

# SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY

Waubay, Day County

UBS-Lake-411-000

2024

## Lake Information

**Name:** Waubay **Maximum Depth:** 31 Feet  
**County:** Day **Mean Depth:** 13 Feet  
**OHWM Elevation:** 1,787  
**Surface Area:** 16,943 Acres

## Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
AFS std gill net	Aug 13, 2024	4 net-nights
AFS std gill net	Aug 14, 2024	4 net-nights
AFS std gill net	Aug 15, 2024	4 net-nights
AFS std gill net	Aug 16, 2024	4 net-nights

## **Common Fish Species Present**

Yellow Perch

Walleye

Smallmouth Bass

Northern Pike

Common Carp

White Bass

Rock Bass

White Sucker

Black Bullhead

Lake Herring

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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
AFS std gill net	Black Bullhead	3	0.2	0.1	100		100		100	8
	Bluegill	1	0.1	0.1	100		0		130	
	Common Carp	21	1.3	0.4	90		90		96	4
	Lake Herring	1	0.1	0.1	100		100		150	
	Rock Bass	6	0.4	0.2	83		0		108	1
	Smallmouth Bass	16	1.0	0.6	69		44	20	95	3
	Walleye	185	9.4	1.1	46	6	9	3	84	1
	White Bass	17	1.1	0.5	100		100		95	2
	White Sucker	4	0.3	0.3	100		100		99	4
	Yellow Perch	256	16.0	2.5	69	4	14	3	111	1

## 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
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
AFS std gill net	Black Bullhead		0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	5.7	4.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	1.41
	Black Crappie		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.09
	Bluegill		0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.11
	Common Carp		0.1	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.8	2.0	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.89
	Lake Herring		0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.09
	Northern Pike		0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.03
	Rock Bass		0.4	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.3	0.4	0.69
	Smallmouth Bass		1.3	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.3	2.6	0.9	1.6	1.0	1.17
	Walleye		6.3	4.6	5.9	7.9	8.1	10.6	9.4	10.4	9.4	8.07
	White Bass		13.2	12.9	6.9	7.3	2.4	4.4	5.3	3.0	1.1	6.28
	White Sucker		0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.11
Yellow Perch		5.4	8.3	6.4	10.3	9.5	14.4	7.5	15.4	16.0	10.36	
boat shocker (day)	Smallmouth Bass					16.0						16.00
boat shocker (night)	Walleye*	1.2	1.5	7.0								3.23
boat shocker (night, DC)	Smallmouth Bass	8.0										8.00
fall night EF-WAE*	Walleye					10.5	9.0					9.75
std exp gill net	Black Bullhead	0.1										0.10
	Common Carp	0.1										0.10
	Lake Herring	0.3										0.30
	Northern Pike	0.4										0.40
	Rock Bass	0.4										0.40
	Smallmouth Bass	0.0										0.00
	Walleye	14.1										14.10
	White Bass	23.9										23.90
	White Sucker	0.0										0.00
Yellow Perch	19.5										19.50	

## 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	Year										
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
AFS std gill net	Black Bullhead	PSD		100	100	100		83	29	99	100	100	100
		PSD-P		100	100	25	50	5	9	77	100	100	
		Wr		94	90	104	95	106	102	115	105	100	
	Common Carp	PSD		100	63	100	81	25	94	100	100	90	
		PSD-P		100	63	100	75	25	22	100	100	90	
		Wr		103	100	102	98	109	99	98	100	96	
	Lake Herring	PSD		100	100	100		100			100	100	
		PSD-P		100	100	100		50			100	100	
		Wr		121	134	127		122			124	150	
	Northern Pike	PSD		100	100							100	
		PSD-P		100	0							100	
		Wr		91	83							83	
	Rock Bass	PSD		100	100	50	71	29	73	87	65	83	
		PSD-P		0	31	0	7	0	18	7	15	0	
		Wr		109	109	112	111	114	107	106	115	108	
	Smallmouth Bass	PSD		50	86	40	50	75	64	60	40	69	
		PSD-P		20	48	40	30	75	45	40	20	44	
		Wr		100	91	101	99	95	99	98	102	95	
	Walleye	PSD		28	81	52	72	80	33	20	42	46	
		PSD-P		5	3	1	3	7	11	5	9	9	
		Wr		86	88	89	88	87	83	84	88	84	
White Bass	PSD		100	99	100	89	100	100	100	100	100		
	PSD-P		100	99	98	88	100	99	100	94	100		
	Wr		98	92	98	95	95	95	95	97	95		
White Sucker	PSD			100					100	100	100	100	
	PSD-P			100					100	100	100	100	
	Wr			97					102	104	108	99	
Yellow Perch	PSD		71	62	88	12	61	74	78	41	69		
	PSD-P		38	37	34	9	1	18	34	20	14		
	Wr		109	109	109	111	112	108	109	114	111		
boat shocker (day)	Smallmouth Bass	PSD					63						
		PSD-P					25						

Gear	Species	Index	Year												
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024			
boat shocker (day)	Smallmouth Bass	Wr						96							
boat shocker (night)	Walleye	PSD	0	0	0										
		PSD-P	0	0	0										
		Wr	83	93	96										
boat shocker (night, DC)	Smallmouth Bass	PSD	88												
		PSD-P	38												
		Wr	85												
std exp gill net	Black Bullhead	PSD	100												
		PSD-P	0												
		Wr	127												
	Common Carp	PSD	100												
		PSD-P	100												
		Wr	119												
	Lake Herring	PSD	100												
		PSD-P	50												
		Wr	122												
	Northern Pike	PSD	100												
		PSD-P	100												
		Wr	77												
	Rock Bass	PSD	100												
		PSD-P	0												
		Wr	111												
	Walleye	PSD	8												
		PSD-P	0												
		Wr	85												
	White Bass	PSD	100												
		PSD-P	99												
		Wr	97												
	Yellow Perch	PSD	83												
		PSD-P	38												
		Wr	117												



## Length at Capture

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

Species: Smallmouth Bass

Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age											
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2019	12		206 (2)	270 (4)	288 (4)	318 (2)					
2015	8			260 (1)	294 (1)	331 (5)		414 (1)			

Species: Walleye

Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age											
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2024	185	197 (32)	293 (48)	352 (28)	398 (3)	409 (56)	426 (1)	558 (1)	555 (11)	574 (1)	637 (4)
2023	212	223 (47)	308 (39)	349 (6)	379 (96)		491 (1)	502 (10)		635 (4)	558 (8)
2022	163	225 (13)	295 (3)	343 (121)	414 (6)	397 (5)	477 (10)		576 (1)	645 (2)	575 (2)
2021	170	211 (1)	307 (112)	402 (7)	424 (8)	469 (22)		583 (6)	480 (2)	585 (2)	580 (10)
2020	187	225 (72)	354 (17)	388 (9)	427 (41)	445 (2)	458 (8)	475 (2)	482 (4)	484 (27)	467 (4)
2019	130	253 (10)	341 (13)	395 (72)		460 (6)	466 (1)	553 (1)	467 (24)		548 (3)
2018	96	264 (7)	327 (37)	430 (7)	402 (8)	444 (2)	472 (3)	434 (33)			
2017	92	223 (21)	354 (1)	394 (4)	479 (2)		410 (58)		410 (2)	445 (1)	668 (2)
2016	100		320 (6)	396 (1)	396 (1)	365 (83)	334 (1)	485 (4)			691 (3)
2015	117	215 (4)	280 (1)			332 (104)		387 (4)			417 (4)

Species: Yellow Perch

Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age											
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2024	256	147 (25)	203 (135)	233 (63)	242 (8)	276 (23)	292 (2)				
2023	246	146 (114)	199 (60)	260 (4)	259 (61)	291 (7)					330 (1)
2022	121	145 (23)	202 (7)	241 (68)	263 (22)	283 (1)					
2021	231	147 (11)	205 (141)	244 (78)							316 (1)
2020	142	146 (37)	211 (104)		280 (1)						
2019	165	146 (145)		247 (9)	282 (6)	274 (1)	306 (2)	311 (1)			327 (1)
2018	102		211 (46)	242 (29)	257 (7)	281 (3)		296 (10)	274 (4)	295 (1)	

Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age

Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2017	133	152 (39)	207 (31)	247 (21)	269 (7)	273 (4)	279 (18)	300 (4)	286 (7)		
2016	87	153 (22)	205 (7)	238 (18)	258 (16)	267 (21)	242 (4)				
2015	159	136 (17)	190 (14)	237 (38)	248 (56)	261 (14)	267 (19)	312 (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).

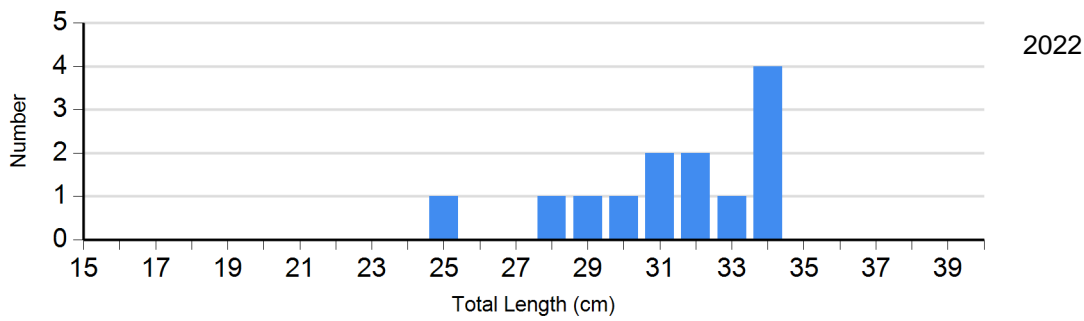
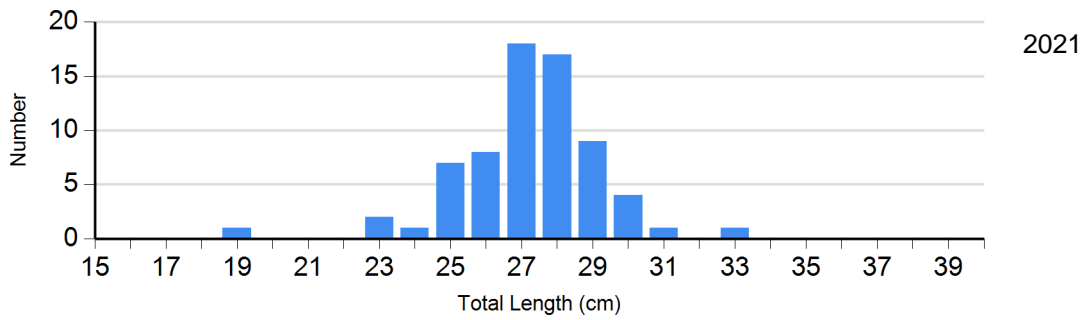
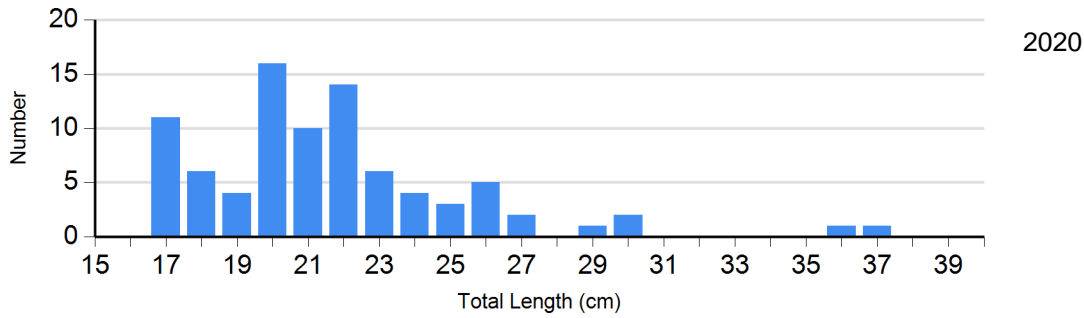
Species	Year	Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
		N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Black Bullhead Gill Net	2020	61	106 (1.3)	21	107 (2.5)	4	100 (6.8)	0	
	2021	1	107	62	102 (1.1)	6	101 (2.1)	0	
	2022	0		3	122 (1.6)	10	113 (3.3)	0	
	2023	0		0		3	106 (2.8)	1	102
	2024	0		0		3	100 (6.0)	0	
Common Carp Gill Net	2020	9	111 (1.1)	0		0		3	104 (7.3)
	2021	2	110 (1.5)	23	101 (1.4)	5	93 (1.7)	2	90 (1.3)
	2022	0		0		5	98 (2.7)	7	97 (2.0)
	2023	0		0		10	98 (1.8)	9	103 (6.3)
	2024	2	104 (1.4)	0		2	85 (3.1)	17	97 (3.5)
Northern Pike Gill Net	2023	0		0		1	83	0	
Walleye Gill Net	2020	24	85 (1.0)	89	87 (0.5)	9	87 (2.8)	0	
	2021	114	82 (0.5)	37	83 (0.8)	15	85 (1.7)	3	86 (3.3)
	2022	121	85 (0.6)	22	82 (1.2)	6	80 (1.6)	2	73 (5.1)
	2023	97	89 (0.5)	55	87 (0.8)	11	89 (1.5)	4	82 (5.0)
	2024	81	85 (0.6)	56	81 (0.6)	8	84 (2.5)	6	88 (3.7)
White Bass Gill Net	2020	0		0		11	96 (2.5)	25	94 (1.0)
	2021	0		1	94	39	96 (0.6)	31	94 (0.9)
	2022	0		0		27	98 (0.8)	57	94 (0.7)
	2023	0		3	100 (1.0)	19	98 (1.5)	26	97 (1.1)
	2024	0		0		6	96 (2.1)	11	95 (1.7)
White Sucker Gill Net	2021	0		0		1	102	0	

Species	Year	Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
		N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
White Sucker Gill Net	2022	0		0		1	109	2	101 (4.4)
	2023	0		0		0		5	108 (3.7)
	2024	0		0		1	95	3	101 (3.2)
Yellow Perch Gill Net	2020	56	115 (1.7)	85	110 (1.0)	1		0	
	2021	61	113 (1.3)	128	107 (0.8)	41	105 (0.9)	1	106
	2022	26	108 (2.0)	53	111 (1.3)	41	106 (1.3)	0	
	2023	145	115 (1.0)	51	115 (1.6)	47	112 (1.2)	3	108 (5.1)
	2024	80	114 (1.2)	141	110 (0.9)	33	110 (1.5)	2	109 (5.5)

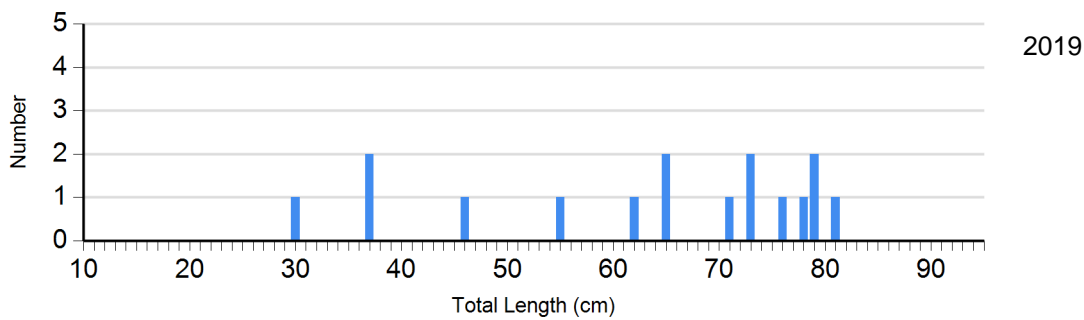
## Length Frequency Distribution

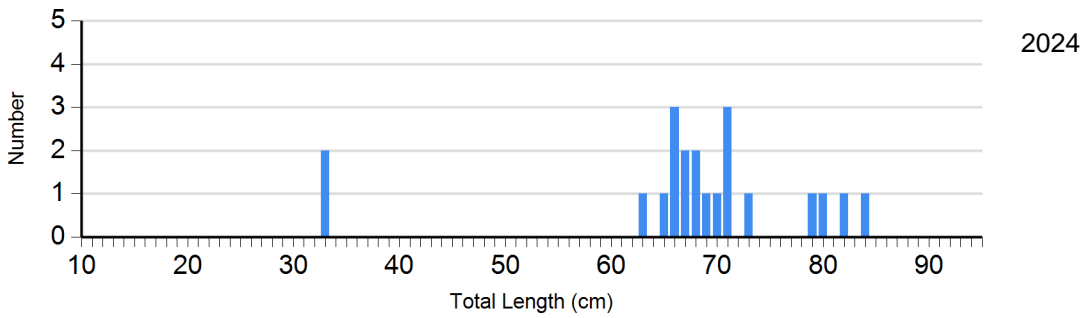
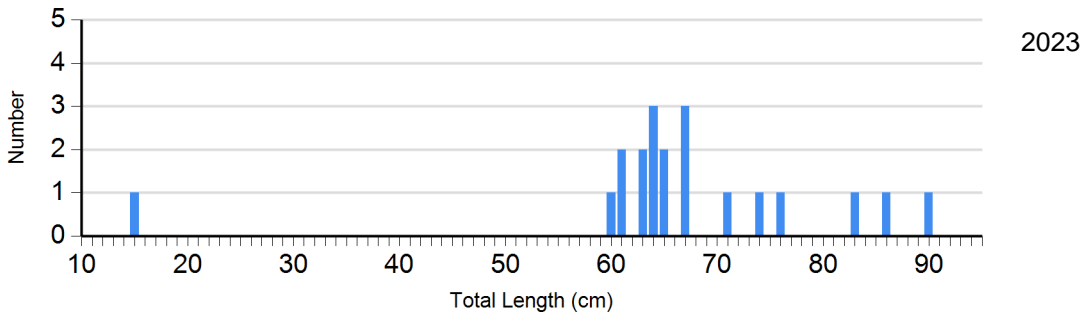
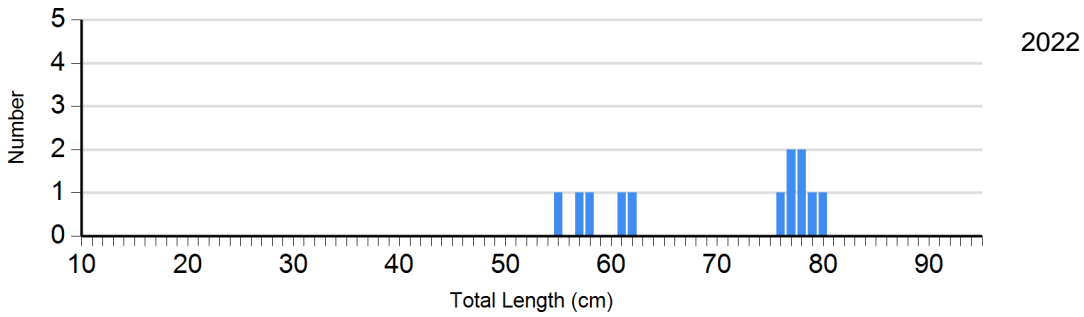
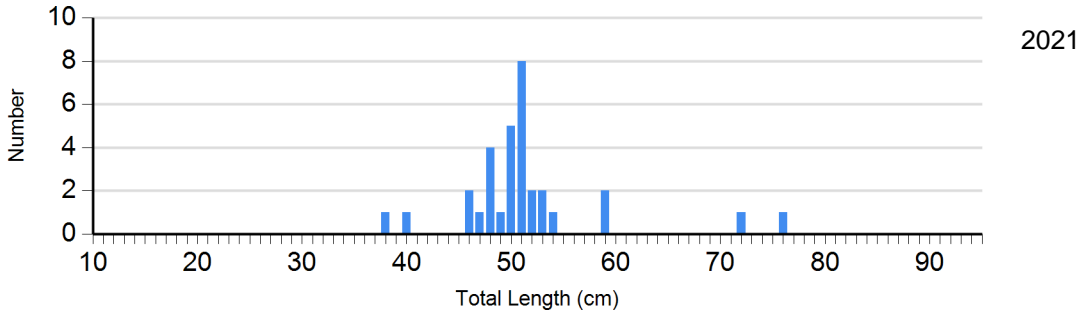
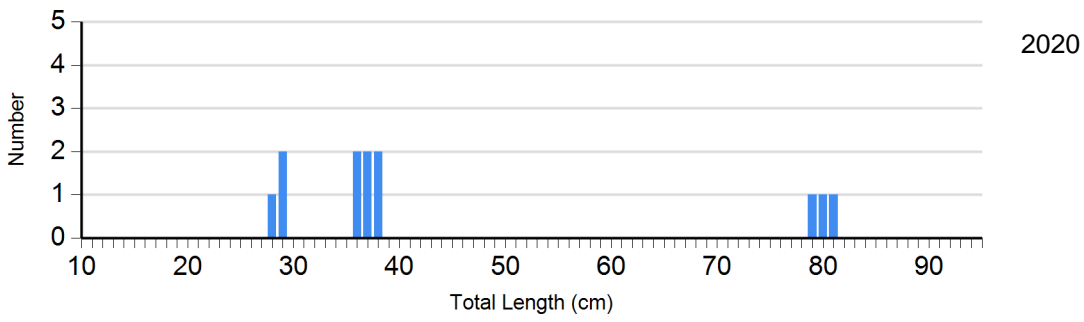
Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

Species: Black Bullhead  
Gear: AFS std gill net

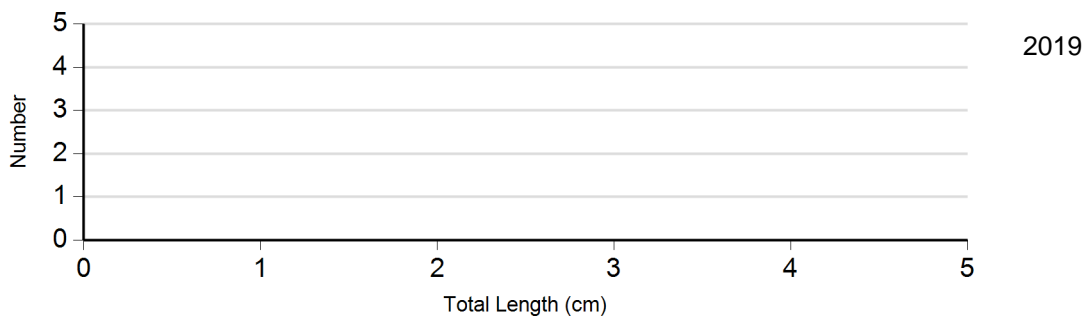


Species: Common Carp  
Gear: AFS std gill net

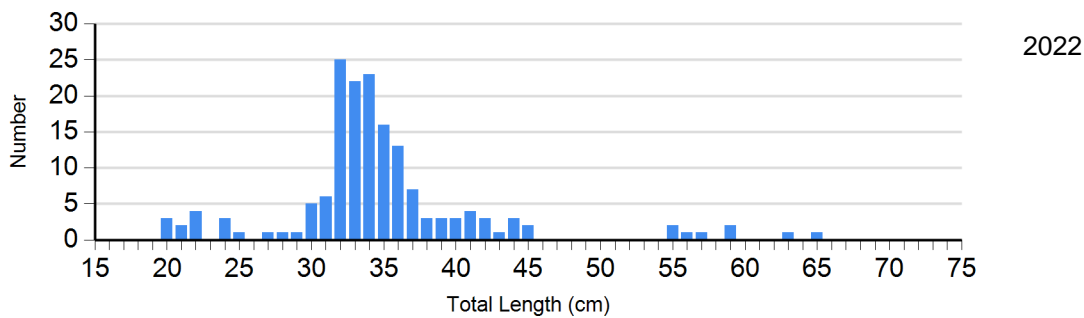
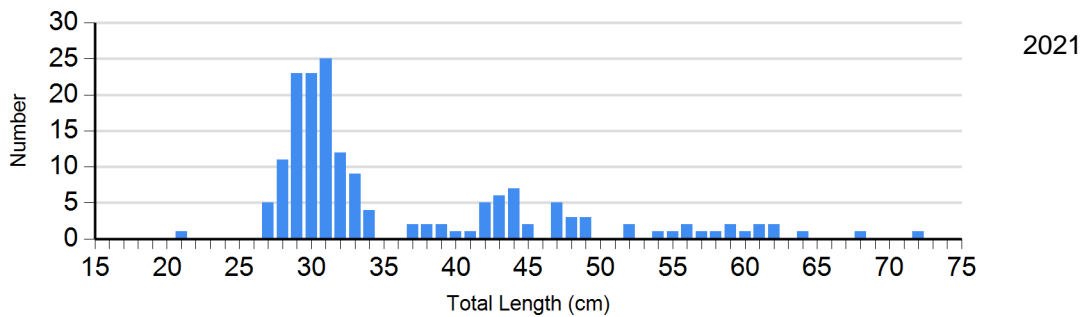
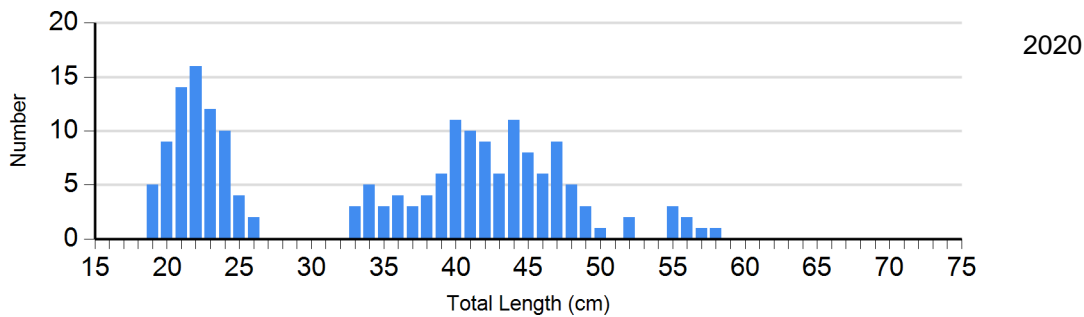
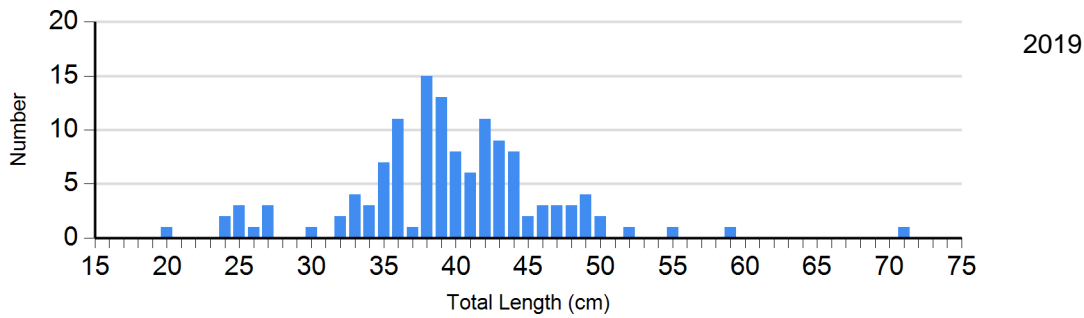


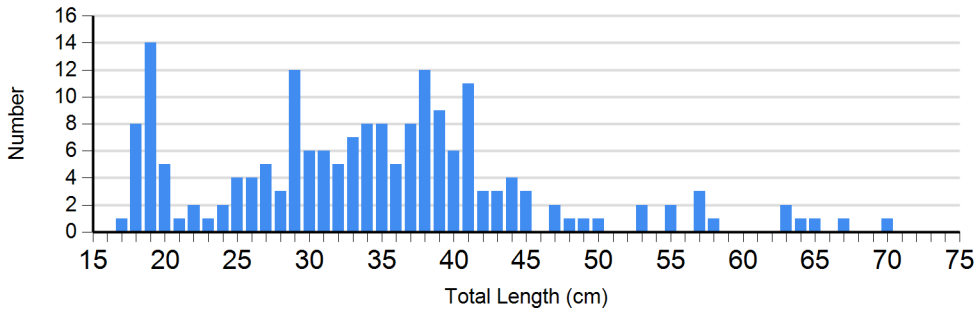
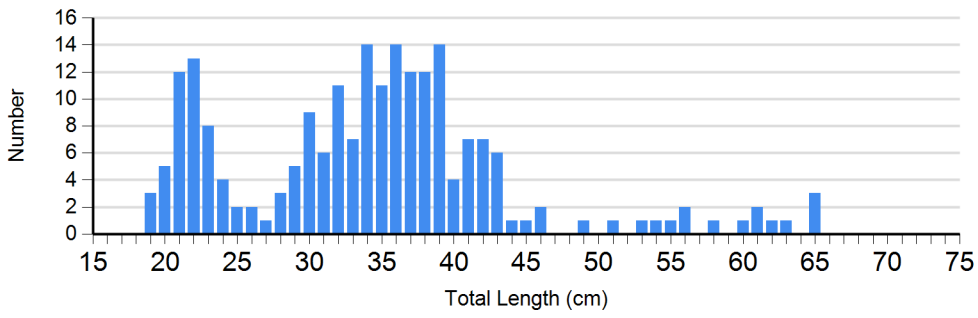


Species: Smallmouth Bass  
Gear: boat shocker (day)

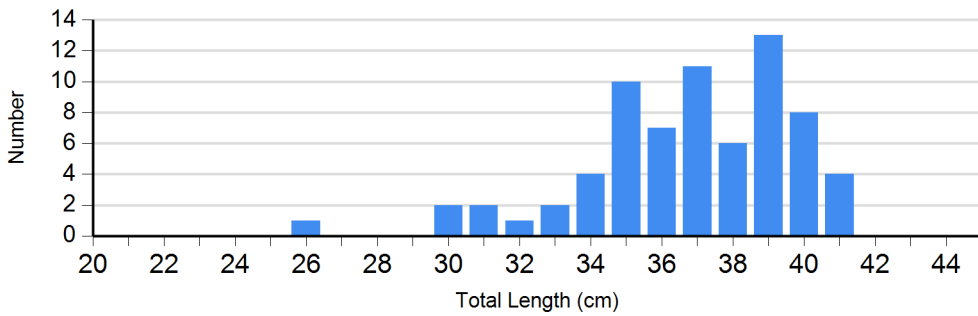
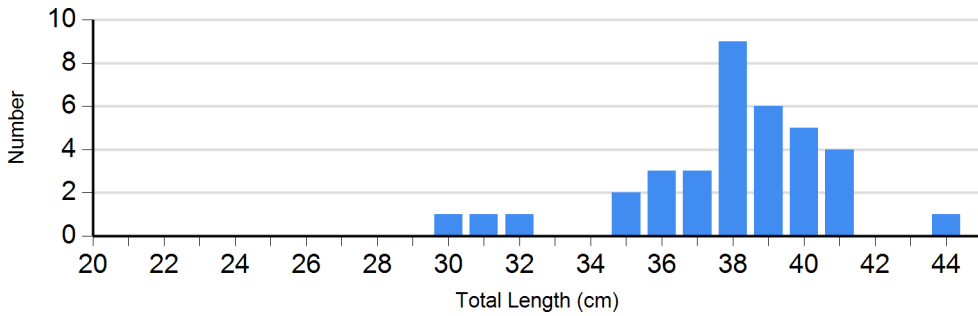
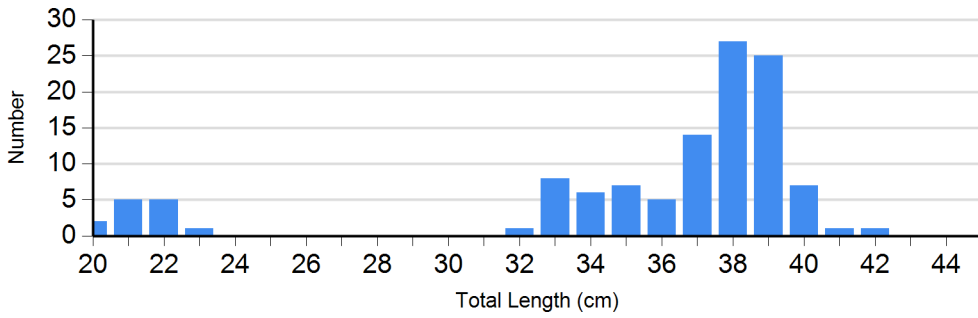


Species: Walleye  
Gear: AFS std gill net

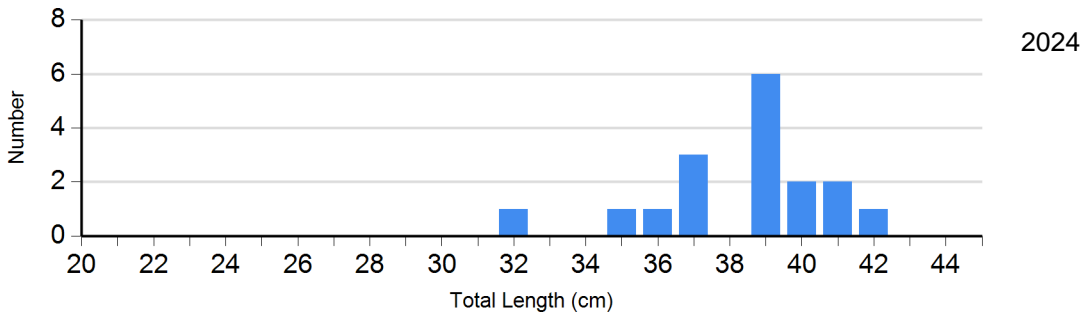
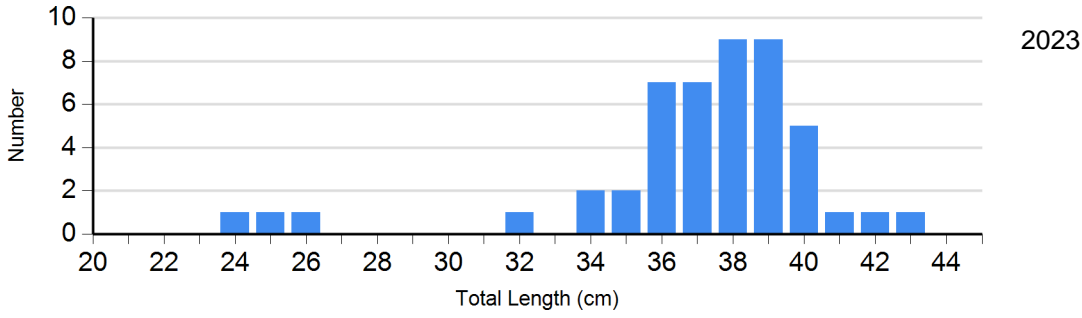
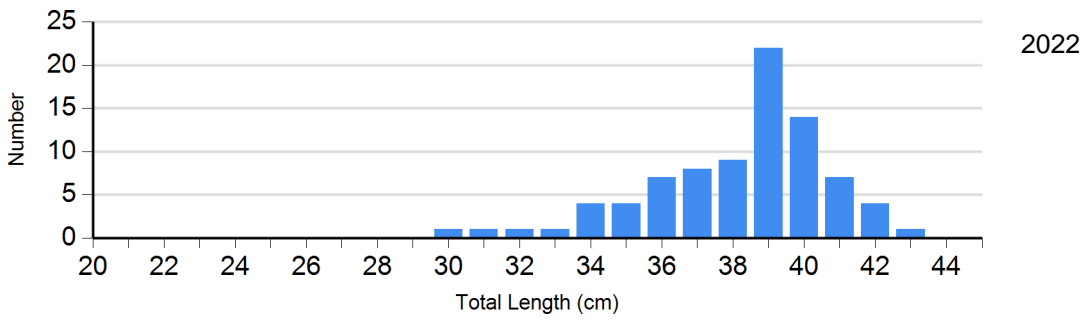




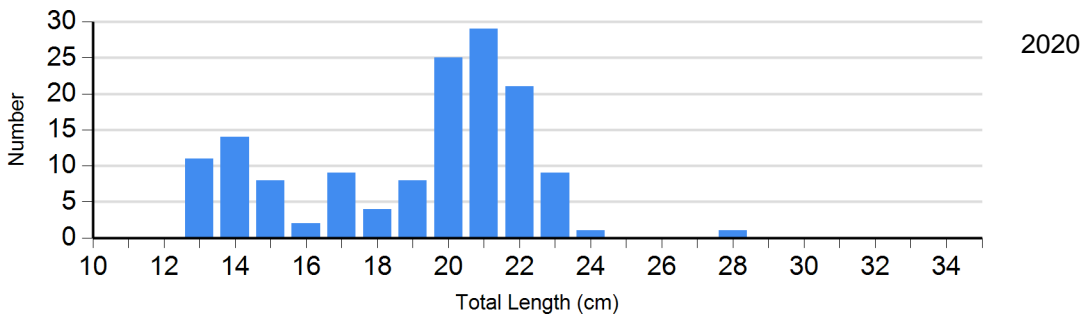
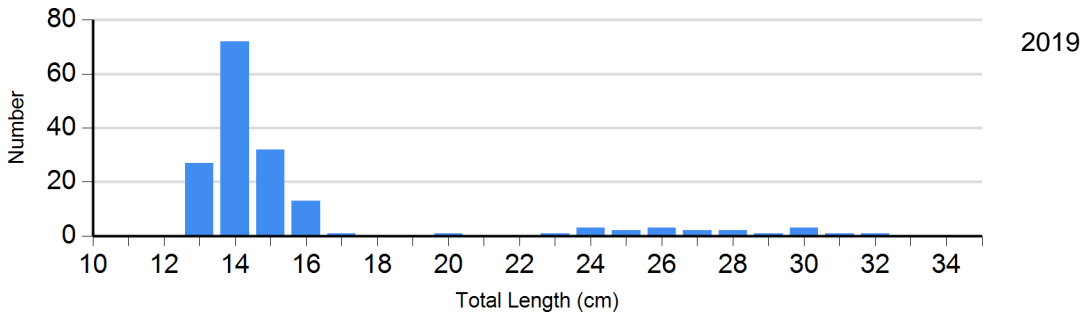
Species: White Bass  
 Gear: AFS std gill net

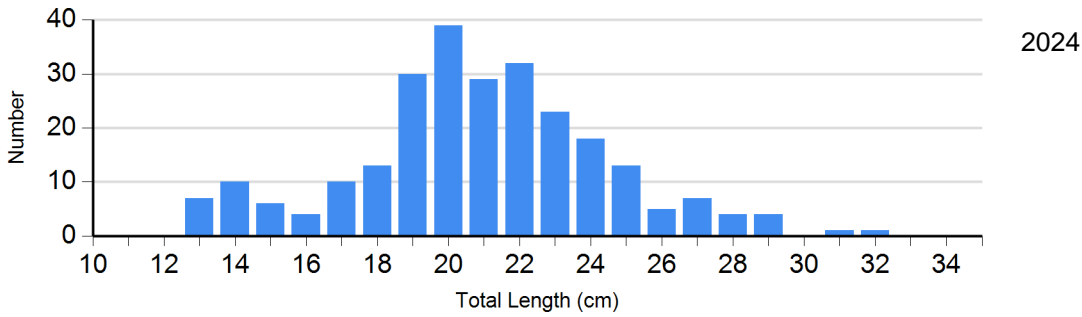
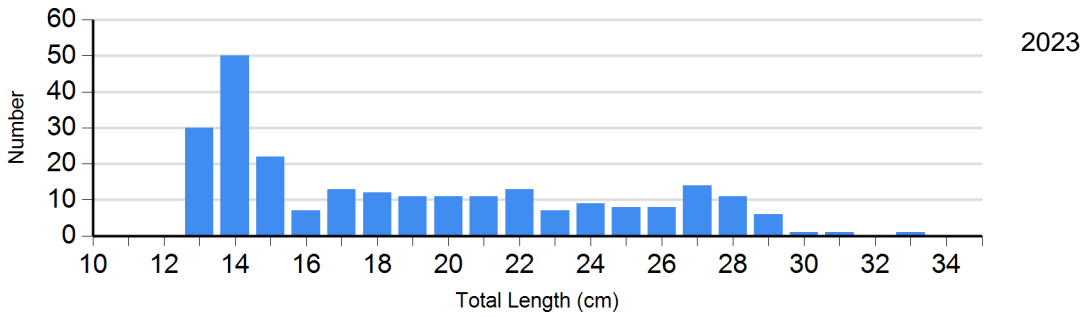
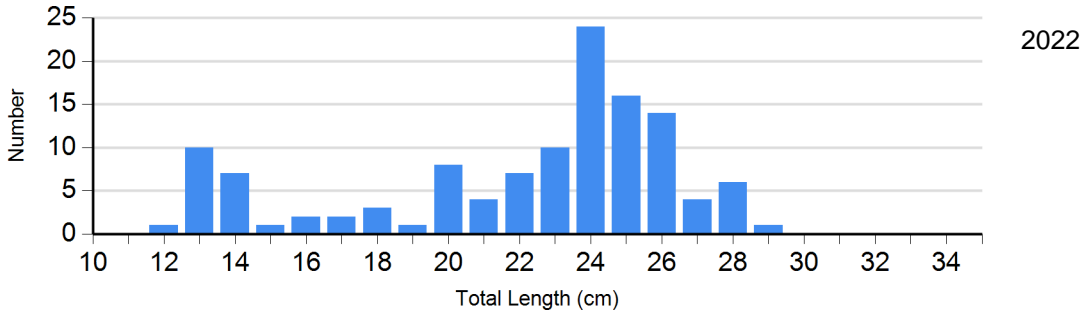
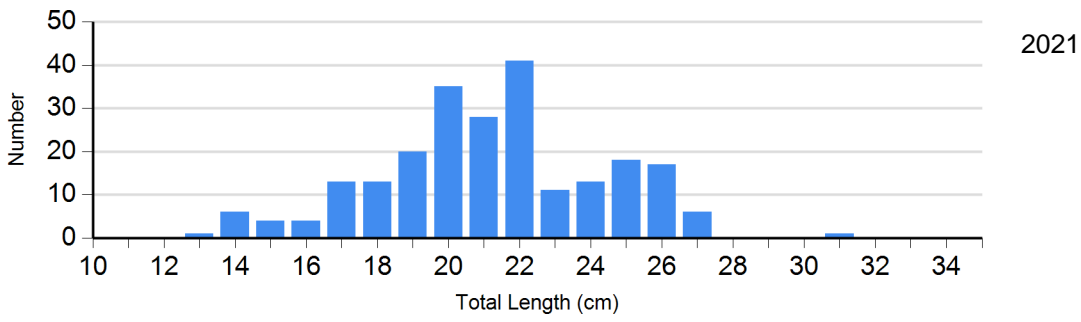






Species: Yellow Perch  
 Gear: AFS std gill net

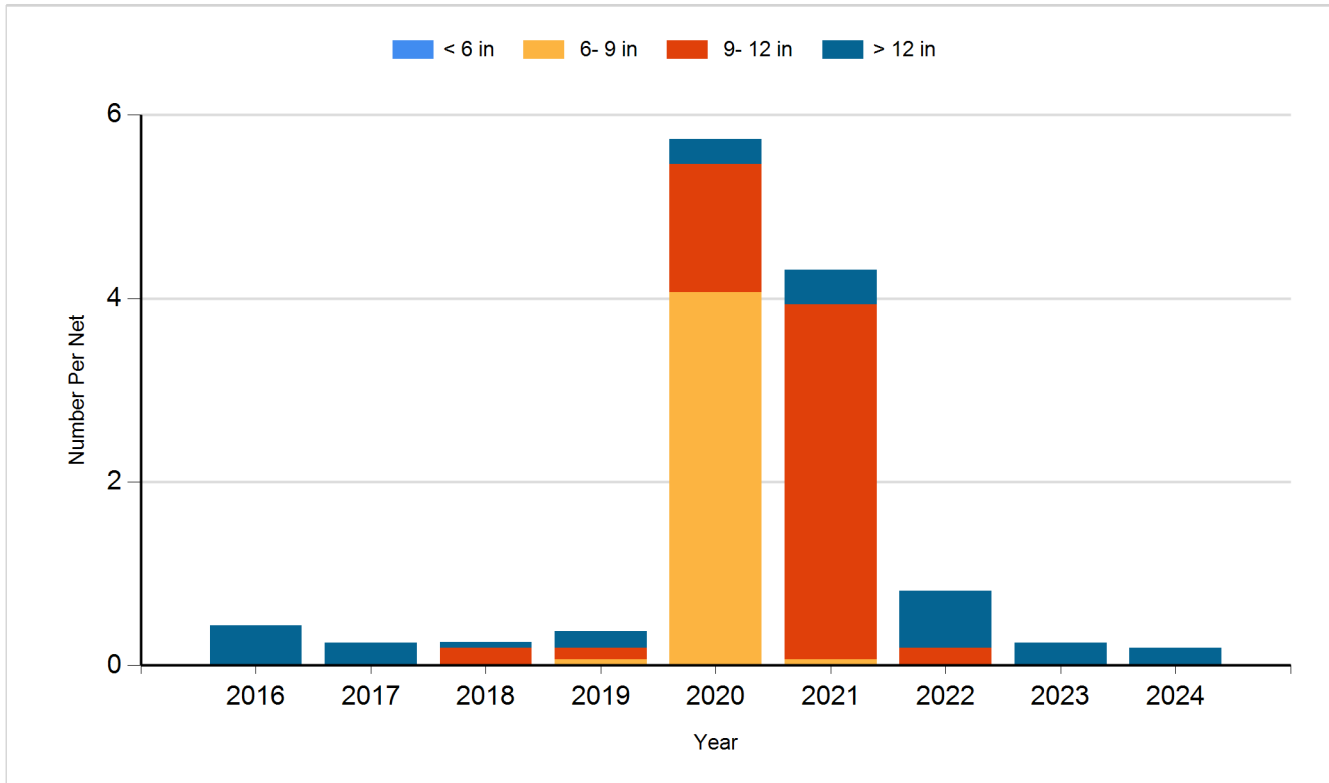




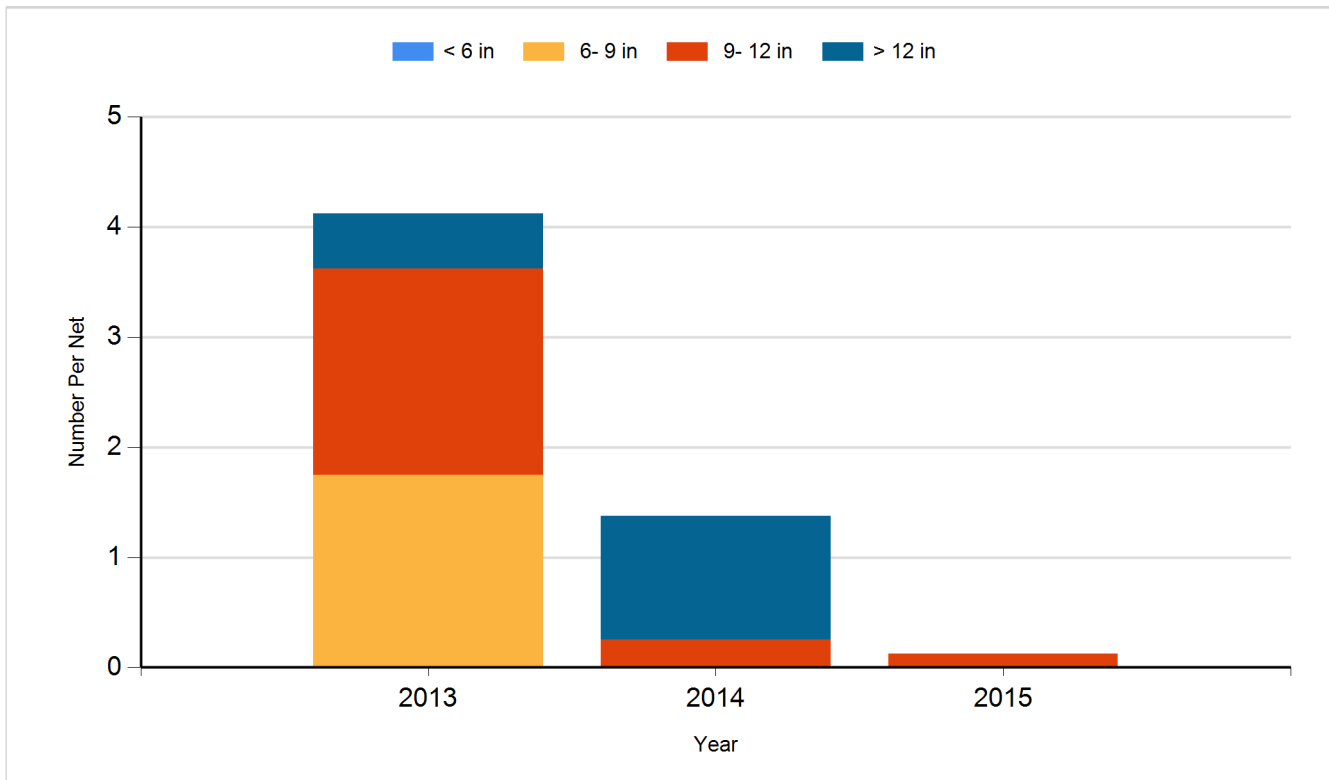
## Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

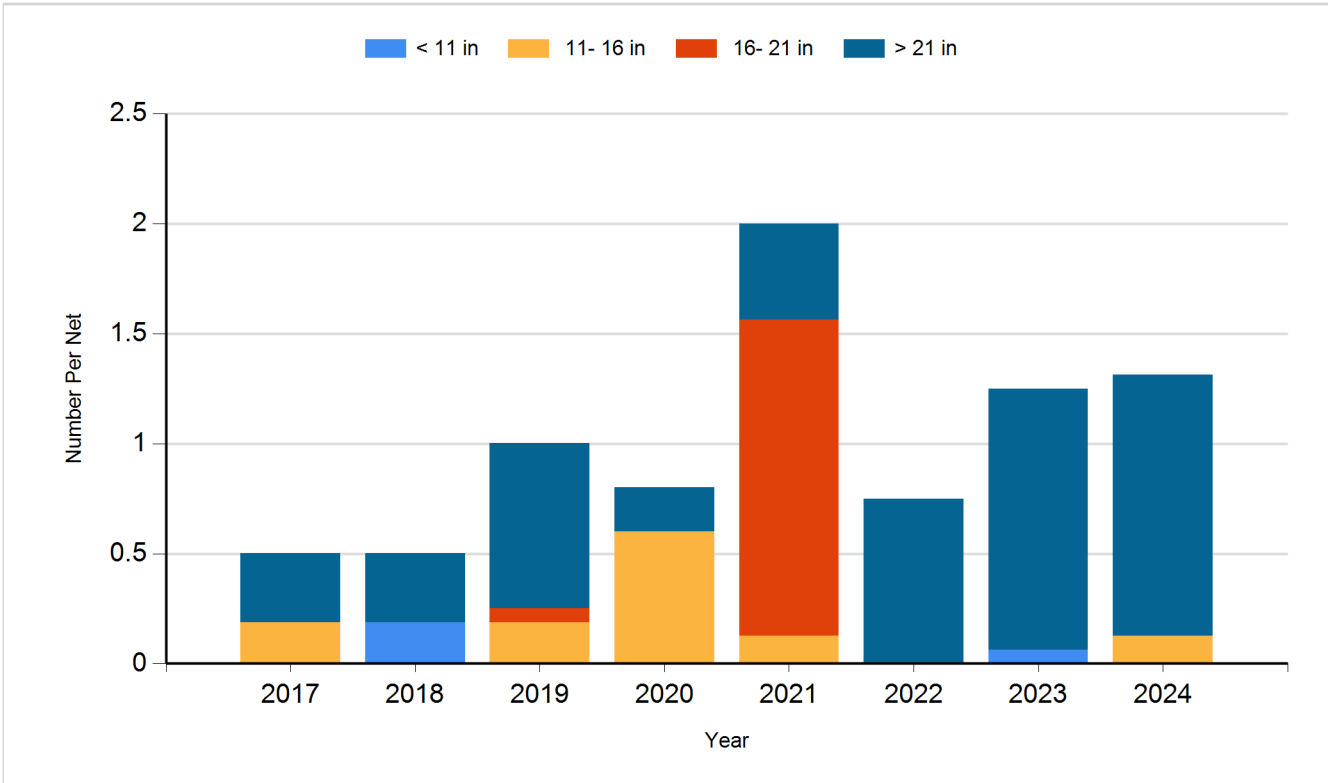
Species: Black Bullhead  
Gear: AFS std gill net



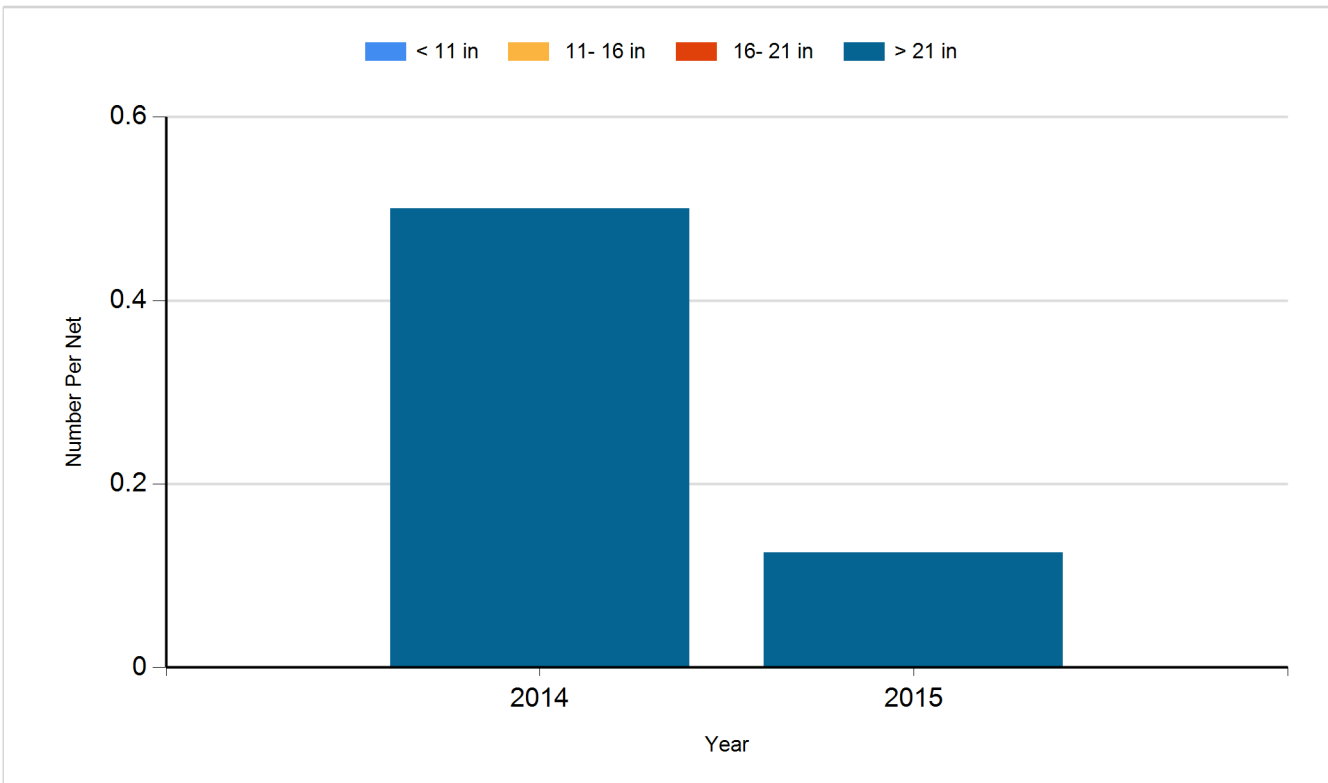
Species: Black Bullhead  
Gear: std exp gill net



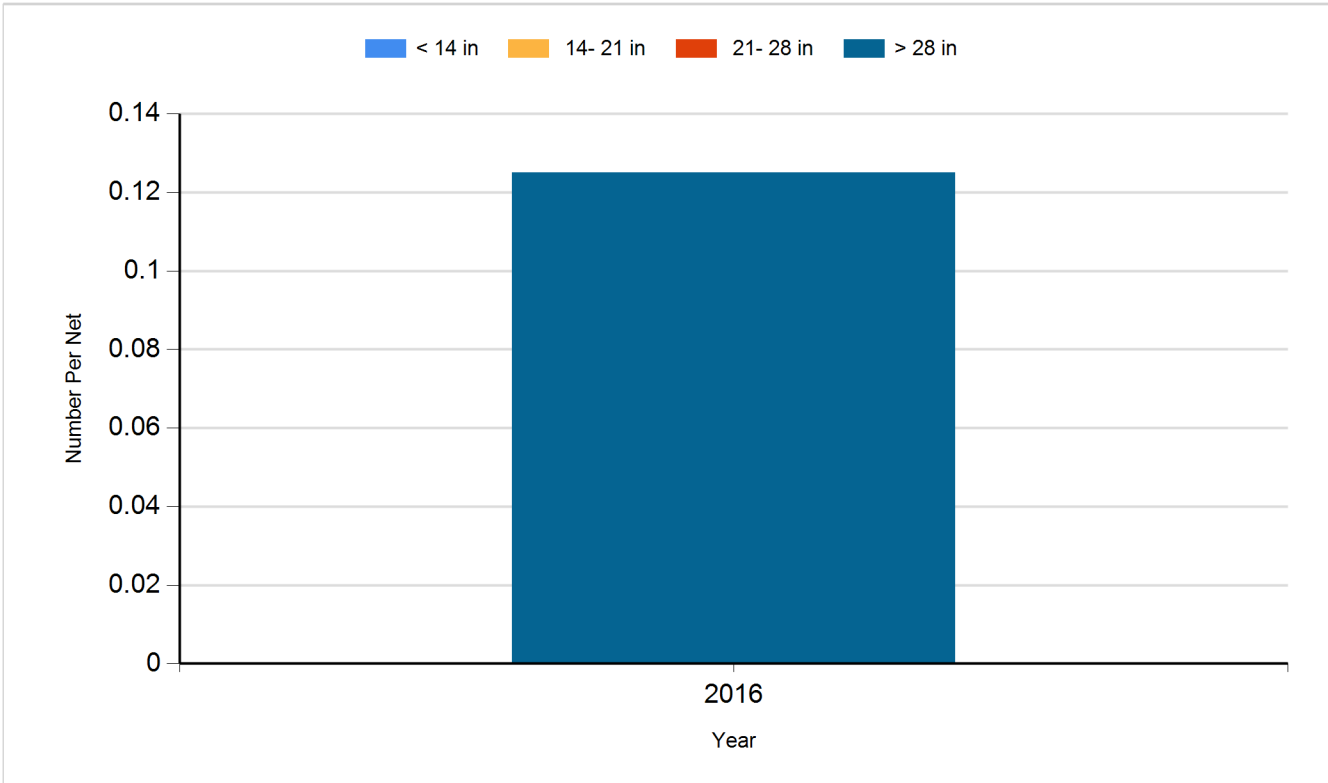
Species: Common Carp  
Gear: AFS std gill net



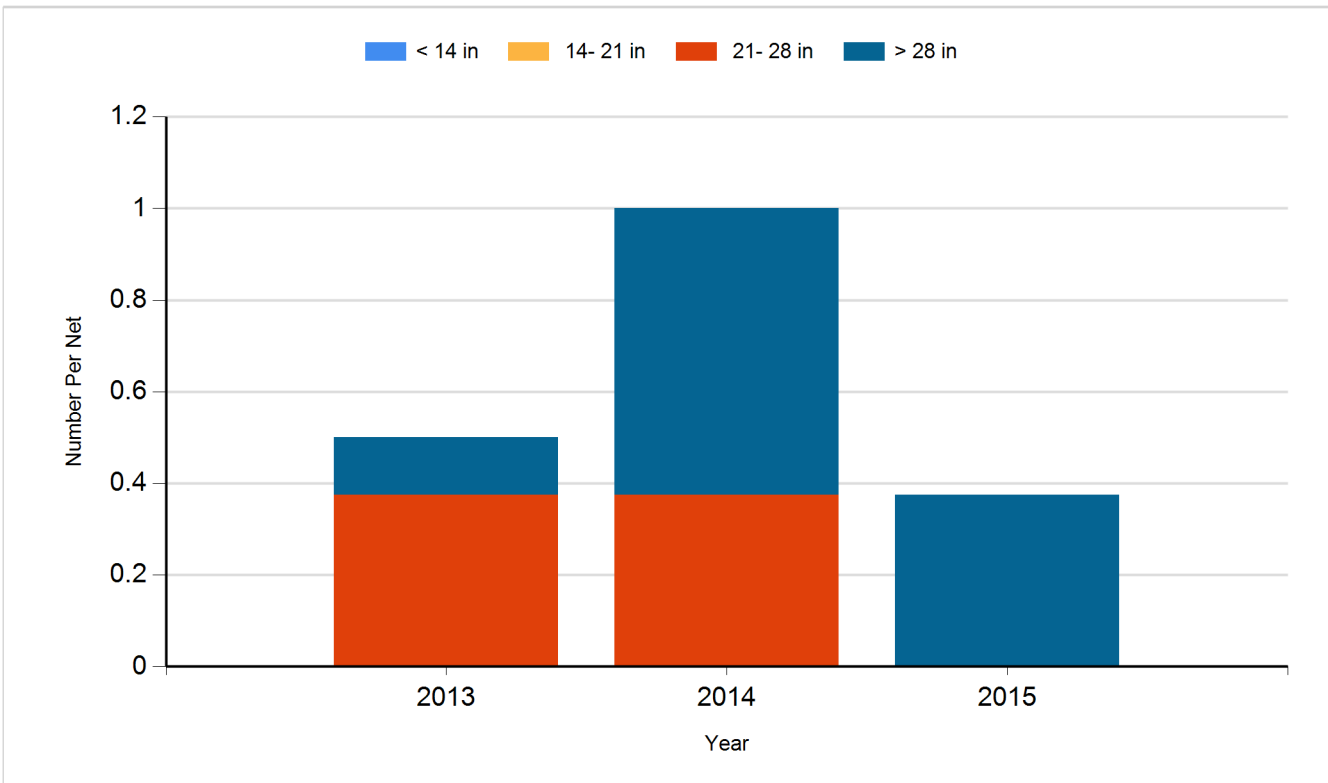
Species: Common Carp  
Gear: std exp gill net



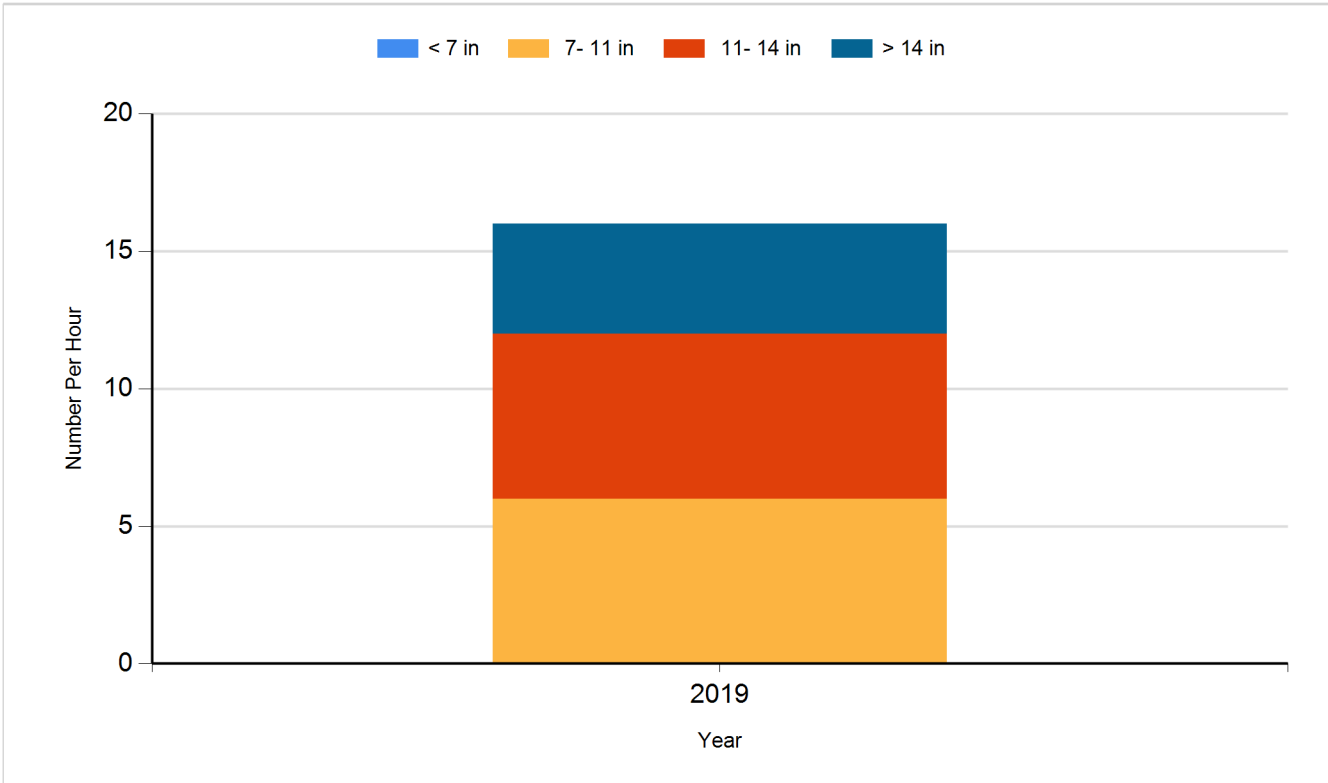
Species: Northern Pike  
Gear: AFS std gill net



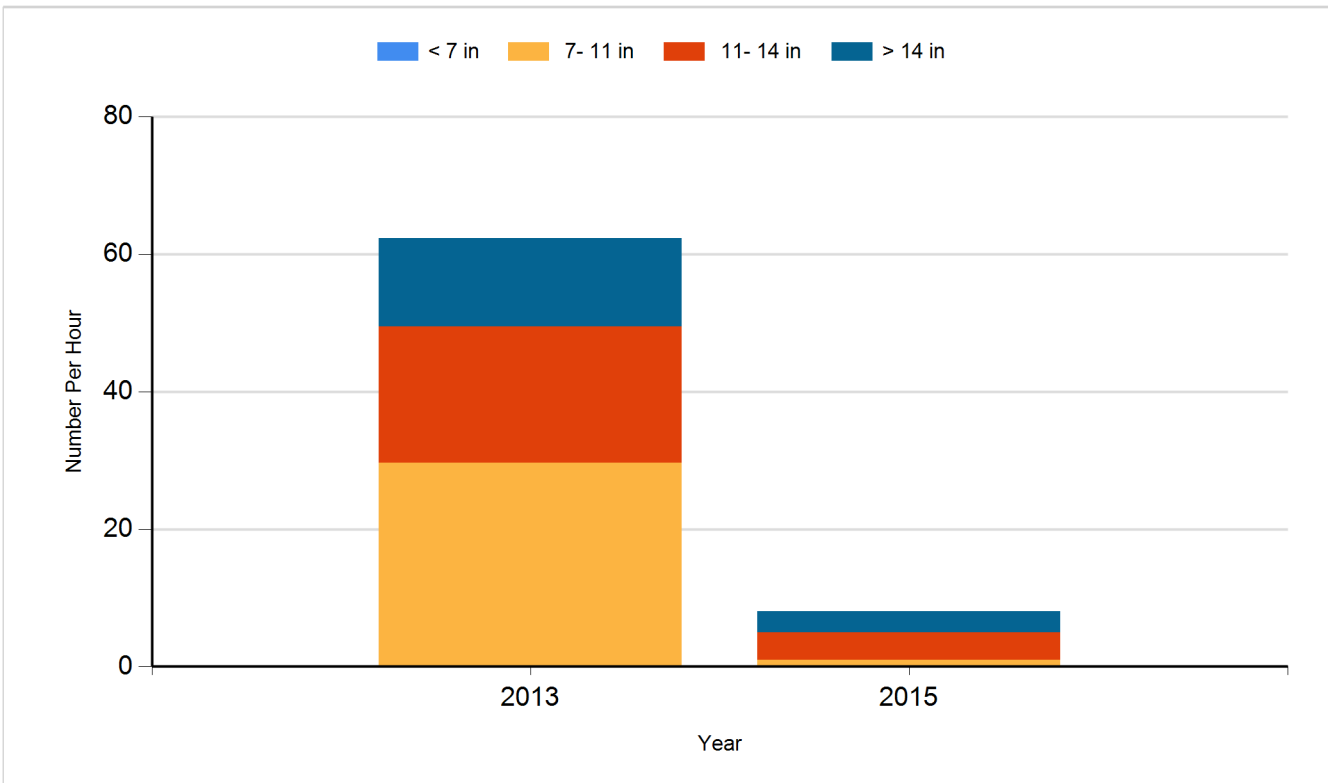
Species: Northern Pike  
Gear: std exp gill net



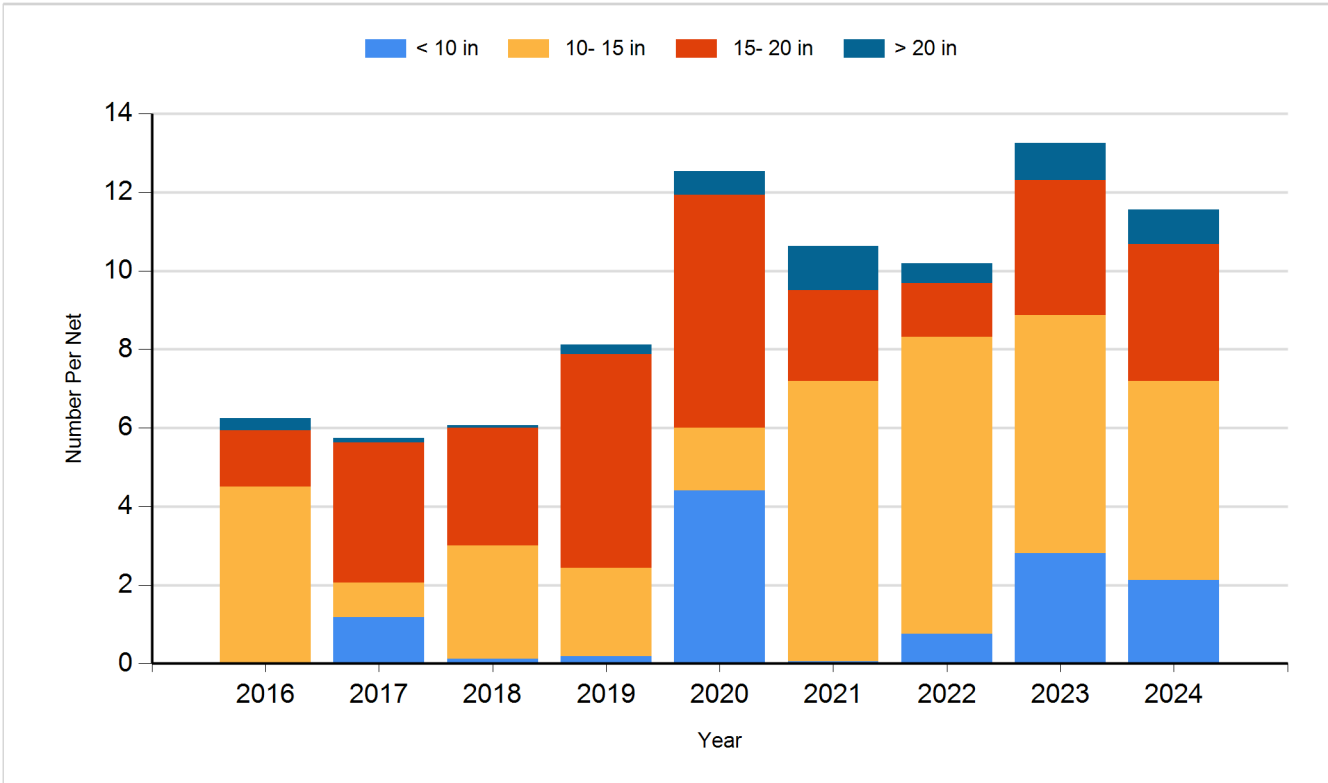
Species: Smallmouth Bass  
Gear: boat shocker (day)



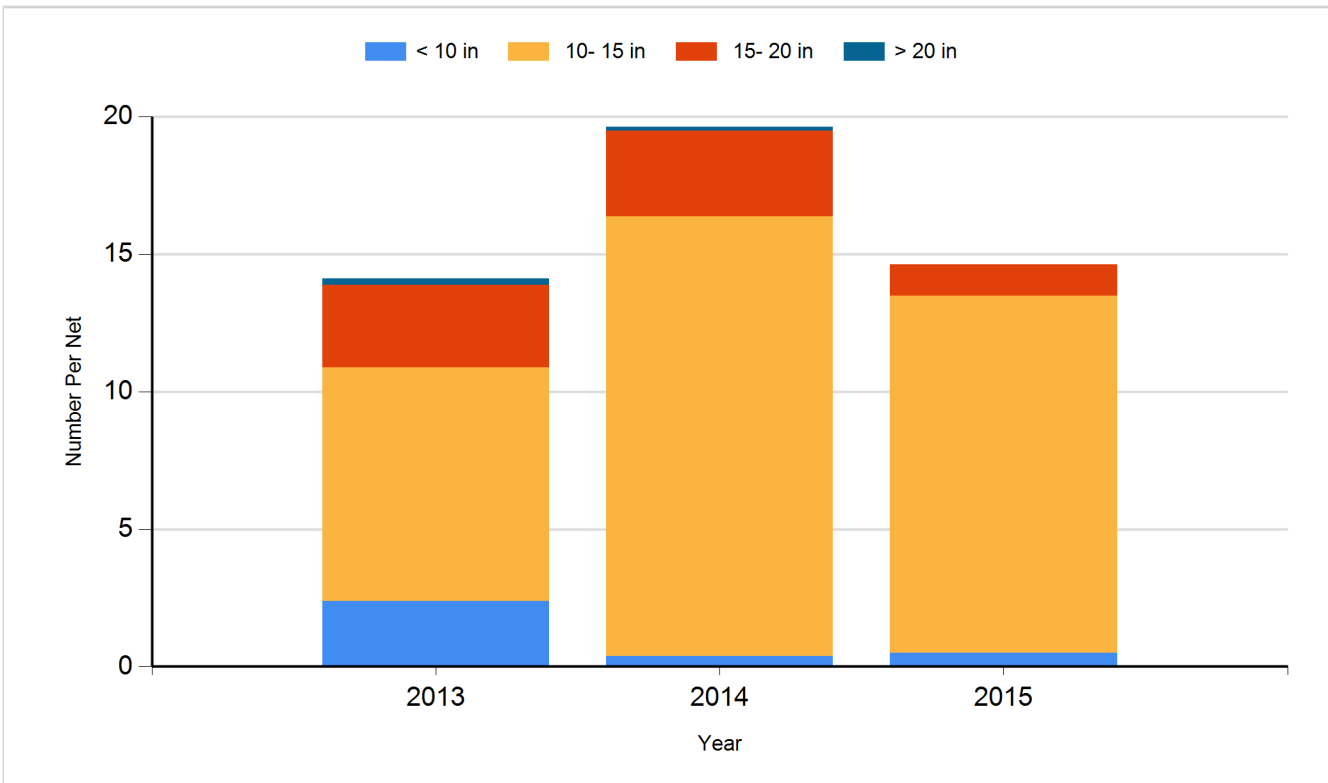
Species: Smallmouth Bass  
Gear: boat shocker (night, DC)



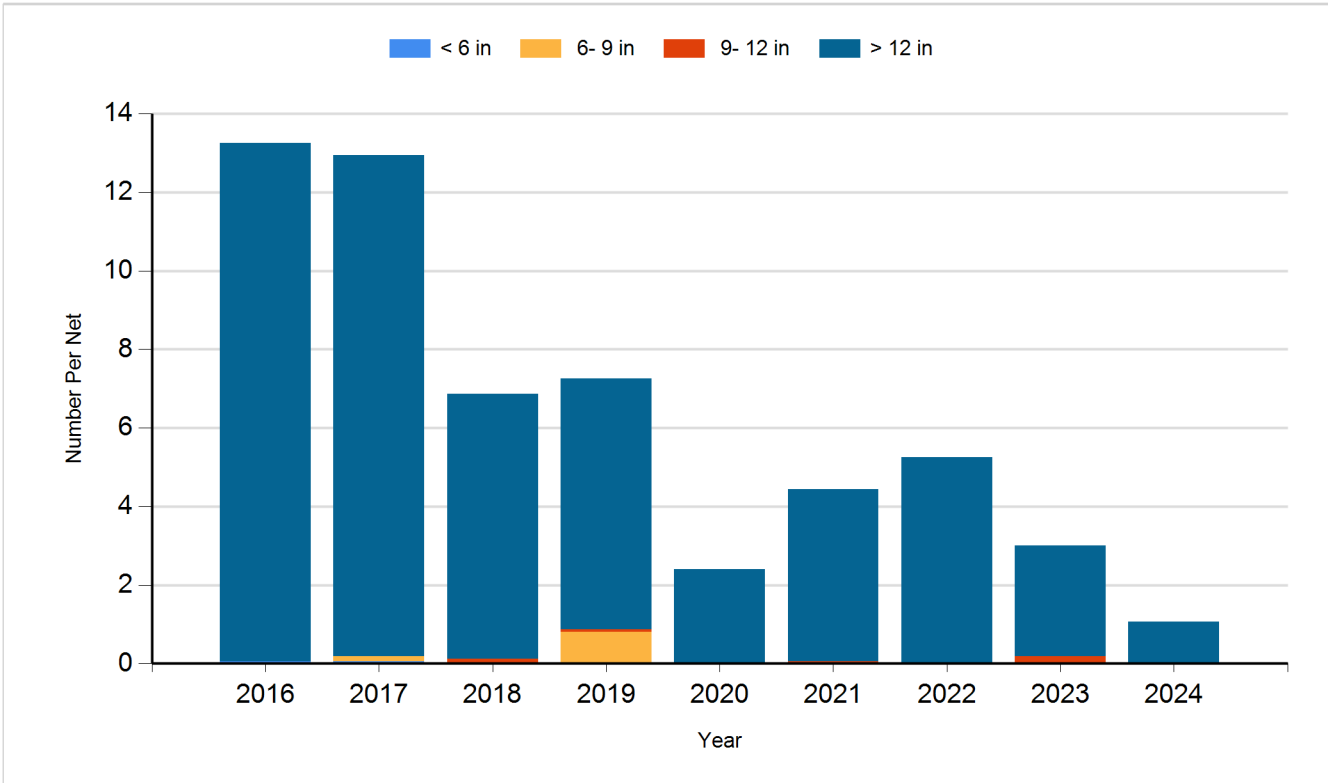
Species: Walleye  
Gear: AFS std gill net



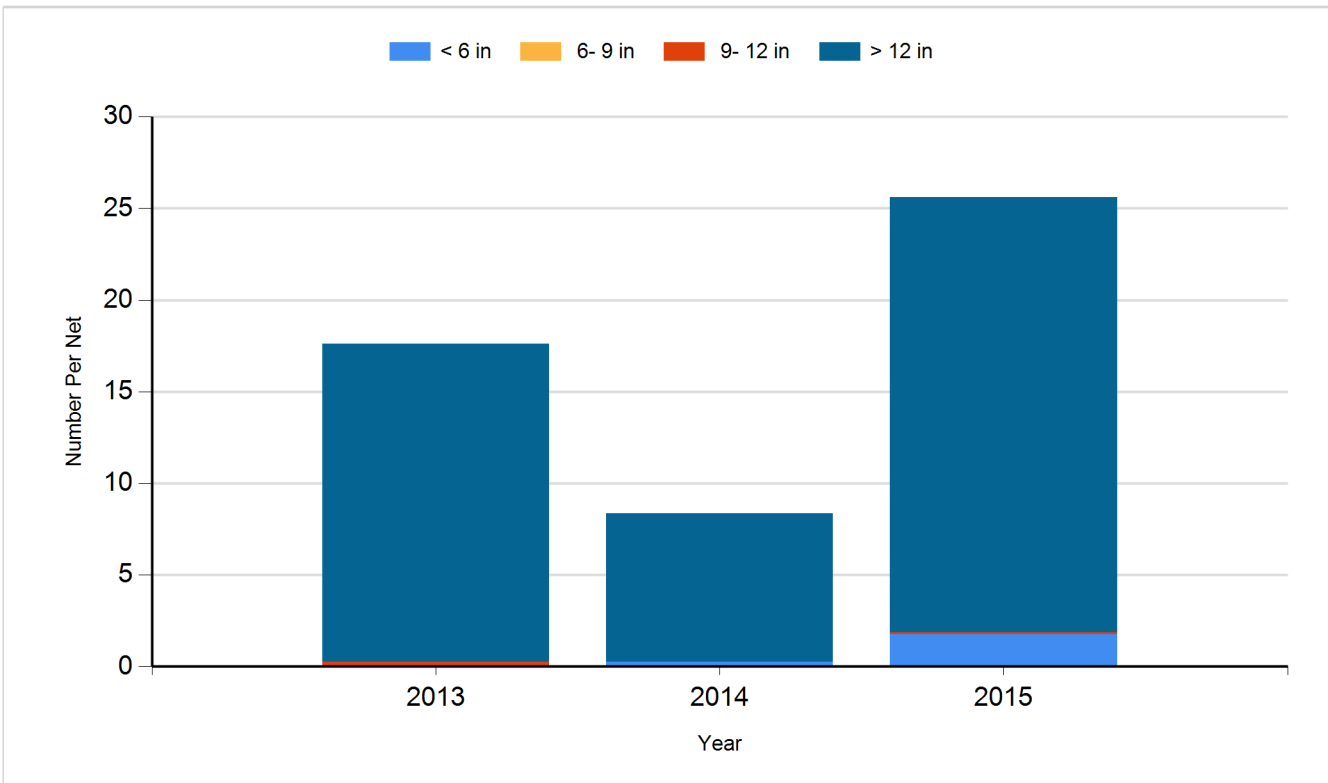
Species: Walleye  
Gear: std exp gill net



Species: White Bass  
Gear: AFS std gill net

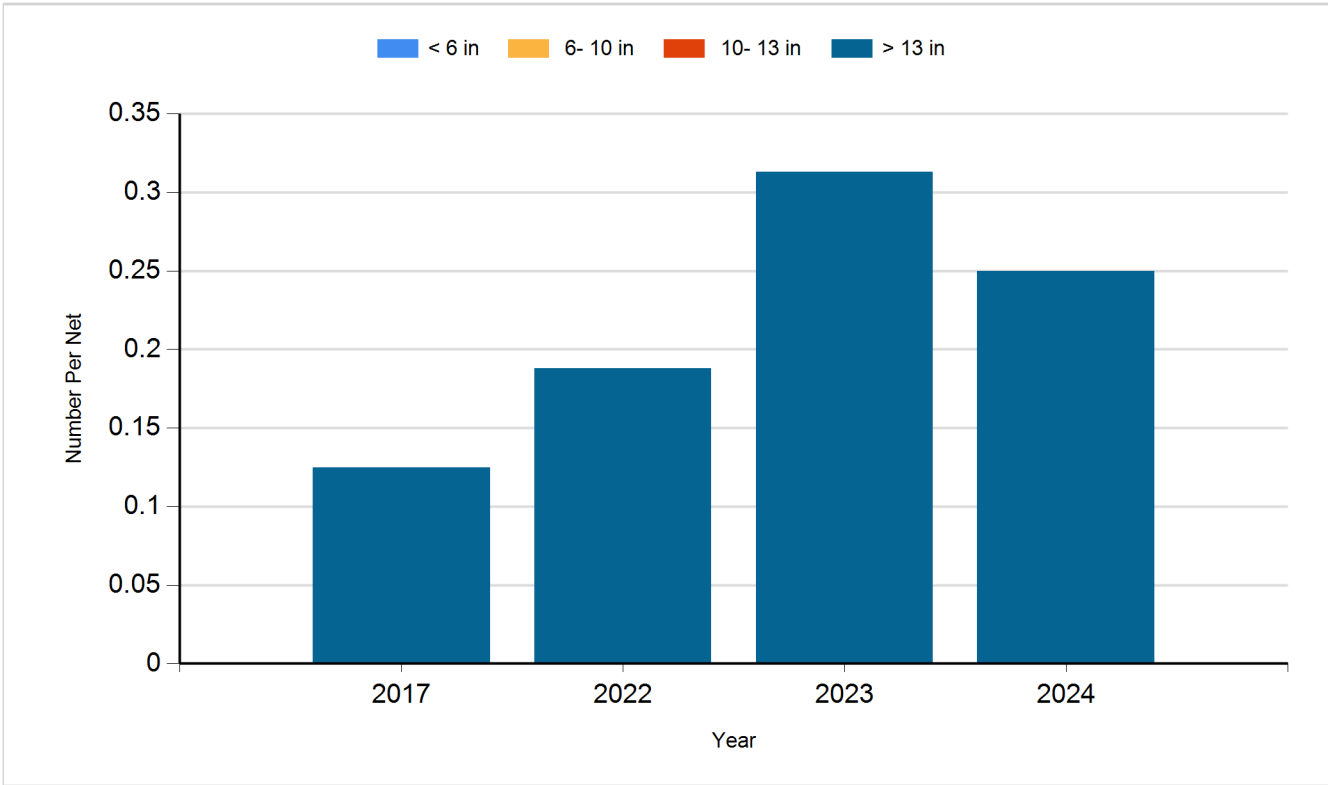


Species: White Bass  
Gear: std exp gill net

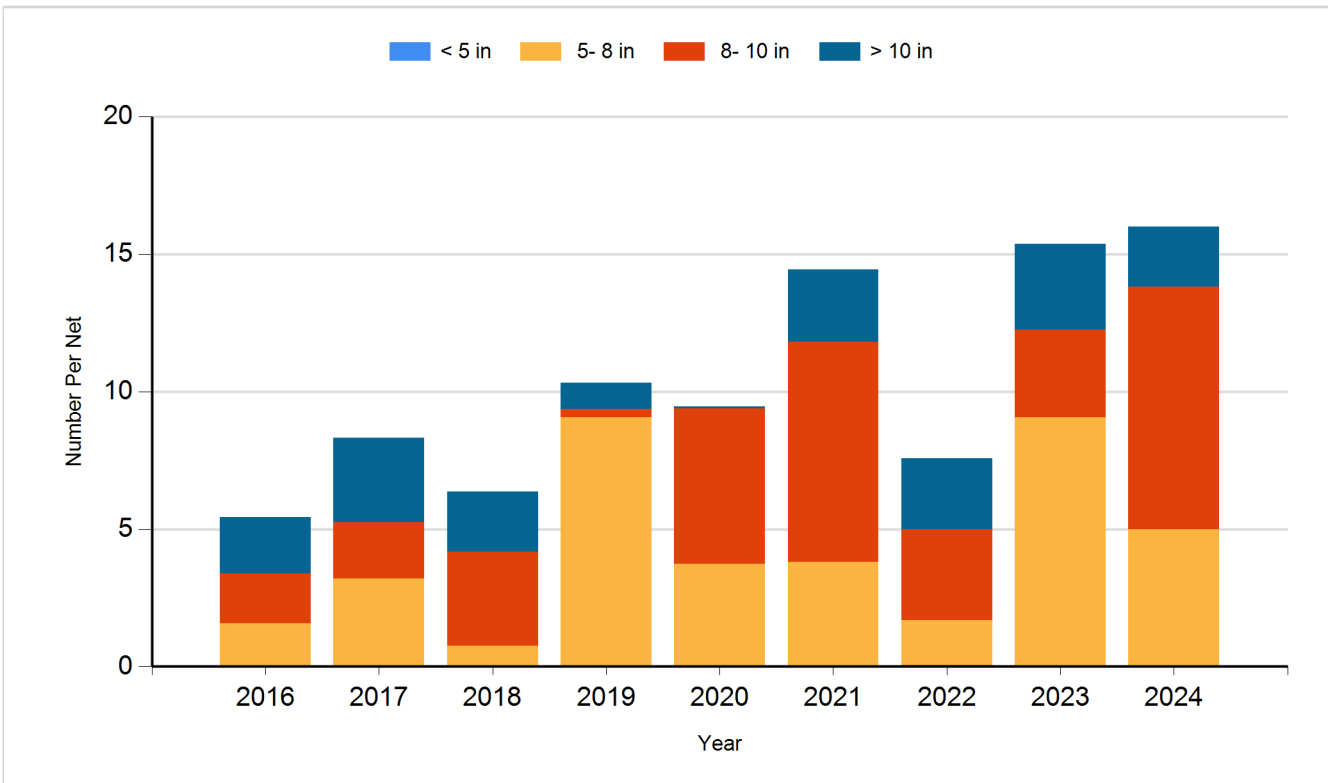




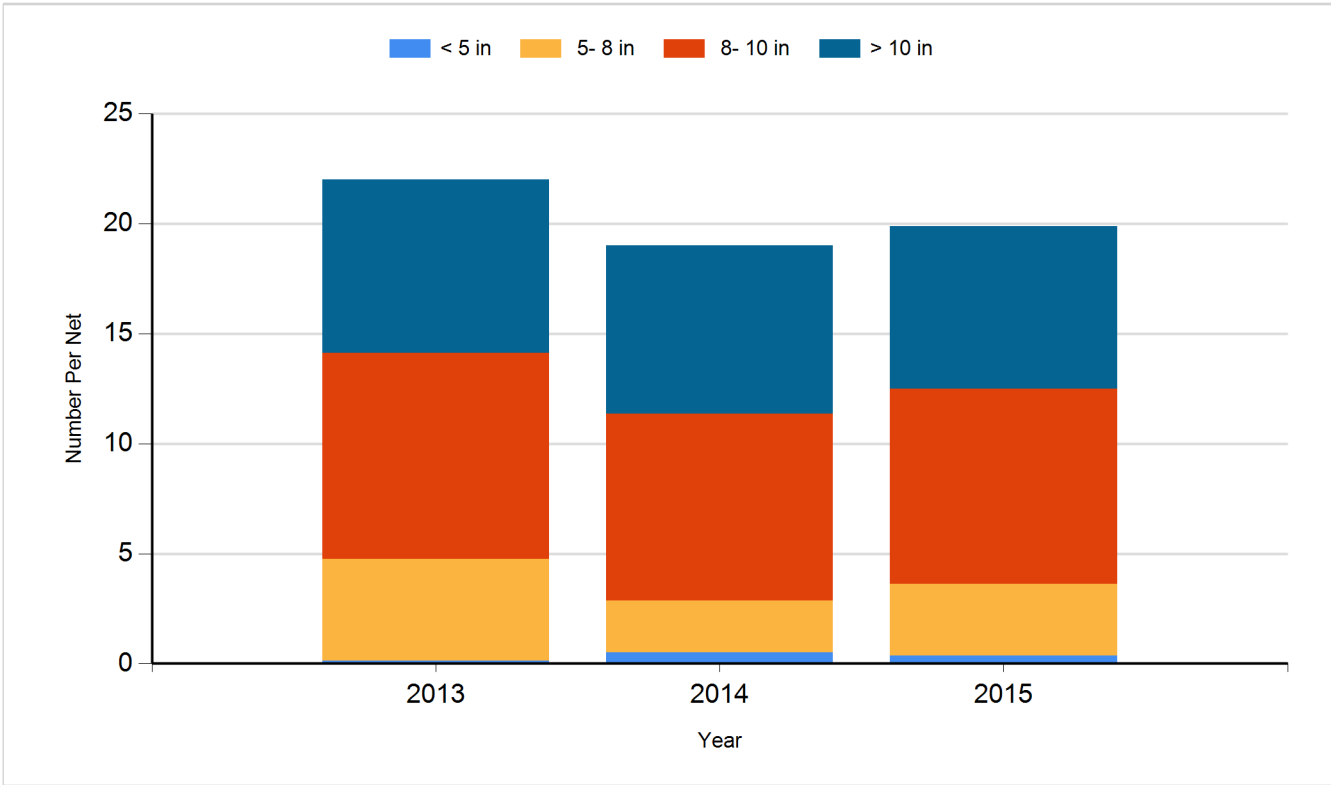
Species: White Sucker  
Gear: AFS std gill net



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
2014	Walleye	Fry	8,500,000
2016	Walleye	Fry	8,500,000
2017	Walleye	Fry	8,000,000
2019	Walleye	Fry	4,000,000
2021	Walleye		5,000,000
2021	Walleye	Fry	7,500,000
2021	Walleye	Juvenile	214,580
2023	Walleye	Fry	8,000,000