 and 0.0916; Figure 7). Brown trout harvest and harvest rate increased for the fourth consecutive year. The trout and salmon harvest rate was higher compared to the recent average (Figure 5).

OPEN-WATER COOL (targeting cool-water species)

The Open-Water Cool fishery accounted for 29,371 angler-hours in WI-2 (11% of the total fishing effort; Figure 3). The total harvest in this fishery was 7,748. Yellow perch (4,109) and walleye (2,093) were the top two species harvested and accounted for 80% of the harvest in this fishery. Yellow perch harvest rate was highest (0.1399 fish per angler-hour) followed by walleye (0.0713).

The 2025 Open-Water Cool fishery effort was 39% higher than last year (21,066) and similar to the recent average (30,643). Total harvest was 155% higher than last year (3,034) and 121% higher than the recent average (3,499). Yellow perch and walleye harvest and harvest rates were both considerably higher than last year and their recent averages.

OPEN-WATER WHITEFISH

The Open-Water Whitefish fishery accounted for 8,641 angler-hours in WI-2 (3% of the total fishing effort in WI-2; Figure 3). The total harvest in this fishery was 4,848. Lake whitefish harvest was 4,674 with a harvest rate of 0.5409 fish per angler-hour.

The 2025 Open-Water Whitefish fishery effort was the highest since it was separated into its own fishery in 2020 and 42% higher than the average during that period (6,066). Lake whitefish harvest was the second highest since 2020 (6,571) and was 20% higher than the recent average (3,898). Lake whitefish harvest rate was slightly higher than last year (0.5282) and lower than the recent average (0.6376 fish per angler-hour).

SMALLMOUTH BASS

The smallmouth bass fishery accounted for 10,730 angler-hours in WI-2 (4% of the total fishing effort; Figure 3). This was the lowest effort since it was distinguished as its own fishery in 2019. Most of this effort occurs in May and June from anglers fishing the eastern side of Chequamegon Bay. No smallmouth bass harvest was observed during the 2025 survey.

CHARTER

The Charter fishery accounted for 12,012 angler-hours in WI-2 (5% of the total fishing effort; Figure 3). The total charter harvest was 3,889. Lake trout (2,205), coho salmon (1,114) and brown trout (458) were the top three species harvested and accounted for 97% of the harvest in this fishery. The total trout and salmon harvest was 3,868. The overall harvest rate was 0.3238 fish per-angler hour. Lake trout harvest rate was the highest (0.1836 fish per angler-hour), followed by coho salmon (0.0927) and brown trout (0.0381). The trout and salmon harvest rate was 0.3220 fish per angler-hour.

The 2025 Charter fishery effort in WI-2 was slightly lower than last year but 29% higher than the recent average. The overall harvest was 12% lower than last year (4,435) and 24% higher than recent average (3,136). Lake trout harvest was lower than last year (2,953) and similar to the recent average (2,219). Coho salmon harvest was higher than last year (862) and 113% higher the recent average (523). Brown trout harvest was lower than last year (501) but 59% higher than the recent average (288). The overall harvest rate was lower than last year (0.3436) and to the recent average (0.3391). Lake trout harvest rate was the lowest since 2015 (0.1447) and lower than the recent average (0.2418). Coho salmon and brown trout harvest rates were both higher than last year and their recent averages. The trout and salmon harvest rate was similar to the last two seasons (Figure 5).

Please refer to the DNR Lake Superior Charter Fishing Report 2025 for a more detailed account of the 2025 Charter fishery.

LAKE TROUT FISHERY

MANAGEMENT UNIT WI-1

Daily bag limit: 3, minimum length limit: 15 inches, only one > 25 inches

The estimated lake trout harvest by sport anglers in WI-1 was 3,305. This was 19% higher than last year (2,789) but lower than the long-term average (Figure 7). The Open-Water Cold fishery had the highest lake trout harvest (3,156), followed by the Charter (144) and the Open-Water Cool fisheries (5) (Figure 6).

The total lake trout harvest rate in WI-1 was 0.0532 fish per angler-hour. The Charter fishery had the highest lake trout harvest rate (0.1497 fish per angler-hour) followed by the Open-Water Cold (0.1014) and the Open-Water Cool fisheries (0.0002) (Figure 8).

MANAGEMENT UNIT WI-2

Daily bag limit: 2, minimum length limit: 15 inches, only one > 25 inches

The estimated lake trout harvest by sport anglers fishing in WI-2 was 7,595. This was 15% lower than last year and much lower than the long-term average (Figure 7). The Open-Water Cold Fishery represented the highest harvest (4,234) followed by the Charter (2,205), Ice ≥ 60 feet - Bobbing fishery (855), Ice < 60 feet - Shallow fishery (150), Guide fishery (128) and Open-Water Whitefish fishery (23).

The total lake trout harvest rate was 0.0288 fish per angler-hour, which was considerably lower than last year (0.0511) and to the recent average (0.0446). The Charter fishery had the highest lake trout harvest rate of all fisheries in WI-2 (0.1836), followed by the Open-Water

Cold (0.0457), Ice ≥ 60 feet - Bobbing fishery (0.0431), Guide fishery (0.0352), Open-Water Whitefish fishery (0.0027) and the Ice < 60 feet - Shallow fishery (0.0017).

Note: For more detailed breakdowns of the DNR Lake Superior Creel Survey results, please refer to the Lake Superior Supplemental Creel Report 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the creel clerks. They work hard obtaining accurate data for the survey, and they also play an important role by having positive interactions with the angling public. Their effort is greatly appreciated. The creel clerks involved for this report were: Devin Engel (December Open-Water, Winter Creel: Washburn-Red Cliff; Open-Water: Bayfield, Red Cliff, Little Sand Bay, Cornucopia, Port Wing, Saxon), Charlie McBain (December Open-Water, Winter Creel: Washburn-Red Cliff; Open-Water: Bayfield, Red Cliff, Little Sand Bay, Cornucopia, Port Wing), Dean Kolpin (Open-Water: Saxon), Meg Ellias (Open-Water: Ashland and Washburn), and Josh Revolinsky (Open-Water: Superior). We also thank Dr. Derek Ogle, formerly of Northland College, who developed the functions to calculate creel statistics and randomize creel schedules in the statistical program R.

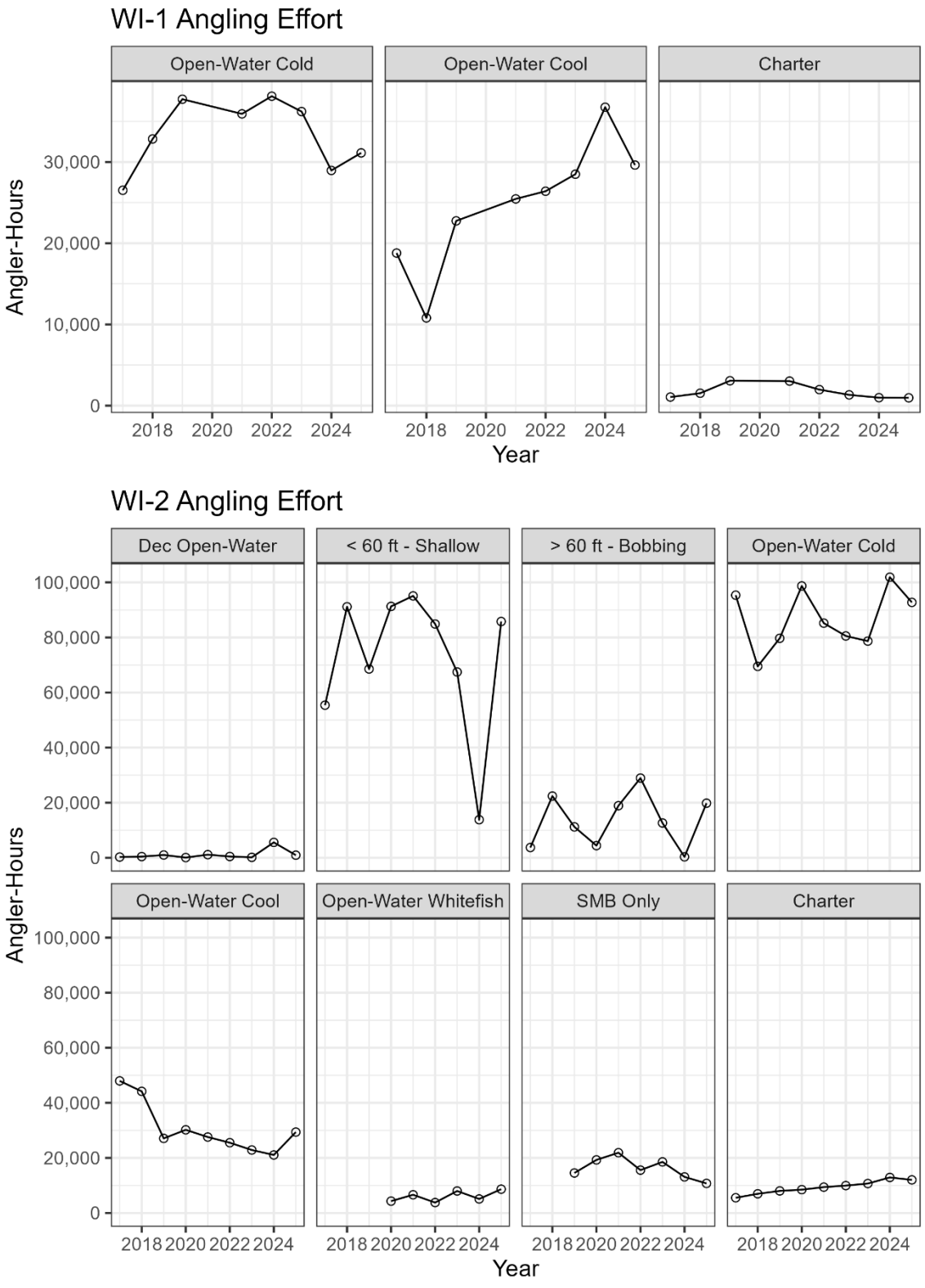

Figure 3. Total estimated fishing effort (angler-hours) by each fishery sampled in the DNR Lake Superior Creel Survey within each management unit (WI-1 and WI-2) from 2017 to 2025.

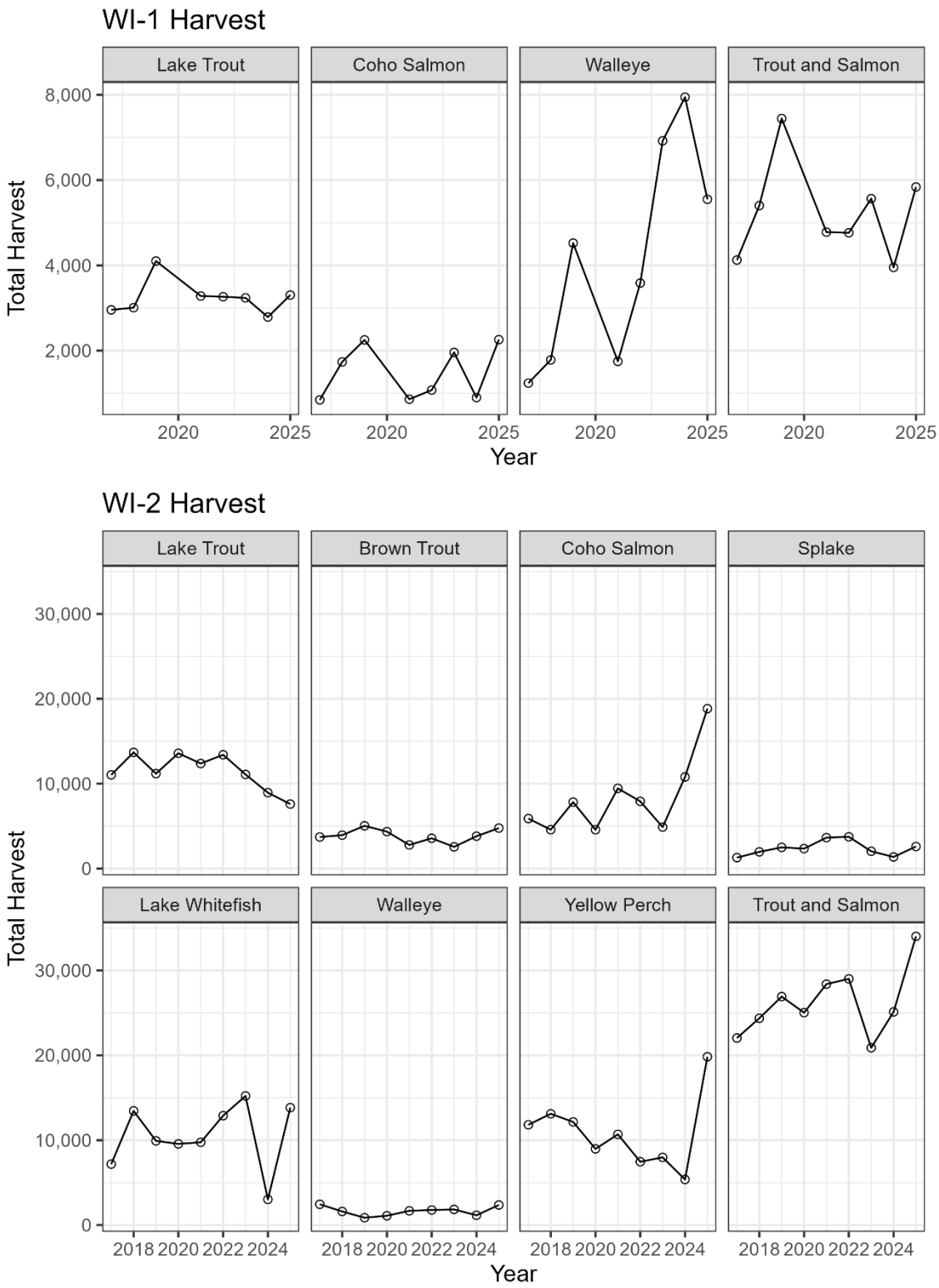

Figure 4. Total estimated harvest of the main species in the DNR Lake Superior Creel Survey within each management unit (WI-1 and WI-2) from 2017 to 2025. All trout and salmon combined are represented in the Trout and Salmon category.

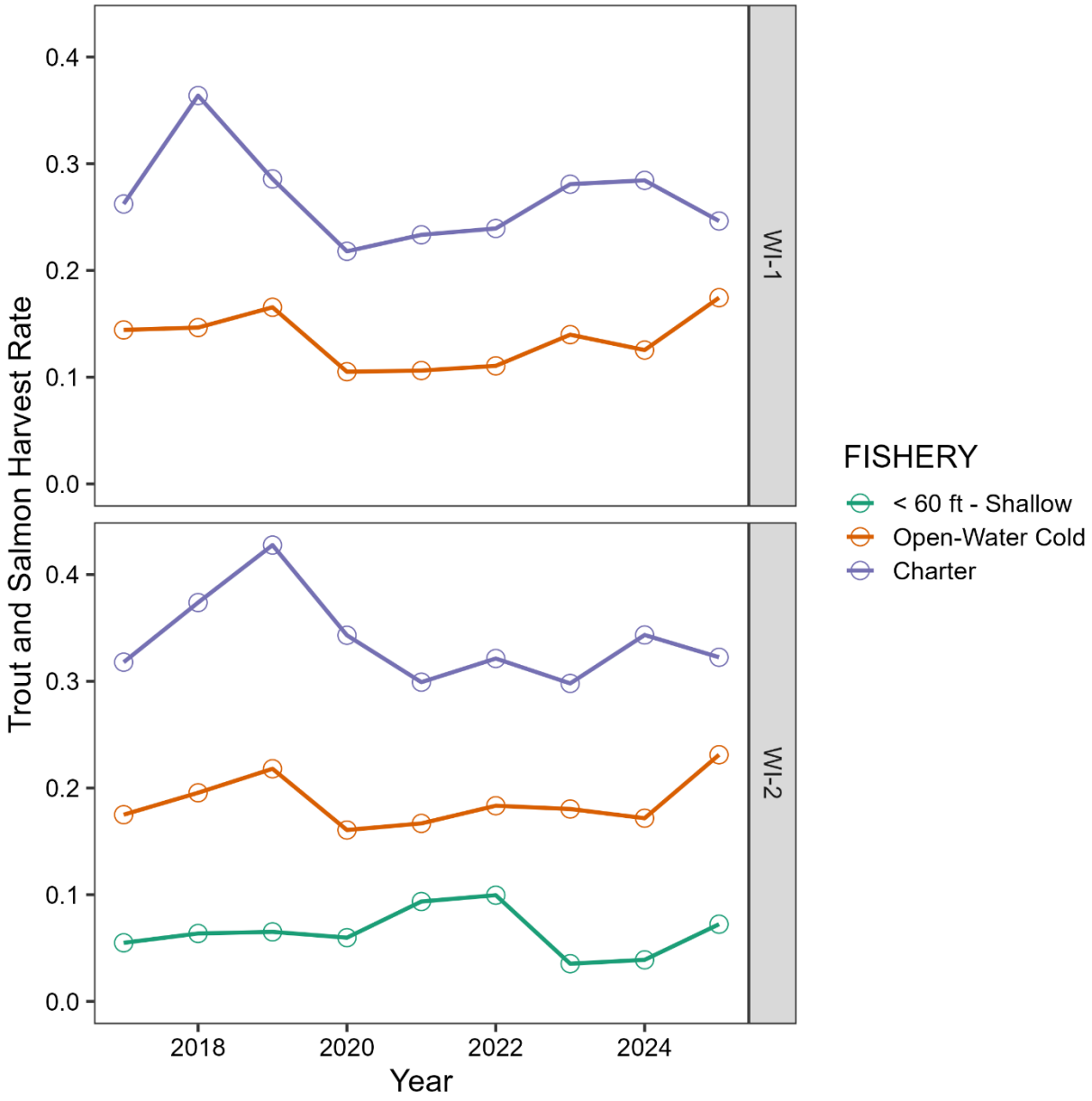

Figure 5. Estimated harvest rate (fish per angler-hour) of all trout and salmon from each fishery sampled in the DNR Lake Superior Creel Survey within each management unit (WI-1 and WI-2) from 2017 to 2025.

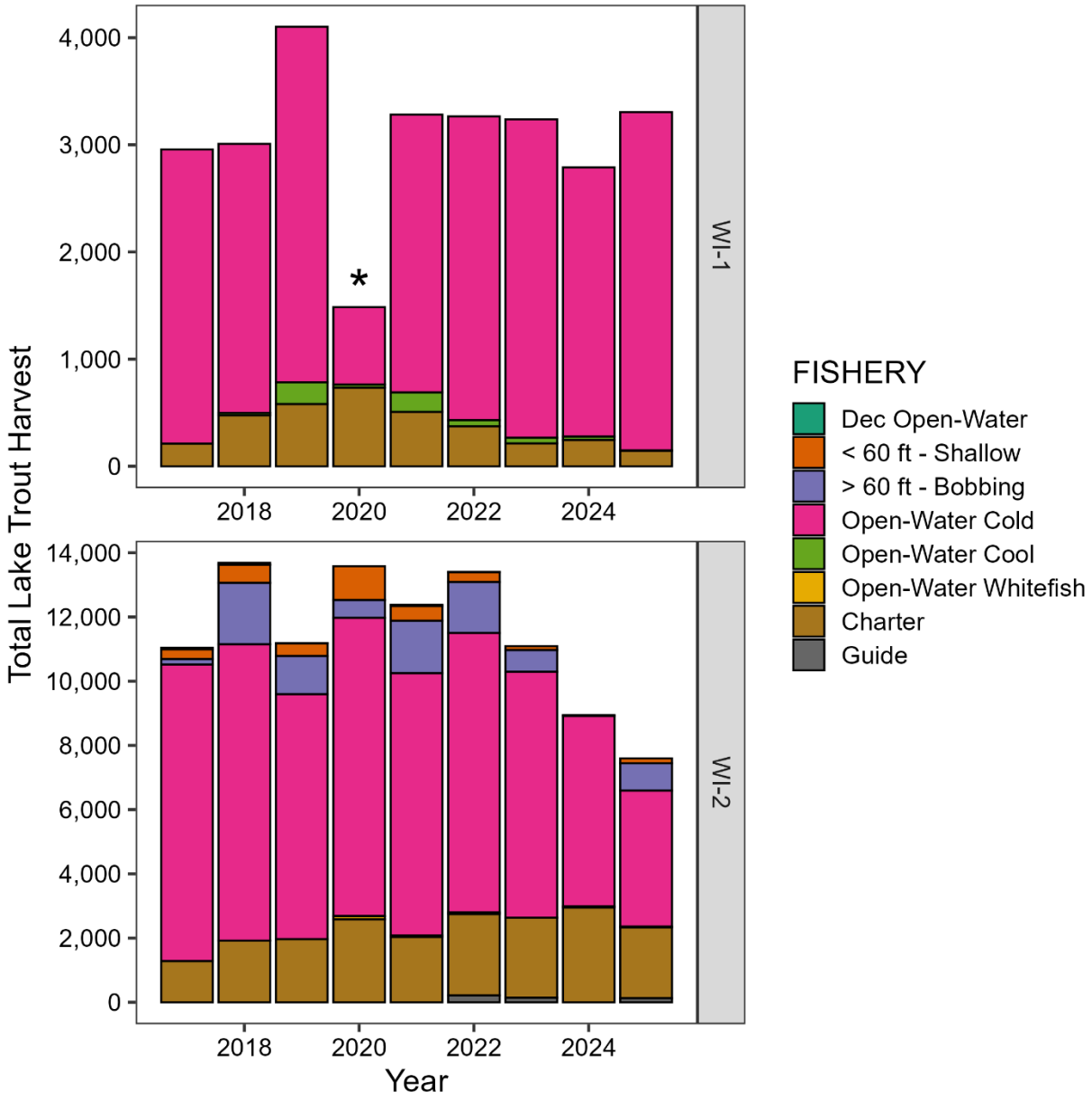

Figure 6. Total estimated harvest of lake trout by each fishery sampled in the DNR Lake Superior Creel Survey within each management unit (WI-1 and WI-2) from 2017 to 2025.

*Note: In WI-1, the Superior creel route was not completed in 2020.

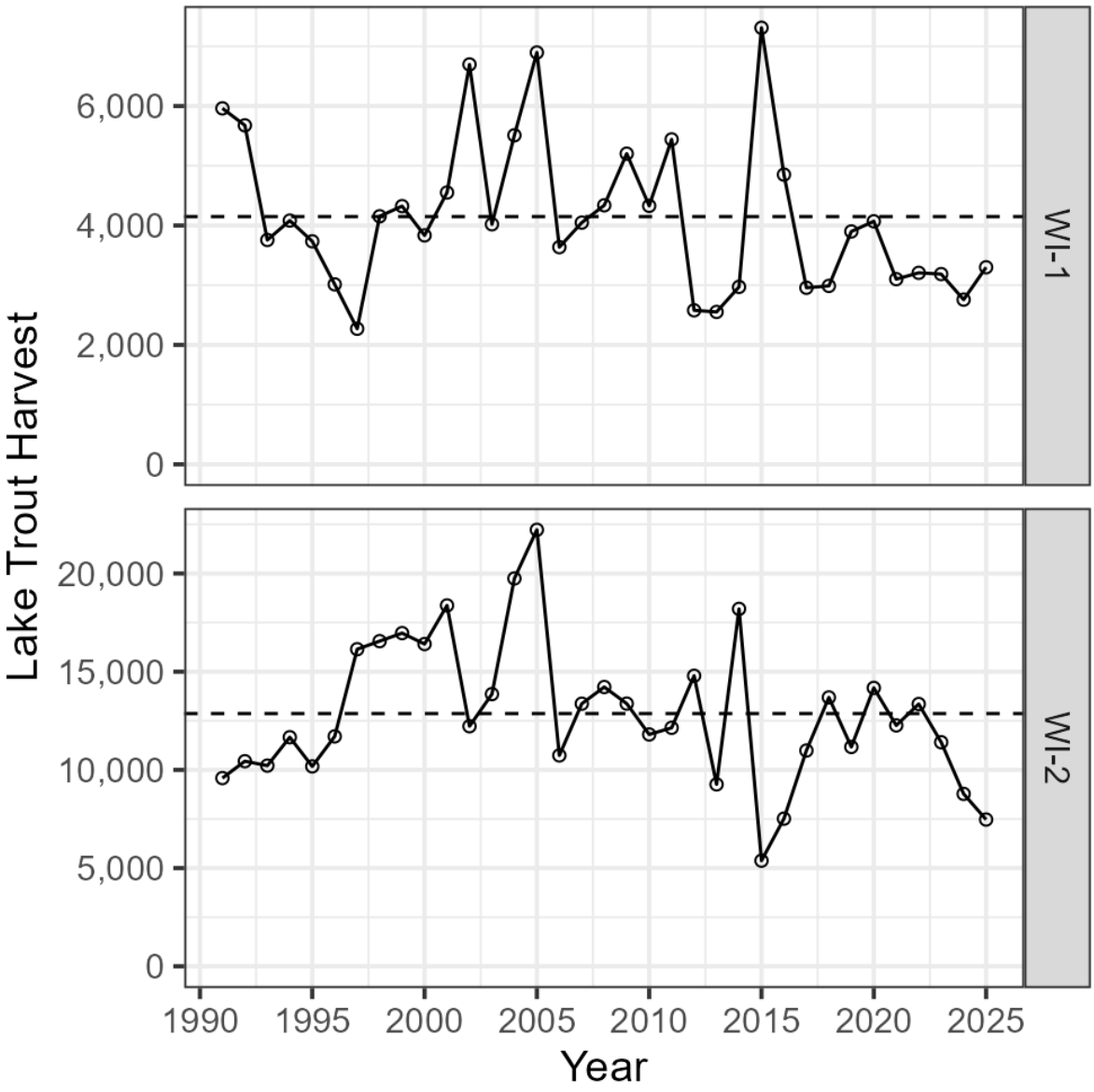

Figure 7. Estimated total lake trout harvest in management unit WI-1 (top) and WI-2 (bottom) from 1991 to 2025. Horizontal dashed lines represent the overall mean annual lake trout harvest during the time series.

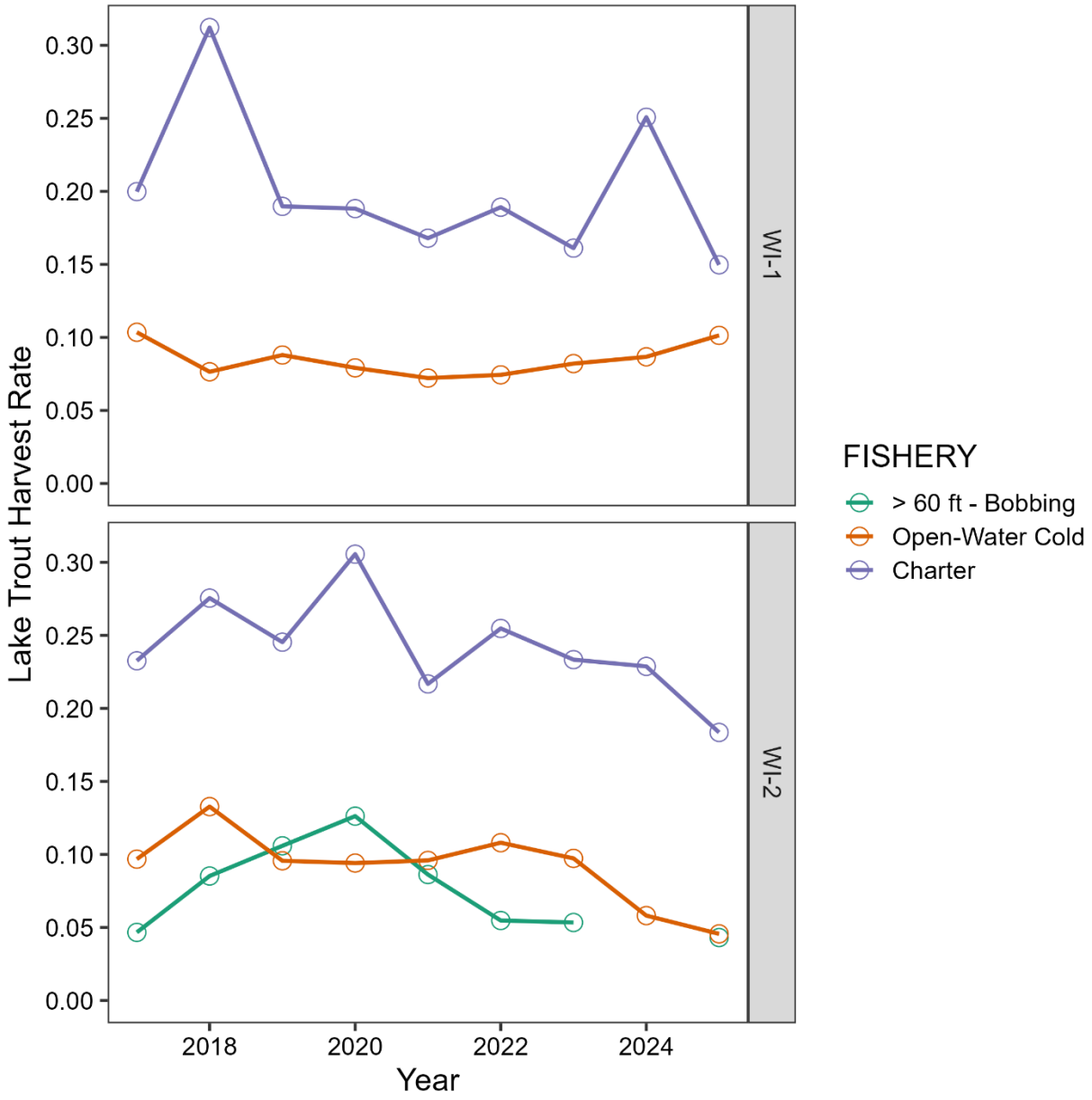

Figure 8. Estimated harvest rate (fish per angler-hour) of lake trout by fishery sampled in the DNR Lake Superior Creel Survey within each management unit (WI-1 and WI-2) from 2017 to 2025.