Goldsmith Lake Survey Summary

Goldsmith Lake, located 1 mile north and 1 ½ miles west of Volga, SD, is managed as a saugeye fishery; other fish species (e.g., black crappie, northern pike, walleye, and yellow perch) are also present.

- **Saugeye.** Saugeye abundance increased from the previous sample year (CPUE = 4.7 fish per gill net in 2024 compared to 3.5 per net in 2022). Catches have remained above the long-term mean (CPUE = 3.2 per net) for the past several sample years. Netted fish ranged from 11.0 to 23.2 inches in length with approximately 29% measuring >14 inches. The sample was comprised of 5 year classes of saugeye. The age 1 cohort (2023 year class) dominated catches (71% of sample) followed by age 2 and age 3 fish (11 and 7% of sample, respectively). Walleye or saugeye from years of no stocking (2022 and 2017) caught in this survey and past surveys suggest that there is some natural reproduction; however, no fish were caught from the 2020 year class, a year of little to no walleye stocking across the state due to Covid. Growth was good with fish attaining a mean length of 17.6 inches by age 3.

- **Yellow Perch.** Gill netting efforts produced a catch rate of 1.2 yellow perch per net in 2024. Relative abundance was lower than the previous sample year (CPUE = 4.5 fish per net in 2022) and long term mean (CPUE = 2.5 fish per net). Netted fish ranged from 6.4 to 11.0 inches in length with most (86%) measuring >8 inches. A high average relative weight score (Wr = 101) indicates sampled yellow perch were in good condition.

- **Northern Pike**. Northern pike abundance increased to a 10 year high in 2024 (CPUE = 4.3 fish per gill net) resulting in the highest catch rate in the region. Catches were well above the previous sample year (CPUE = 1.0 fish per net in 2022) and long term mean (CPUE = 1.7 per net). Sampled fish ranged from 15.4 to 30.3 inches in length with most (62%) measuring in the stock to quality (14 to 21 inch) length range. Quality to preferred length fish (21 to 28 inches) accounted for 25% of the sample. Anglers targeting northern pike in the region should be sure to consider trying Goldsmith Lake.

For more detailed results see the computer-generated South Dakota Statewide Fisheries Survey for Goldsmith Lake (below).

SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
Goldsmith, Brookings County
MBS-Lake-236-000
2024

Lake Information

Name: Goldsmith

County: Brookings

Legal Description: T110N-R51W-Sec 9,16

Surface Area: 308 Acres

Maximum Depth: 9 Feet

Mean Depth: 6 Feet

Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
AFS std gill net	Jul 24, 2024	6 net-nights

Common Fish Species Present

Yellow Perch

Walleye

Bigmouth Buffalo

Common Carp

Saugeye

Northern Pike

Black Bullhead

White Sucker

Black Crappie

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
AFS std gill net	Bigmouth Buffalo	203	12.5	3.8	16	6	11	6		
	Black Bullhead	13	2.0	1.0	8		8			
	Black Crappie	2	0.3	0.3	0		0		113	1
	Common Carp	60	8.2	1.7	6		4			
	Northern Pike	26	4.3	2.0	38	15	12		89	3
	Saugeye	28	4.7	1.1	29	13	14		89	1
	White Sucker	3	0.5	0.5	100		100			
	Yellow Perch	7	1.2	0.9	86		43		101	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	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Avg
AFS std gill net	Bigmouth Buffalo			0.0	5.5	1.2		1.8	2.2		12.5	3.87
	Black Bullhead			1.0	2.8	0.5		4.3	0.5		2.0	1.85
	Black Crappie			0.0	0.0	0.0		0.3	0.2		0.3	0.13
	Common Carp			0.2	2.3	1.0		0.5	0.3		8.2	2.08
	Northern Pike			2.0	0.8	1.5		0.8	1.0		4.3	1.73
	Saugeye			0.7	0.5	4.0		5.5	3.5		4.7	3.15
	Walleye			2.0	8.7	3.2		2.0	2.3		0.0	3.03
	White Sucker			1.7	1.5	0.7		1.5	0.5		0.5	1.07
	Yellow Perch			5.0	2.8	0.7		1.0	4.5		1.2	2.53
std exp gill net	Bigmouth Buffalo	0.0	0.0									0.00
	Black Bullhead	9.3	0.0									4.65
	Common Carp	0.3	0.3									0.30
	Northern Pike	1.3	2.3									1.80
	Orangespotted Sunfish	0.0	0.0									0.00
	Saugeye	0.0	0.0									0.00
	Walleye	0.0	6.3									3.15
	White Sucker	1.0	4.0									2.50
	Yellow Perch	7.0	40.3									23.65

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	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
AFS std gill net	Bigmouth Buffalo	PSD				12	100		100	69		16
		PSD-P				3	0		36	46		11
	Black Bullhead	PSD			0	18	100		81	0		8
		PSD-P			0	0	33		0	0		8
	Black Crappie	PSD							100	100		0
		PSD-P							50	100		0
		Wr							98	94		113
	Common Carp	PSD			100	79	100		100	0		6
		PSD-P			100	7	50		67	0		4
	Northern Pike	PSD			92	80	56		60	67		38
		PSD-P			8	20	33		0	0		12
		Wr			88	100	88		81	75		89
	Saugeye	PSD			0	100	63		91	76		29
		PSD-P			0	0	25		18	52		14
		Wr			99	93	93		90	81		89
	Walleye	PSD			17	96	100		100	79		
		PSD-P			0	0	32		83	36		
		Wr			89	93	92		84	81		
	White Sucker	PSD			100	100	100		100	67		100
		PSD-P			80	78	75		100	67		100
	Yellow Perch	PSD			67	94	25		100	70		86
		PSD-P			50	12	25		33	26		43
		Wr			111	99	108		103	96		101
std exp gill net	Black Bullhead	PSD	4									
		PSD-P	0									
	Common Carp	PSD	0	100								
		PSD-P	0	100								
	Northern Pike	PSD	50	86								
		PSD-P	0	29								
		Wr	77	84								
	Saugeye	PSD		0								
		PSD-P		0								
	Walleye	PSD	0	0								

			Year									
Gear	Species	Index	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
std exp gill net	Walleye	PSD-P	0	0								
		Wr		96								
	White Sucker	PSD	100	83								
		PSD-P	100	58								
	Yellow Perch	PSD	43	75								
		PSD-P	33	8								
		Wr	105	107								

Length at Capture

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

Species: Saugeye

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2024	28	310 (20)	386 (3)	447 (2)		556 (2)	565 (1)				
2022	34	226 (18)		468 (13)	533 (1)		613 (2)				
2021	32		369 (27)	493 (1)	544 (3)	488 (1)					
2019	24	273 (9)	401 (5)	464 (10)							
2018	3		423 (3)								

Species: Walleye

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2022	14		385 (7)					594 (2)	514 (4)	610 (1)	
2021	12						548 (3)	547 (9)			
2019	18				455 (2)	487 (15)		628 (1)			
2018	52	298 (1)	411 (12)	409 (5)	452 (34)						

Species: Yellow Perch

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2019	4	144 (3)		278 (1)							

Fish Condition

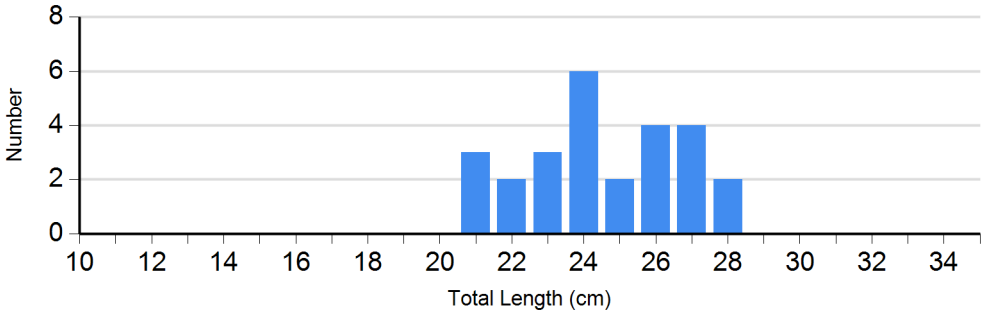
Mean relative weight (Wr) by sample size (N), length category stock to quality (S-Q), quality to preferred (Q-P), preferred to memorable (P-M), and memorable (M) for species collected across survey years with standard error (SE).

		Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
Species	Year	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Northern Pike Gill Net	2021	2	92 (3.8)	3	73 (3.9)	0		0	
	2022	2	67 (2.9)	4	79 (2.1)	0		0	
	2024	16	86 (1.7)	7	93 (5.8)	3	97 (0.4)	0	
Saugeye Gill Net	2021	3	89 (4.8)	24	90 (1.0)	4	88 (2.5)	2	90 (7.0)
	2022	5	82 (1.6)	5	76 (2.3)	9	82 (2.6)	2	89 (1.9)
	2024	20	88 (1.3)	4	88 (2.3)	2	93 (3.2)	2	93 (1.6)
Walleye Gill Net	2021	0		2	86 (1.8)	10	84 (1.4)	0	
	2022	3	80 (0.7)	6	80 (2.0)	5	84 (3.6)	0	
Yellow Perch Gill Net	2021	0		4	105 (3.7)	2	100 (0.8)	0	
	2022	8	104 (2.6)	12	94 (2.0)	7	90 (2.3)	0	
	2024	1	93	3	111 (18.4)	3	94 (3.2)	0	

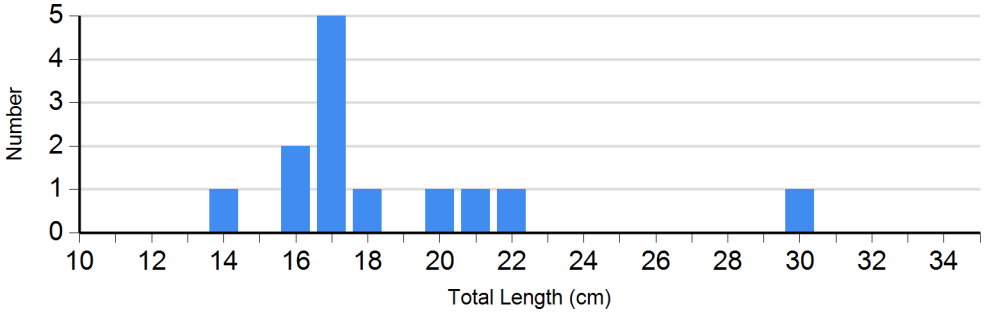
Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

Species: Black Bullhead
Gear: AFS std gill net

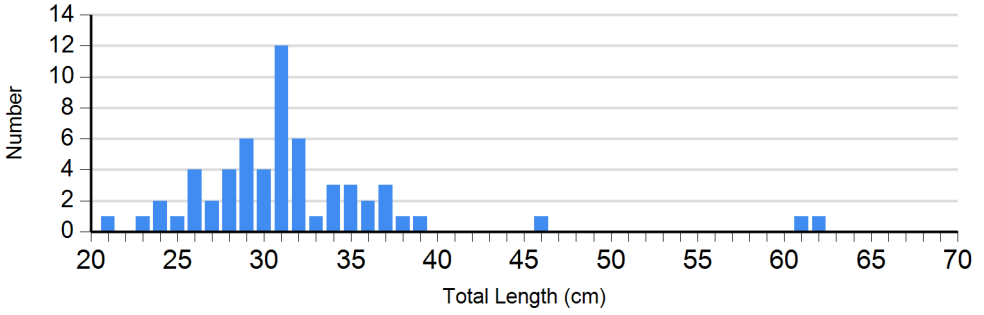


2021



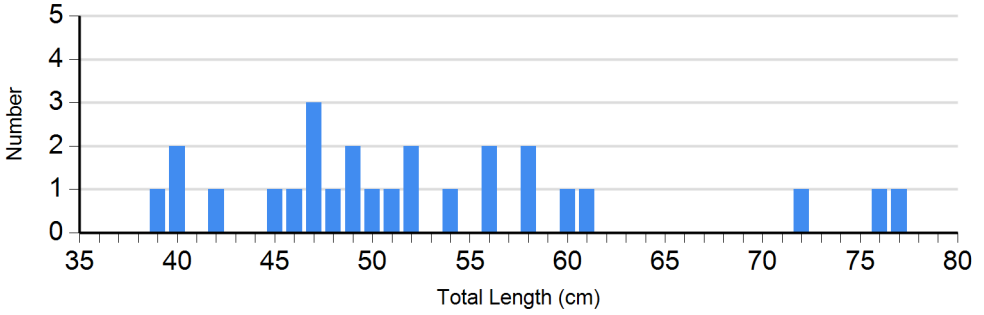
2024

Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net



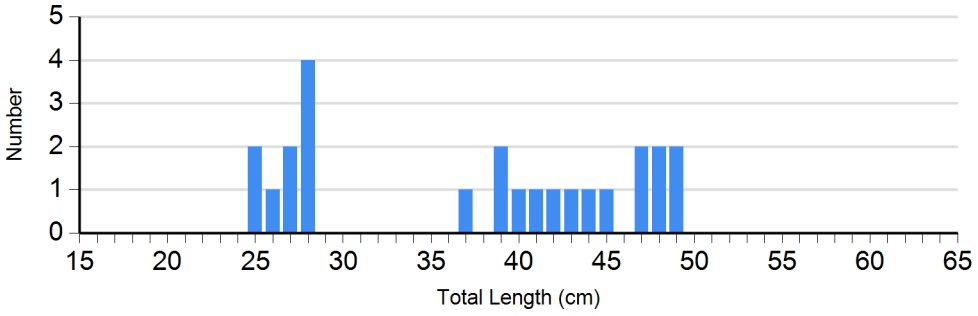
2024

Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net

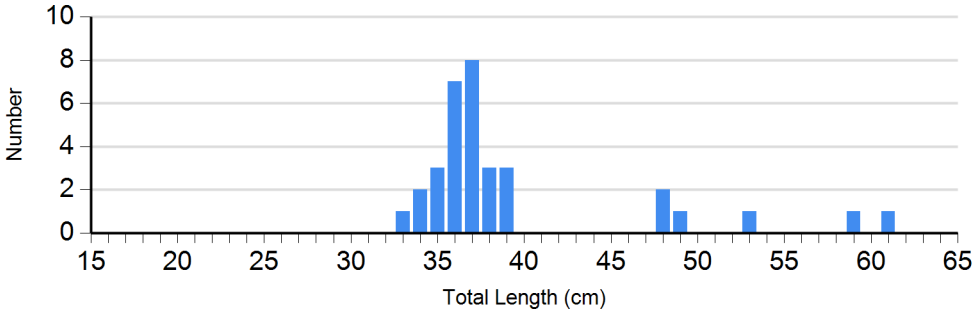


2024

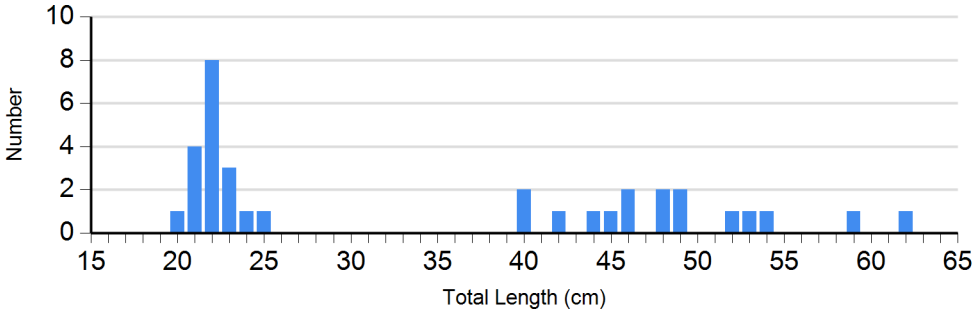
Species: Saugeye
Gear: AFS std gill net



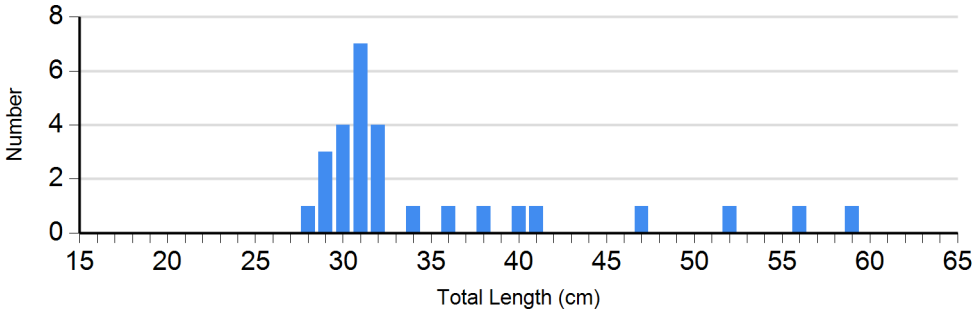
2019



2021

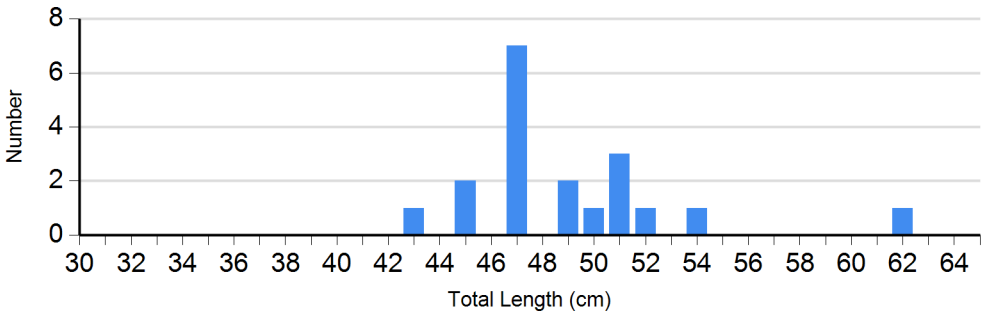


2022

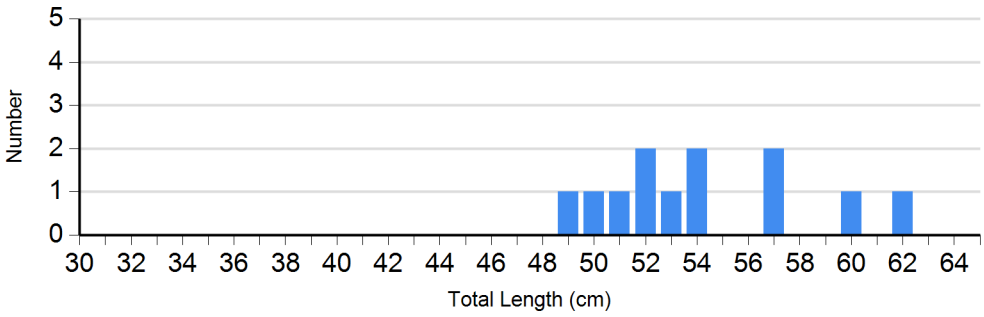


2024

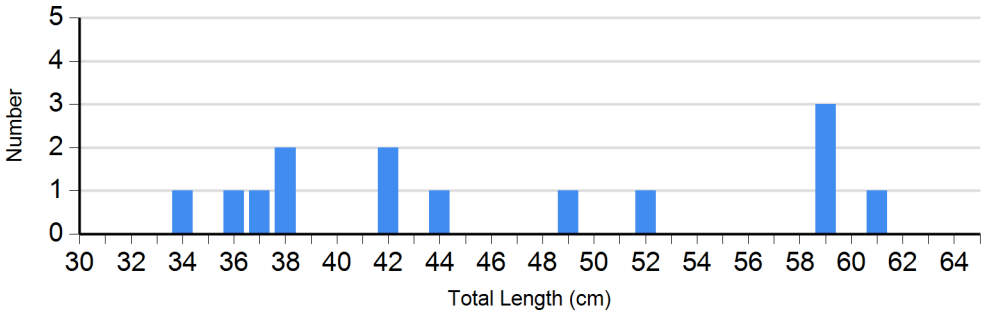
Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



2019

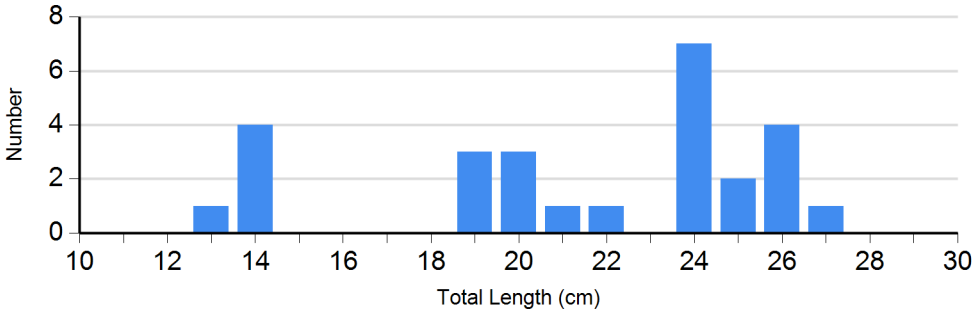


2021



2022

Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net

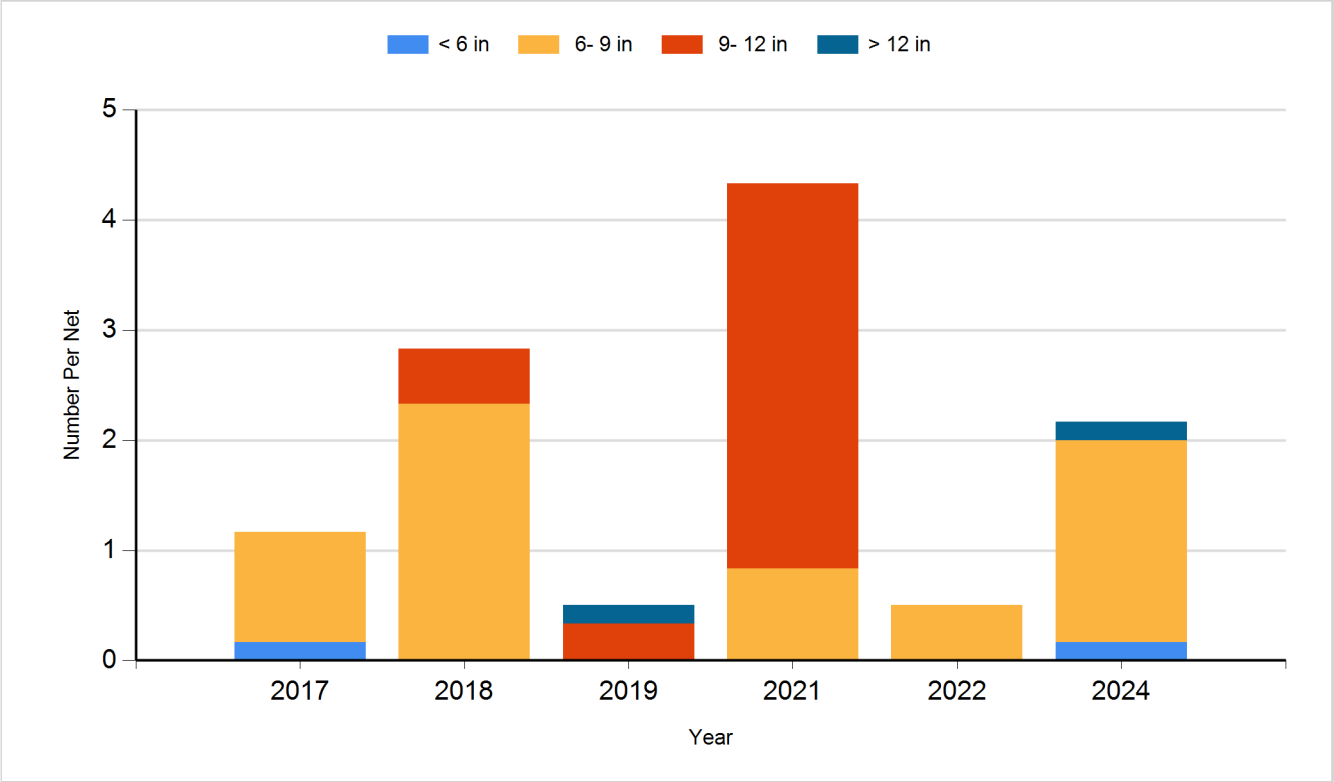


2022

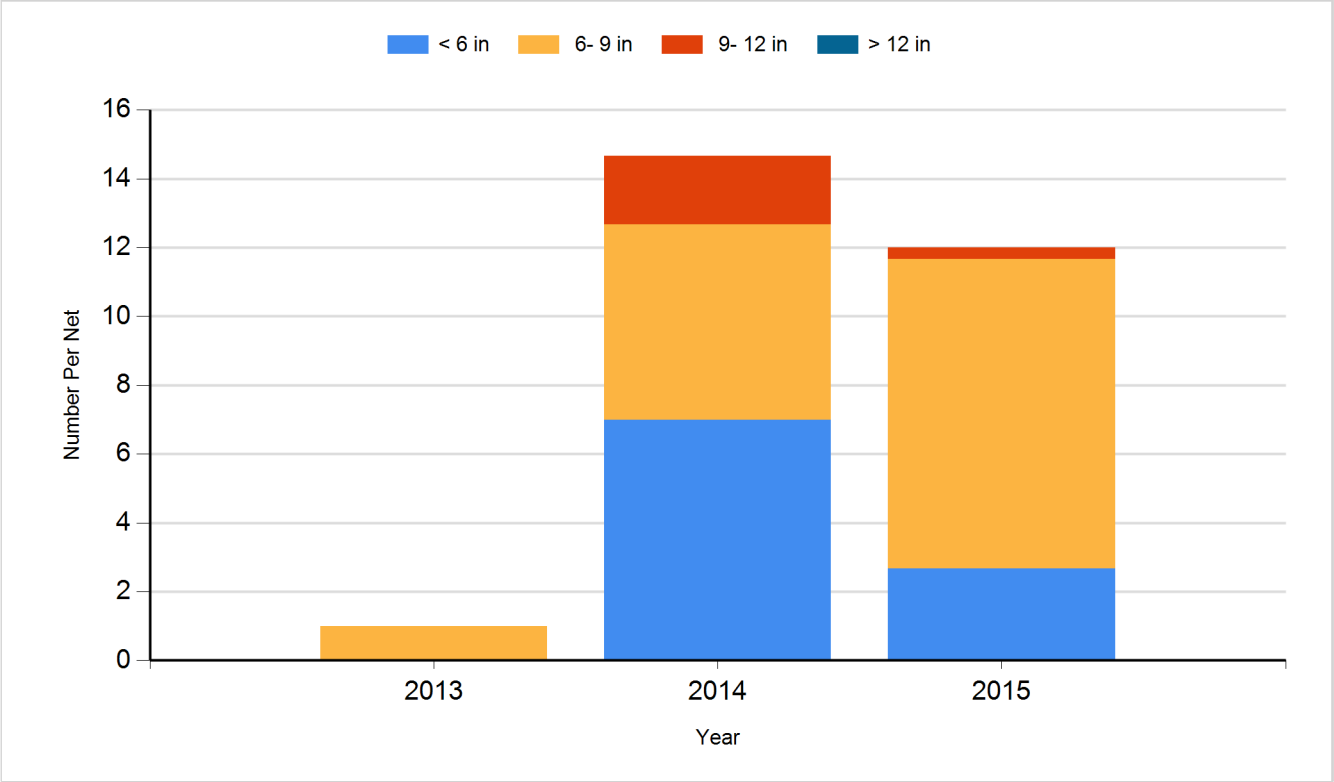
Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

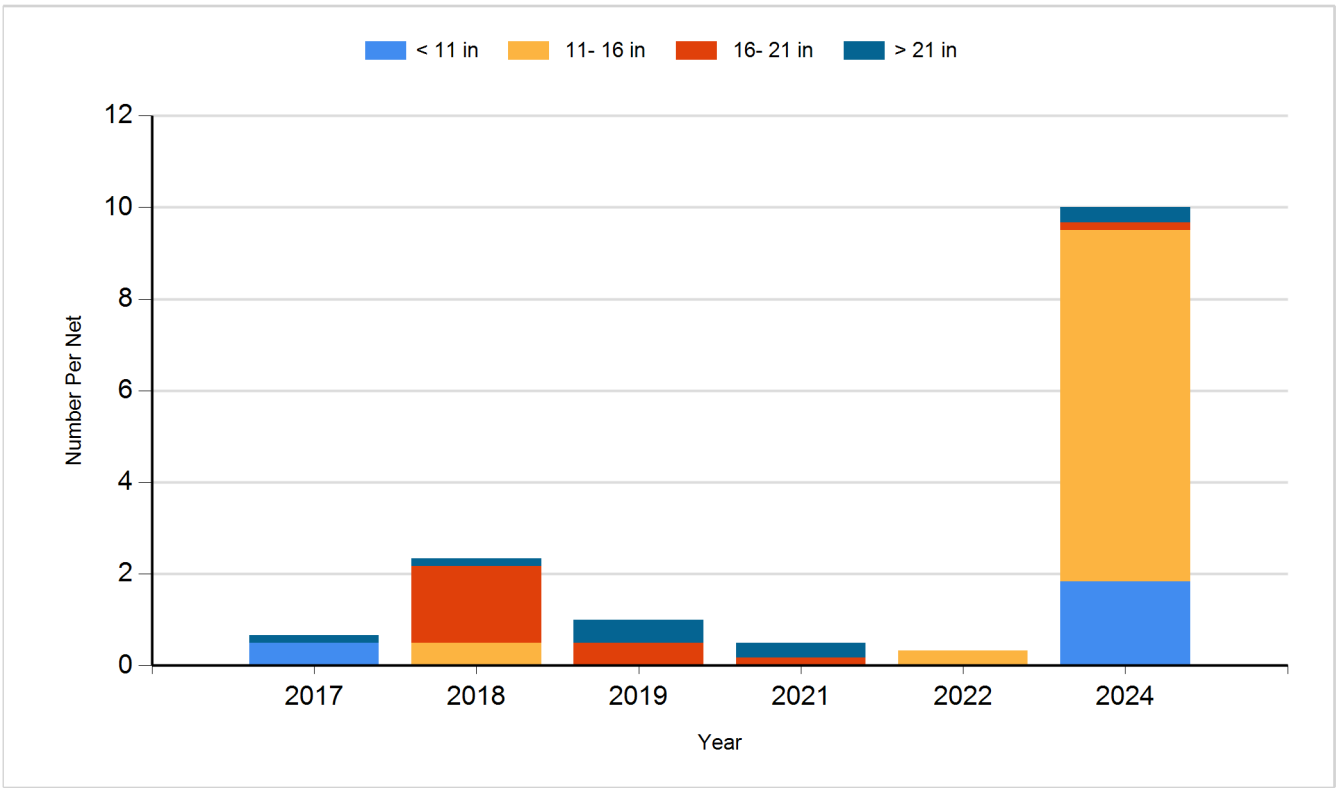
Species: Black Bullhead
Gear: AFS std gill net



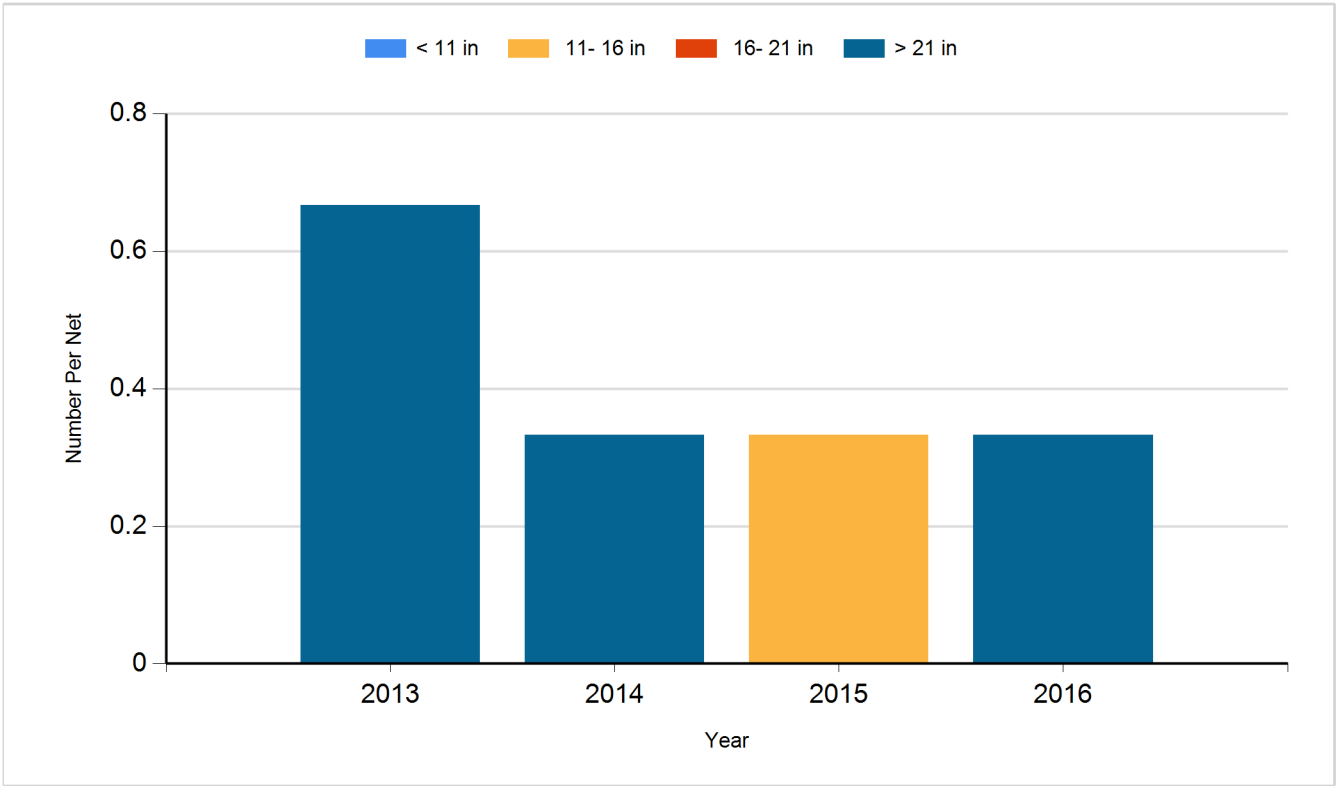
Species: Black Bullhead
Gear: std exp gill net



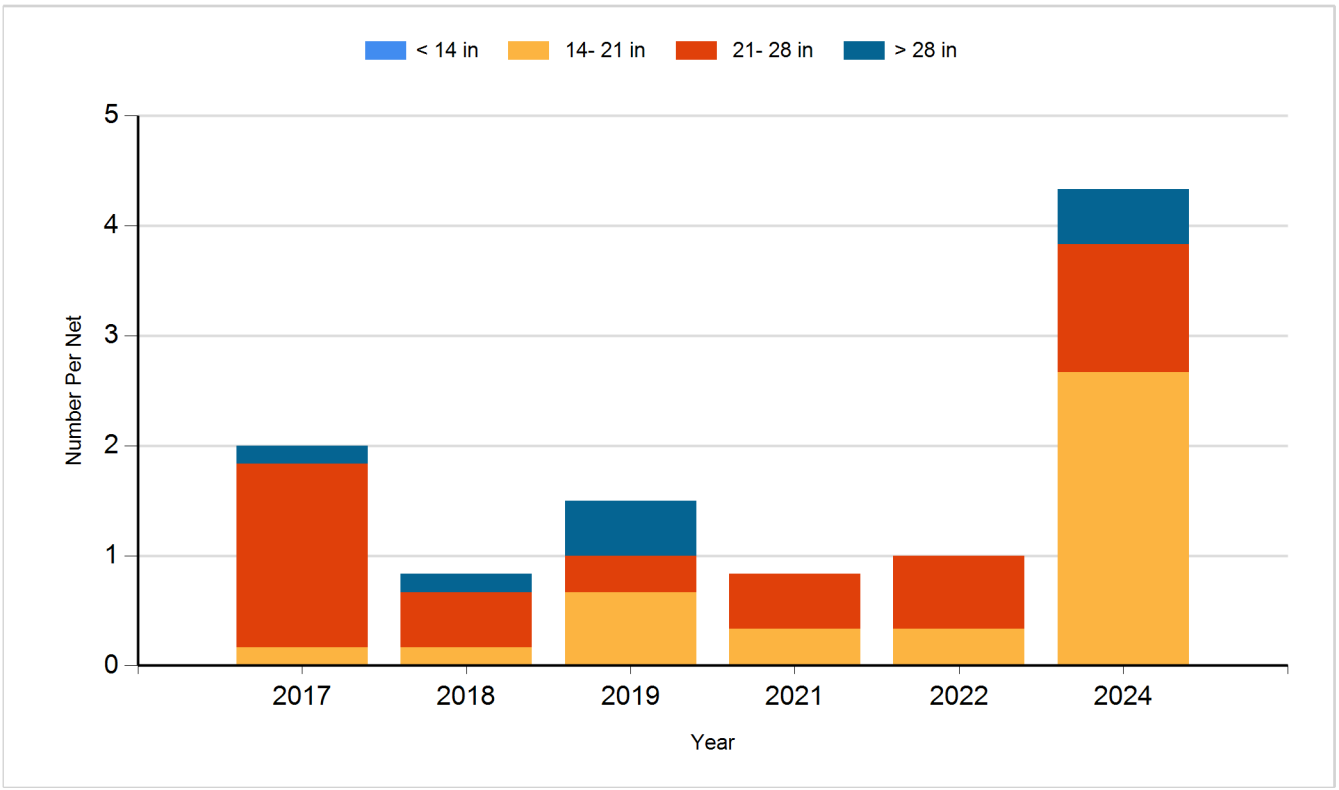
Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net



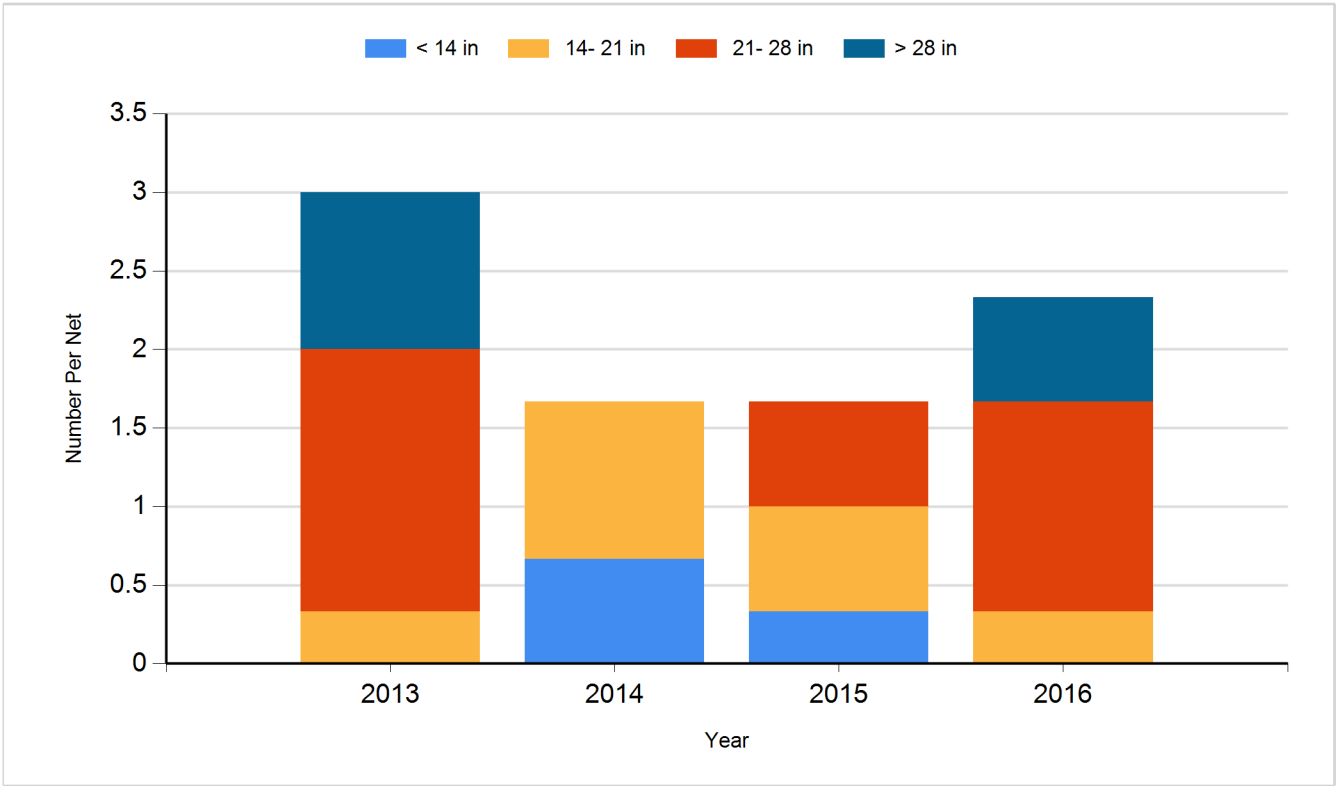
Species: Common Carp
Gear: std exp gill net



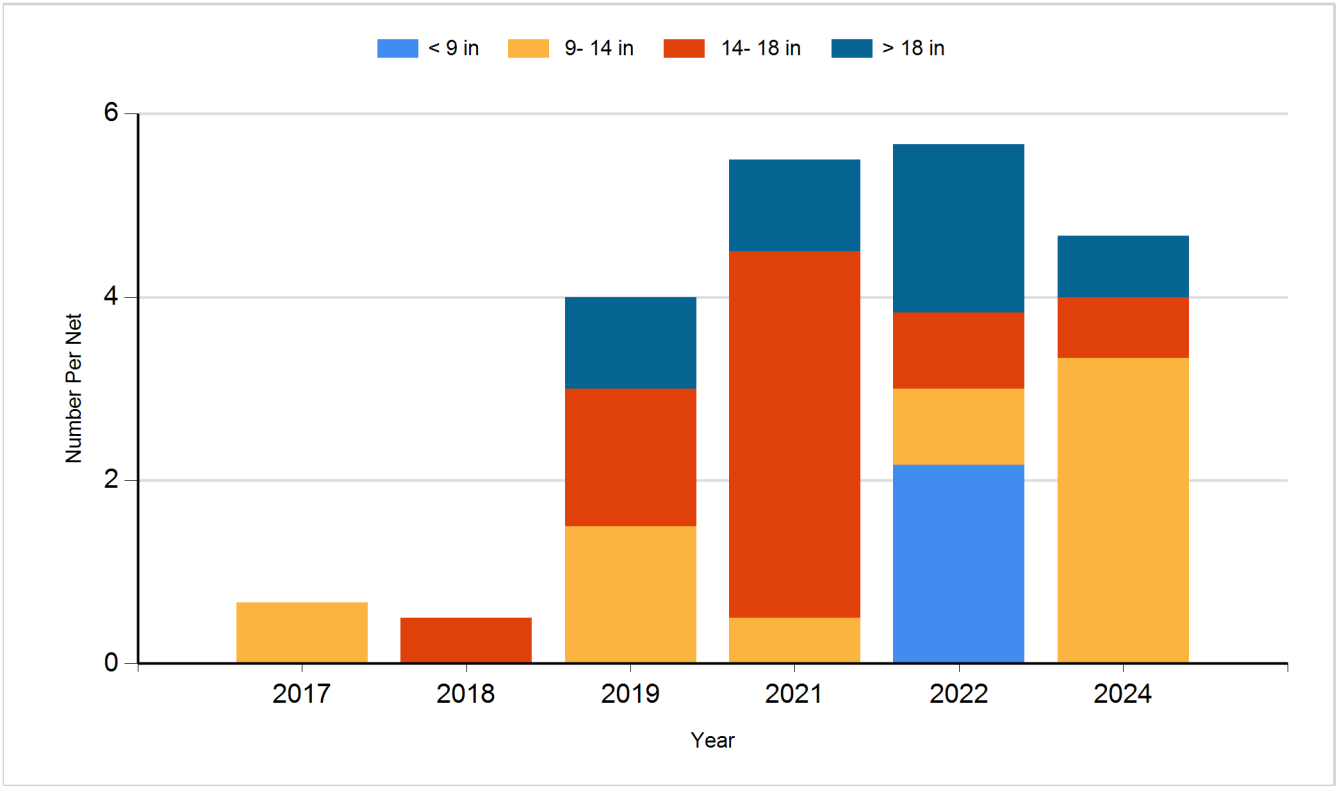
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net



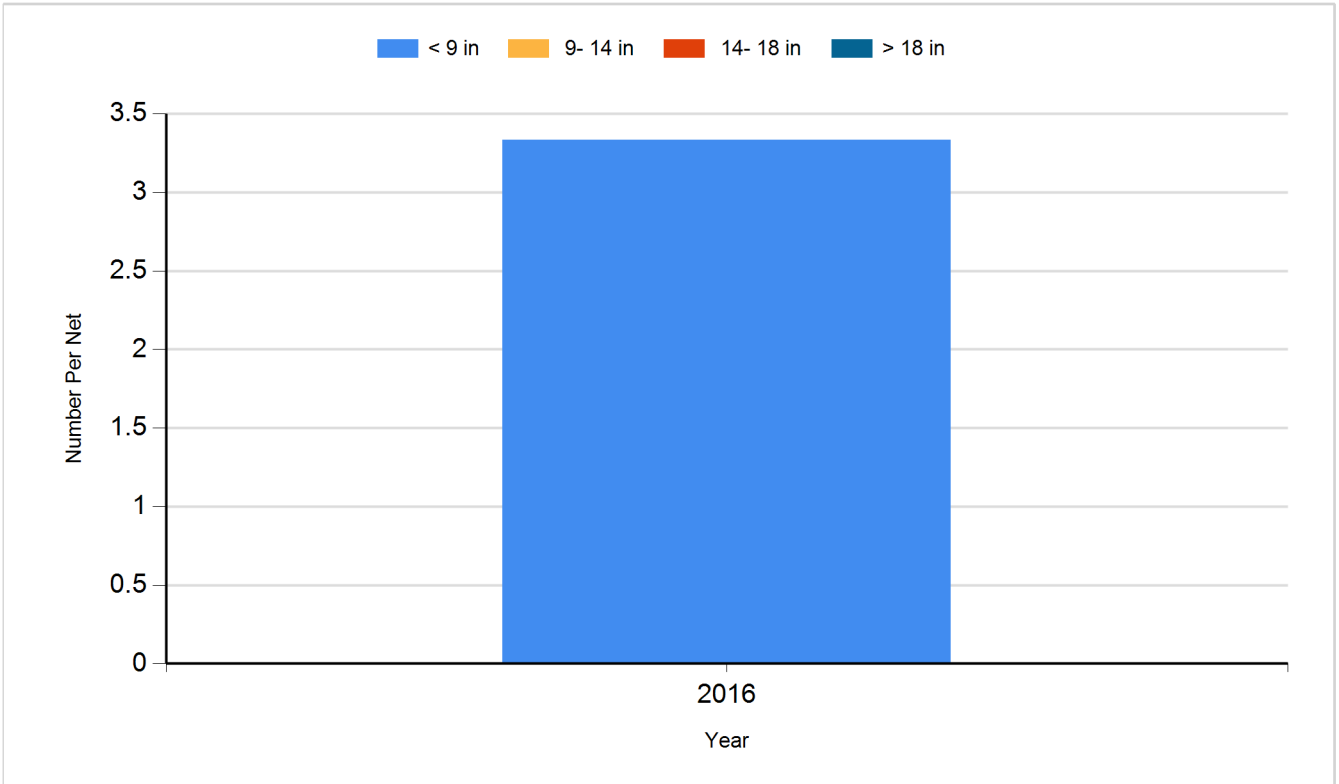
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: std exp gill net



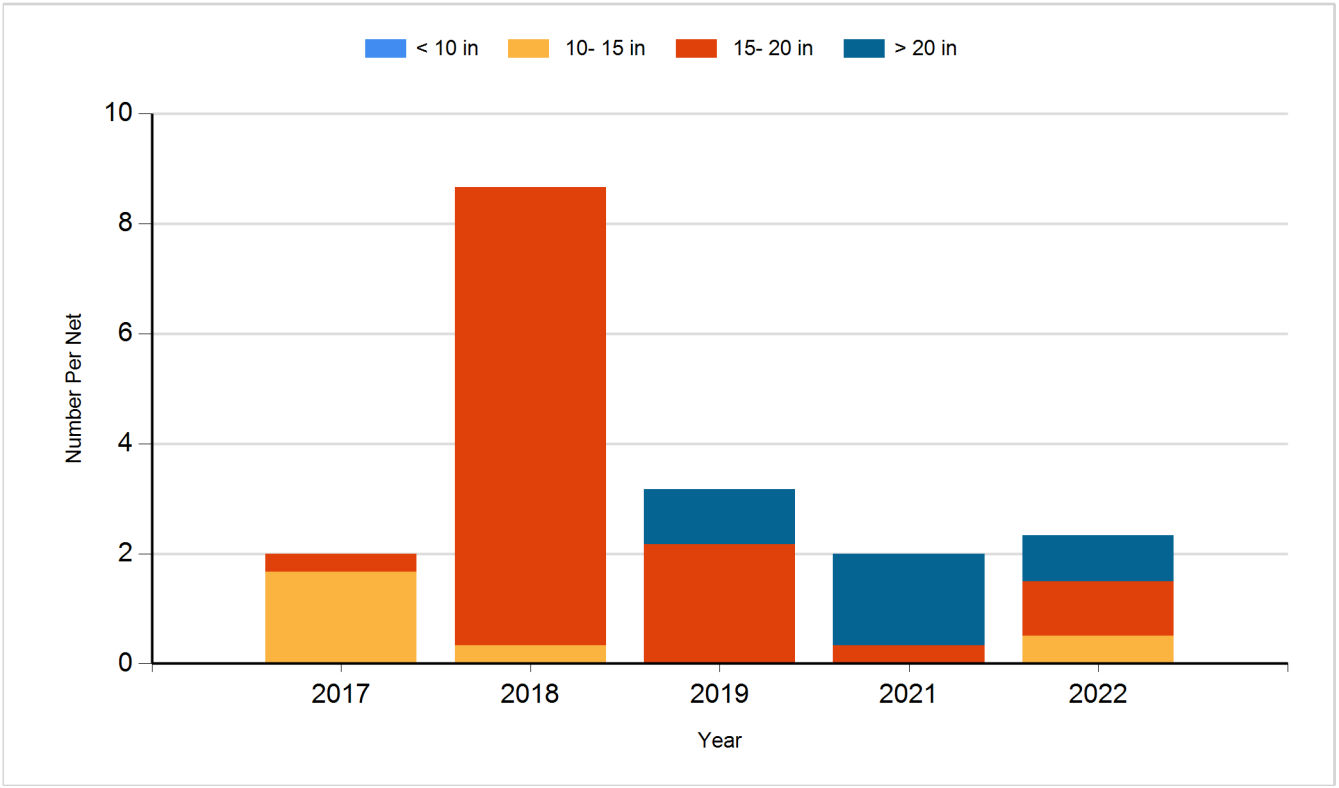
Species: Saugeye
Gear: AFS std gill net



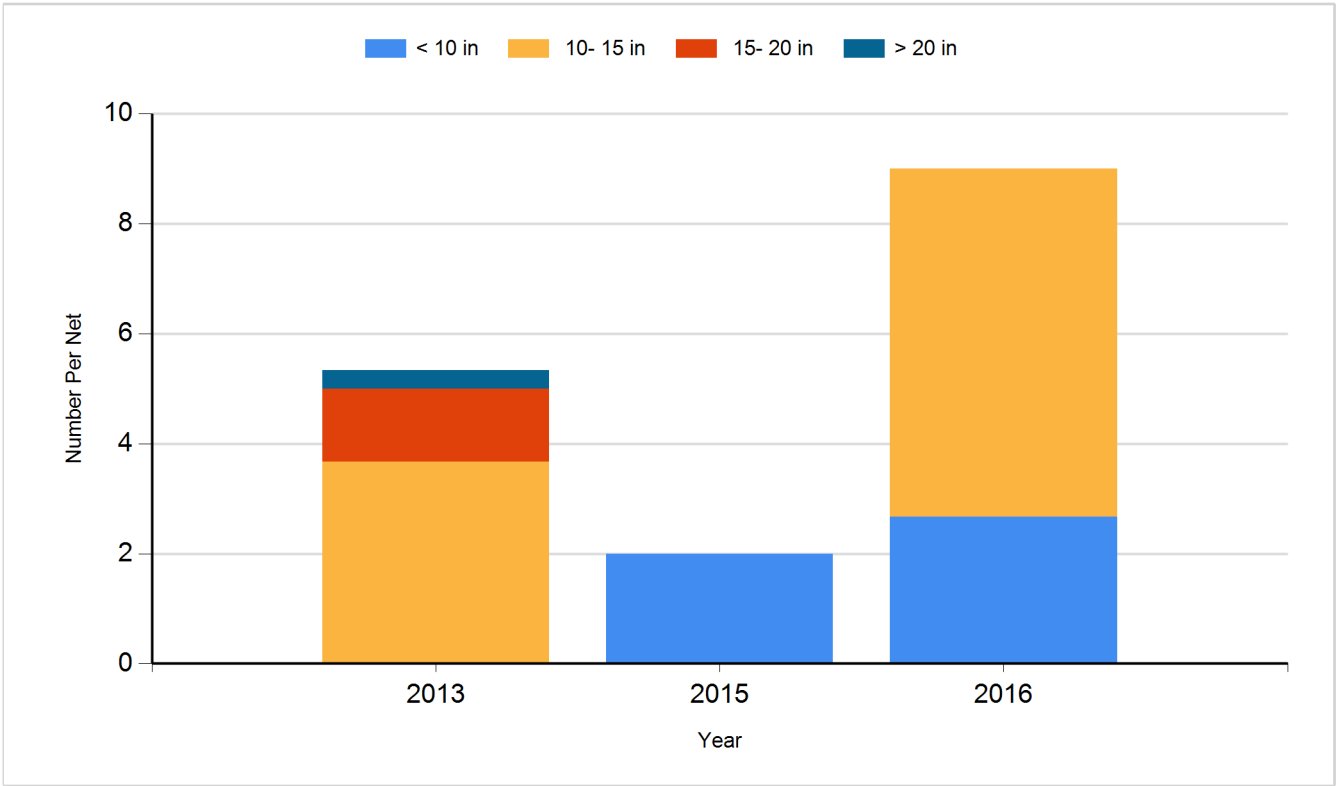
Species: Saugeye
Gear: std exp gill net



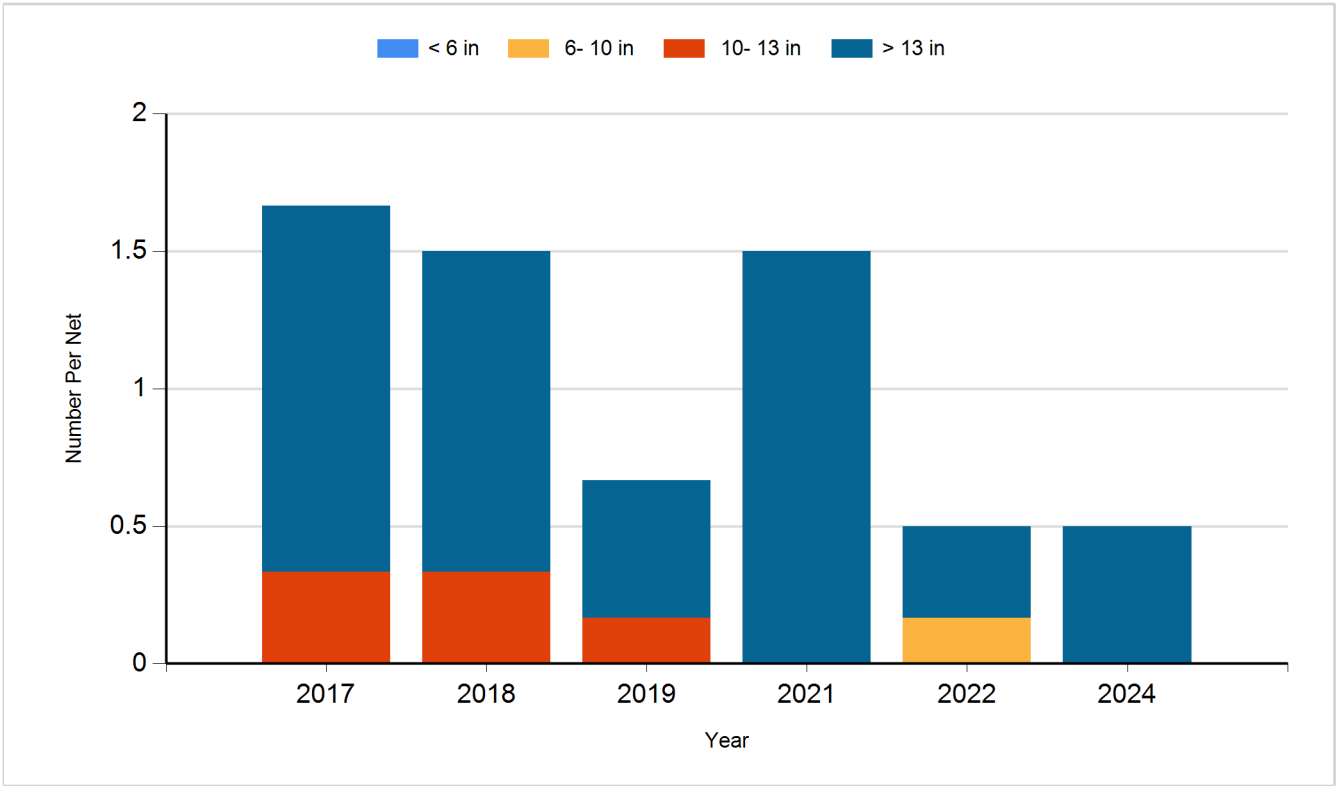
Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



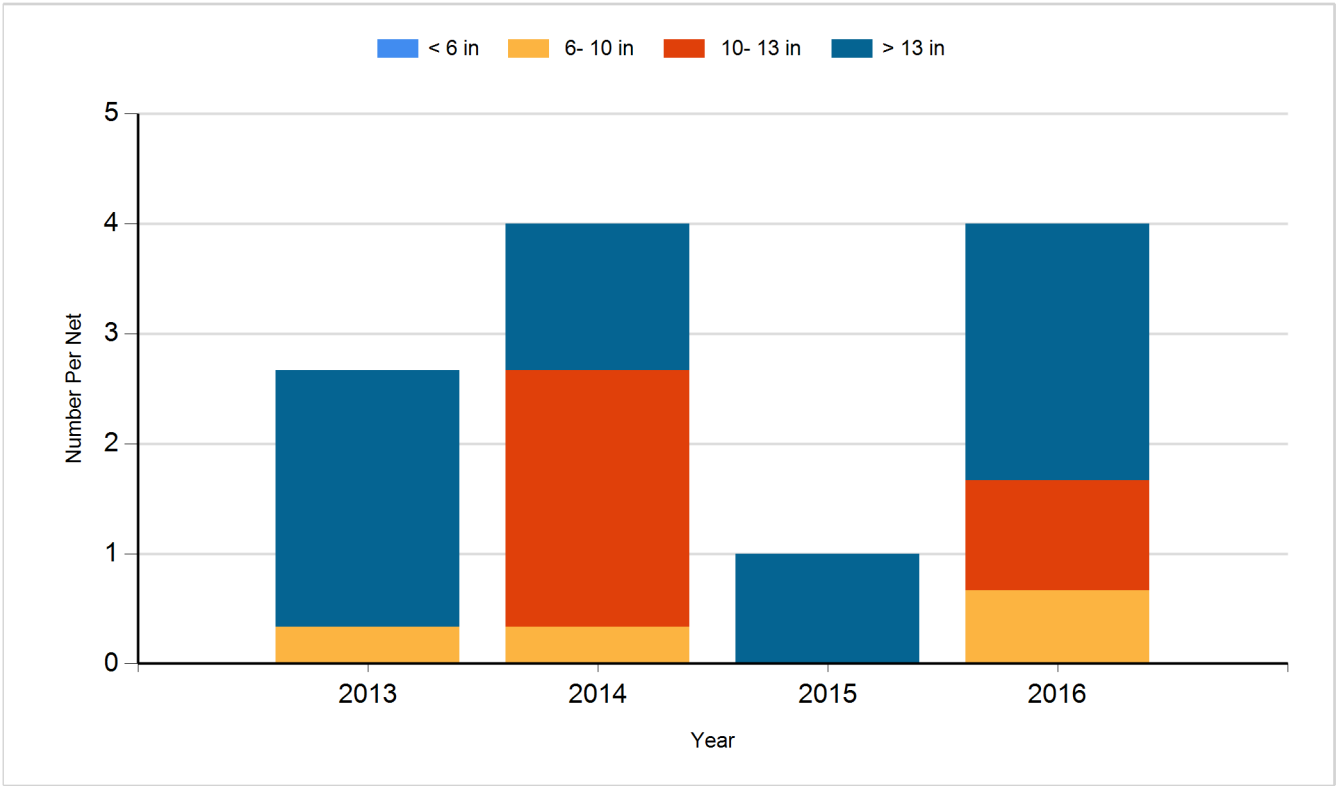
Species: Walleye
Gear: std exp gill net



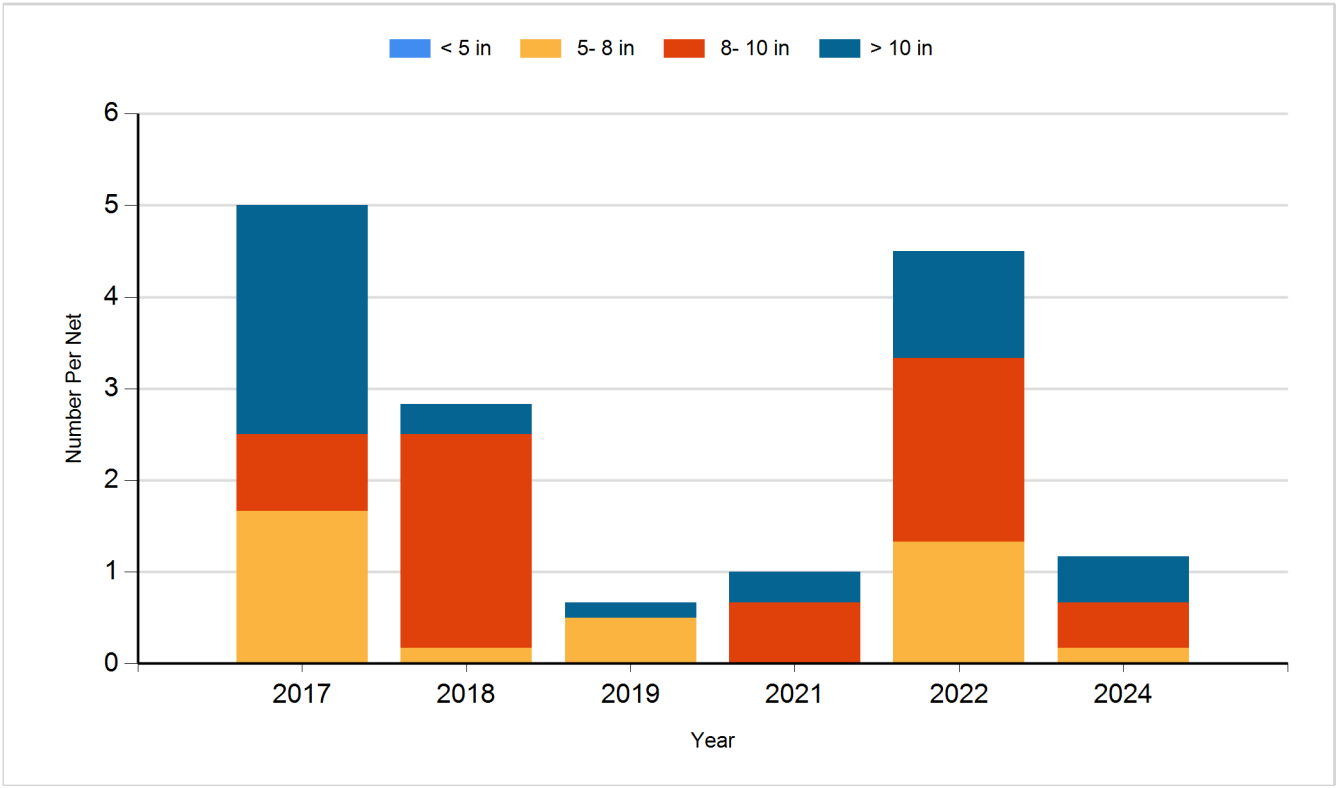
Species: White Sucker
Gear: AFS std gill net



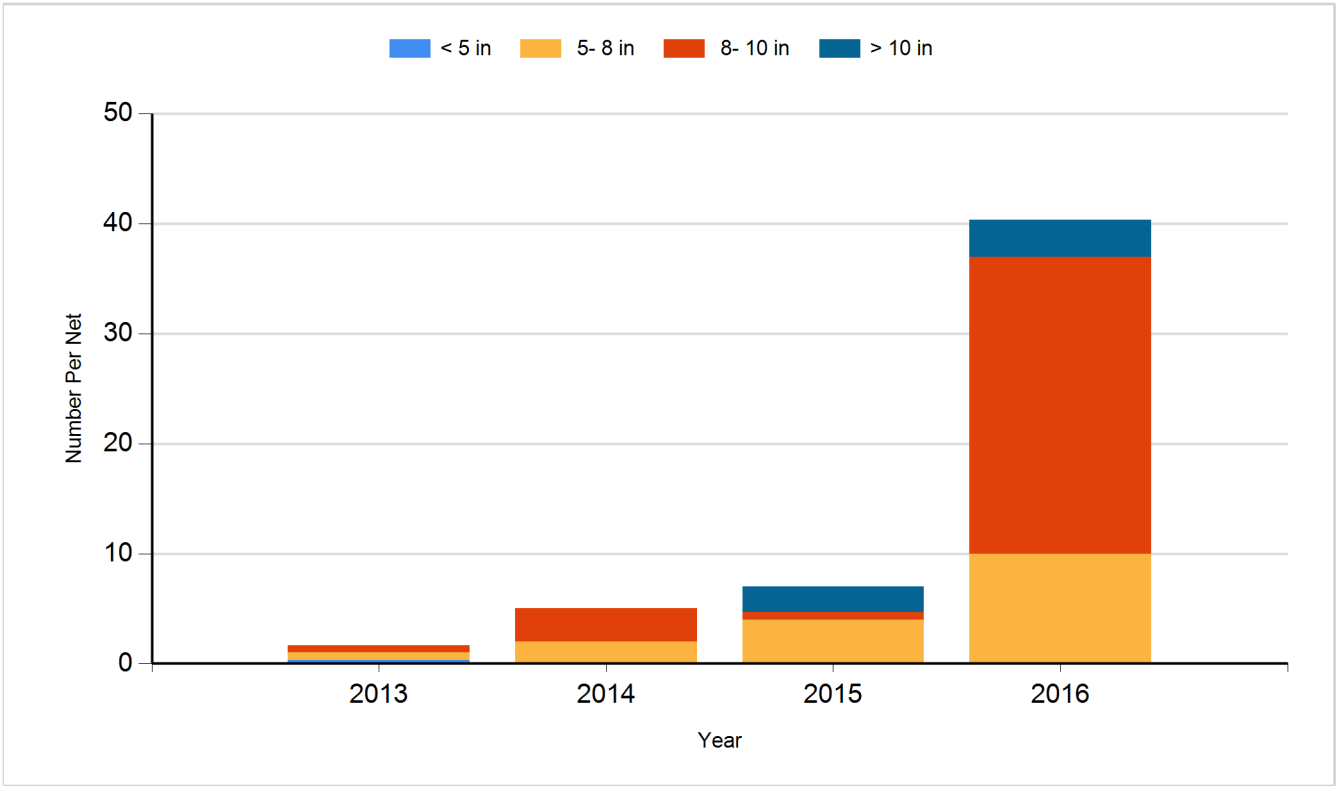
Species: White Sucker
Gear: std exp gill net



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
2014	Walleye	Fry	300,000
2015	Walleye	Small Fingerling	20,480
2016	Saugeye	Small Fingerling	31,030
2018	Saugeye	Small Fingerling	20,550
2019	Saugeye	Small Fingerling	21,120
2021	Saugeye	Fry	400,000
2021	Saugeye	Juvenile	25,830
2023	Saugeye	Juvenile	20,944