SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY
Pelican, Codington County
UBS-Lake-173-000
2025

Lake Information

Name:	Pelican	**Maximum Depth:**	8 Feet
County:	Codington	**Mean Depth:**	5 Feet
		OHWM Elevation:	1,710
Surface Area:	2,779 Acres	**Outlet Elevation:**	1,710

Surveys and Investigations

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

Gear	Date	Effort
AFS std gill net	Jun 24, 2025	4 net-nights
AFS std gill net	Jun 25, 2025	4 net-nights
fall night EF-WAE	Oct 07, 2025	1800 seconds

Common Fish Species Present

Walleye

Northern Pike

Yellow Perch

White Sucker

White Bass

Common Carp

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	1	0.1	0.2	100		100		112	
	Walleye	8	1.0	0.4	50		13		84	3
	White Bass	3	0.4	0.3	100		100		90	3
	White Sucker	3	0.4	0.4	100		100		112	5
	Yellow Perch	14	1.8	0.5	86		14		106	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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Avg
AFS std gill net	Bigmouth Buffalo		18.8				2.2		3.2		0.0	6.05
	Black Bullhead		10.5				0.0		0.1		0.0	2.65
	Black Crappie		0.2				0.0		0.0		0.0	0.05
	Channel Catfish		0.0				0.0		0.1		0.0	0.03
	Common Carp		2.3				0.1		0.2		0.1	0.68
	Northern Pike		0.2				0.8		0.9		0.0	0.48
	Shorthead Redhorse		0.0				0.0		0.1		0.0	0.03
	Walleye		2.8				3.0		2.7		1.0	2.38
	White Bass		0.1				1.3		0.3		0.4	0.53
	White Sucker		0.1				1.8		0.6		0.4	0.73
	Yellow Bullhead		0.0				0.0		0.1		0.0	0.03
	Yellow Perch		0.3				4.7		4.4		1.8	2.80
fall night EF-WAE*	Walleye									1.2	580.0	290.60

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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
AFS std gill net	Common Carp	PSD		100				100		100		100
		PSD-P		59				100		100		100
		Wr		94				86		105		112
	Northern Pike	PSD		100				90		73		
		PSD-P		50				20		27		
		Wr		90				95		86		
	Walleye	PSD		33				100		84		50
		PSD-P		21				44		69		13
		Wr		82				91		95		84
	White Bass	PSD		0				100		100		100
		PSD-P		0				100		100		100
		Wr		88				101		109		90
	White Sucker	PSD		100				95		100		100
		PSD-P		100				95		71		100
		Wr		119				111		113		112
	Yellow Perch	PSD		100				71		9		86
		PSD-P		0				39		8		14
		Wr		89				109		116		106

Length at Capture

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

Species: Walleye

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2025	8		282 (4)	436 (3)					638 (1)		
2023	46	222 (14)	366 (5)		484 (1)	516 (1)	548 (9)		550 (7)	586 (7)	719 (2)
2021	36		388 (2)	445 (5)	504 (11)		516 (9)	527 (7)			649 (2)
2017	39		232 (2)	302 (26)		493 (5)		565 (4)	585 (2)		

Species: Yellow Perch

		Mean Length (expanded sample number) at capture by age									
Year	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
2025	14		230 (13)	285 (1)							
2023	53	163 (47)	247 (6)								
2021	56	169 (15)	226 (20)	294 (20)	320 (1)						
2017	3			215 (2)	232 (1)						

Fish Condition

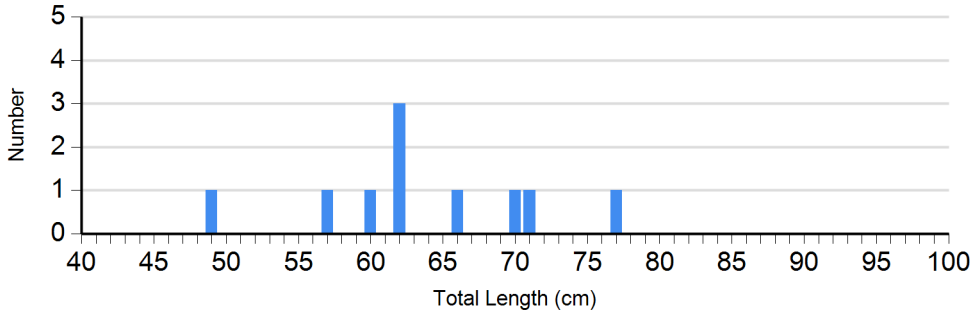
Mean relative weight (Wr) by sample size (N), length category stock to quality (S-Q), quality to preferred (Q-P), preferred to memorable (P-M), and memorable (M) for species collected across survey years with standard error (SE).

		Length Groups							
		S-Q		Q-P		P-M		M	
Species	Year	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)	N	Wr (SE)
Common Carp Gill Net	2021	0		0		0		1	86
	2023	0		0		0		2	105 (4.6)
	2025	0		0		0		1	112
Northern Pike Gill Net	2021	1	102	7	94 (2.9)	2	96 (7.1)	0	
	2023	3	95 (1.4)	5	81 (2.8)	2	89 (4.9)	1	81
Walleye Gill Net	2021	0		20	89 (1.5)	15	93 (1.8)	1	103
	2023	5	99 (1.4)	5	100 (2.8)	19	95 (2.0)	3	84 (3.1)
	2025	4	86 (3.0)	3	83 (3.7)	0		1	80
White Bass Gill Net	2021	0		0		2	92 (1.8)	13	102 (1.2)
	2023	0		0		2	109 (2.9)	2	110 (3.5)
	2025	0		0		0		3	90 (2.5)
White Sucker Gill Net	2021	1	97	0		7	115 (3.3)	14	110 (2.1)
	2023	0		2	111 (0.6)	1	118	4	112 (2.2)
	2025	0		0		0		3	112 (3.7)
Yellow Perch Gill Net	2021	16	108 (2.5)	18	109 (1.7)	12	112 (2.3)	10	105 (3.1)
	2023	48	116 (1.3)	1	110	4	110 (4.8)	0	
	2025	2	104 (0.6)	10	104 (1.7)	2	116 (14.8)	0	

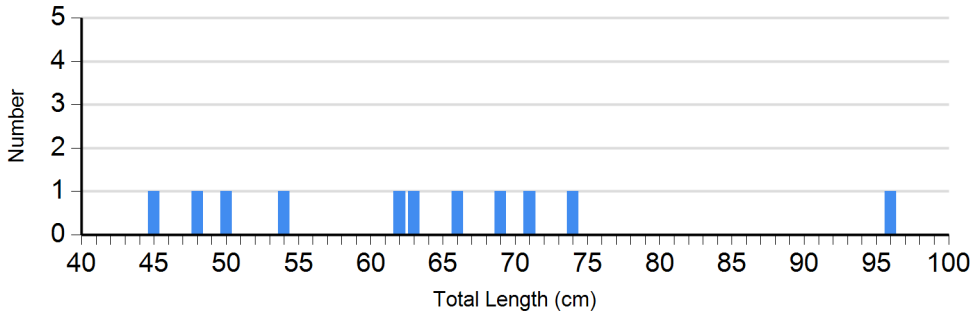
Length Frequency Distribution

Length frequency histogram of species sampled by year.

Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net

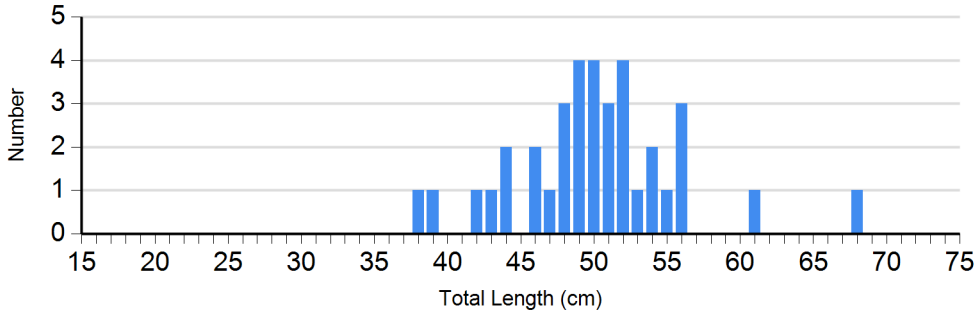


2021

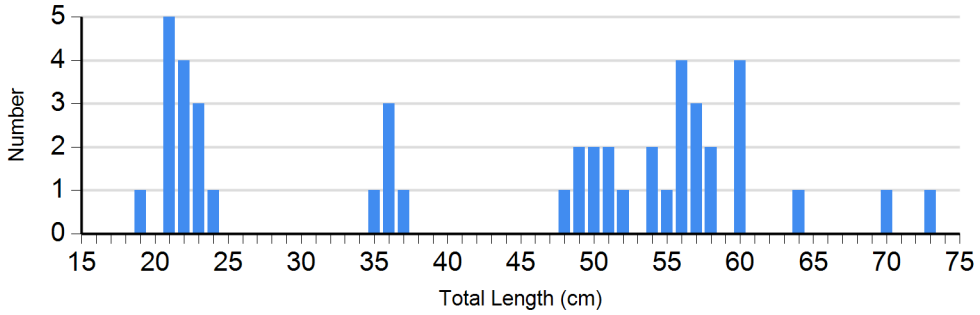


2023

Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net

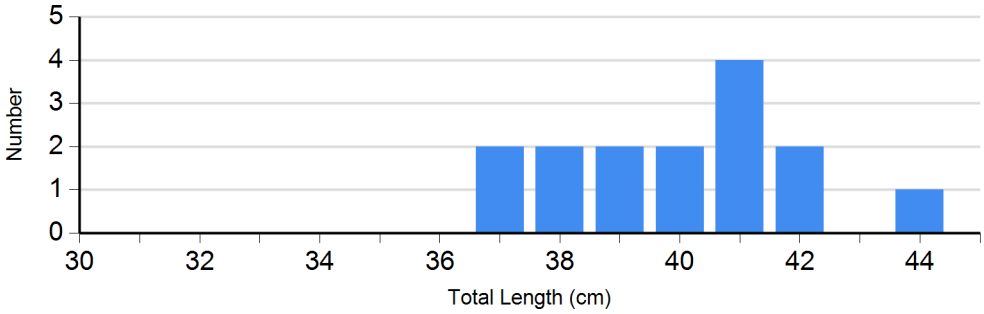


2021



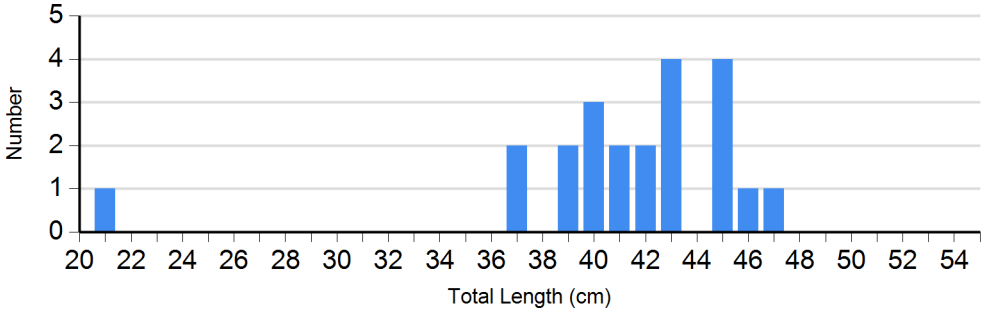
2023

Species: White Bass
Gear: AFS std gill net



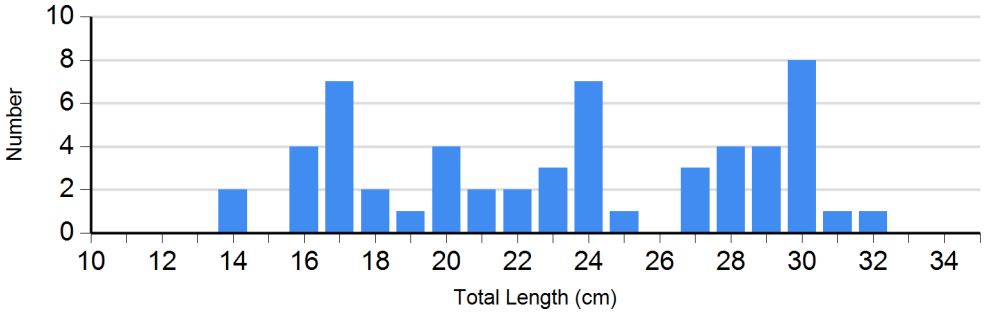
2021

Species: White Sucker
Gear: AFS std gill net

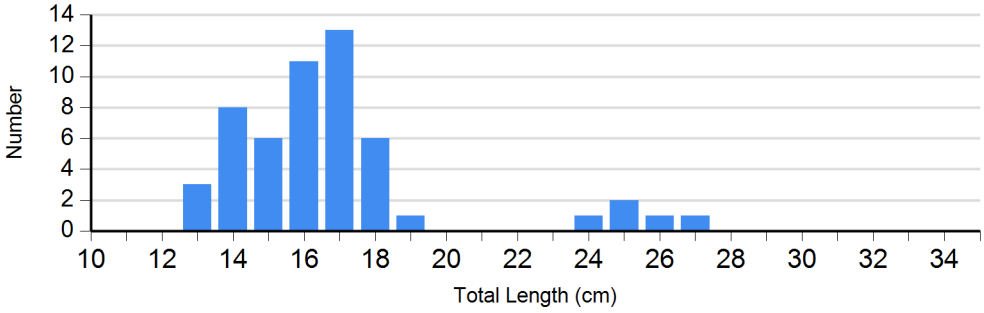


2021

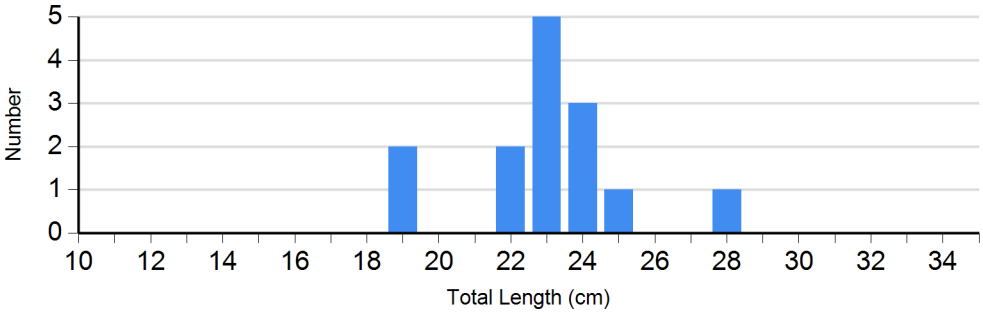
Species: Yellow Perch
Gear: AFS std gill net



2021



2023

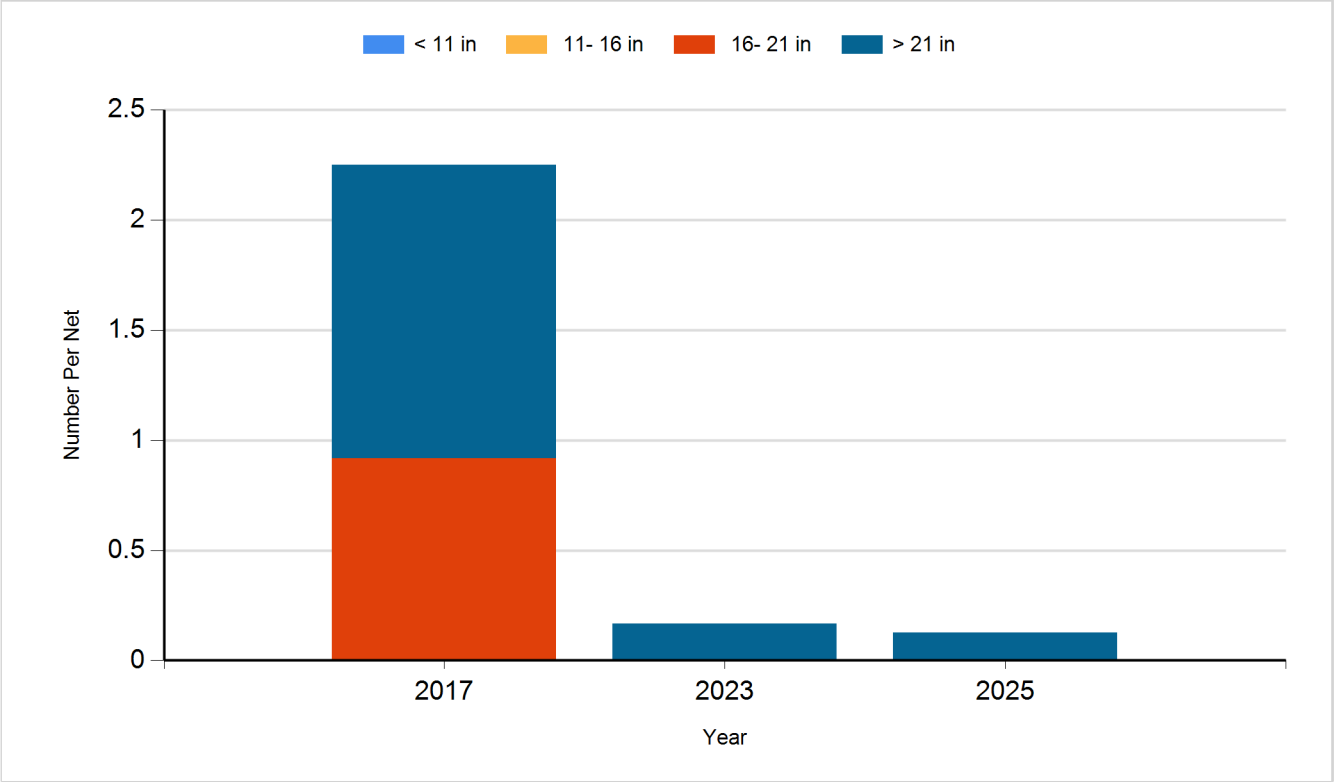

5
4
3
2
1
0
Number
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32
34
Total Length (cm)

2025

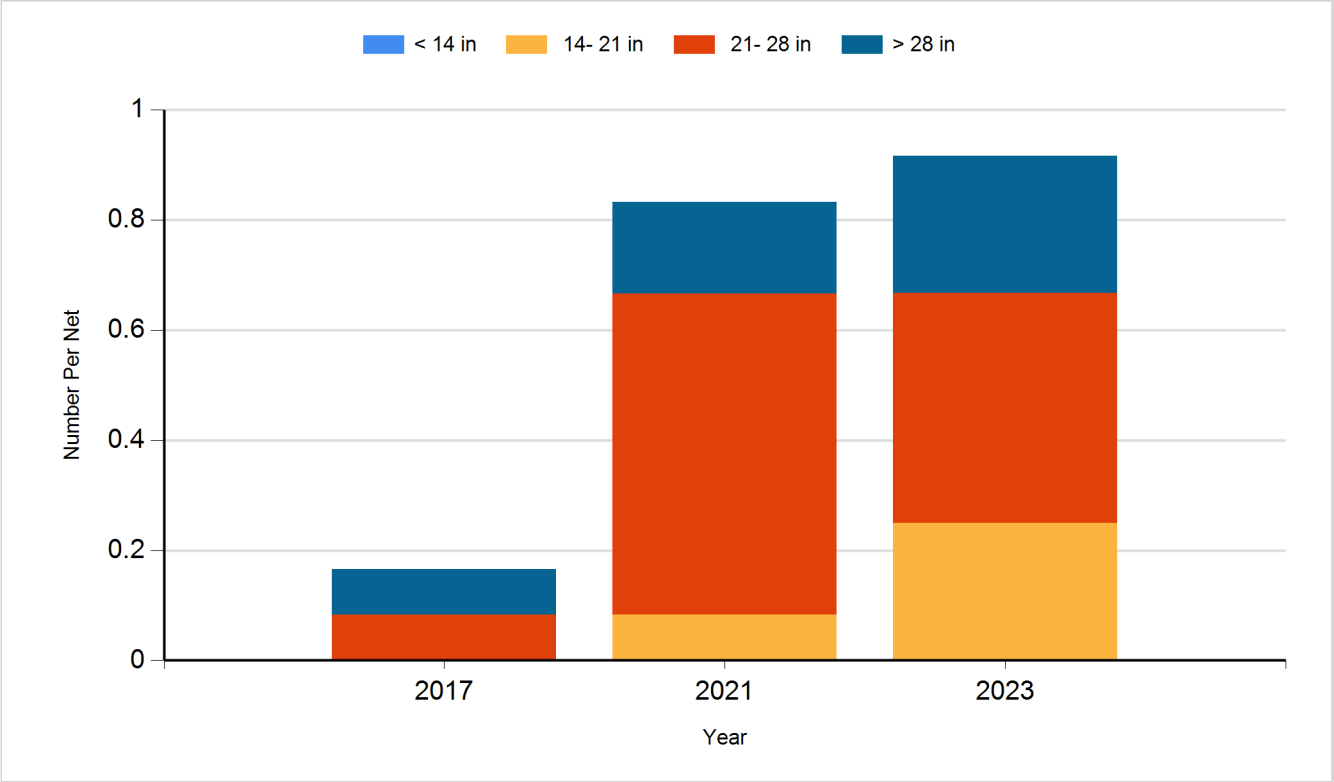
Historic Fish Sizes and Relative Abundance

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

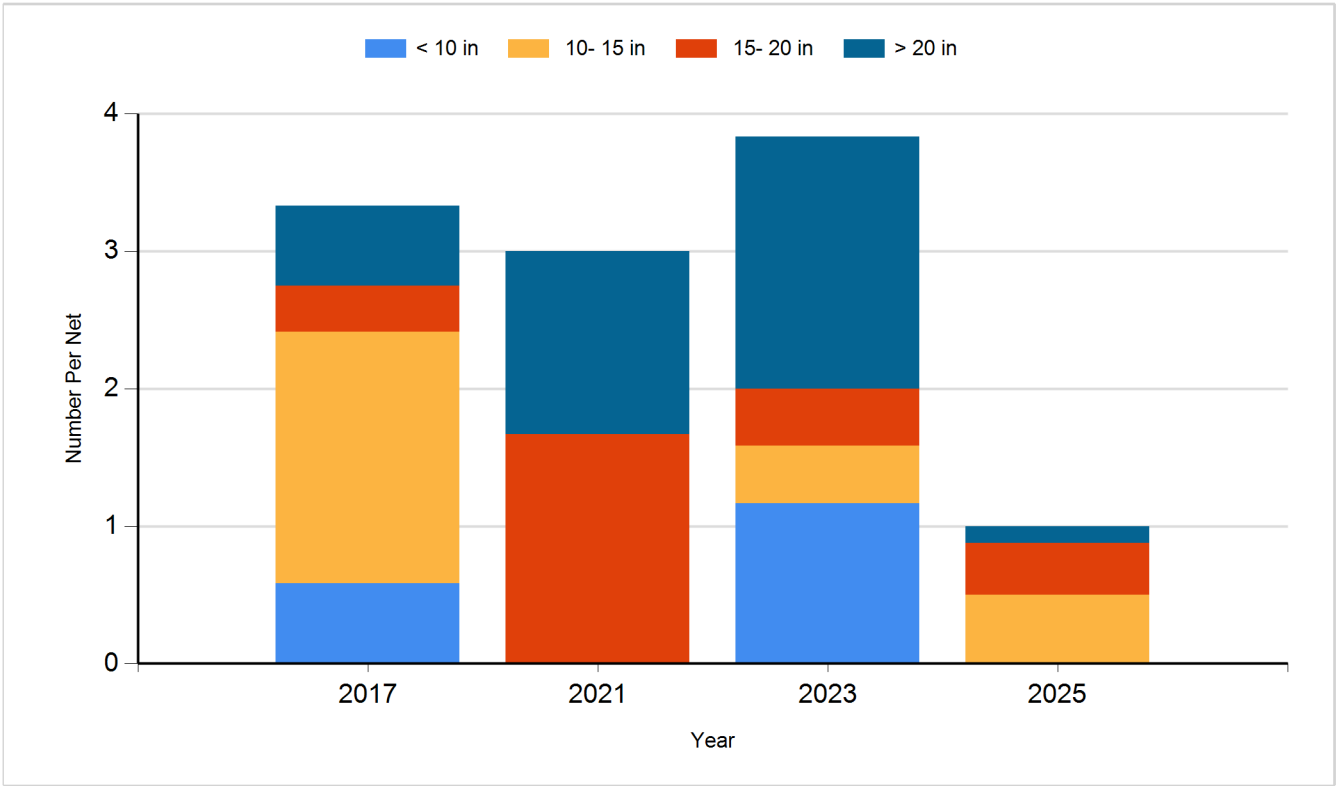
Species: Common Carp
Gear: AFS std gill net



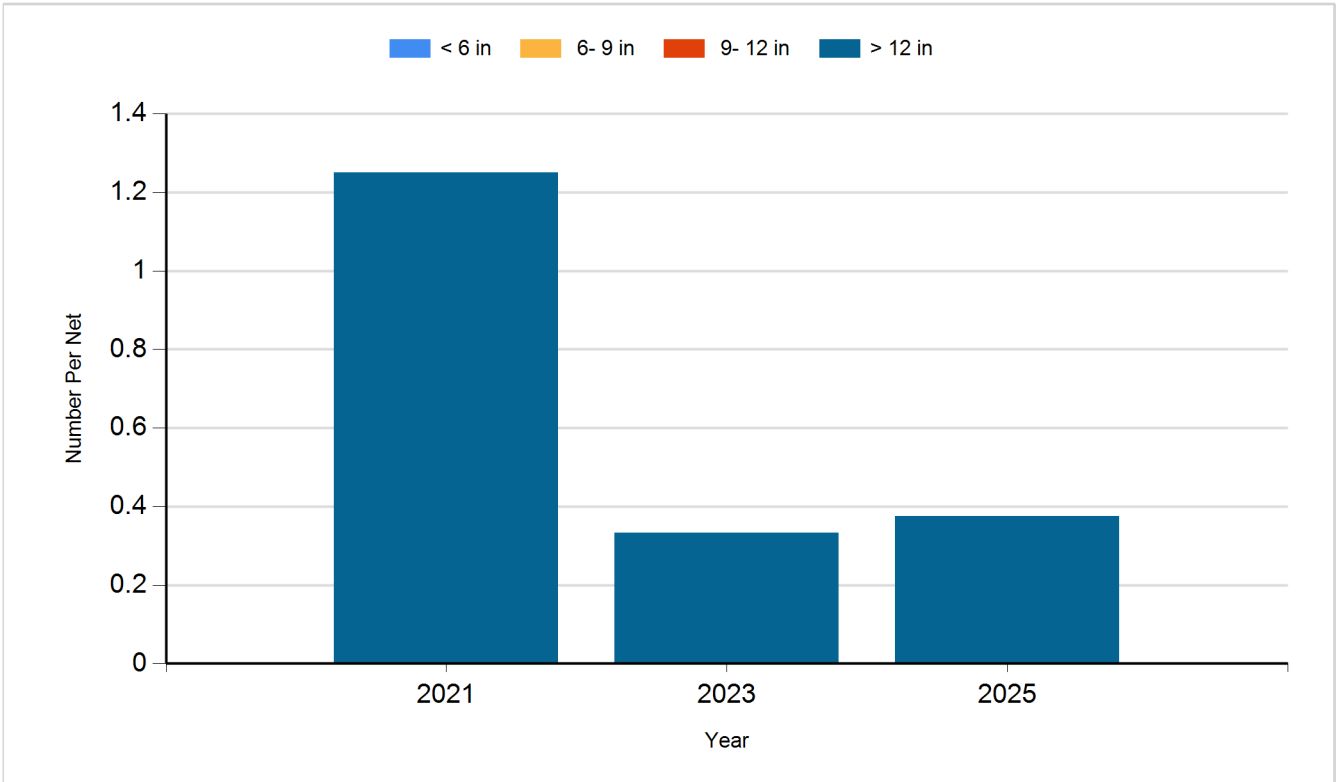
Species: Northern Pike
Gear: AFS std gill net



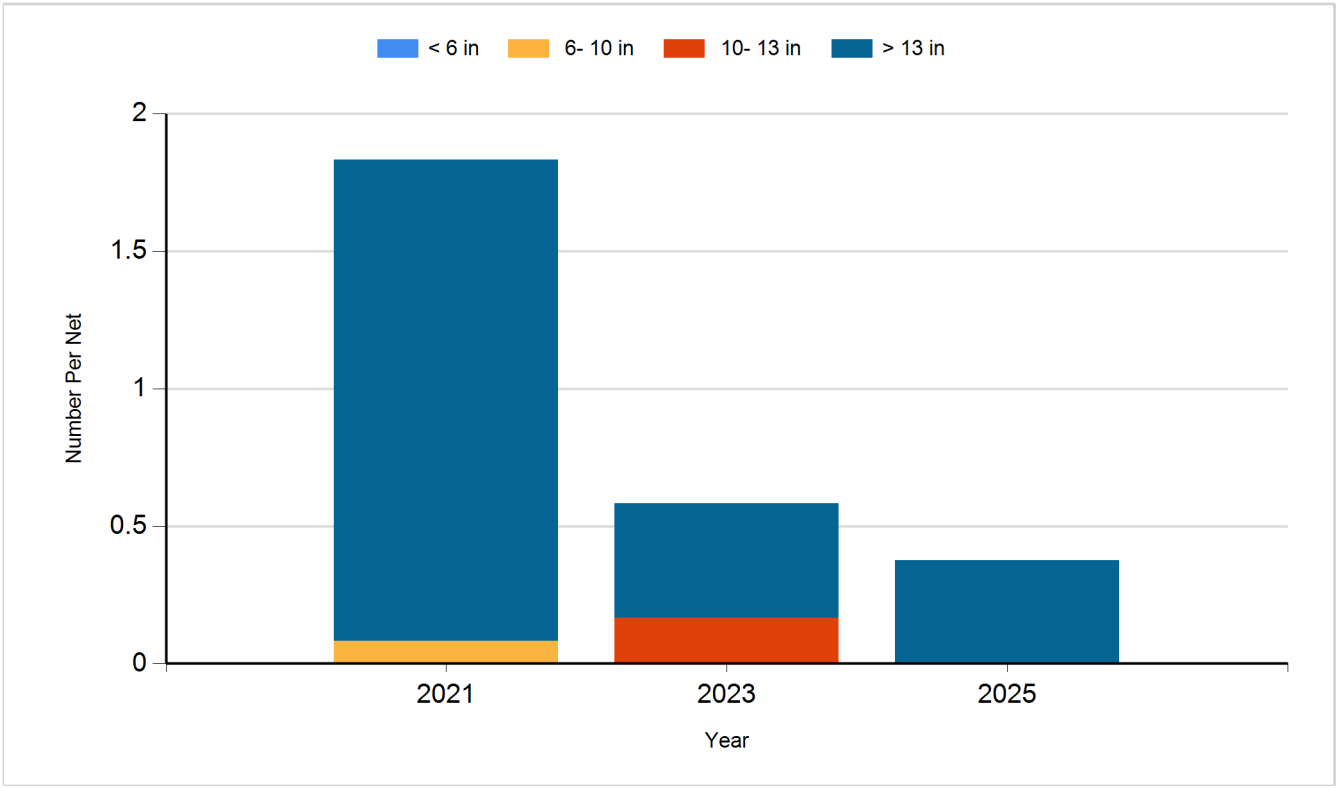
Species: Walleye
Gear: AFS std gill net



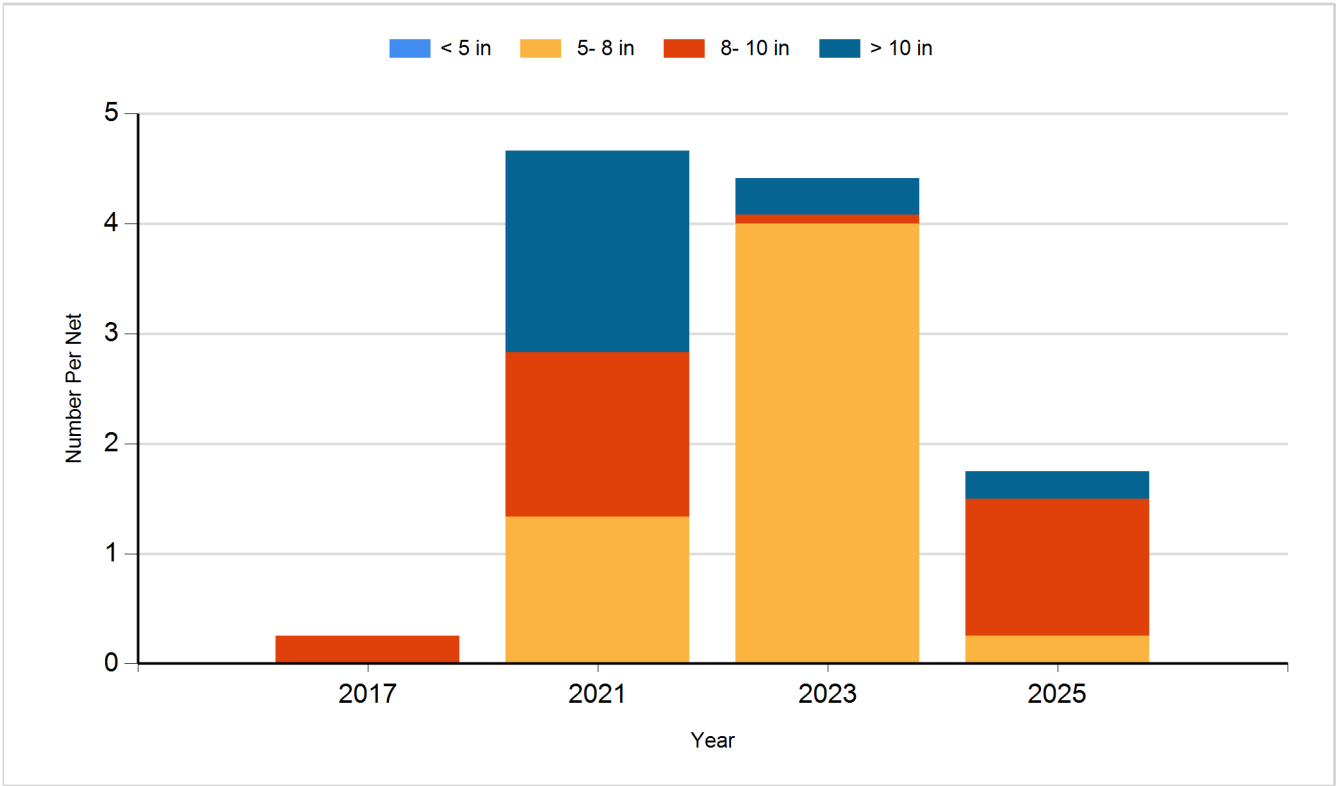
Species: White Bass
Gear: AFS std gill net



Species: White Sucker
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
2014	Walleye	Fry	1,400,000
2015	Walleye	Fry	1,500,000
2015	Yellow Perch	Adult	3,750
2016	Yellow Perch	Small Fingerling	29,890
2017	Walleye	Fry	1,400,000
2019	Walleye	Fry	700,000
2021	Walleye	Fry	1,400,000
2022	Walleye	Fry	1,400,000
2023	Saugeye	Fry	3,300,000
2025	Walleye	Juvenile	196,959