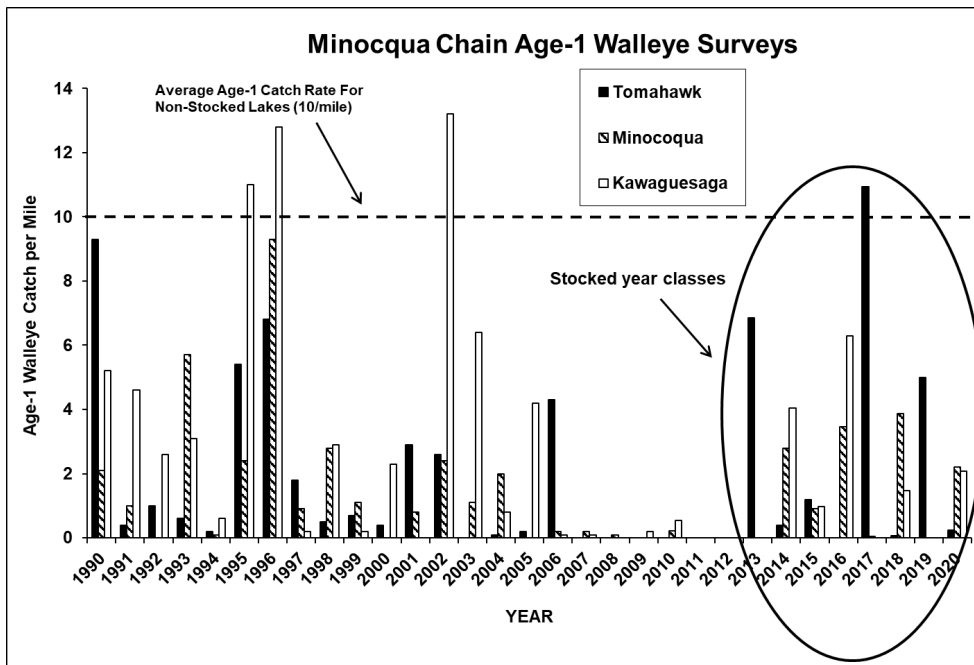


Walleye recruitment, the number of young fish entering the population, is monitored with fall electrofishing surveys. During fall electrofishing surveys, the entire lake shoreline is sampled specifically targeting juvenile gamefish. Young of Year (YOY) Walleye have made it through their first summer and are typically 4 to 8 inches in length. Walleye recruitment is indexed by using the number of YOY Walleye captured per shoreline mile. The 15 YOY per mile benchmark that is located on the figure represents a benchmark for a potentially strong year class of Walleye. Walleye populations are supported by at least one moderate to strong year class every 3-4 years. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, when the Walleye population of the Minocqua Chain was doing well, YOY Walleye periodically reached 15 per mile or greater.



Age-1 Walleye are targeted during fall electrofishing surveys and indexed by the number of fish captured per shoreline mile. Age-1 Walleye have made it through two summers and are around 8 to 11 inches in length. Age-1 Walleye were not being documented during fall surveys in noticeable numbers from 2007 to 2012, an indication of failing recruitment. After stocking of large fingerlings was initiated in 2012 (Lake Tomahawk) and 2013 (Minocqua and Kawaguesaga Lakes), age-1 Walleye started showing up in fall surveys despite capturing almost no YOY Walleye during the same period. The age-1 Walleye documented in the fall surveys after 2012 are almost entirely from the previous year's stocking event. Lake Tomahawk is stocked during even years which is why age-1 year classes are seen during odd years. Minocqua and Kawaguesaga Lakes are stocked during odd years which is why age-1 year classes are seen during even years.

