SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte County
LBF-Lake-768-000
2020

Lake Information

Name: Belle Fourche Reservoir

County: Butte

Surface Area: 6,570 Acres

Surveys and Investigations

Survey methods used by gear type, date, and effort.

Gear	Date	Effort
AFS gill net (1/2 inch)	Aug 18, 2020	2 net-nights
AFS gill net (1/2 inch)	Aug 19, 2020	2 net-nights
AFS std gill net	Aug 18, 2020	5 net-nights
AFS std gill net	Aug 19, 2020	5 net-nights

Common Fish Species Present

Channel Catfish

Black Crappie

Gizzard Shad

Walleye

White Crappie

White Bass

Common Carp

Yellow Perch

Spottail Shiner

Freshwater Drum

Terminology

Catch per unit effort (**CPUE**) refers to the relative abundance of a species. It is defined as the number of fish captured per unit of effort (i.e., number of fish captured per net-night or number of fish captured per hour electrofishing). In this report CPUE is typically given for only stock-length fish (see length categories table for stock lengths).

A statewide effort to help make netting efforts comparable to all waters sampled across the state, occurred in 2017, with a switch to American Fisheries Society gill nets. Past gill netting efforts were completed with different style/types of nets and are not comparable side by side.

- **AFS std gill net** – 80 ft experimental gill net containing eight panels (10 ft each) of varying monofilament meshes of 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2.00, 2.25 and 2.50 inches.
- **std experimental gill net for non-Missouri River waters** - 150 ft experimental gill net containing six panels (25 ft each) of varying monofilament meshes of 0.5, 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50 and 2.00 inches.
- s**td experimental gill net for Missouri River reservoirs** – 300 ft experimental gill net containing six panels (50 ft each) of varying multifilament meshes of 0.5, 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50 and 2.00 inches.

$$CPUE = \frac{number\ of\ fish}{effort}$$

Population size structure is quantified using the indices proportional size distribution of quality-length fish (**PSD**) and proportional size distribution of preferred-length fish (**PSD-P**). These indices indicate the proportion of stock-length fish that are equal to or greater than a given length. Minimum lengths for stock, quality and preferred length fish are given in the length categories table.

$$PSD = \left(\frac{number\ of\ fish \geq quality\ length}{number\ of\ fish \geq stock\ length}\right) \text{x } 100$$

$$PSD - P = \left(\frac{number\ of\ fish \geq preferred\ length}{number\ of\ fish \geq stock\ length}\right) \text{x } 100$$

Relative weight (**Wr**) is used to quantify fish plumpness. Relative weight is the ratio of what a fish weighs (W) compared to a length-specific standard weight (Ws) multiplied by 100. Relative weight values of 95-105 are commonly cited as optimum values, but values in the 80s are common during summer sampling in South Dakota.

$$Wr = \left(\frac{W}{Ws}\right) \text{x } 100$$

Confidence intervals (**CI**) are provided for many of the estimates calculated in this report. The confidence interval provides a range in which the true mean is expected to fall. For example, with an 80% CI we are 80% confident that the interval contains the true value.

Length categories include stock (**S**), quality (**Q**), preferred (**P**), memorable (**M**) and trophy (**T**). Length categories for most species have been defined based on a percentage of the world record length for that species. Some species mentioned in this report do not have defined length categories. Length categories for species used in this report are provided in the following table. Measurements are the minimum total length for each category and are reported in inches (in) and centimeters (cm).

	Stock		Quality		Preferred		Memorable		Trophy	
Species Name	(in)	(cm)	(in)	(cm)	(in)	(cm)	(in)	(cm)	(in)	(cm)
Black Bullhead	6	15	9	23	12	30	15	38	18	46
Black Crappie	5	13	8	20	10	25	12	30	15	38
Bluegill	3	8	6	15	8	20	10	25	12	30
Brown Trout	8	20	12	30	16	40	20	50	18	46
Channel Catfish	11	28	16	41	24	61	28	71	36	91
Freshwater Drum	8	20	12	30	15	38	20	51	25	63
Lake Trout	12	30	20	50	26	65	31	80	39	100
Largemouth Bass	8	20	12	30	15	38	20	51	25	63
Muskellunge	20	51	30	76	38	97	42	107	50	127
Northern Pike	14	35	21	53	28	71	34	86	44	112
Pumpkinseed	3	8	6	15	8	20	10	25	12	30
Rainbow Trout	10	25	16	40	20	50	26	65	31	80
Rudd	6	15	10	25	12	30	15	38	19	48
Sauger	8	20	12	30	15	38	20	51	25	63
Smallmouth Bass	7	18	11	28	14	35	17	43	20	51
Walleye	10	25	15	38	20	51	25	63	30	76
White Bass	6	15	9	23	12	30	15	38	18	46
White Crappie	5	13	8	20	10	25	12	30	15	38
Yellow Bullhead	4	10	7	18	9	23	11	28	14	36
Yellow Perch	5	13	8	20	10	25	12	30	15	38

Catch Summary of Stock Length Fish

Catch per unit effort (CPUE), proportional size distribution (PSD), proportional size distribution of preferred length fish (PSD-P), and relative weight (Wr) for species sampled in survey with 80% confidence interval (CI-80).

*** Methods/Species that ignore stock length**

			Abundance		Stock Density Indices				Condition	
Gear	Species	Sample Size (n)	CPUE	CI-80	PSD	CI-80	PSD-P	CI-80	Wr	CI-80
AFS std gill net	Channel Catfish	16	1.6	0.6	94		81		91	4
	Common Carp	22	2.2	1.1	95		27	15	85	3
	Freshwater Drum	9	0.9	0.4	67		67		93	2
	Gizzard Shad	11	0.0	0.0	0					
	Northern Pike	3	0.3	0.3	100		67		89	4
	River Carpsucker	2	0.2	0.2	100		100		88	4
	Shorthead Redhorse	4	0.4	0.3	100		100		101	5
	Spottail Shiner	1	0.0	0.0						
	Walleye	46	4.3	1.8	74	10	0		78	1
	White Bass	67	6.7	2.8	100		97		84	1
	Yellow Perch	19	1.9	0.6	11		5		92	3

10-Year Catch Per Unit Effort by Gear and Species

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) and average (Avg) of species across 10 years using different gear types.

*** Methods/Species that ignore stock length**

		CPUE										
Gear	Species	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Avg
AFS gill net (1/2 inch)*	Black Crappie									0.3	0.3	0.28
	Channel Catfish									0.0	0.8	0.38
	Common Carp									0.5	0.0	0.25
	Gizzard Shad									2.3	1.5	1.90
	Northern Pike									0.0	0.3	0.13
	Spottail Shiner									0.5	1.8	1.13
	Walleye									0.3	0.3	0.28
	White Crappie									0.3	0.0	0.15
	Yellow Perch									1.3	0.0	0.65
AFS std gill net	Black Crappie							0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.08
	Channel Catfish							4.1	2.6	0.3	1.6	2.15
	Common Carp							0.6	0.7	1.6	2.2	1.28
	Freshwater Drum							1.0	1.4	0.7	0.9	1.00
	Gizzard Shad							0.2	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.38
	Northern Pike							0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.13
	River Carpsucker							0.6	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.45
	Shorthead Redhorse							0.8	0.3	2.4	0.4	0.98
	Smallmouth Bass							0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.15
	Spottail Shiner							0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
	Walleye							12.7	9.2	5.9	4.3	8.03
	White Bass							1.3	2.9	6.3	6.7	4.30
	White Crappie							0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.05
	Yellow Perch							1.3	1.7	0.3	1.9	1.30
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0						0.02
	Black Crappie	0.7	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.0						0.80
	Channel Catfish	15.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1						3.10
	Common Carp	9.9	0.0	1.4	6.1	1.3						3.74
	Freshwater Drum	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						0.02
	Gizzard Shad	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0						0.10
	Green Sunfish	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0						0.06
	Northern Pike	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						0.00
	Rainbow Trout	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0						0.02
	River Carpsucker	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.0						0.52
	Rudd	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0						0.04

		CPUE										
Gear	Species	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Avg
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Shorthead Redhorse	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0						0.18
	Smallmouth Bass	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0						0.02
	Walleye	1.4	1.3	1.3	2.0	1.5						1.50
	White Bass	2.0	0.3	1.7	11.0	1.8						3.36
	White Crappie	2.1	3.8	19.8	16.9	15.0						11.52
	Yellow Perch	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.1						0.20
std exp gill net	Black Crappie	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5					0.08
	Channel Catfish	2.9	4.0	3.8	1.8	3.3	4.0					3.30
	Common Carp	0.9	1.1	1.4	0.3	0.7	1.0					0.90
	Freshwater Drum	0.5	0.9	1.4	2.0	0.2	0.3					0.88
	Gizzard Shad	0.0	2.4	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.3					0.63
	Northern Pike	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					0.07
	River Carpsucker	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.8					0.42
	Shorthead Redhorse	1.1	0.7	3.0	0.8	0.7	0.5					1.13
	Smallmouth Bass	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.0					0.73
	Spottail Shiner	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					0.00
	Walleye	8.0	16.3	24.6	8.5	20.3	23.0					16.78
	White Bass	1.1	2.1	3.4	3.5	6.7	5.8					3.77
	White Crappie	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2					0.17
	White Sucker	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0					0.03
	Yellow Perch	7.3	8.6	3.4	3.2	9.5	14.8					7.80

10-Year Size Structure and Condition Statistics by Gear and Species

Species proportional size distribution (PSD), proportional size distribution of preferred length fish (PSD-P), and relative weight (Wr) collected by different gear types across 10 years.

			Year									
Gear	Species	Index	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
AFS std gill net	Black Crappie	PSD							100	100		
		PSD-P							0	50		
		Wr							123	110		
	Channel Catfish	PSD							97	100	100	94
		PSD-P							30	31	100	81
		Wr							86	92	93	91
	Common Carp	PSD							100	100	100	95
		PSD-P							0	0	14	27
		Wr							93	87	84	85
	Gizzard Shad	PSD							100	100	100	0
		Wr							106	99	96	
	Walleye	PSD							56	55	53	74
		PSD-P							0	0	0	0
		Wr							83	81	78	78
	White Bass	PSD							100	100	98	100
		PSD-P							100	100	95	97
		Wr							94	95	86	84
	White Crappie	PSD							100			
		PSD-P							100			
		Wr							104			
	Yellow Perch	PSD							67	59	67	11
		PSD-P							17	12	0	5
		Wr							91	96	94	92
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Crappie	PSD	100	92	100	100						
		PSD-P	71	83	80	83						
		Wr	98	99	90	98						
	Channel Catfish	PSD	98	100	100	100	100					
		PSD-P	3	0	0	0	0					
		Wr	88	84	81	89	80					
	Common Carp	PSD	100		100	100	100					
		PSD-P	36		50	33	50					
		Wr			88	80	87					
	Gizzard Shad	PSD			100	100						

			Year									
Gear	Species	Index	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Gizzard Shad	Wr			116	86						
	Walleye	PSD	100	90	100	100	100					
		PSD-P	44	0	31	63	58					
		Wr	73	88	74	74	70					
	White Bass	PSD	100	100	100	99	100					
		PSD-P	100	100	100	99	57					
		Wr	89	80	87	96	96					
	White Crappie	PSD	100	100	100	100	100					
		PSD-P	46	100	99	100	100					
		Wr	99	86	93	98	98					
	Yellow Perch	PSD		25		67	100					
		PSD-P		0		67	0					
		Wr		92		67	82					
std exp gill net	Black Crappie	PSD						67				
		PSD-P						0				
		Wr						129				
	Channel Catfish	PSD	87	96	84	100	90	96				
		PSD-P	13	7	5	36	40	29				
		Wr	86	87	90	89	96	87				
	Common Carp	PSD	86	100	100	50	25	67				
		PSD-P	14	13	29	0	0	0				
		Wr	80	88	84	84	95	80				
	Gizzard Shad	PSD		6	100	100		100				
		Wr		117	117	96		102				
	Walleye	PSD	50	44	44	76	18	20				
		PSD-P	3	1	1	10	1	0				
		Wr	77	78	85	81	84	81				
	White Bass	PSD	100	80	100	81	100	100				
		PSD-P	100	80	82	52	100	100				
		Wr	84	85	101	96	103	94				
	White Crappie	PSD	100	100				100				
		PSD-P	67	100				100				
		Wr	93	89				91				
	Yellow Perch	PSD	81	55	76	58	16	29				
		PSD-P	9	10	6	5	2	1				
		Wr	97	94	97	86	90	85				

Length at Capture

Mean length at capture by age across years sampled, sample size (N).

Species: Black Crappie

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2012	24		138 (2)		254 (6)	299 (16)					

Species: Walleye

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2020	46	219 (3)	305 (7)	383 (15)	425 (10)	439 (7)	446 (4)				
2019	53	224 (4)	319 (15)	381 (11)	403 (7)	436 (4)	453 (12)				
2018	102	243 (16)	340 (29)	384 (13)	403 (15)	425 (25)	462 (1)		462 (2)	453 (1)	
2017	126	241 (21)	321 (15)	363 (23)	401 (62)	441 (3)			494 (1)		494 (2)
2016	292	241 (26)	318 (75)	365 (174)	397 (4)	437 (13)					
2015	252	226 (8)	310 (200)	393 (2)	440 (21)	435 (9)	441 (2)		473 (7)	525 (2)	
2014	196	217 (102)	331 (8)	390 (36)	413 (4)	466 (17)	476 (11)	538 (6)	513 (4)		482 (9)
2013	242	201 (2)	290 (75)	355 (20)	381 (63)	402 (39)	446 (8)	465 (24)	424 (2)		461 (10)
2012	238	196 (10)	287 (21)	331 (47)	373 (106)	463 (4)	462 (35)			453 (7)	465 (8)
2011	124		259 (10)	312 (54)	417 (9)	440 (30)	404 (3)		488 (12)	473 (2)	504 (4)

Species: White Crappie

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2012	60				275 (58)	332 (2)					
2011	52			240 (36)	286 (4)	324 (12)					

Species: Yellow Perch

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2011	128	120 (16)	170 (12)	208 (39)	234 (56)	234 (5)					

Fish Condition

Mean relative weight (Wr) by sample size (N), length category stock to quality (S-Q), quality to preferred (Q-P), preferred to memorable (P-M), and memorable (M) for species collected across survey years with standard error (SE).

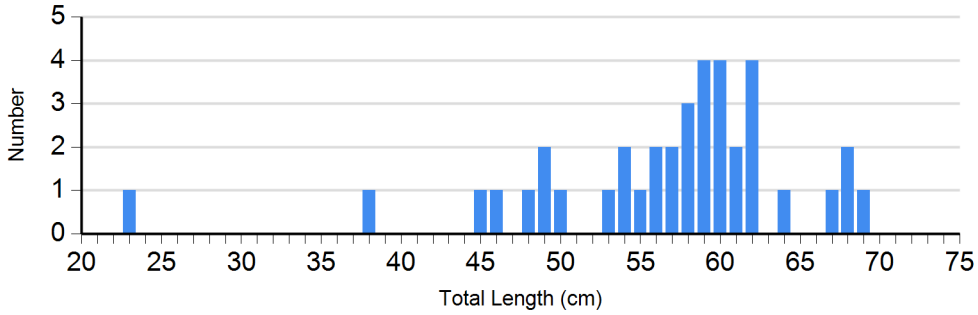
		Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
Species	Year	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Channel Catfish Gill Net	2016	2	86 (0.0)	32	86 (1.7)	14	89 (5.2)	0	
	2017	1	75	25	85 (1.3)	11	90 (2.5)	0	
	2018	0		18	91 (1.7)	8	95 (1.5)	0	
	2019	0		0		3	93 (5.4)	0	
	2020	1	86	2	72 (12.3)	9	94 (2.7)	4	97 (3.3)
Common Carp Gill Net	2016	4		8	80 (0.0)	0		0	
	2017	0		5	93 (1.1)	0		0	
	2018	0		7	87 (2.0)	0		0	
	2019	0		12	85 (2.1)	2	81 (1.4)	0	
	2020	1	89	15	87 (2.5)	6	80 (3.5)	0	
Walleye Gill Net	2016	222	82 (0.3)	54	79 (0.7)	0		0	
	2017	50	87 (1.1)	64	80 (0.6)	0		0	
	2018	41	84 (0.8)	51	79 (0.8)	0		0	
	2019	25	78 (0.7)	28	77 (0.9)	0		0	
	2020	11	82 (2.3)	32	77 (0.8)	0		0	
White Bass Gill Net	2016	0		0		50	97 (0.6)	20	88 (1.8)
	2017	0		0		8	97 (1.3)	4	89 (1.4)
	2018	0		0		14	96 (1.5)	15	93 (1.4)
	2019	1	99	2	108 (3.2)	38	87 (0.7)	16	81 (1.5)
	2020	0		2	101 (4.0)	39	87 (1.1)	26	79 (1.3)
Yellow Perch Gill Net	2016	126	87 (0.6)	50	82 (0.7)	2		0	
	2017	4	96 (0.2)	6	90 (2.2)	1	94	1	83

		Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
Species	Year	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Yellow Perch Gill Net	2018	7	96 (2.8)	8	98 (2.6)	2	93 (2.3)	0	
	2019	1	100	2	90 (3.9)	0		0	
	2020	17	93 (2.1)	1	84	1	79	0	

Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

Species: Channel Catfish
Gear: AFS std gill net



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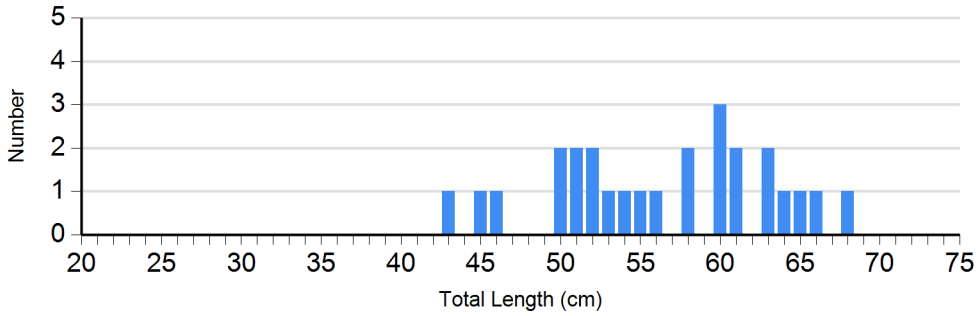

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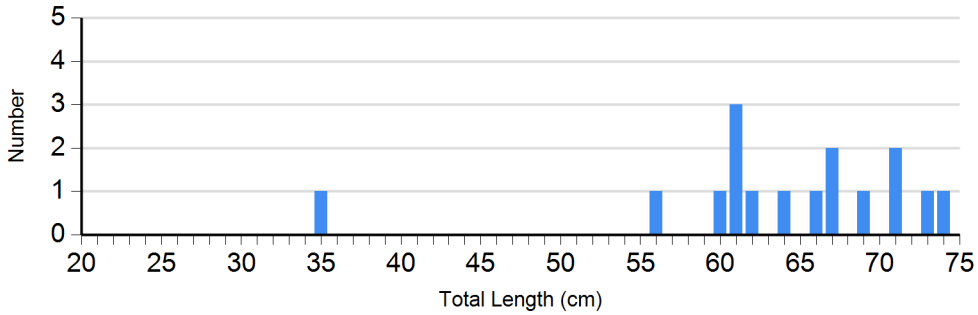
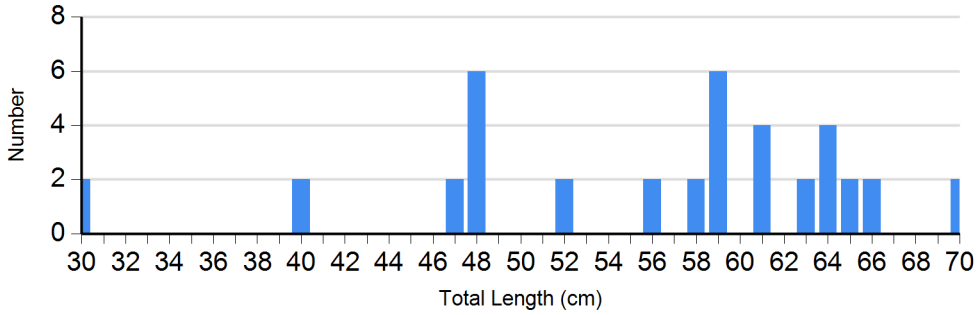


2020

Species: Channel Catfish
Gear: std exp gill net



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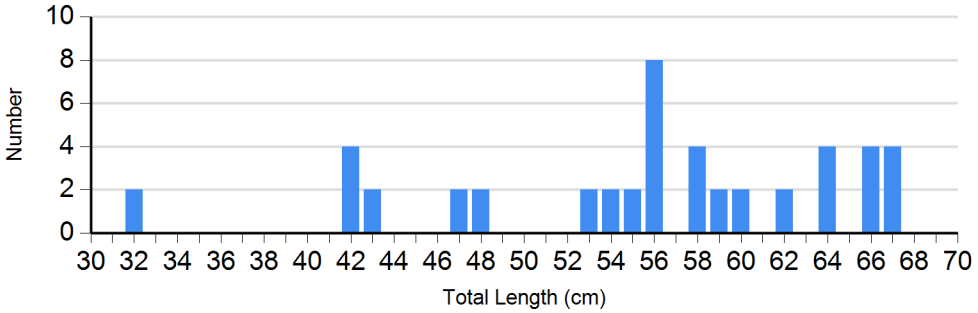
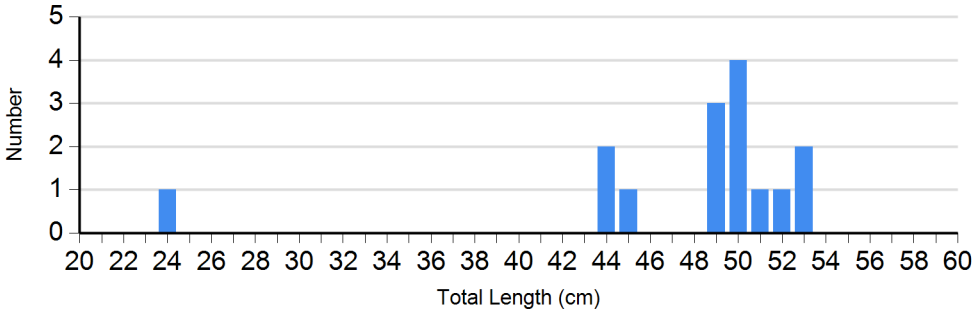
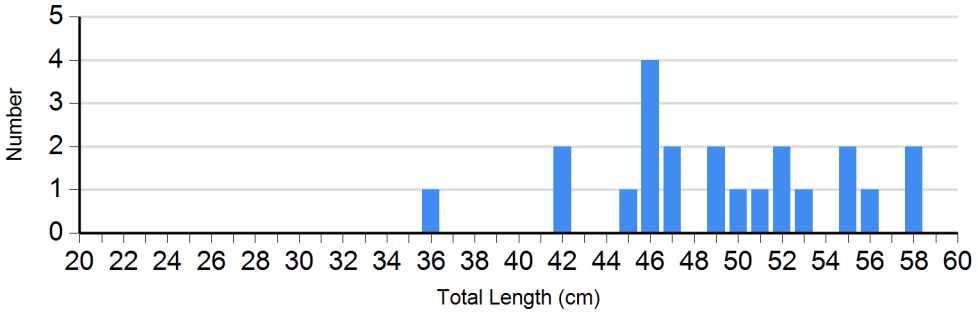


2016

Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net

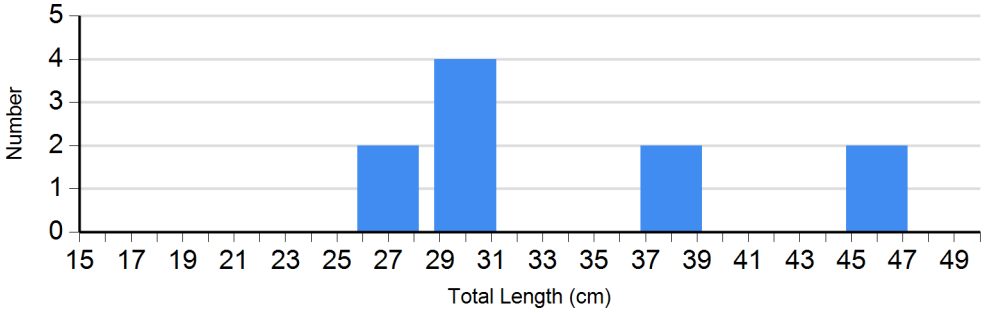


2019

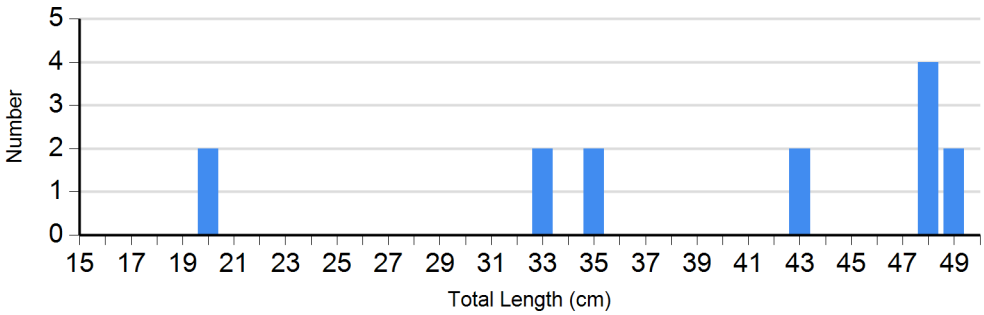


2020

Species: Common Carp
Gear: std exp gill net

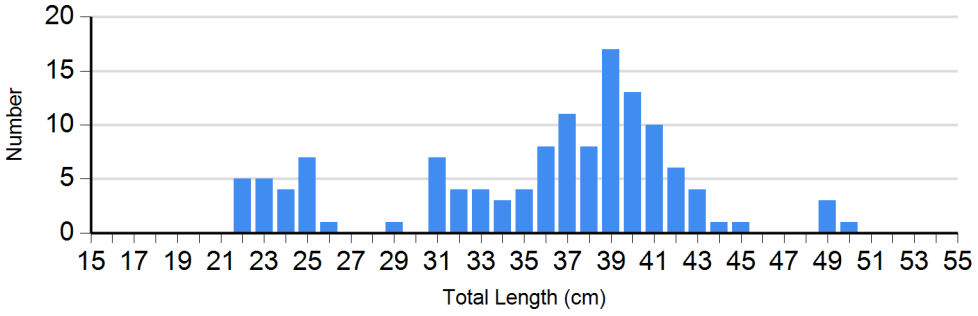


2015

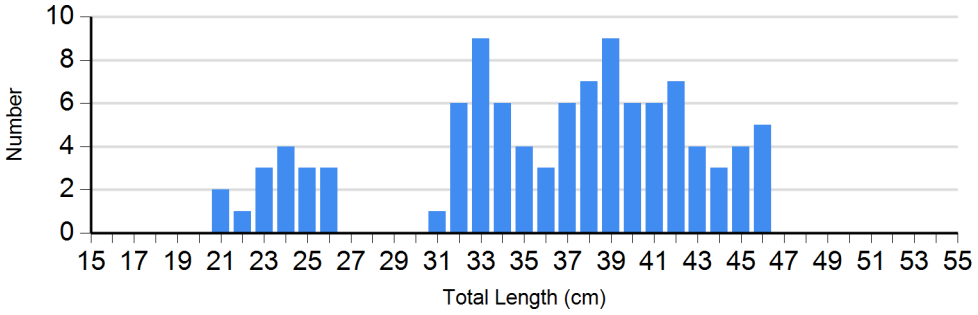


2016

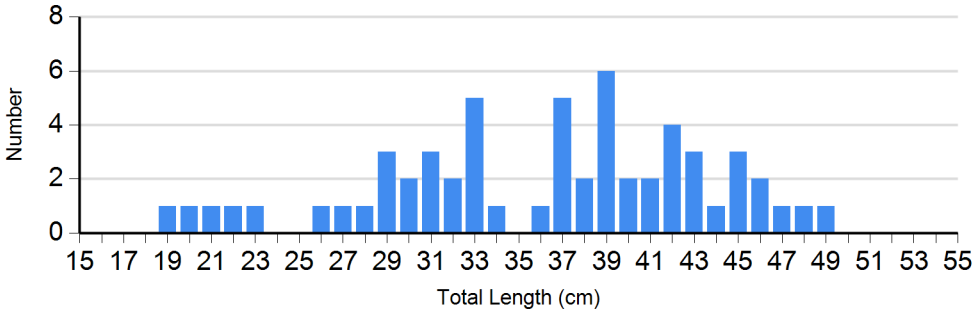
Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



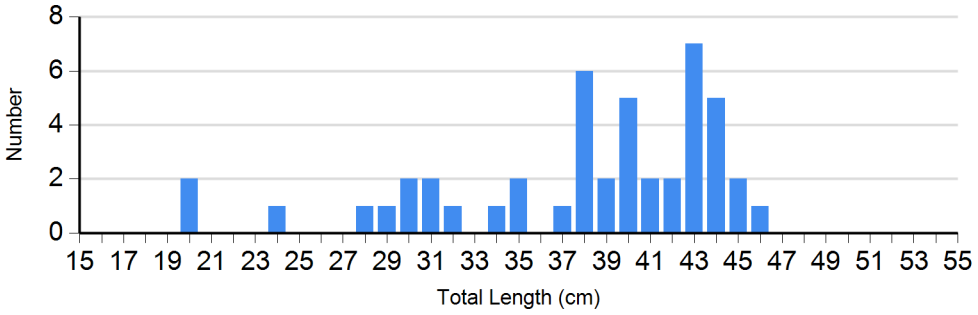
2017



2018

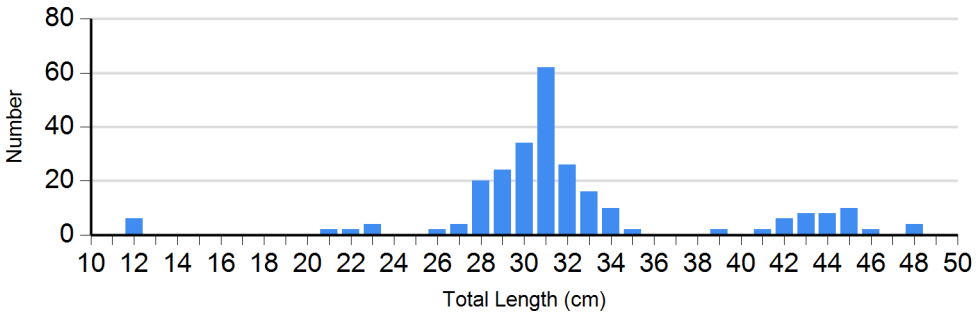


2019

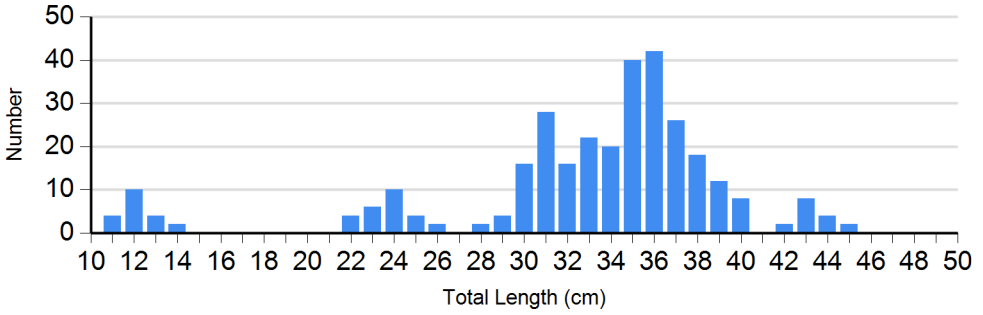


2020

Species: Walleye
Gear: std exp gill net

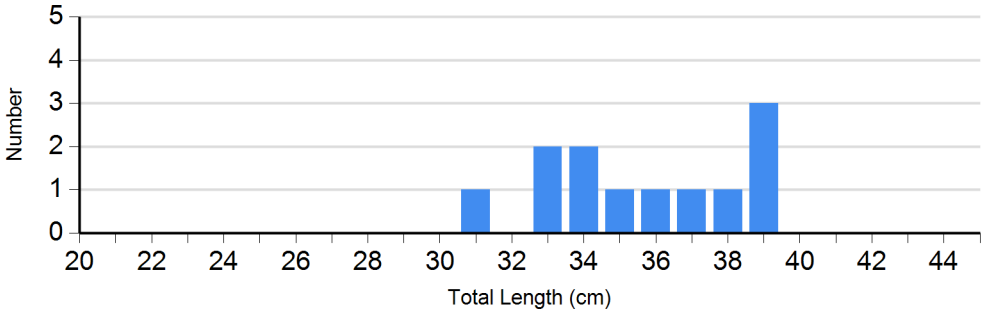


2015

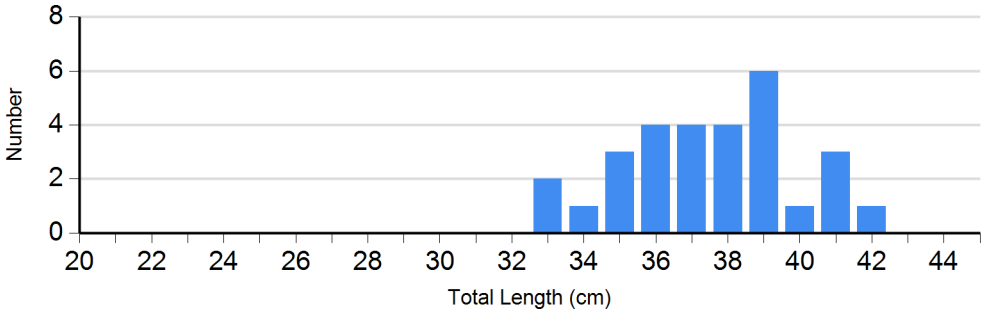


2016

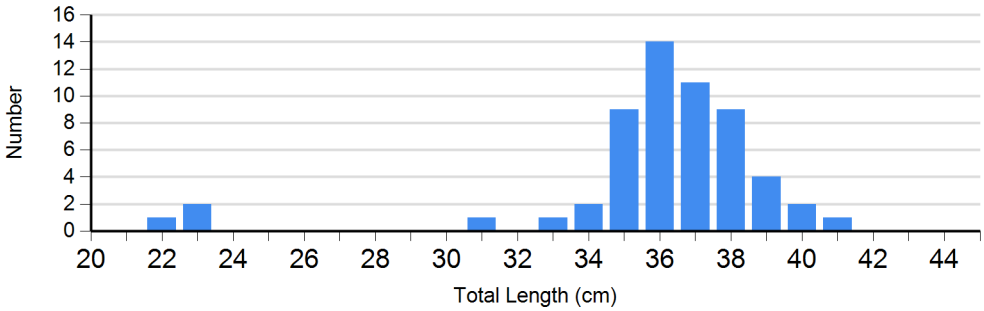
Species: White Bass
Gear: AFS std gill net



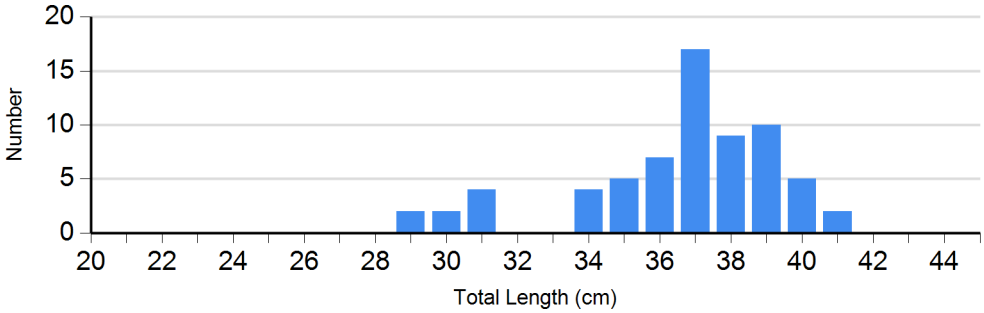
2017



2018

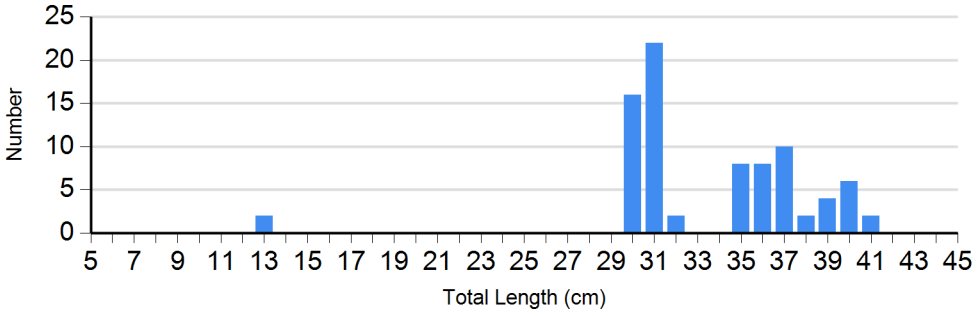


2019

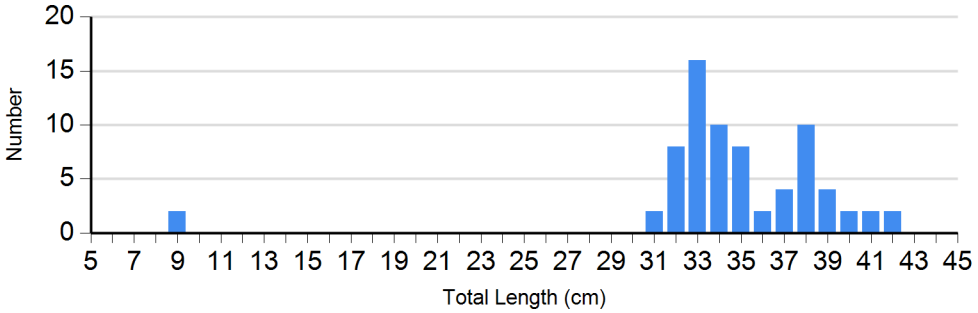


2020

Species: White Bass
Gear: std exp gill net

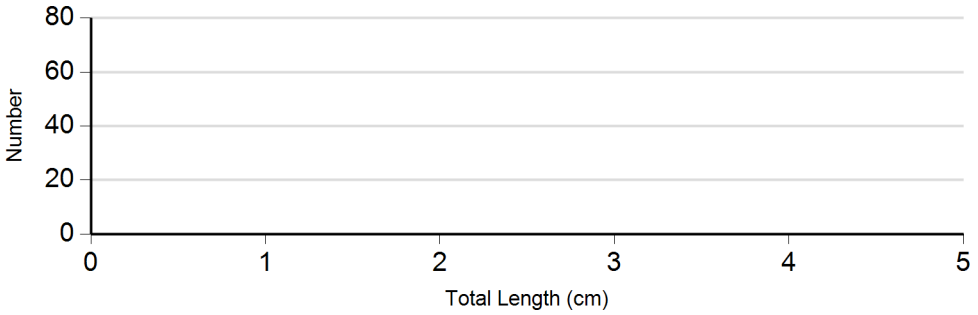


2015



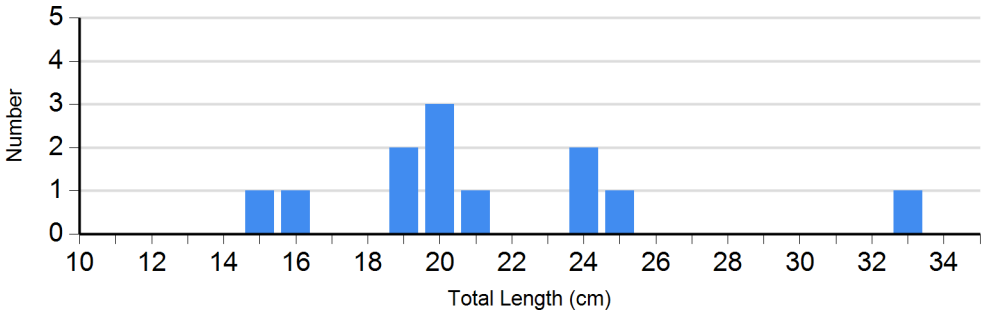
2016

Species: White Crappie
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)

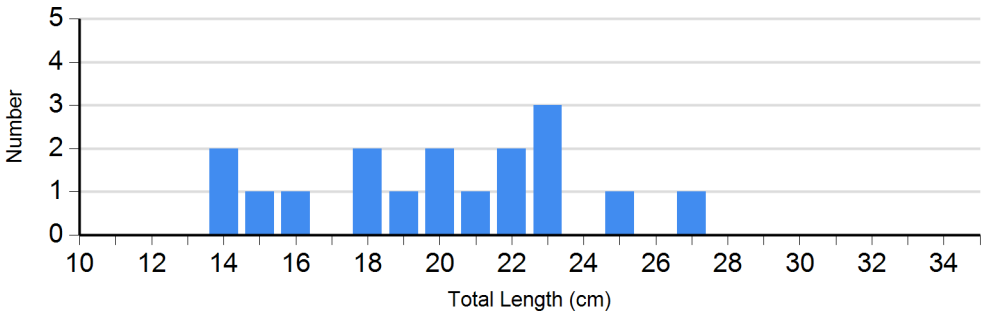


2015

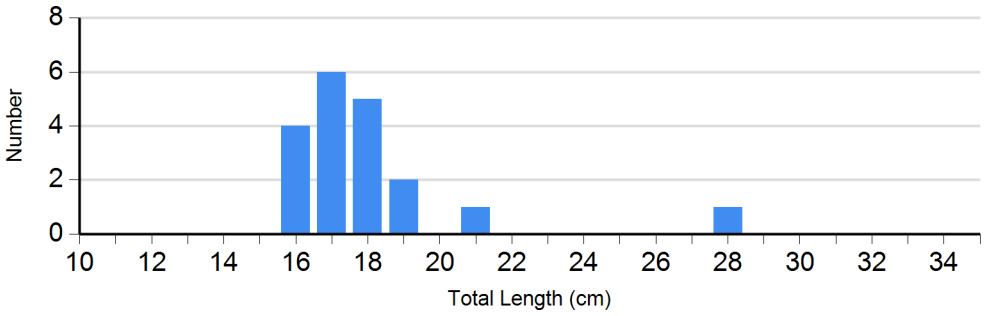
Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net



2017

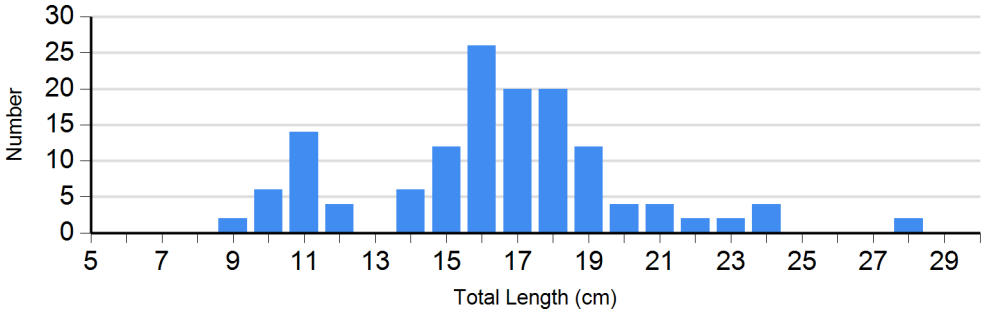


2018

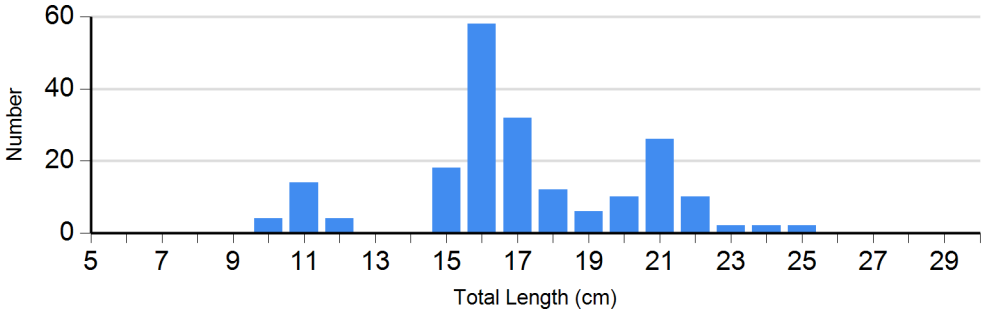


2020

Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: std exp gill net



2015

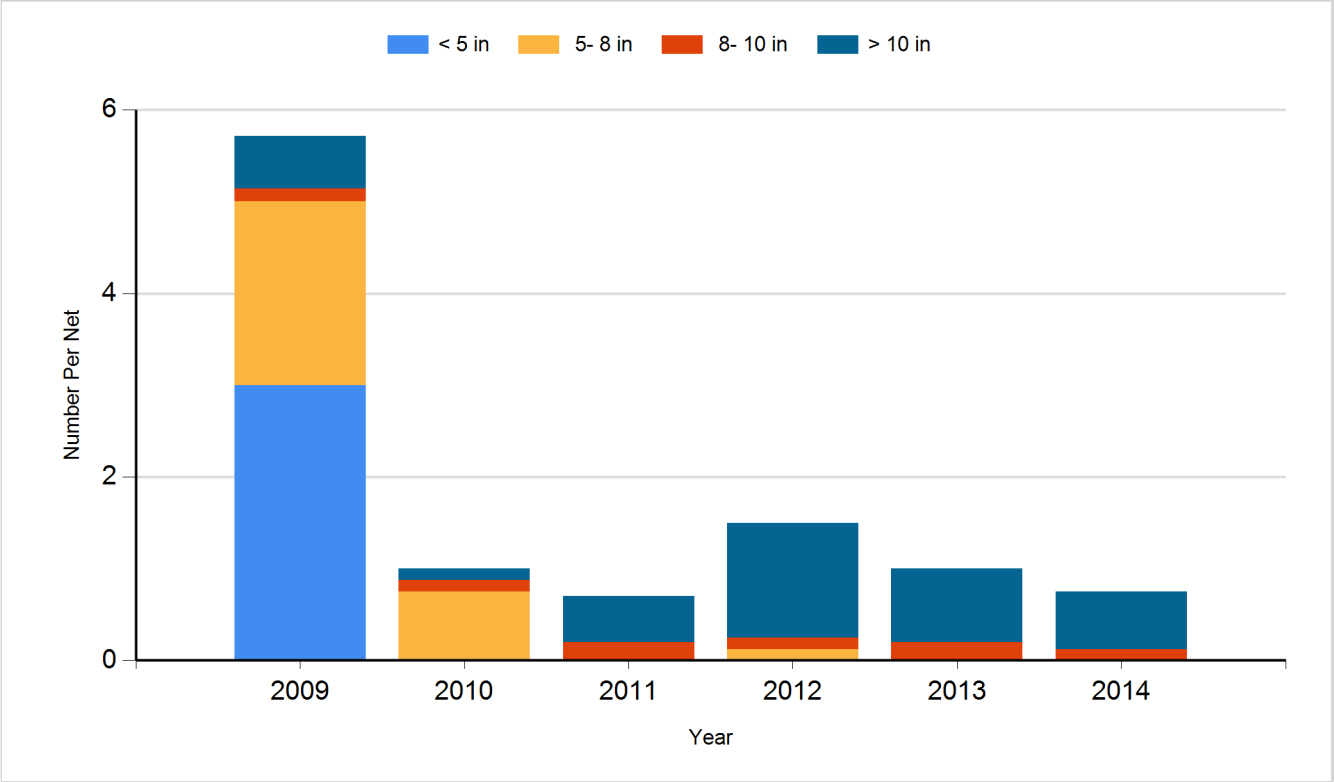


2016

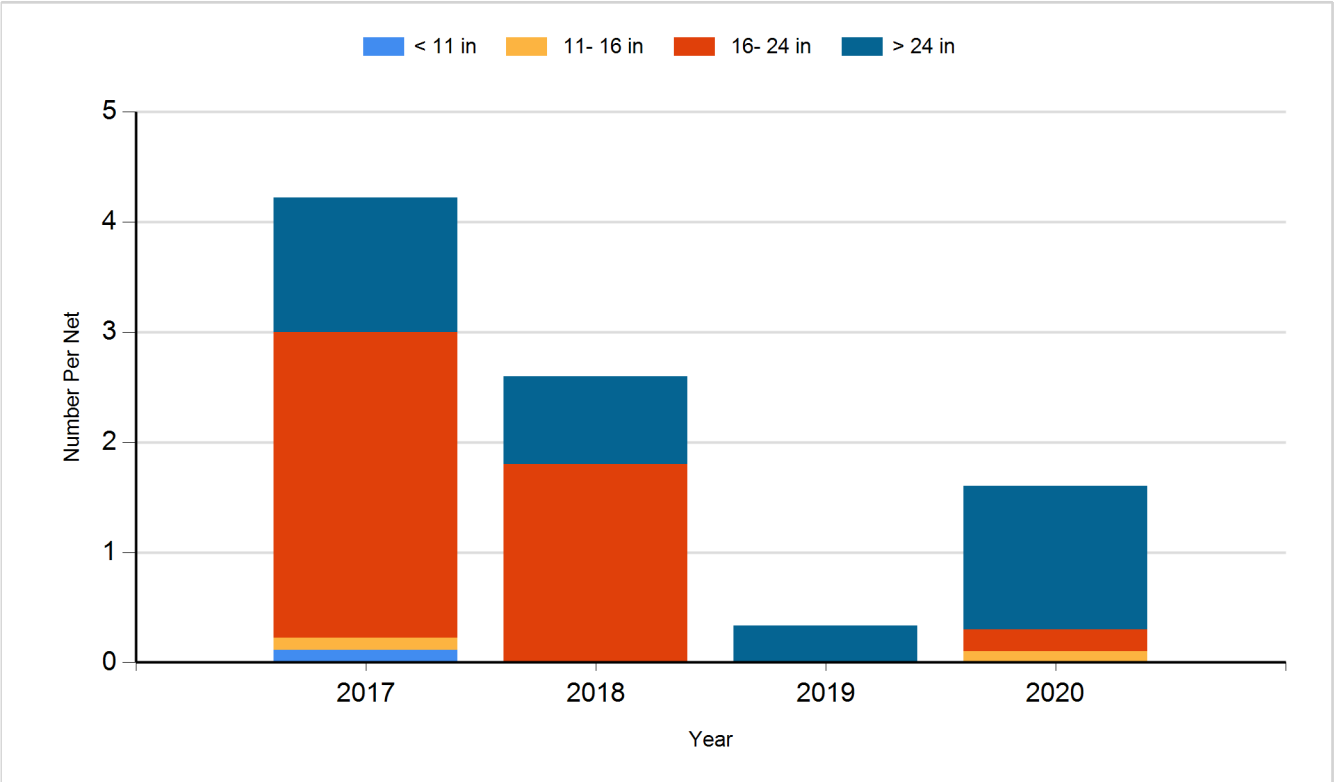
Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

Size distribution per net by color for species sampled by year.

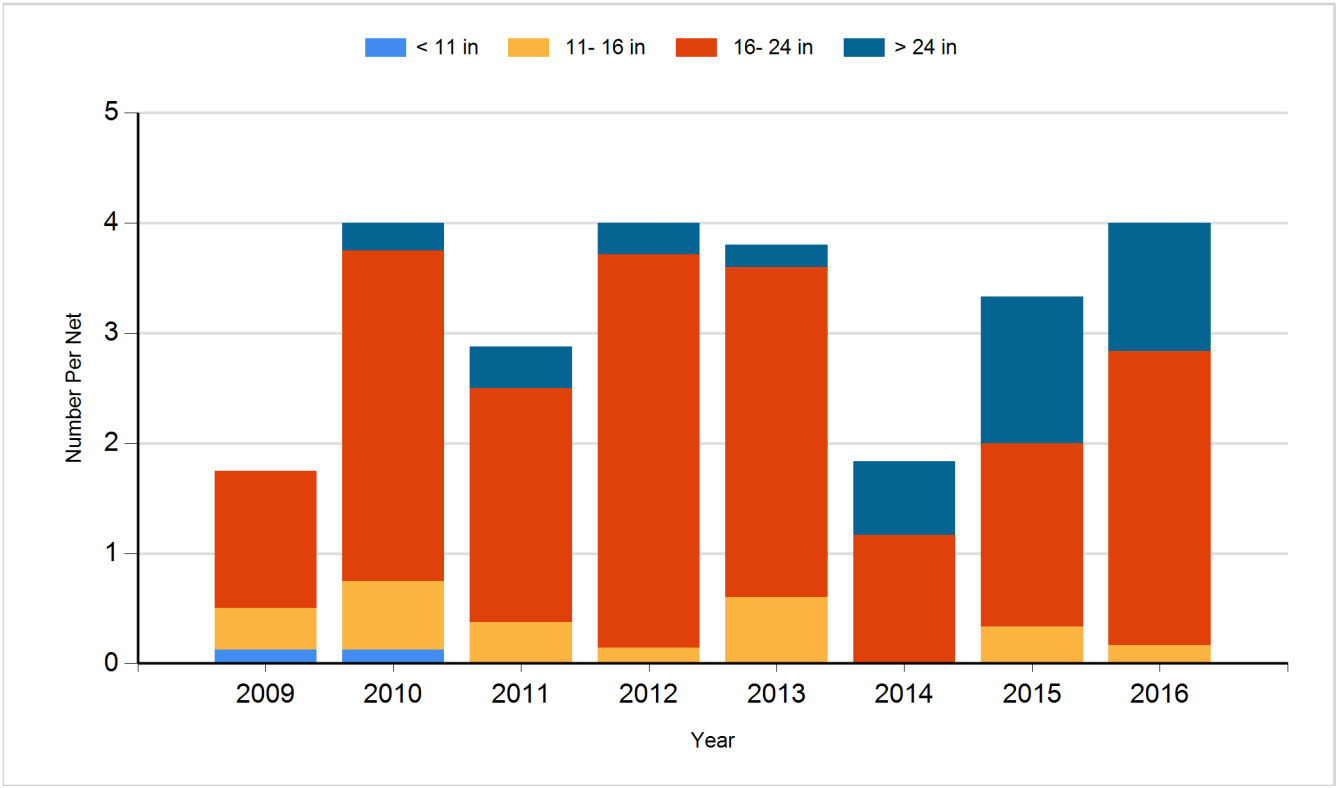
Species: Black Crappie
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)



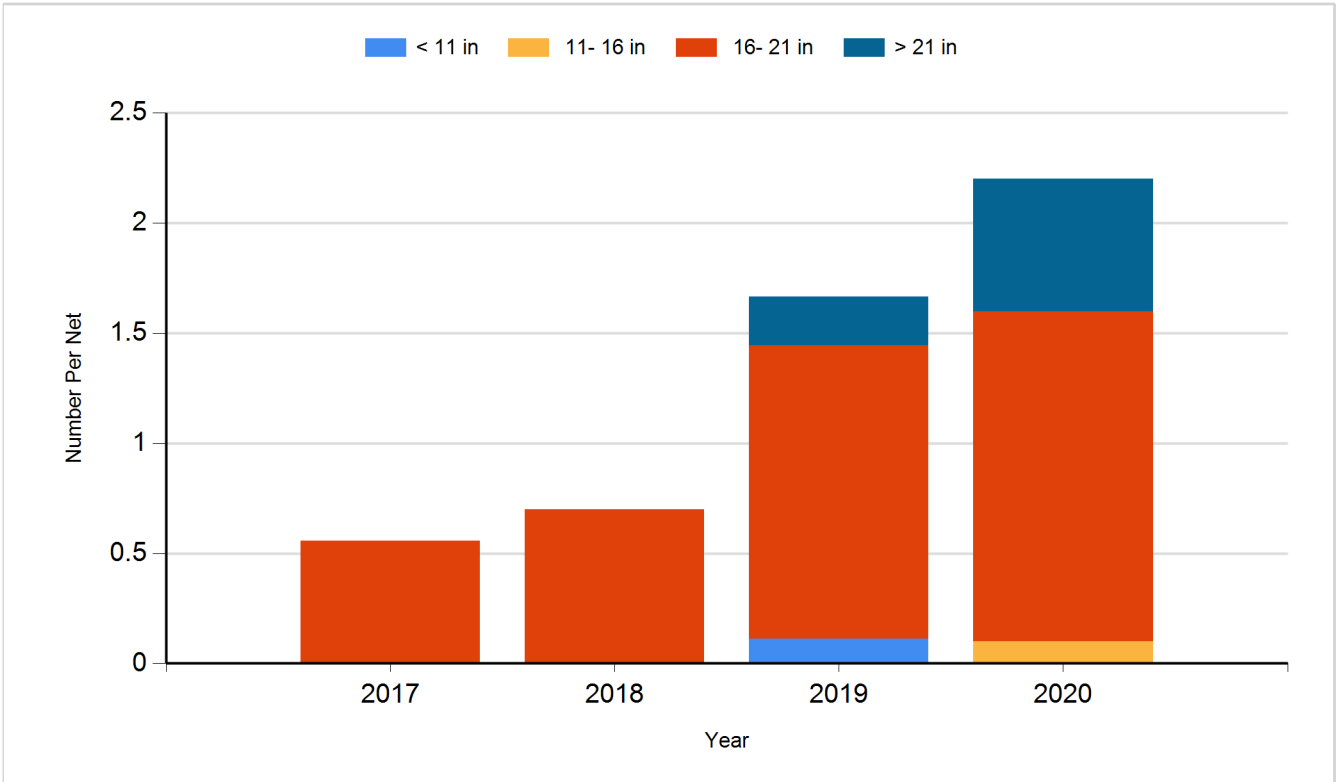
Species: Channel Catfish
Gear: AFS std gill net



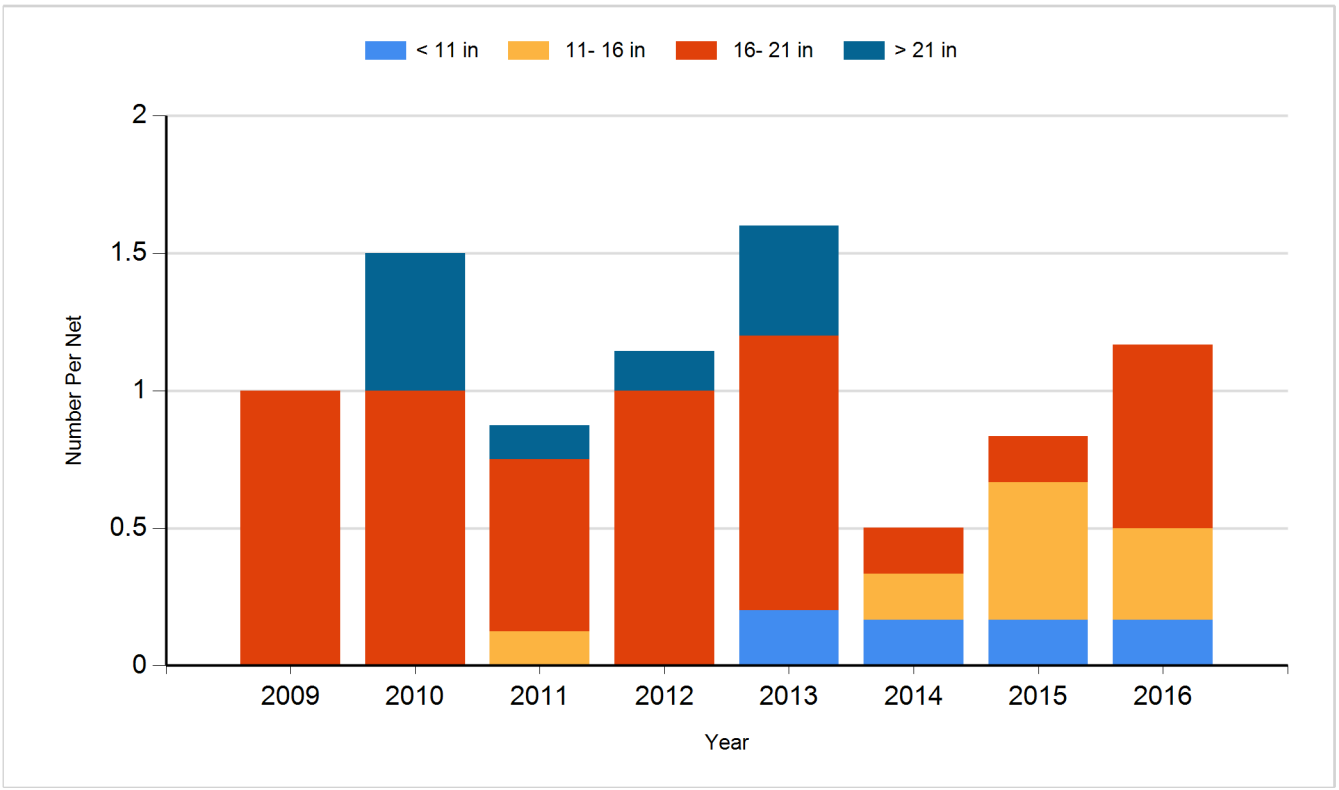
Species: Channel Catfish
Gear: std exp gill net



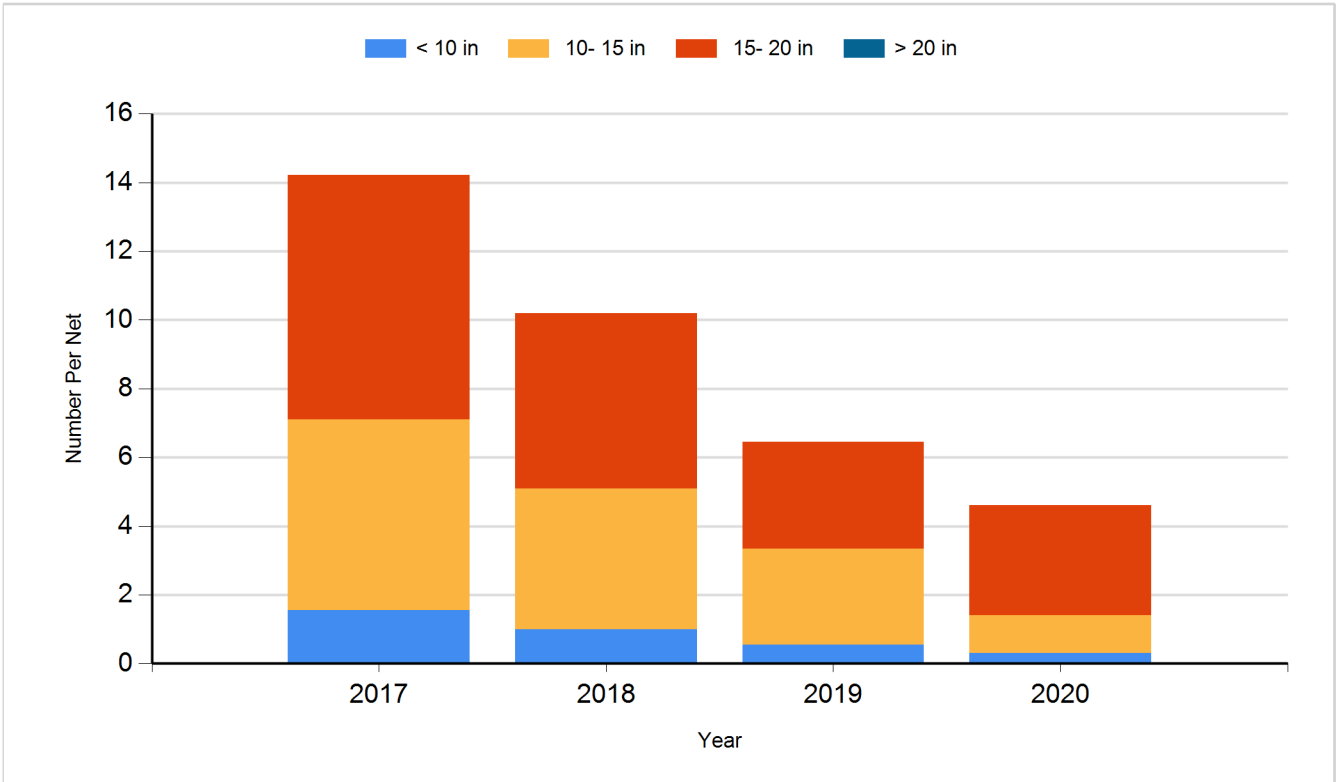
Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net



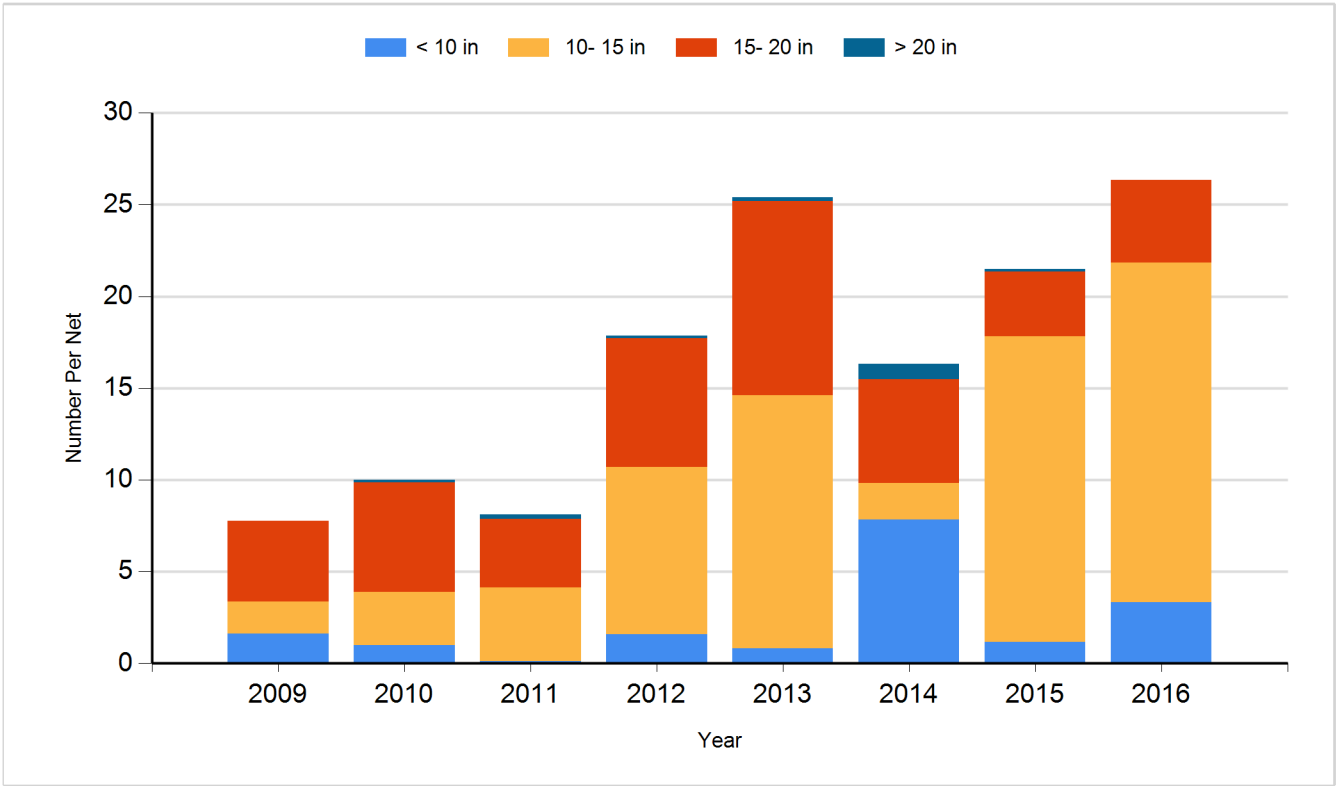
Species: Common Carp
Gear: std exp gill net



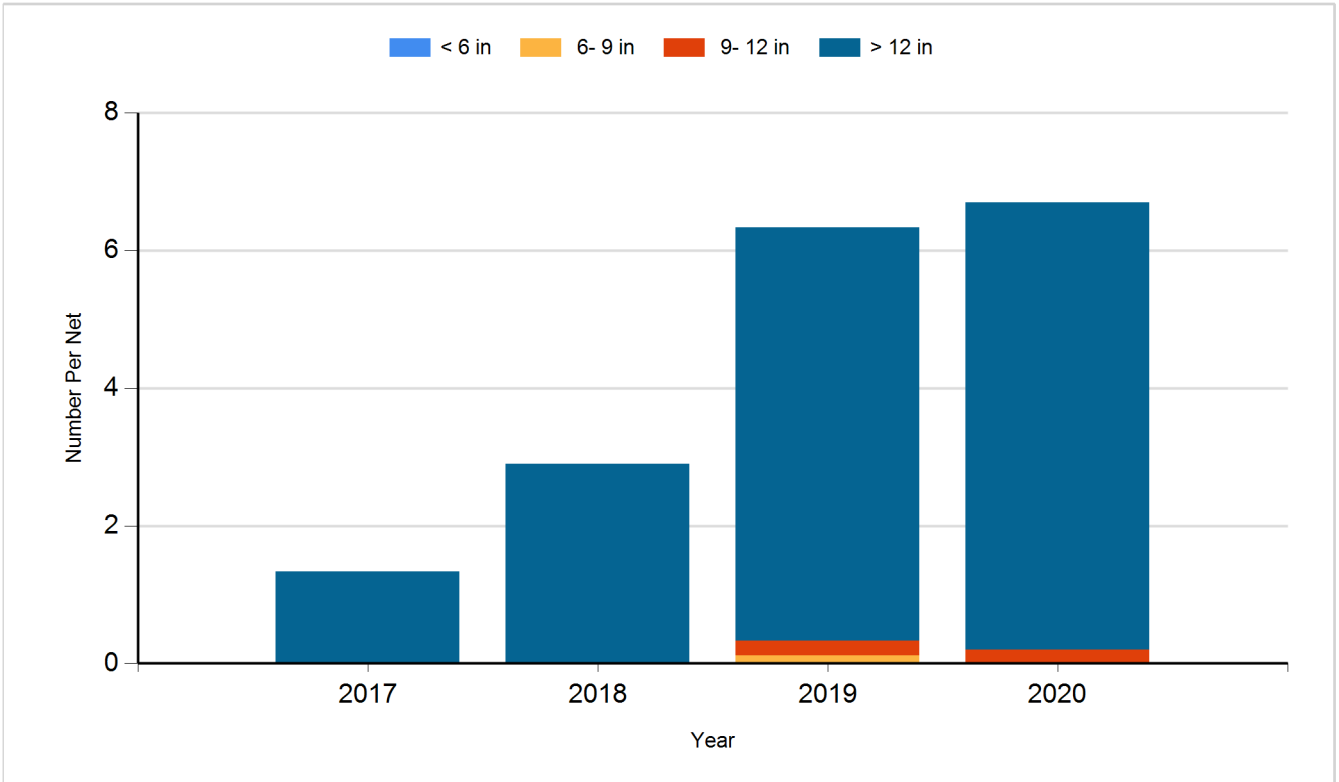
Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



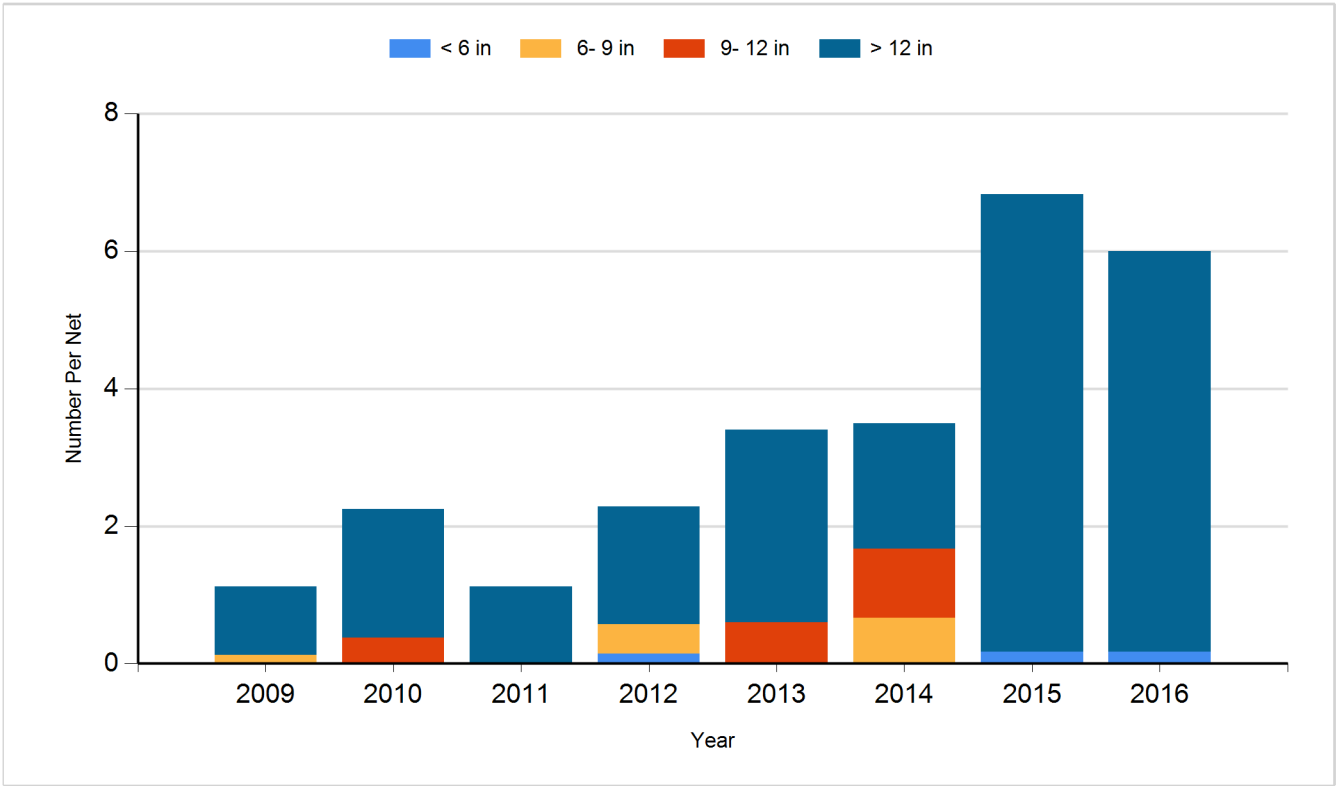
Species: Walleye
Gear: std exp gill net



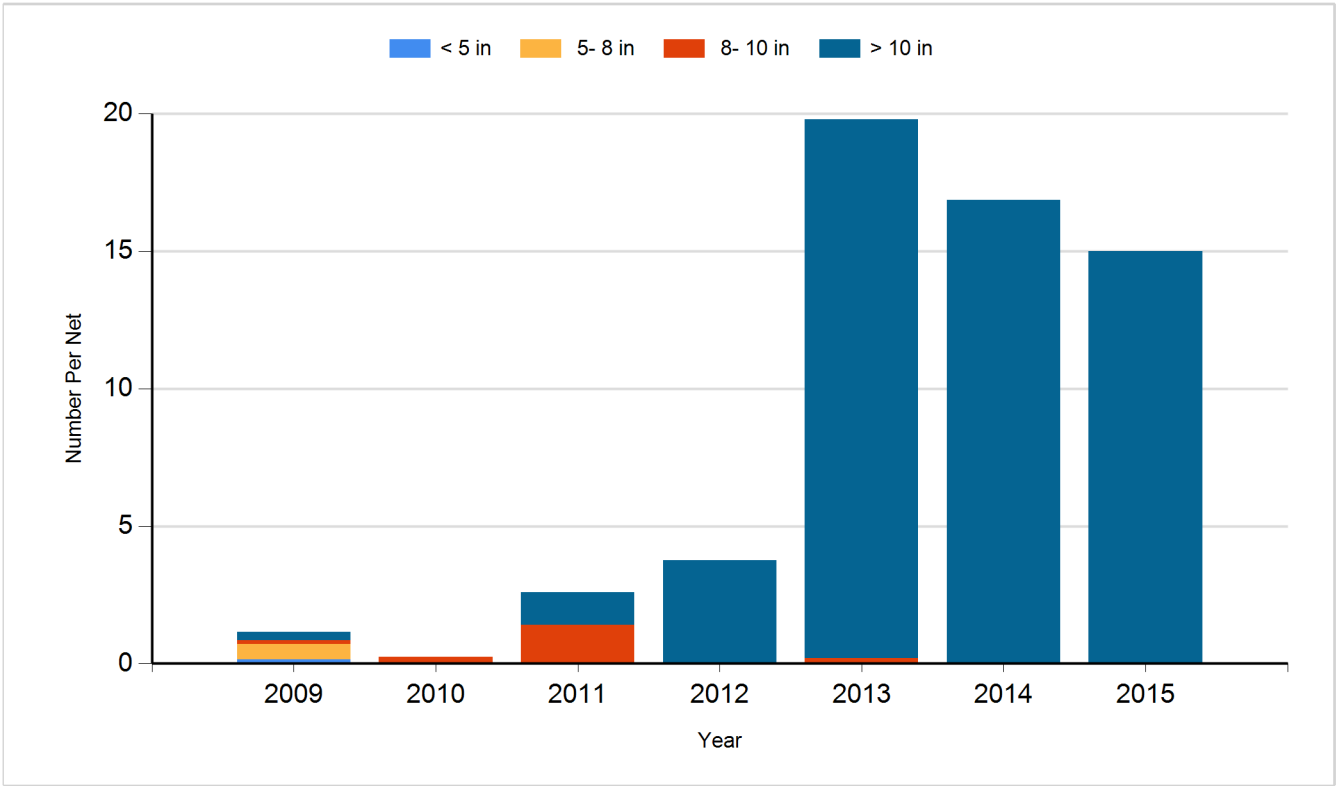
Species: White Bass
Gear: AFS std gill net



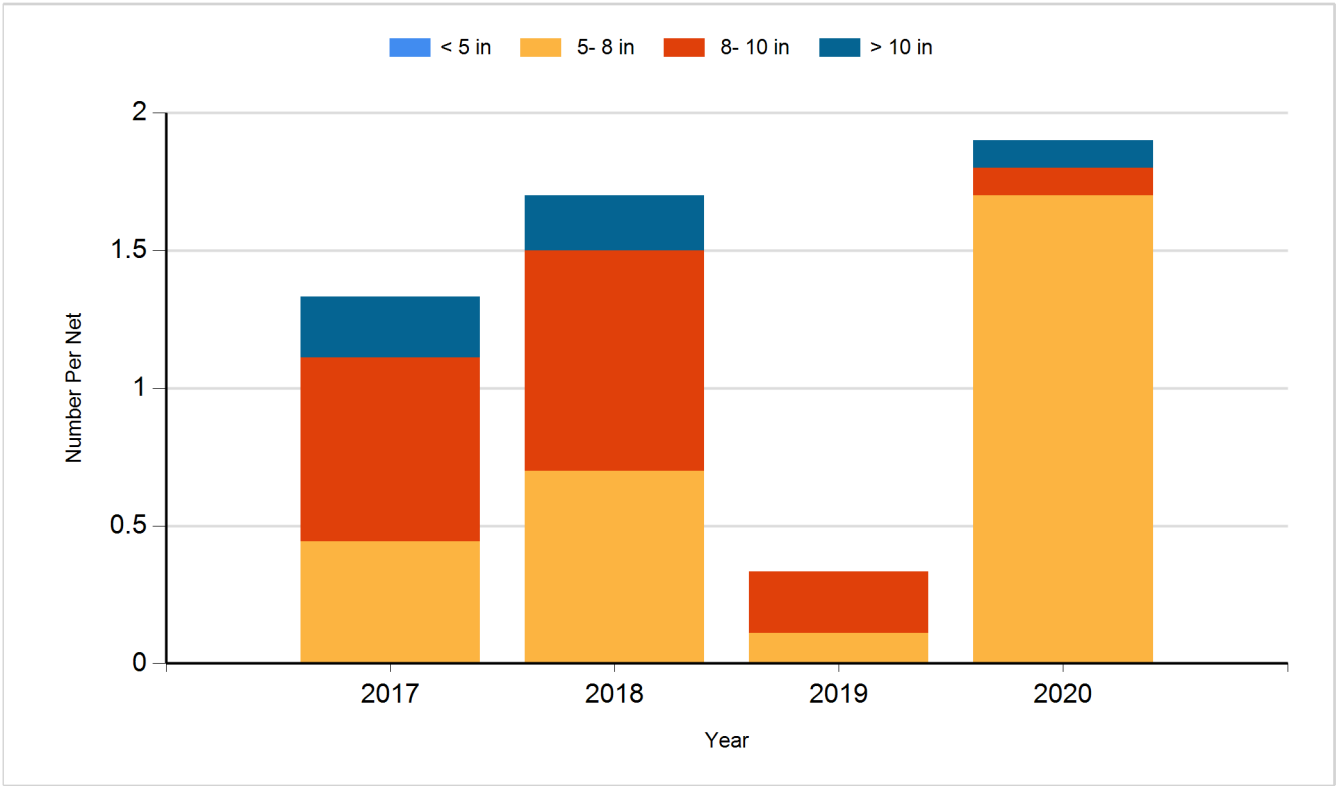
Species: White Bass
Gear: std exp gill net



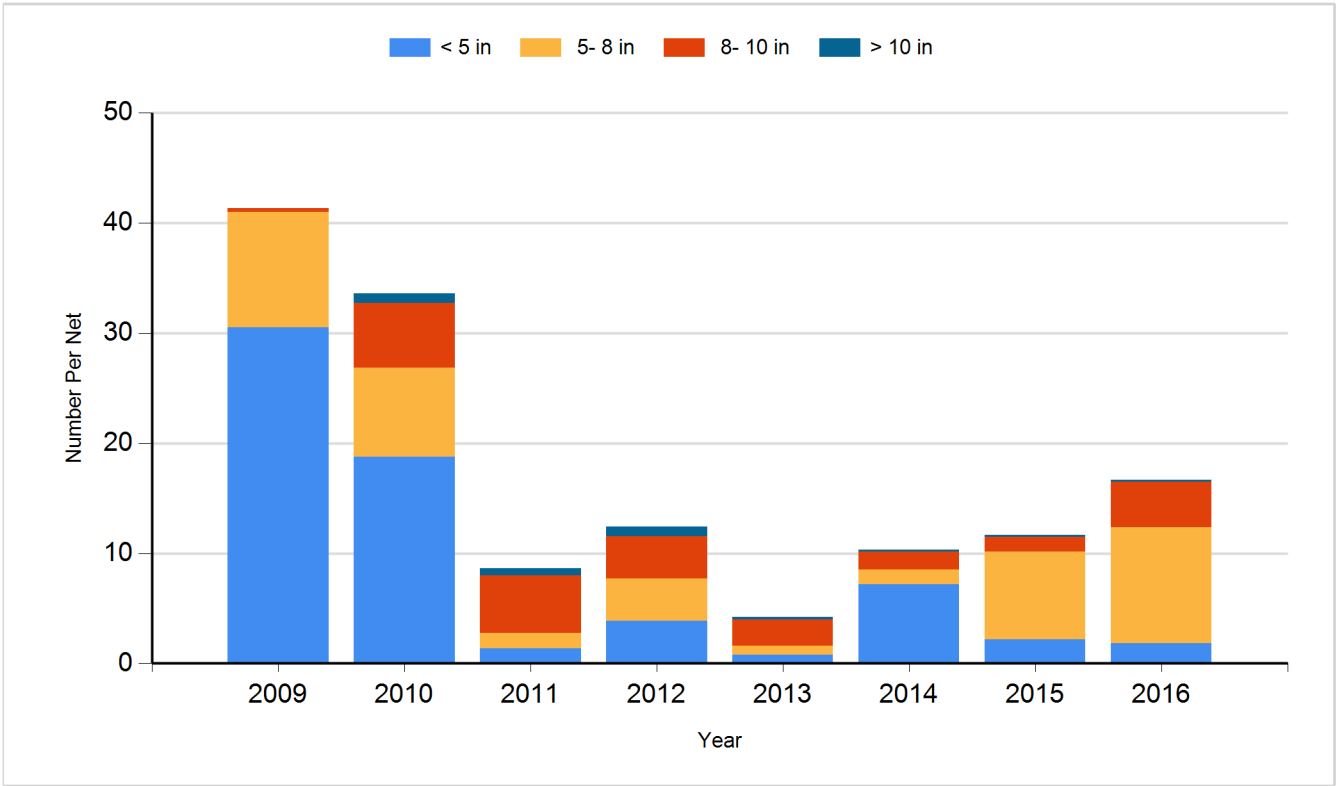
Species: White Crappie
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)



Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net



Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: std exp gill net



Fish Stocking

Number of fish stocked by year, species, and size.

Year	Species	Size	Number
2009	Gizzard Shad	Adult	74
2010	Gizzard Shad	Adult	18
2010	Walleye	Fingerling	415,406
2011	Gizzard Shad	Adult	175
2012	Gizzard Shad	Adult	37
2012	Yellow Perch	Adult	2,507
2013	Bluegill	Adult	660
2013	Gizzard Shad	Adult	111
2014	Gizzard Shad	Adult	220
2014	Yellow Perch	Adult	2,150
2015	Yellow Perch	Adult	1,600
2019	Yellow Perch	Adult	1,050