2024 Eureka Lake Survey Summary

Water: Eureka Lake

County: McPherson

Legal Description: T127N R73W S34,35

GPS: 45.771 -99.637

Surface Area: 190 acres

Class: Warm Water Permanent

Maximum Depth: 16 feet

Mean Depth: 8 feet

Eureka Lake is 190-acre impoundment within the west edge of the city limits of the town of Eureka in western McPherson County. A paved county road from US HWY 10 provides access to the lake. The county road divides the lake into east and west sections with uninterrupted fish passage between the basins through a box culvert. Concrete plank boat ramps and docks at lakeside use areas are located on both sections of lake adjacent to the county road. A gravel road and City streets provide access to the entire shoreline of Eureka Lake. Several earthen piers are located on the west lake providing shore fishing opportunity. The east lake has an ADA accessible wooden fishing pier. An artesian well maintains the lake at outlet levels.

Primary game fish managed at Eureka Lake are Walleye, Yellow Perch, and Bluegill. Northern Pike, Green Sunfish, Common Carp and Black Bullhead also have a historical presence. Walleye fry are stocked in Eureka biannually. In 2024, Bluegill juveniles and Largemouth Bass fingerlings were stocked to supplement the existing population and provide increased fishing opportunity.

Eureka Lake was surveyed on June 8-10, 2024, utilizing ¾ inch standard frame nets sets and AFS standard gill net sets. Walleye, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Northern Pike, Green Sunfish and Common Carp were observed during the 2024 survey.

- **Walleye:** 12 walleyes from 10 frame net sets and 10 fish in 4 gill net sets were recorded during the 2024 survey. At least 4 year classes of walleyes were observed. The youngest fish were between 8 and 10 inches and presumed to be from the 2023 stocking. A second year class (2021) measured 13 to 15 inches; larger fish, likely from the 2019 stocking, were near 18 inches; and the oldest walleyes represented were 20 to 25 inches. Growth was well above the statewide average. Relative condition was good across all size groups.

- **Bluegill:** Catch rates were moderately low with 0.5 individuals sampled in each frame net. Nearly all bluegills were under 6 inches. Condition was well above average, mainly due to female fish being prespawn at the time the lake was surveyed.

- **Yellow Perch:** During the 2024 netting 0.5 adult perch were captured in each gill net set. All perch observed were under 10 inches.

- **Other Species:** Northern Pike, Green Sunfish, and Common Carp were also netted during the 2024 survey.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
Eureka, McPherson County
WMC-Lake-1372-800
2024

Lake Information

Name:	Eureka	**Maximum Depth:**	15 Feet
County:	McPherson	**Mean Depth:**	7 Feet
Surface Area:	202 Acres		

Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
AFS std gill net	Jul 09, 2024	4 net-nights
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Jul 09, 2024	5 net-nights
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Jul 10, 2024	5 net-nights

Common Fish Species Present

Yellow Perch

Walleye

Northern Pike

Common Carp

Bluegill

Green Sunfish

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	Common Carp	12	3.0	0.7	100		75		79	3
	Northern Pike	6	1.5	0.8	83		17		81	2
	Walleye	9	1.3	0.4	60		40		75	2
	Yellow Perch	3	0.8	0.4	67		33		107	5
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Bluegill	4	0.2	0.3	100		50		104	22
	Green Sunfish	2	0.2	0.2	0		0		115	19
	Northern Pike	3	0.3	0.3	33		33		82	2
	Walleye	16	1.3	0.6	77		46	23	81	1
	Yellow Perch	5	0.5	0.4	20		0		98	4

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	Black Bullhead				0.0			0.3			0.0	0.10
	Channel Catfish				0.0			0.3			0.0	0.10
	Common Carp				2.5			1.0			3.0	2.17
	Northern Pike				1.0			0.8			1.5	1.10
	Walleye				1.5			10.3			1.3	4.37
	Yellow Perch				3.7			0.8			0.8	1.77
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Bluegill				6.5			2.0			0.2	2.90
	Channel Catfish				0.0			0.1			0.0	0.03
	Common Carp				0.0			0.1			0.0	0.03
	Green Sunfish				0.0			0.0			0.2	0.07
	Northern Pike				0.3			0.5			0.3	0.37
	Orangespotted Sunfish				0.0			0.0			0.0	0.00
	Walleye				0.6			0.8			1.3	0.90
	Yellow Perch				2.7			0.4			0.5	1.20

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	Common Carp	PSD				100			100			100
		PSD-P				93			25			75
		Wr				81			85			79
	Northern Pike	PSD				100			33			83
		PSD-P				0			0			17
		Wr				72			78			81
	Walleye	PSD				56			95			60
		PSD-P				11			2			40
		Wr				80			84			75
	Yellow Perch	PSD				73			33			67
		PSD-P				0			0			33
		Wr				95			80			107
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Bluegill	PSD				9			40			100
		PSD-P				2			10			50
		Wr				132			109			104
	Common Carp	PSD				0			100			
		PSD-P				0			100			
		Wr							76			
	Green Sunfish	PSD										0
		PSD-P										0
		Wr										115
	Northern Pike	PSD				100			60			33
		PSD-P				0			0			33
		Wr				80			87			82
	Walleye	PSD				67			100			77
		PSD-P				33			25			46
		Wr				82			83			81
	Yellow Perch	PSD				0			75			20
		PSD-P				0			75			0
		Wr				104			80			98

Back-Calculated Lengths

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

Species: Walleye

Year Class	Age	N	Mean back-calculated length (SE) at age									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2023	1	2	165 (3.2)									
2022	2	2	133 (3)	182 (5)								
2022	2	2	151 (0)	210 (13.5)								
2021	3	1	169	268	310							
2021	3	1	185	247	315							
2020	4	2	155 (16.2)	155 (16.2)	197 (5.4)	197 (5.4)						
2019	5	1	203	231	300	377	435					
2019	5	2	202 (.7)	260 (7.8)	320 (.4)	366 (7.3)	424 (3.5)					
2018	6	2	136 (39.2)	157 (18.1)	196 (23.4)	220 (.5)	312 (30.7)	349 (67.4)				
2018	6	6	151 (22.2)	192 (25.8)	251 (30.4)	300 (29.7)	366 (21.7)	415 (21.2)				
2016	8	1	103	103	144	144	252	252	336	336		
2014	10	2	105 (5.2)	105 (5.2)	153 (5.9)	153 (5.9)	259 (2.4)	259 (2.4)	310 (5.7)	310 (5.7)	390 (2.9)	390 (2.9)
Weighted Mean		24	153	188	239	262	348	360	319	319	390	390

Year Class	Age	N	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2023	1	2										
2022	2	2										
2022	2	2										
2021	3	1										
2021	3	1										
2020	4	2										
2019	5	1										

2019	5	2										
2018	6	2										
2018	6	6										
2016	8	1										
2014	10	2										
Weighted Mean		24										

Species: Yellow Perch

			Mean back-calculated length (SE) at age									
Year Class	Age	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2022	2	1	78	118								
2022	2	2	102 (6.6)	128 (2.1)								
2021	3	2	74 (4.8)	95 (9.5)	121 (2.2)							
2020	4	1	104	140	164	199						
2019	5	1	85	102	129	160	186					
2019	5	1	121	180	197	215	240					
Weighted Mean		8	93	123	146	191	213					

Year Class	Age	N	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2022	2	1										
2022	2	2										
2021	3	2										
2020	4	1										
2019	5	1										
2019	5	1										
Weighted Mean		8										

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+
2021	20	89 (1)	110 (1)	133 (1)	138 (11)	173 (2)	175 (1)	199 (1)	231 (2)		
2018	54	108 (45)	122 (2)	148 (2)	152 (2)			192 (2)		207 (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	8	190 (2)	221 (2)	360 (1)		454 (1)	430 (2)				
2021	41				405 (20)		440 (19)		484 (1)		525 (1)
2018	13	210 (4)		306 (4)		439 (4)		615 (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+
2024	3		158 (1)		210 (1)	250 (1)					
2021	3				195 (3)						
2018	22	142 (1)	200 (9)	214 (1)	224 (2)	235 (2)	235 (3)	235 (1)	245 (1)	245 (1)	

Fish Condition

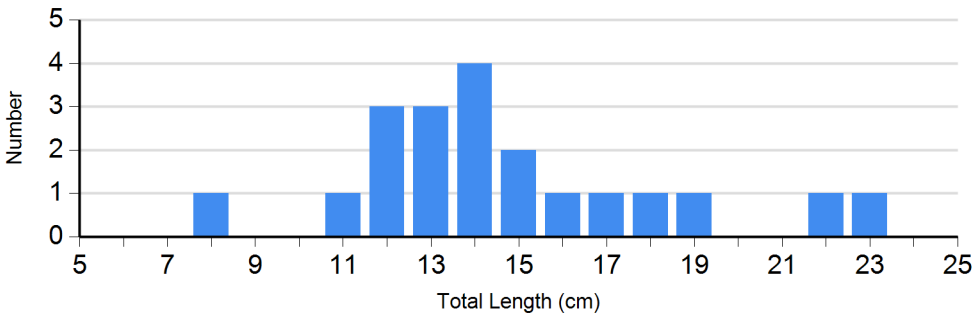
Mean relative weight (Wr) by sample size (N), length category stock to quality (S-Q), quality to preferred (Q-P), preferred to memorable (P-M), and memorable (M) for species collected across survey years with standard error (SE).

		Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
Species	Year	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Bluegill Frame Net	2021	12	104 (1.6)	6	113 (3.8)	2	124 (2.0)	0	
	2024	0		1	87	1	121	0	
Common Carp Gill Net	2021	0		3	88 (5.0)	1	75	0	
	2024	0		3	87 (2.0)	8	76 (2.9)	1	78
Northern Pike Gill Net	2021	2	83 (1.0)	1	69	0		0	
	2024	1	79	4	80 (1.7)	0		1	87
Walleye Gill Net	2021	2	88 (2.7)	38	83 (0.7)	1	86	0	
	2024	2	80 (1.6)	1	72	2	72 (1.1)	0	
Yellow Perch Gill Net	2021	2	82 (2.9)	1	77	0		0	
	2024	1	112	1	98	1	111	0	

Length Frequency Distribution

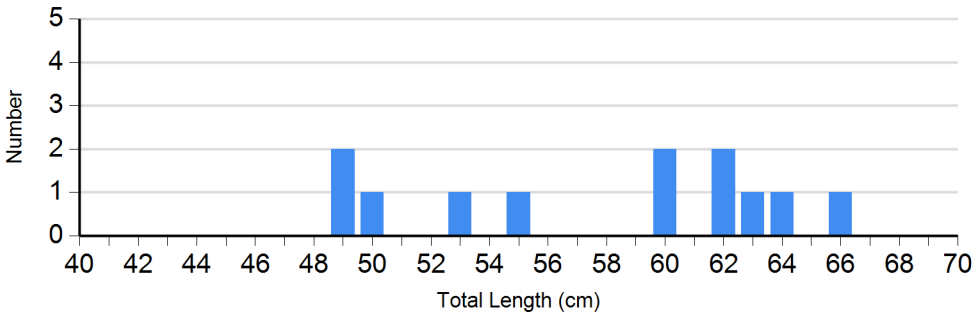
Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

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



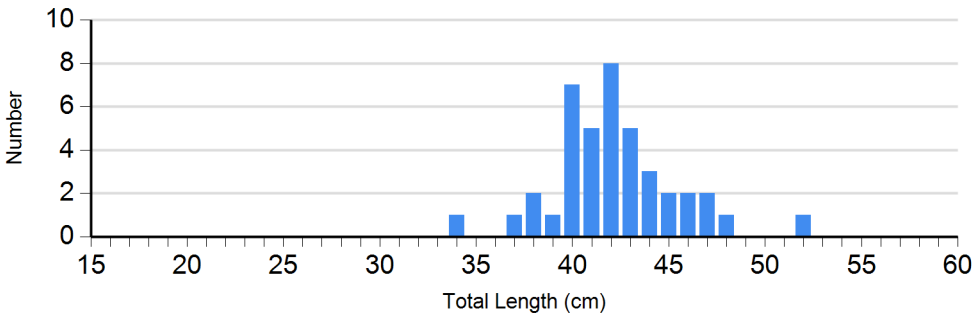
2021

Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net



2024

Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net

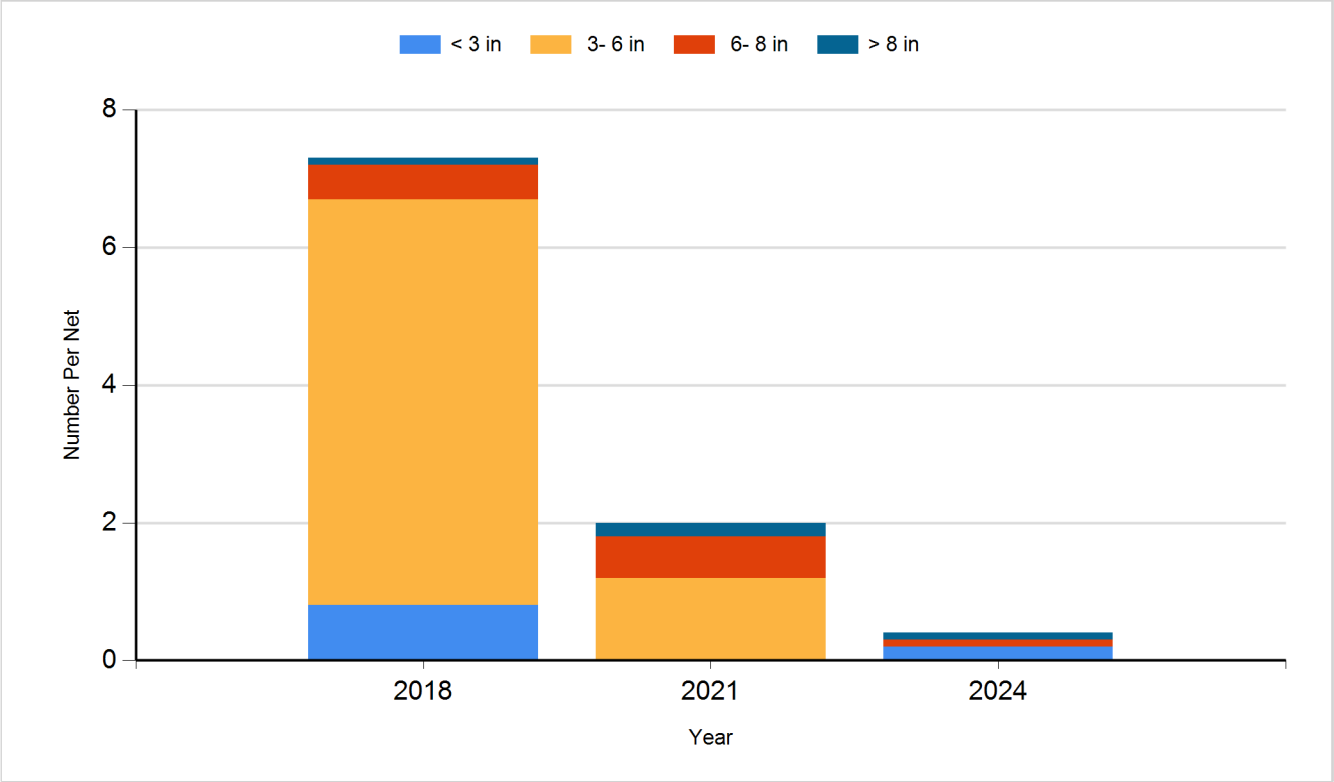


2021

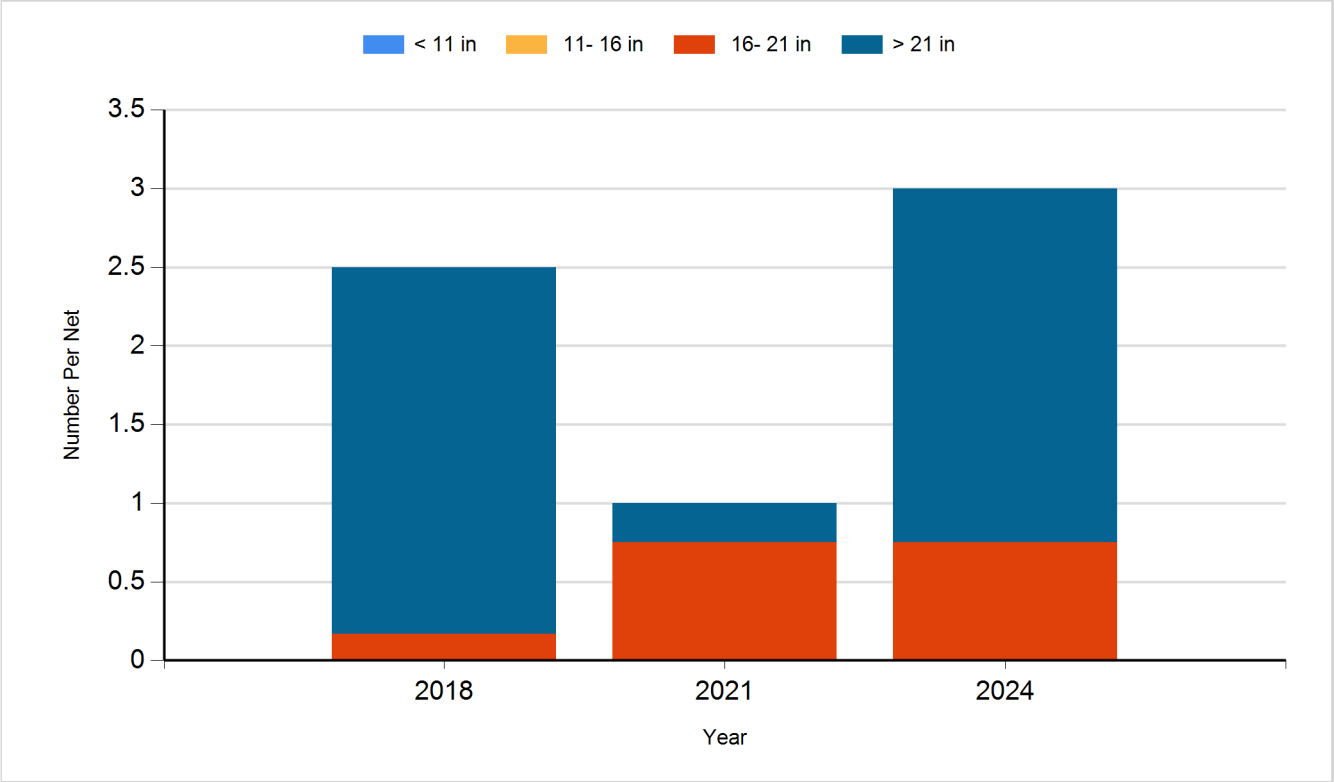
Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

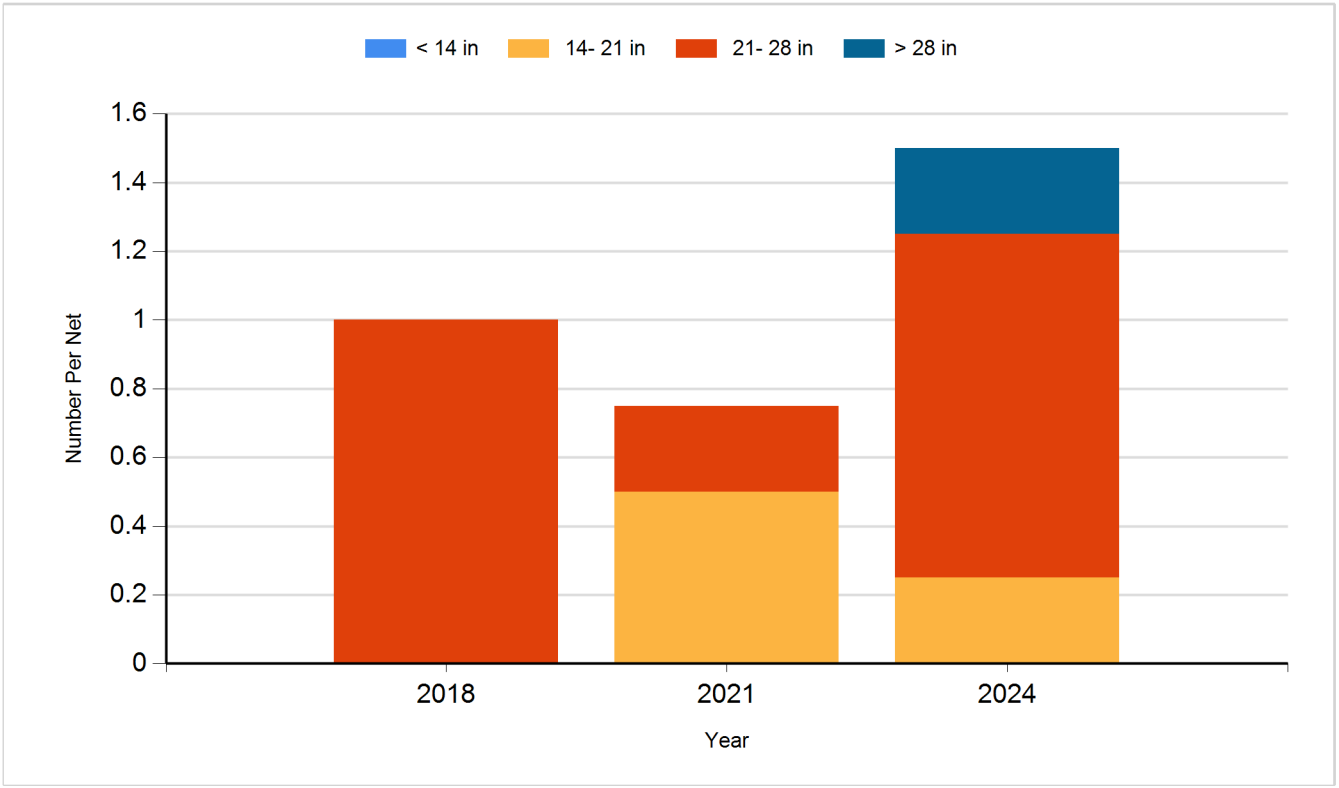
Species: Bluegill
Gear: frame net (std 3/4 in)



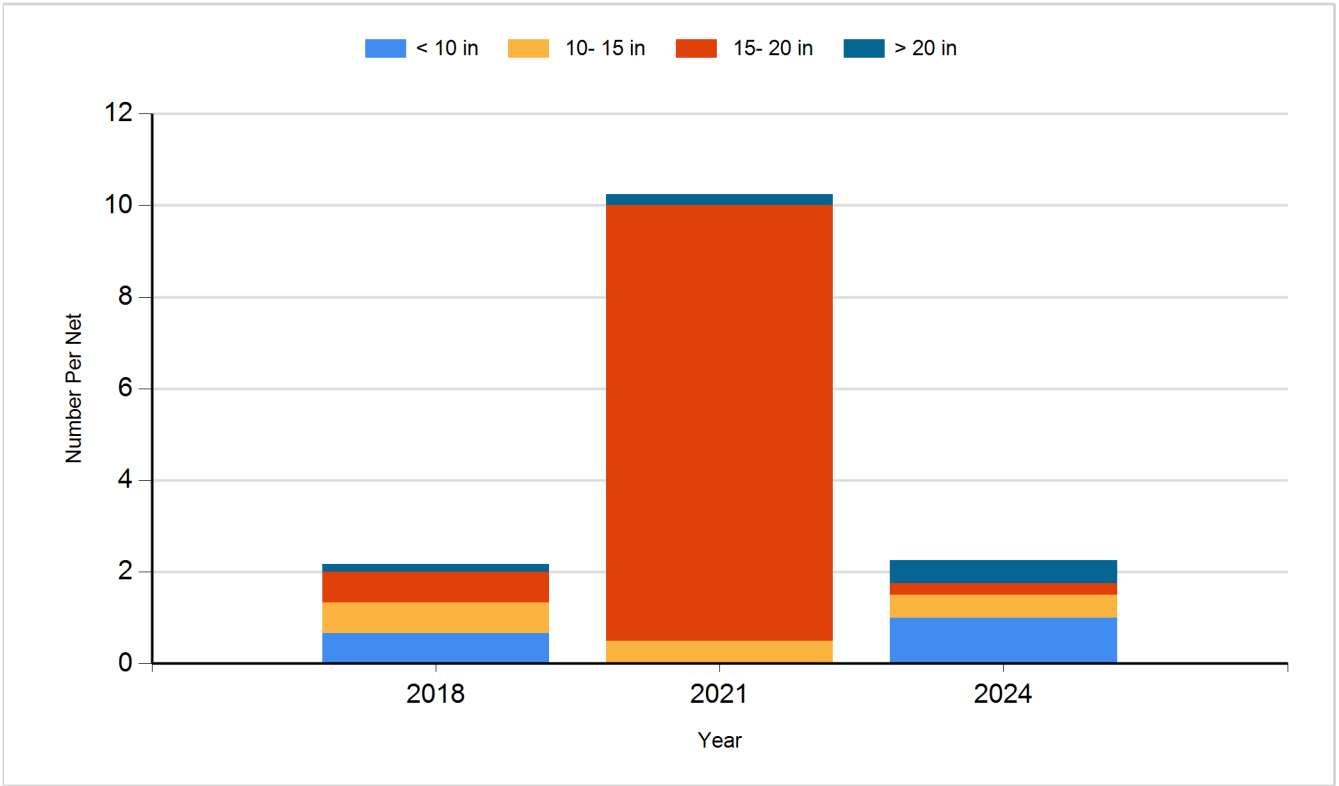
Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net



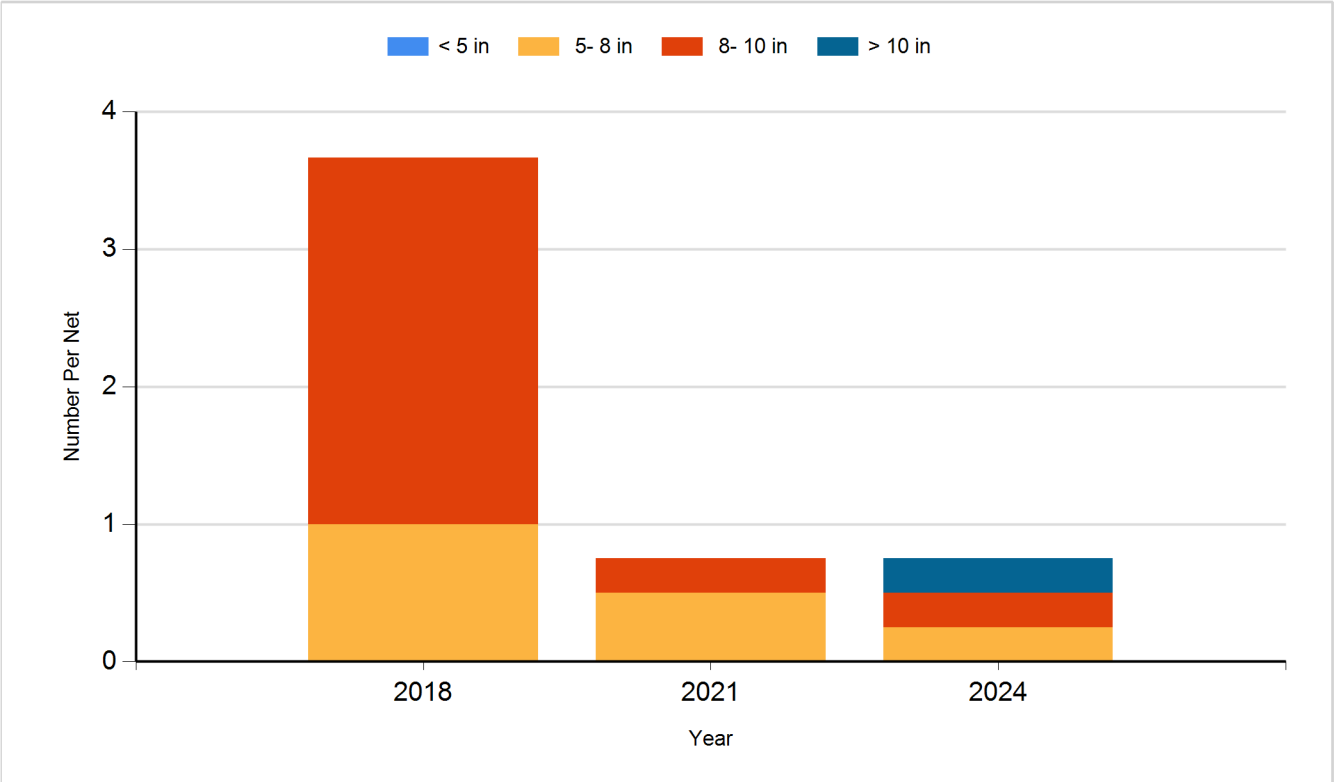
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net



Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net



Fish Stocking

Number of fish stocked by year, species, and size.

Year	Species	Size	Number
2013	Walleye	Fry	100,000
2015	Walleye	Fry	95,000
2017	Walleye	Fry	100,000
2019	Walleye		100,000
2021	Walleye	Fry	100,000
2023	Walleye	Fry	100,000
2024	Bluegill	Adult	350
2024	Largemouth Bass	Juvenile	935