

# SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY

Molstad, Walworth County

ULO-Lake-370-000

2021

## Lake Information

**Name:** Molstad **Maximum Depth:** 20 Feet  
**County:** Walworth **Mean Depth:** 8 Feet  
**Legal Description:** T124-R78-S8  
**Surface Area:** 97 Acres

## Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Jun 15, 2021	5 net-nights

## **Common Fish Species Present**

Yellow Perch

Largemouth Bass

Bluegill

Black Bullhead

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## 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.
- **std 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.

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

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.

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

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

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.

$$Wr = \left( \frac{W}{W_s} \right) \times 100$$

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).

Species Name	Stock		Quality		Preferred		Memorable		Trophy	
	(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**

Gear	Species	Sample Size (n)	Abundance		Stock Density Indices			Condition		
			CPUE	CI-80	PSD	CI-80	PSD-P	CI-80	Wr	CI-80
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	1	0.2	0.3	100		100		144	
	Bluegill	59	4.2	4.5	10		5		151	3
	Yellow Perch	35	4.0	2.9	15		10		109	2

## **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**

Gear	Species	CPUE										Avg
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
boat shocker (night)	Largemouth Bass	108.0			129.0			28.0	36.5	52.5		70.80
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	0.0			0.0			0.1			0.2	0.08
	Bluegill	0.1			10.0			57.0			4.2	17.83
	Largemouth Bass	1.6			0.3			0.1			0.0	0.50
	Yellow Perch	3.2			8.4			1.3			4.0	4.23
std exp gill net	Largemouth Bass	18.5										18.50
	Yellow Perch	50.0										50.00

## 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.

Gear	Species	Index	Year									
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
boat shocker (night)	Largemouth Bass	PSD	8			30			88	85	78	
		PSD-P	3			6			9	55	67	
		Wr	108			104			100	103	109	
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	PSD							100			100
		PSD-P							100			100
		Wr							102			144
	Bluegill	PSD	100			91			38			10
		PSD-P	0			11			9			5
		Wr	134			128			126			151
	Largemouth Bass	PSD	6			67			100			
		PSD-P	0			67			0			
		Wr	115			123			88			
Yellow Perch	PSD	47			90			100			15	
	PSD-P	22			18			92			10	
	Wr	107			105			92			109	
std exp gill net	Largemouth Bass	PSD	3									
		PSD-P	0									
		Wr	126									
	Yellow Perch	PSD	86									
		PSD-P	47									
		Wr	111									

## **Length at Capture**

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

Species: Bluegill

Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age											
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2018	570	87 (15)	127 (90)	146 (357)	179 (4)	184 (6)	191 (25)	199 (70)		220 (4)	
2015	100	105 (2)	154 (15)	174 (62)	204 (11)	192 (8)	195 (1)				

Species: Largemouth Bass

Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age											
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2020	101		214 (23)	306 (3)	314 (3)	350 (2)	377 (2)	403 (41)	400 (26)		485 (1)
2018	56		206 (10)		322 (14)	352 (28)	344 (3)		439 (2)		
2015	293	170 (172)	286 (80)	300 (28)	285 (5)	439 (6)	424 (1)	455 (1)			
2012	44	219 (37)	280 (6)				438 (1)				

Species: Yellow Perch

Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age											
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2012	100	150 (13)	233 (24)	263 (55)	258 (9)						



## **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).

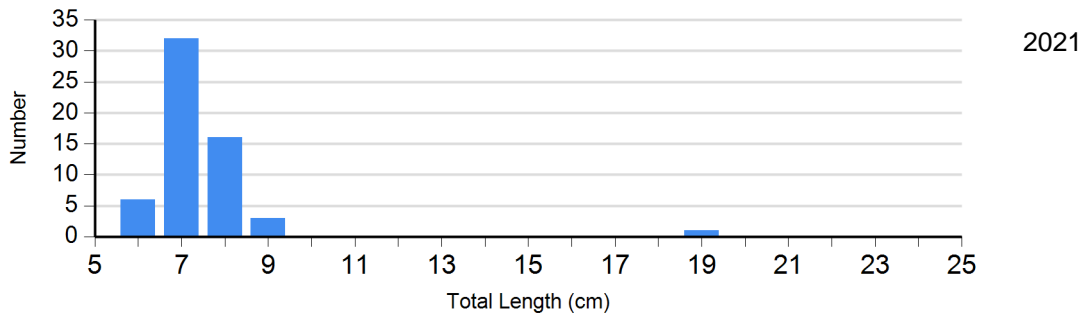
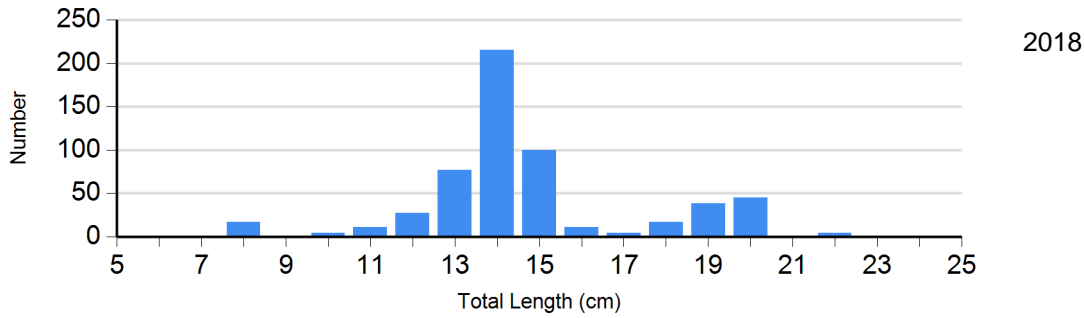
Species	Year	Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
		N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Bluegill Frame Net	2018	351	128 (1.0)	170	125 (1.3)	49	118 (1.9)	0	
	2021	19	152 (2.0)	1	140	0		1	
Largemouth Bass Electro Fishing	2018	7	106 (1.7)	44	99 (1.0)	5	100 (3.4)	0	
	2019	11	115 (2.4)	22	104 (1.4)	40	99 (1.1)	0	
	2020	23	109 (1.2)	12	113 (0.8)	70	108 (0.8)	0	

## Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

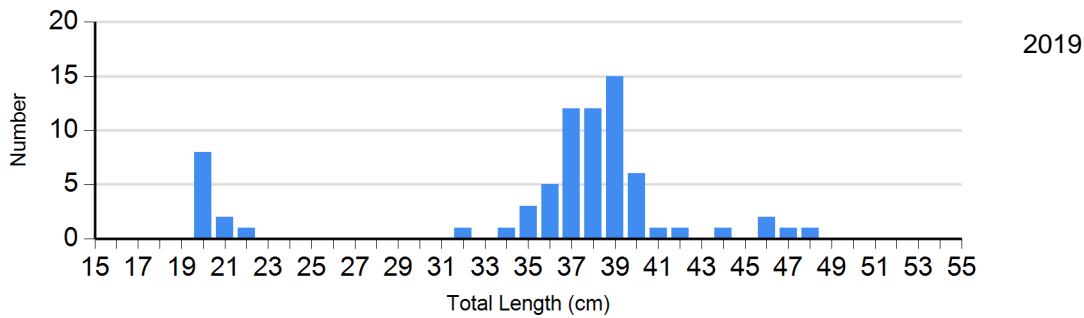
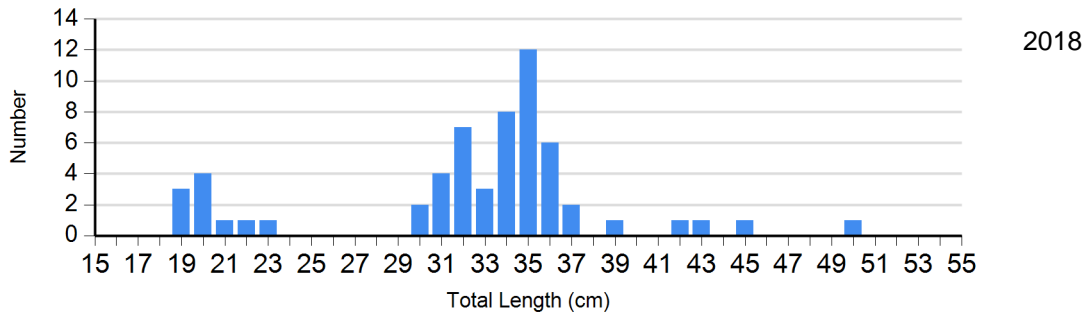
Species: Bluegill

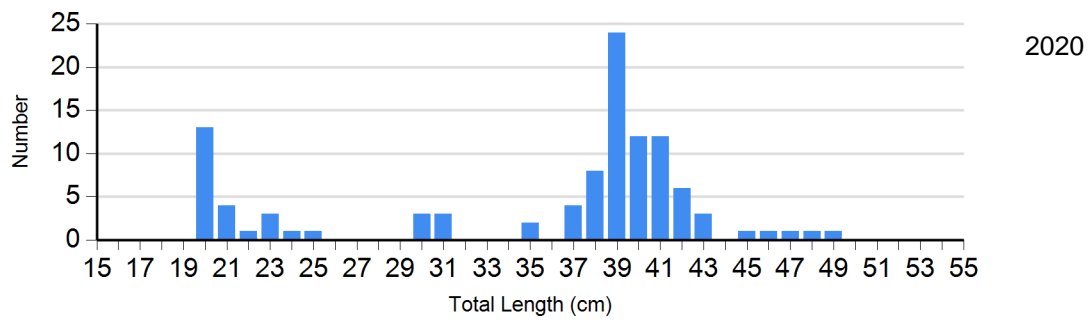
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)



Species: Largemouth Bass

Gear: boat shocker (night)



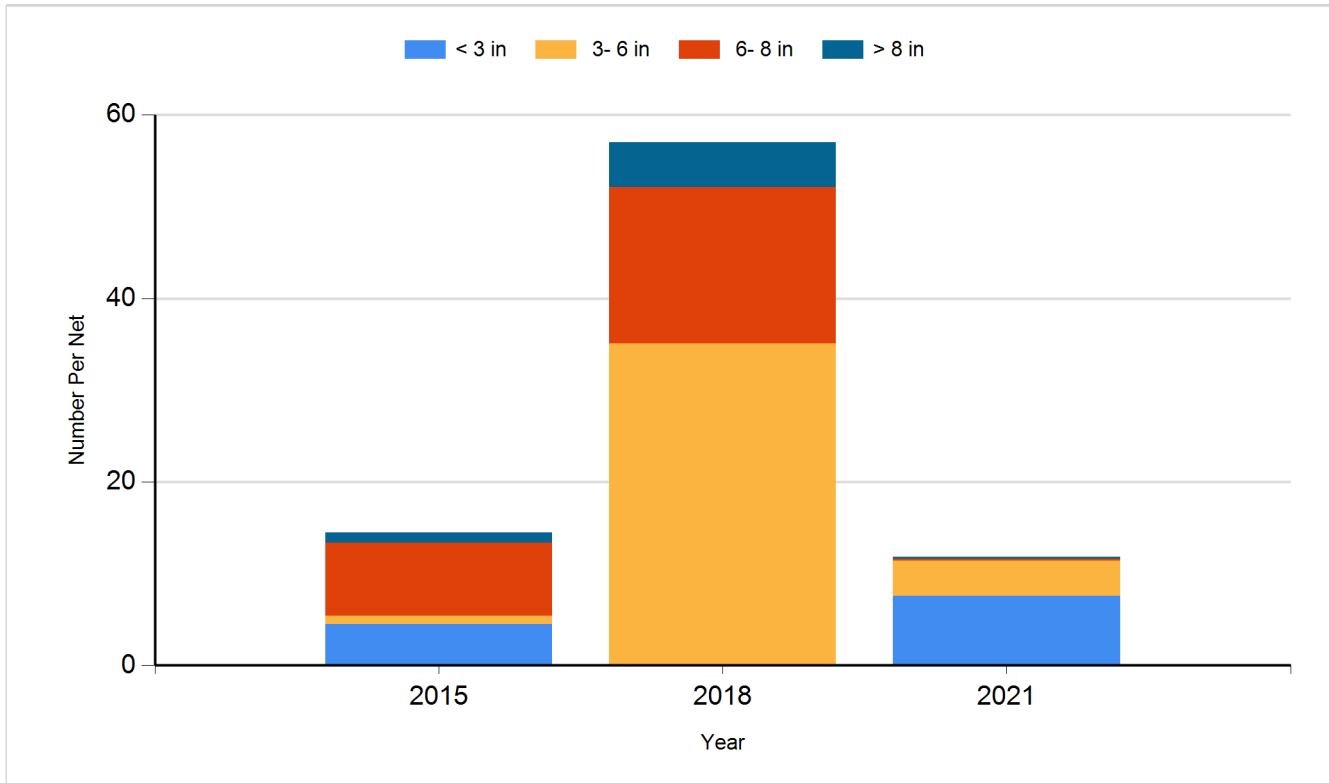


## Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

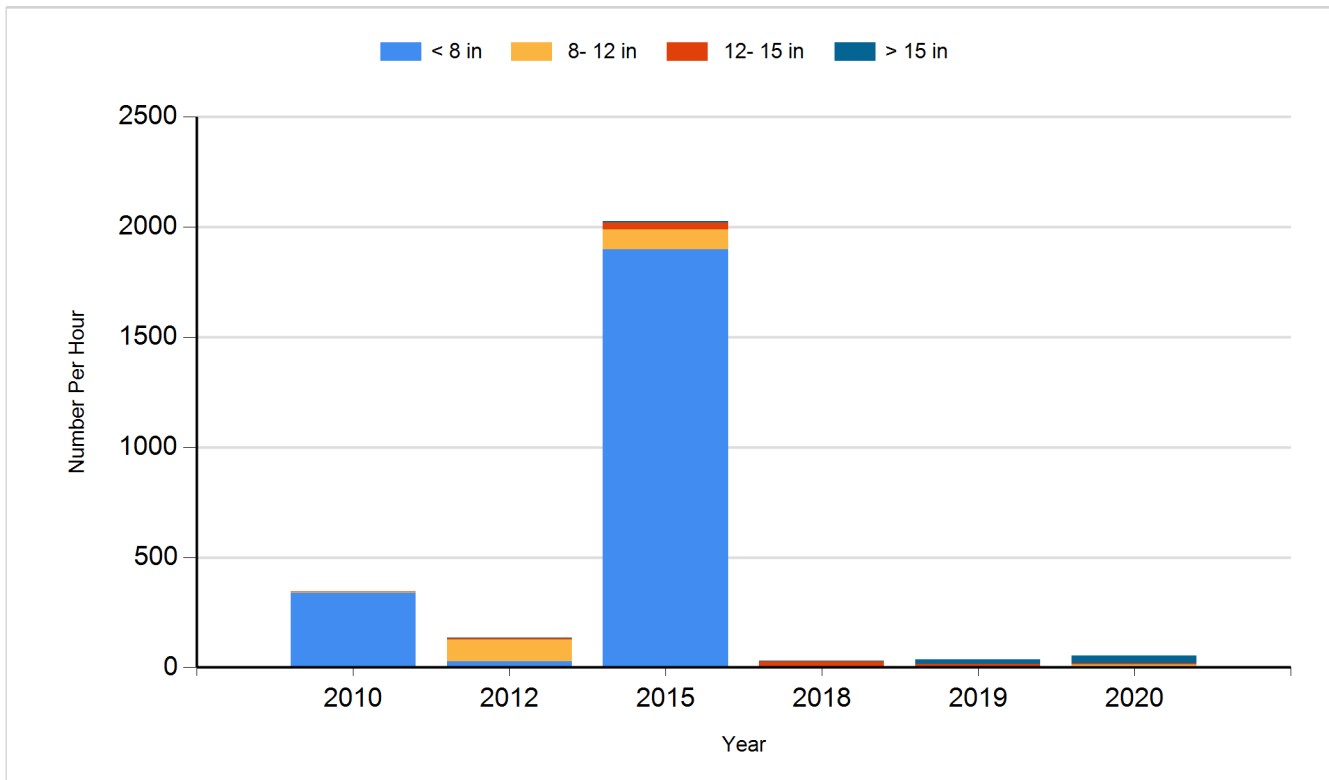
Species: Bluegill

Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)

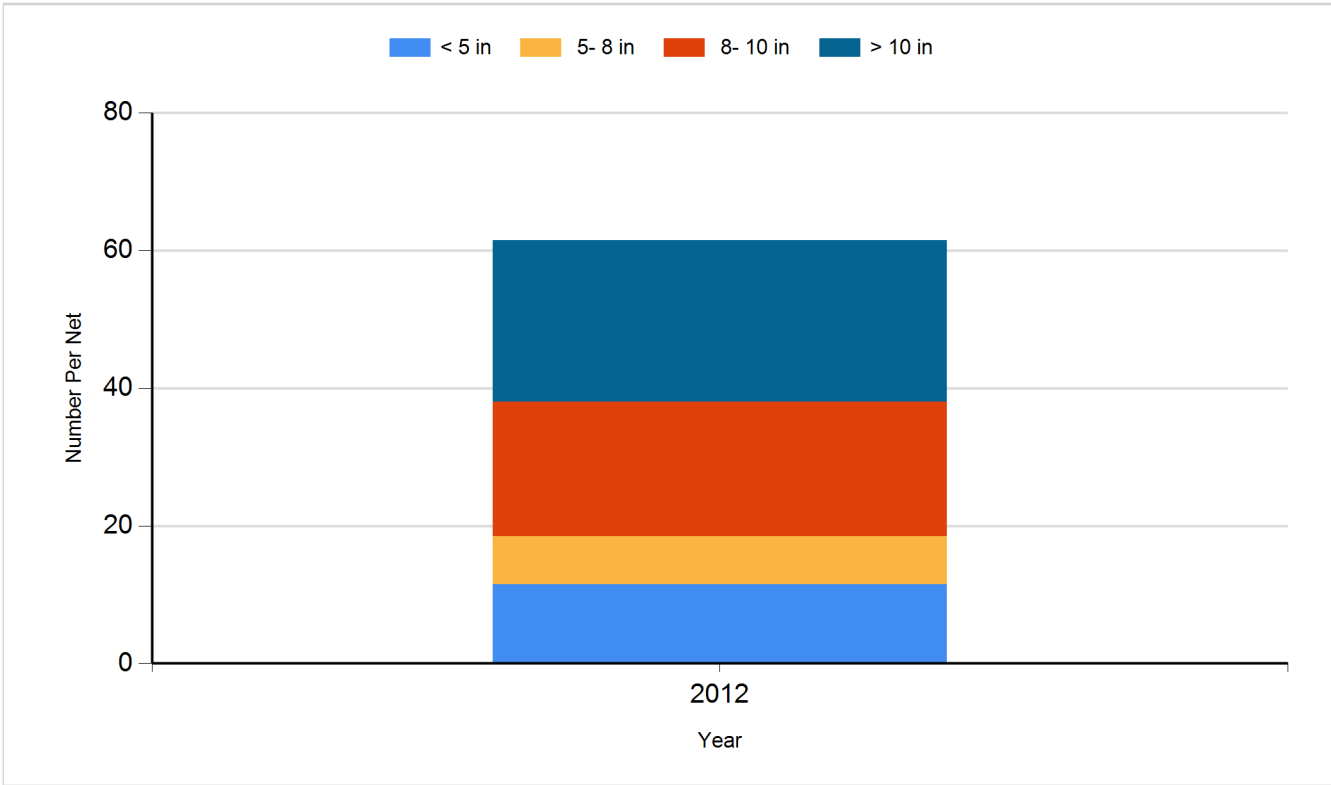


Species: Largemouth Bass

Gear: boat shocker (night)



Species: Yellow Perch  
Gear: std exp gill net



## **Fish Stocking**

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

Year	Species	Size	Number
2011	Yellow Perch	Adult	430
2012	Yellow Perch	Adult	300
2014	Bluegill	Adult	150
2015	Bluegill	Adult	150
2015	Yellow Perch	Fingerling	3,240