

Assessing Health of Great Lakes Fisheries

Assessment studies tell biologists how well the Great Lakes fishery is doing. Biologists use the information to better regulate and manage the fishery.

To measure the health of a fishery, biologists assess:

- Numbers of fish.
- Their survival and growth.
- Reproduction rates.
- Success of fishery management efforts.

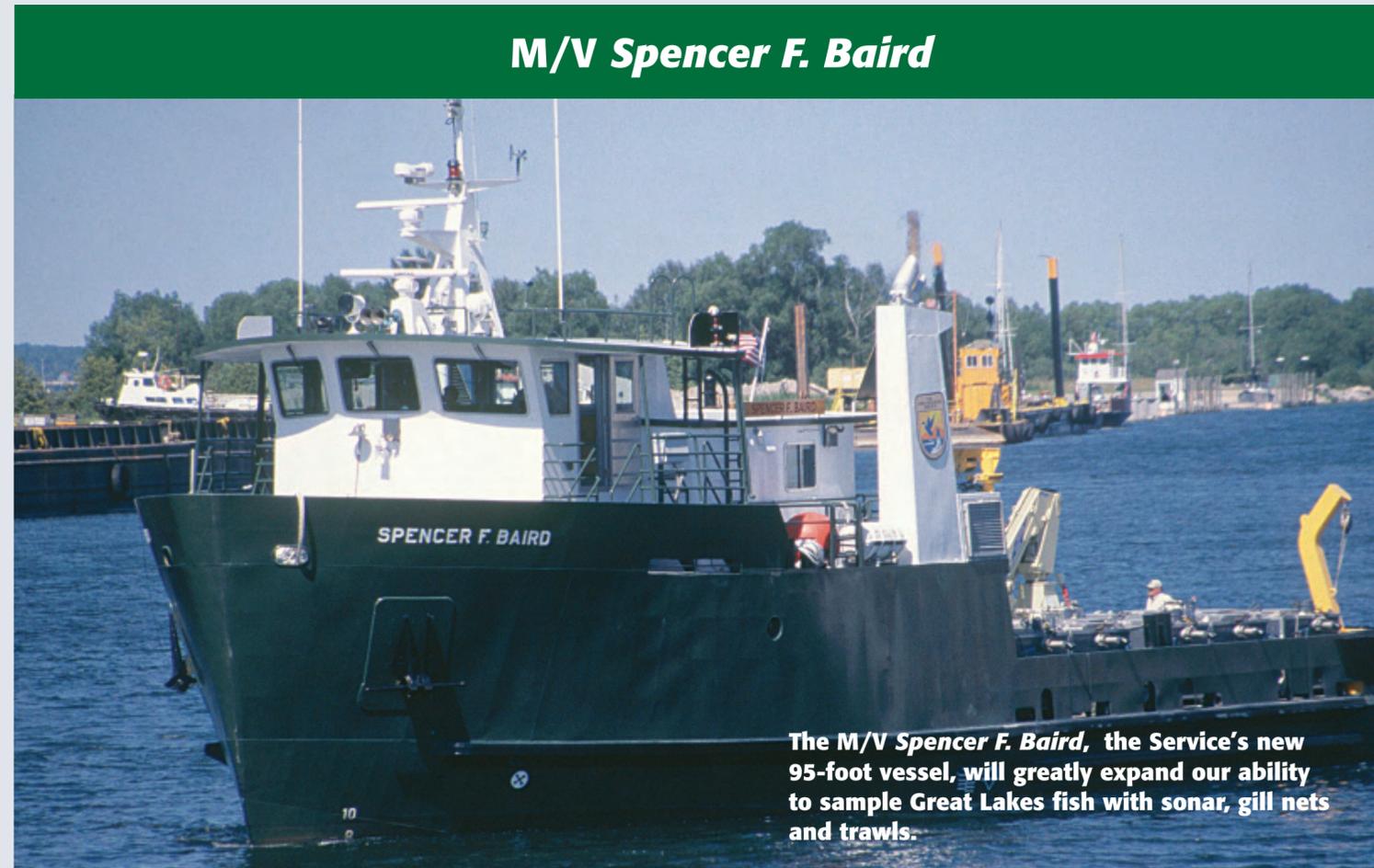
How do we sample fish populations?

Using trawls, gill nets, electrofishing and sonar.

What information do we collect?

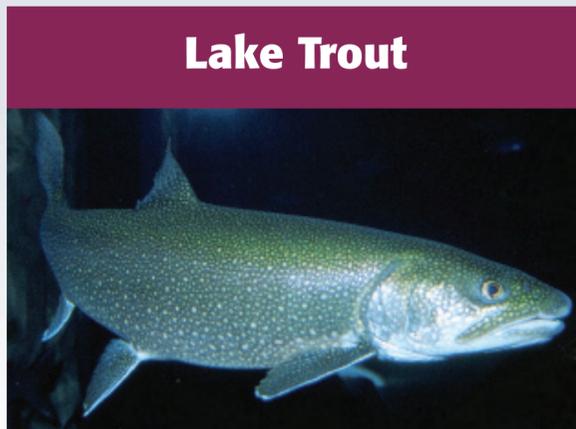
Length, weight, age, genetic origin and abundance of fish.

The Service measures stocked lake trout and fish populations in the Great Lakes.

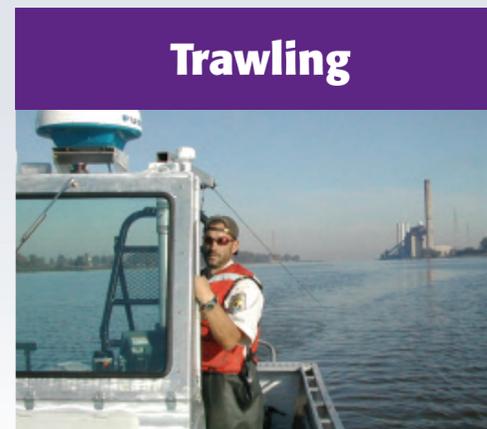


M/V *Spencer F. Baird*

The M/V *Spencer F. Baird*, the Service's new 95-foot vessel, will greatly expand our ability to sample Great Lakes fish with sonar, gill nets and trawls.

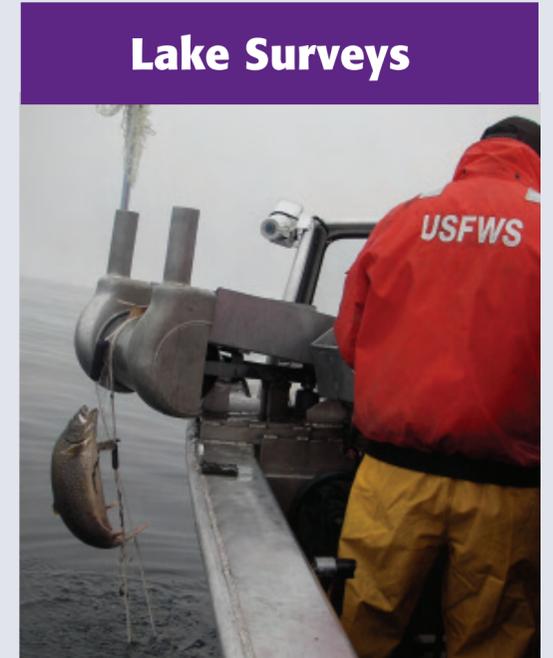


Lake Trout



Trawling

Service biologists trawl for fish. Fish are swept into the net's cone-shaped mouth and captured in a bag at the back of the net.



Lake Surveys

Information collected from surveys will help the Service and its partners maintain the health of the fishery.



Stream Surveys

Assessment work also takes place in the streams and tributaries within the Great Lakes region.