

2016 Minong Flowage Fisheries Survey

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Goals for the talk

- What we did in 2016
- Results/Conclusions
- What needs to be done



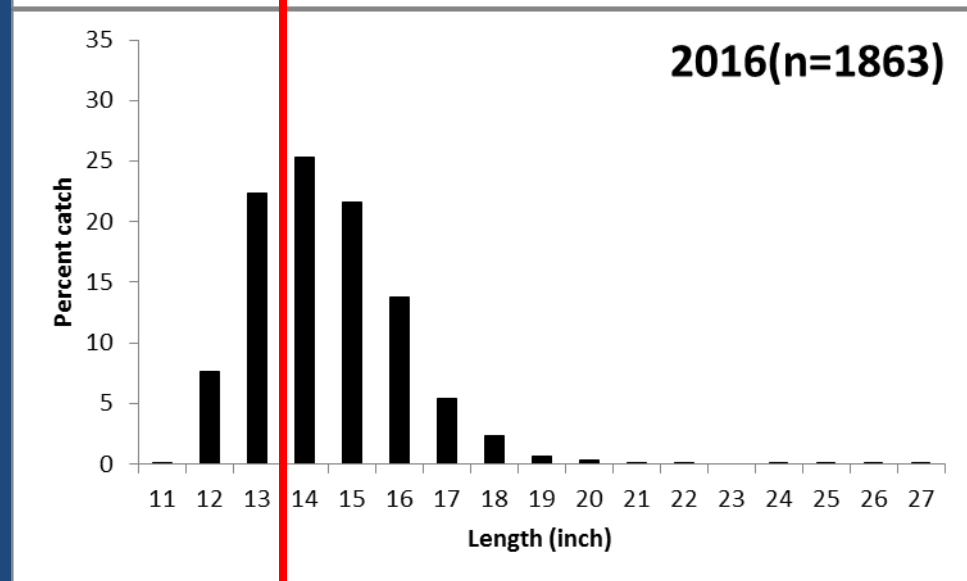
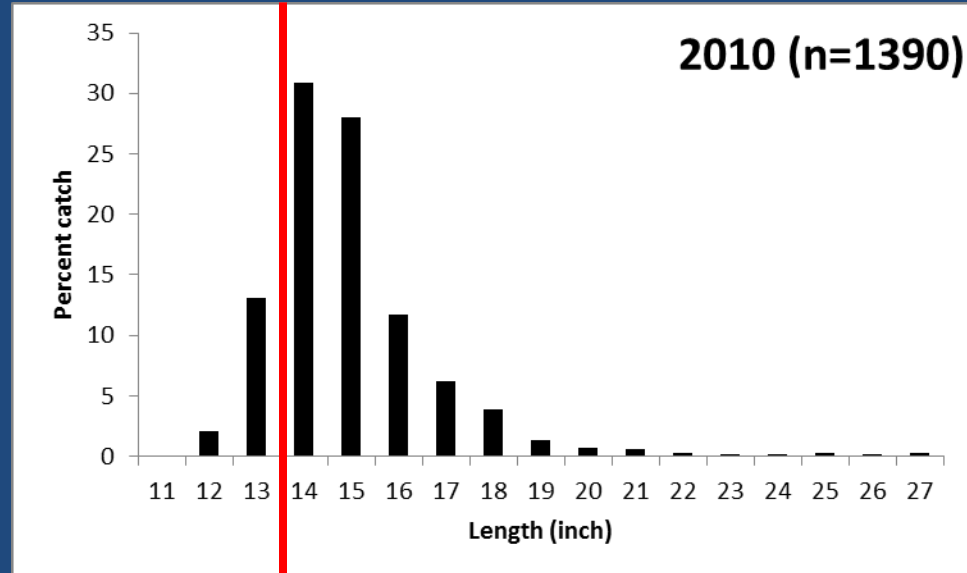
What We Did



- Netted for pike/walleye
- Electrofished the Totagatic River upstream for spawning walleye
- Electrofished the shoreline for bass and panfish
- Fall electrofished to check walleye reproduction

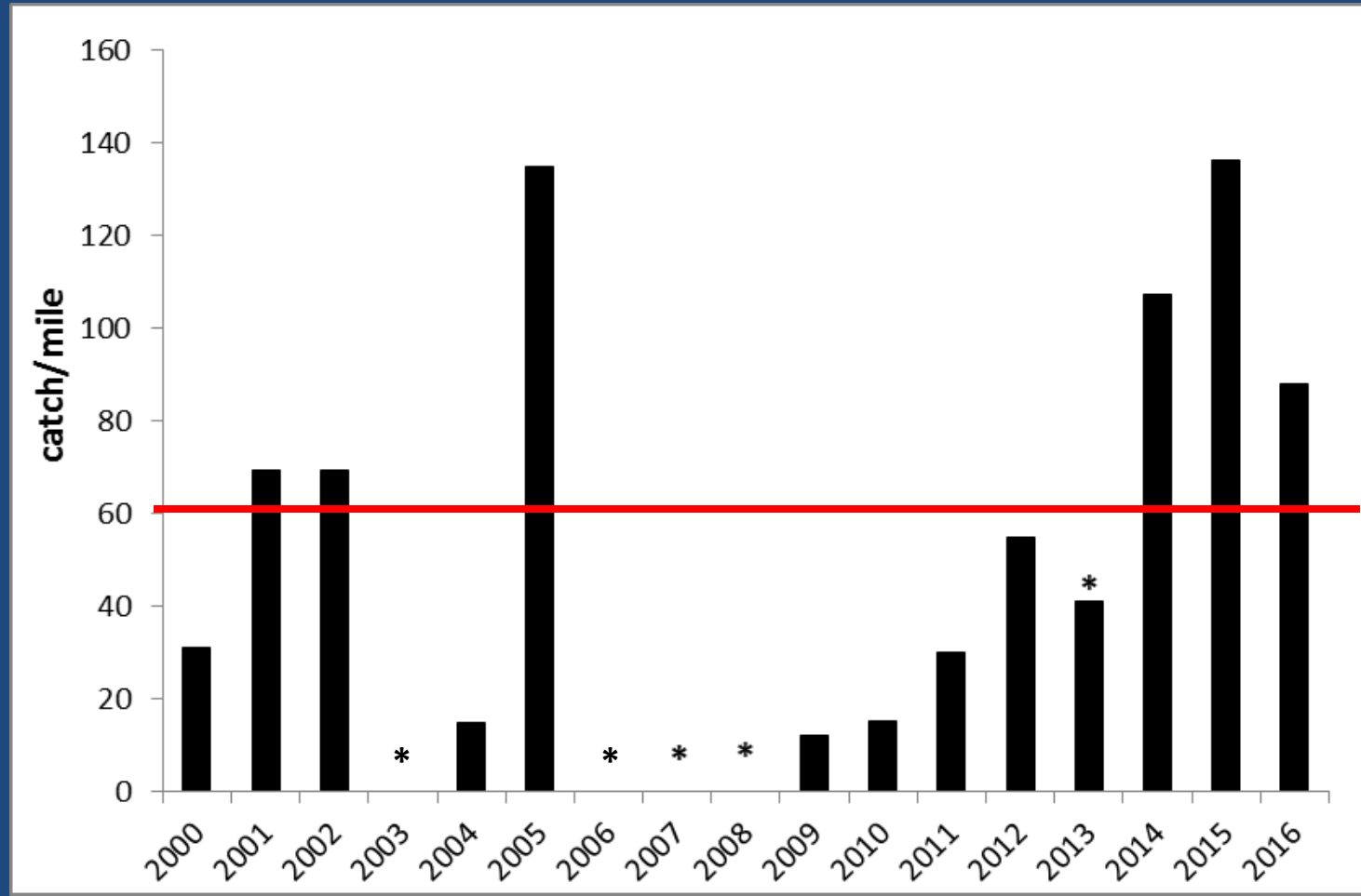
Walleye

- Adult population was similar to 2010 survey (5.5) to 2016 (5.7 fish/acre)
- Average size decreased from 15.4 to 14.9 inch



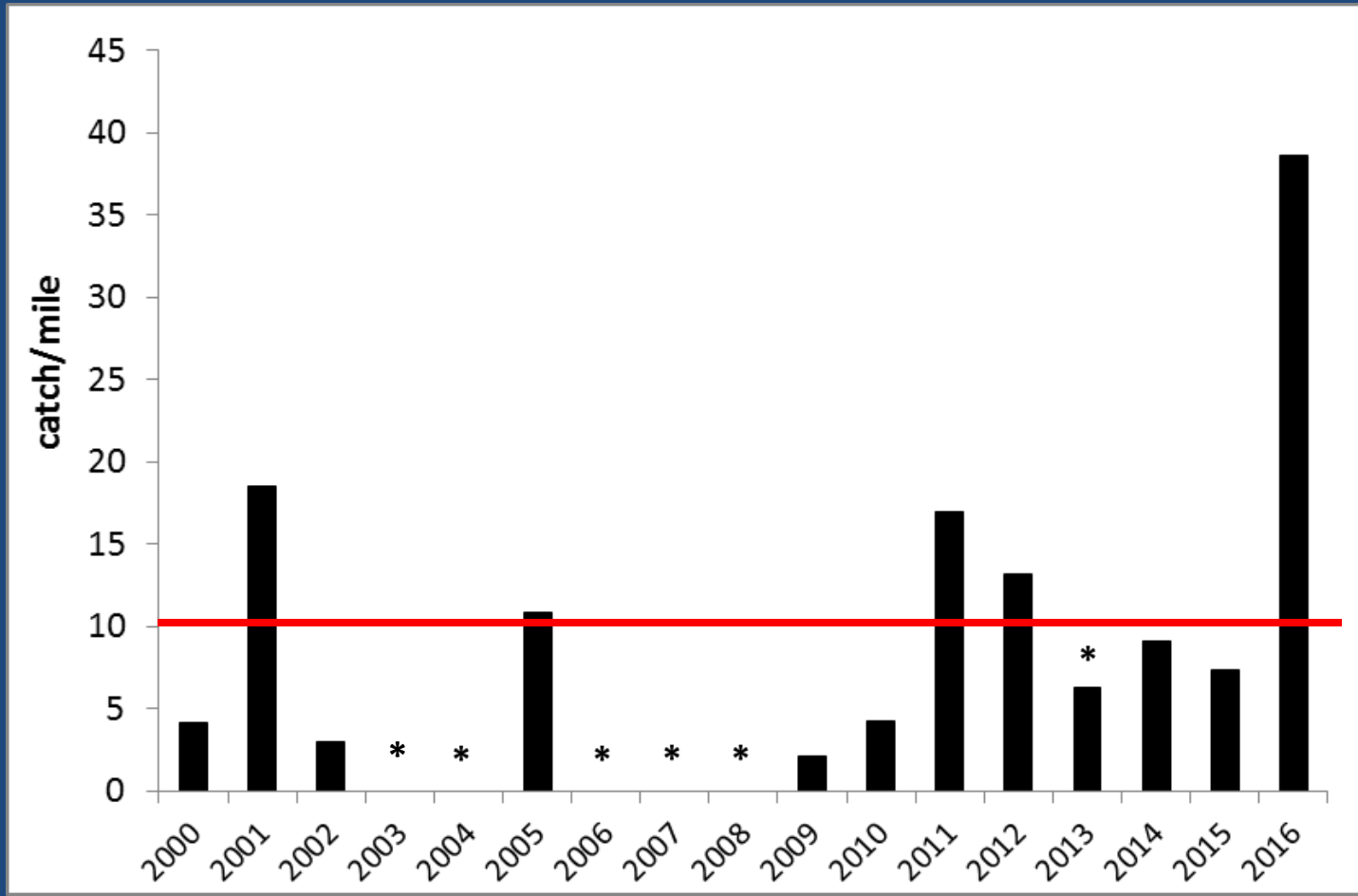
Young Walleye

- Abundant young of year

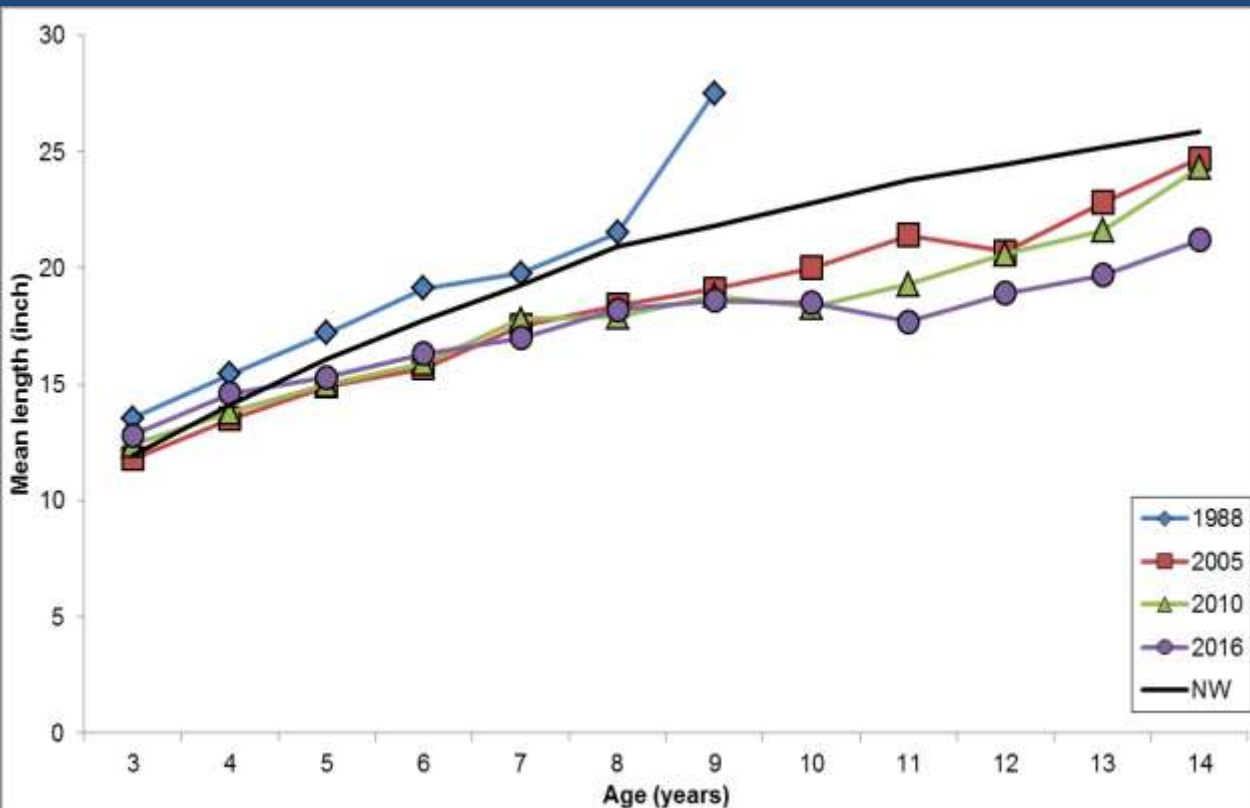


Young Walleye

- Abundant young of year
- Survival is good to age-1

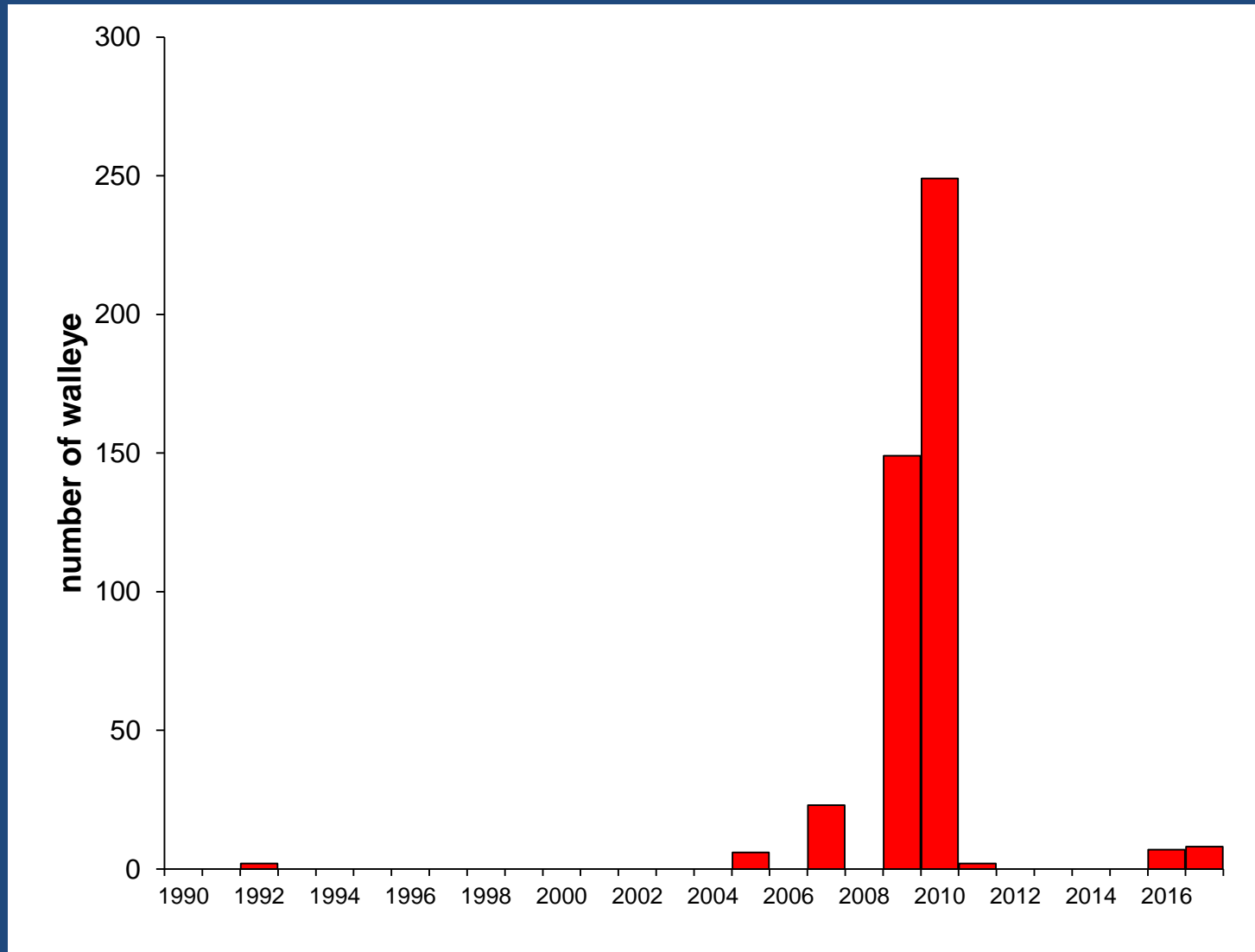


Walleye average length-at-age



- Growth is below NW average for walleye
- Growth was above average in 1988

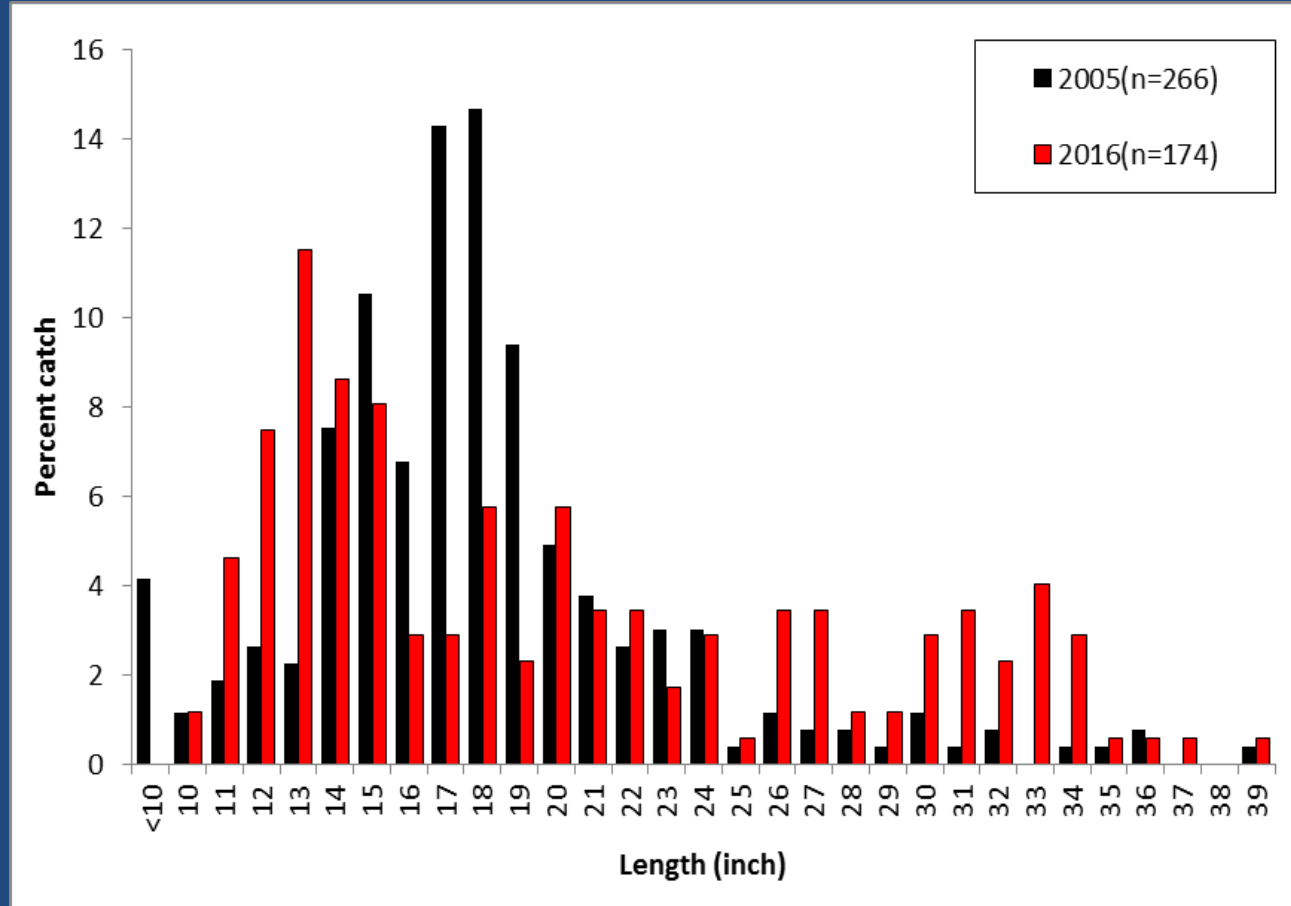
Walleye Spearing Harvest Numbers





Northern Pike

- Size structure similar to rest of lakes in the area
- 2005 avg = 18.3 inch
- 2016 avg = 19.7 inch
- Catch rate dropped from 9 to 3 fish/net night



Northern Pike Aging

- Difficult to age
- Aged to look for potential drawdown impacts
- Small drop in Age-3, but strong year of Age-2

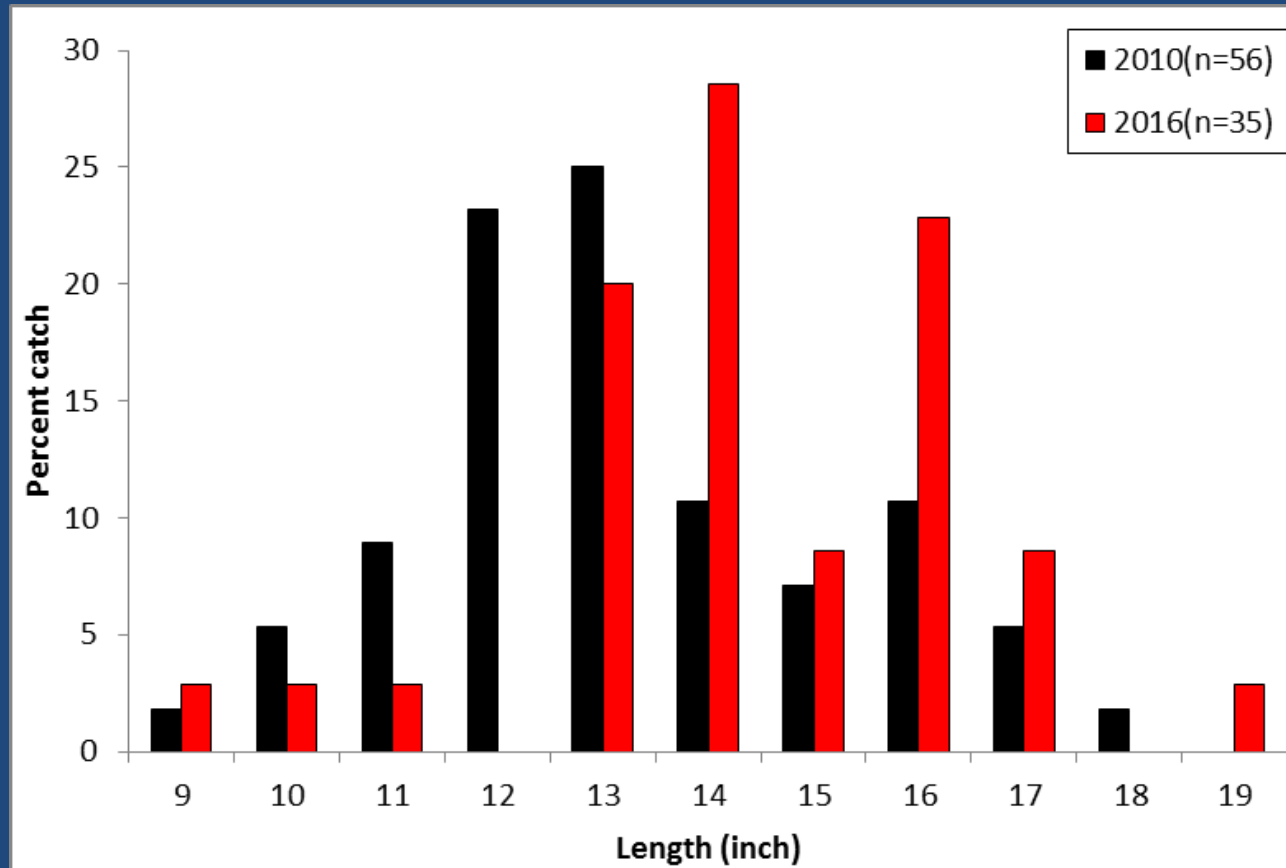
UW-SP/WDNR



Largemouth Bass

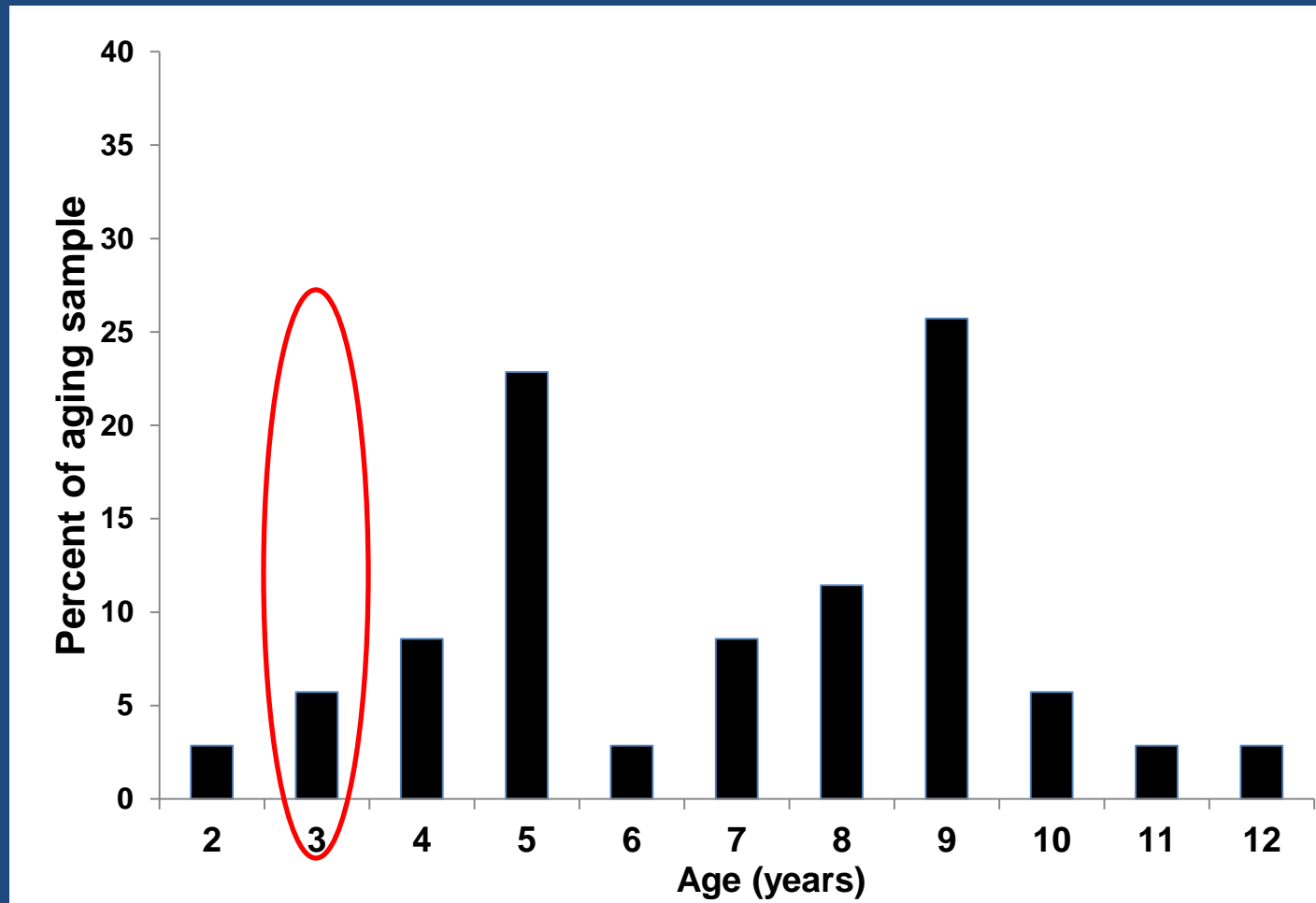


- Small sample size
- Avg. size increased from 13.4 to 14.5 inch
- Catch rate decreased from 9 to 6 fish/mile



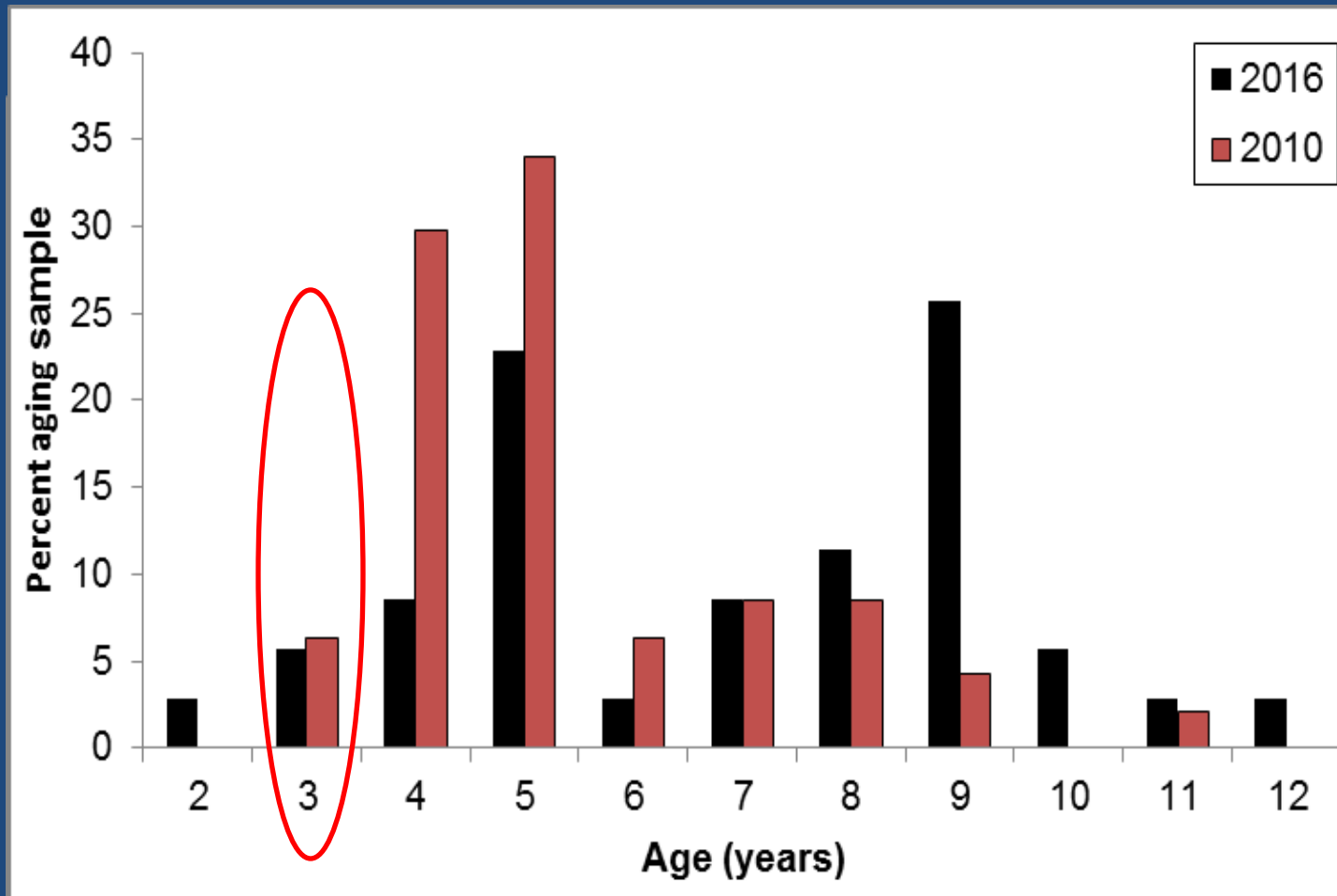
Largemouth bass aging

- Bass recruitment effects?



Largemouth bass aging

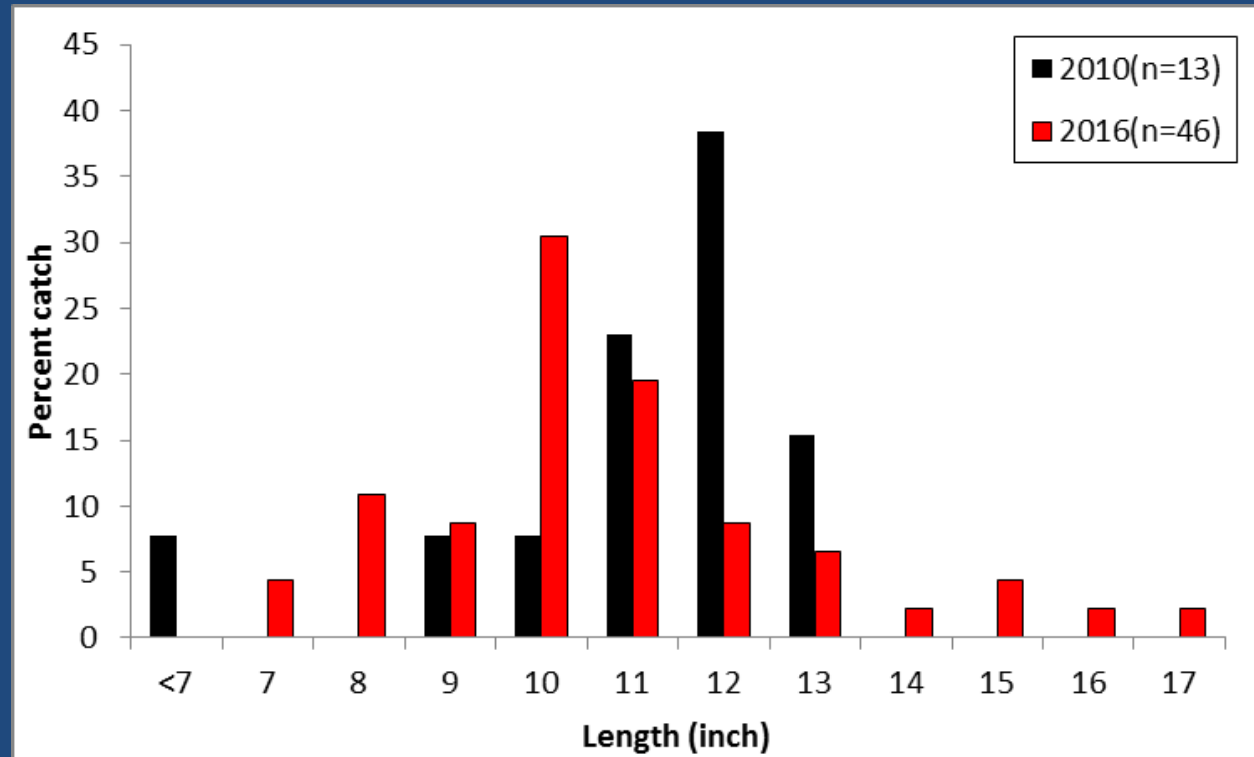
- Bass recruitment effects?



Smallmouth Bass

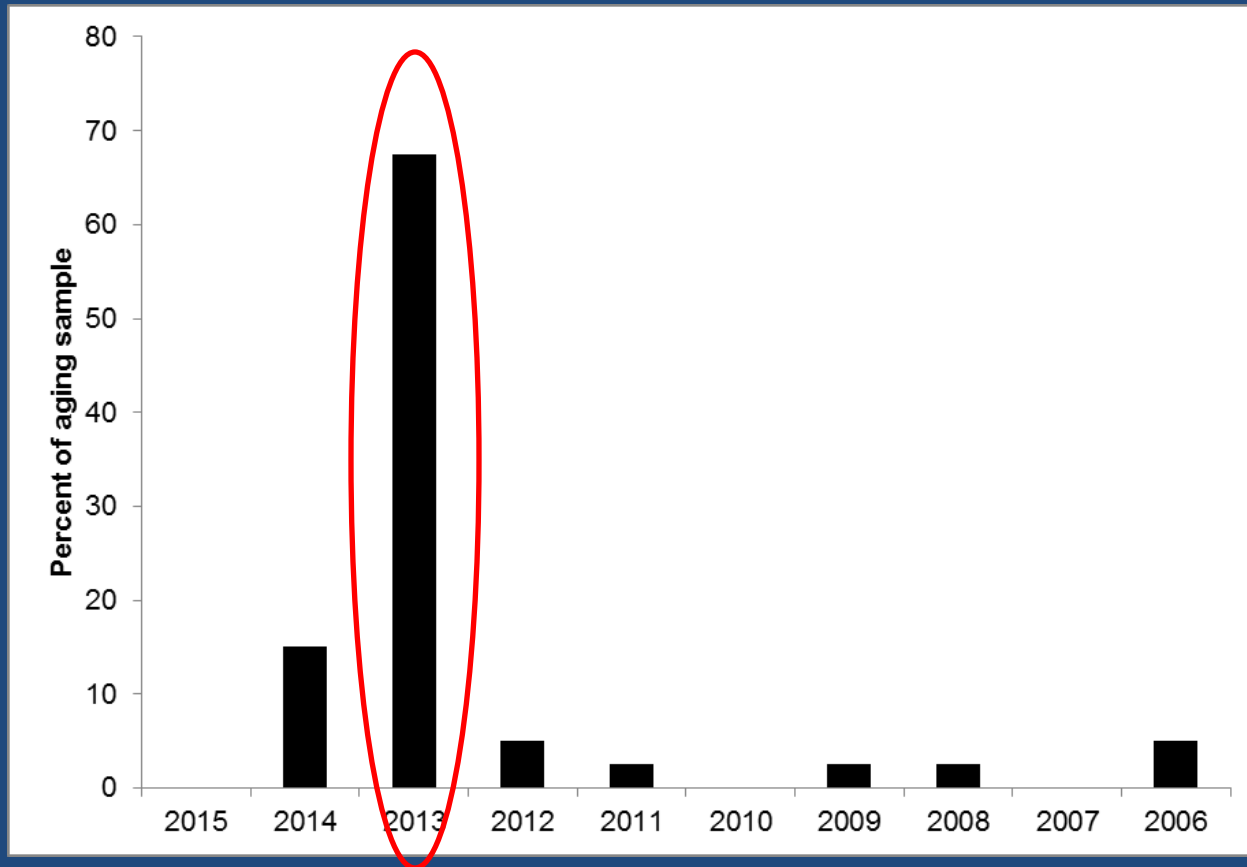


- Small sample size
- Average size stayed similar ~ 11 inch
- Catch rate increased from 2 fish/mile to 7 fish/mile



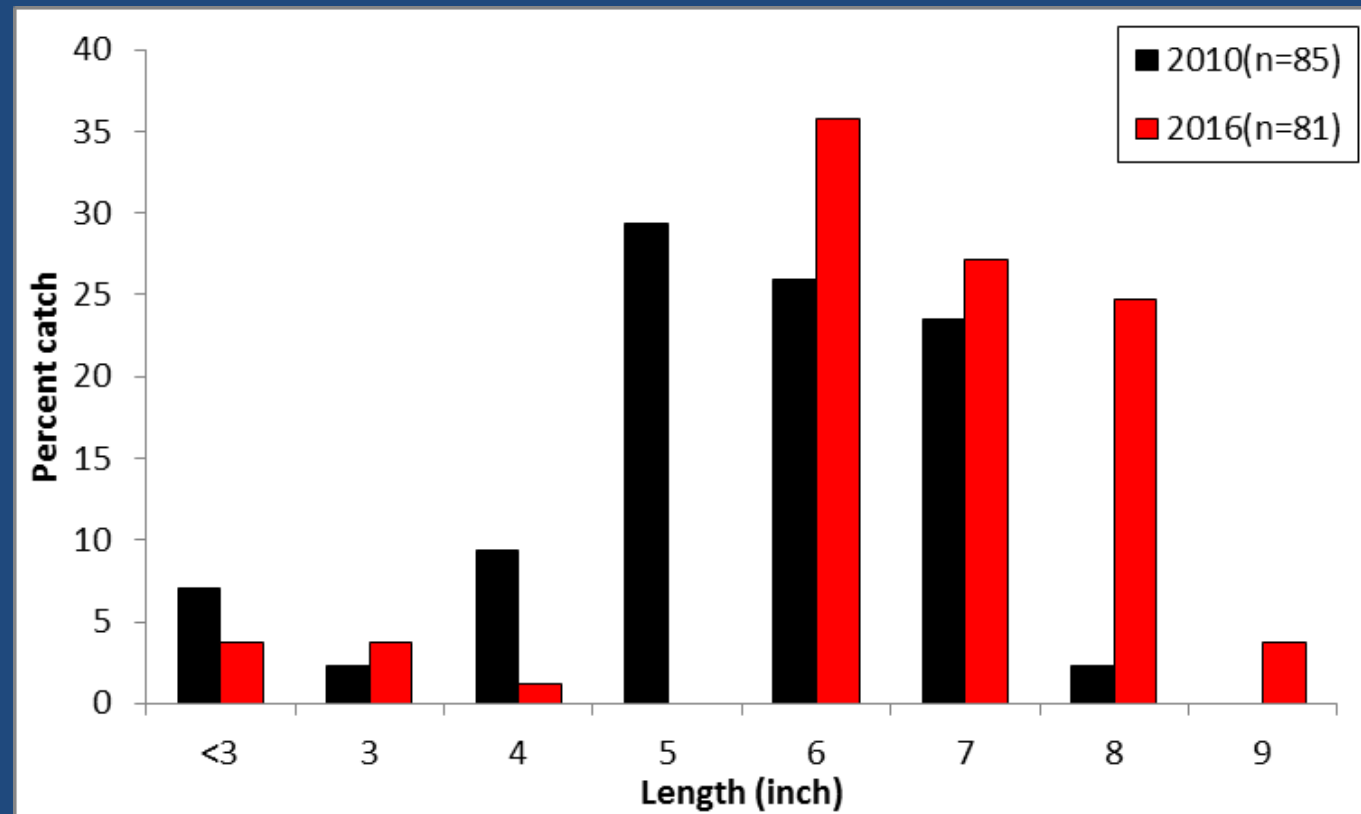
Smallmouth bass aging

- Drawdown benefited smallmouth bass



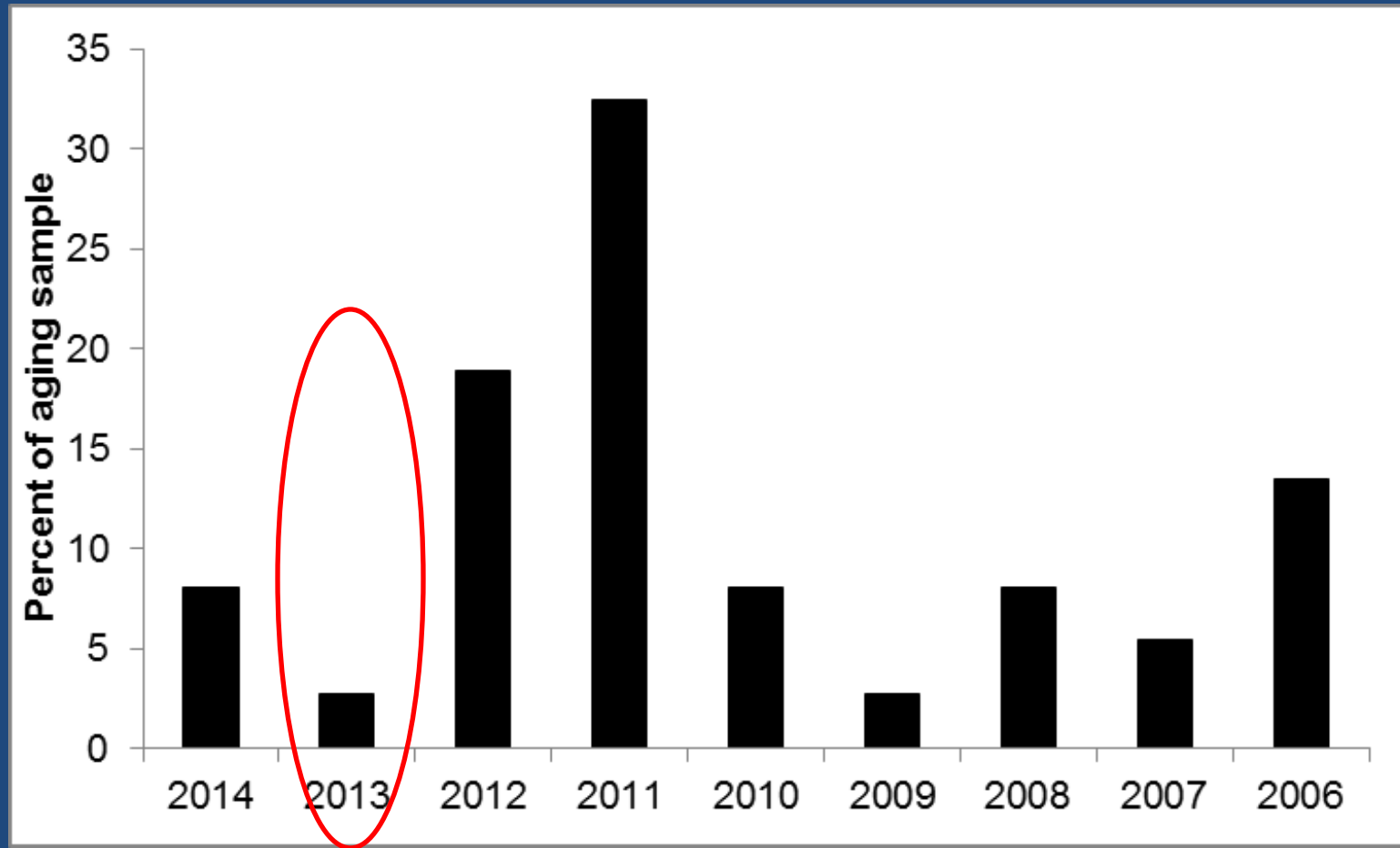
Bluegill

- 6 inch and larger fish more abundant in 2016
- Recruitment still present
- Catch rate changed little



Bluegill Aging

- Low 2013 year class

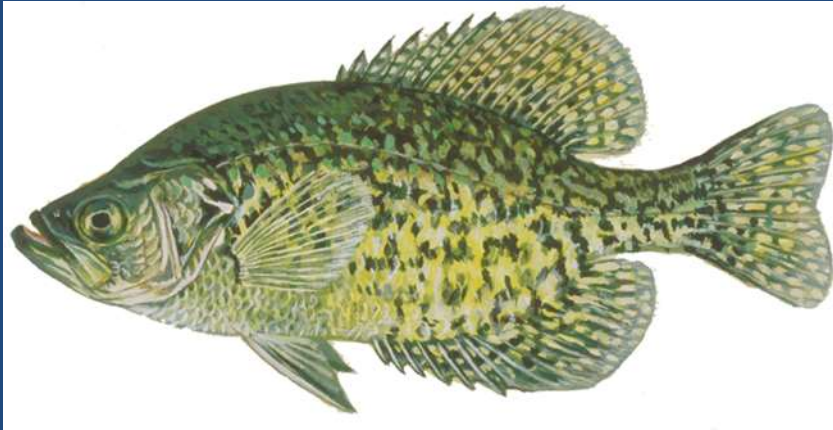


Muskellunge

- One 44.3 inch fish in nets
- First one documented, but several reports over the years
- Could be a remnant population or illegal introduction?
- Hard to conclude origin



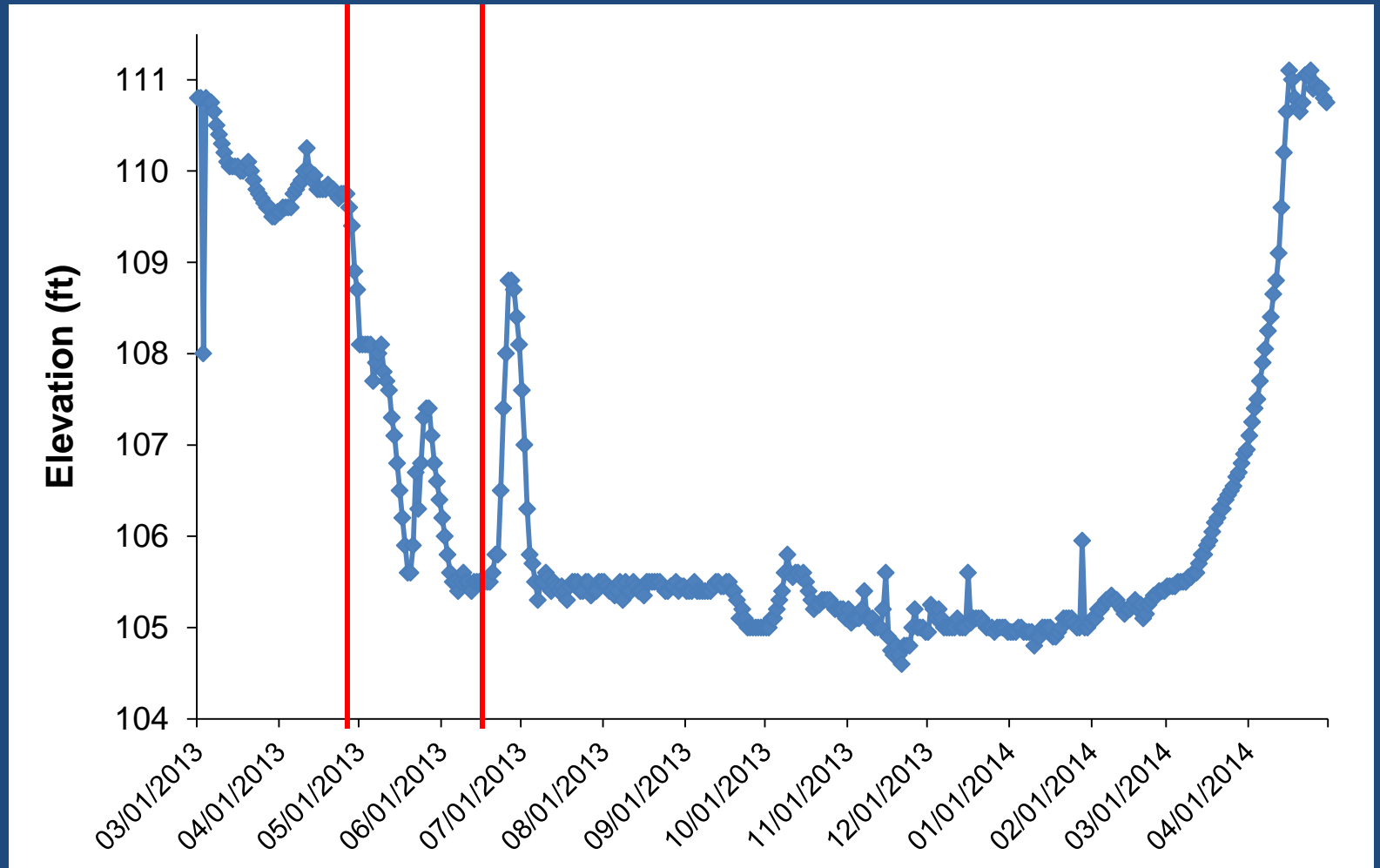
Other species



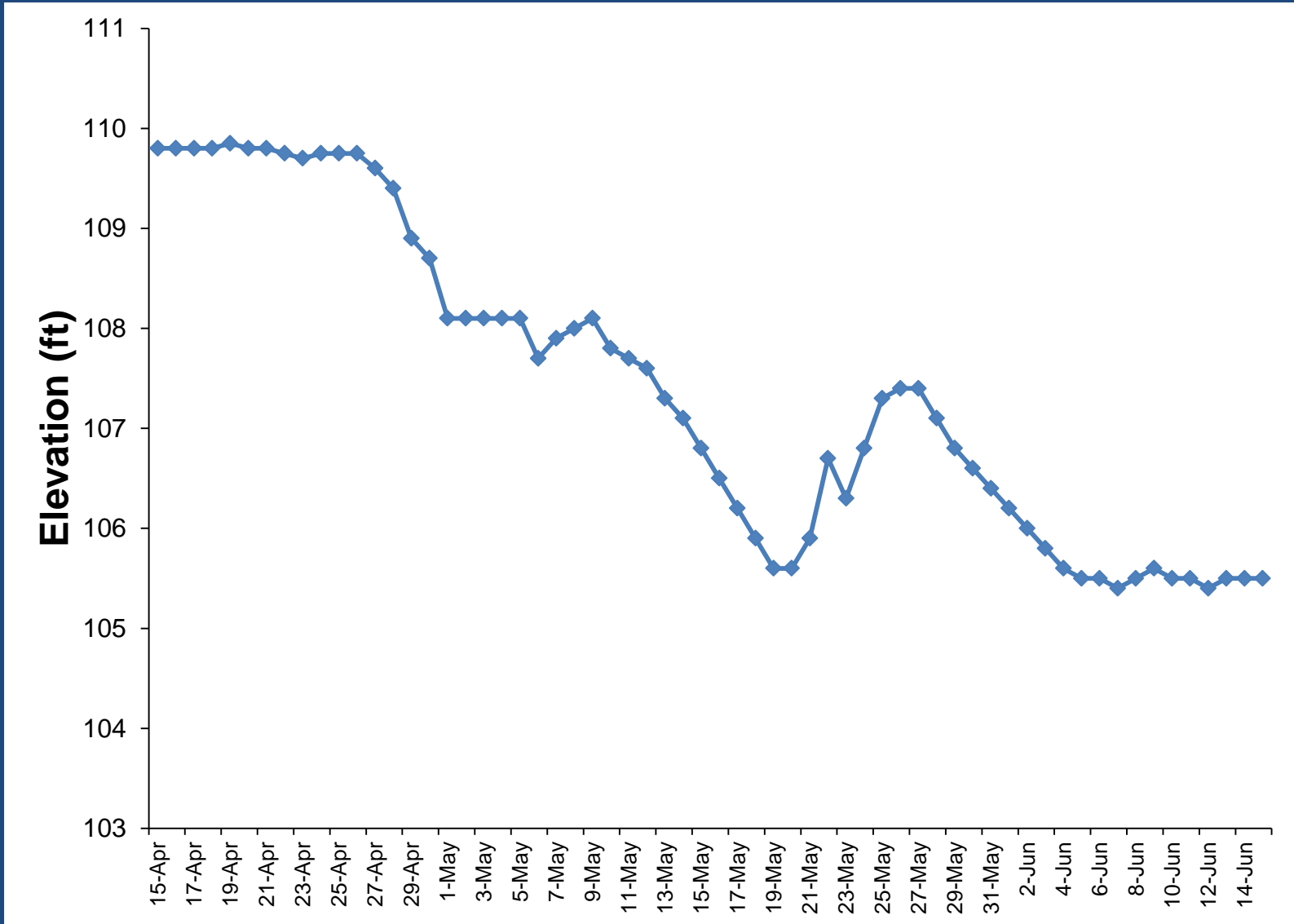
- Between nets and electrofishing we noted 10 common carp
- Low abundance of crappie and yellow perch in our 2016 sample



Drawdown



Drawdown



Drawdown

- Walleye and smallmouth bass seemed to benefit
- Based on aging data, Northern pike and largemouth bass had less fish in 2013, but not severe
- Bluegill seemed to have the biggest drop with a very low number of 2013 fish



No vegetation management

IF EXTREMELY HIGH LEVELS of EWM/aquatic vegetation occur

- Favors Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Northern Pike
- Bass populations could take off
- This hasn't occurred on the flowage, even when EWM was abundant

Using frequent drawdowns

IF DRAWDOWNS ARE USED FREQUENTLY

- Favors Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, other riverine fish species
- Potential long term impacts on bluegill and largemouth bass (depending on frequency)
- May create a window for carp
- Timing of the drawdown is important

What needs to be done

- Complete the fisheries survey report

QUESTIONS????

