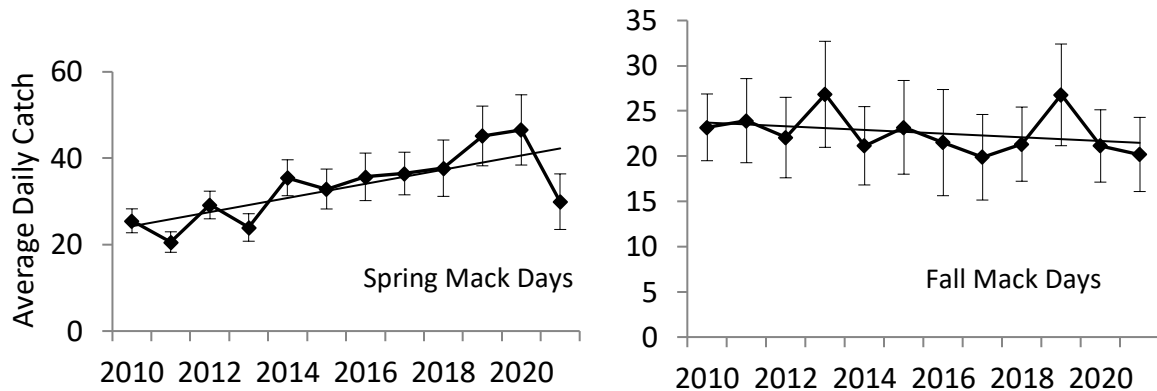


# Mack Days Newsletter

Barry Hansen and Cindy Benson

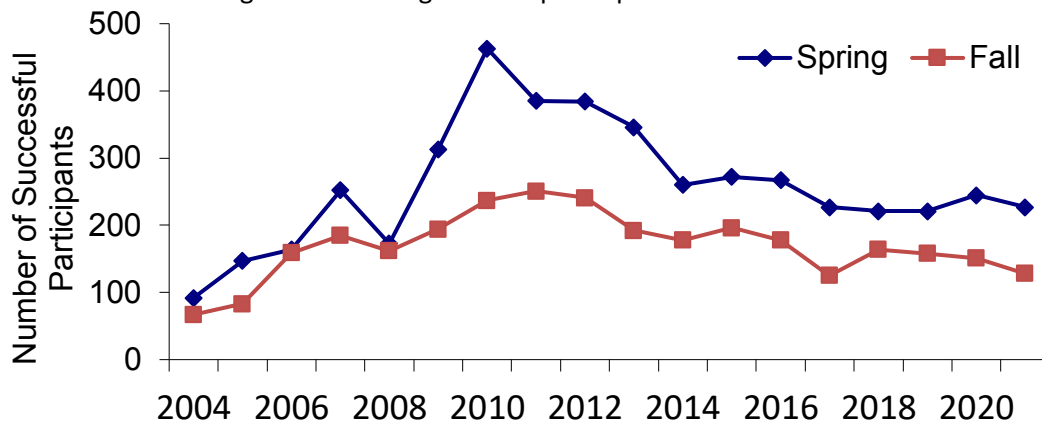
The Tribal Fisheries Program is grateful for your help in managing Flathead Lake to maintain a healthy and sustainable native fishery. We've undertaken an enormous task and your help is critical to our success. Years ago we acted on extensive data that indicated the need to suppress lake trout to perpetuate our native trout. Our strategy, set in 2014, was to incrementally reduce the adult lake trout population by 75%. This means unlike many other suppression programs in other lakes (Yellowstone, Pend O'reille, etc.) our goal is not total eradication of lake trout. Therefore, even when the population is reduced to 25% of its size in 2014, an ongoing suppression program will be necessary. So our work will never be done and we will always need help from anglers.

As suppression proceeds and lake trout abundance declines, we expect angling to get more difficult. Our intent is to increase the rewards to maintain a fairly constant earning power for anglers as the fishery changes. Catches in Spring Mack Days have confused this effort as the average daily catch of the top 25 anglers doubled between 2010 and 2020. The increase is likely the result of increasing skill, greater ability to locate hotspots, and improved technology. These factors may have masked a

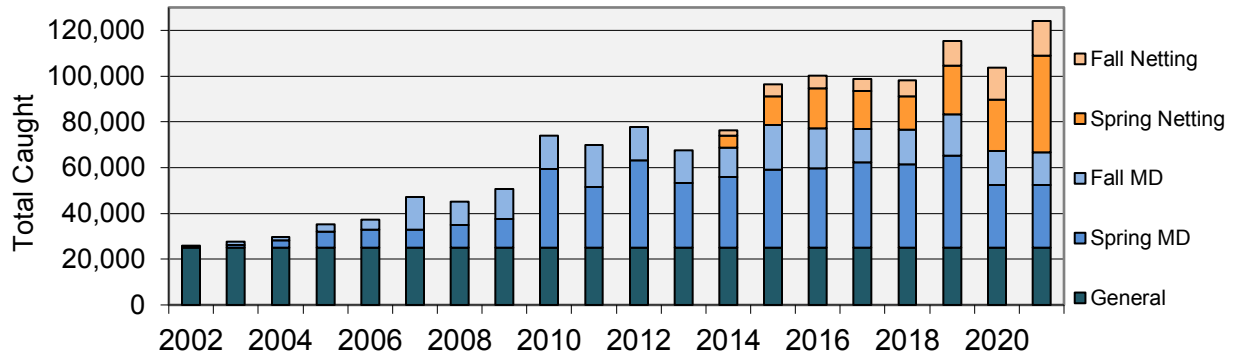


population decline. A sharp drop in 2021 may mark a change in the population, and therefore we have restructured the bonus schedule to accommodate the possibility of fewer fish being caught. In contrast, catch rates during Fall Mack Days have been in gradual decline. We have responded with a new bonus table for spring which is on the next page.

The other struggle in maintaining harvest is that participation of anglers has been in decline since 2010, meaning fewer anglers, with each catching fewer fish. Mack Days harvest has dropped by about one third since 2019. Although not everyone is able to fish Flathead Lake, we hope to recruit new anglers in the future to change this declining trend in participation.



Research has shown us that to achieve a 75% reduction of adult lake trout, we need to sustain a harvest of around 140,000 lake trout per year. We achieved the highest harvest to date of 124,000 lake trout in 2021. We hope to reach the target level this year which will require increasing harvest in either Mack Days or gillnetting by about 20,000 fish.



# Caught	Value	# Caught	Value	# Caught	Value	# Caught	Value	# Caught	Value
0-10	\$0	601-625	\$1,906	1226-1250	\$5,375	1851-1875	\$10,406	2475-2500	\$15,000
11-30	\$45	626-650	\$2,015	1251-1275	\$5,546	1876-1900	\$10,640	2501-2525	\$15,150
31-50	\$88	651-675	\$2,126	1276-1300	\$5,720	1901-1925	\$10,876	2526-2550	\$15,300
51-75	\$150	676-700	\$2,240	1301-1325	\$5,896	1926-1950	\$11,115	2551-2575	\$15,450
76-100	\$205	701-725	\$2,356	1326-1350	\$6,075	1951-1975	\$11,356	2576-2600	\$15,600
101-125	\$263	726-750	\$2,475	1351-1375	\$6,256	1976-2000	\$11,600	2601-2625	\$15,750
126-150	\$323	751-775	\$2,596	1376-1400	\$6,440	2001-2025	\$11,846	2626-2650	\$15,900
151-175	\$385	776-800	\$2,720	1401-1425	\$6,626	2026-2050	\$12,095	2651-2675	\$16,050
176-200	\$450	801-825	\$2,846	1426-1450	\$6,815	2051-2075	\$12,346	2676-2700	\$16,200
201-225	\$518	826-850	\$2,975	1451-1475	\$7,006	2076-2100	\$12,600	2701-2725	\$16,350
226-250	\$588	851-875	\$3,106	1476-1500	\$7,200	2101-2125	\$12,750	2726-2750	\$16,500
251-275	\$660	876-900	\$3,240	1501-1525	\$7,396	2126-2150	\$12,900	2751-2775	\$16,650
276-300	\$735	901-925	\$3,376	1526-1550	\$7,595	2151-2175	\$13,050	2776-2800	\$16,800
301-325	\$813	926-950	\$3,515	1551-1575	\$7,796	2176-2200	\$13,200	2801-2825	\$16,950
326-350	\$875	951-975	\$3,656	1576-1600	\$8,000	2201-2225	\$13,350	2826-2850	\$17,100
351-375	\$956	976-1000	\$3,800	1601-1625	\$8,206	2226-2250	\$13,500	2851-2875	\$17,250
376-400	\$1,040	1001-1025	\$3,946	1626-1650	\$8,415	2251-2275	\$13,650	2876-2900	\$17,400
401-425	\$1,126	1026-1050	\$4,095	1651-1675	\$8,626	2276-2300	\$13,800	2901-2925	\$17,550
426-450	\$1,215	1051-1075	\$4,246	1676-1700	\$8,840	2301-2325	\$13,950	2926-2950	\$17,700
451-475	\$1,306	1076-1100	\$4,400	1701-1725	\$9,056	2326-2350	\$14,100	2951-2975	\$17,850
476-500	\$1,400	1101-1125	\$4,556	1726-1750	\$9,275	2351-2375	\$14,250	2976-3000	\$18,000
501-525	\$1,496	1126-1150	\$4,715	1751-1775	\$9,496	2376-2400	\$14,400		
526-550	\$1,595	1151-1175	\$4,876	1776-1800	\$9,720	2401-2425	\$14,550		
551-575	\$1,696	1176-1200	\$5,040	1801-1825	\$9,946	2426-2450	\$14,700		
576-600	\$1,800	1201-1225	\$5,206	1826-1850	\$10,175	2451-2475	\$14,850		

**We welcome your input on how to improve the contest, and we wish you good fishing in 2022.**