

Minong Flowage Fisheries Survey

Craig Roberts – Fisheries Biologist

Wisconsin DNR

Fall 2016

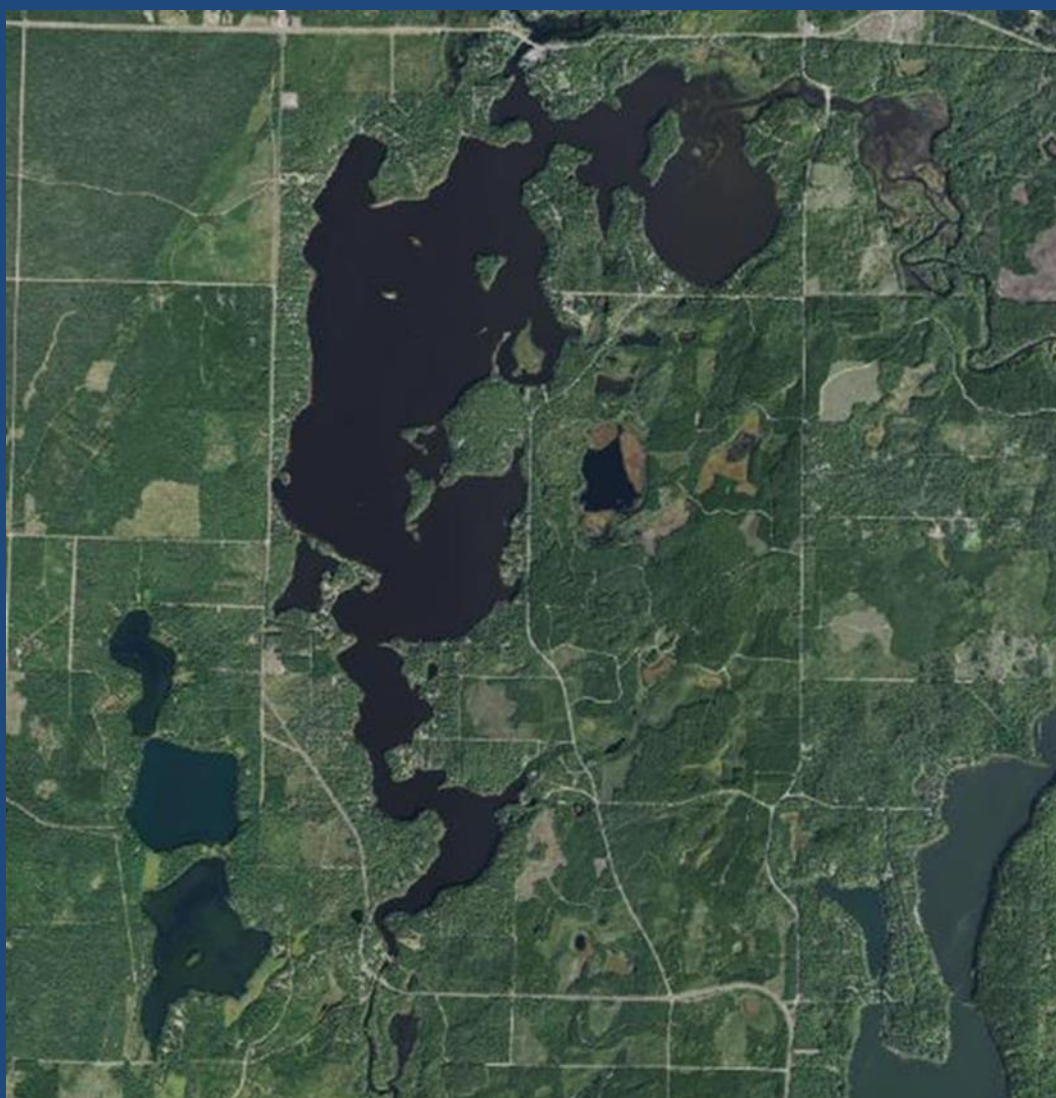


Goals for the talk

- What we did in 2016
 - Results of our work
- What needs to be done



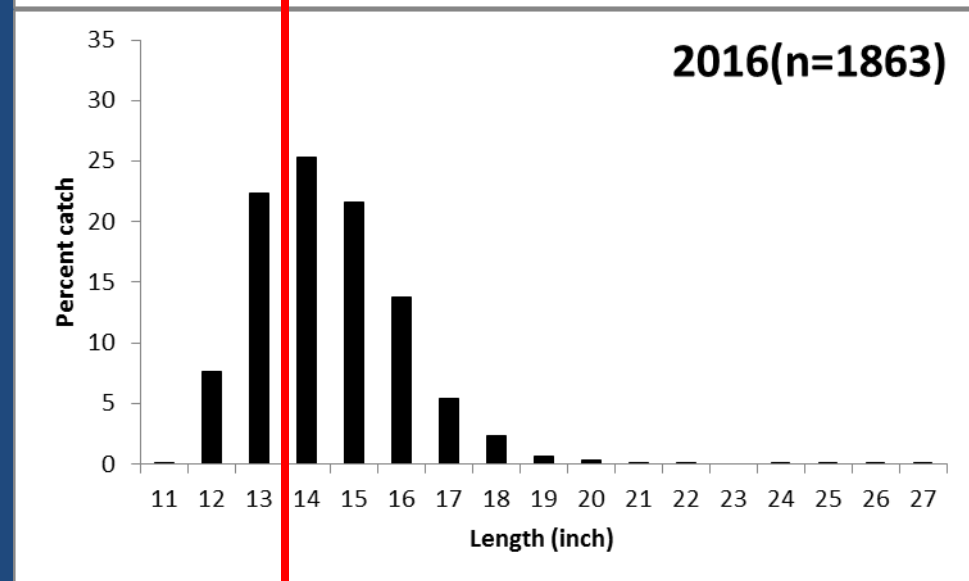
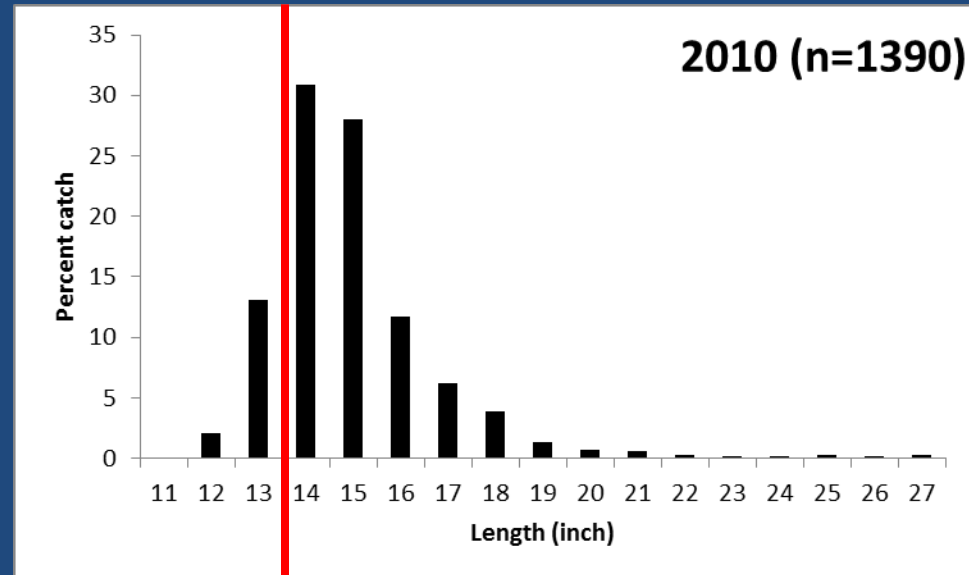
What We Did



- 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

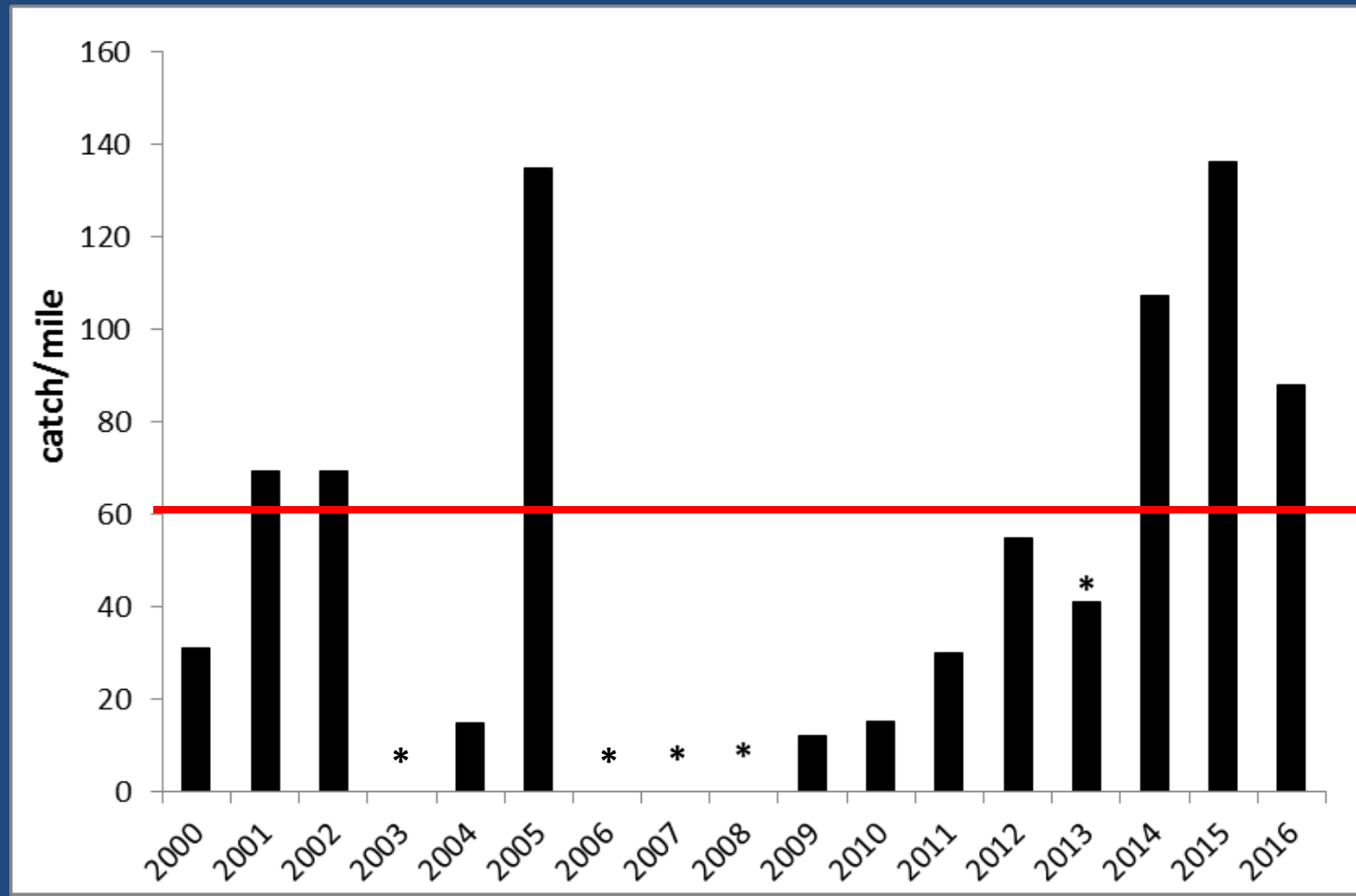
Walleye

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



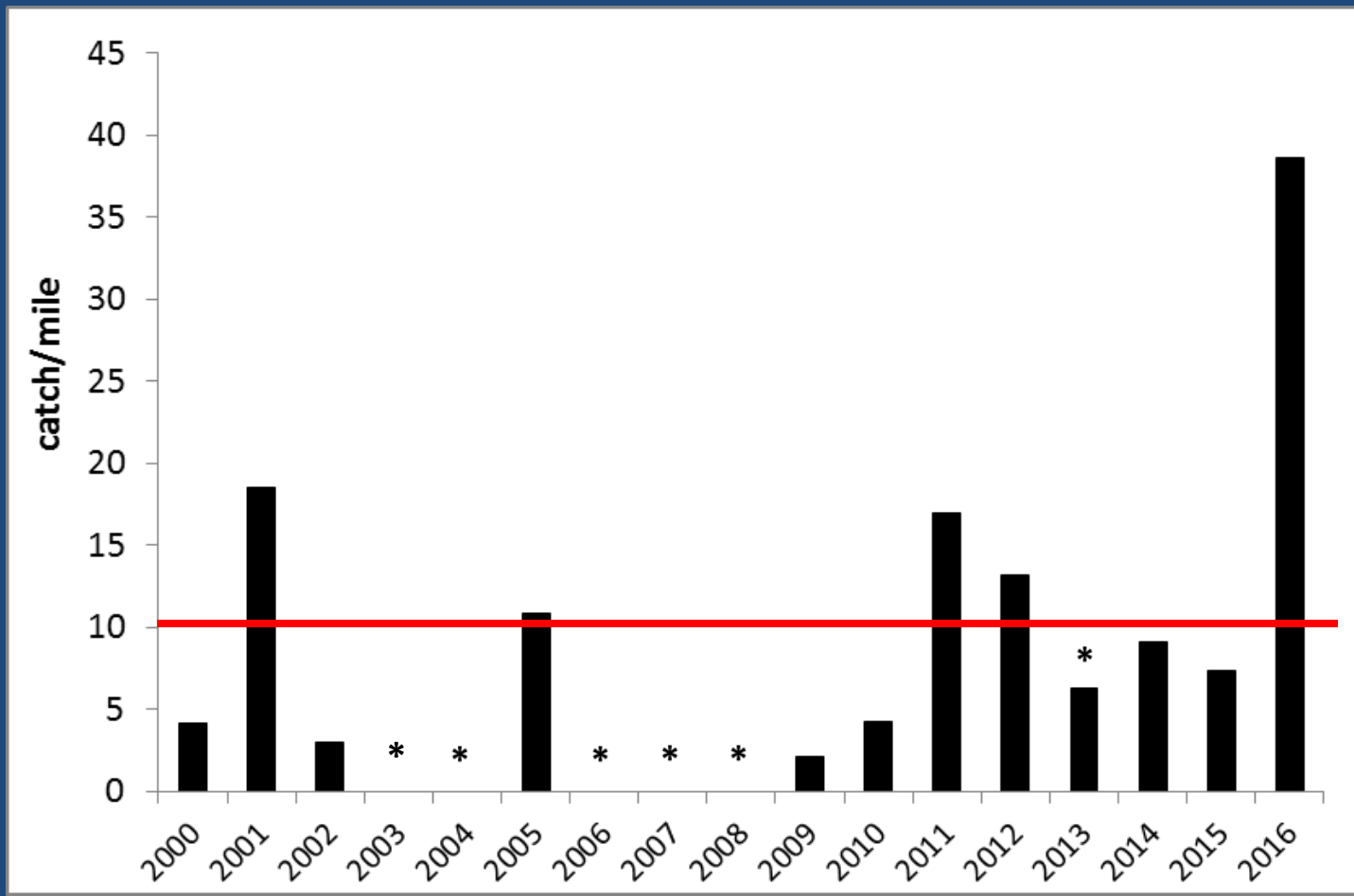
Young Walleye

- Abundant young of year



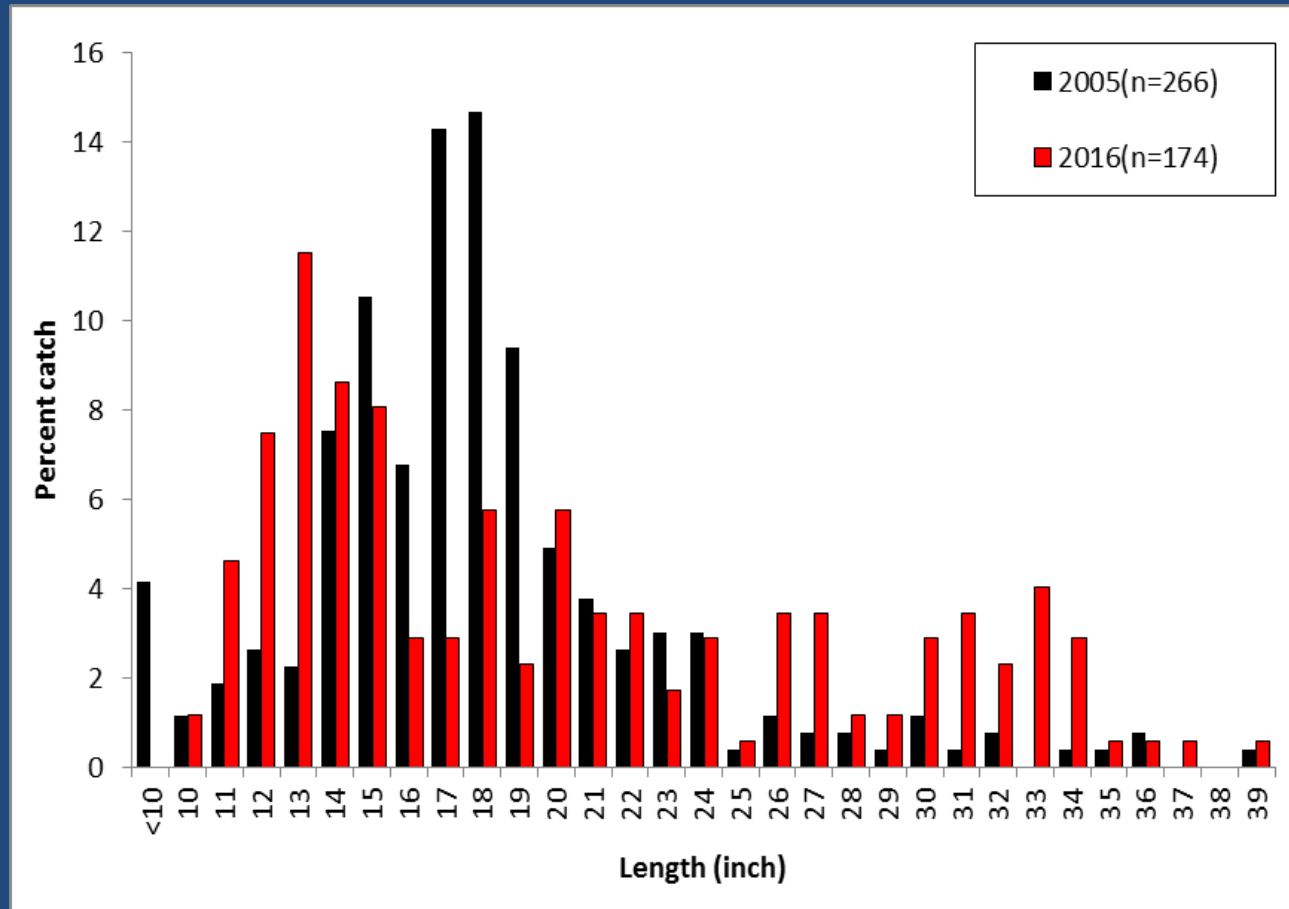
Young walleye

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



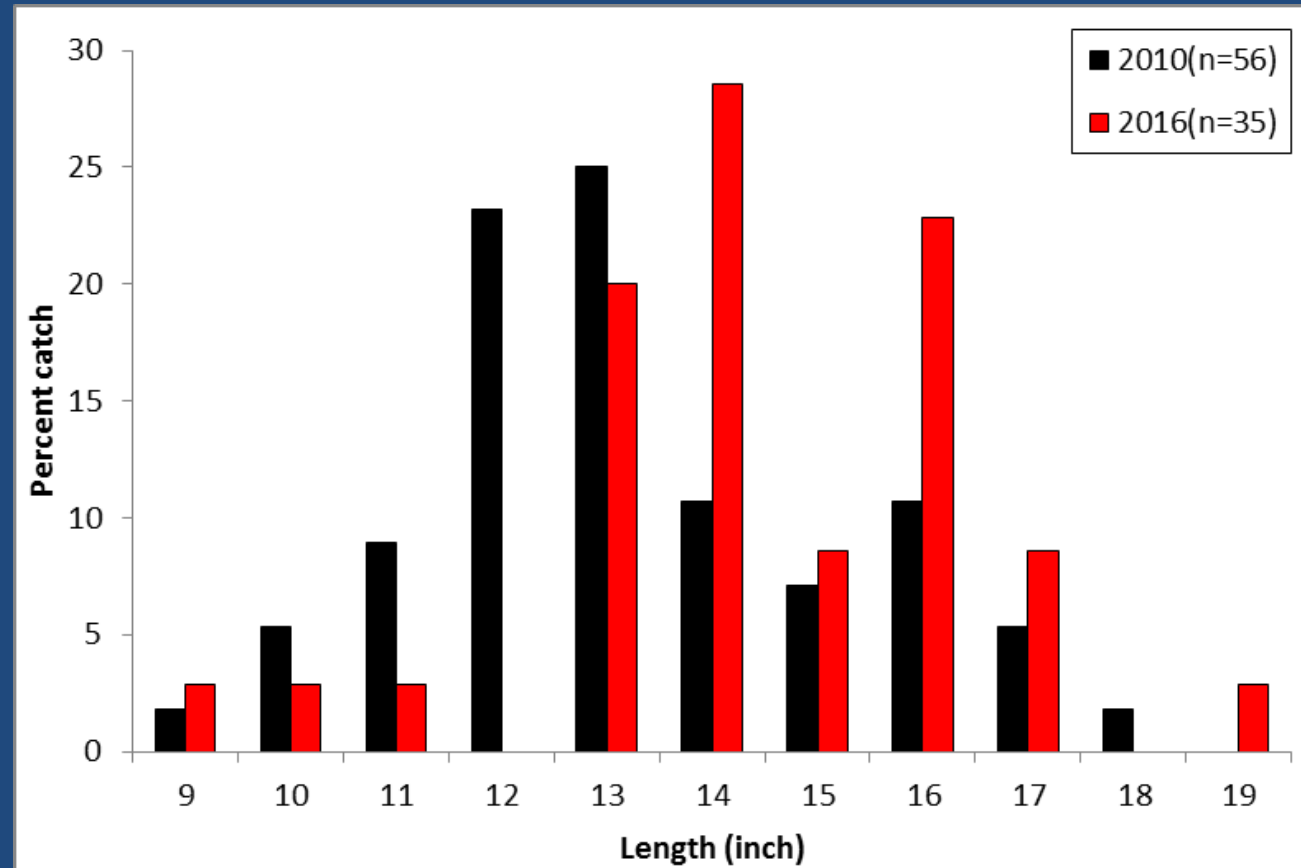
Northern Pike

- Size structure similar to rest of lakes in the area
- 2005 avg = 18.3 inch
- 2016 avg = 19.7 inch
- Catch rate dropped



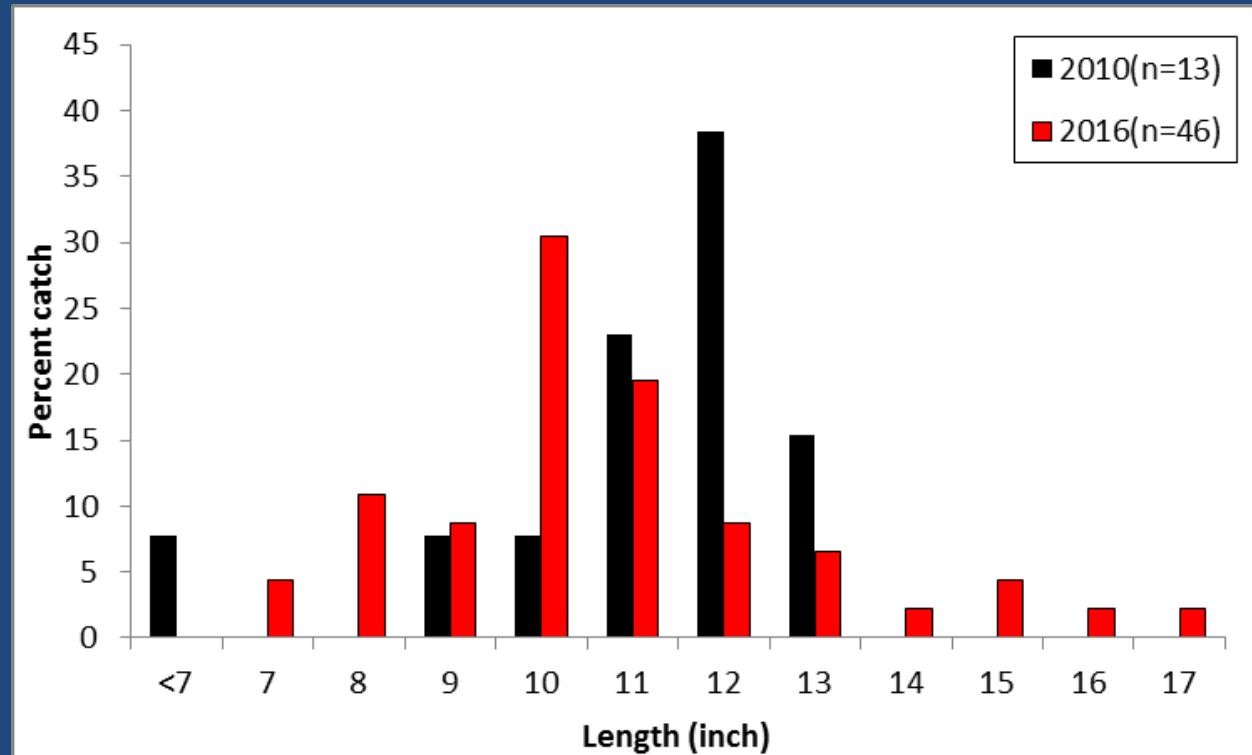
Largemouth Bass

- Small sample size
- Avg. size increased from 13.4 to 14.5 inch
- Catch rate decreased



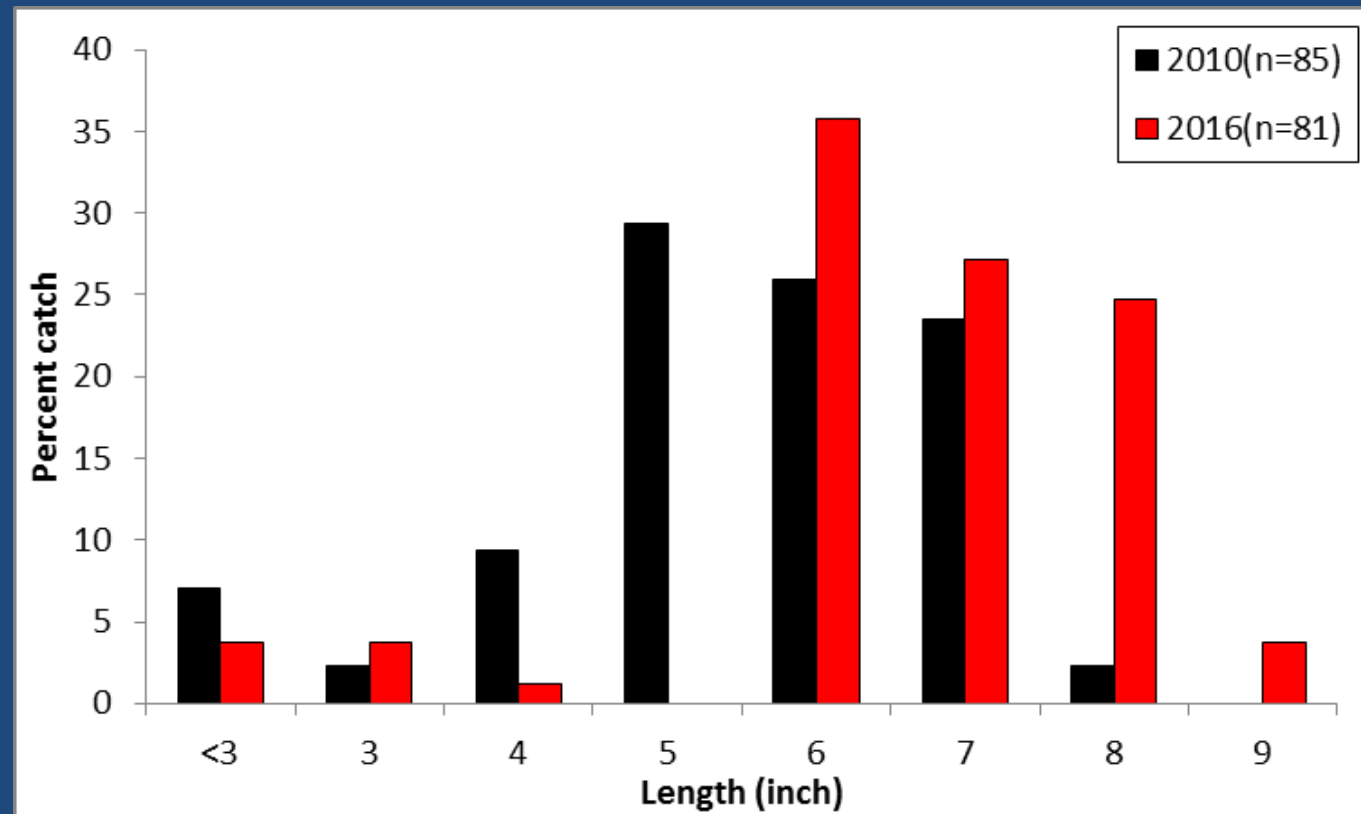
Smallmouth Bass

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



Bluegill

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

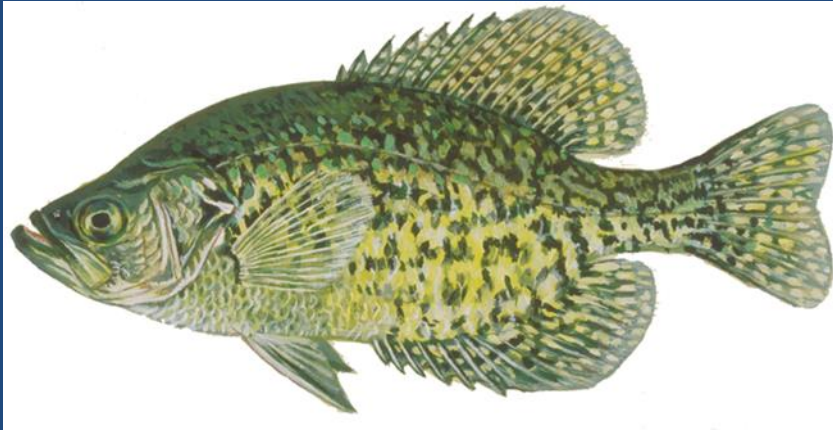


Muskellunge

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



Other species



- Between nets and electrofishing we noted 10 adult common carp



- Low abundance of crappie and yellow perch in our 2016 sample

Drawdown comparisons

- Walleye, northern pike, bass, and bluegill did not see any negative effects from the drawdown.
- Younger largemouth bass and bluegill seem less abundant, but not large difference than pre-drawdown
- Overall drawdown doesn't seem to have had any long term effects on the fish population



What needs to be done

- Aging on walleye, bass, pike, and bluegill
- Aging information will help us understand more about growth and the 2013 fish (year of the drawdown)
- Complete the fisheries survey report

QUESTIONS????

