<u>Owens Lake Survey Summary</u>

Owens Lake is a 96-acre impoundment located 3 miles East and four miles South of Bison. Owens suffered a major winterkill the winter of 2022/2023. Owens was managed as a Northern Pike/ Bullhead fishery prior to the winterkill. In the 2023 survey, no pike and one Black Bullhead were sampled showing the severity of the winterkill. To get a fishery started right away Owens was stocked with Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Walleye and Yellow Perch.

Bluegill. 200 adult Bluegill were stocked in 2023. Frame nets caught 5.0 bluegill per net during the survey. Fish ranged in size from 4 to 8 inches.

Largemouth Bass. Owens was stocked with 262 adult bass in the spring of 2023. Six were sampled in the frame net and six were also sampled in the electrofishing survey. Bass ranged from 4 to 13 inches.

Walleye. After the winterkill, we wanted to get a predator established right away. Extra walleye fingerlings were available, so 25,374 small walleye fingerlings were stocked in June of 2023. The walleye fingerlings showed up in the fall electrofishing survey with a catch rate of 48.0 walleye per hour. The walleye sampled were between 7 and 9 inches.

Lake Information

Name: Owen Dam

County: Perkins

Surface Area: 136 Acres

Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
boat shocker (day)	Oct 11, 2023	1200 seconds
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Jun 29, 2023	6 net-nights

Common Fish Species Present

Black Bullhead

Northern Pike

Largemouth Bass

Yellow Perch

Walleye

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.

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

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

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.

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

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 (in)	Stock (cm)	Quality (in)	Quality (cm)	Preferred (in)	Preferred (cm)	Memorable (in)	Memorable (cm)	Trophy (in)	Trophy (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
boat shocker (day)	Largemouth Bass	6	15.0	9.2	20		0		116	7
	Walleye*	16	48.0	55.4	0		0		87	2
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	1	0.2	0.2	100		0		105	
	Bluegill	30	5.0	2.3	33	13	0		131	3
	Largemouth Bass	6	0.5	0.5	0		0		104	3
	Yellow Perch	14	2.3	1.4	36	22	0		91	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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Avg
AFS std frame net	Black Bullhead				1.7							1.70
	Black Crappie				0.2							0.20
	Bluegill				0.1							0.10
	Largemouth Bass				0.1							0.10
	Northern Pike				0.4							0.40
AFS std gill net	Black Bullhead				6.3			27.0		0.0		11.10
	Bluegill				0.0			0.0		1.0		0.33
	Northern Pike				2.8			5.0		8.0		5.27
boat shocker (day)	Largemouth Bass										15.0	15.00
	Walleye*										48.0	48.00
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	7.8	67.3	4.4		4.0	1.8	81.5	142.7	0.8	0.2	34.50
	Black Crappie	0.3	0.1	0.2		0.0	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.20
	Bluegill	1.6	20.5	0.2		0.0	1.6	0.5	1.7	2.5	5.0	3.73
	Golden Shiner	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
	Green Sunfish	0.0	0.1	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.01
	Largemouth Bass	0.0	0.0	0.2		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.08
	Northern Pike	4.5	1.4	1.8		0.0	0.6	4.7	2.3	2.3	0.0	1.96
	Yellow Perch	0.0	0.1	0.0		0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.31
std exp gill net	Black Bullhead	1.5	2.5	1.0								1.67
	Green Sunfish	0.0	0.0	0.5								0.17
	Northern Pike	7.5	7.5	4.0								6.33
	Yellow Perch	1.5	0.0	0.0								0.50

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
AFS std frame net	Black Bullhead	PSD				100						
		PSD-P				100						
		Wr				125						
	Bluegill	PSD				100						
		PSD-P				0						
		Wr				149						
	Largemouth Bass	PSD				100						
		PSD-P				100						
		Wr				123						
	Northern Pike	PSD				75						
		PSD-P				25						
		Wr				89						
AFS std gill net	Black Bullhead	PSD				100			0			
		PSD-P				100			0			
		Wr				137			107			
	Bluegill	PSD									50	
		PSD-P									50	
		Wr									176	
	Northern Pike	PSD					82		30		88	
		PSD-P					18		0		44	
		Wr					93		89		87	
boat shocker (day)	Largemouth Bass	PSD										20
		PSD-P										0
		Wr										116
	Walleye	PSD										0
		PSD-P										0
		Wr										87
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Black Bullhead	PSD	27	17	50		46	22	2	17	100	100
		PSD-P	6	1	0		42	22	1	2	33	0
		Wr	93	106	101		108	124	94	106	101	105
	Bluegill	PSD	46	52	100			100	100	50	0	33
		PSD-P	8	9	100			63	100	50	0	0

Gear	Species	Index	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Bluegill	Wr	139	135	138			135	132	150	125	131
	Largemouth Bass	PSD			100							0
		PSD-P			100							0
		Wr			127							104
	Northern Pike	PSD	64	55	67			67	14	71	78	
		PSD-P	3	0	33			33	0	0	22	
		Wr	87	94	92			94	86	89	86	
	Yellow Perch	PSD		100				0				36
		PSD-P		100				0				0
		Wr						85				91
std exp gill net	Black Bullhead	PSD	33	20	0							
		PSD-P	0	0	0							
		Wr	130	114	106							
	Northern Pike	PSD	33	73	88							
		PSD-P	0	20	0							
		Wr	86	96	95							
	Yellow Perch	PSD	33									
		PSD-P	0									
		Wr	82									

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	S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
		N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Black Bullhead Gill Net	2020	54	107 (1.0)	0		0		0	
Bluegill Frame Net	2019	0		3	130 (1.4)	5	137 (4.2)	0	
	2020	0		0		1	134	2	130 (0.8)
	2021	5	155 (2.3)	0		1	122	4	151 (2.6)
	2022	10	125 (9.1)	0		0		0	
	2023	20	133 (2.5)	10	126 (3.6)	0		0	
Largemouth Bass Electro Fishing	2023	4	118 (6.8)	1	112	0		0	
Northern Pike Gill Net	2020	7	87 (2.6)	3	91 (7.4)	0		0	
	2022	2	84 (0.3)	7	81 (6.2)	7	93 (5.6)	0	

Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

Species: Black Bullhead
Gear: AFS std gill net

2020

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

2021

2022

2023
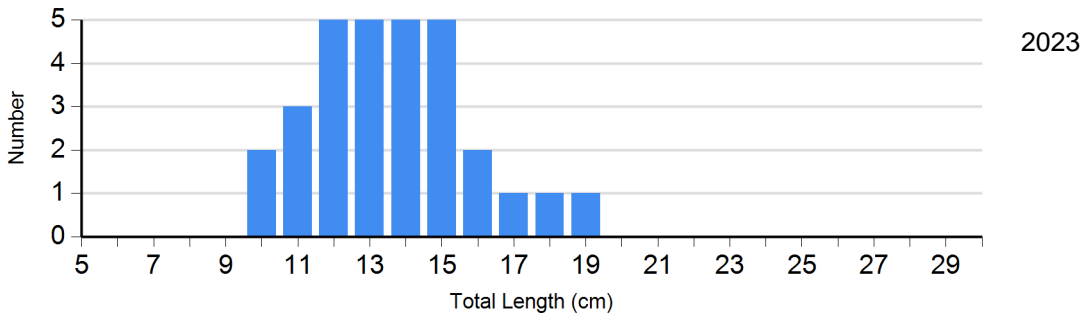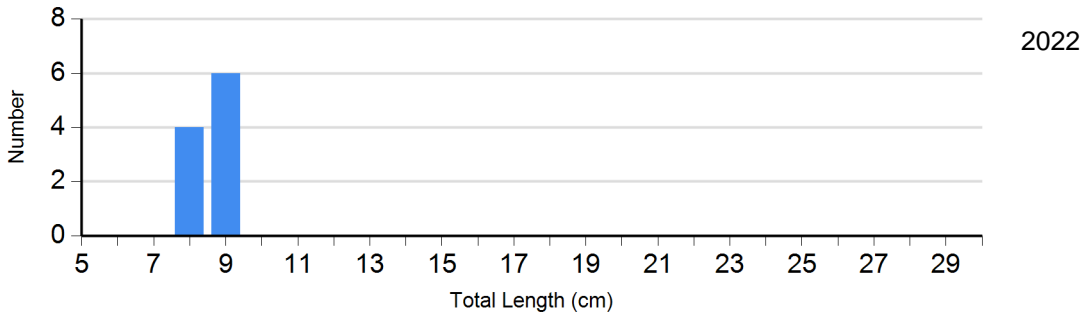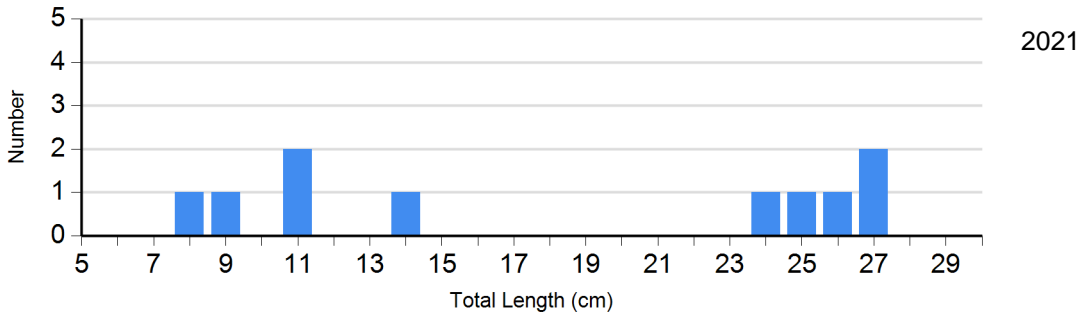
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net

Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

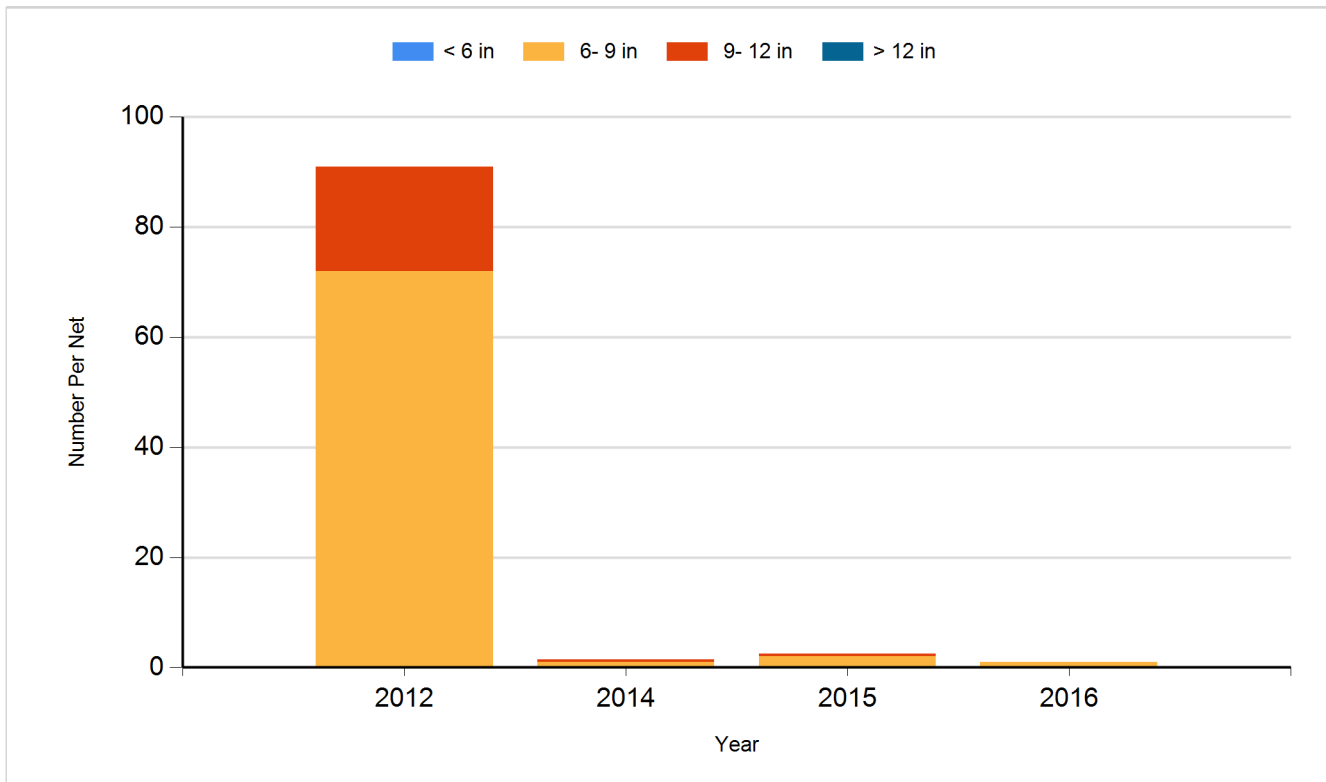Size distribution per net by color for species sampled by year.
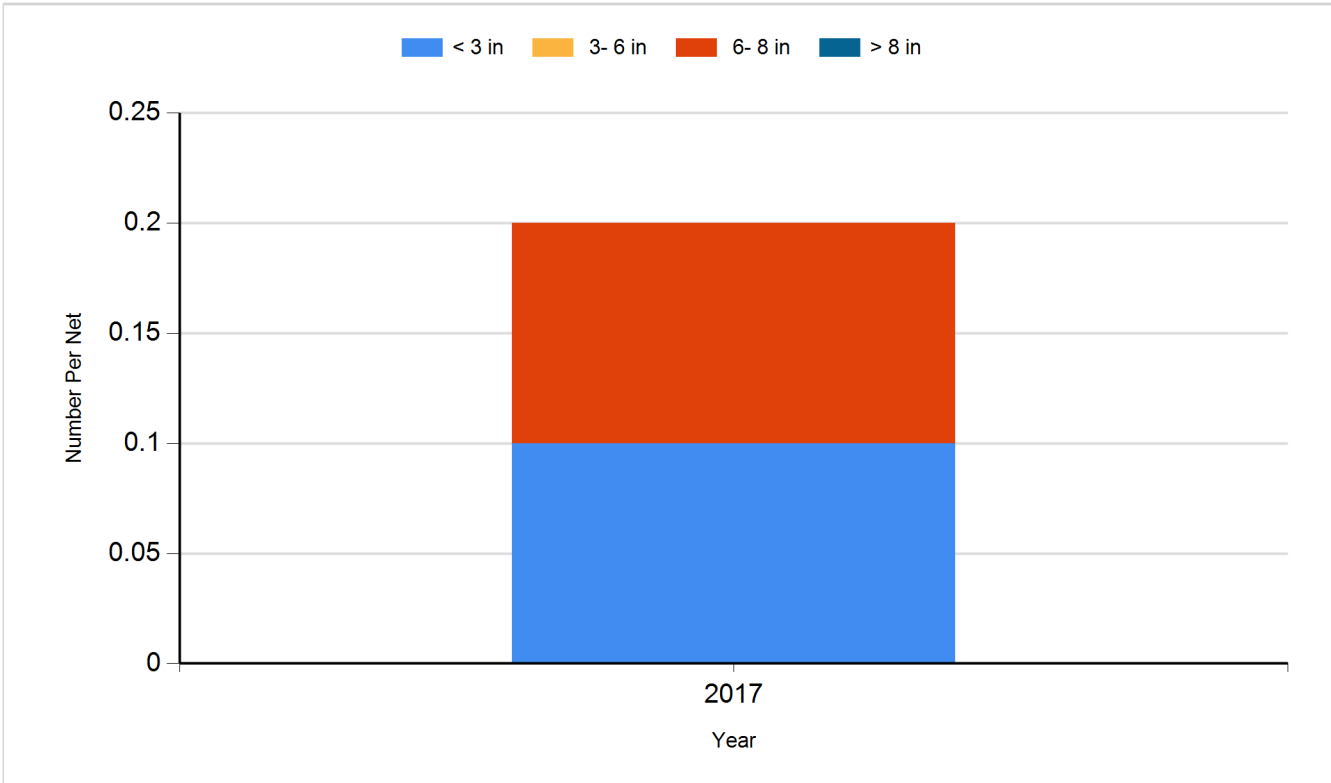
Species: Black Bullhead
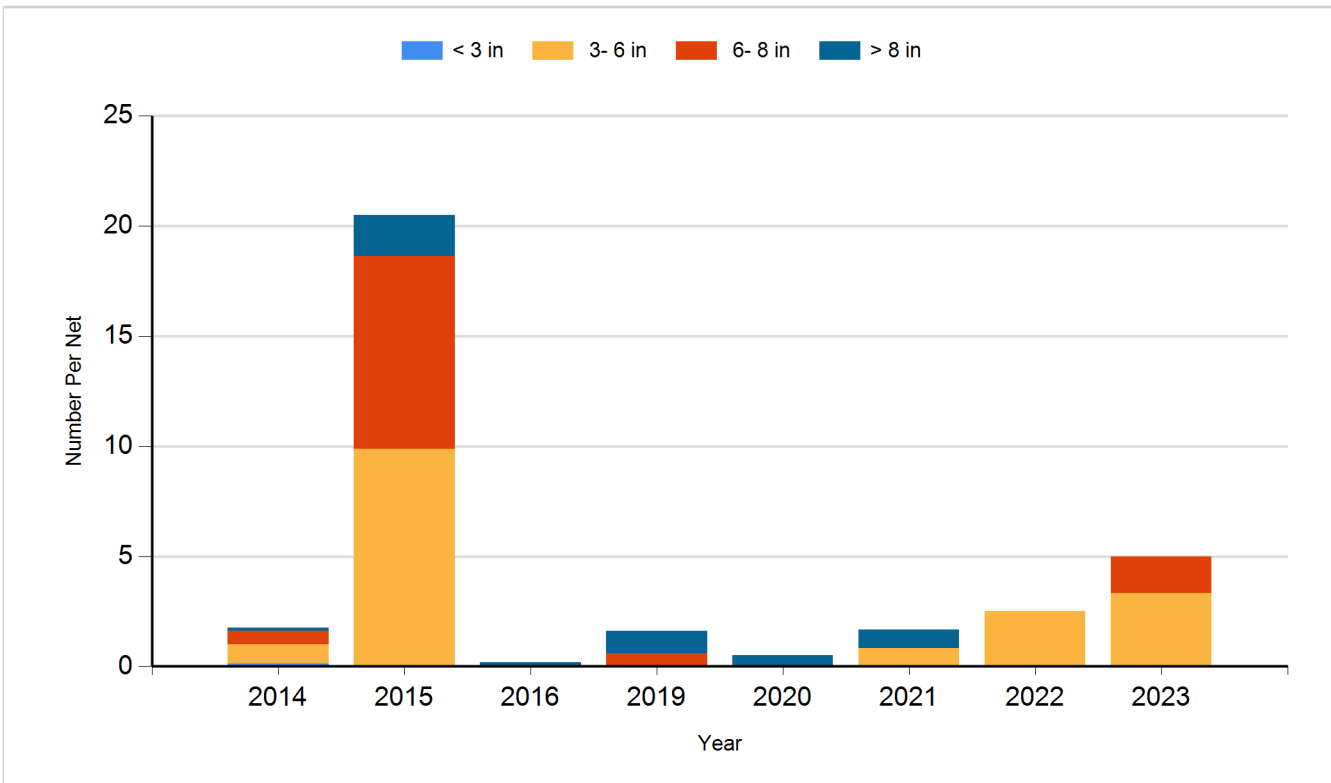Gear: AFS std gill net
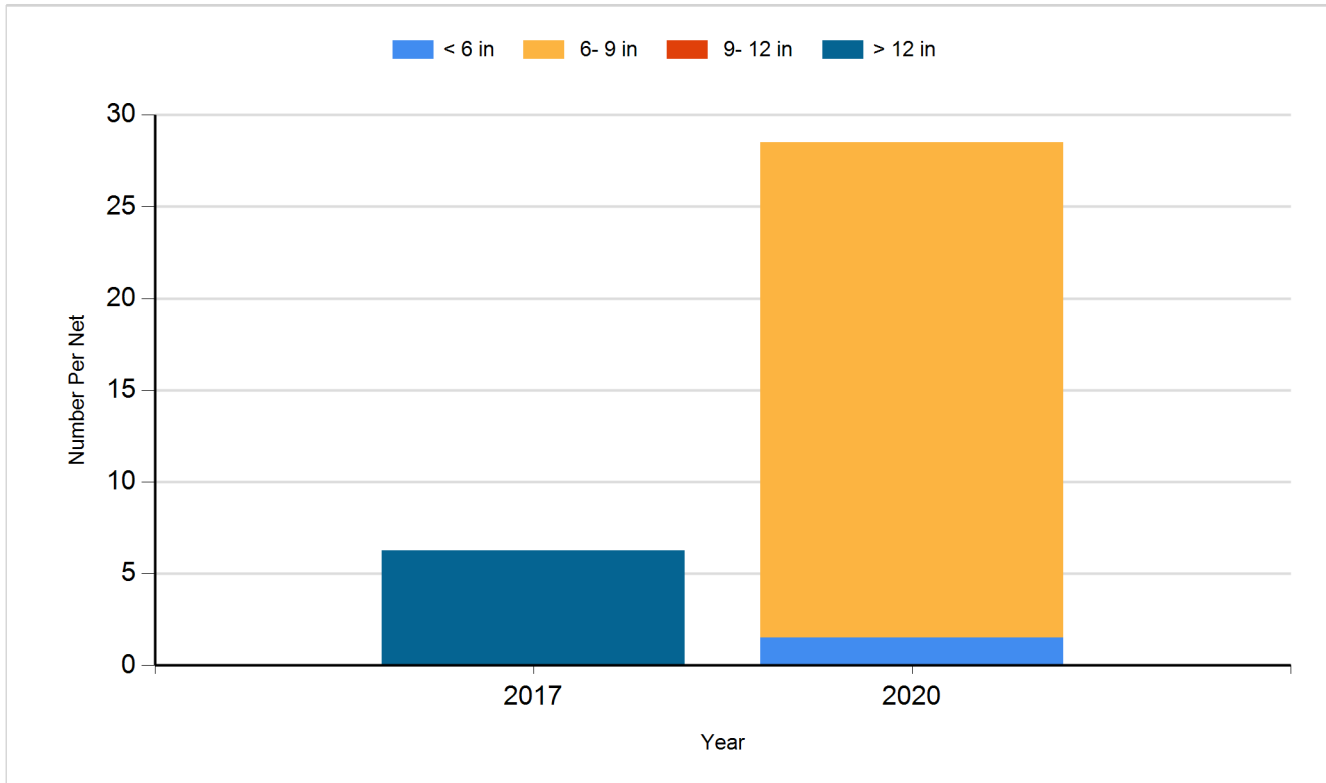
Species: Black Bullhead
Gear: std exp gill net
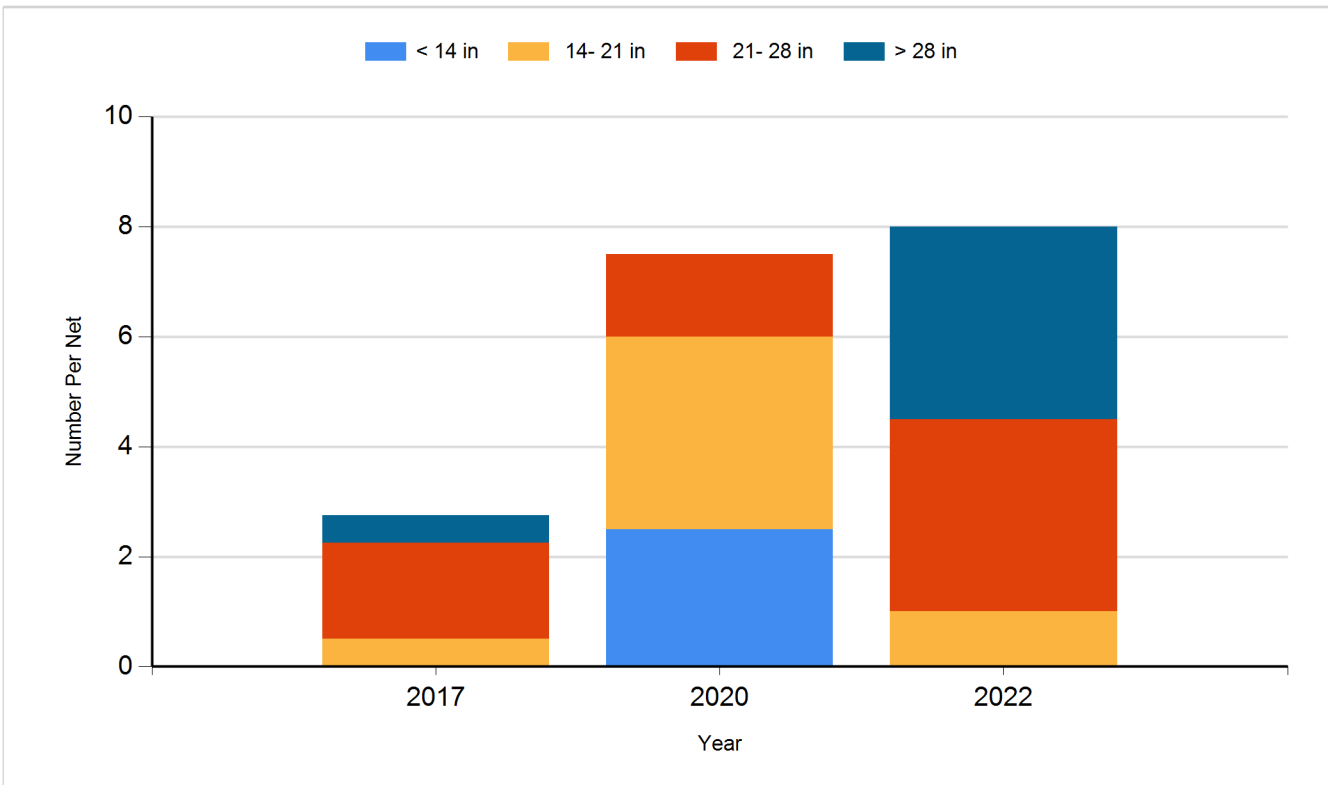
Species: Bluegill
Gear: AFS std frame net

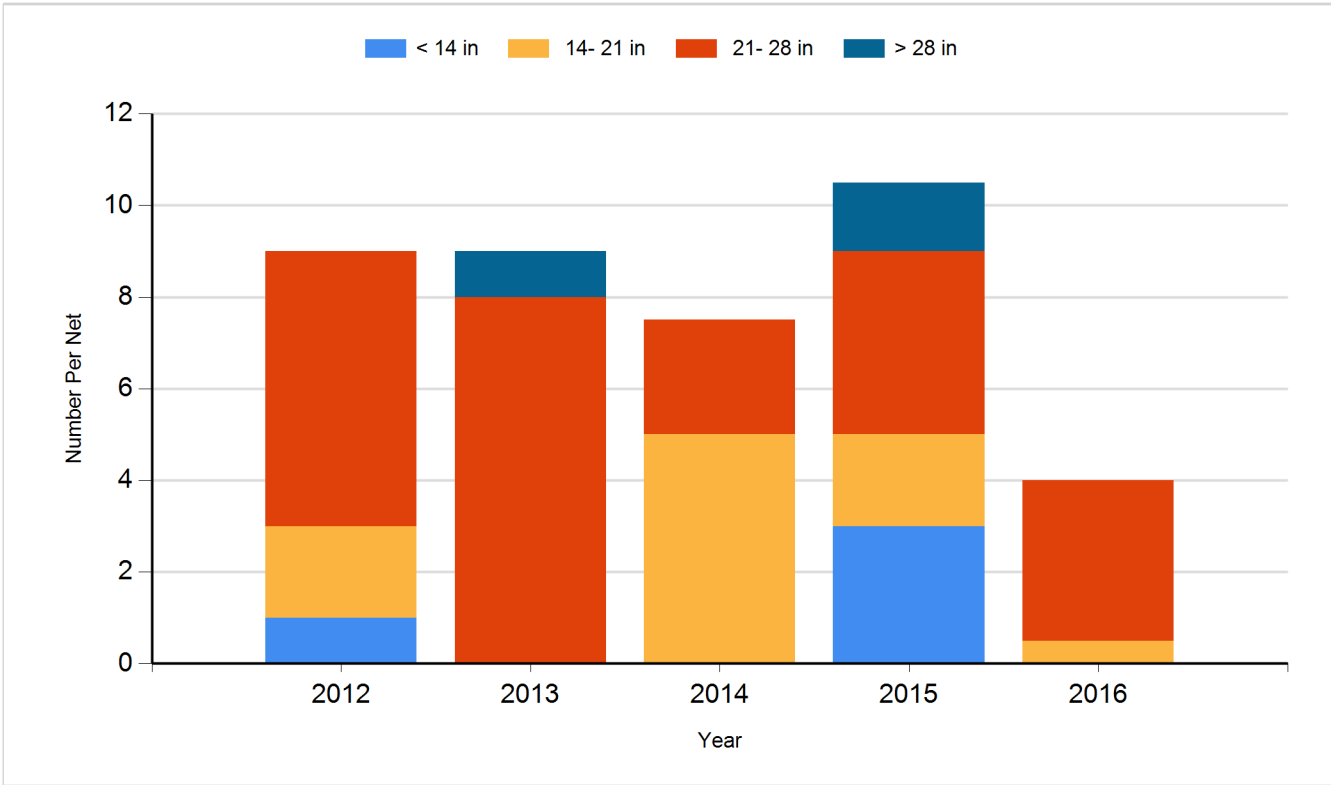Species: Bluegill
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)

Species: Largemouth Bass
Gear: boat shocker (day)
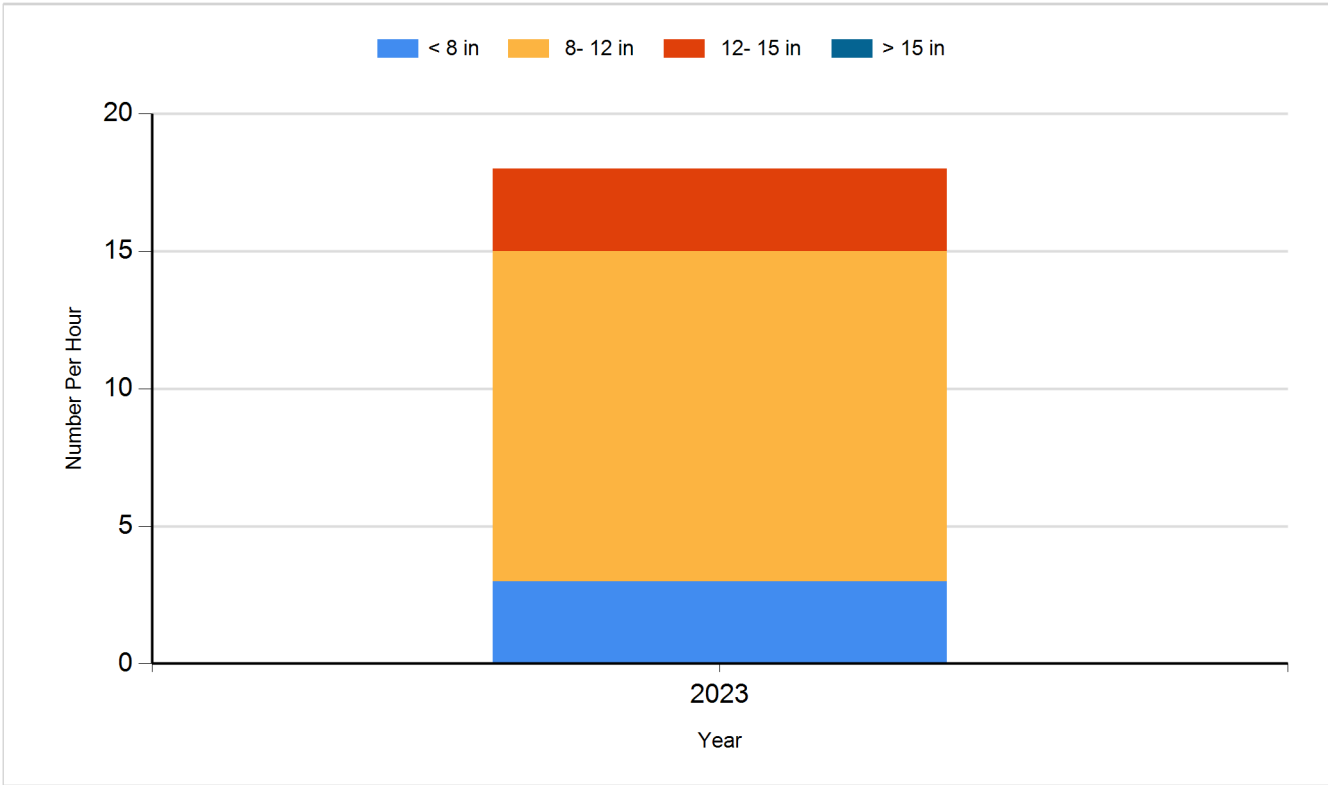
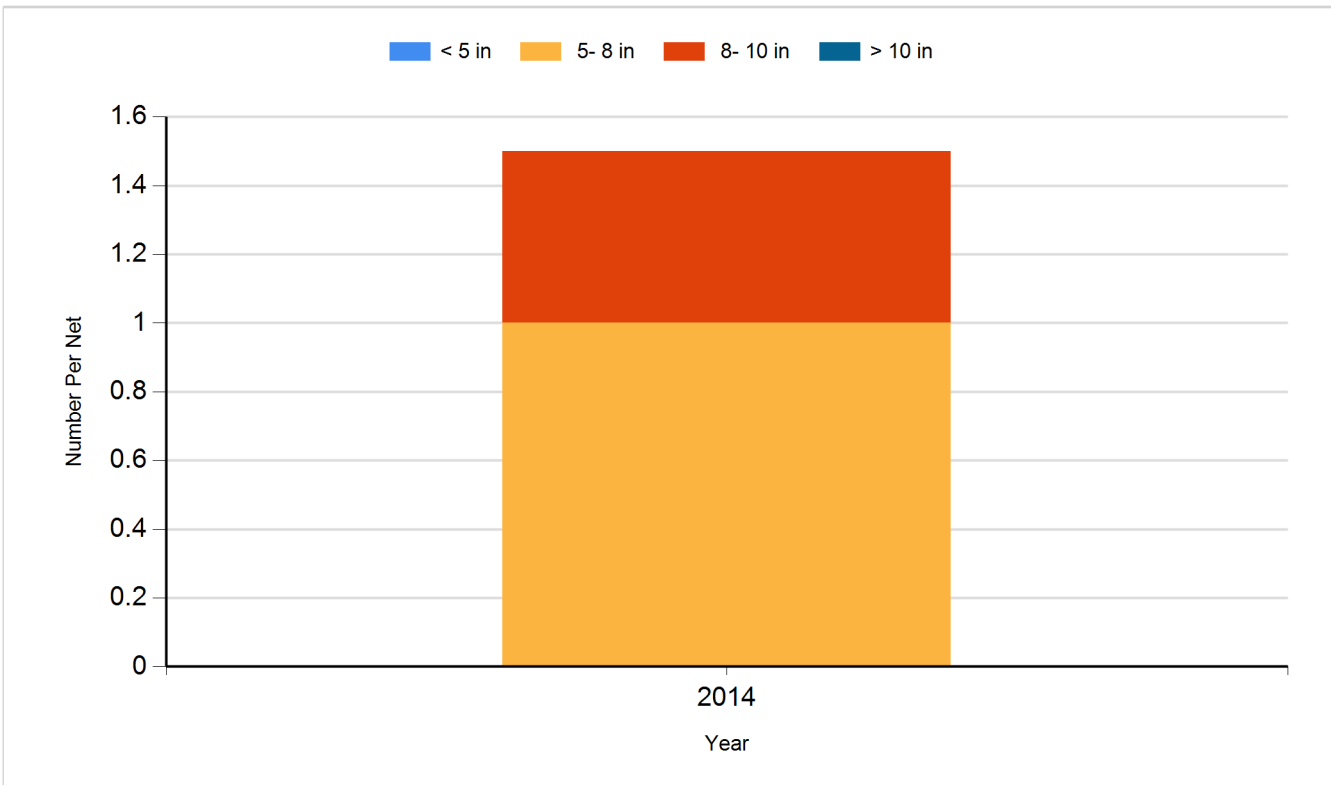

Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net

Species: Northern Pike
Gear: std exp 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	Bluegill	Adult	835
2012	Largemouth Bass	Adult	320
2012	Yellow Perch	Adult	572
2014	Largemouth Bass	Juvenile	250
2014	Yellow Perch	Adult	800
2017	Black Crappie	Adult	200
2017	Bluegill	Adult	25
2017	Yellow Perch	Adult	25
2018	Bluegill	Adult	200
2018	Northern Pike	Adult	15
2019	Golden Shiner	Adult	110
2019	Northern Pike	Adult	100
2019	Yellow Perch	Adult	350
2021	Black Crappie	Adult	170
2021	Bluegill	Adult	130
2021	Yellow Perch	Adult	1,100
2022	Yellow Perch	Adult	1,000
2023	Bluegill	Adult	200
2023	Largemouth Bass	Adult	262
2023	Walleye	Juvenile	25,374