### Predicting water temperature and its effects on sport fish populations in Wisconsin Lakes





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#### Temperature as ecological "master factor"



#### Water temperature in lakes



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### Can water temperature explain trends in Wisconsin's fish populations?



# Historical temperature observations on 1,264 lakes



# Approach: model temperature from known conditions



### Wisconsin's managed lakes



GAH2

- 2,500 lakes with fisheries activity
- Ranging in size from
  <1 ha to > 500 km<sup>2</sup>
- Daily thermal profiles from 1979-2011

GAH2 Details about managed = all lakes for which there was any record of a fisheries management activity (fish survey, stocking, etc) in the DNR database.

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#### http://wowtemp. bathybase.org/

#### Model output: daily temperature profiles



## Model predicts surface and epilimnion temperatures well



### Model predicts hypolimnion temperatures less well



## Water temperature is sensitive to clarity emp. difference (°C) -50% 0 +50%Change in K<sub>d</sub> (%) -50%

#### Water temperatures vary across Wisconsin



#### Water temperatures vary across Wisconsin



#### Walleye recruitment declining in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory



## Temperature correlated with walleye recruitment





#### Model can be used for future projections



http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/

### Future work

- Improve hindcast temperatures
  - Better clarity data
- Forecast water temperatures under various climate projections
- Incorporate dissolved oxygen
- Project changes to fish abundance, other inlake processes

#### **THANKS!**

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### **Questions?**



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