SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
Belle Fourche Reservoir, Butte County
LBF-Lake-768-000
2021

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 std gill net	Aug 17, 2021	5 net-nights
AFS std gill net	Aug 18, 2021	5 net-nights

Common Fish Species Present

Channel Catfish

Black Crappie

Gizzard Shad

Walleye

White Crappie

White Bass

Yellow Perch

Common Carp

Smallmouth Bass

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	21	2.1	0.9	95		62	17	89	2
	Common Carp	22	2.2	0.8	91		9		80	2
	Freshwater Drum	5	0.4	0.4	100		75		86	3
	Gizzard Shad	8	0.0	0.0	0					
	Northern Pike	2	0.2	0.2	100		50		83	6
	River Carpsucker	2	0.2	0.2	100		100		110	
	Shorthead Redhorse	2	0.2	0.2	100		50		95	6
	Smallmouth Bass	6	0.6	0.4	100		17		92	3
	Walleye	64	6.3	2.0	81	7	3		76	1
	White Bass	50	5.0	3.0	100		100		87	1
	White Crappie	1	0.1	0.1	100		100		94	
	Yellow Perch	24	2.4	1.3	83		25	14	90	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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	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	0.0	0.06
	Channel Catfish						4.1	2.6	0.3	1.6	2.1	2.14
	Common Carp						0.6	0.7	1.6	2.2	2.2	1.46
	Freshwater Drum						1.0	1.4	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.88
	Gizzard Shad						0.2	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.30
	Northern Pike						0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.14
	River Carpsucker						0.6	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.40
	Shorthead Redhorse						0.8	0.3	2.4	0.4	0.2	0.82
	Smallmouth Bass						0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.24
	Spottail Shiner						0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
	Walleye						12.7	9.2	5.9	4.3	6.3	7.68
	White Bass						1.3	2.9	6.3	6.7	5.0	4.44
	White Crappie						0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.06
	Yellow Perch						1.3	1.7	0.3	1.9	2.4	1.52
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0							0.03
	Black Crappie	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.0							0.83
	Channel Catfish	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1							0.10
	Common Carp	0.0	1.4	6.1	1.3							2.20
	Freshwater Drum	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0							0.00
	Gizzard Shad	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0							0.13
	Green Sunfish	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0							0.08
	Northern Pike	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0							0.00
	Rainbow Trout	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0							0.03
	River Carpsucker	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.0							0.35
	Rudd	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0							0.05

		CPUE										
Gear	Species	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Avg
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Shorthead Redhorse	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0							0.08
	Smallmouth Bass	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0							0.03
	Walleye	1.3	1.3	2.0	1.5							1.53
	White Bass	0.3	1.7	11.0	1.8							3.70
	White Crappie	3.8	19.8	16.9	15.0							13.88
	Yellow Perch	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.1							0.25
std exp gill net	Black Crappie	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5						0.10
	Channel Catfish	4.0	3.8	1.8	3.3	4.0						3.38
	Common Carp	1.1	1.4	0.3	0.7	1.0						0.90
	Freshwater Drum	0.9	1.4	2.0	0.2	0.3						0.96
	Gizzard Shad	2.4	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.3						0.76
	Northern Pike	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						0.08
	River Carpsucker	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.8						0.50
	Shorthead Redhorse	0.7	3.0	0.8	0.7	0.5						1.14
	Smallmouth Bass	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.0						0.72
	Spottail Shiner	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						0.00
	Walleye	16.3	24.6	8.5	20.3	23.0						18.54
	White Bass	2.1	3.4	3.5	6.7	5.8						4.30
	White Crappie	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2						0.12
	White Sucker	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0						0.04
	Yellow Perch	8.6	3.4	3.2	9.5	14.8						7.90

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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
AFS std gill net	Black Crappie	PSD						100	100			
		PSD-P						0	50			
		Wr						123	110			
	Channel Catfish	PSD						97	100	100	94	95
		PSD-P						30	31	100	81	62
		Wr						86	92	93	91	89
	Common Carp	PSD						100	100	100	95	91
		PSD-P						0	0	14	27	9
		Wr						93	87	84	85	80
	Gizzard Shad	PSD						100	100	100	0	0
		Wr						106	99	96		
	Smallmouth Bass	PSD						50	100	50		100
		PSD-P						0	0	50		17
		Wr						96	94	87		92
	Walleye	PSD						56	55	53	74	81
		PSD-P						0	0	0	0	3
		Wr						83	81	78	78	76
	White Bass	PSD						100	100	98	100	100
		PSD-P						100	100	95	97	100
		Wr						94	95	86	84	87
	White Crappie	PSD						100				100
		PSD-P						100				100
		Wr						104				94
	Yellow Perch	PSD						67	59	67	11	83
		PSD-P						17	12	0	5	25
		Wr						91	96	94	92	90
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Crappie	PSD	92	100	100							
		PSD-P	83	80	83							
		Wr	99	90	98							
	Channel Catfish	PSD	100	100	100	100						
		PSD-P	0	0	0	0						
		Wr	84	81	89	80						
	Common Carp	PSD		100	100	100						

			Year									
Gear	Species	Index	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Common Carp	PSD-P		50	33	50						
		Wr		88	80	87						
	Gizzard Shad	PSD		100	100							
		Wr		116	86							
	Smallmouth Bass	PSD			100							
		PSD-P			0							
		Wr			88							
	Walleye	PSD	90	100	100	100						
		PSD-P	0	31	63	58						
		Wr	88	74	74	70						
	White Bass	PSD	100	100	99	100						
		PSD-P	100	100	99	57						
		Wr	80	87	96	96						
	White Crappie	PSD	100	100	100	100						
		PSD-P	100	99	100	100						
		Wr	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	96	84	100	90	96					
		PSD-P	7	5	36	40	29					
		Wr	87	90	89	96	87					
	Common Carp	PSD	100	100	50	25	67					
		PSD-P	13	29	0	0	0					
		Wr	88	84	84	95	80					
	Gizzard Shad	PSD	6	100	100		100					
		Wr	117	117	96		102					
	Smallmouth Bass	PSD	33	0	100	40						
		PSD-P	17	0	0	20						
		Wr	90	103	91	104						
	Walleye	PSD	44	44	76	18	20					
		PSD-P	1	1	10	1	0					
		Wr	78	85	81	84	81					
	White Bass	PSD	80	100	81	100	100					

			Year									
Gear	Species	Index	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
std exp gill net	White Bass	PSD-P	80	82	52	100	100					
		Wr	85	101	96	103	94					
	White Crappie	PSD	100				100					
		PSD-P	100				100					
		Wr	89				91					
	Yellow Perch	PSD	55	76	58	16	29					
		PSD-P	10	6	5	2	1					
		Wr	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)

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)					

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).

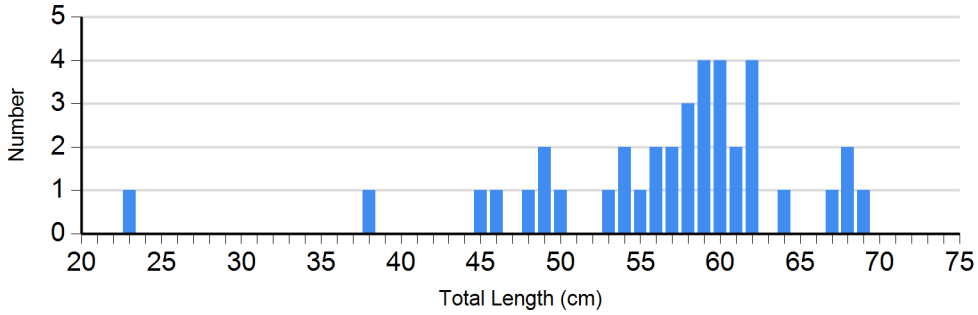
		Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
Species	Year	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Channel Catfish Gill Net	2017	1	75	25	85 (1.3)	11	90 (2.5)	0	
	2018	0		18	91 (1.7)	8	95 (1.5)	0	
	2019	0		0		3	93 (5.4)	0	
	2020	1	86	2	72 (12.3)	9	94 (2.7)	4	97 (3.3)
	2021	1	89	7	84 (1.4)	11	93 (2.3)	2	83
Common Carp Gill Net	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	
	2021	2		18	79 (1.5)	2	87	0	
Walleye Gill Net	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	
	2021	12	81 (1.1)	49	75 (0.9)	2	60 (11.8)	0	
White Bass Gill Net	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)
	2021	0		0		29	91 (1.3)	21	82 (1.0)
Yellow Perch Gill Net	2017	4	96 (0.2)	6	90 (2.2)	1	94	1	83
	2018	7	96 (2.8)	8	98 (2.6)	2	93 (2.3)	0	

		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	2019	1	100	2	90 (3.9)	0		0	
	2020	17	93 (2.1)	1	84	1	79	0	
	2021	4	80 (1.8)	14	96 (3.1)	6	81 (1.5)	0	

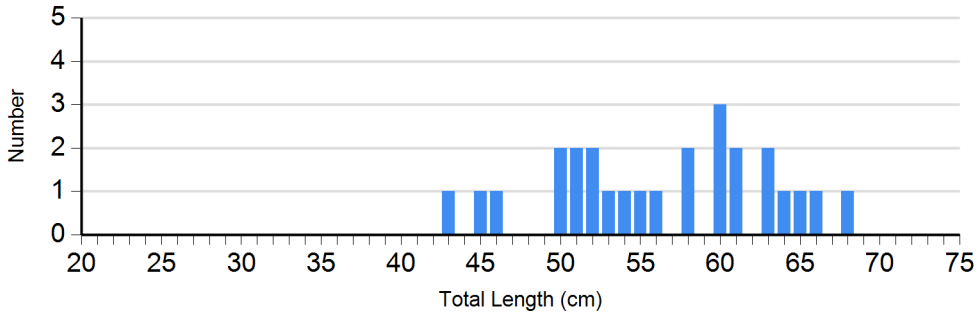
Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

Species: Channel Catfish
Gear: AFS std gill net



2017



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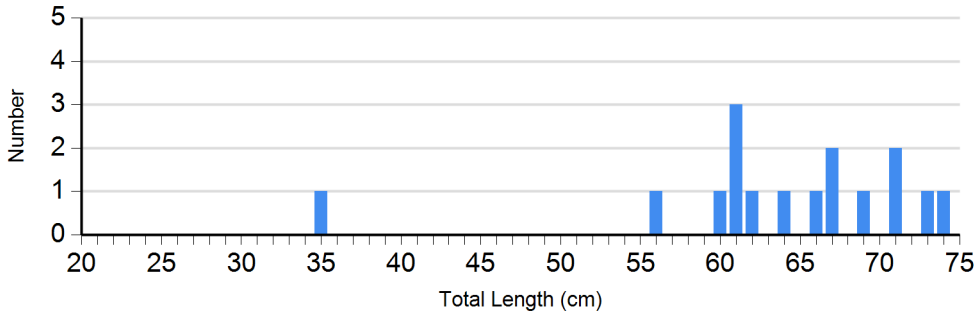
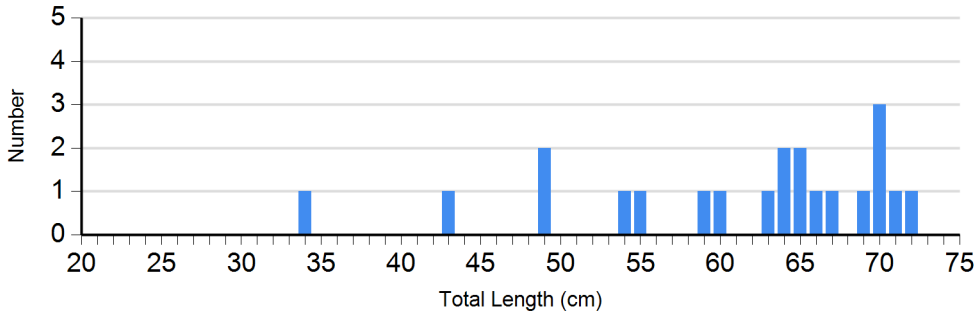
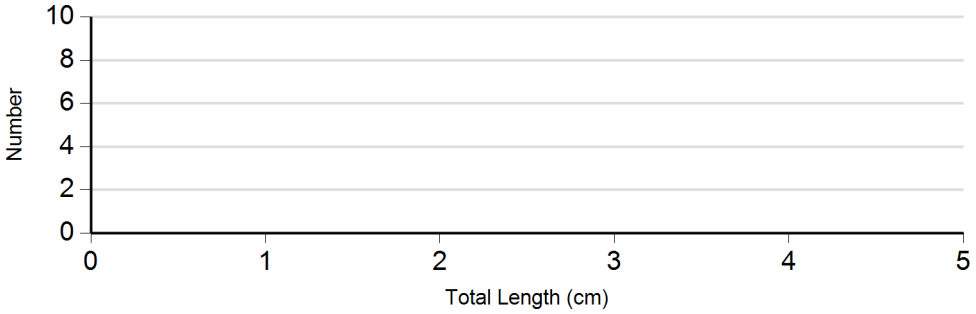


2020



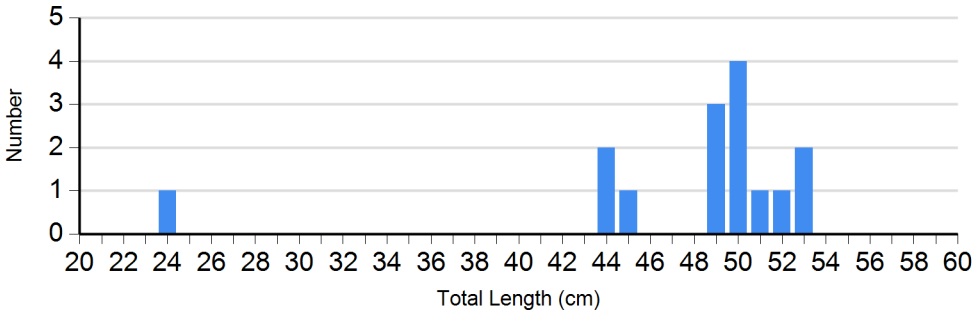
2021

Species: Channel Catfish
Gear: std exp gill net

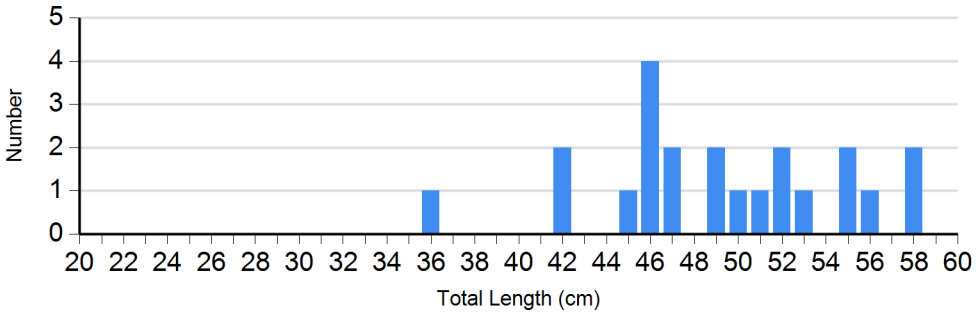


2016

Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net



2019



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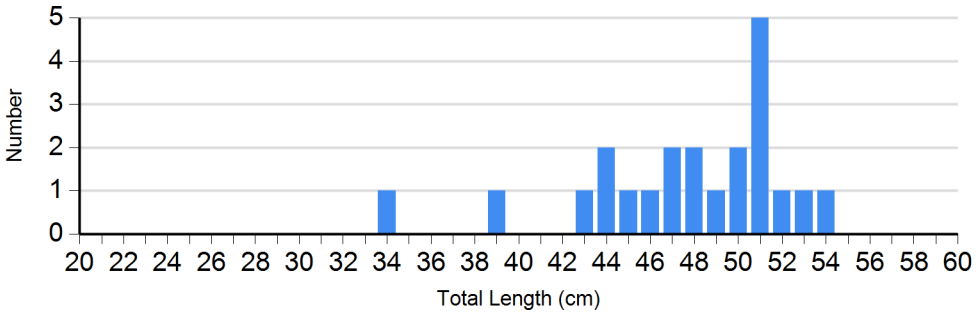
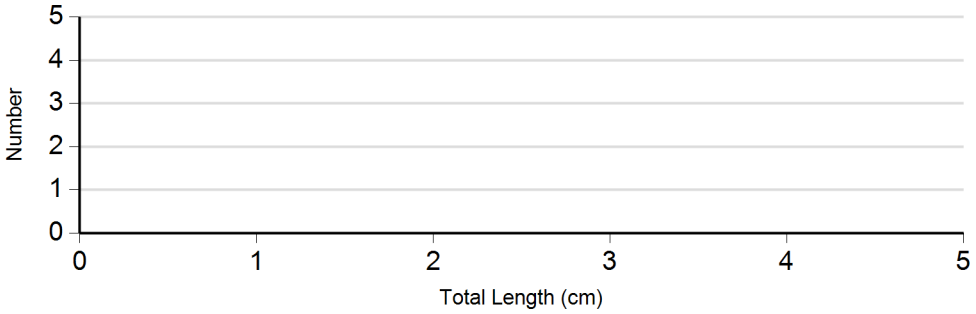


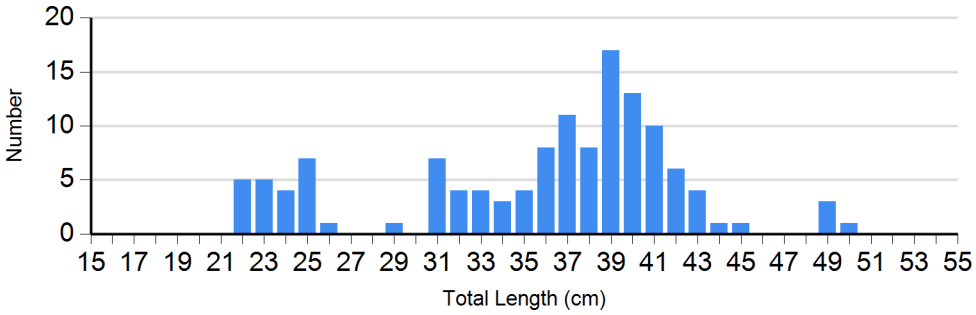
2021

Species: Common Carp
Gear: std exp gill net

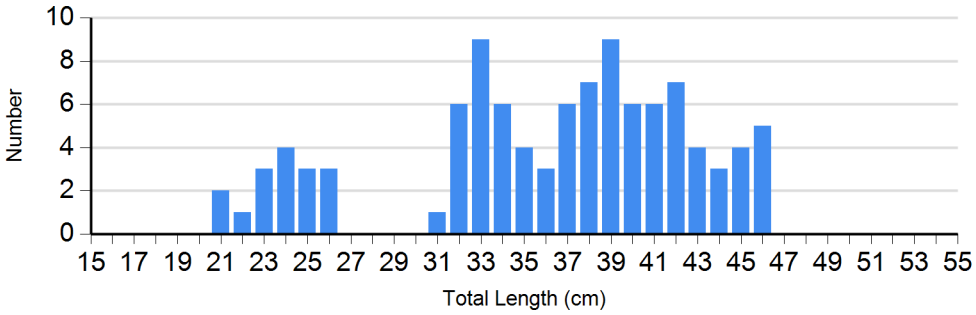


2016

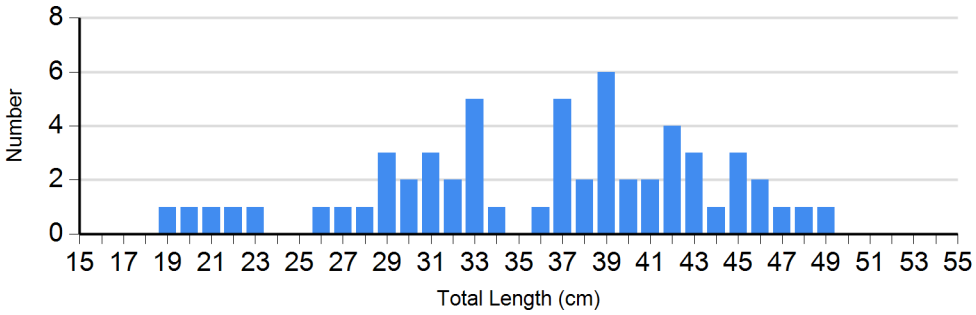
Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



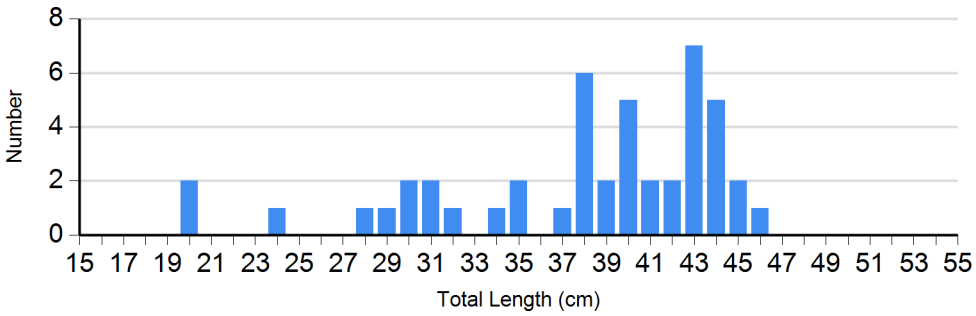
2017



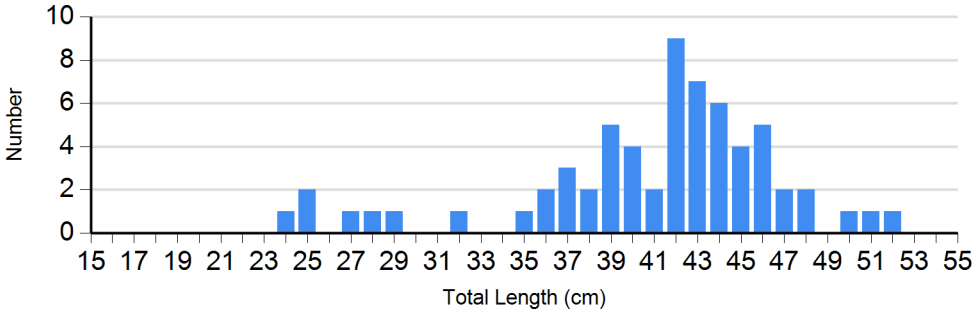
2018



2019

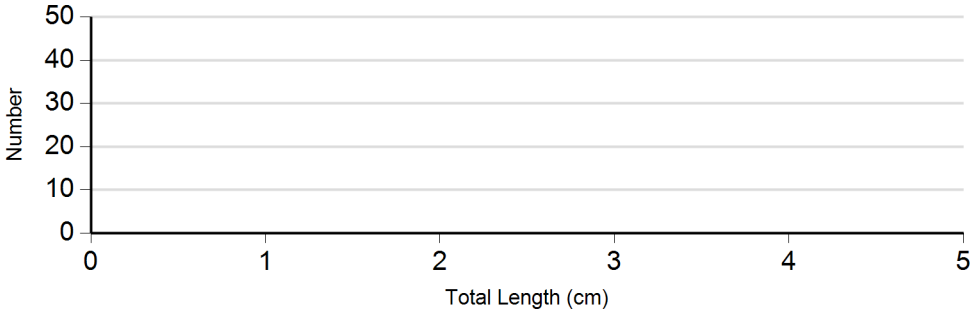


2020



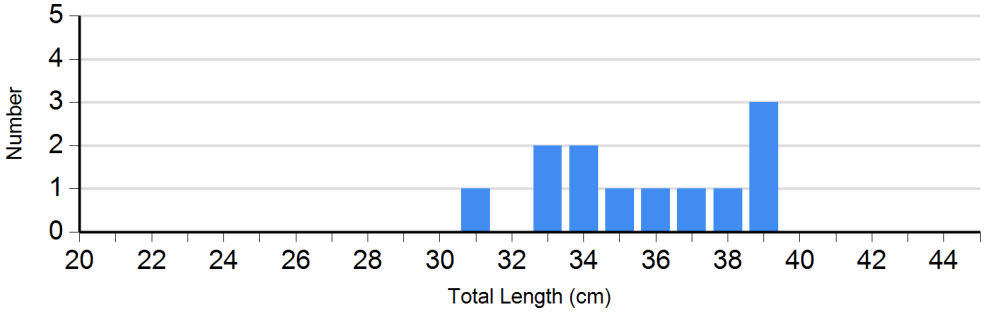
2021

Species: Walleye
Gear: std exp gill net

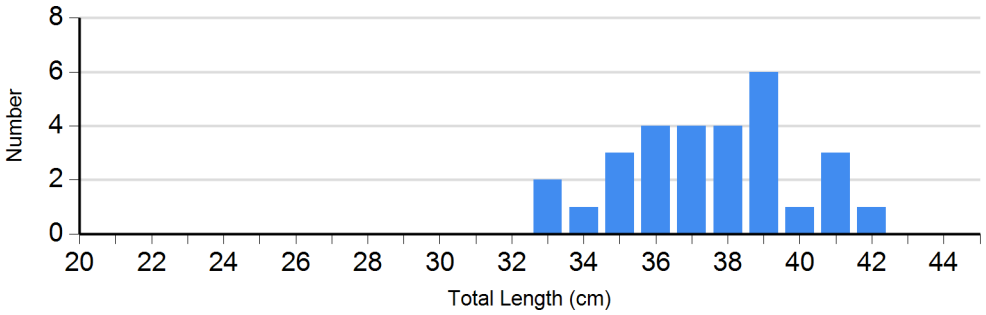


2016

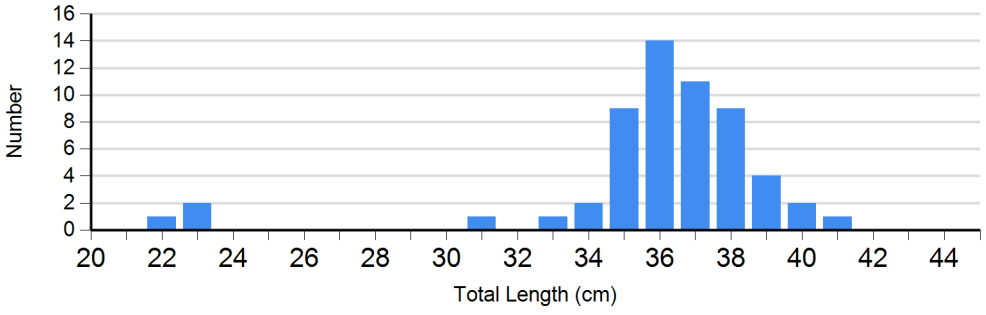
Species: White Bass
Gear: AFS std gill net



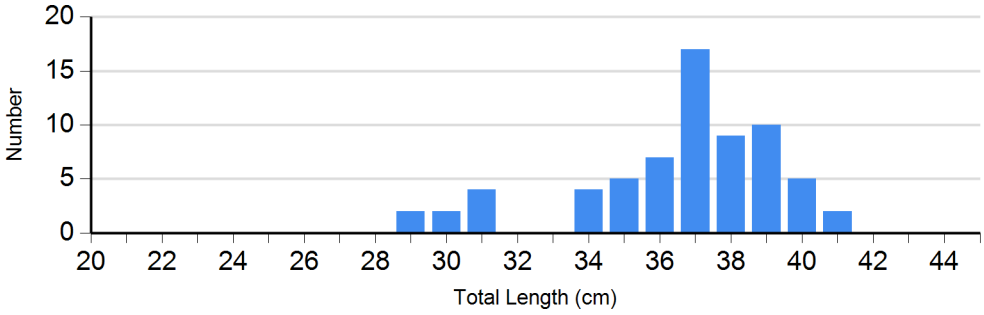
2017



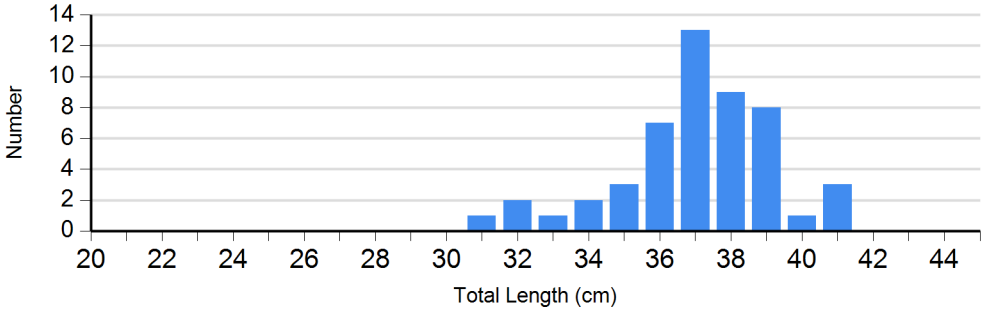
2018



2019

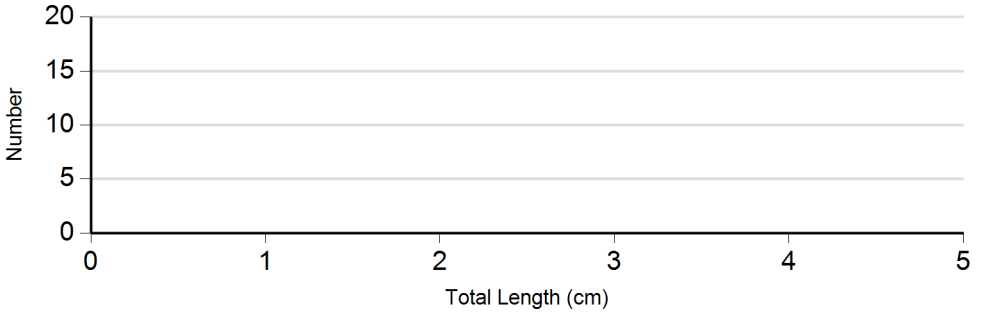


2020



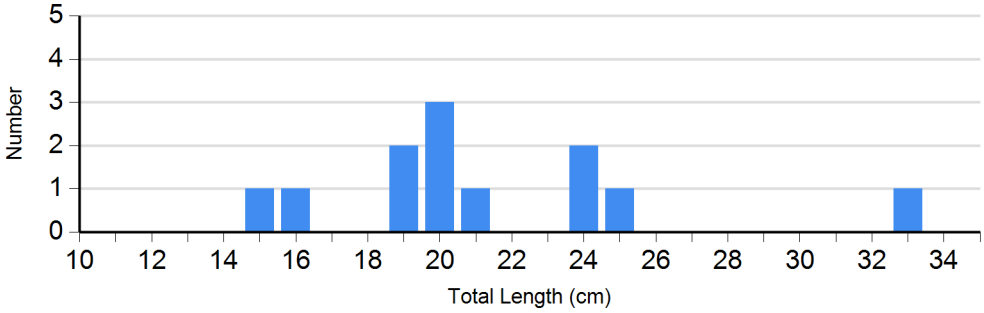
2021

Species: White Bass
Gear: std exp gill net

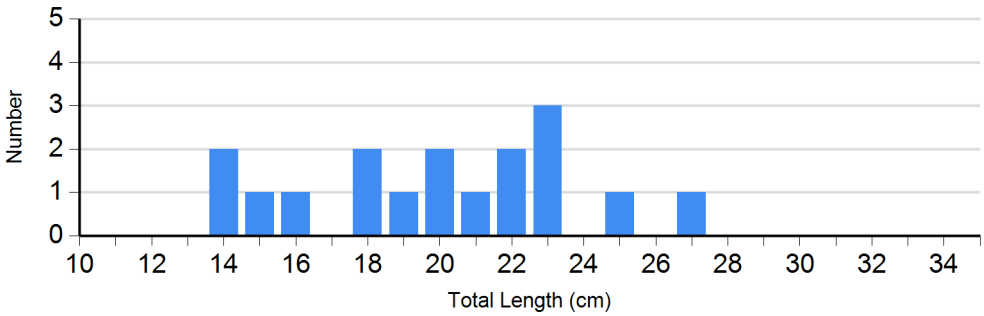


2016

Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net



2017



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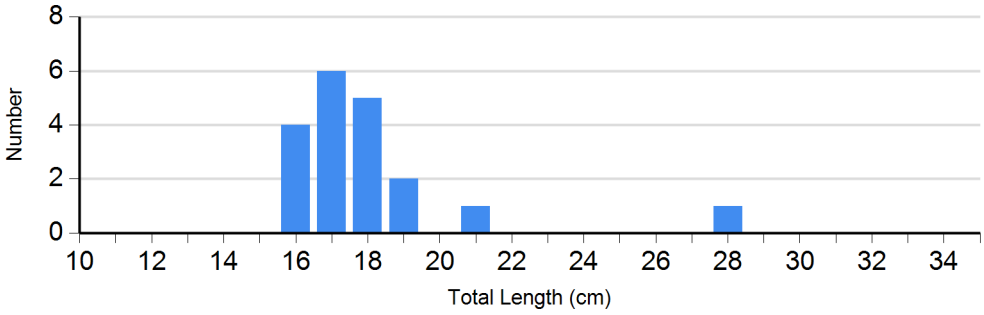
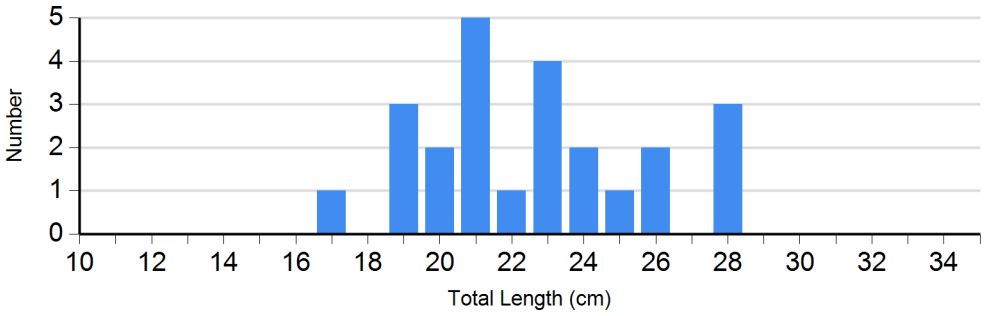
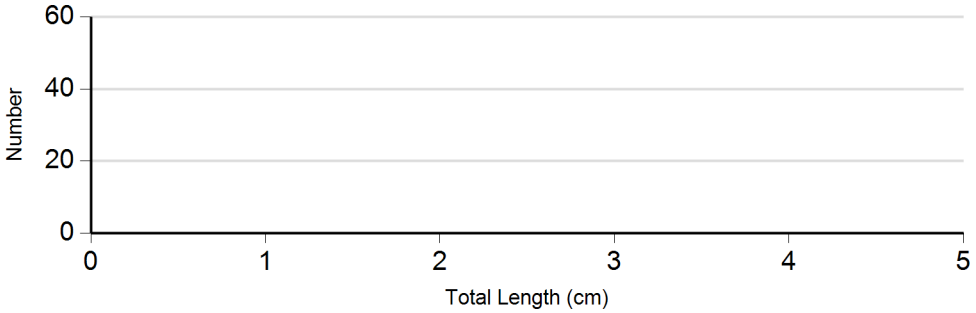


2020



2021

Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: std exp gill net

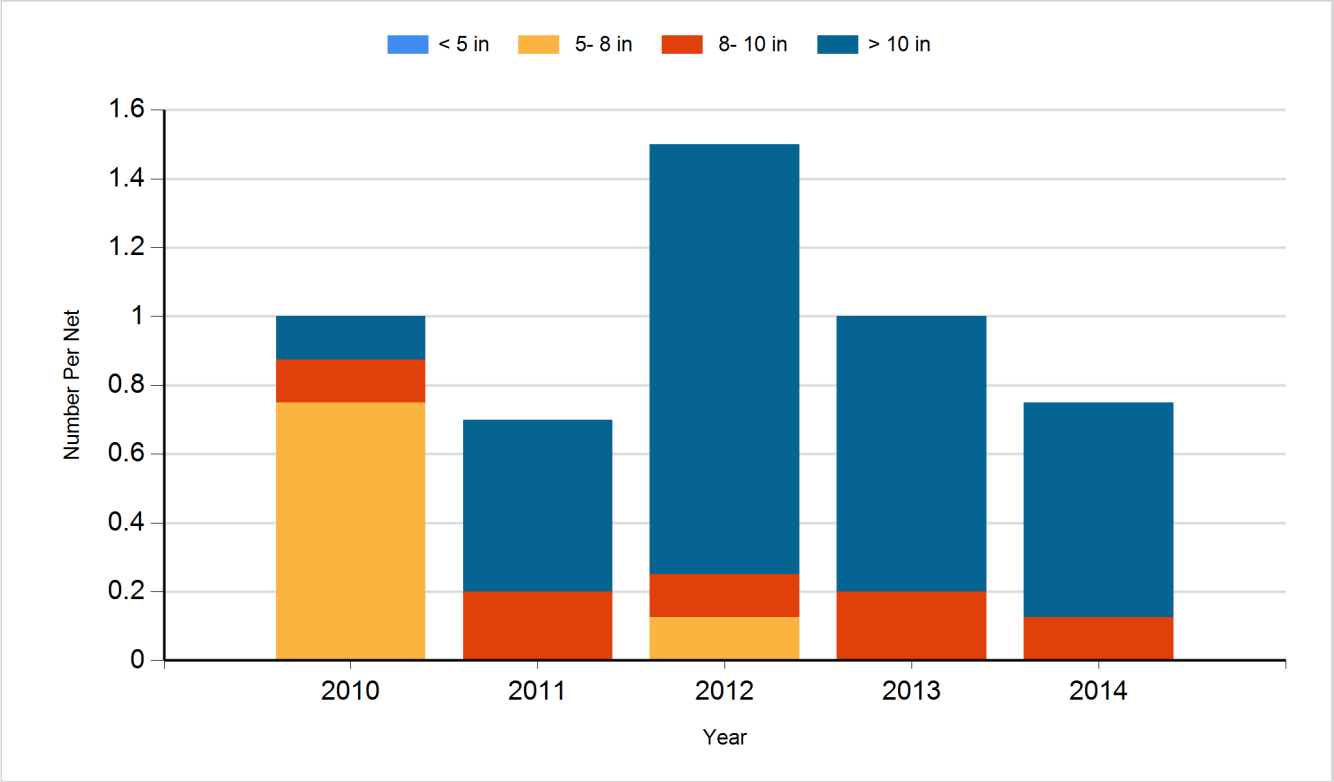


2016

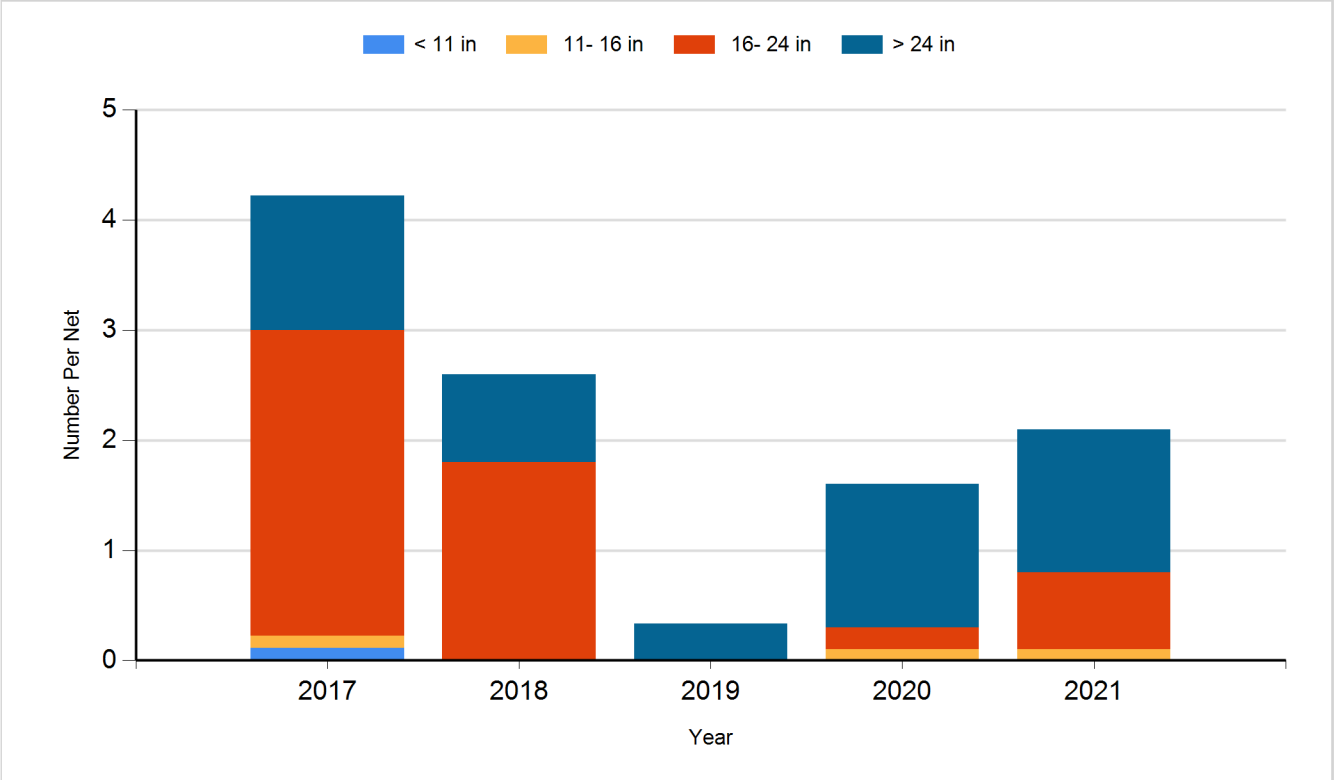
Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

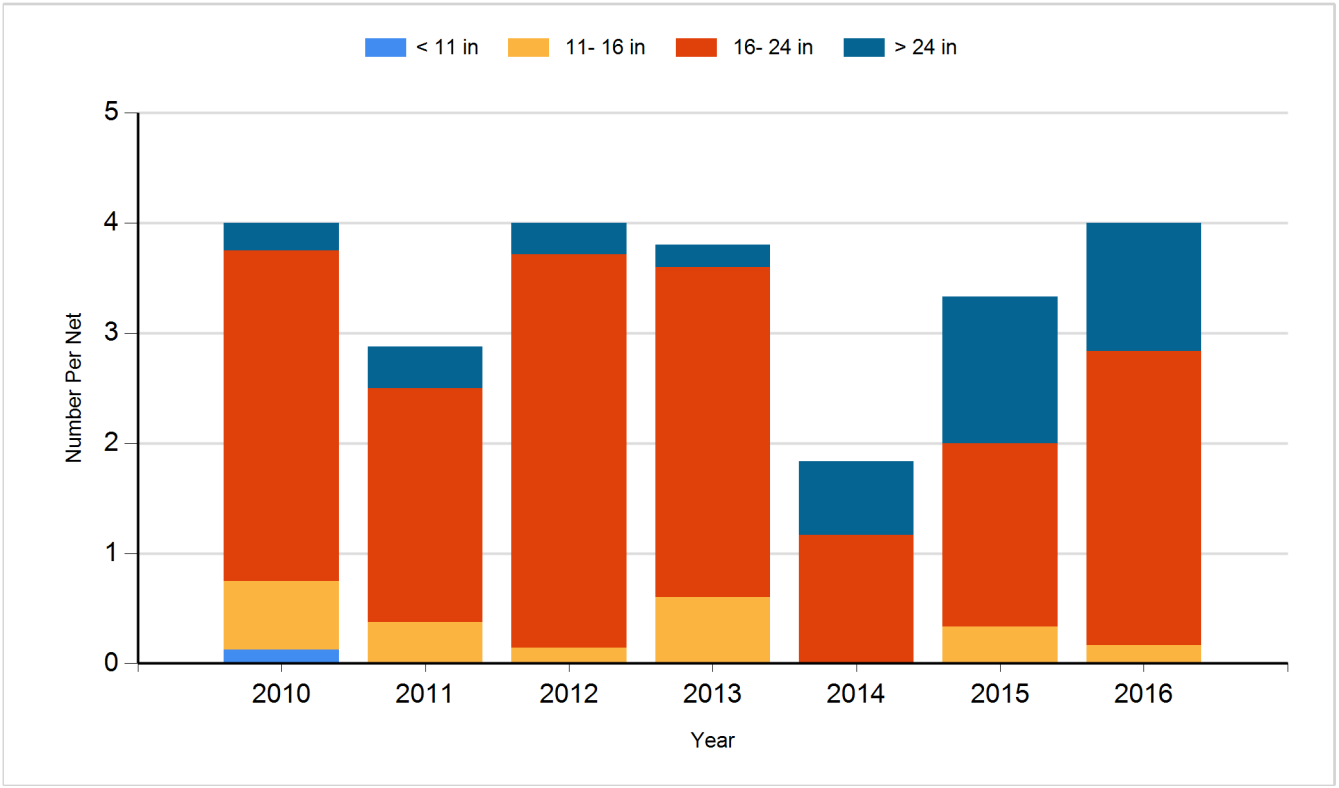
Species: Black Crappie
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)



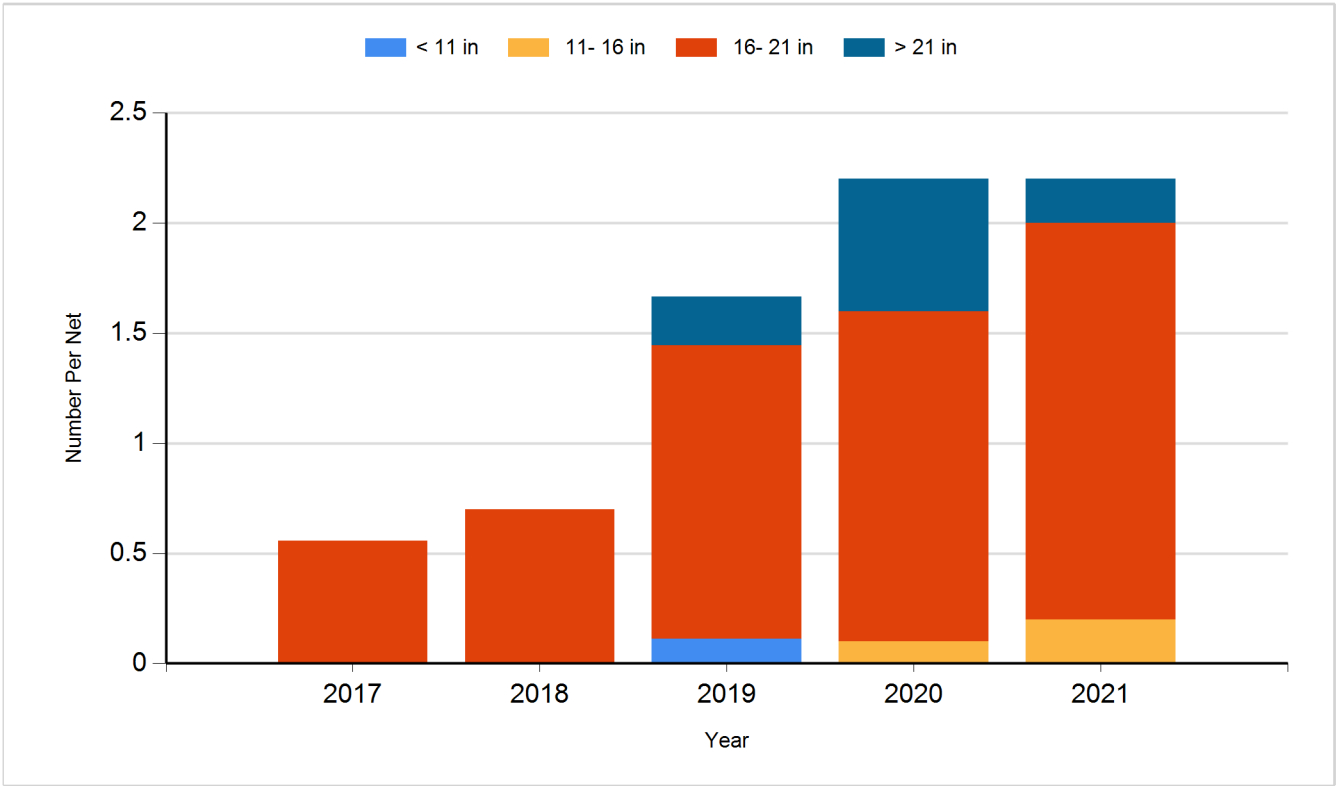
Species: Channel Catfish
Gear: AFS std gill net



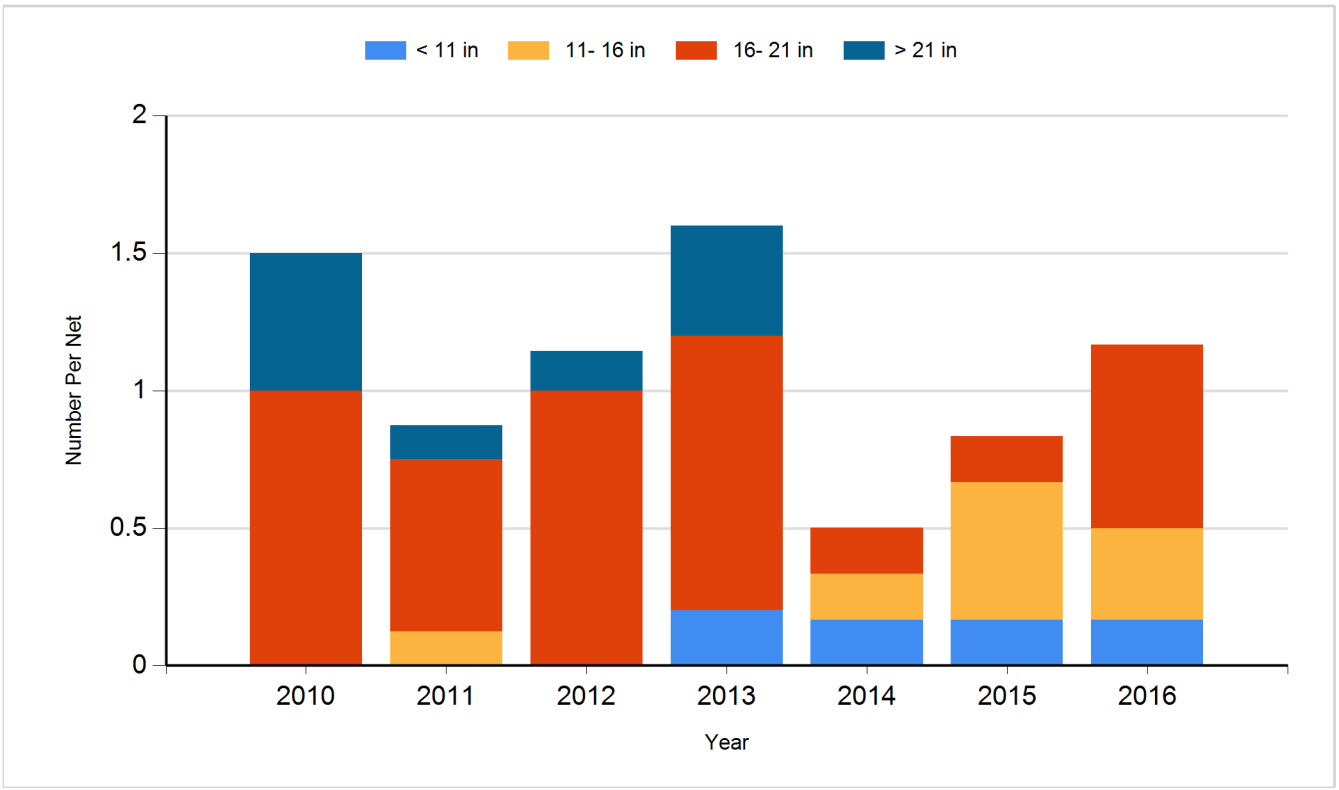
Species: Channel Catfish
Gear: std exp gill net



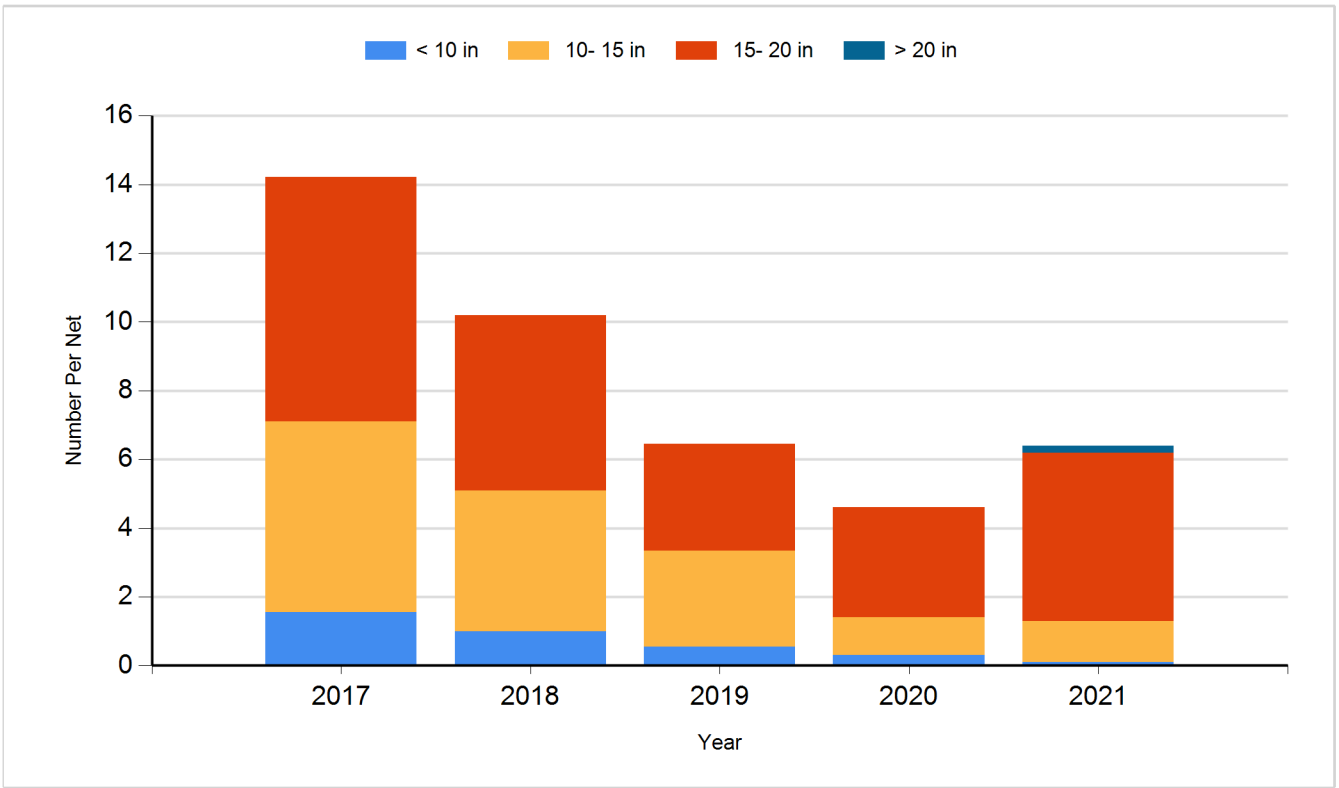
Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net



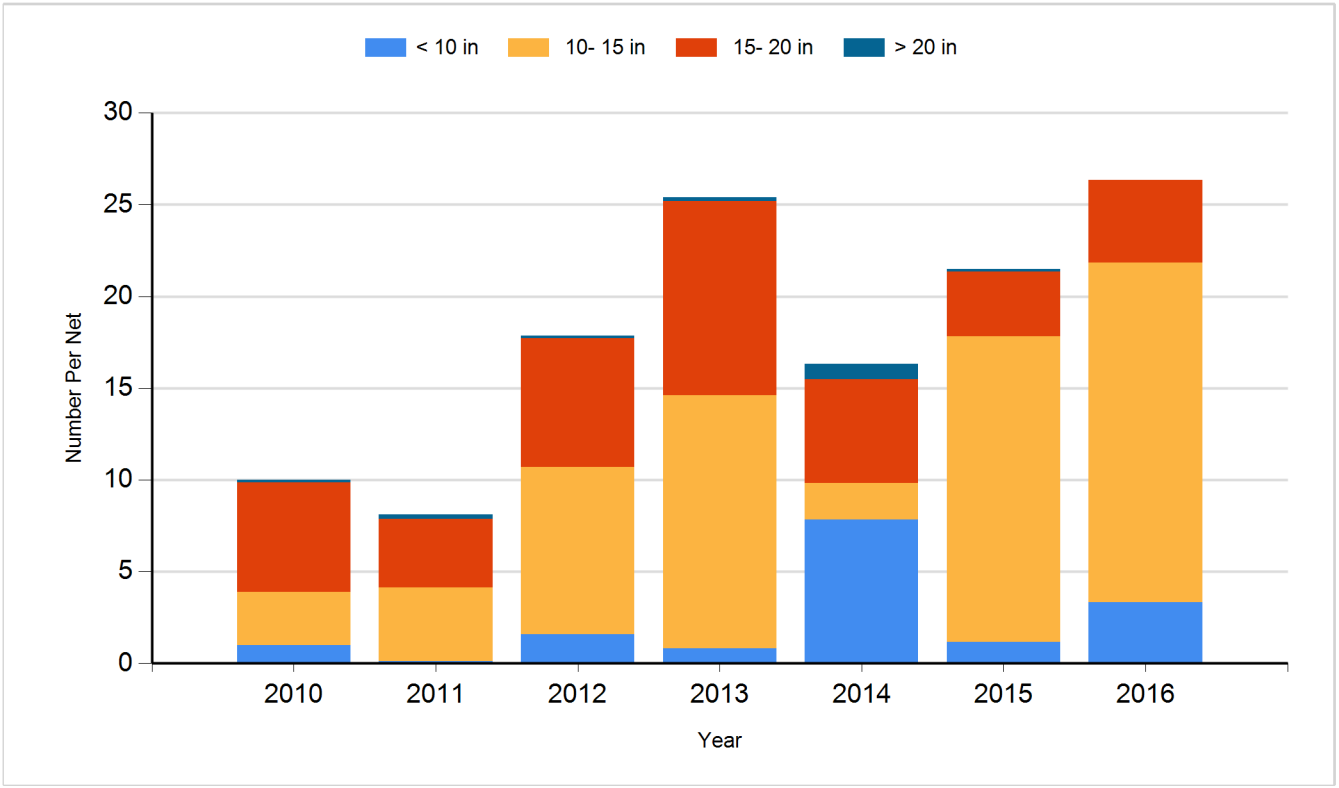
Species: Common Carp
Gear: std exp gill net



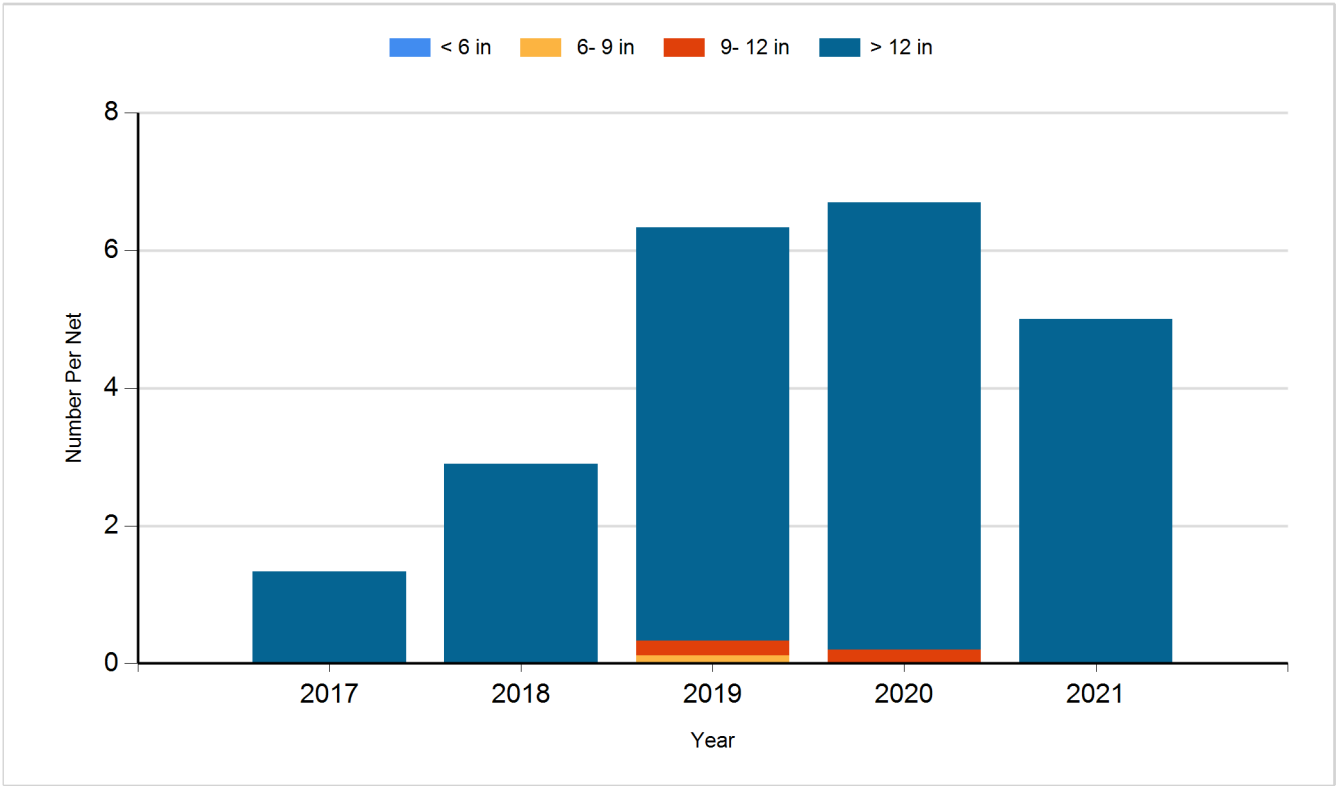
Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



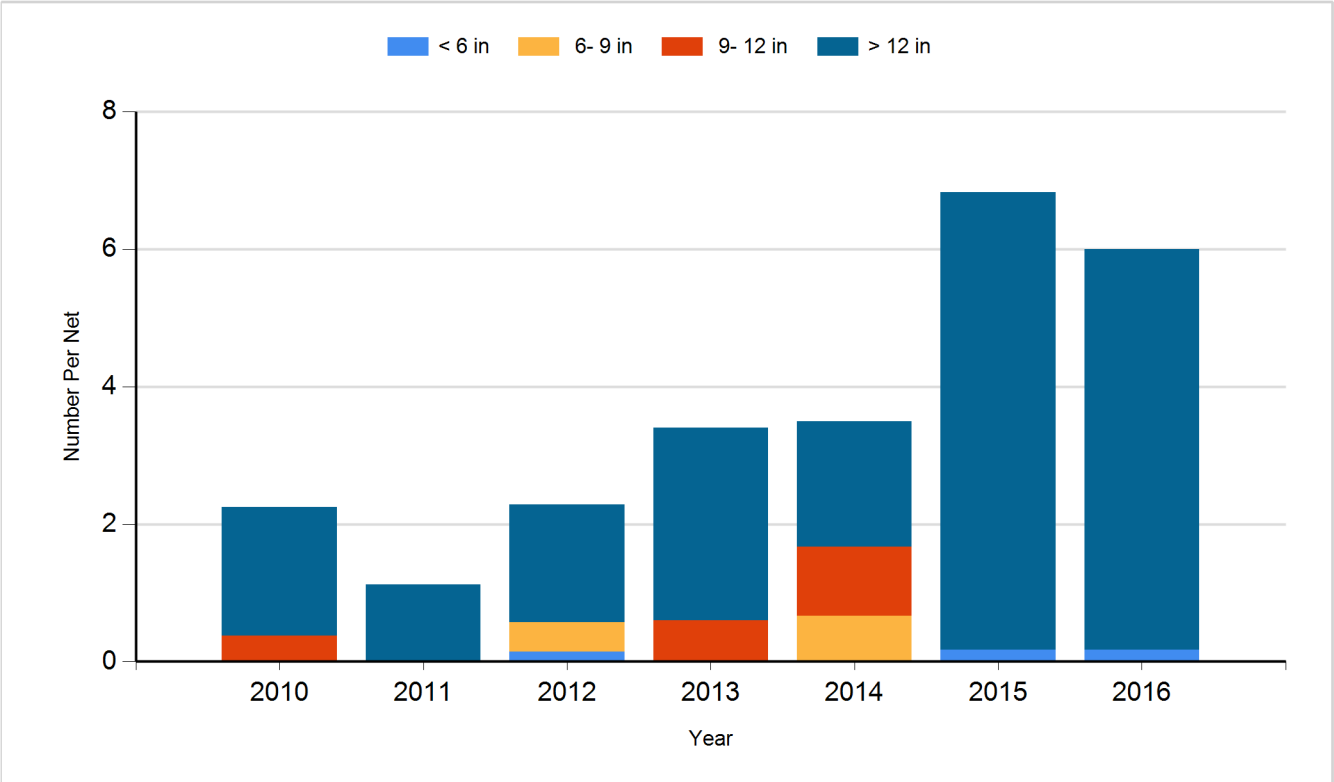
Species: Walleye
Gear: std exp gill net



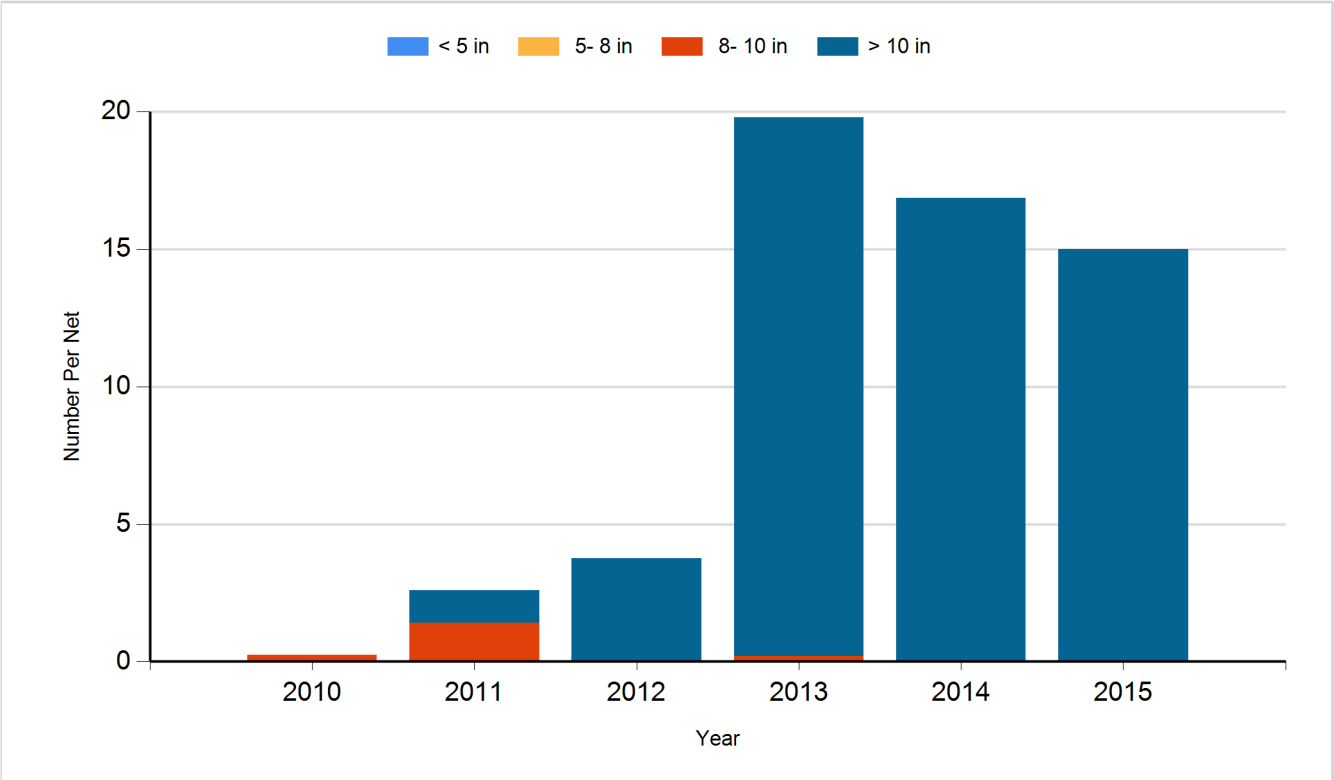
Species: White Bass
Gear: AFS std gill net



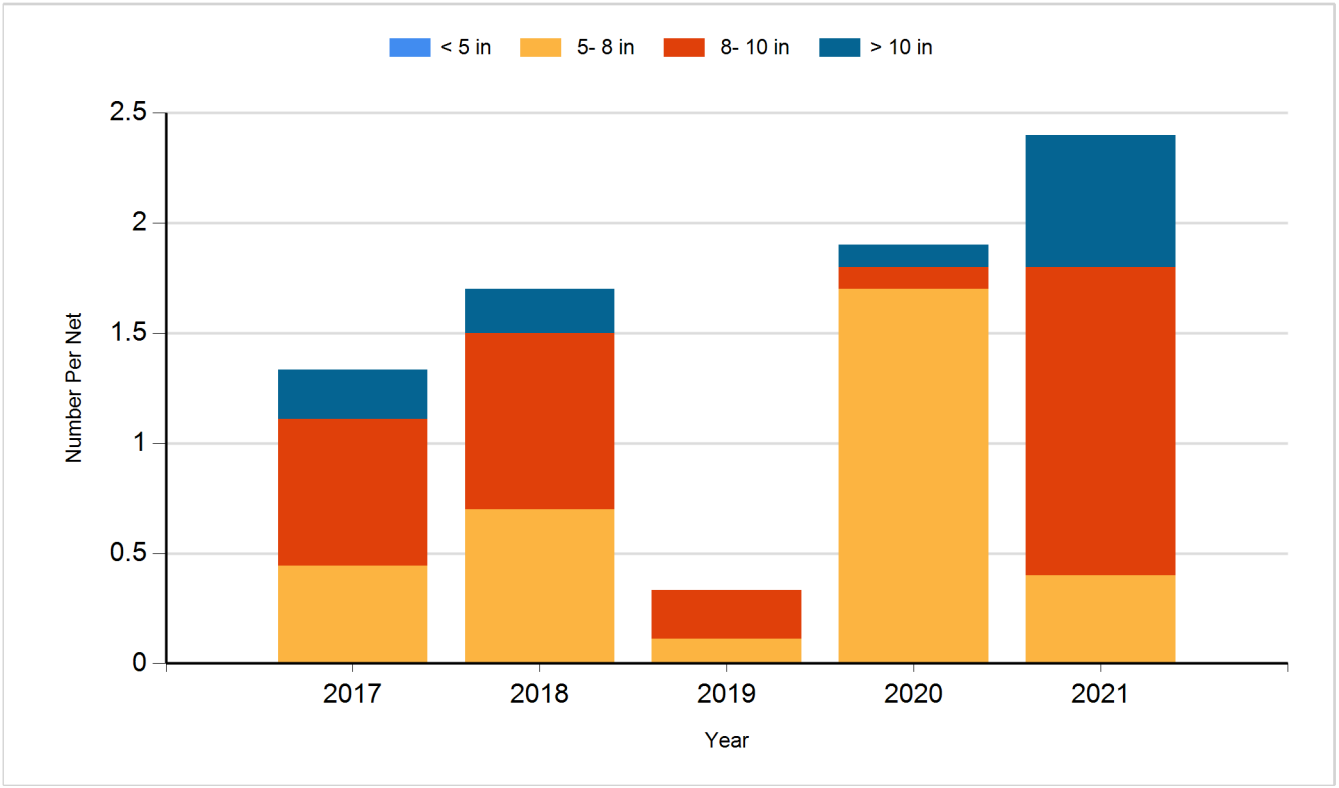
Species: White Bass
Gear: std exp gill net



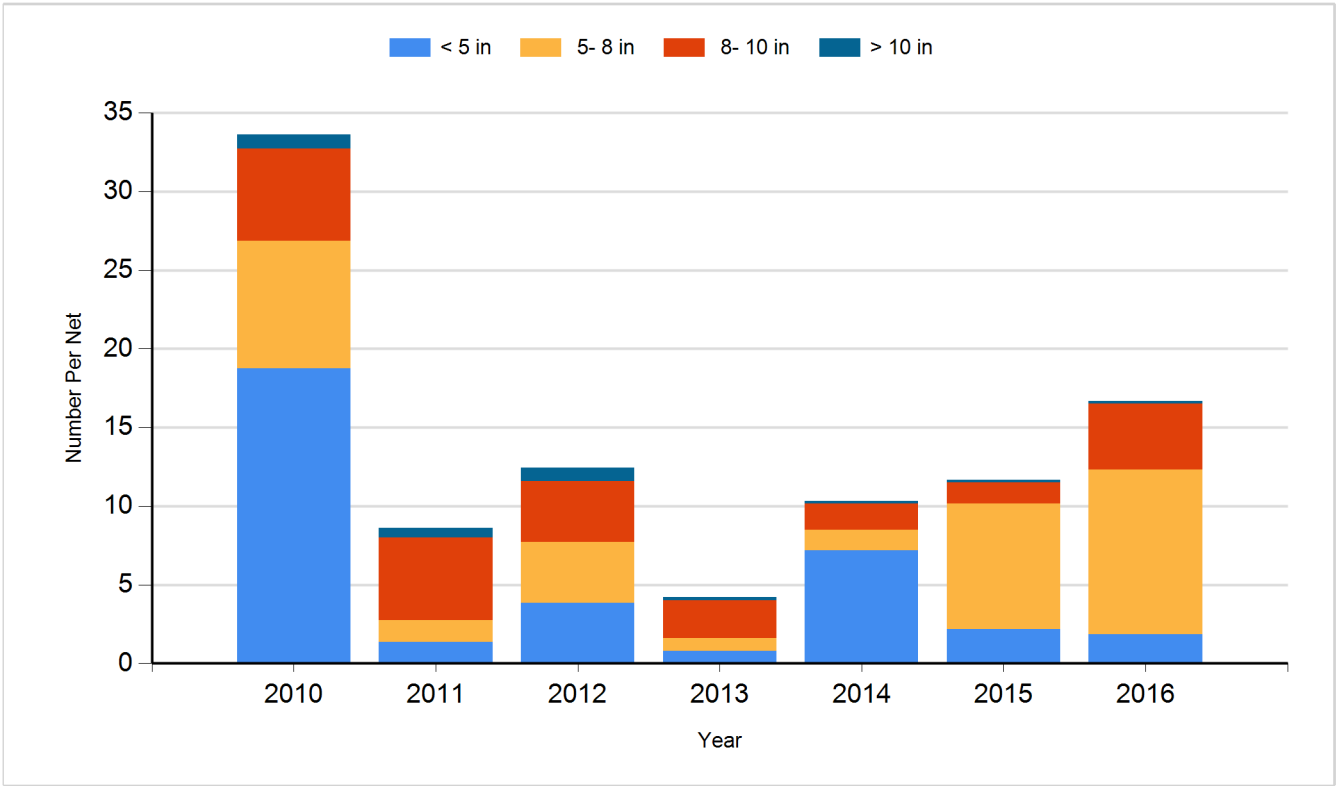
Species: White Crappie
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)



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
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
2021	Yellow Perch	Adult	3,000