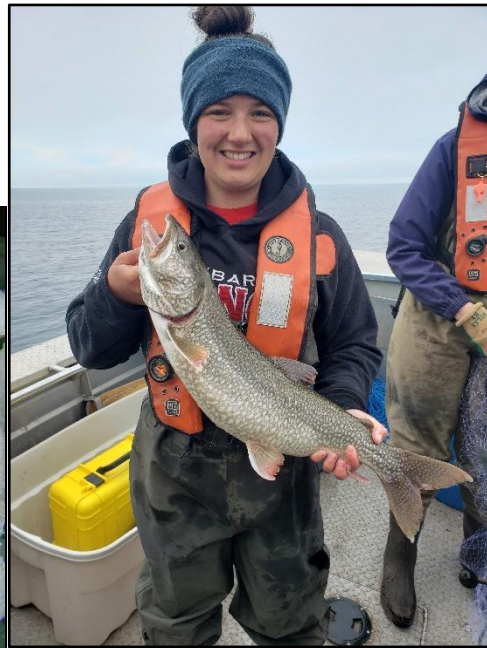


Recreational & Commercial Harvest from Lake Superior, 1995-2023



Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Lake Superior Committee
2025 Upper Lakes Meeting
March 2025

Contributing agencies:

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Natural Resources Department

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Natural Resources Department

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Bay Mills Indian Community Biological Services Department

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Natural Resources Services

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Lake Superior Technical Committee consolidated recreational fishery harvest (in round pounds) estimated from creel surveys conducted by management agencies at various access point around Lake Superior. In years where recreational harvest was provided in numbers of fish, species-specific mean weights were used to convert numbers of fish to harvest in round pounds. Recreational fishery harvest is not estimated in Ontario waters of Lake Superior.

Reported commercial harvest was provided by state, tribal and provincial agencies in either round or dressed pounds. Where available, subsistence harvest was combined with commercial harvest. Harvest reported in dressed pounds was converted to round pounds using a conversion factor of 1.15 for Round Whitefish, 1.2 for Deepwater Ciscos, 1.15 for Smelt and 1.25 for all other species. Grand Portage commerical harvest not included for 2023.

****2020 recreational harvest estimates may be incomplete due to gaps in creel survey programs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic****

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Table 1. Total harvest (recreational and commercial) by species from Lake Superior, 2003-2023. Estimated recreational harvest is based on creel survey data and not all ports are sampled in every year. Smelt and burbot caught in the recreational fishery in Michigan waters are included in the 'Other' category.

Table 2. Total reported commercial harvest by species from Lake Superior, 2003-2023.

Table 3. Total estimated recreational harvest by species from Lake Superior, 2003-2023. Smelt and burbot caught in the recreational fishery in Michigan waters are included in the 'Other' category.

Table 4. Estimated recreational and reported commercial harvest by species in each lake trout management unit in 2023. Estimated recreational harvest is based on creel survey data and not all ports are sampled in every year. Smelt and burbot caught in the recreational fishery in Michigan waters are included in the 'Other' category.

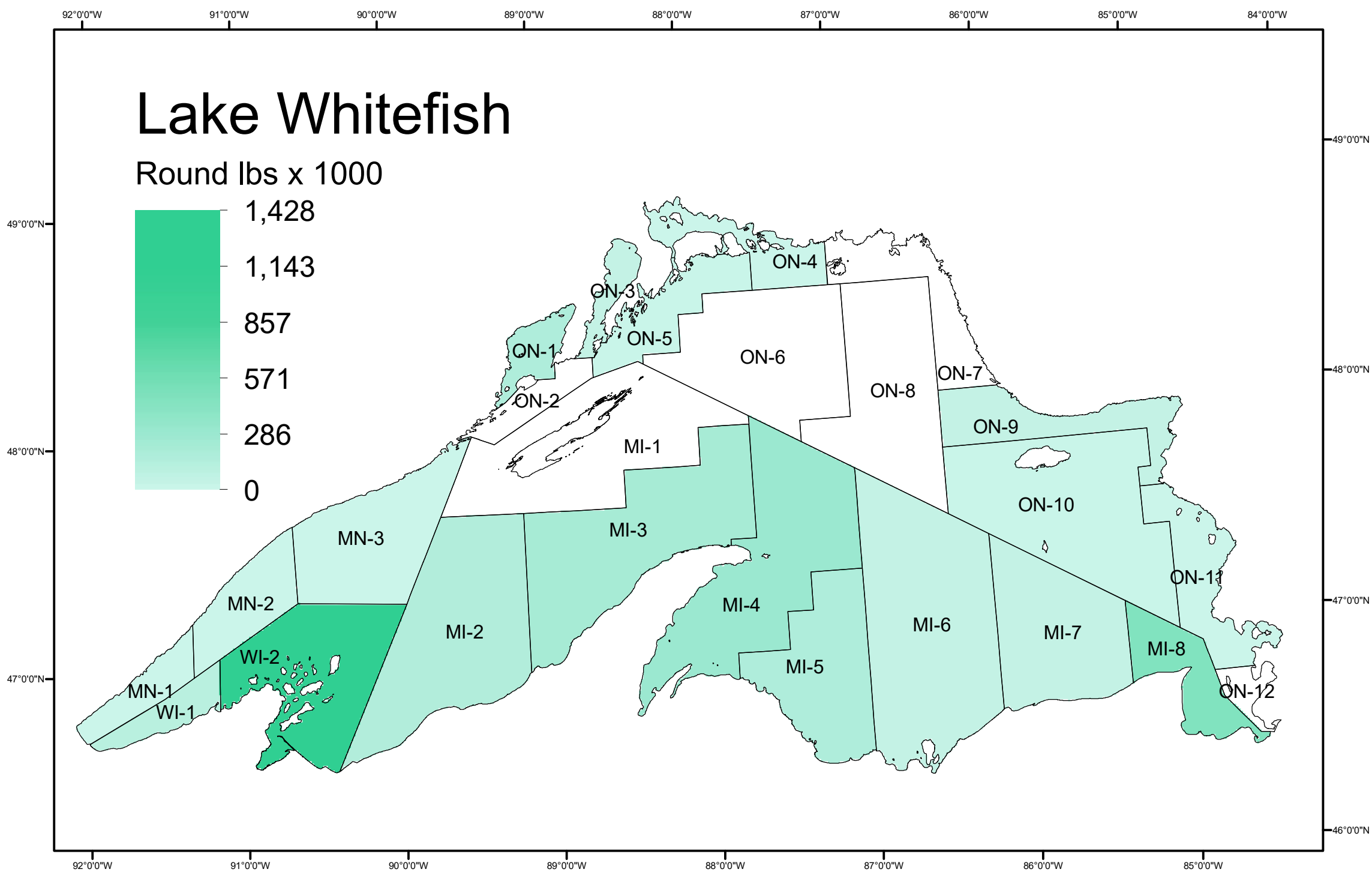


Figure 1. Reported commercial harvest of Lake Whitefish by management unit in 2023.
Commercial harvest was reported by state, tribal and provincial agencies.

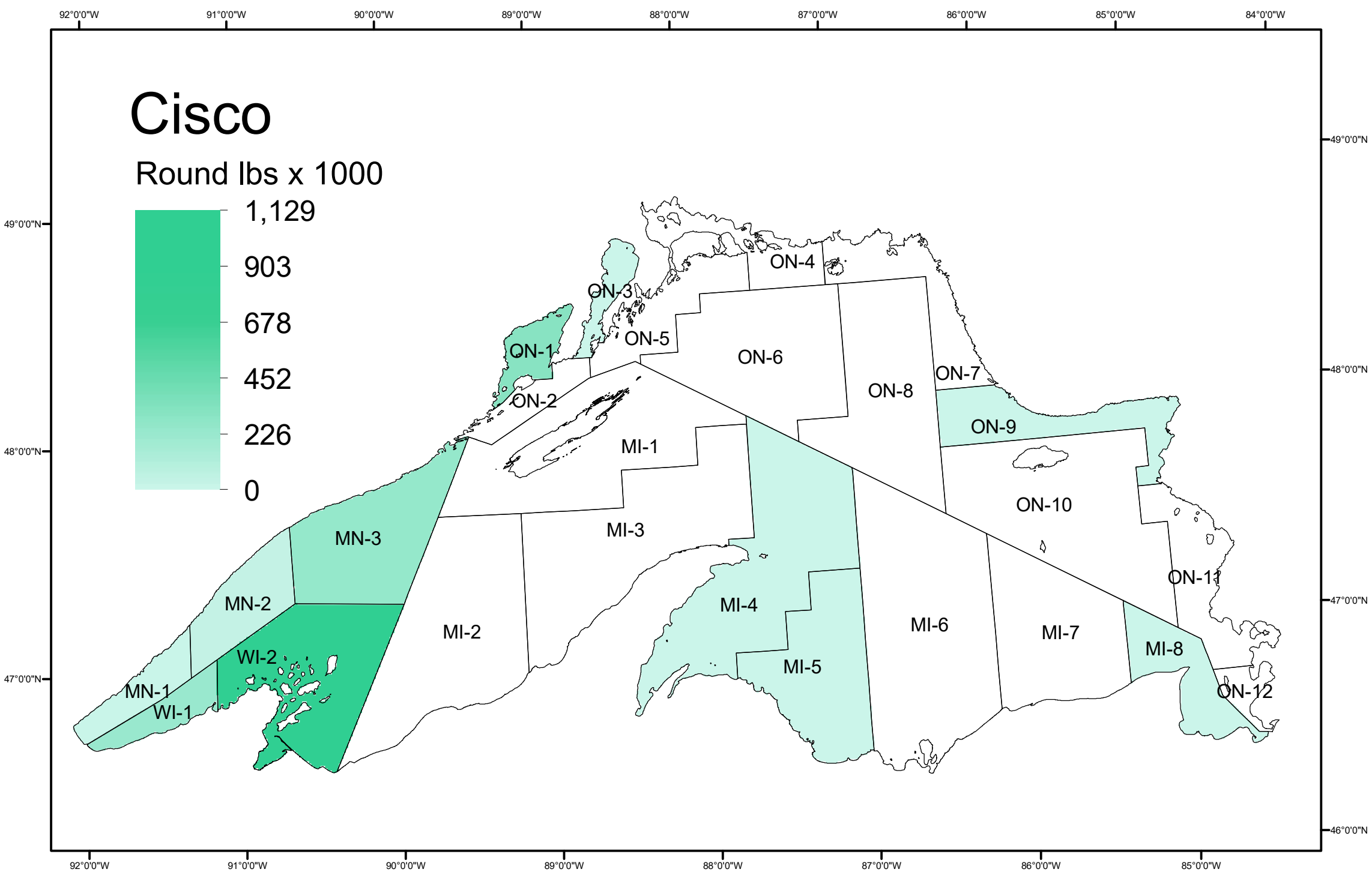


Figure 2. Reported commercial harvest of Lean Lake Trout by management unit in 2023.
Commercial harvest was reported by state, tribal and provincial agencies.

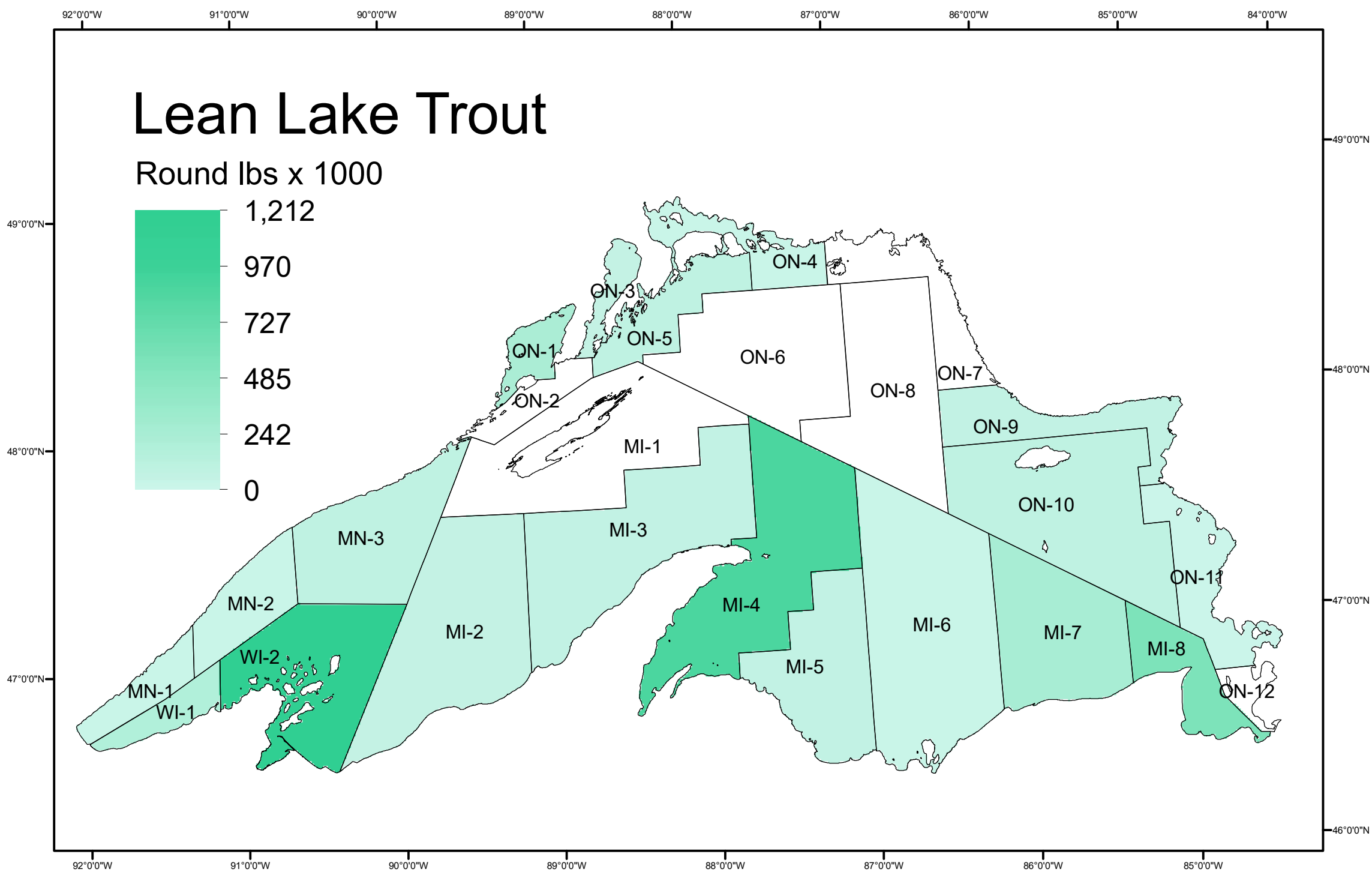


Figure 3. Reported commercial harvest of Lean Lake Trout by management unit in 2023.
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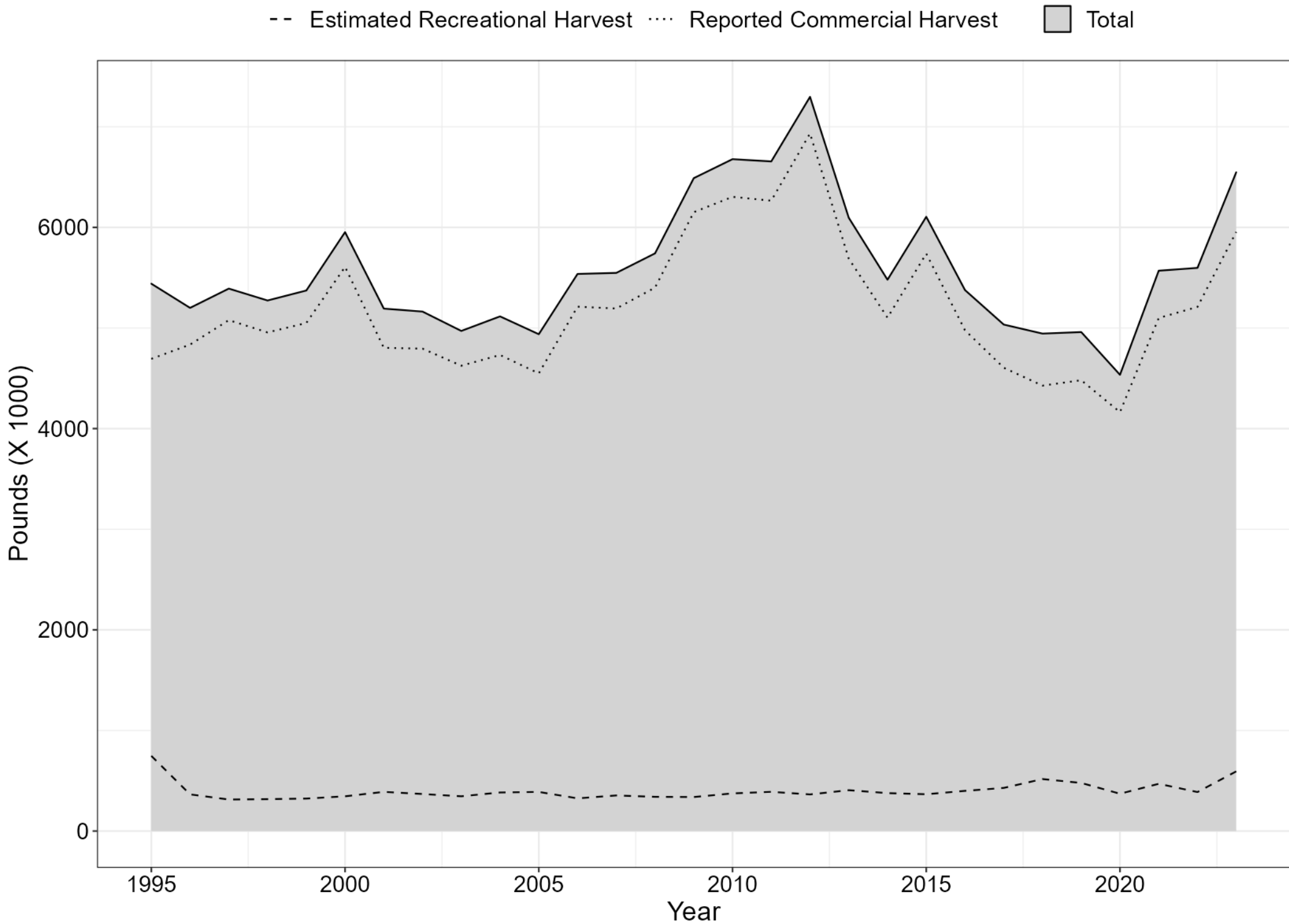


Figure 4. Total harvest (recreational and commercial) from Lake Superior, 1995-2023.

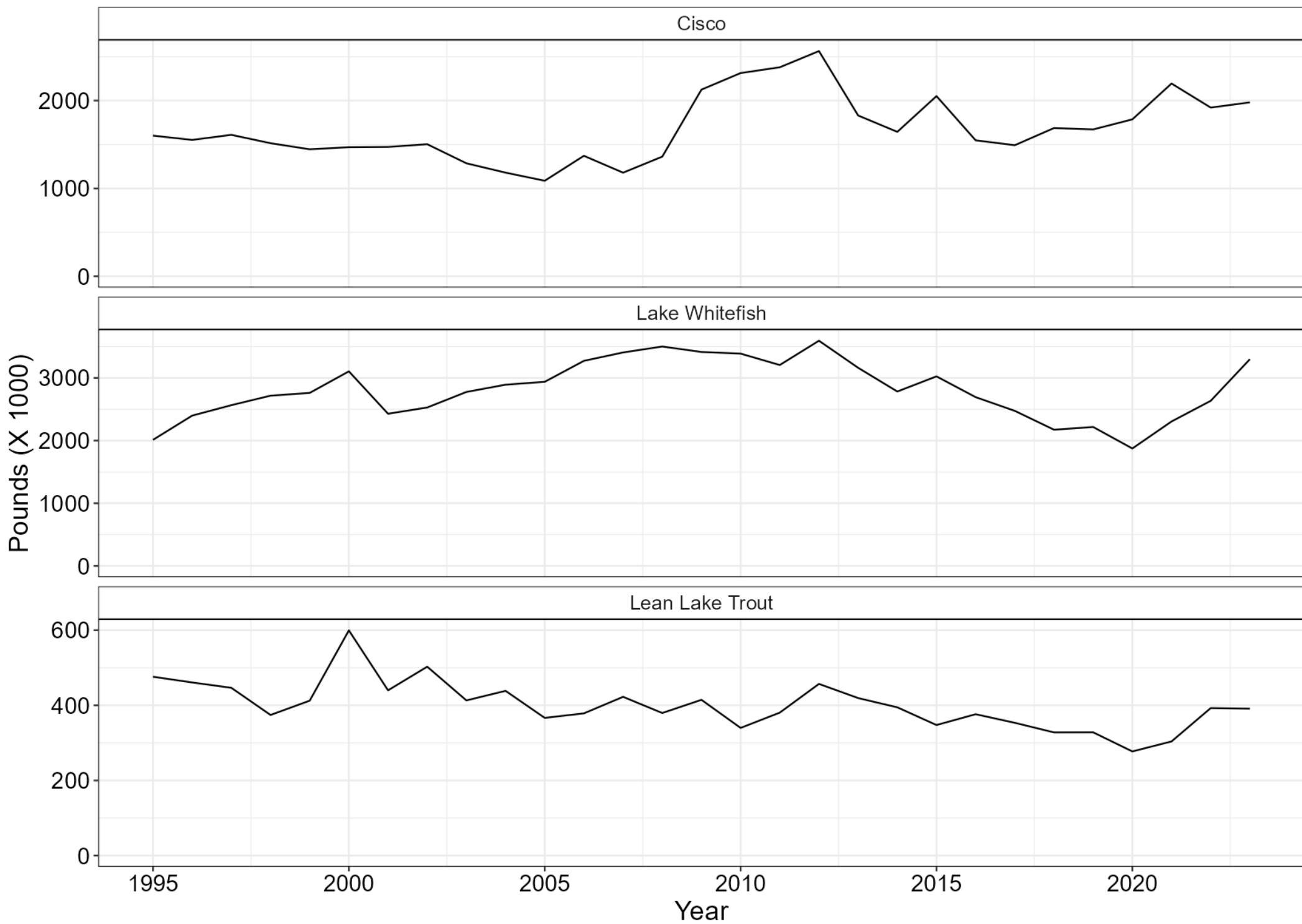


Figure 5. Reported commercial harvest of Cisco, Lake Whitefish, and Lean Lake Trout from Lake Superior, 1995-2023. Scale of y-axis different for each species.

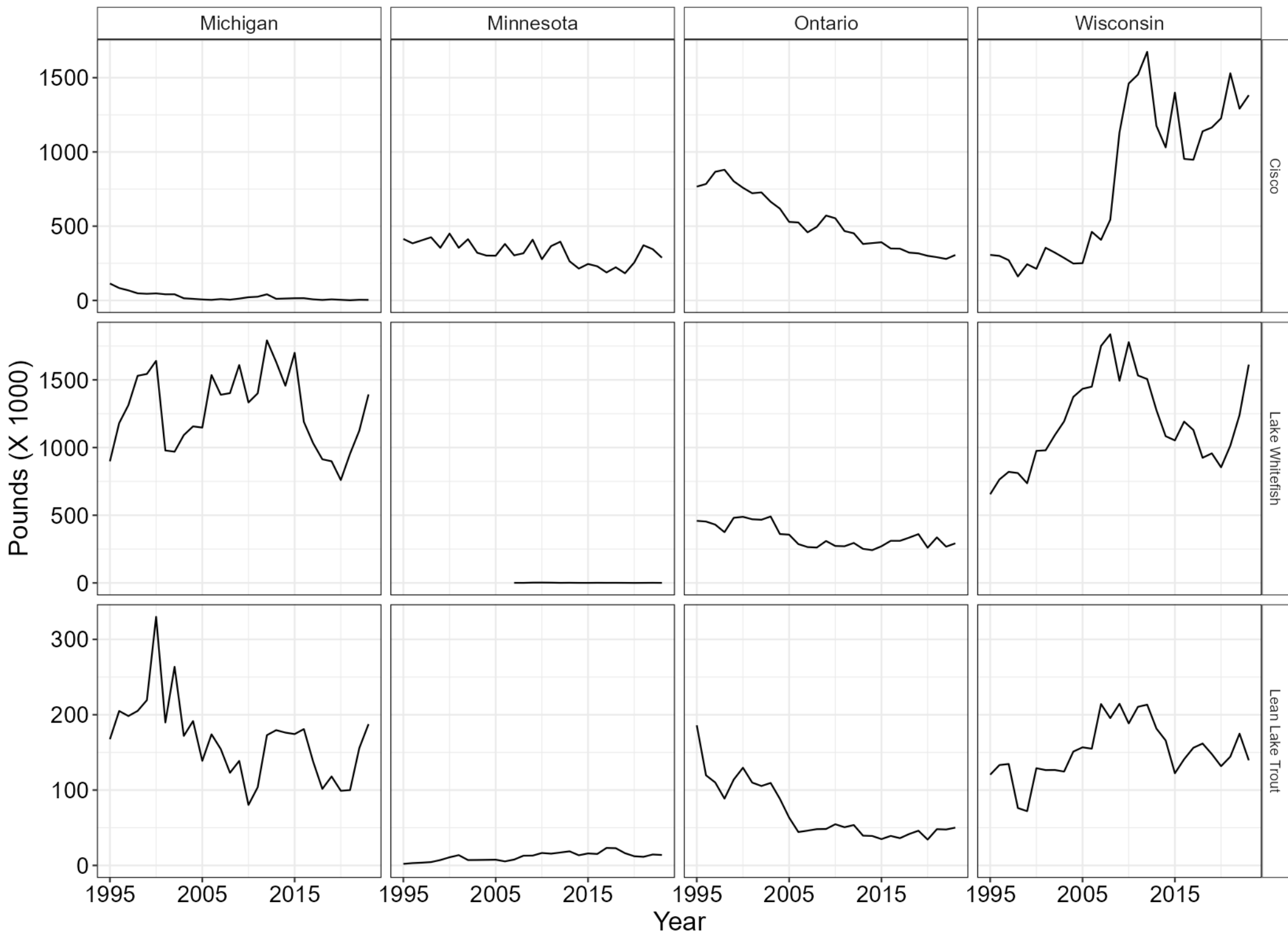


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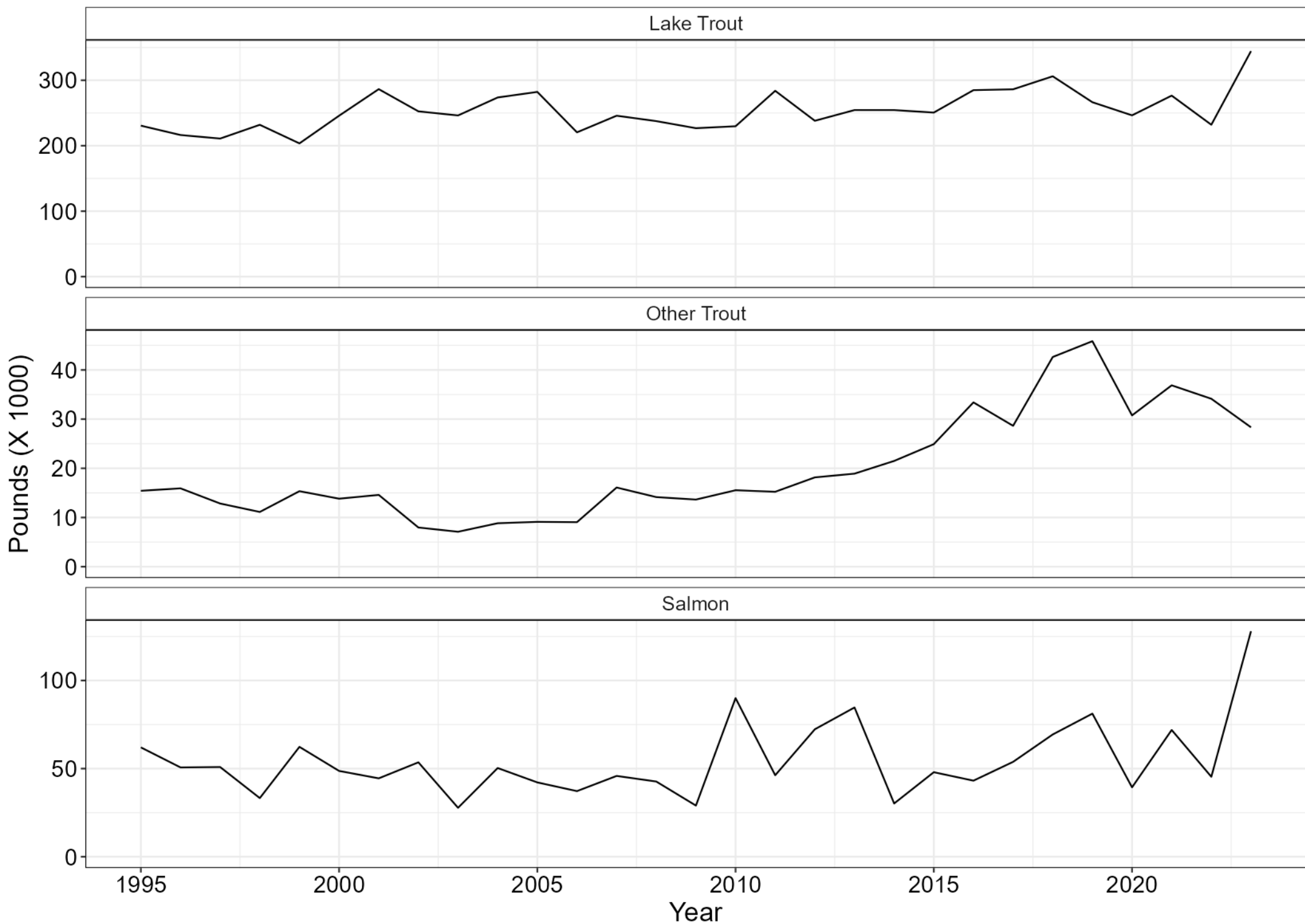


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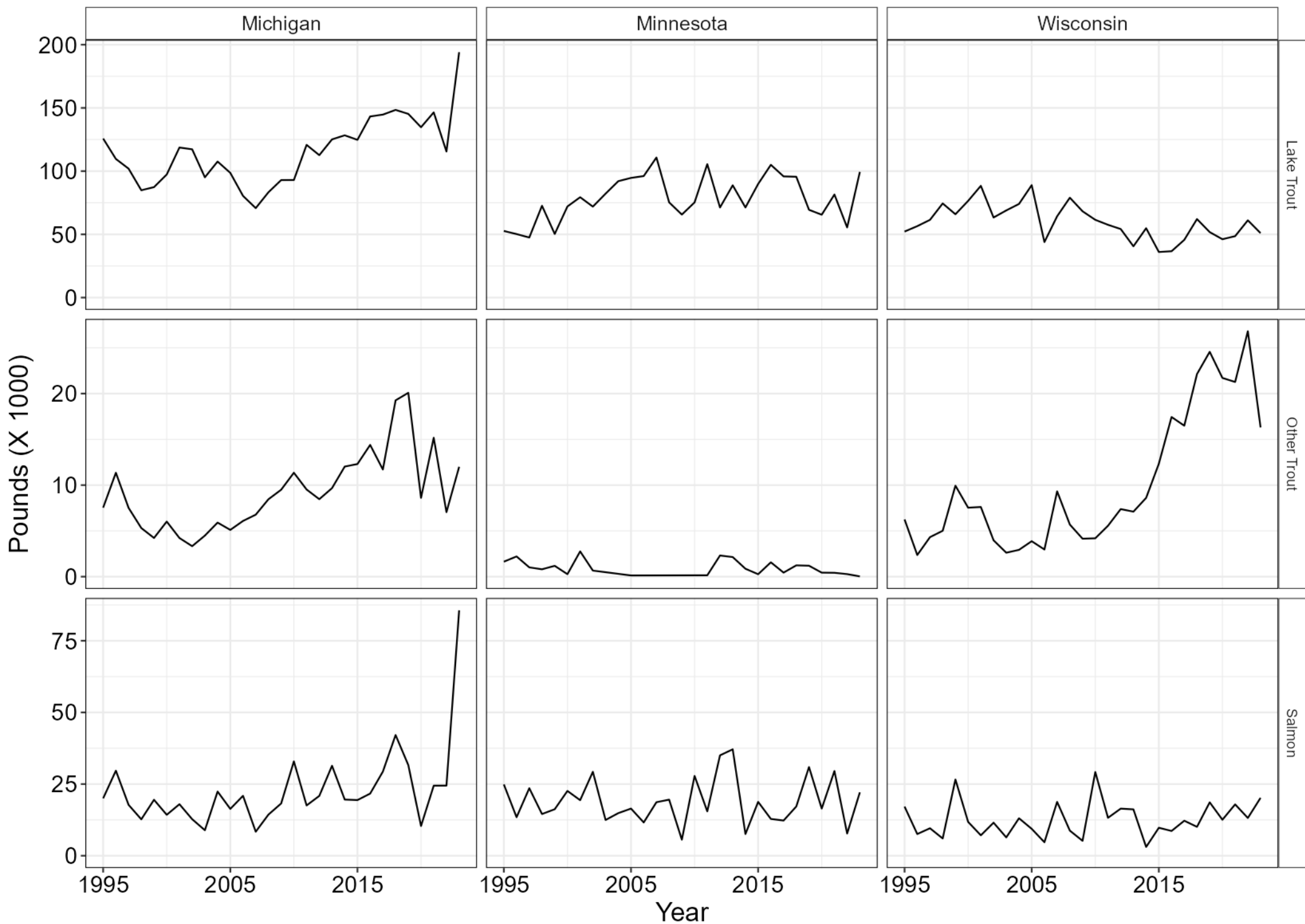


Figure 8. Estimated recreational harvest of Lake Trout, Other Trout (brown, rainbow, brook, splake) and Salmon (Chinook and Coho) by jurisdiction in Lake Superior, 1995-2023.

Table 1. Total harvest (recreational and commercial in pounds) by species from Lake Superior, 2003-2023.

Year	Lean Lake Trout	Siscowet	Lake Whitefish	Cisco	Deepwater Cisco	Round Whitefish	Burbot	Smelt	Rainbow Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Splake	Coho Salmon	Chinook Salmon	Salmon	Walleye	Perch	Suckers	Other
2003	659,258	85,905	2,788,044	1,288,784	38,185	3,782	719	10,818	2,701	2,113	63	2,597	10,477	18,397	7,277	22,629	11,953	7,532	9,483
2004	712,157	88,186	2,902,342	1,182,403	44,676	4,657	568	11,909	4,549	2,295	115	2,365	25,760	24,767	8,520	13,219	2,616	73,989	10,226
2005	648,700	99,890	2,953,038	1,091,520	38,088	1,619	1,017	13,778	3,811	2,477	29	3,620	23,662	19,646	4,598	12,403	3,968	11,598	4,616
2006	599,009	109,476	3,290,900	1,373,392	52,573	2,008	1,429	20,887	2,984	2,490	39	3,811	25,051	13,475	5,884	16,684	3,542	10,187	3,284
2007	668,410	109,824	3,422,617	1,181,376	39,308	1,543	2,489	18,935	2,458	7,196	99	6,719	32,781	15,847	5,577	22,174	4,775	1,876	3,405
2008	617,085	112,852	3,515,599	1,364,645	12,577	1,336	1,875	21,855	5,567	5,294	0	3,884	18,725	25,464	3,418	18,415	3,073	5,132	4,743
2009	641,402	153,692	3,433,042	2,126,512	51,712	1,652	1,450	12,221	6,778	4,519	42	2,630	18,067	12,472	3,093	13,072	1,450	1,734	3,607
2010	569,561	165,034	3,403,620	2,315,278	66,009	1,608	3,175	30,356	7,900	4,340	42	4,166	58,759	28,978	5,575	8,194	814	2,661	1,910
2011	664,381	187,073	3,220,623	2,380,854	61,488	911	1,730	52,995	5,964	4,054	226	6,080	28,169	18,137	2,092	11,708	3,239	1,600	4,047
2012	695,055	152,452	3,606,762	2,564,356	70,318	412	2,485	83,076	9,073	6,916	26	3,184	42,573	31,694	3,964	11,280	4,902	3,042	5,735
2013	673,757	154,855	3,182,281	1,832,520	77,765	812	6,337	33,348	7,169	7,120	23	5,196	46,535	39,818	2,688	18,660	594	4,382	1,722
2014	649,071	199,850	2,807,149	1,645,212	66,303	1,053	8,600	8,126	5,821	11,309	0	5,349	14,411	16,682	2,800	25,082	669	6,861	5,237
2015	598,128	170,008	3,038,546	2,052,820	87,143	4,032	9,851	34,762	6,362	12,188	69	6,800	29,651	20,942	2,436	11,026	534	16,085	3,750
2016	661,167	183,573	2,704,078	1,548,698	98,978	4,307	6,444	32,252	10,227	17,155	19	7,029	34,594	9,580	4,843	17,808	926	27,636	7,480
2017	639,591	143,542	2,497,385	1,492,587	92,287	2,606	7,546	28,889	5,876	15,968	21	7,422	48,435	6,789	4,111	14,262	4,763	16,510	5,408
2018	633,915	162,325	2,208,621	1,689,821	49,208	3,697	9,772	27,227	4,960	26,746	224	11,197	52,557	17,844	2,368	15,855	5,097	16,671	6,087
2019	594,496	166,065	2,242,074	1,673,414	55,841	5,086	9,765	21,617	8,901	26,584	91	11,217	62,029	19,793	2,367	25,381	4,256	25,685	4,663
2020	523,600	141,466	1,892,647	1,788,012	59,266	4,237	4,475	20,884	4,615	18,748	81	8,697	25,280	14,667	4,379	11,370	2,896	6,065	3,425
2021	580,340	175,924	2,330,684	2,196,633	68,691	6,184	5,697	22,980	9,462	16,123	169	12,123	54,333	15,572	17,093	24,355	4,123	21,657	7,127
2022	624,660	153,525	2,662,722	1,921,289	80,721	6,668	12,084	14,412	3,627	20,929	129	9,867	30,827	17,903	2,599	18,595	2,553	11,845	2,415
2023	735,530	160,315	3,328,874	1,981,593	64,259	9,305	8,168	36,598	6,082	17,202	115	5,335	106,831	21,321	9,109	28,266	4,080	21,987	2,645

Table 2. Total reported commercial harvest (pounds) by species from Lake Superior, 2003-2023.

Year	Lean Lake Trout	Siscowet	Lake Whitefish	Cisco	Deepwater Cisco	Round Whitefish	Burbot	Smelt	Rainbow Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Splake	Coho Salmon	Chinook Salmon	Salmon	Walleye	Perch	Suckers	Other
2003	413,025	54,874	2,775,619	1,286,155	38,185	3,129	446	10,795	285	31	59	0	150	957	7,277	6,840	11,691	7,500	7,975
2004	438,461	63,532	2,891,558	1,179,679	44,676	4,146	322	11,909	419	68	3	0	879	1,065	6,781	3,167	2,202	73,948	8,925
2005	366,503	78,954	2,937,765	1,087,457	38,088	1,315	357	13,708	438	80	6	301	594	732	4,413	1,584	3,656	11,587	1,312
2006	378,570	87,551	3,272,180	1,371,374	52,573	1,649	872	20,843	193	79	0	0	1,799	909	4,473	5,321	2,849	10,112	541
2007	422,566	99,705	3,405,898	1,179,369	39,308	1,134	1,929	18,264	319	9	0	49	1,585	1,311	5,465	11,705	1,652	1,850	1,244
2008	379,501	96,817	3,500,671	1,361,895	12,577	1,046	1,682	21,837	467	117	0	13	406	1,204	3,333	10,293	2,732	5,126	1,593
2009	414,614	114,956	3,413,795	2,124,659	51,712	1,303	1,419	12,212	278	21	7	21	624	897	3,093	6,284	1,023	1,636	2,372
2010	339,819	152,050	3,387,445	2,313,396	66,009	1,336	2,855	30,297	801	26	42	37	670	0	2,647	2,318	413	2,643	723
2011	380,516	168,588	3,205,643	2,379,020	61,488	386	1,653	52,984	900	13	2	180	344	44	1,765	7,542	1,697	1,597	903
2012	456,963	142,867	3,593,218	2,563,597	70,318	326	1,987	82,716	774	45	4	221	2,935	0	2,975	8,031	1,066	3,024	2,023
2013	419,284	139,073	3,161,197	1,830,310	77,765	568	6,089	33,234	382	10	10	192	1,731	163	2,460	11,927	115	4,352	328
2014	394,623	180,538	2,782,844	1,643,951	66,303	685	8,344	8,016	509	37	0	434	766	109	2,800	4,759	60	6,081	1,515
2015	347,479	153,285	3,024,409	2,051,039	87,143	3,829	9,009	34,713	283	31	3	194	2,689	0	2,382	5,062	74	16,052	1,526
2016	376,273	172,448	2,692,865	1,547,617	98,978	3,886	6,092	32,092	690	29	14	295	1,419	195	4,244	7,966	653	27,633	3,902
2017	353,420	127,121	2,474,025	1,492,056	92,287	2,487	5,707	28,347	564	29	4	51	2,885	0	2,614	5,294	570	16,510	1,139
2018	327,857	120,959	2,173,390	1,687,394	49,208	3,353	8,806	26,557	254	46	58	140	1,069	0	2,331	6,091	512	16,671	2,526
2019	328,045	132,553	2,216,798	1,671,621	55,841	4,939	8,885	21,375	317	446	35	152	708	87	2,199	9,239	163	25,663	1,894
2020	277,194	120,157	1,873,957	1,786,284	59,266	4,110	3,106	20,504	700	374	0	309	1,593	6	3,358	5,931	156	6,065	629
2021	303,792	143,882	2,304,675	2,194,122	68,691	6,090	4,702	21,690	502	170	162	172	1,565	774	12,743	11,603	1,043	21,649	1,497
2022	392,619	128,906	2,634,097	1,920,318	80,721	6,275	5,728	13,990	229	111	59	16	1,974	1,398	2,591	6,260	311	11,845	2,148
2023	391,063	121,935	3,298,021	1,979,642	64,259	9,285	7,013	36,361	199	53	115	31	6,946	46	2,313	10,956	1,678	21,987	2,604

Table 3. Total estimated recreational harvest (pounds) by species from Lake Superior, 2003-2023.

Year	Lean Lake Trout	Siscowet	Lake Whitefish	Cisco	Round Whitefish	Burbot	Smelt	Rainbow Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Splake	Coho Salmon	Chinook Salmon	Salmon	Walleye	Perch	Suckers	Other
2003	246,233	31,031	12,425	2,629	653	273	23	2,417	2,082	4	2,597	10,326	17,439	0	15,789	262	32	1,508
2004	273,696	24,654	10,784	2,724	511	246	0	4,130	2,228	112	2,365	24,880	23,702	1,739	10,051	414	42	1,301
2005	282,197	20,936	15,273	4,062	304	659	70	3,373	2,397	23	3,319	23,068	18,914	185	10,819	313	11	3,303
2006	220,439	21,925	18,720	2,018	358	558	44	2,791	2,411	39	3,811	23,252	12,566	1,411	11,363	693	75	2,743
2007	245,844	10,119	16,719	2,007	408	560	670	2,139	7,187	99	6,670	31,196	14,537	112	10,469	3,122	27	2,161
2008	237,583	16,036	14,928	2,750	290	193	18	5,100	5,177	0	3,871	18,320	24,261	85	8,122	341	6	3,150
2009	226,788	38,736	19,247	1,853	349	32	9	6,501	4,498	35	2,609	17,443	11,575	0	6,788	427	98	1,235
2010	229,741	12,984	16,175	1,882	272	320	59	7,098	4,314	0	4,129	58,089	28,978	2,928	5,876	401	17	1,187
2011	283,865	18,485	14,980	1,835	526	77	11	5,064	4,041	224	5,900	27,824	18,093	327	4,166	1,541	3	3,144
2012	238,092	9,585	13,544	758	85	497	359	8,298	6,870	22	2,963	39,638	31,694	989	3,248	3,836	18	3,712
2013	254,473	15,782	21,084	2,210	245	248	114	6,786	7,109	13	5,004	44,805	39,655	228	6,733	479	29	1,394
2014	254,448	19,312	24,305	1,261	368	256	110	5,312	11,272	0	4,915	13,645	16,573	0	20,323	608	779	3,722
2015	250,648	16,724	14,137	1,781	203	842	48	6,080	12,157	66	6,606	26,962	20,942	54	5,963	460	33	2,225
2016	284,894	11,125	11,213	1,081	421	353	160	9,537	17,126	5	6,734	33,174	9,386	599	9,842	274	2	3,578
2017	286,171	16,421	23,360	531	120	1,839	541	5,312	15,939	17	7,371	45,550	6,789	1,497	8,968	4,193	0	4,268
2018	306,058	41,366	35,232	2,427	344	965	670	4,705	26,700	166	11,057	51,488	17,844	37	9,764	4,585	0	3,561
2019	266,451	33,511	25,276	1,793	147	881	241	8,584	26,138	56	11,065	61,321	19,706	168	16,143	4,094	22	2,769
2020	246,406	21,309	18,689	1,728	127	1,369	380	3,915	18,374	81	8,388	23,687	14,661	1,021	5,439	2,740	0	2,795
2021	276,547	32,042	26,009	2,511	95	996	1,289	8,960	15,952	6	11,951	52,767	14,799	4,350	12,752	3,080	8	5,630
2022	232,041	24,619	28,625	970	394	6,355	421	3,398	20,818	70	9,851	28,852	16,505	8	12,335	2,242	0	267
2023	344,467	38,380	30,853	1,950	20	1,155	237	5,883	17,149	0	5,305	99,885	21,275	6,796	17,310	2,402	0	41

