2023 Simon Dam Survey Summary

Water: Simon Dam

County: Potter

Legal Description: T120N-R74W-S29

GPS: 45.17568, -99.78984

Surface Area: 47 Acres

Class: Warm Water Semi-Permanent

Maximum Depth: 15 feet

Mean Depth: 9 feet

Simon Dam is a 47-acre impoundment on the upper end of Swan Creek, 4.5 miles south and 1 mile west of the City of Hoven in northeast Potter County. From SD HWY 47 a county gravel road leads to a trail that provides access to the lake. A concrete plank ramp and dock provide boat access on the east shoreline. There are no other public use facilities at Simon Dam.

Primary game fish managed at Simon Dam include Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Yellow Perch. Black Bullhead, Back Crappie, Channel Catfish, and Northern Pike also have a historical presence. A combination of decreased water levels, abundant aquatic vegetation, and snow cover during the winter of 2018-19 resulted in significant fish loss due to insufficient dissolved oxygen levels (winterkill). Restocking efforts of Channel Catfish, Bluegill and Largemouth Bass followed during 2019 through 2023.

Simon Dam was surveyed on June 6-7, 2023, utilizing ¾ inch standard frame net sets. Yellow Perch, Bluegill, and Northern Pike were observed during the 2023 survey. Electrofishing was not completed in 2023 to monitor Largemouth Bass. The current condition of the bass population is unknown, and electrofishing should be conducted in 2024.

- **Northern Pike:** Northern Pike was the most frequently sampled species with a catch of 3.3 per frame net. These fish were almost exclusively between 15 and 25 inches. Condition was equal to the state average.

- **Yellow Perch:** Catch rates were moderate with 1.7 individuals sampled in each frame net. Over half the perch sampled were small adults averaging 5 inches. The remainder were large adults over 10 inches. Condition was well above average.

- **Bluegill:** The 2023 survey sampled Bluegill for the first time in over 10 years, the result of a 2020 stocking of 90 adults. 7 fish were observed with all being over 6 inches and the majority over 8 inches. There was no indication that reproduction had occurred since 2020. Condition was far above average.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
Simon, Potter County
LLO-Lake-2144-000
2023

Lake Information

Name: Simon

County: Potter

Legal Description: T120-R74-S29

Surface Area: 47 Acres

Maximum Depth: 15 Feet

Mean Depth: 9 Feet

Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Jun 05, 2023	4 net-nights
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Jun 06, 2023	5 net-nights

Common Fish Species Present

Largemouth Bass

Black Crappie

Northern Pike

Yellow Perch

Bluegill

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
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Bluegill	7	0.8	0.5	100		86		139	5
	Northern Pike	30	3.3	0.5	47	14	3		96	2
	Yellow Perch	15	1.7	0.6	40	21	33		117	10

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Avg
AFS std frame net	Black Crappie				0.5							0.50
	Northern Pike				1.1							1.10
	Yellow Perch				0.2							0.20
AFS std gill net	Northern Pike				1.8							1.80
	Yellow Perch				7.5							7.50
boat shocker (night)	Largemouth Bass				1.0			2.0				1.50
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Crappie	0.5						3.3			0.0	1.27
	Bluegill	0.0						0.0			0.8	0.27
	Largemouth Bass	0.0						0.8			0.0	0.27
	Northern Pike	1.1						0.7			3.3	1.70
	Yellow Perch	0.0						0.2			1.7	0.63
std exp gill net	Northern Pike	2.0										2.00
	Yellow Perch	1.0										1.00

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.

			Year									
Gear	Species	Index	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
AFS std frame net	Black Crappie	PSD				100						
		PSD-P				40						
		Wr				112						
	Northern Pike	PSD				55						
		PSD-P				27						
		Wr				82						
	Yellow Perch	PSD				100						
		PSD-P				0						
		Wr				115						
AFS std gill net	Northern Pike	PSD				57						
		PSD-P				14						
		Wr				82						
	Yellow Perch	PSD				87						
		PSD-P				3						
		Wr				114						
boat shocker (night)	Largemouth Bass	PSD				100			0			
		PSD-P				100			0			
		Wr				138			126			
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Crappie	PSD	100						0			
		PSD-P	100						0			
		Wr	100						134			
	Bluegill	PSD										100
		PSD-P										86
		Wr										139
	Largemouth Bass	PSD							0			
		PSD-P							0			
		Wr							132			
	Northern Pike	PSD	82						14			47
		PSD-P	0						0			3
		Wr	93						93			96
	Yellow Perch	PSD							50			40
		PSD-P							0			33

			Year									
Gear	Species	Index	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Yellow Perch	Wr							115			117
std exp gill net	Northern Pike	PSD	75									
		PSD-P	0									
		Wr	105									
	Yellow Perch	PSD	100									
		PSD-P	0									
		Wr	107									

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
2020	3	5	112 (4.5)	144 (3)	188 (2.7)							
Weighted Mean		5	112	144	188							

Year Class	Age	N	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2020	3	5										
Weighted Mean		5										

Species: Yellow Perch

Year Class	Age	N	Mean back-calculated length (SE) at age									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2022	1	9	131 (4)									
2020	3	1	95	160	182							
2019	4	5	101 (6.2)	165 (14.3)	220 (14.3)	264 (6)						
Weighted Mean		15	119	164	214	264						

Year Class	Age	N	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2022	1	9										
2020	3	1										
2019	4	5										
Weighted Mean		15										

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+
2017	5		216 (3)	260 (2)							

Species: Bluegill

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2023	7			201 (7)							

Species: Largemouth Bass

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2017	1										445 (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+
2017	30	143 (4)	230 (25)		314 (1)						

Fish Condition

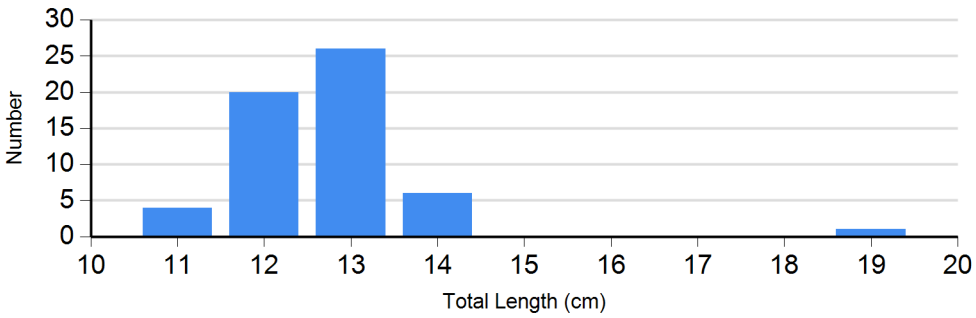
Mean relative weight (Wr) by sample size (N), length category stock to quality (S-Q), quality to preferred (Q-P), preferred to memorable (P-M), and memorable (M) for species collected across survey years with standard error (SE).

		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	2020	33	134 (1.6)	0		0		0	
Bluegill Frame Net	2023	0		1	135	6	140 (4.6)	0	
Largemouth Bass Electro Fishing	2020	2	126 (2.5)	0		0		0	

Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

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

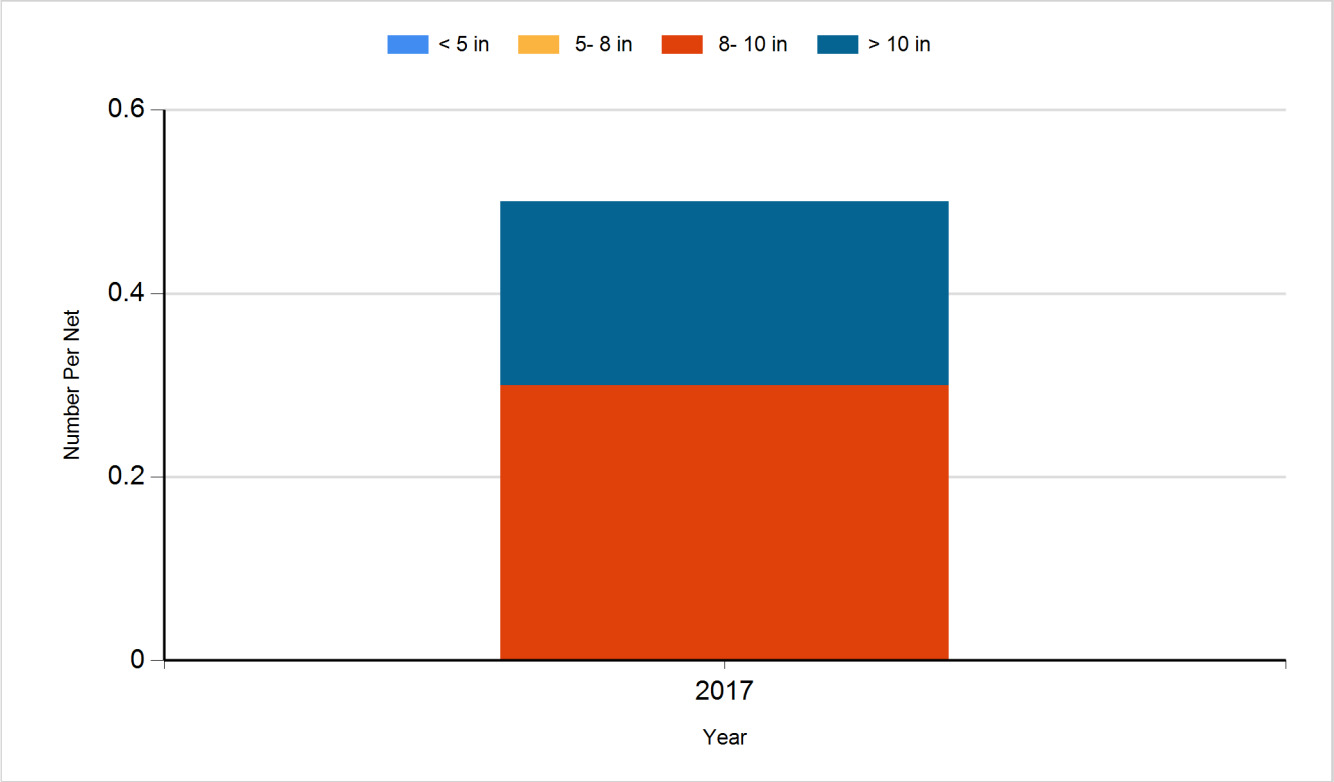


2020

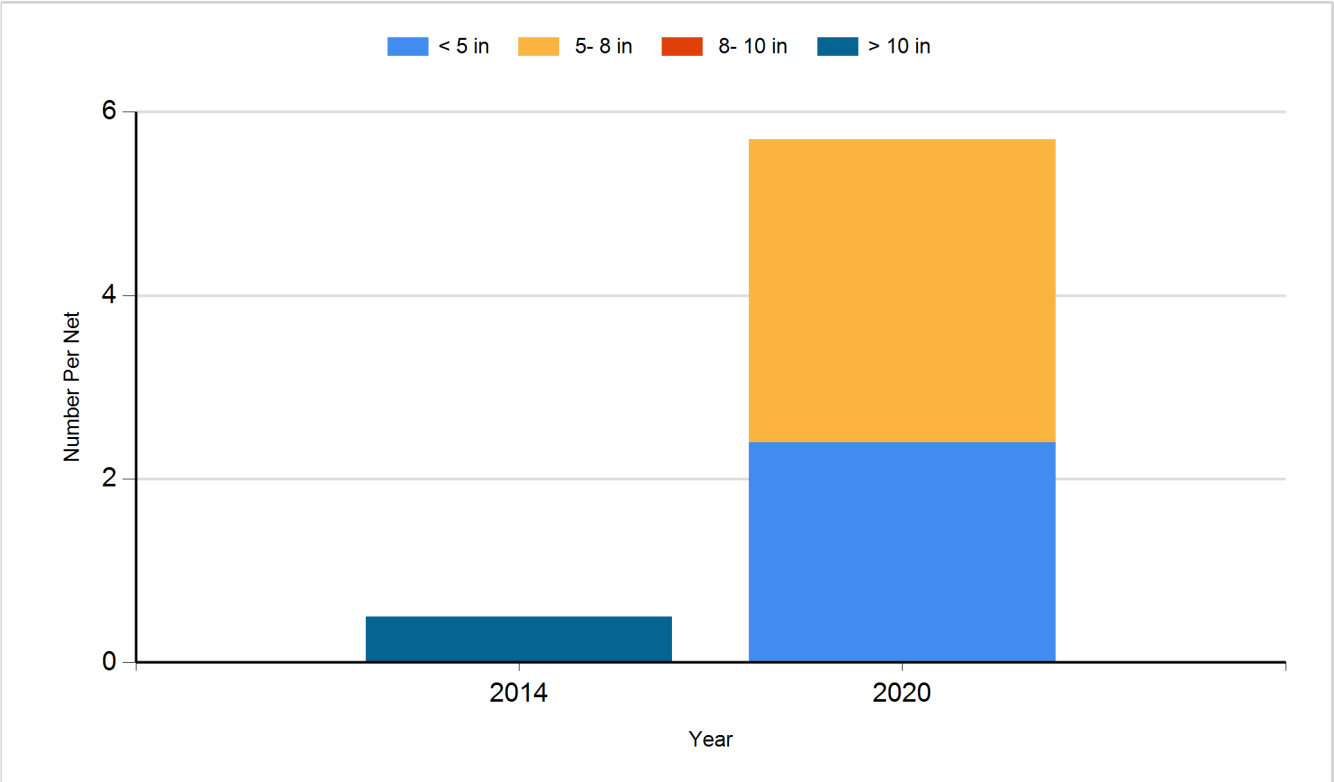
Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

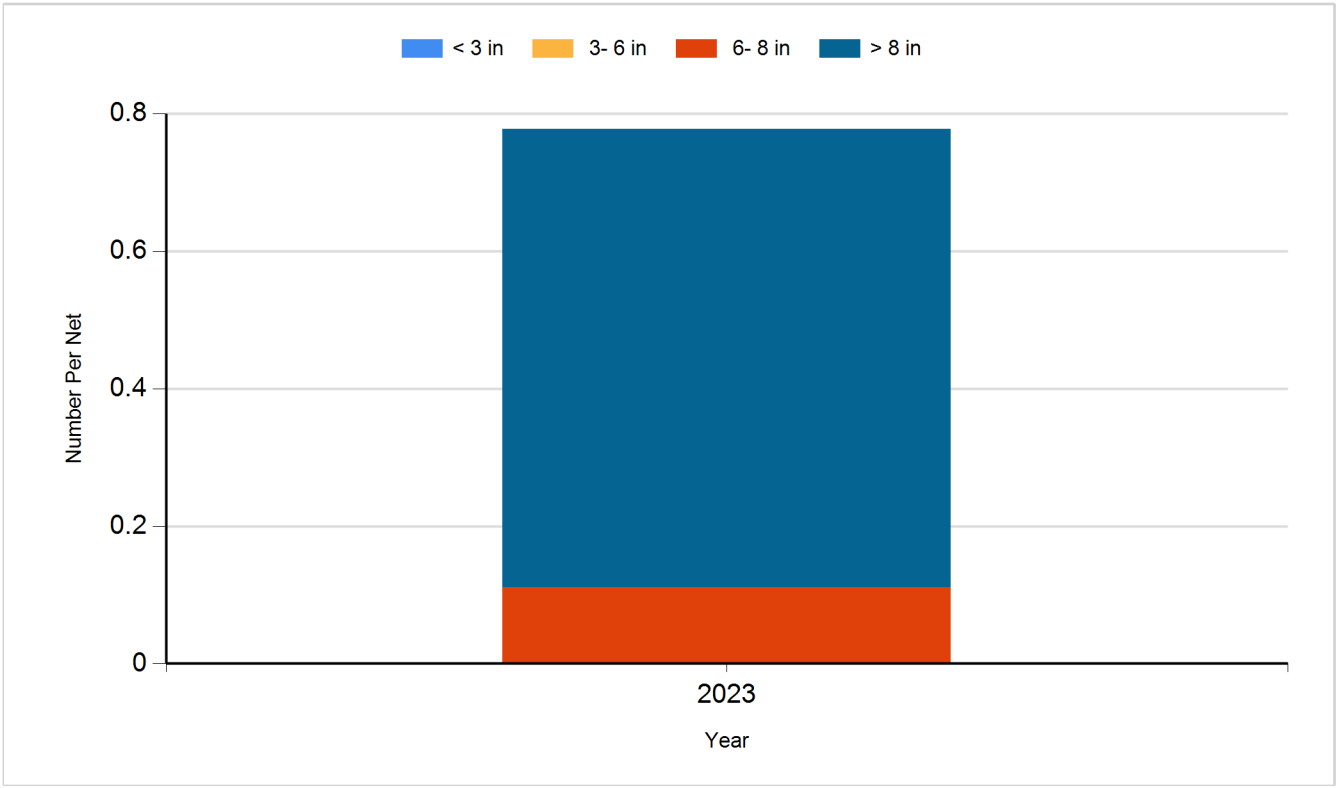
Species: Black Crappie
Gear: AFS std frame net



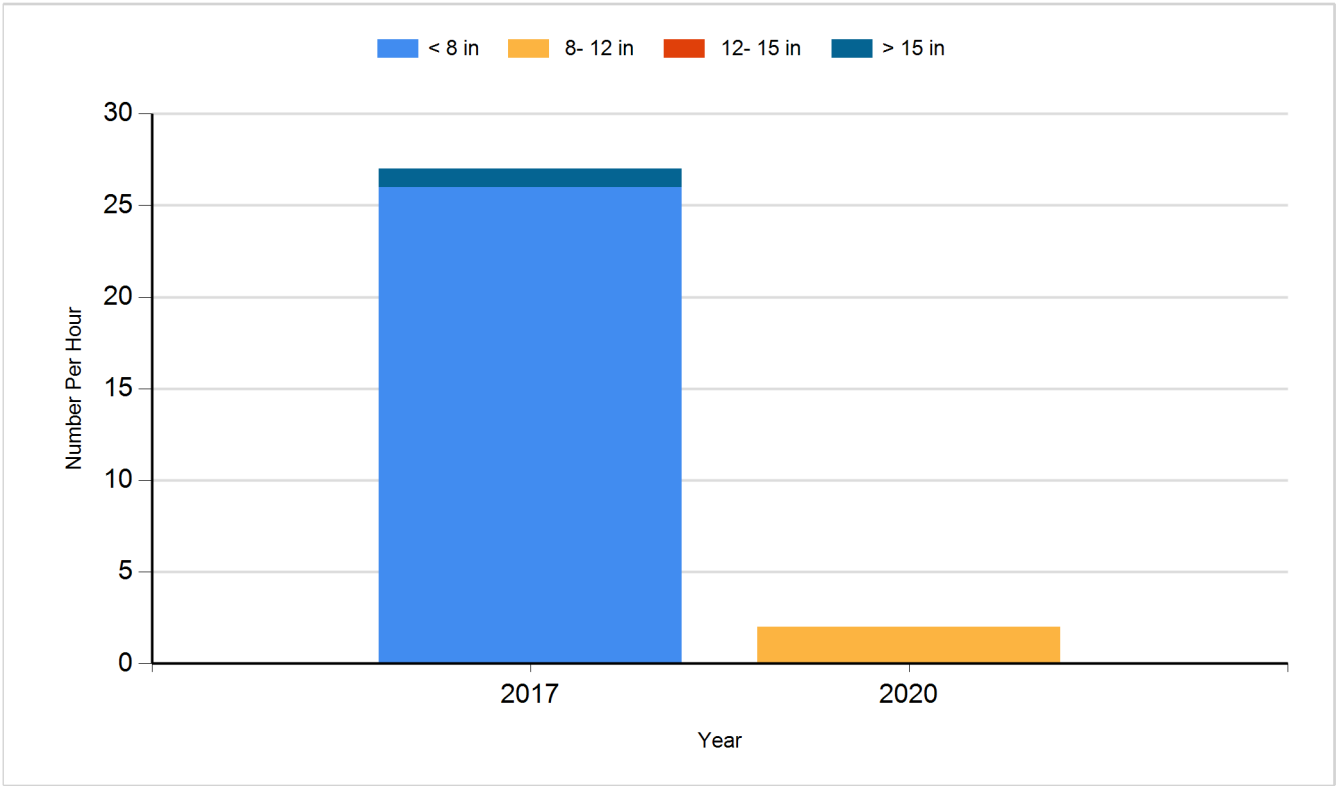
Species: Black Crappie
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)



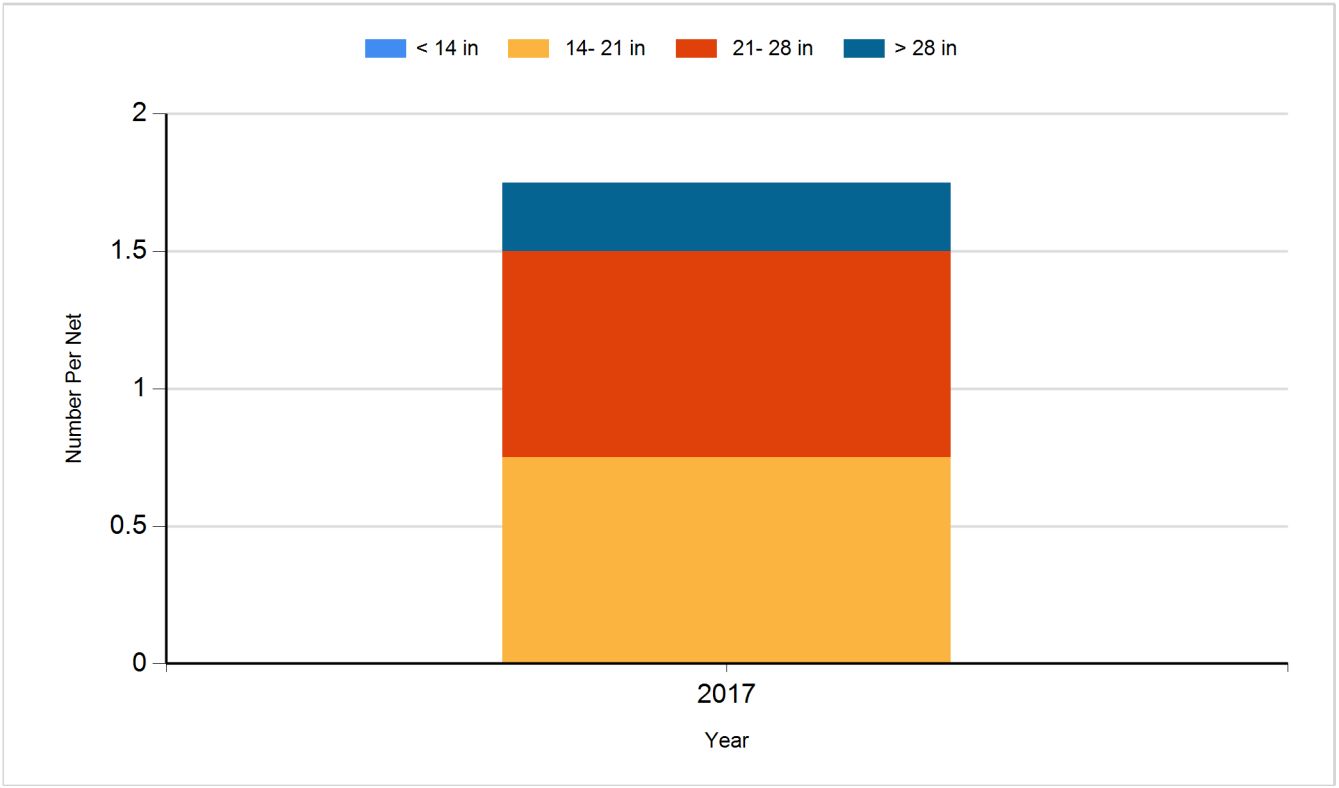
Species: Bluegill
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)



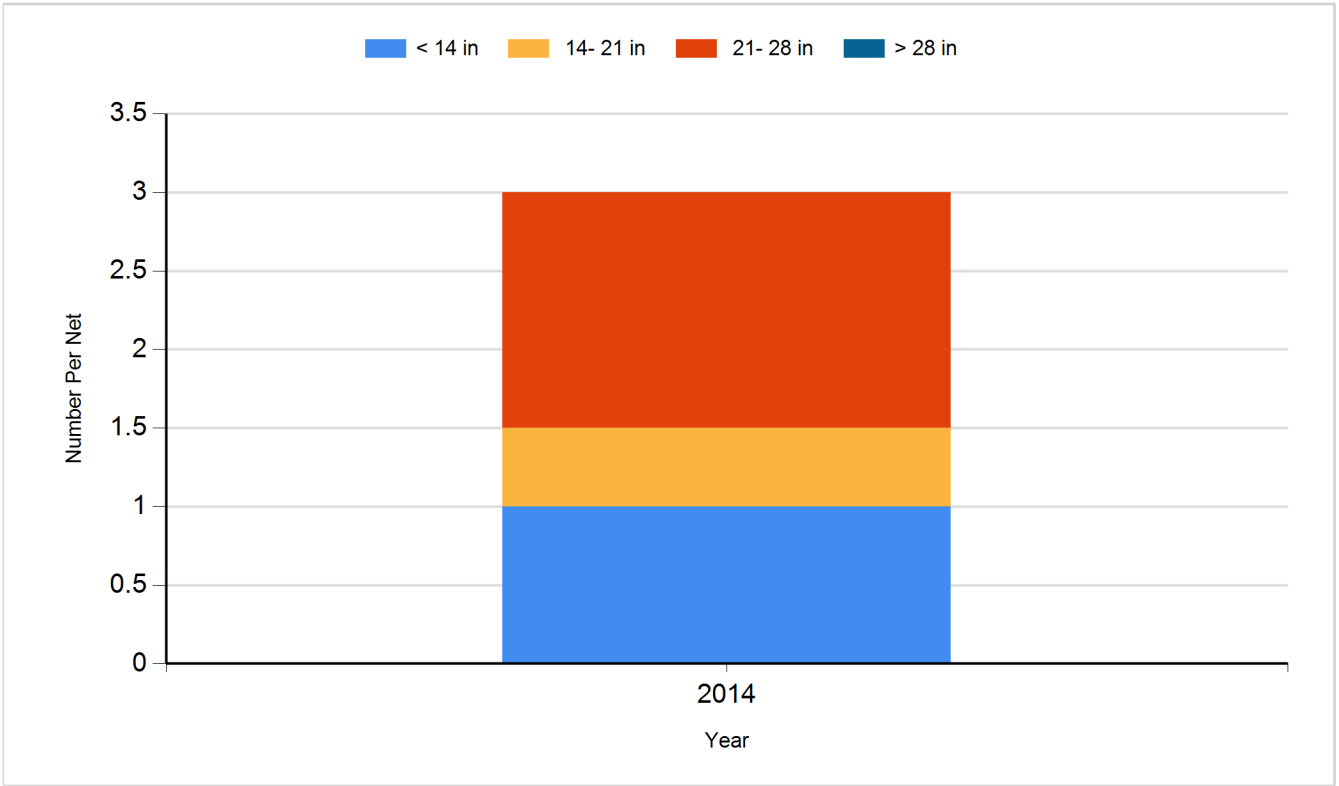
Species: Largemouth Bass
Gear: boat shocker (night)



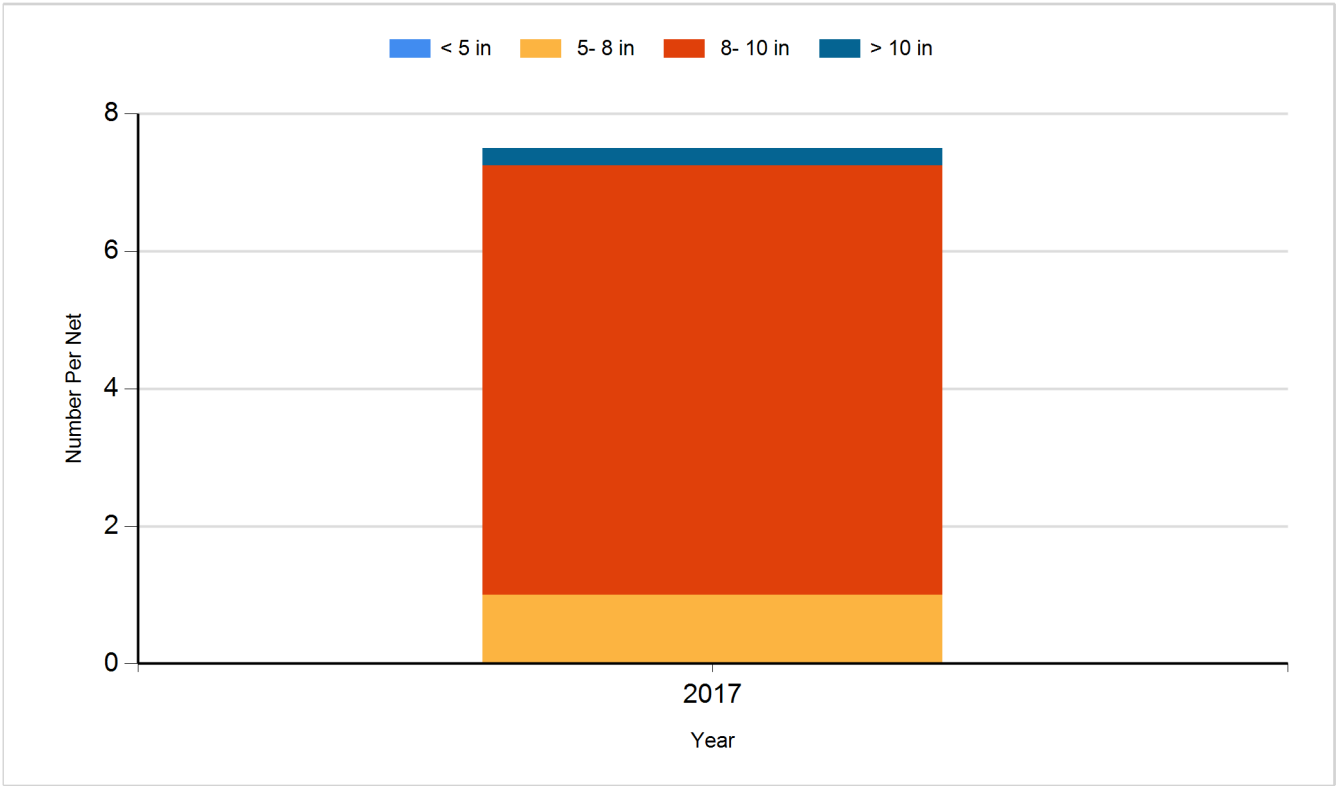
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net



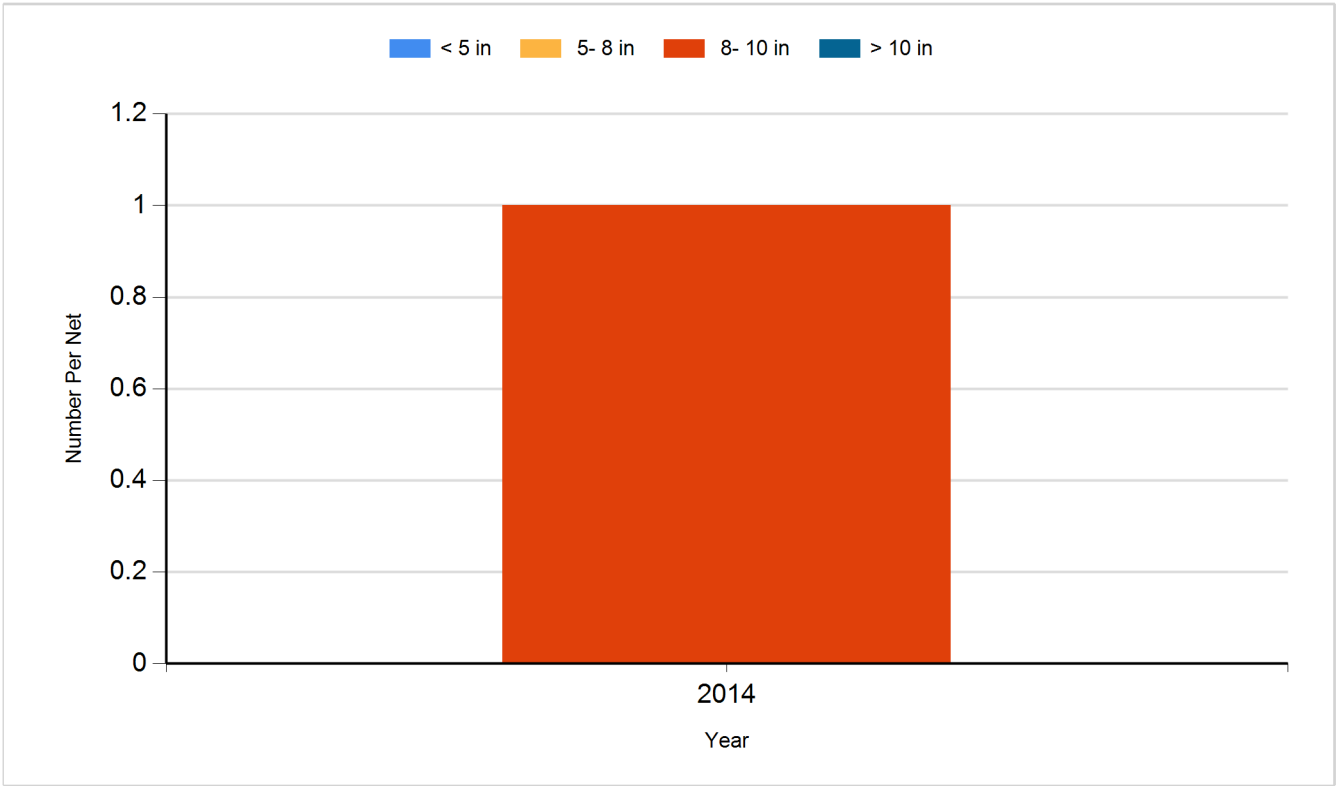
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: std exp gill net



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
2012	Yellow Perch	Adult	300
2013	Channel Catfish	Large Fingerling	720
2014	Channel Catfish	Juvenile	100
2016	Largemouth Bass	Adult	68
2017	Largemouth Bass	Adult	103
2018	Channel Catfish	Adult	110
2019	Channel Catfish	Adult	107
2019	Largemouth Bass	Adult	20
2019	Largemouth Bass	Juvenile	30
2020	Bluegill	Adult	90
2021	Channel Catfish	Adult	107
2022	Largemouth Bass	Juvenile	700
2023	Channel Catfish	Adult	50