SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
Fairfax, Gregory County
FTR-Lake-5880-000
2022

Lake Information

Name: Fairfax

County: Gregory

Legal Description: T95-R68-S15

Surface Area: 20 Acres

Maximum Depth: 22 Feet

Mean Depth: 12 Feet

Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
boat shocker (night)	Oct 17, 2022	2287 seconds
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Jun 27, 2022	10 net-nights

Common Fish Species Present

Largemouth Bass

Bluegill

Black Crappie

Black Bullhead

Yellow Perch

Northern Pike

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
boat shocker (night)	Largemouth Bass	1	0.0	0.0	0		0			
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	27	2.7	0.6	100		96		84	2
	Black Crappie	11	0.9	0.4	22		0		104	5
	Bluegill	2829	282.9	54.1	67	1	0		104	1
	Northern Pike	8	0.8	0.4	100		75		80	5
	Yellow Perch	9	0.9	0.7	89		33		86	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	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg
boat shocker (night)	Largemouth Bass		18.0		28.0		10.0	85.0	60.5		0.0	33.58
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead		1.0		1.5			2.9			2.7	2.03
	Black Crappie		0.1		0.5			20.7			0.9	5.55
	Bluegill		10.0		66.8			34.0			282.9	98.43
	Largemouth Bass		0.0		0.0			0.1			0.0	0.03
	Northern Pike		0.2		0.2			0.1			0.8	0.33
	Yellow Perch		0.7		1.0			0.1			0.9	0.68

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	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
boat shocker (night)	Largemouth Bass	PSD		100		54		90	75	57		0
		PSD-P		58		25		80	28	12		0
		Wr		110		99		105	98	92		
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	PSD		100		93			100			100
		PSD-P		70		67			83			96
		Wr		96		91			97			84
	Black Crappie	PSD		100		100			65			22
		PSD-P		0		60			4			0
		Wr		94		104			120			104
	Bluegill	PSD		17		23			65			67
		PSD-P		2		3			0			0
		Wr		120		107			104			104
	Largemouth Bass	PSD							100			
		PSD-P							100			
		Wr							90			
	Northern Pike	PSD		100		100			100			100
		PSD-P		50		100			100			75
		Wr		88		100			99			80
	Yellow Perch	PSD		86		70			100			89
		PSD-P		57		0			0			33
		Wr		96		89			79			86

Back-Calculated Lengths

Mean species back-calculated total length (mm) at age, standard error (SE), and sample size (N).

Species: Bluegill

Year Class	Age	N	Mean back-calculated length (SE) at age									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2021	1	3	68 (3.2)									
2020	2	5	65 (7.7)	98 (4.2)								
2019	3	19	61 (3.2)	98 (3.7)	125 (3.2)							
2018	4	8	62 (4.9)	96 (7.8)	132 (6.4)	150 (5.5)						
2017	5	6	67 (6.4)	102 (4.9)	135 (4.3)	156 (3.7)	174 (3.4)					
2016	6	2	52 (4.2)	78 (.4)	109 (4.1)	133 (9.5)	154 (7)	167 (7.5)				
Weighted Mean		43	63	97	127	150	169	167				

Year Class	Age	N	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2021	1	3										
2020	2	5										
2019	3	19										
2018	4	8										
2017	5	6										
2016	6	2										
Weighted Mean		43										

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+
2022	2829	111 (86)	123 (143)	149 (1493)	163 (735)	182 (261)	177 (113)				
2019	340			144 (107)	161 (221)	183 (13)					
2016	734	74 (71)	108 (229)	146 (414)			194 (8)		243 (6)		254 (6)
2014	100	88 (66)	131 (21)	166 (4)	194 (2)	186 (1)	193 (4)	204 (2)			

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	154	169 (9)	196 (32)	265 (48)	334 (47)	343 (9)	461 (5)	533 (3)	476 (2)		
2018	20			290 (3)	369 (1)	436 (6)	422 (5)	516 (3)	484 (3)		
2014	12					373 (7)	429 (4)	512 (1)			

Fish Condition

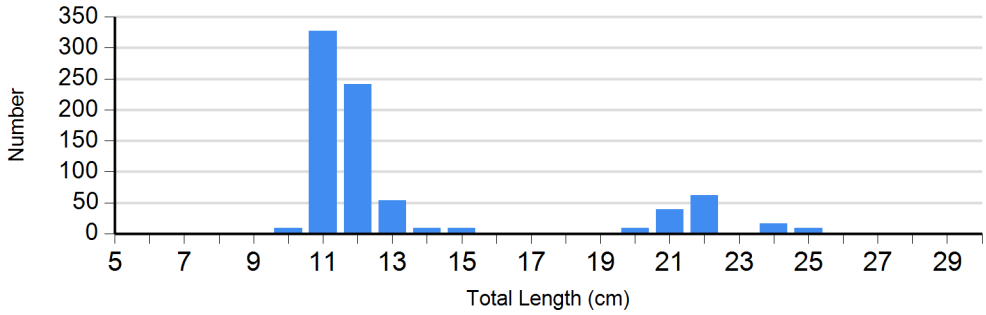
Mean relative weight (Wr) by sample size (N), length category stock to quality (S-Q), quality to preferred (Q-P), preferred to memorable (P-M), and memorable (M) for species collected across survey years with standard error (SE).

		Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
Species	Year	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Black Crappie Frame Net	2019	72	169 (31.4)	126	94 (1.5)	9	90	0	
	2022	7	104 (4.0)	2	104 (10.3)	0		0	
Bluegill Frame Net	2019	119	110 (2.2)	221	100 (1.0)	0		0	
	2022	933	108 (0.7)	1896	102 (0.6)	0		0	
Largemouth Bass Electro Fishing	2018	2	101 (2.3)	2	102 (7.7)	13	107 (2.3)	3	103 (3.9)
	2019	42	97 (1.0)	80	95 (0.8)	34	101 (2.0)	14	104 (2.8)
	2020	52	90 (0.7)	55	91 (0.7)	11	102 (1.2)	3	95 (2.4)

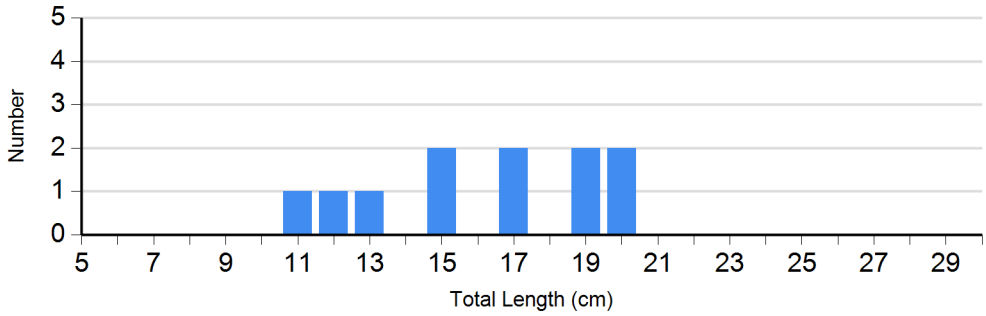
Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

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

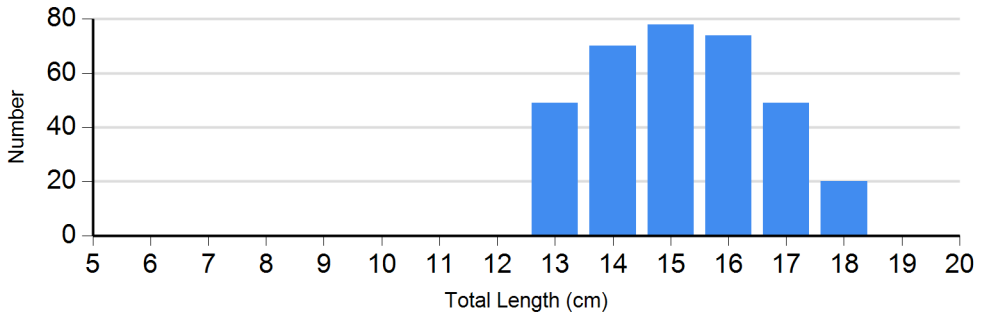


2019

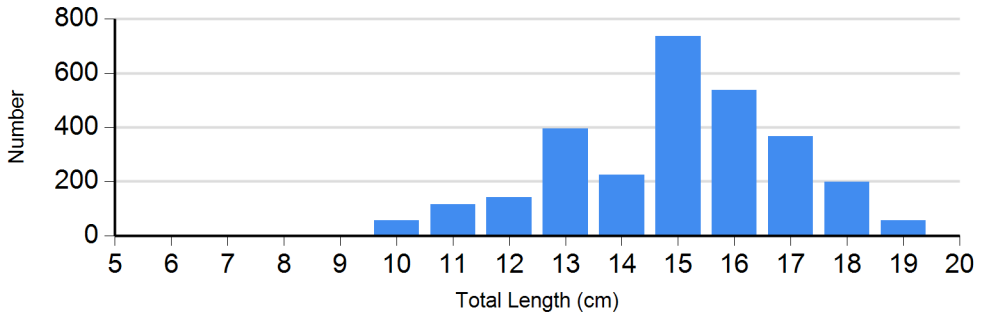


2022

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

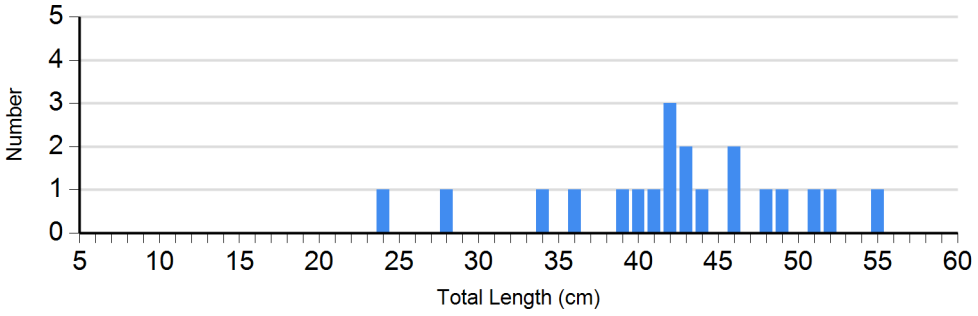


2019

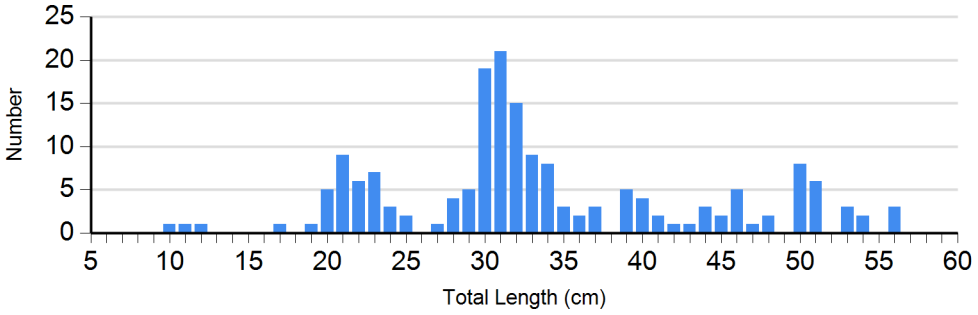


2022

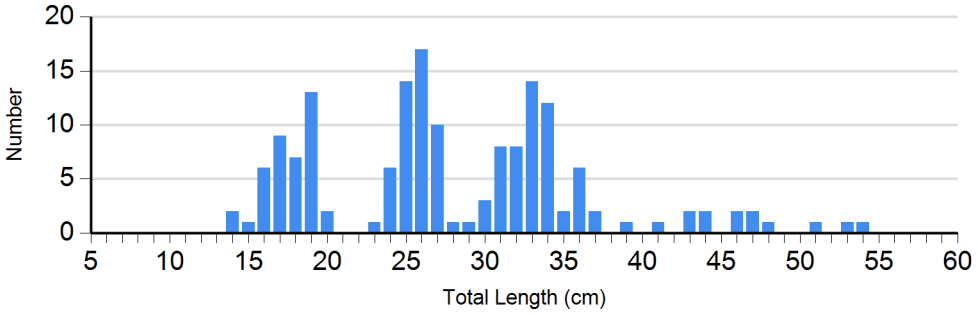
Species: Largemouth Bass
Gear: boat shocker (night)



2018



2019

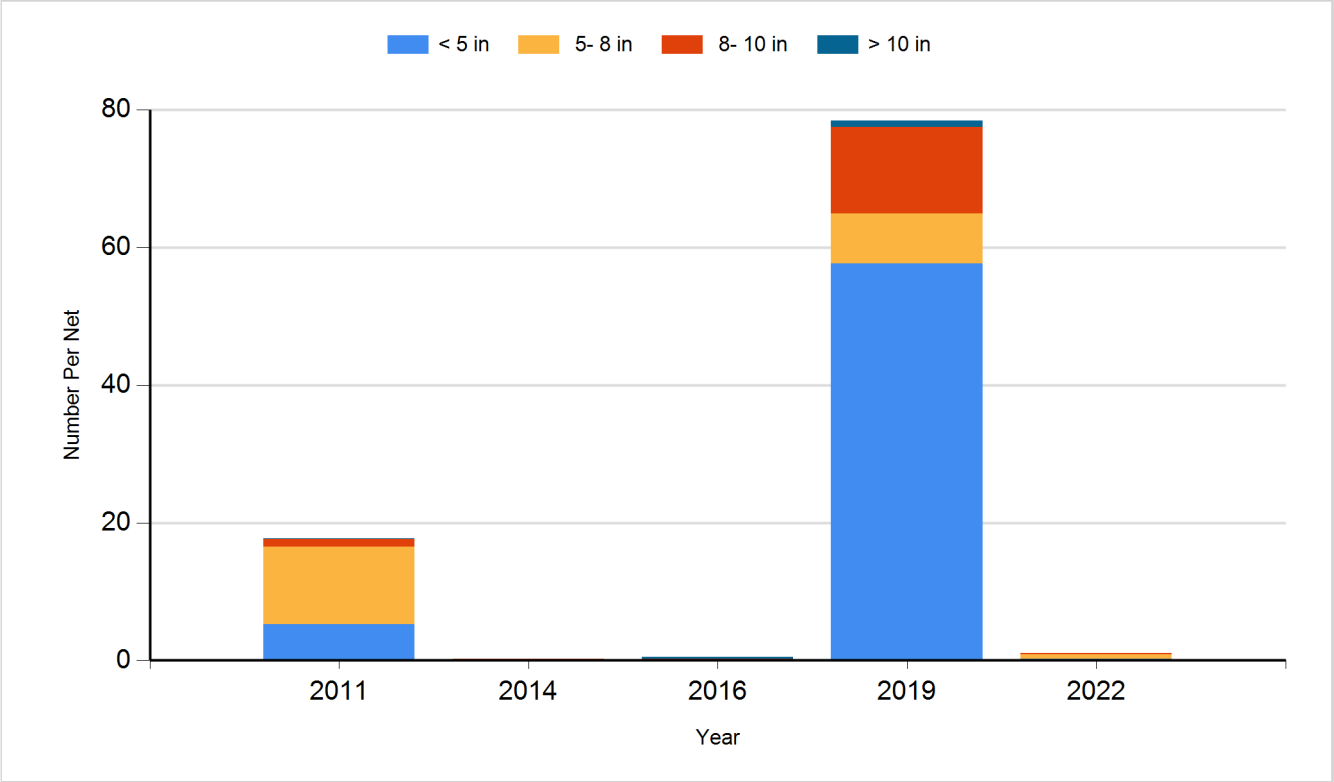


2020

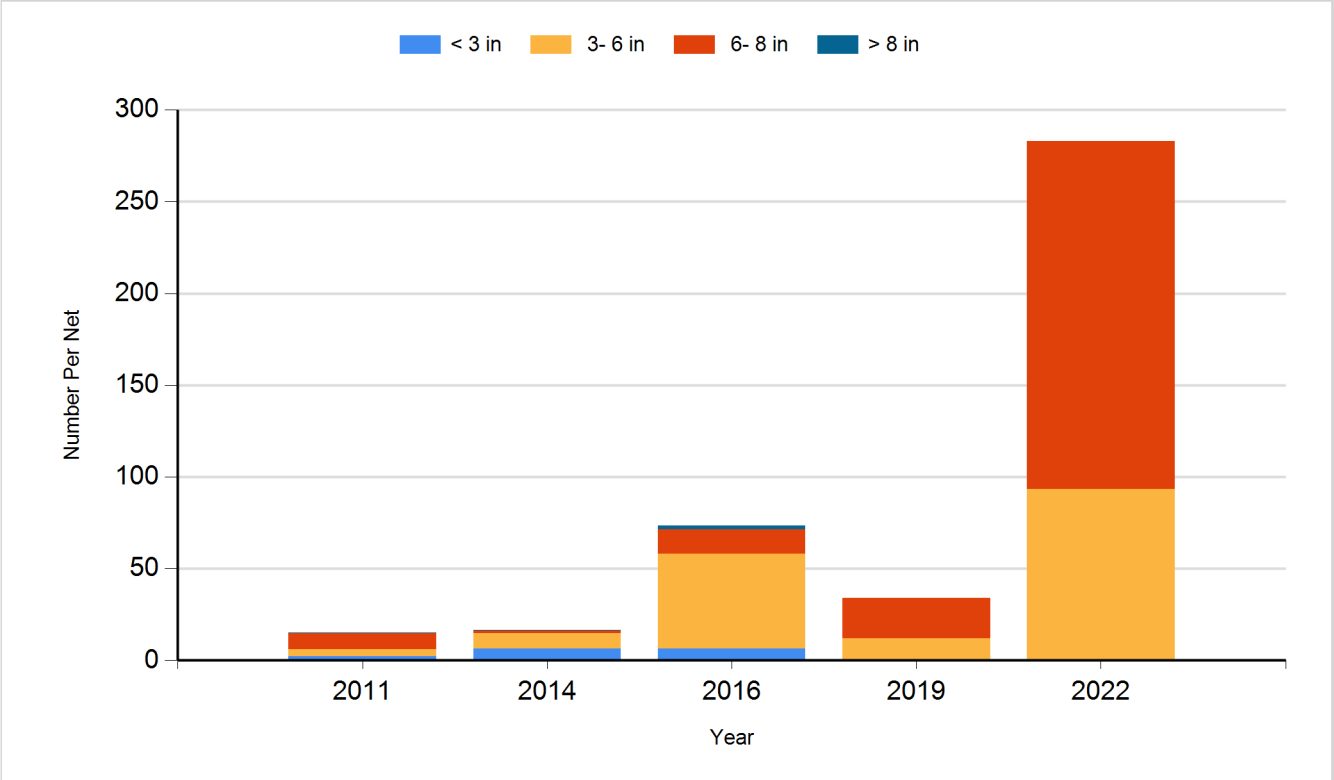
Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

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



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



Species: Largemouth Bass
Gear: boat shocker (night)