

Honeoye Lake Fishery Update - 2025

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Fisheries

2017 Statewide Angler Survey

36th most fished water body in NY

Most targeted species:

1. Largemouth Bass
2. Sunfish (bluegills and pumpkinseeds)
3. Walleye



Topics

- Big Panfish Initiative (BPI)
- Angler Diary Program
- Walleye

Honeoye Lake – Big Panfish Initiative (BPI) Trap Netting



BPI Objectives

- Achieve a population size structure in which 30% of all stock size (> 3 in) **sunfish** will be at least 8 inches, and 5% will be at least 10 inches.



- Achieve a population size structure in which 60% of all stock size (> 5 in) **crappie** will be at least 8 inches, and 20% will be at least 10 inches.



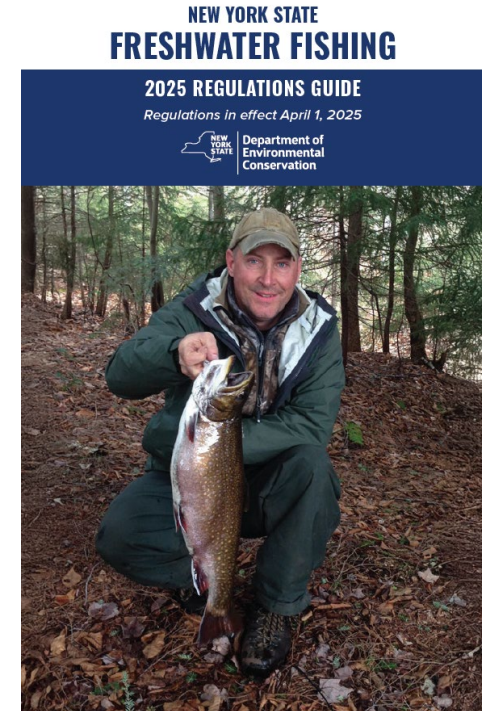
Study Lakes



- Bear Lake
- Silver Lake
- Honeoye Lake
- Waneta/Lamoka Lakes
- Otisco Lake
- Cazenovia Lake
- Sixtown Pond
- Red Lake
- Delta Lake
- Saratoga Lake
- Canadarago Lake
- Goodyear Lake
- Lake Welch
- Muscoot Reservoir
- Blydenburgh Lake

Fishing Regulations

- Sunfish
 - New regulations on study lakes
 - 8-inch minimum size; 15 per day
- Crappie
 - Statewide regulation change
 - Increased minimum size from 9-inch to 10-inch

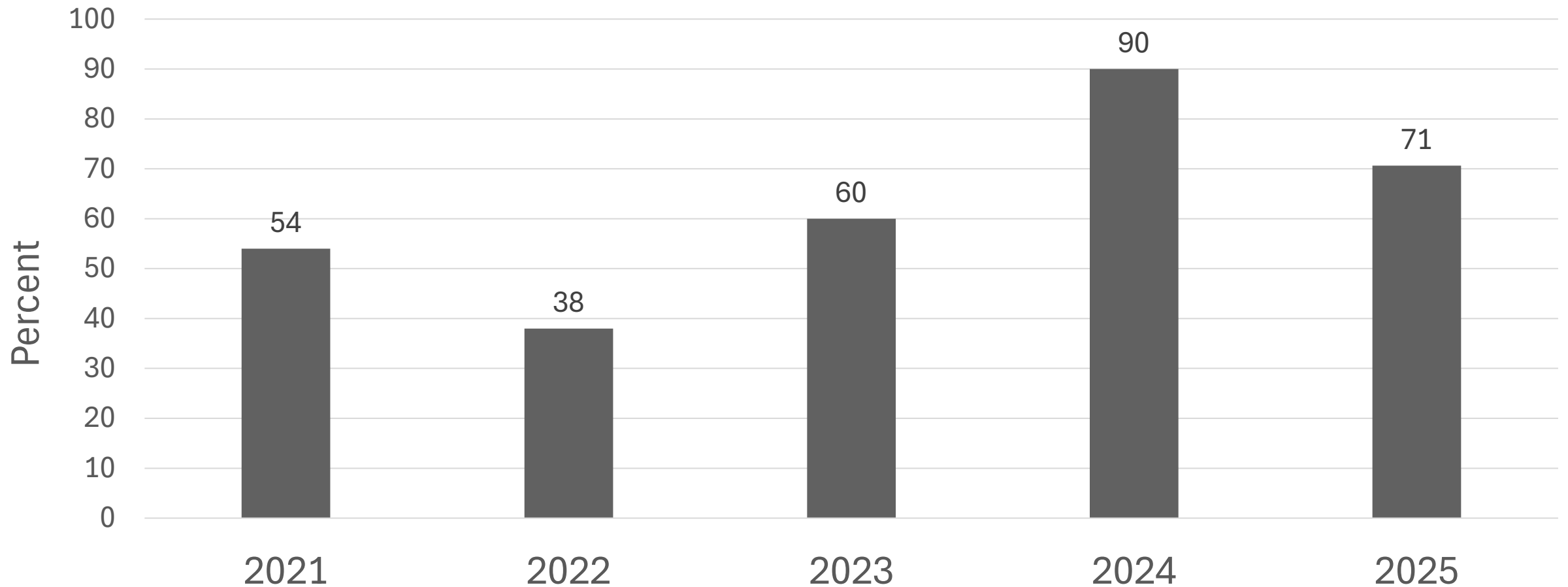




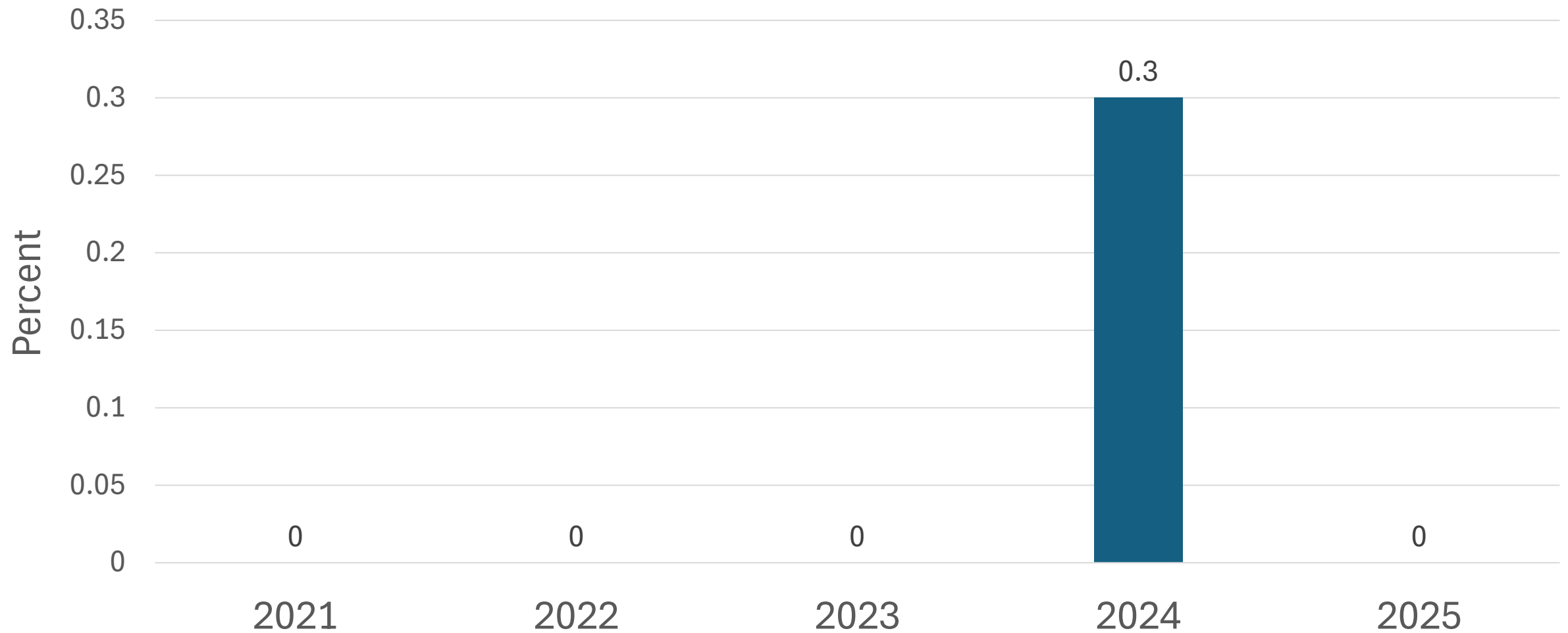
Monitoring

- Spring trap netting
- Pre-regulation change – 2021 and 2022
- Post-regulation change – 2023 through 2025

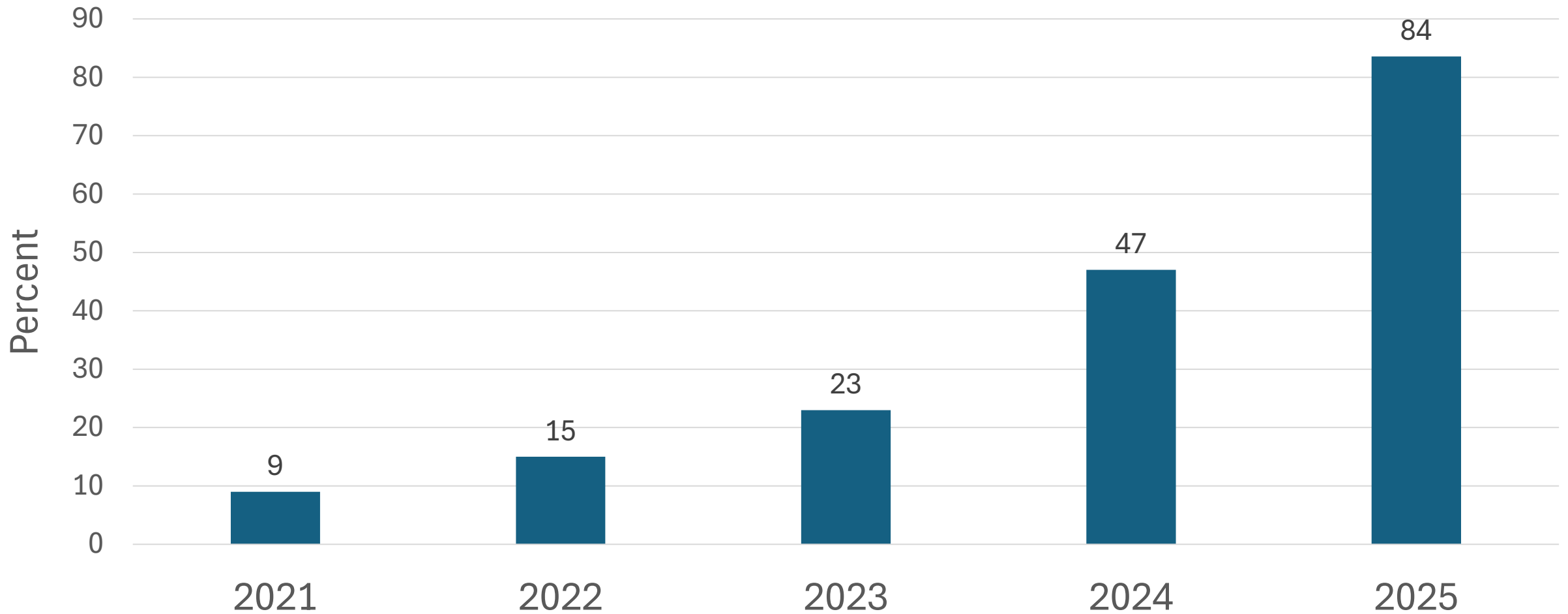
Objective: 30% of all stock size (> 3 in) **sunfish** will be at least 8 inches



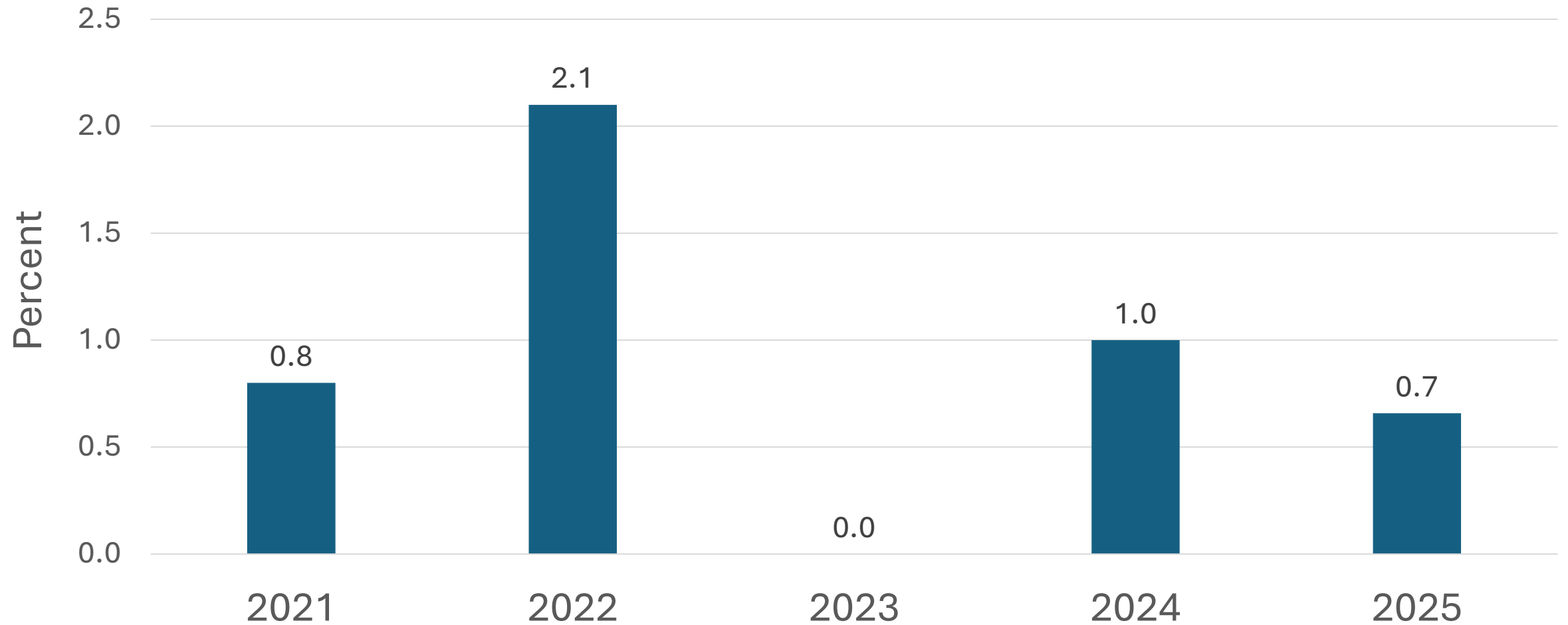
Objective: 5% of all stock size (> 3 in) **sunfish** will be at least 10 inches



Objective: 60% of all stock size (> 5 in) **crappie** will be at least 10 inches



Stock size (> 5 in) **crappie** > 12 inches



Overall Results

- From 2021/22 to 2024, we've seen increases in:
 - the proportion of 8"+ bluegills in 6 waters (Goodyear, Honeoye, Otisco, Red, Saratoga, and Silver).
 - the proportion of 8"+ pumpkinseeds in 1 water (Sixtown)
 - the proportion of 10"+ black crappie in 4 waters (Delta, Honeoye, Saratoga, Silver)
 - the proportion of 12"+ black crappie in 3 waters (Delta, Lamoka, Waneta)
- Very few 10"+ sunfish have been collected overall. We have not seen an increase in this size class in any water.
- Growth and condition metrics for all species/waters have remained relatively consistent throughout the study.

Other Factors

- Largemouth Bass density
 - Studies in South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and many southern waters suggest **high density bass** populations lead to **good size structure** for **bluegill** populations
 - Most of our “successful” BPI waters have high densities of bass

Honeoye Lake Angler Diary Program

- Focused on gamefish (Walleye, Bass, Chain Pickerel)
- 1989 to present

**Warmwater
Fish Species
Fishing Diary
For
Angler Cooperators**


Honeoye Lake

Write in body of water fished

Name of Angler *Jim Bob*

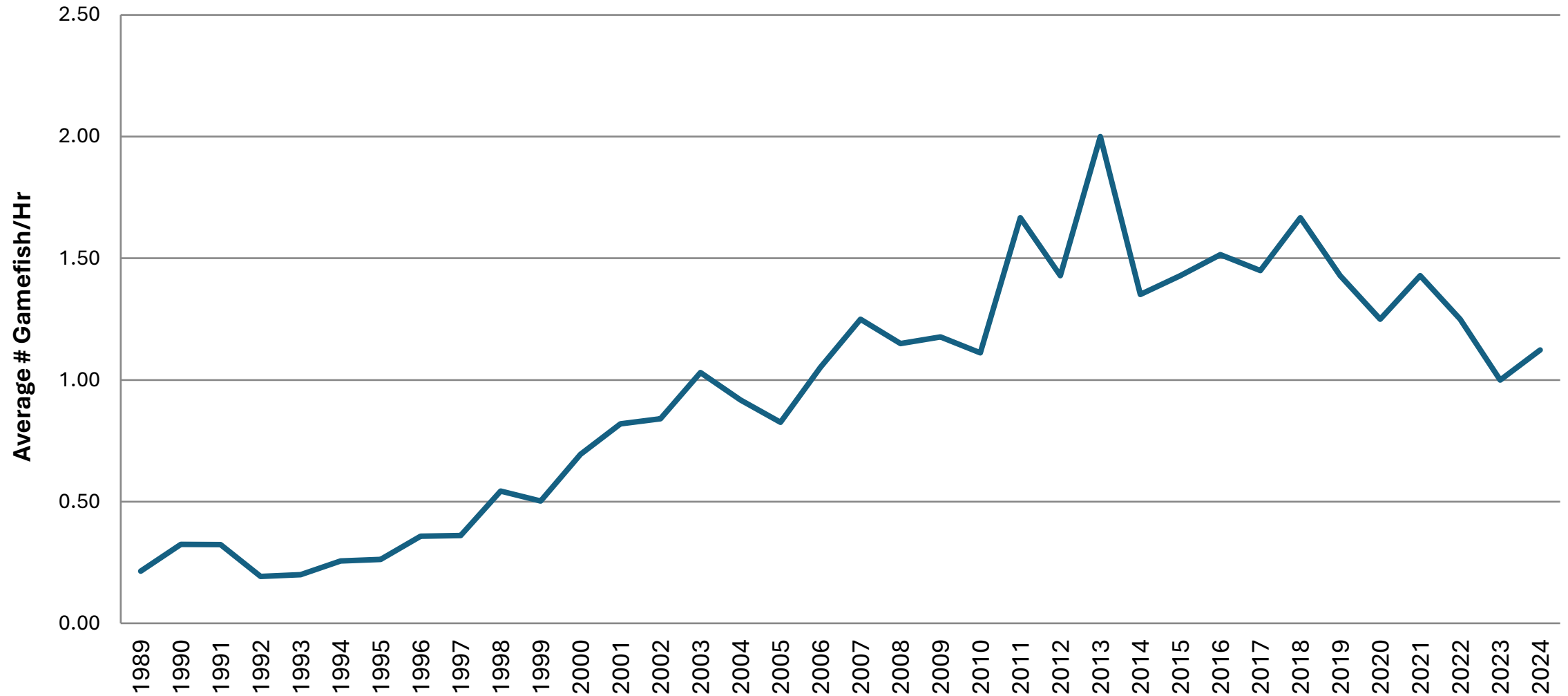
Address *Abbey Rd*
Honeoye, NY

Year *2013*

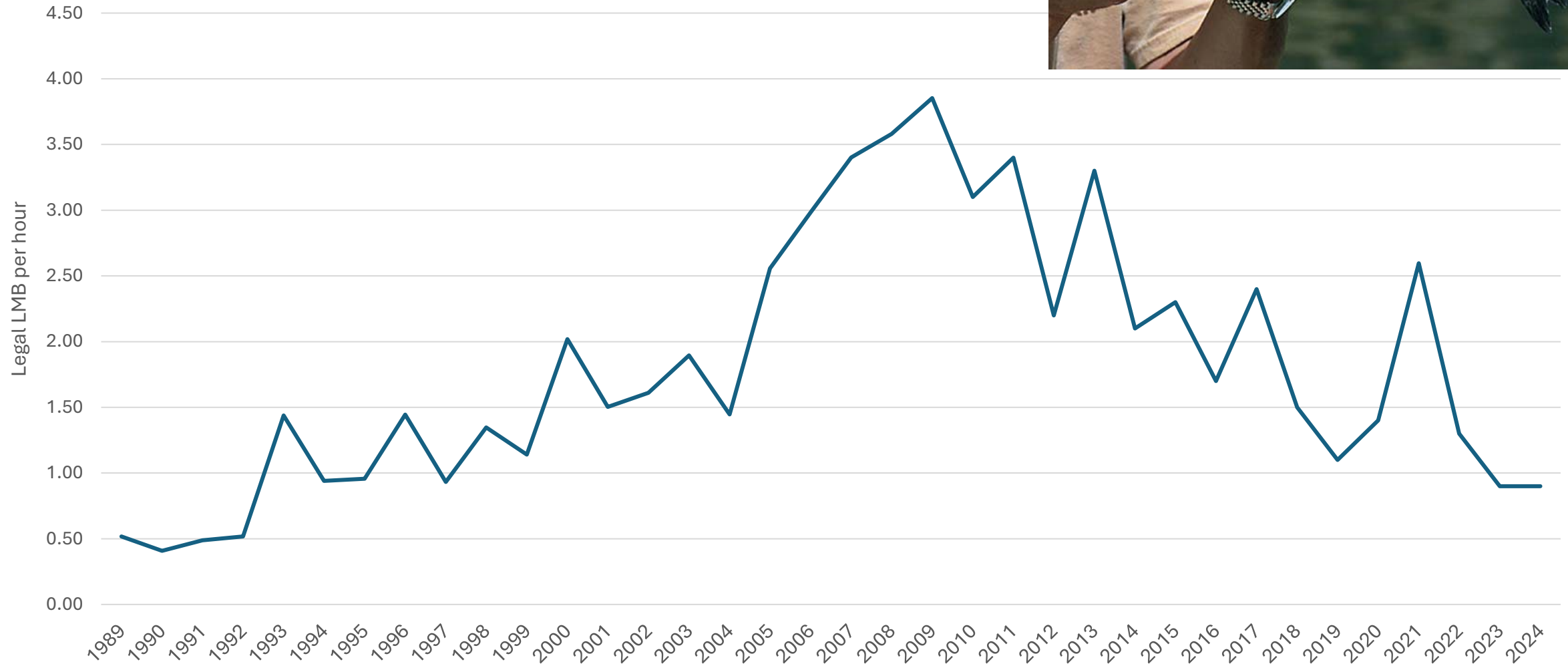


New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

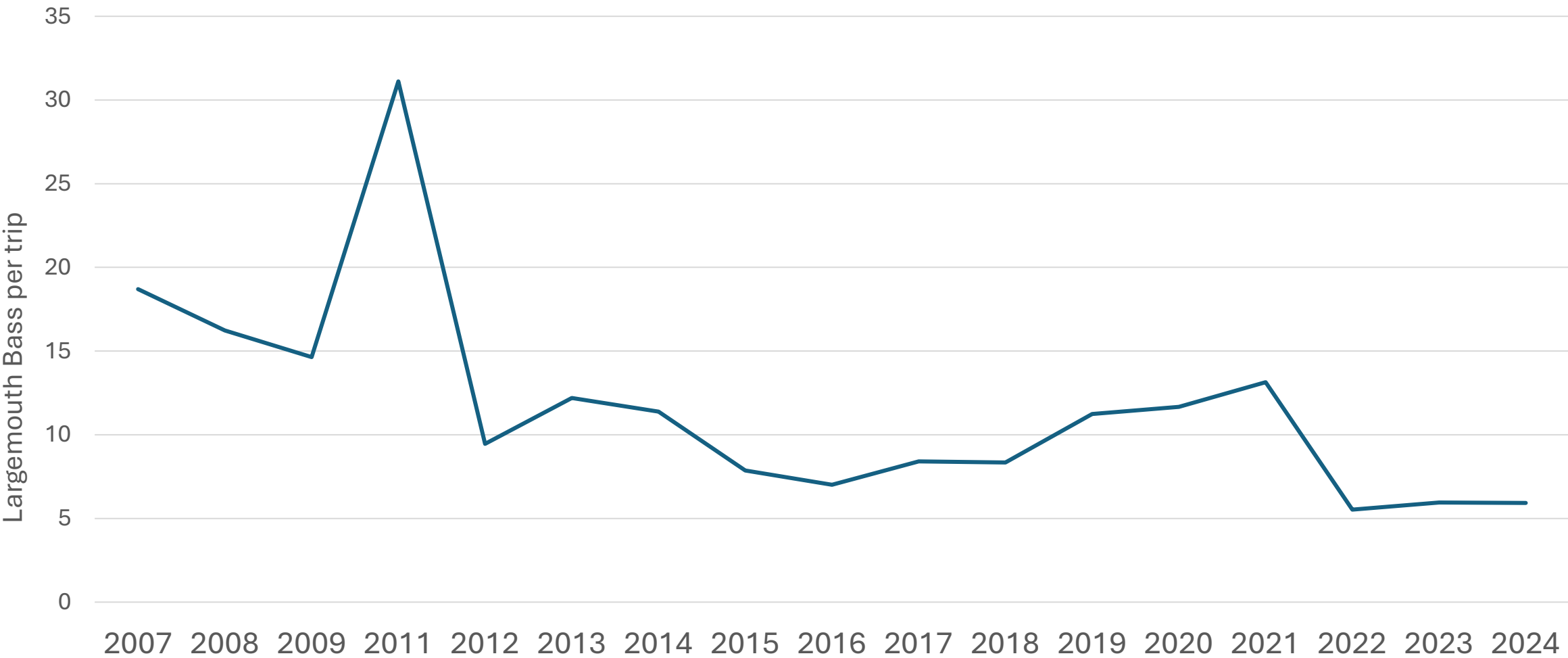
Gamefish catch rate



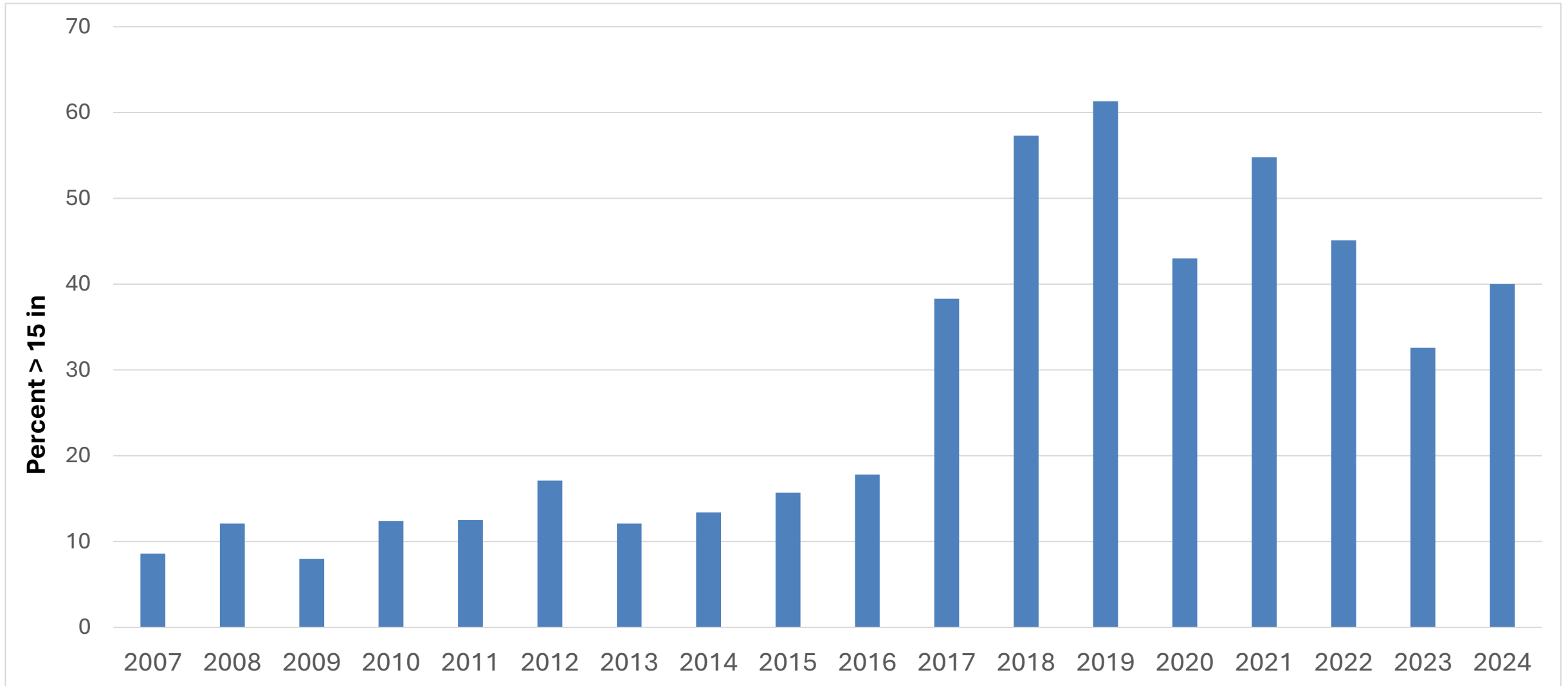
LMB angler catch rates



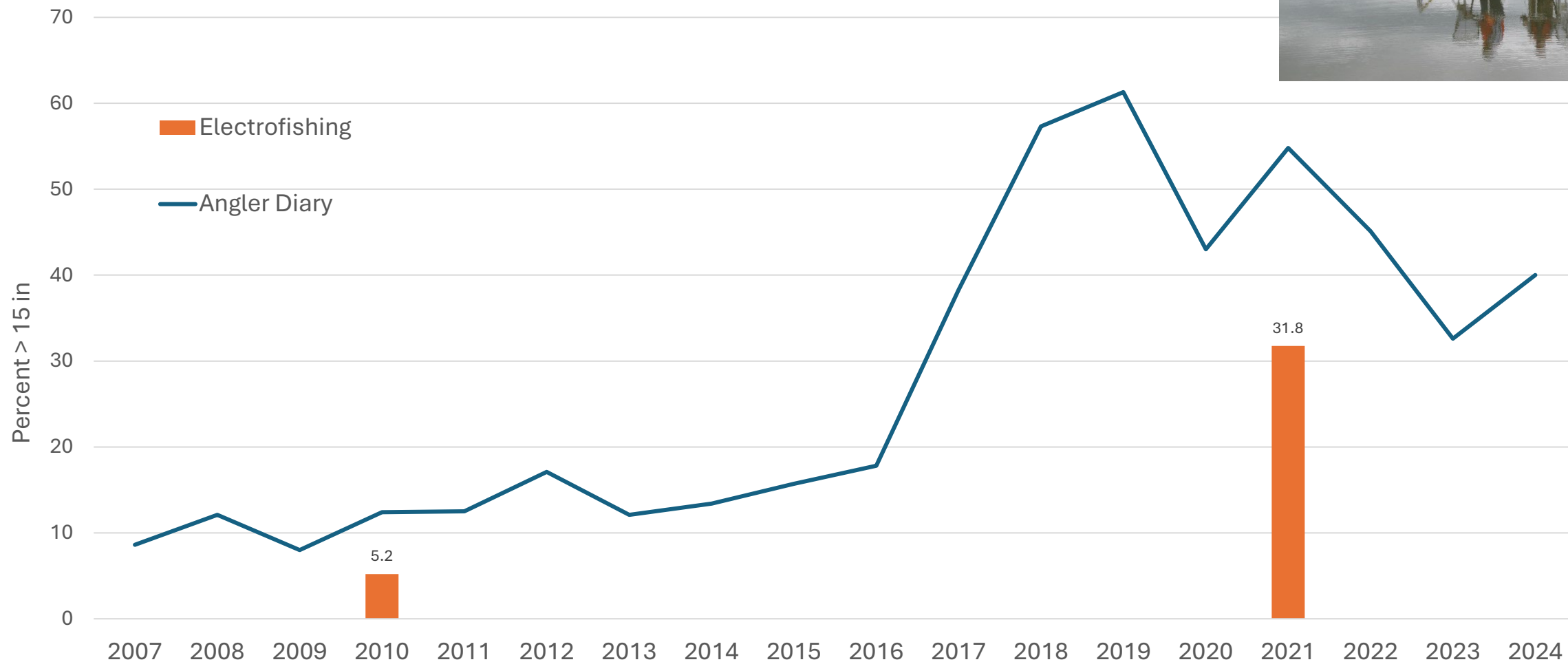
Angler # 35



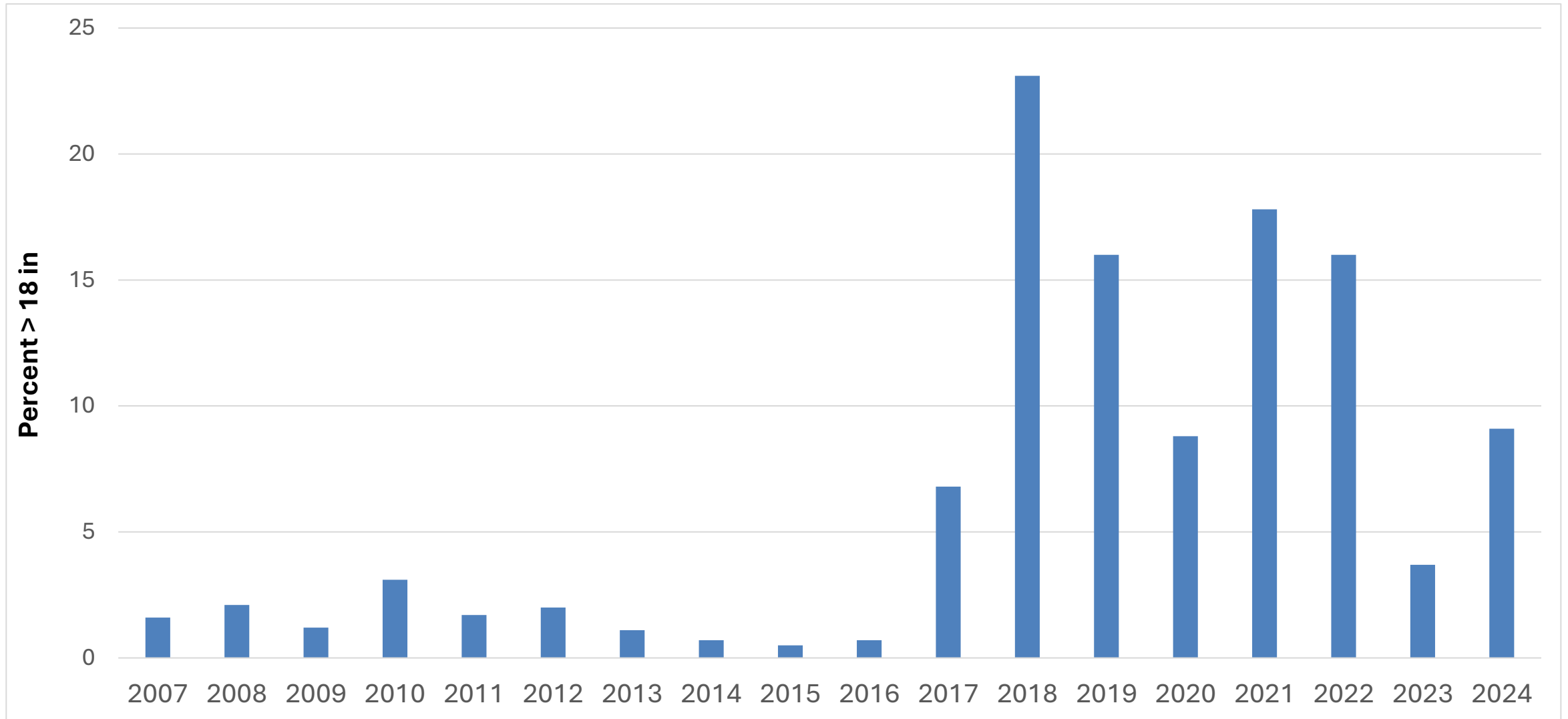
LMB over 15 inches



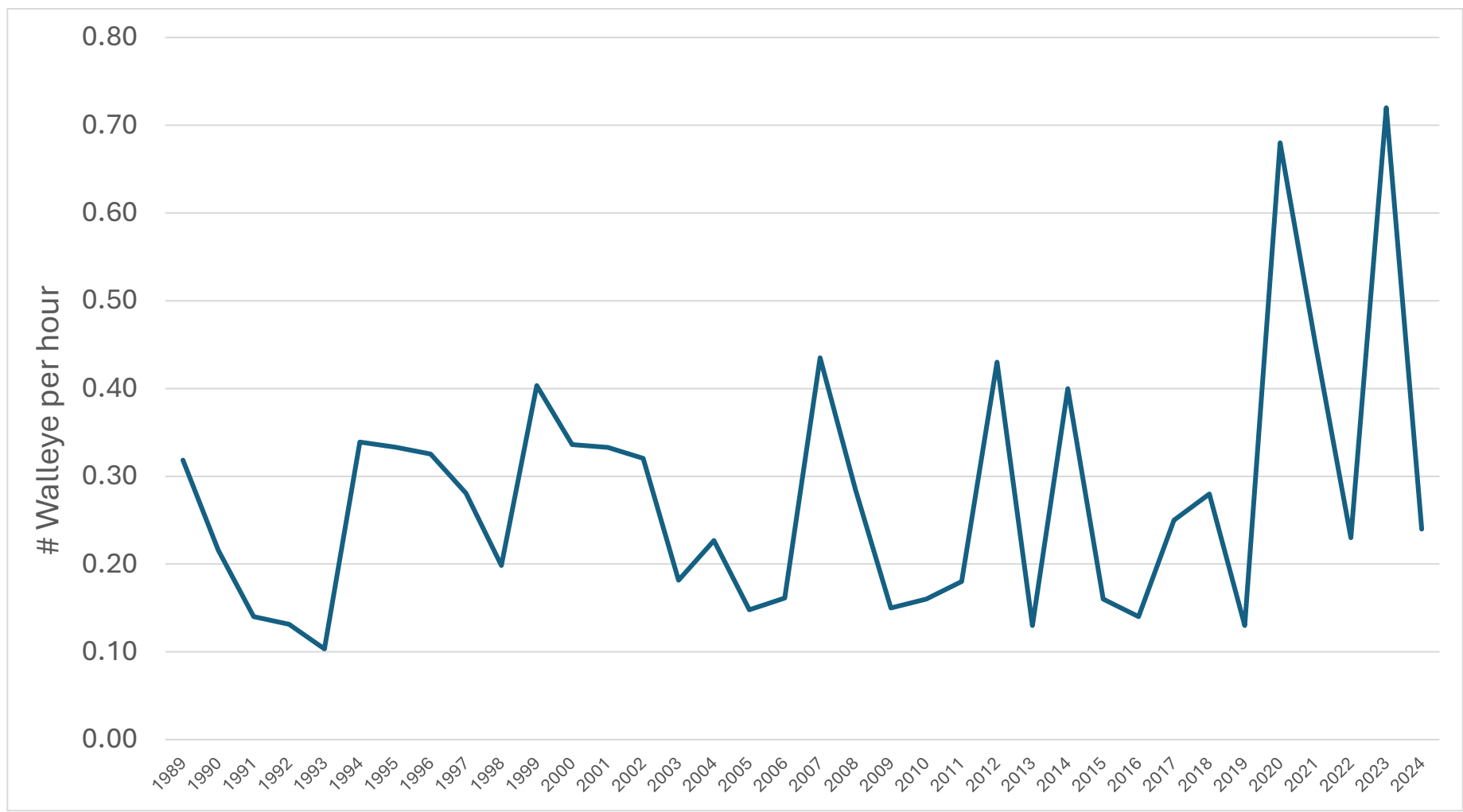
LMB over 15 inches



LMB over 18 inches



Walleye angler catch rates



Angler Diary Program

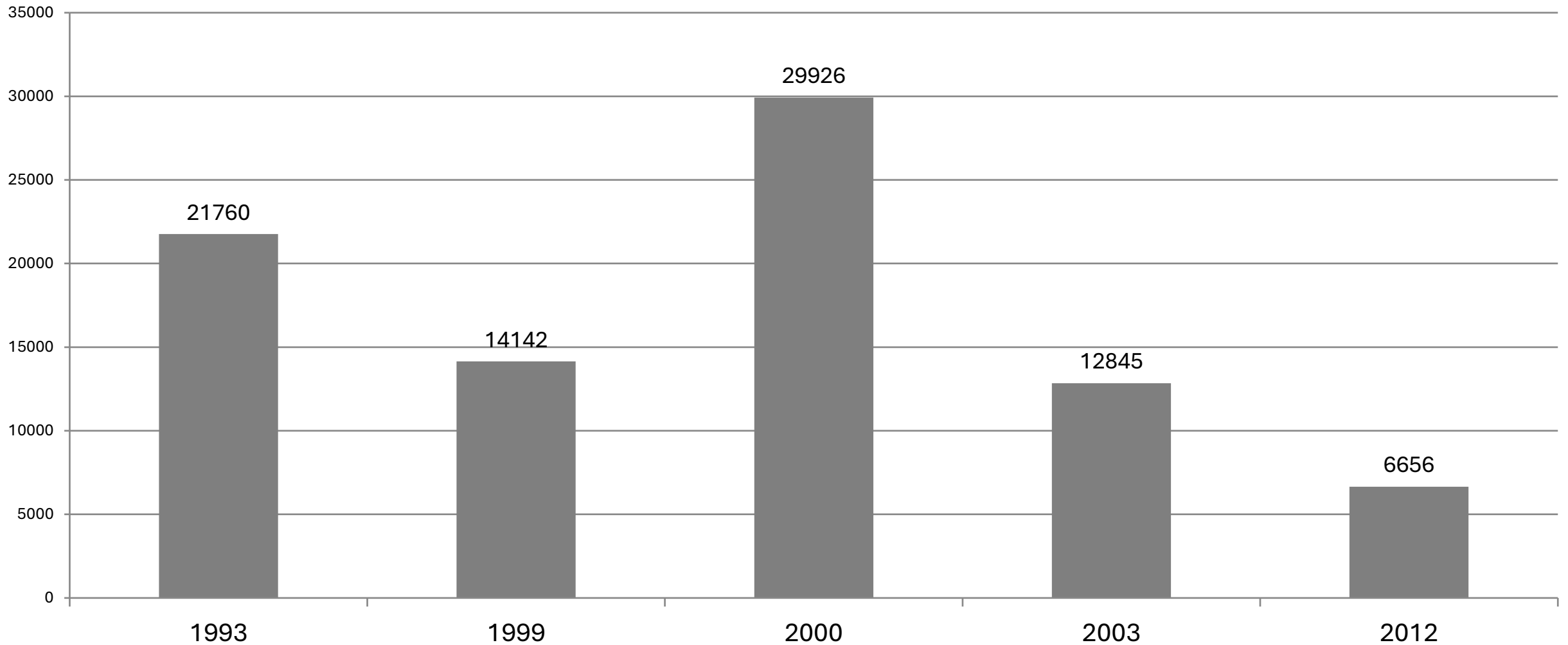
- Great long-term data to track trends in the fishery
- Bass catch rates declining but more large bass caught
- Walleye catch rates variable – helps identify successful stocking
- Need more cooperators

Walleye

- Very little, if any, natural reproduction
- Stock about 40,000 fingerlings every other year
- Switched from fry stocking to fingerling stocking in 2018
 - First year very successful
- Switched from 15” to 18” length limit in 2022



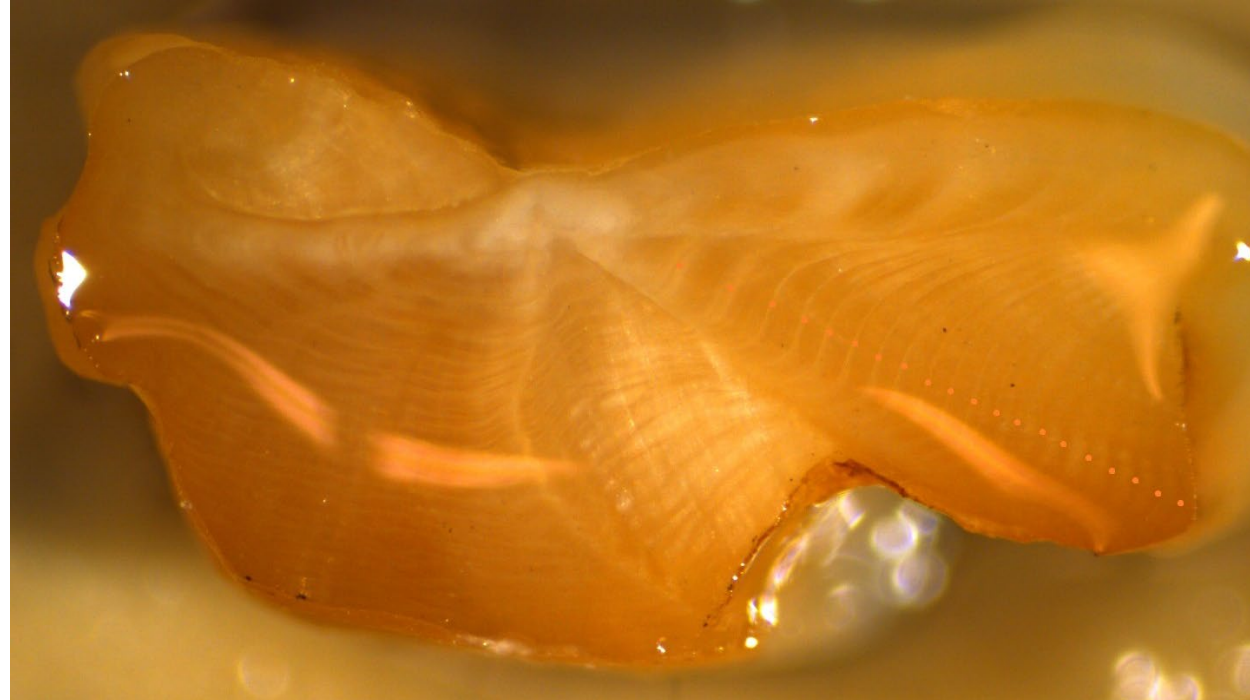
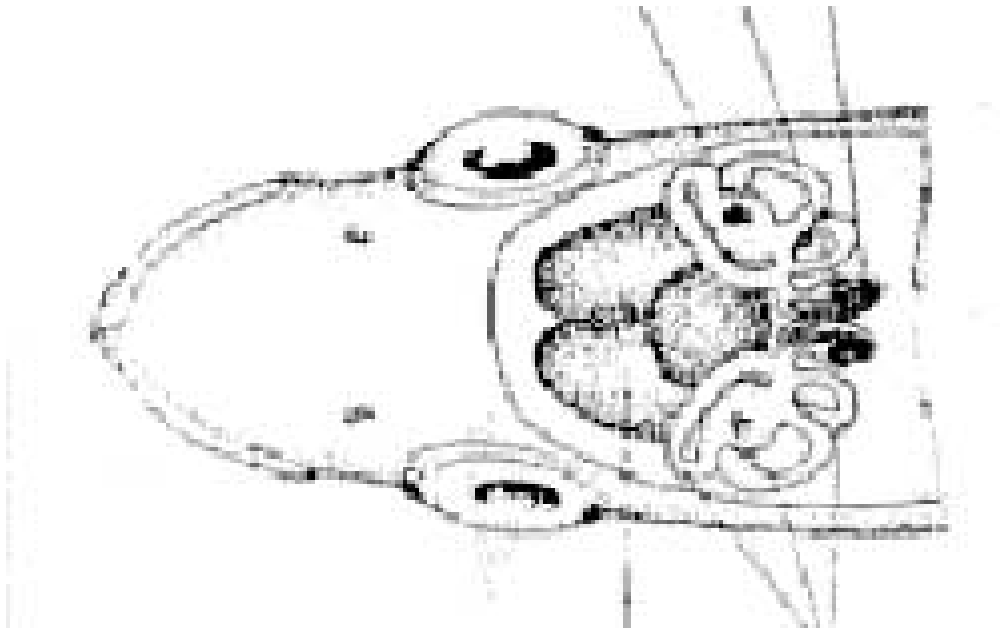
Walleye Population Estimates



Walleye

- Time for a population estimate?
- Slow growing after age-4
- Back to 15" size limit?





20-inch walleye – 20 years old

Summary

Panfish size showing signs of improvement.

Bass density declining since 2009, but largemouth bass average size increasing.

Walleye catch rates up and down – populations estimate in coming years.

Need more angler diary cooperators.



Any Questions?