

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CREEL SURVEY REPORT**

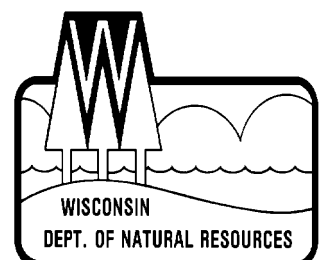
**BEAR LAKE
BARRON COUNTY**

2014-2015



Treaty Fisheries Publication

April, 2015



INTRODUCTION

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regularly conducts fishery surveys of area lakes and reservoirs to gather information on species composition, population size, reproductive success, size/age distribution, and growth rates. The information from the netting and electrofishing surveys helps the WDNR determine the best management practices for that body of water. Another important aspect of a fishery is the amount of harvest that is occurring on the lake. This information is collected by creel census or creel survey.

On lakes in the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin, harvest of fish is divided between sport anglers and the six Chippewa tribal bands. The six Chippewa tribal bands harvest fish under rights governed by federal treaties of 1837 and 1842. Most tribal fish harvest is done by spearing during a short period of time in the spring. All speared fish are individually counted by tribal creel clerks, allowing for a complete “census” of the tribal fish harvest in the spring.

Information is also collected on the effects of sport angler harvest on fish populations. Because it would be impractical and costly to conduct a complete “census” of the fish harvested by sport anglers on area lakes, a creel survey is conducted to estimate the amount of fish harvested by sports anglers.

A creel survey is a sampling tool used to measure the fishing activities of the sport anglers and to estimate the amount of fish harvested on a body of water. Creel surveys are designed to have a creel clerk on a lake, work random shifts, and forty hours each week throughout the fishing season. Each month these shifts cover a sample of all the daylight hours. Creel clerks travel their lakes using a boat, snowmobile or vehicle to count and to interview anglers.

The information collected from anglers during the interview includes the species of fish being targeted, catch and harvest, lengths of harvested fish, and hours of fishing effort. Typically only anglers that have completed their fishing trip are interviewed because it provides the most accurate information and it avoids the need to disturb anglers while they are fishing.

You may have encountered one of the DNR creel clerks on a recent fishing trip. The survey only takes a moment of your time and we appreciate your cooperation during an interview. The information collected gives the DNR valuable knowledge required for management of the fishery.

The data collected during the survey is processed by a computer program and summarized by month to calculate estimates of the total fishing pressure, fishing effort directed at each species, catch and harvest rates, and the number of fish caught and harvested.

This creel survey report will provide you with four types of estimated information for this body of water:

1. Overall fishing pressure
2. Fishing effort directed at each species
3. Catch and harvest rates
4. Numbers of fish caught and harvested.

Also included in this report are physical information about the lake, discussion of results of this survey and detailed summaries by species.

GENERAL LAKE INFORMATION

Location

Bear Lake is located in northern Barron and southern Washburn Counties. Bear Lake is northwest of the town of Haugen, off of State Highway 53.

Physical Characteristics

Bear Lake is 1358 acre drainage lake with a maximum depth of 87 feet.

Seasons Surveyed

An open water creel survey was conducted from opening day of gamefish season on May 3rd, 2014 and ran through the end of October. Winter creel was conducted from December 1st through the close of the gamefish season on March 1st, 2015.

Harvest Regulations

The following seasons, daily bag limits, and length limits were in place on this lake in 2014-2015:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>	<u>Min. Size</u>
Walleye*	05/03-03/01	3	18"
Largemouth Bass	05/03-03/01	5	none
Smallmouth Bass	05/03-03/01	5	none
Northern Pike	05/03-03/01	5	none
Panfish	all year	25	none

*The walleye bag limit may have been reduced due to tribal declarations.

SPECIES CATCH AND HARVEST INFORMATION

Angling information is summarized on a single page for each species. If a page for a particular species is not present in this section it is because no one reported fishing

for that species and/or none were caught. Each species page has up to five graphs covering the following:

FIGURE 1 ESTIMATED DIRECTED FISHING EFFORT

Total calculated number of hours during each month that anglers spent fishing for this species.

FIGURE 2 ESTIMATED DIRECTED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST RATES

Calculated number of hours it takes an angler to catch or harvest a fish of this species. Only information from anglers who were **specifically** targeting this species is reported here.

FIGURE 3 ESTIMATED TOTAL ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST

Calculated number of fish of this species caught or harvested by all anglers. This estimate also includes **incidental** catch and harvest of fish by anglers that were not specifically targeting this species.

FIGURE 4 LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH MEASURED BY CLERK

All fish of this species measured by the clerk during the entire creel survey season.

FIGURE 5 AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED

Average length and the largest fish of this species harvested each month. Only those fish measured by the creel clerk are reported here.

Seasonal Angler Effort Summary

The table provides a summary by month of the total angler hours and total angler hours per acre. Also, the table compares county average and ceded territory average to current survey results.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of this survey was possible because of the efforts of the Treaty Assessment Staff: Gene Hatzenbeler, Todd Brecka, Misty Rood, Jill Sunderland, Jake Jacobson, Mac McInroy. We would especially like to recognize the efforts of our creel clerks Brain Byrnes and Mike Christner who collected the angler interviews.

The Department would like to thank Mary Vinopal. She generously allowed the department to keep a boat at her property during this survey.

We would also like to thank all the anglers who took the time to offer information about their fishing trip to the survey clerk. Without your cooperation this survey would not have been possible.

Additional copies of this report and those covering other local lakes can be obtained from the Treaty Fisheries Biologist in Spooner or WDNR Webpage.

Questions about the report can be directed to
Gene Hatzenbeler
WDNR Spooner Office
810 W. Maple Street
Spooner, WI 54801
Phone: (715)635-4164
Email: Gene.Hatzenbeler@Wisconsin.gov

WALLEYE

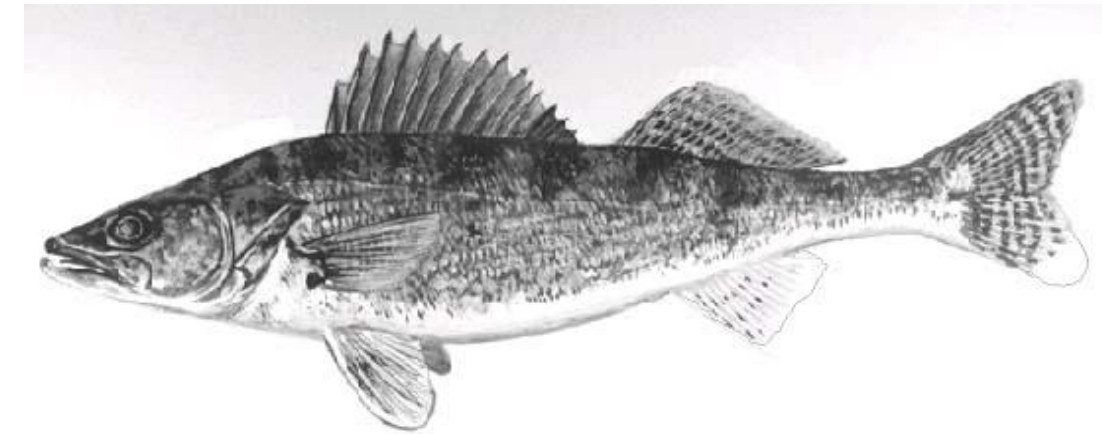


FIGURE 1. ESTIMATED DIRECTED FISHING EFFORT

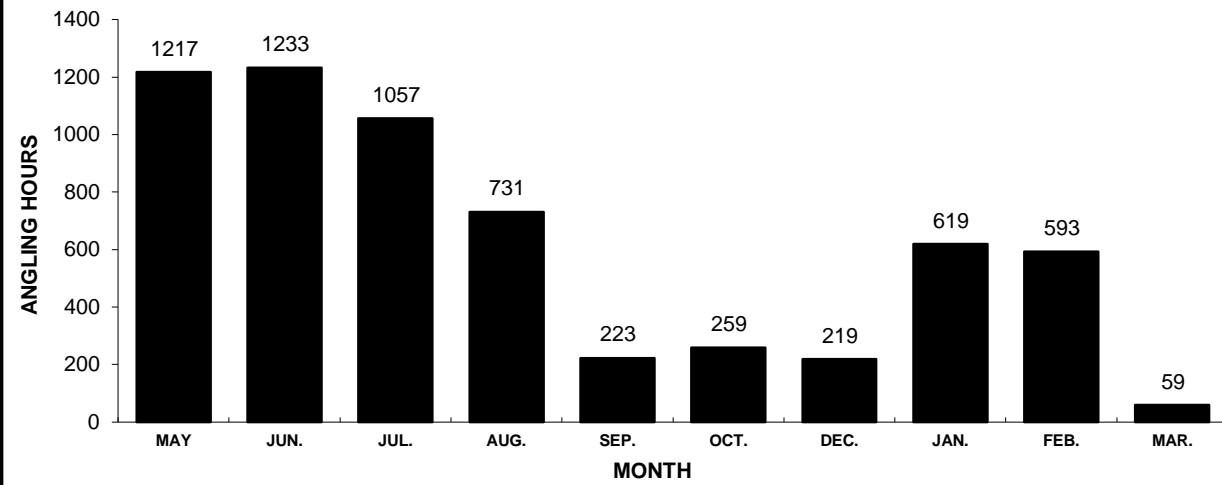


FIGURE 2. ESTIMATED DIRECTED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST RATES

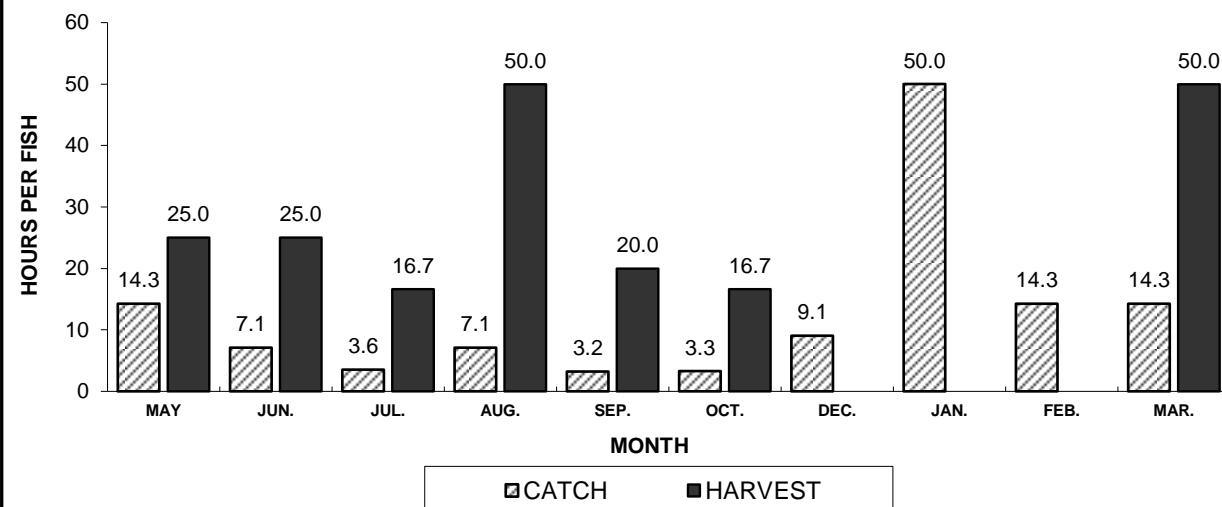


FIGURE 3. ESTIMATED TOTAL ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST

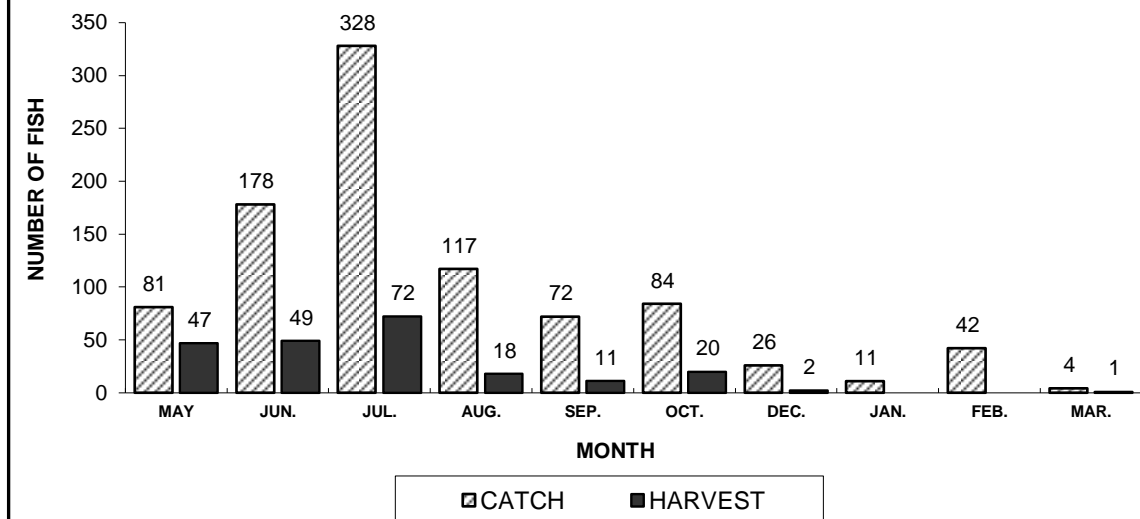


FIGURE 4. LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF FISH MEASURED BY CLERK

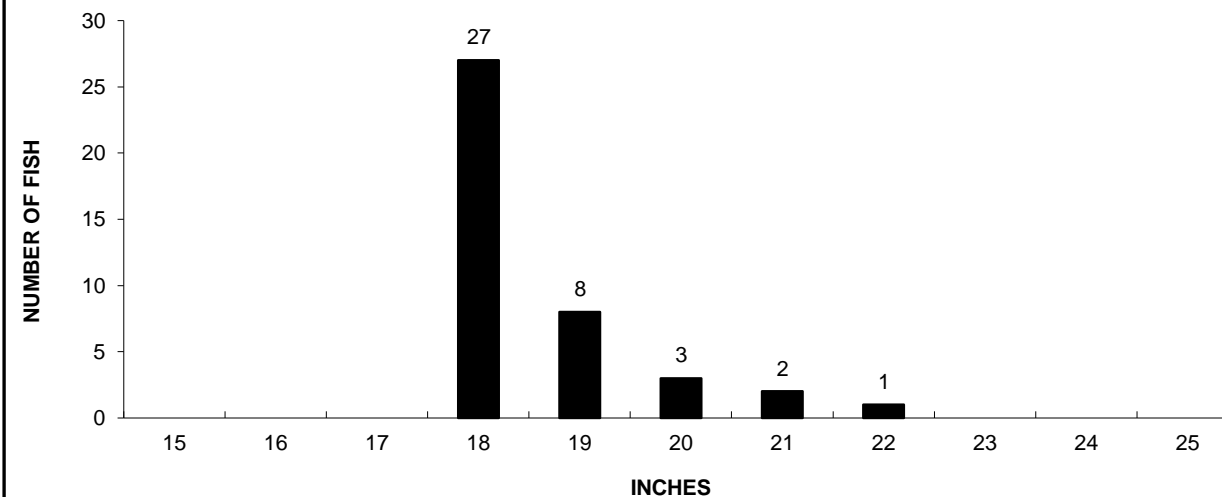
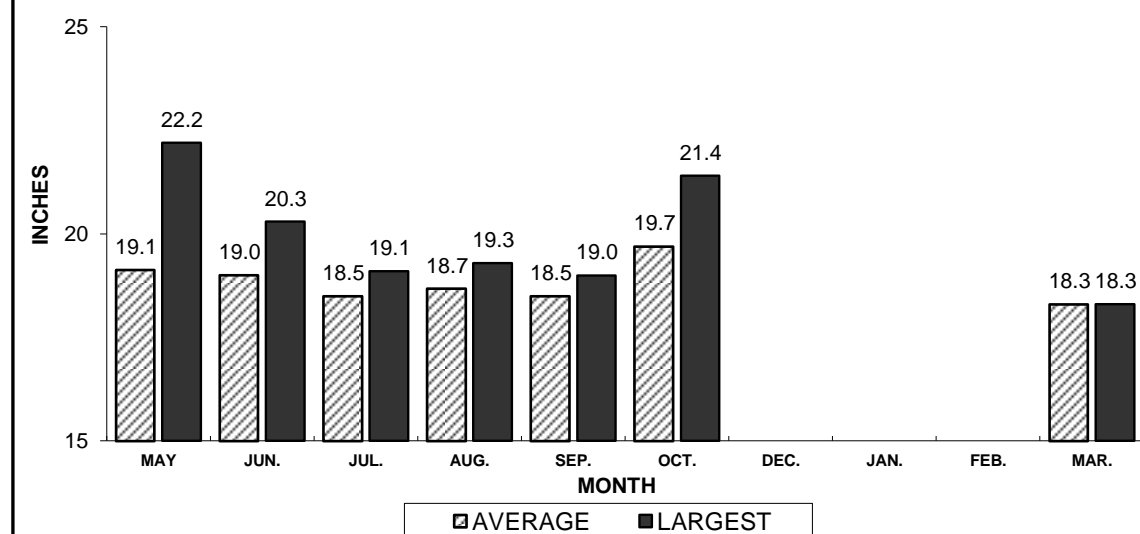


FIGURE 5. AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED



NORTHERN PIKE

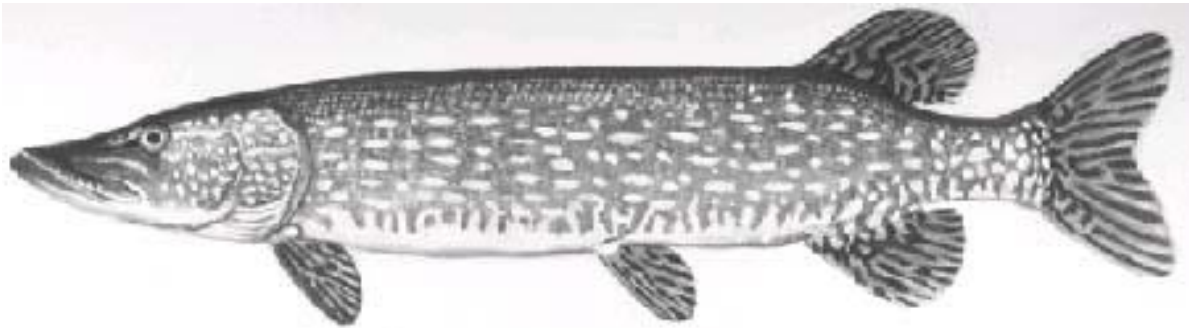


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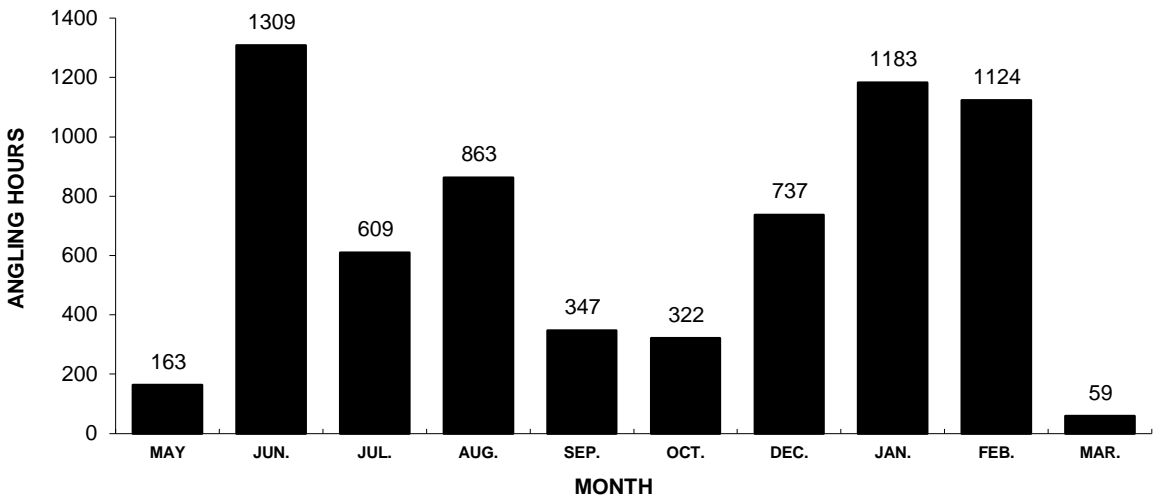


FIGURE 2. ESTIMATED DIRECTED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST RATES

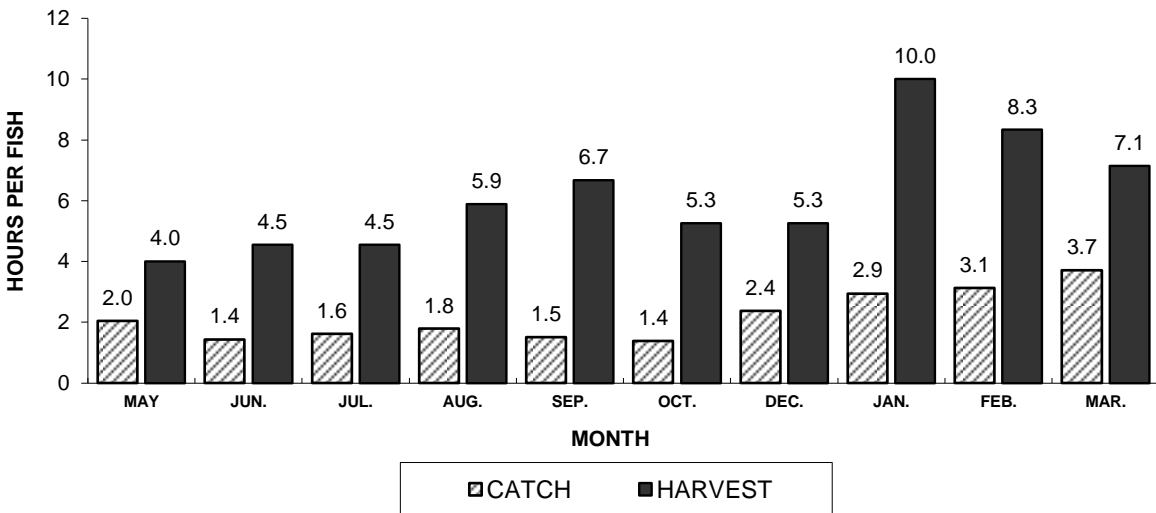


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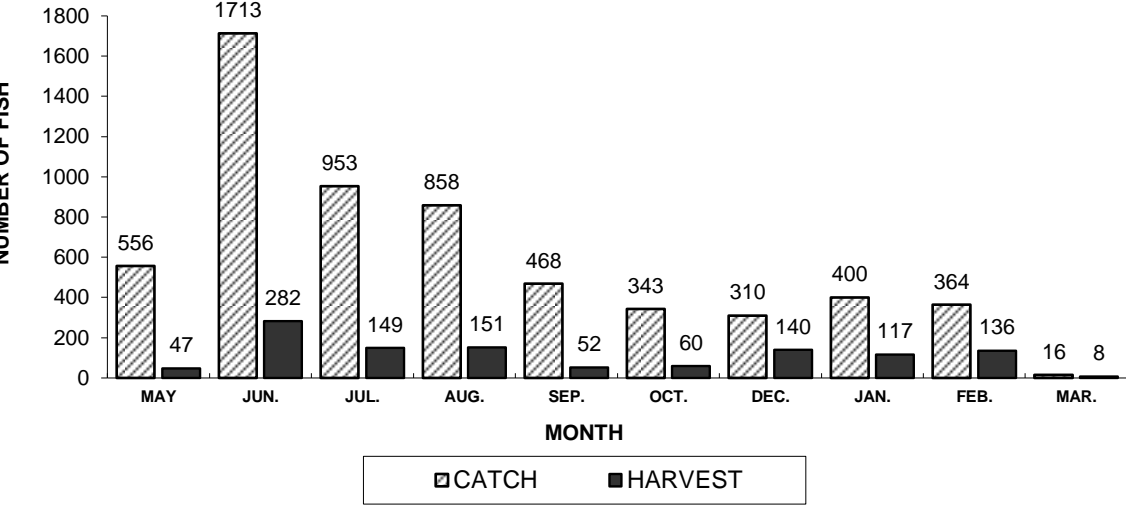


FIGURE 4. LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH MEASURED BY CLERK

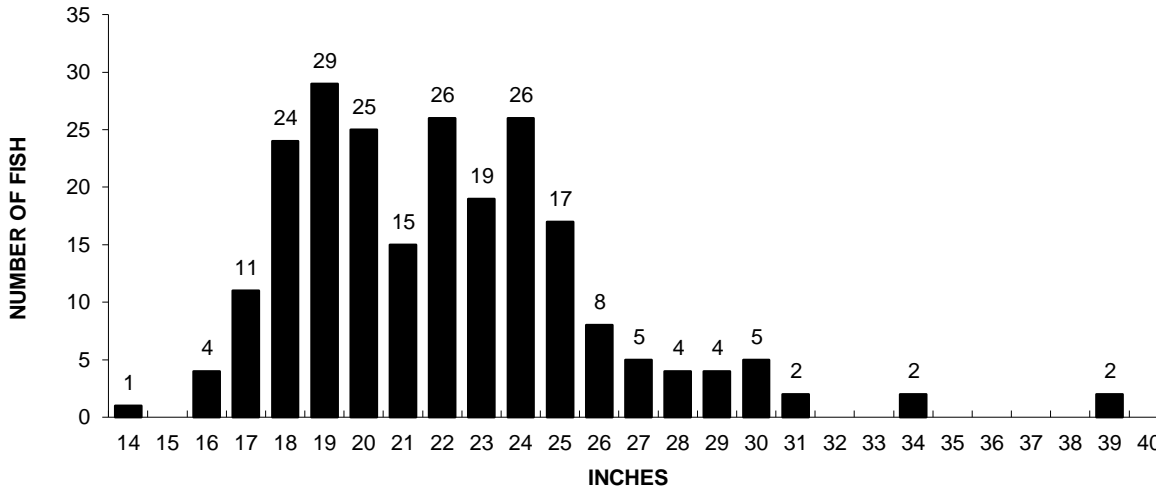
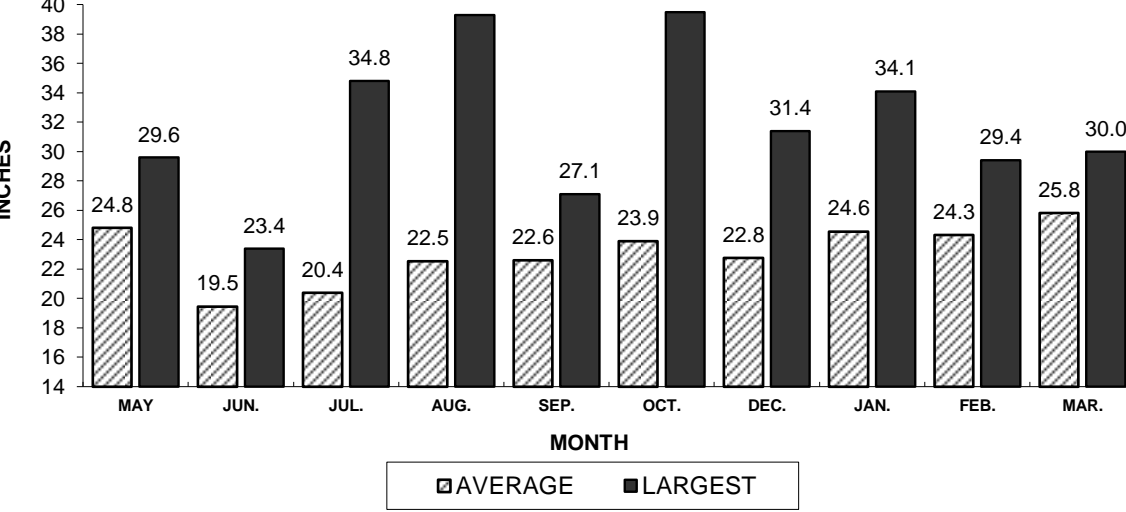


FIGURE 5. AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED



SMALLMOUTH BASS

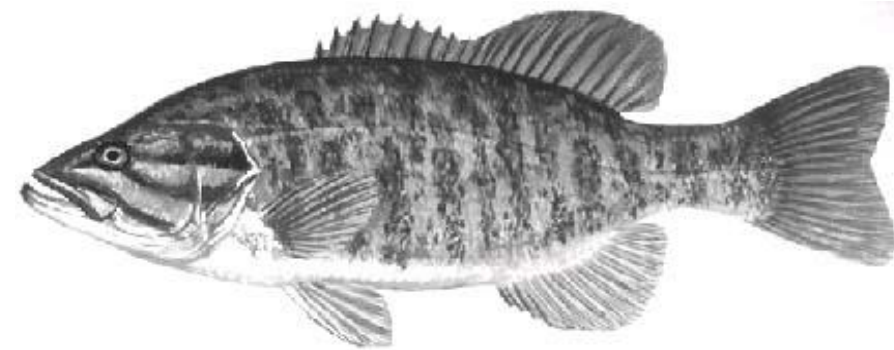


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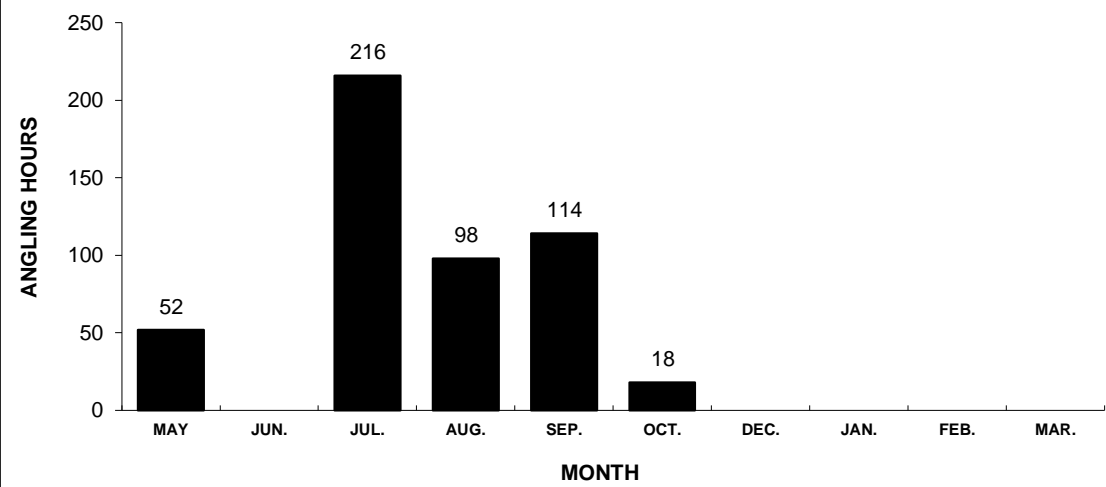


FIGURE 2. ESTIMATED DIRECTED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST RATES

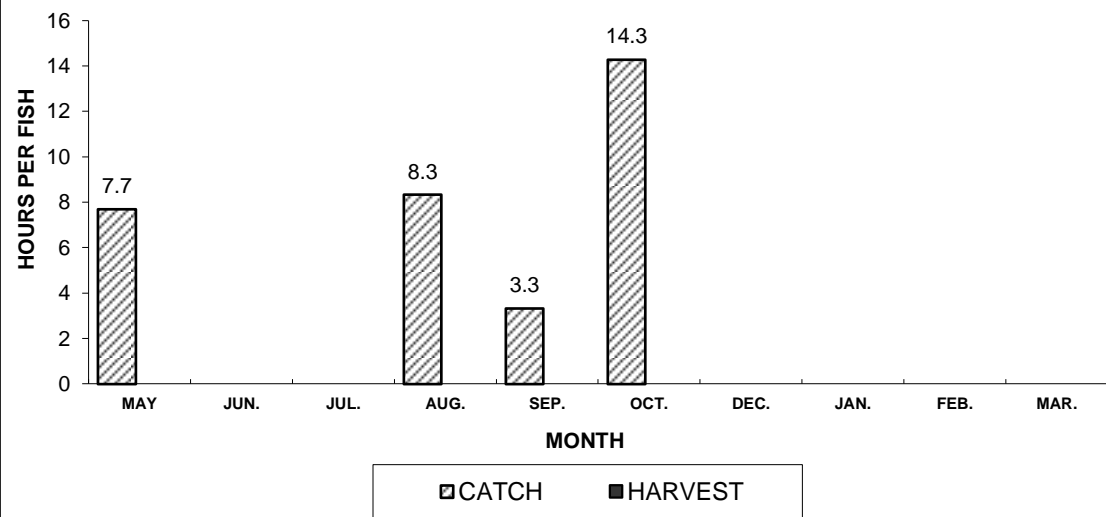


FIGURE 3. ESTIMATED TOTAL ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST

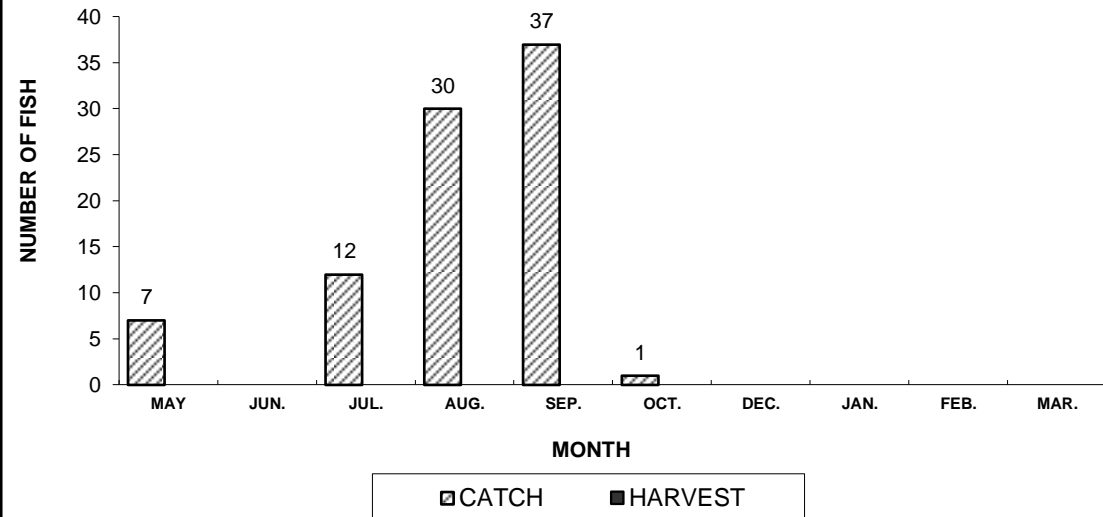


FIGURE 4. LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH MEASURED BY CLERK

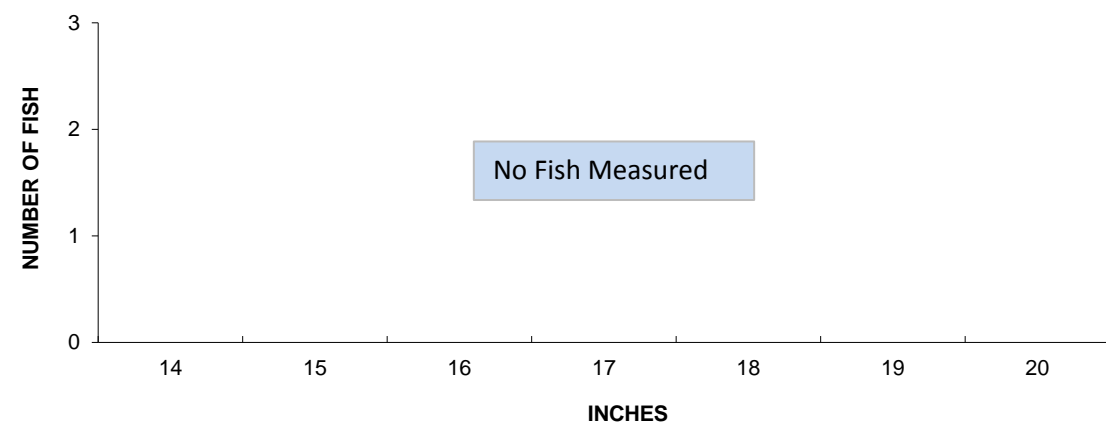
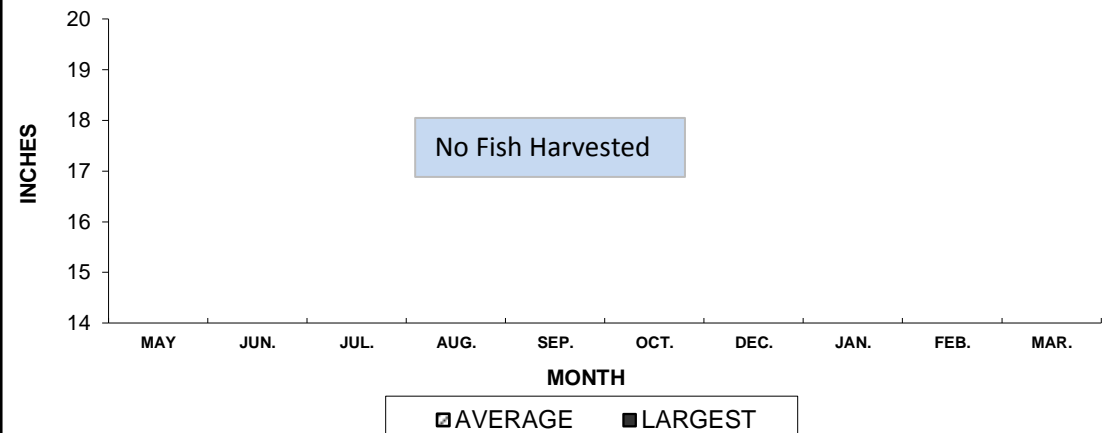
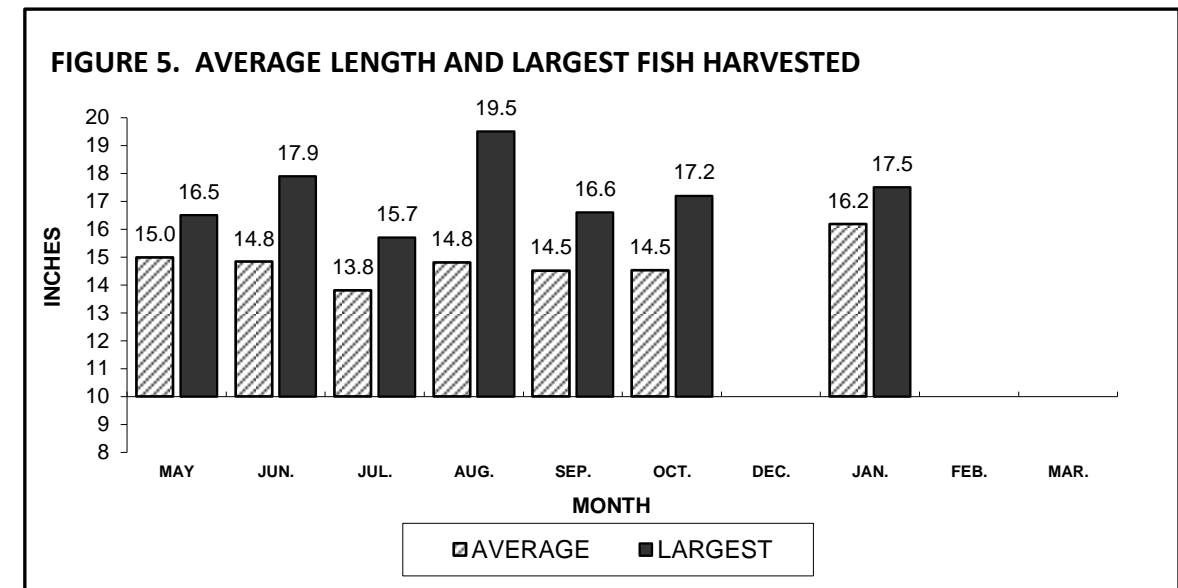
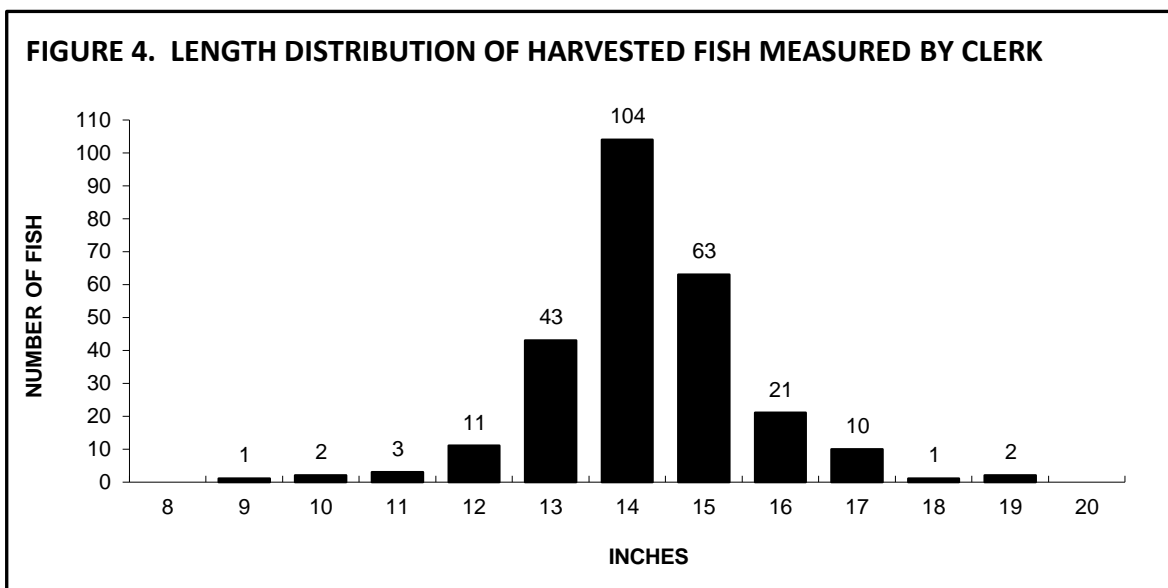
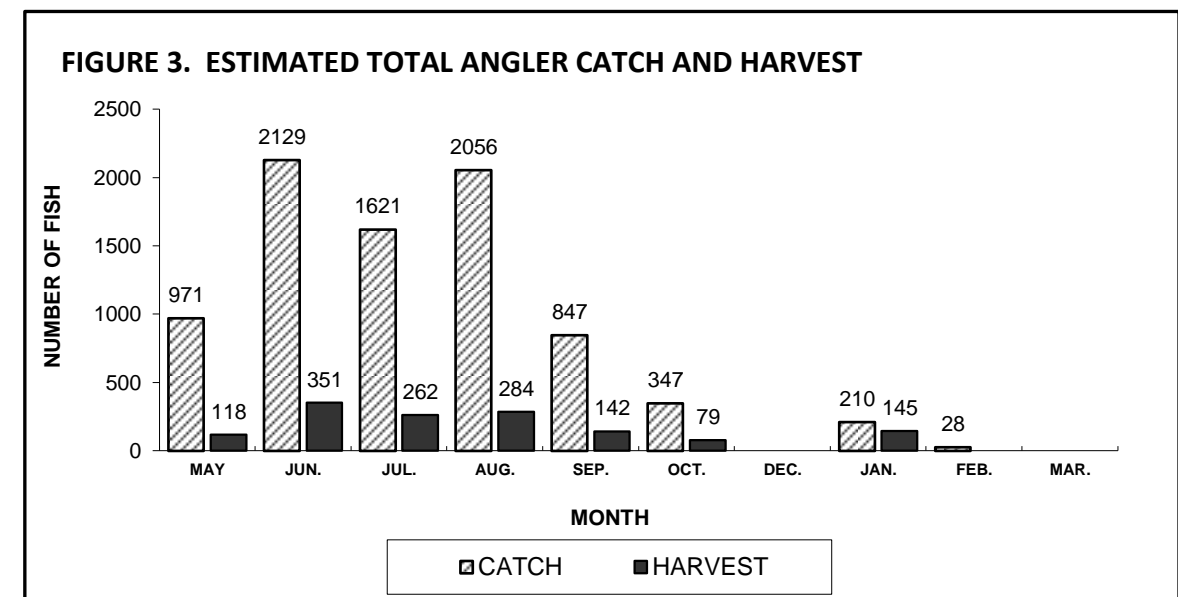
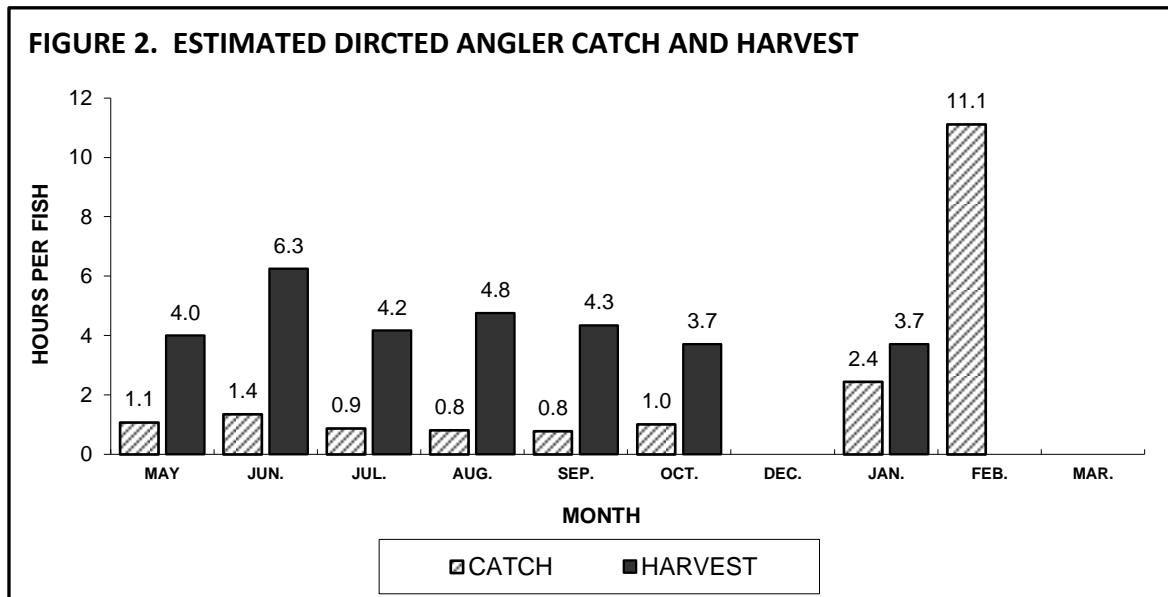
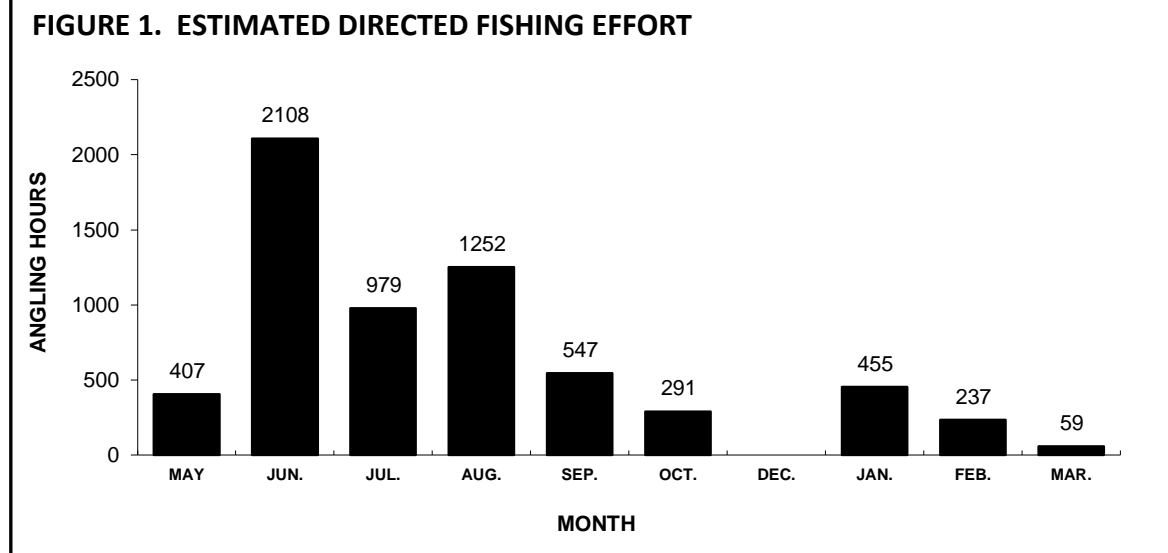
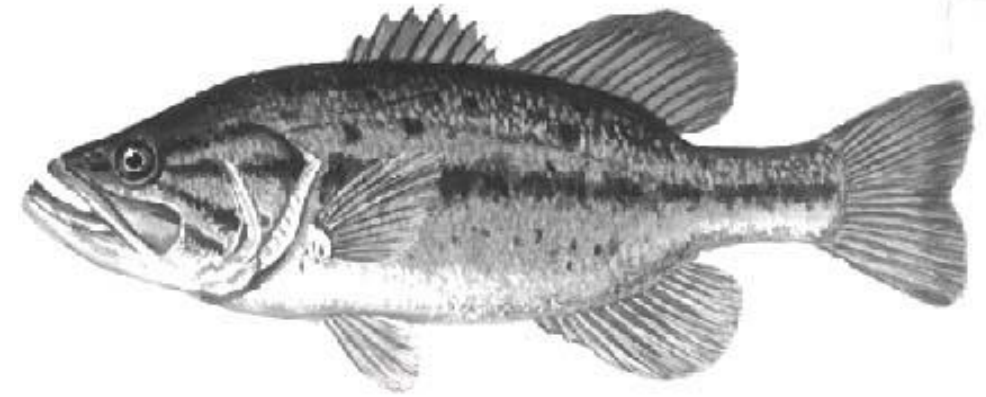


FIGURE 5. AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED



LARGEMOUTH BASS



BLUEGILL

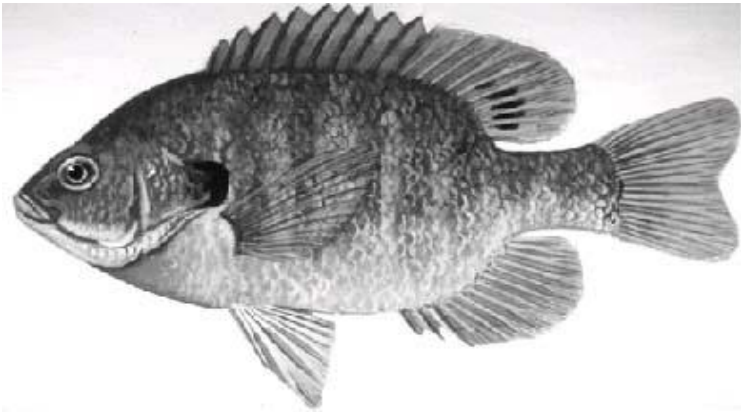


FIGURE 1. ESTIMATED DIRECTED FISHING EFFORT

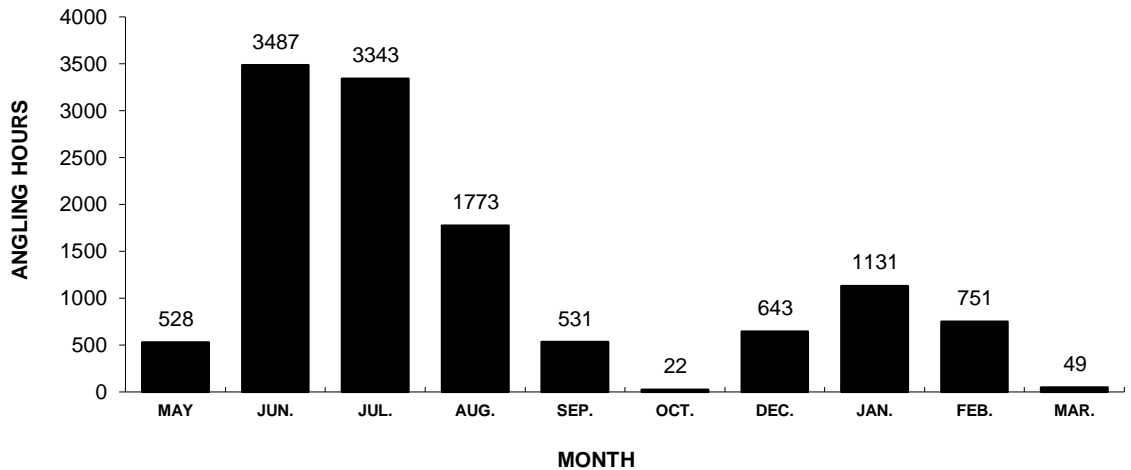


FIGURE 2. ESTIMATED DIRECTED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST RATES

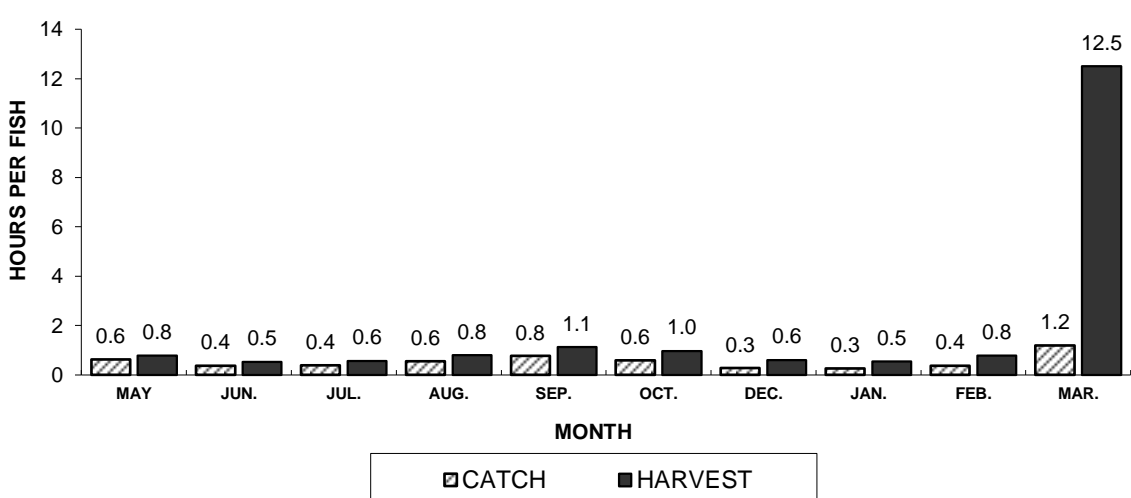


FIGURE 3. ESTIMATED TOTAL ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST

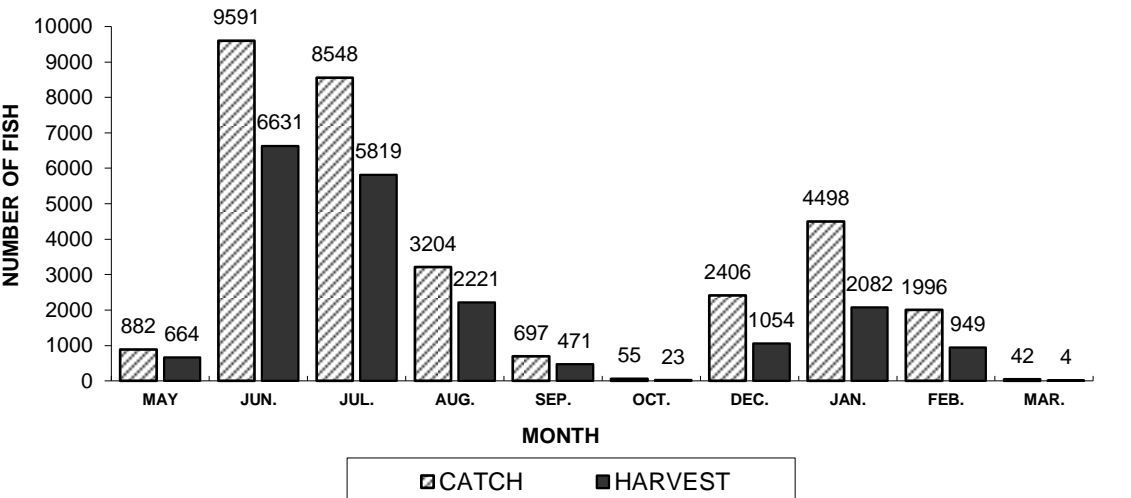


FIGURE 4. LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH MEASURED BY CLERK

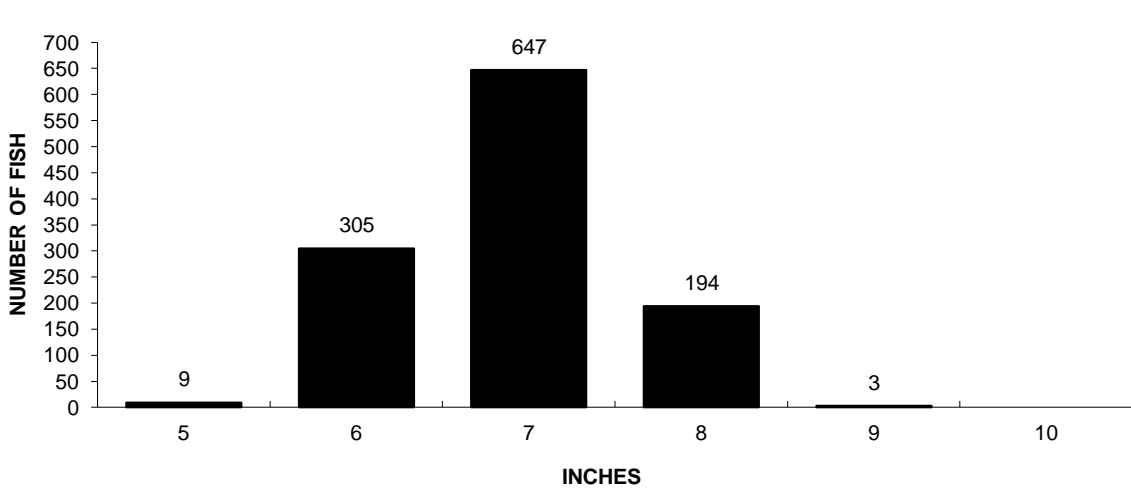
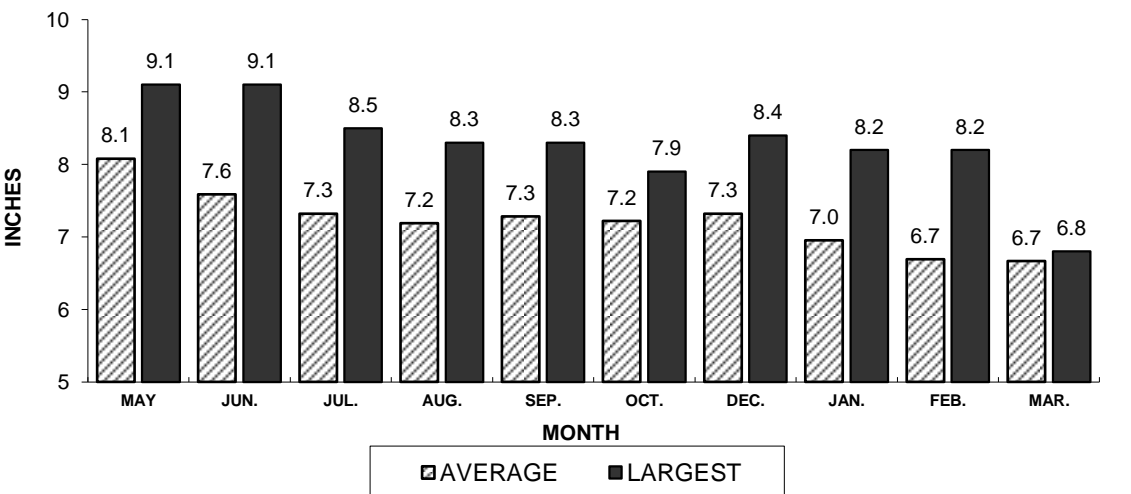


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PUMPKINSEED

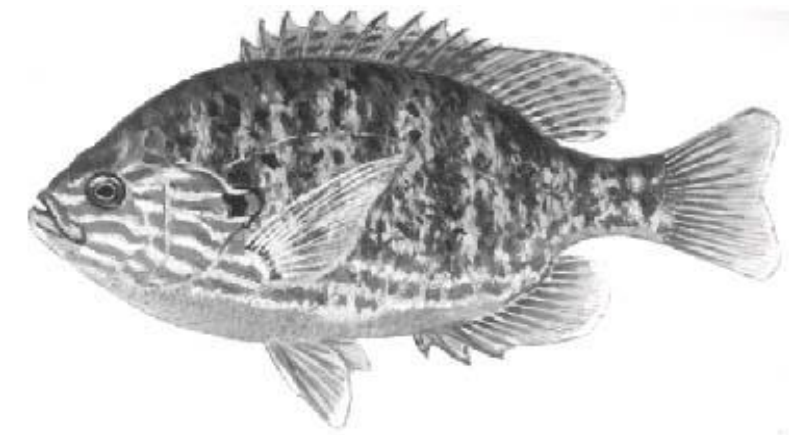


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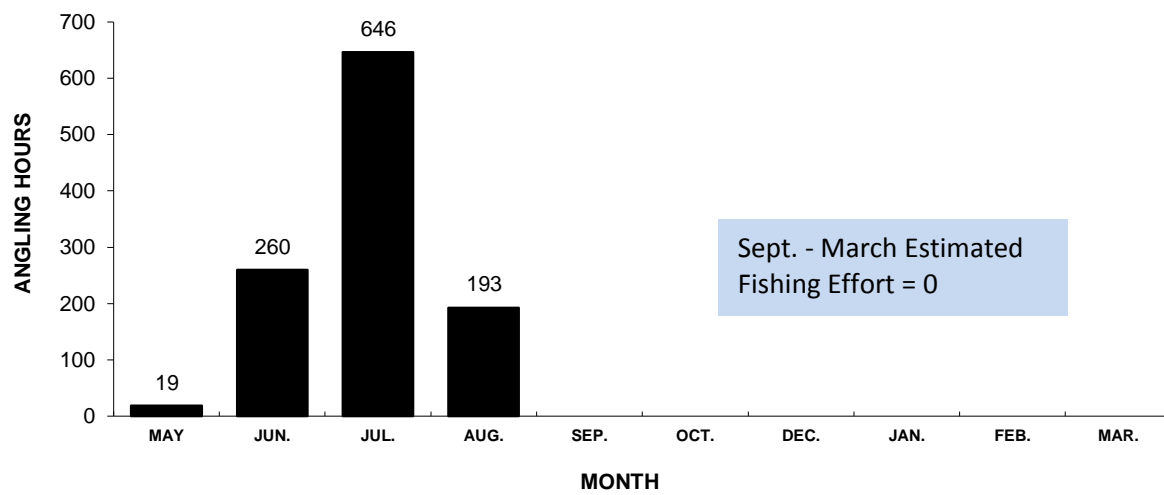


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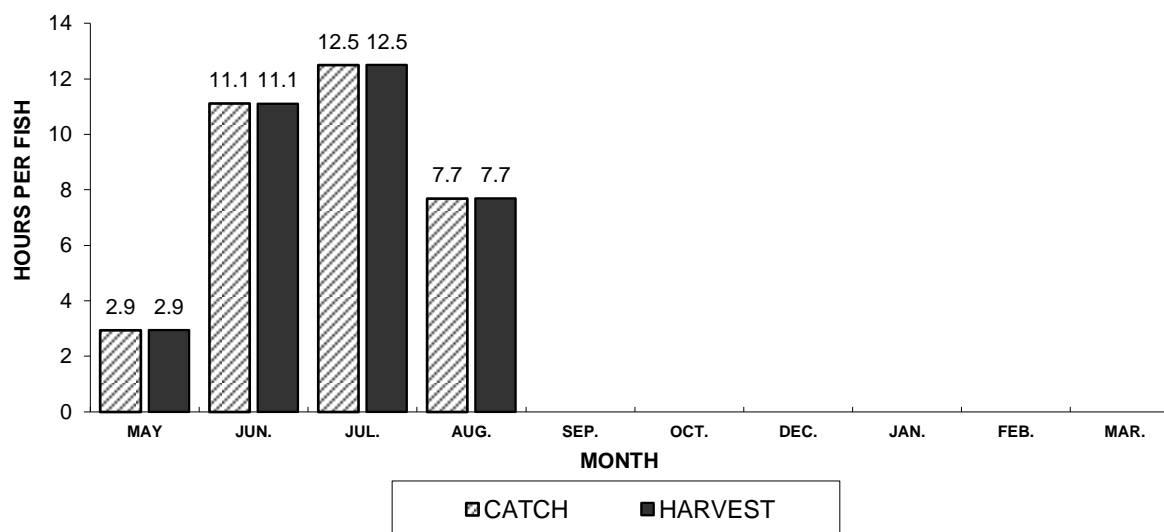


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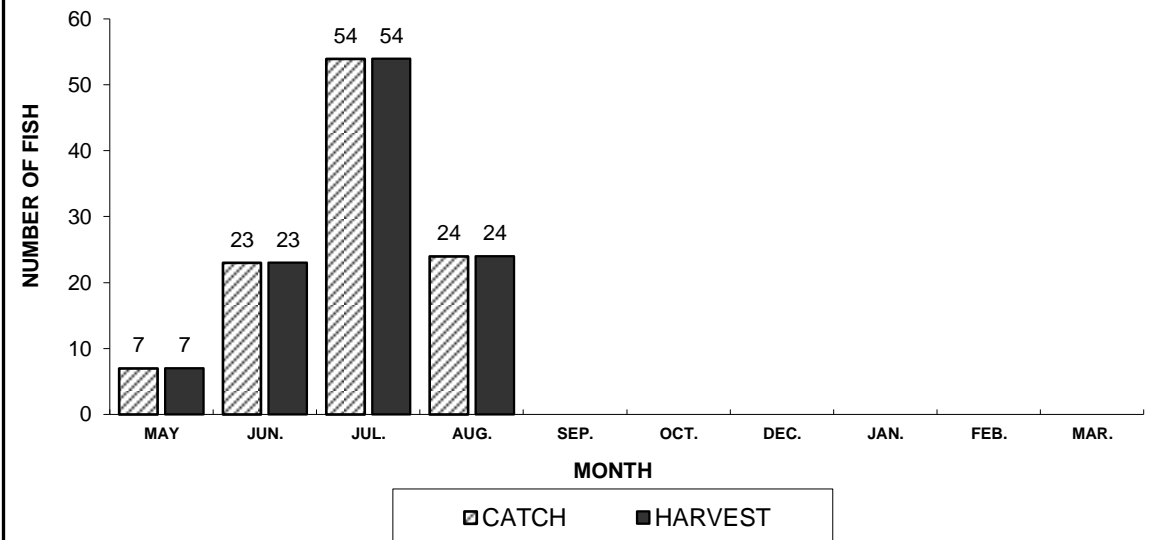


FIGURE 4. LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH MEASURED BY CLERK

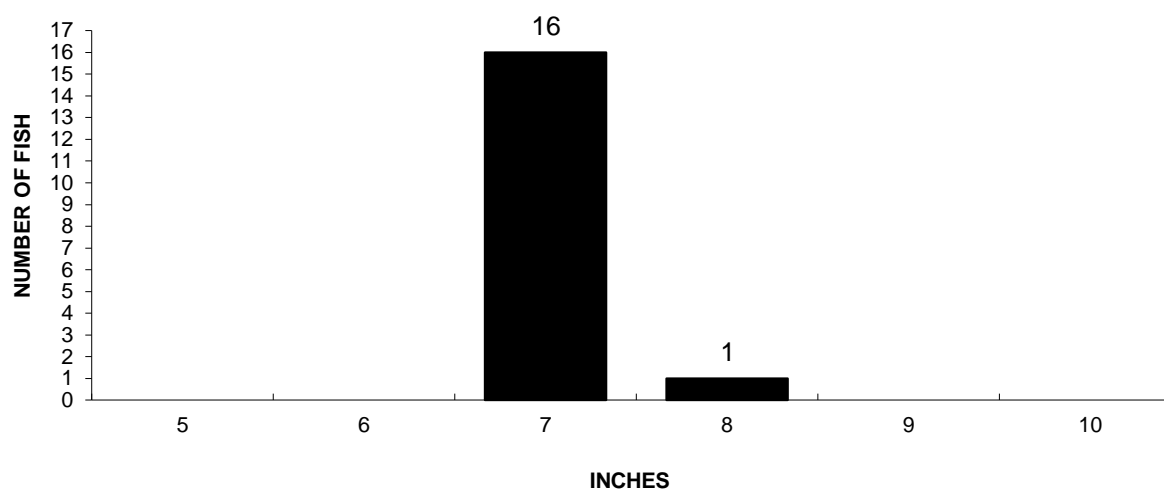
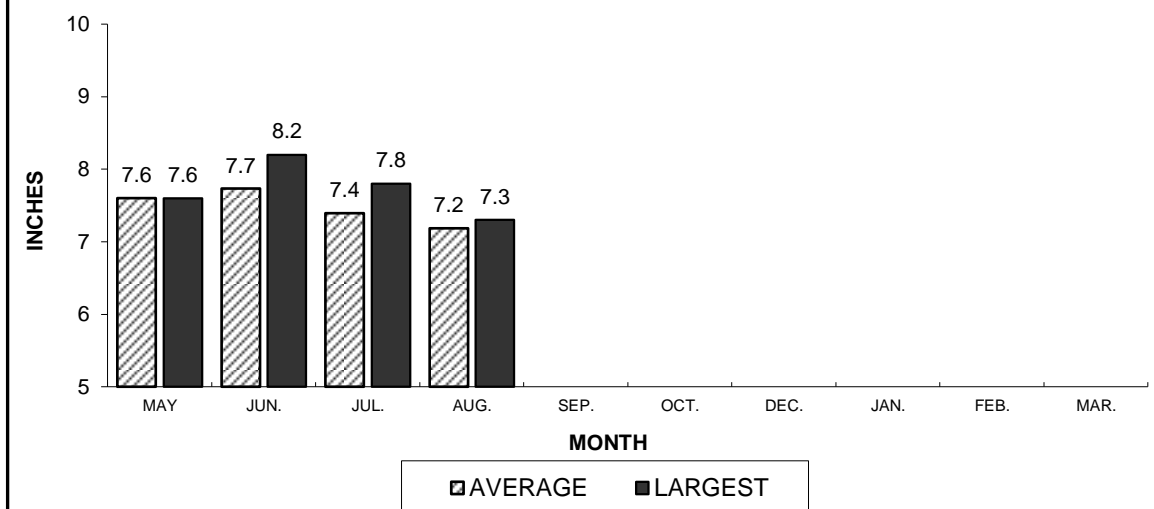


FIGURE 5. AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED



BLACK CRAPPIE

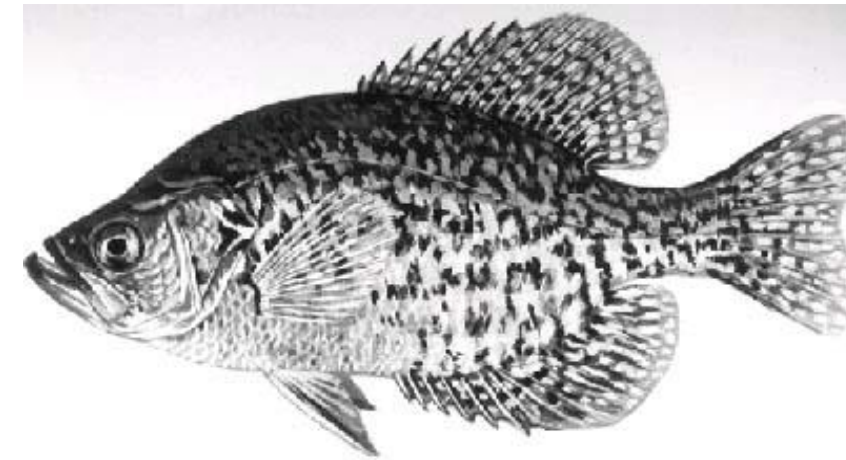


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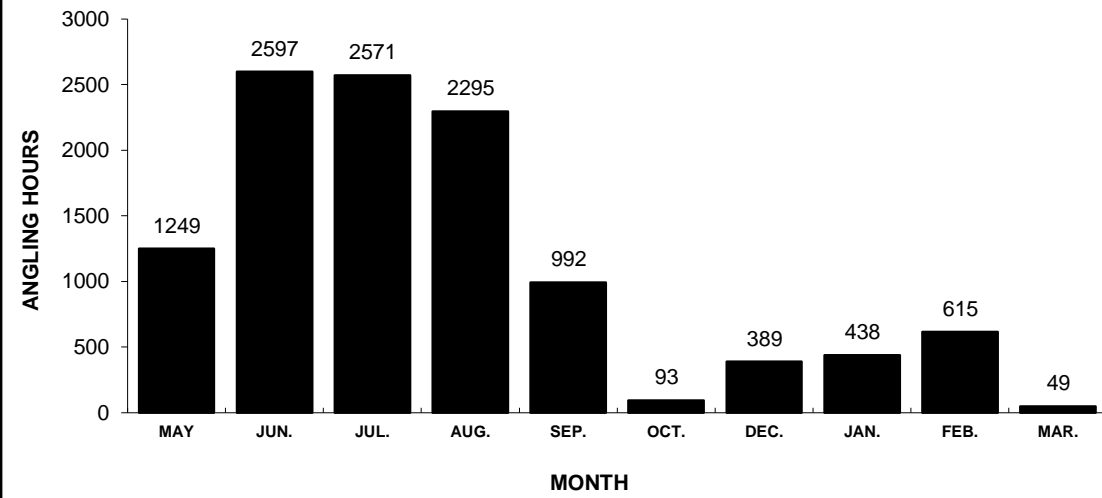


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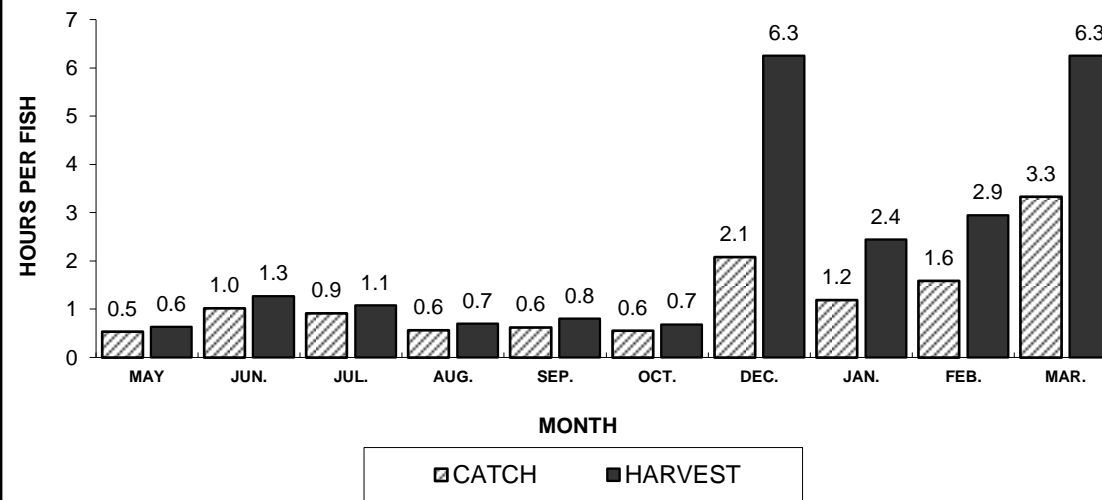


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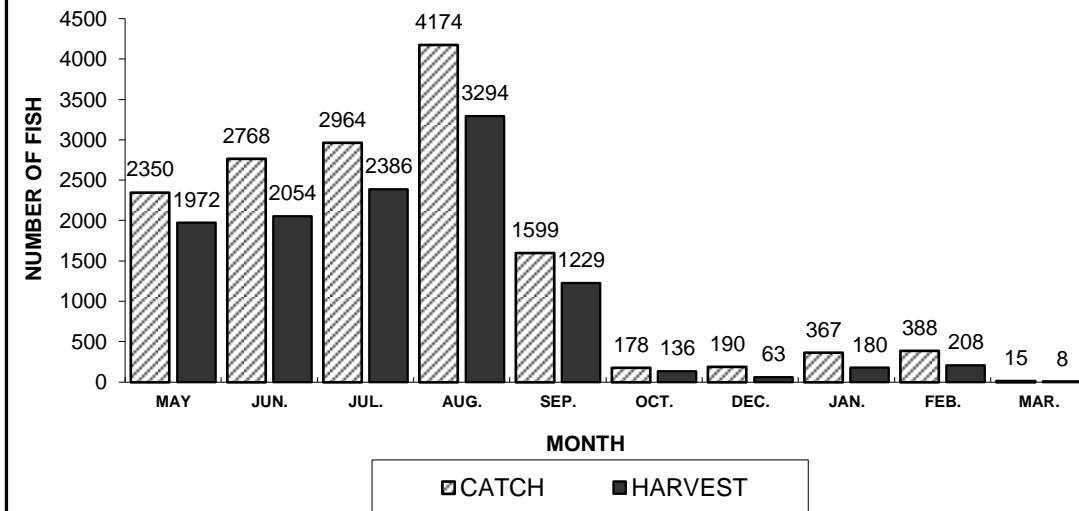


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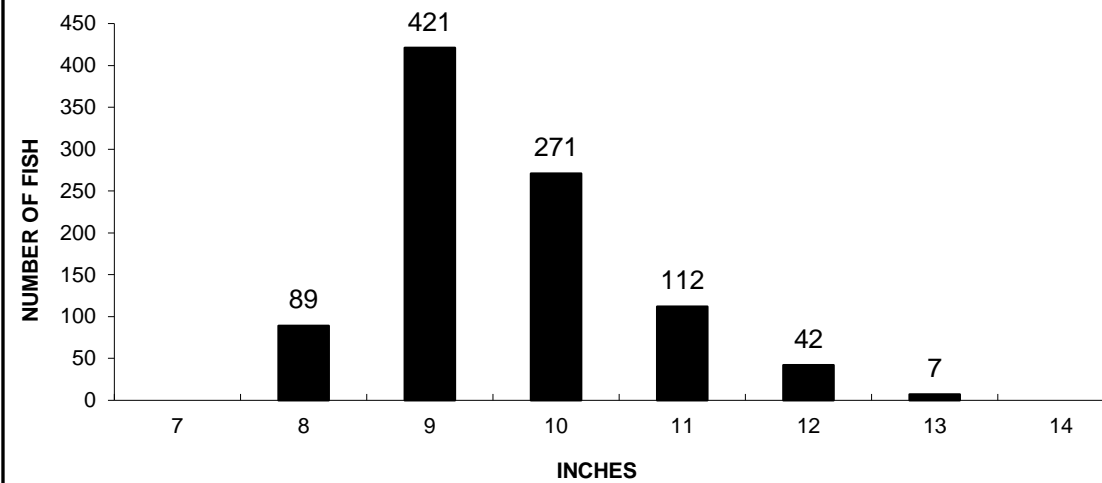
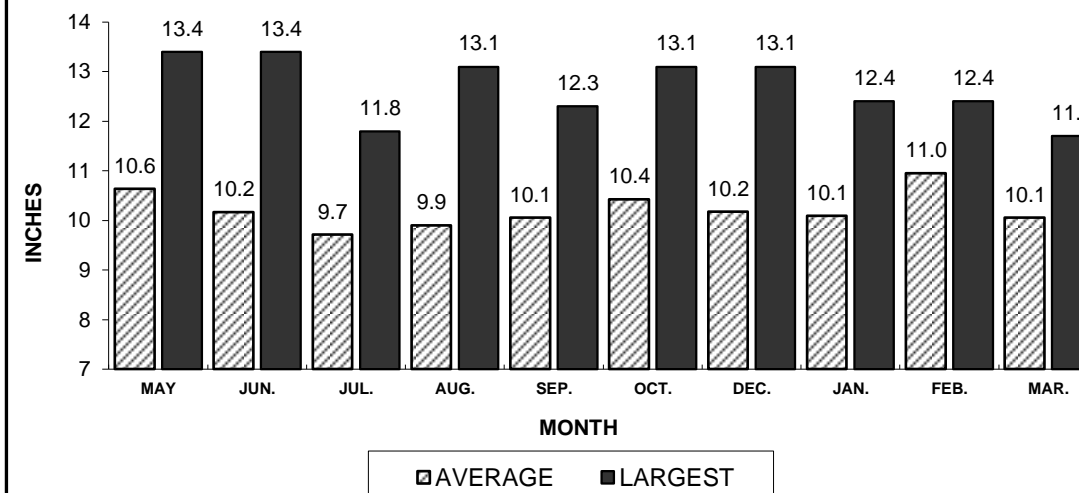
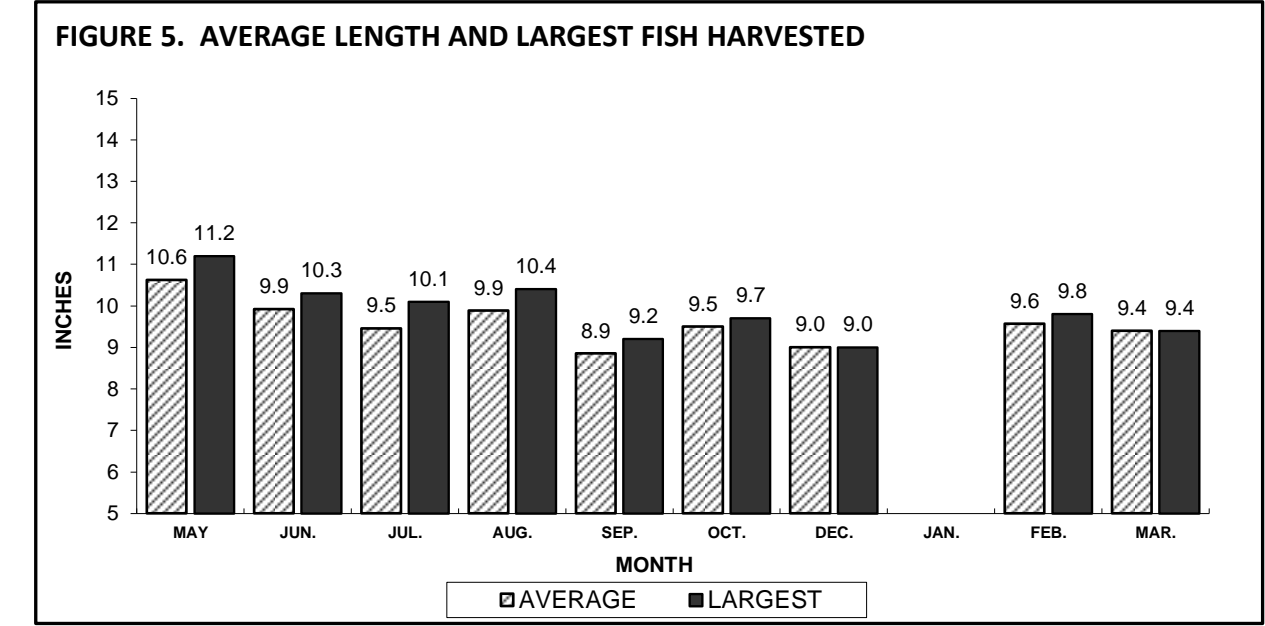
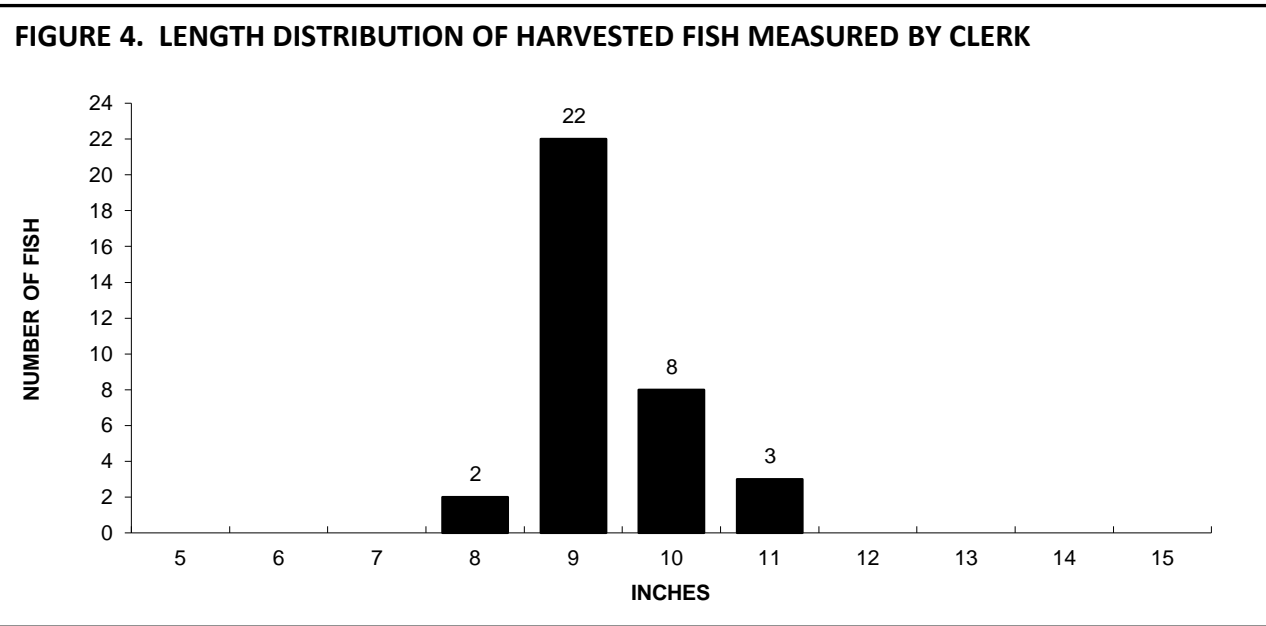
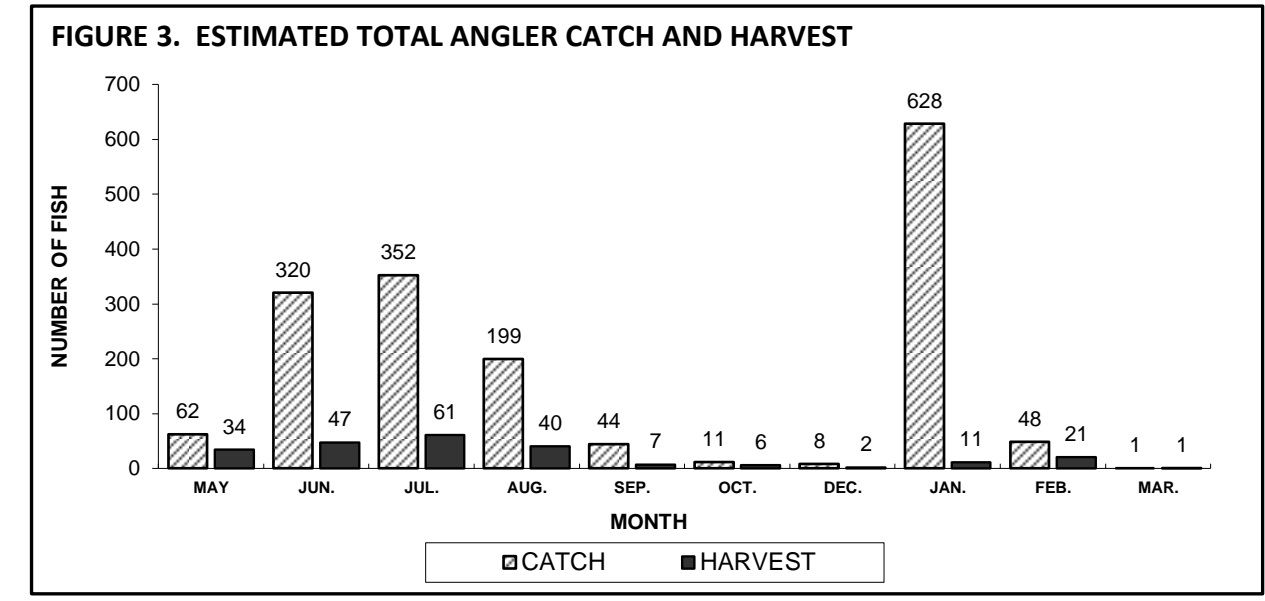
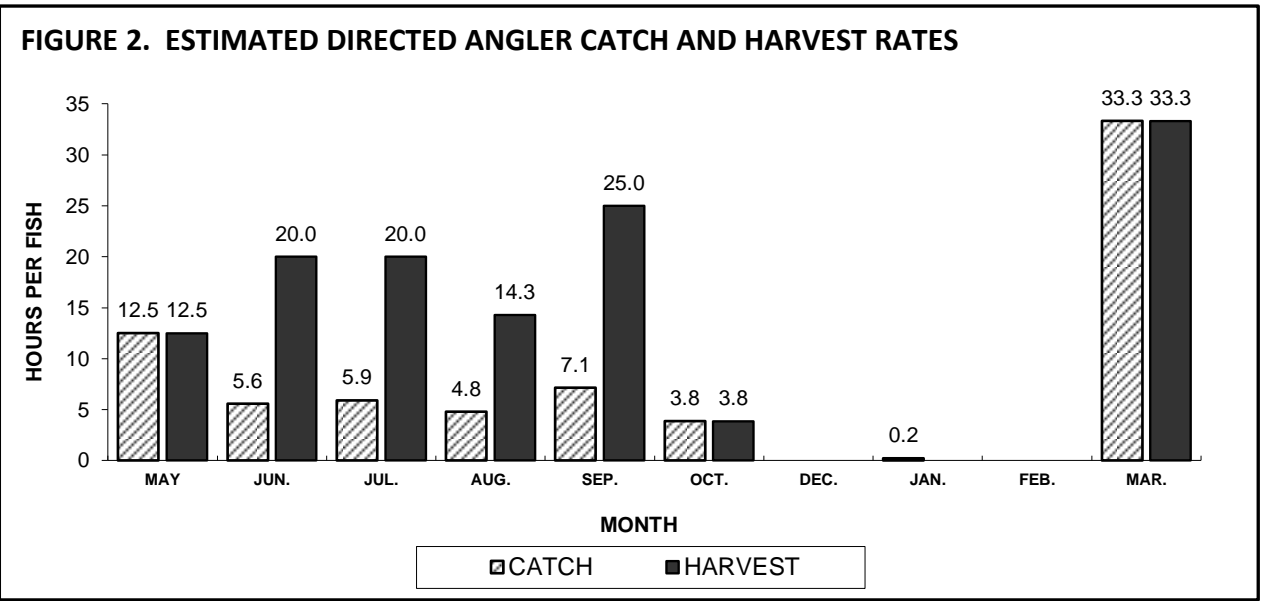
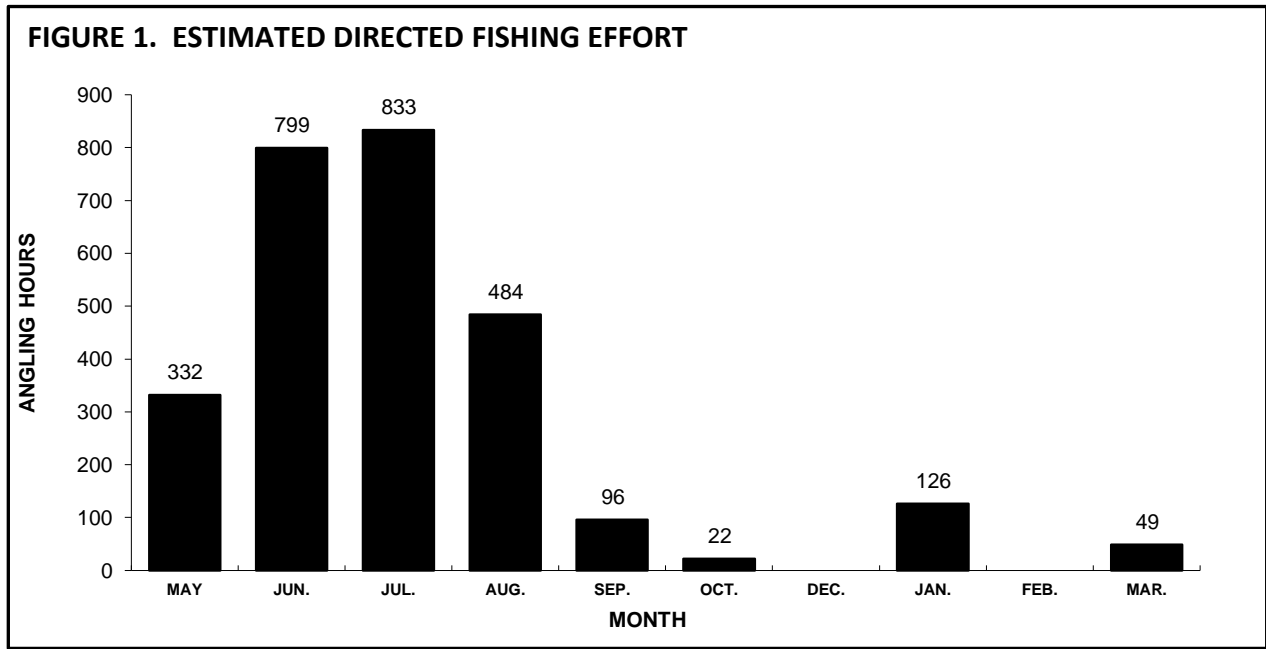
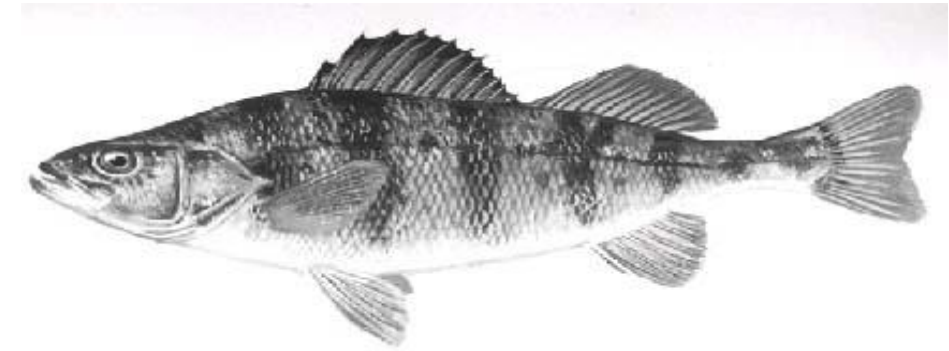


FIGURE 5. AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED



YELLOW PERCH



ROCK BASS

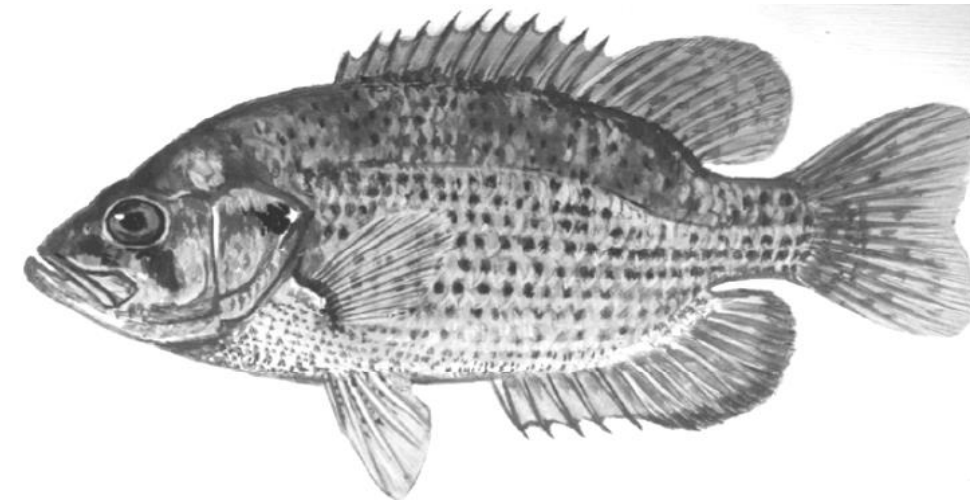


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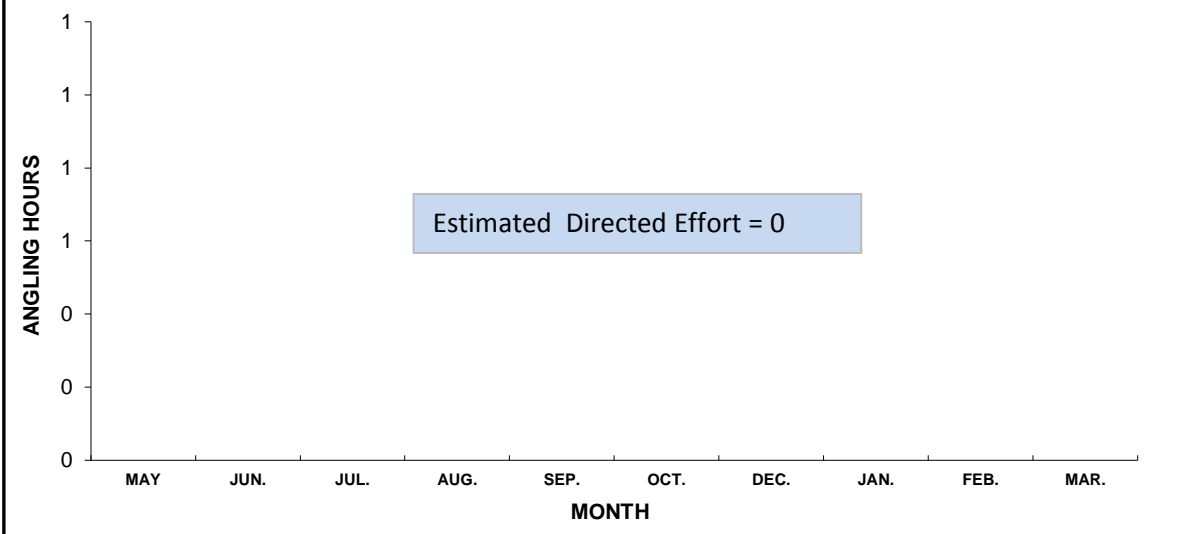


FIGURE 2. ESTIMATED DIRECTED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST RATES



FIGURE 3. ESTIMATED TOTAL ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST

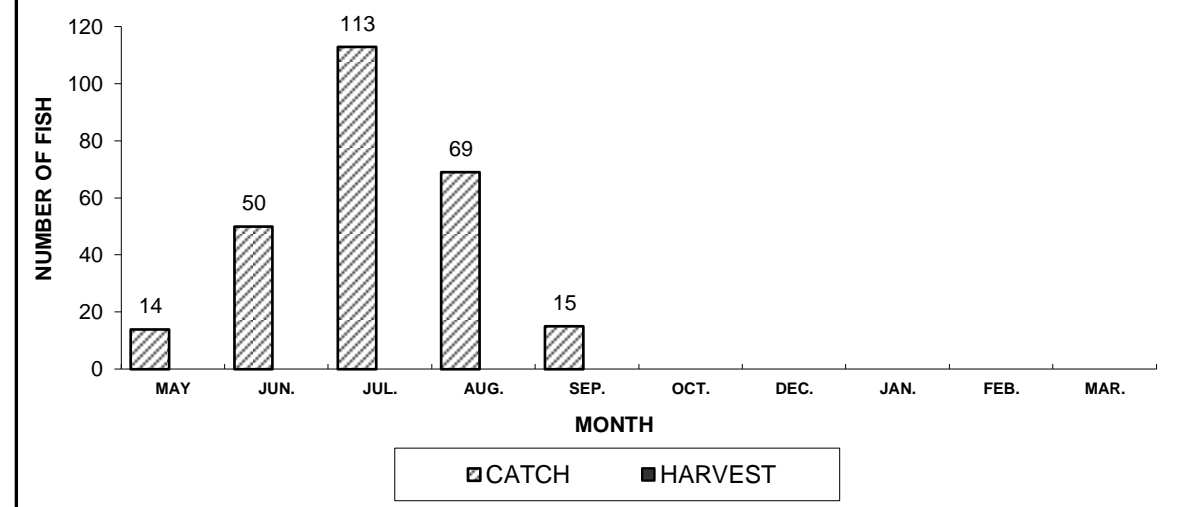


FIGURE 4. LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH MEASURED BY CLERK

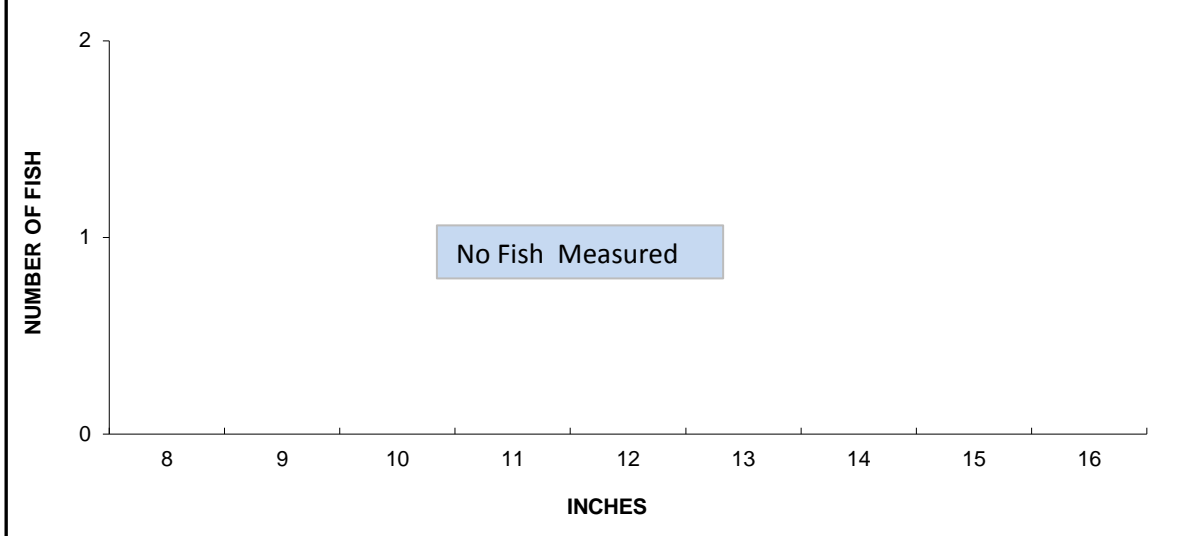
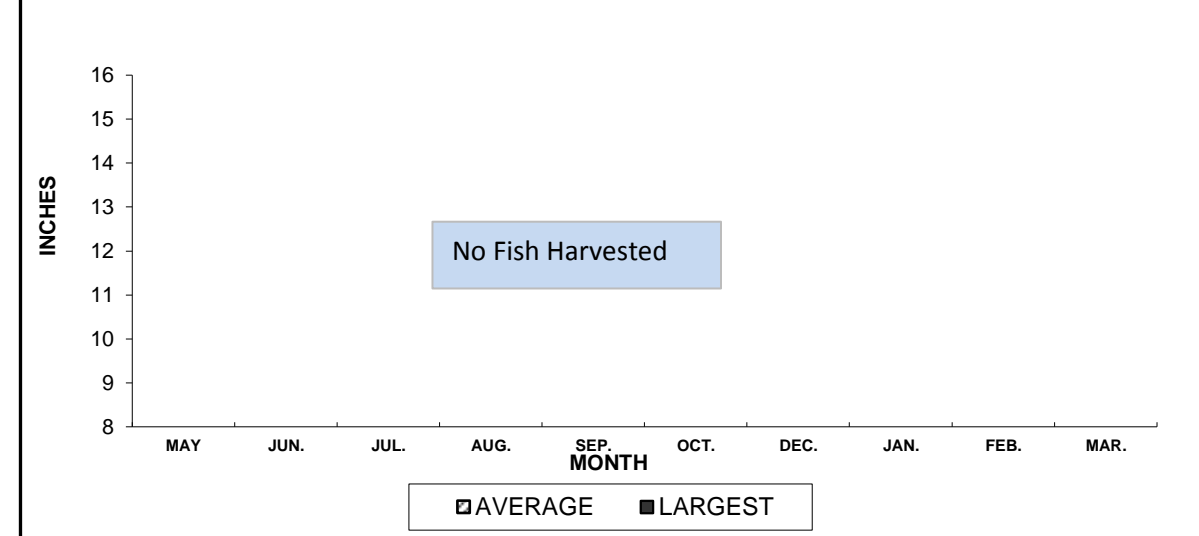


FIGURE 5. AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED



BLACK BULLHEAD

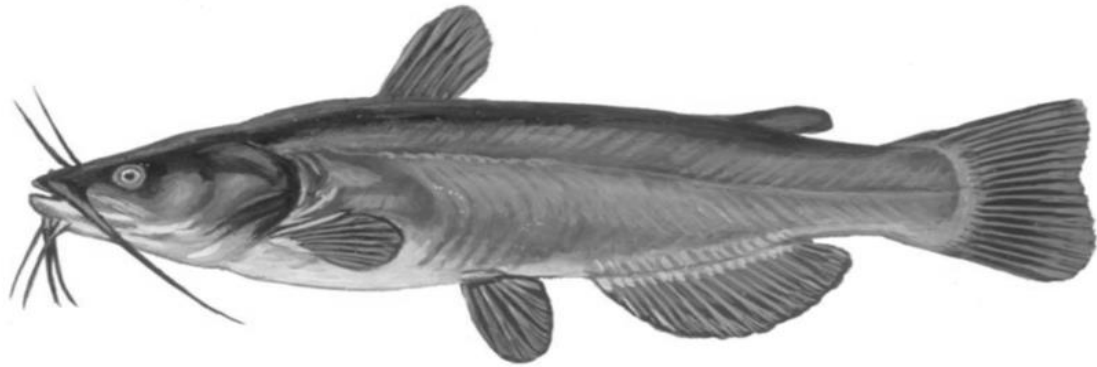


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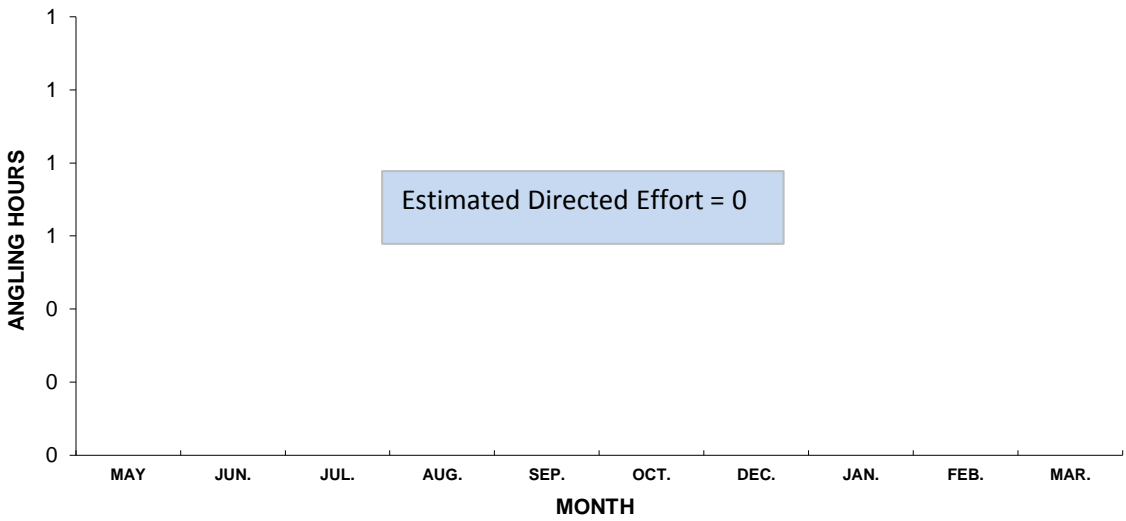


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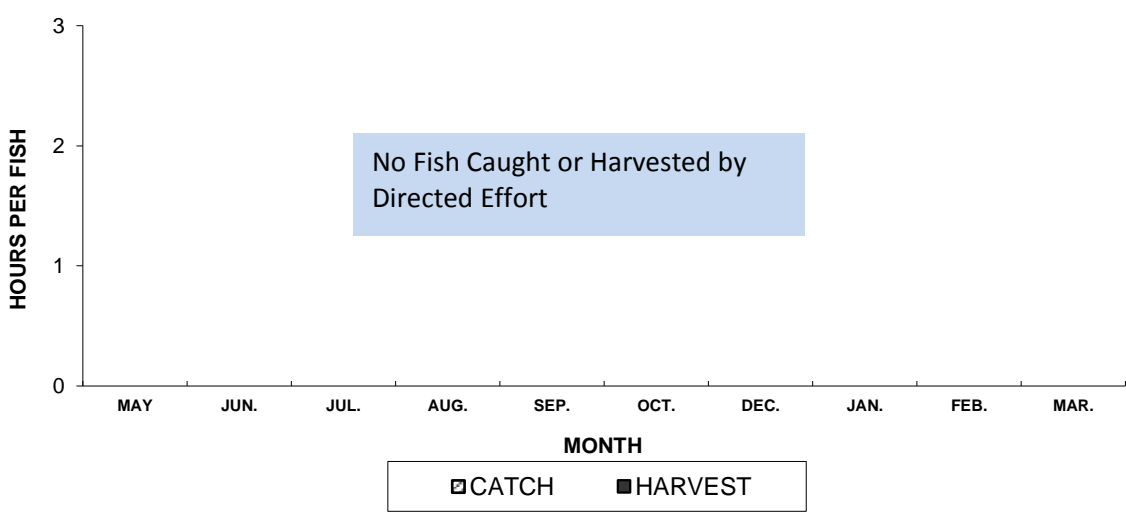


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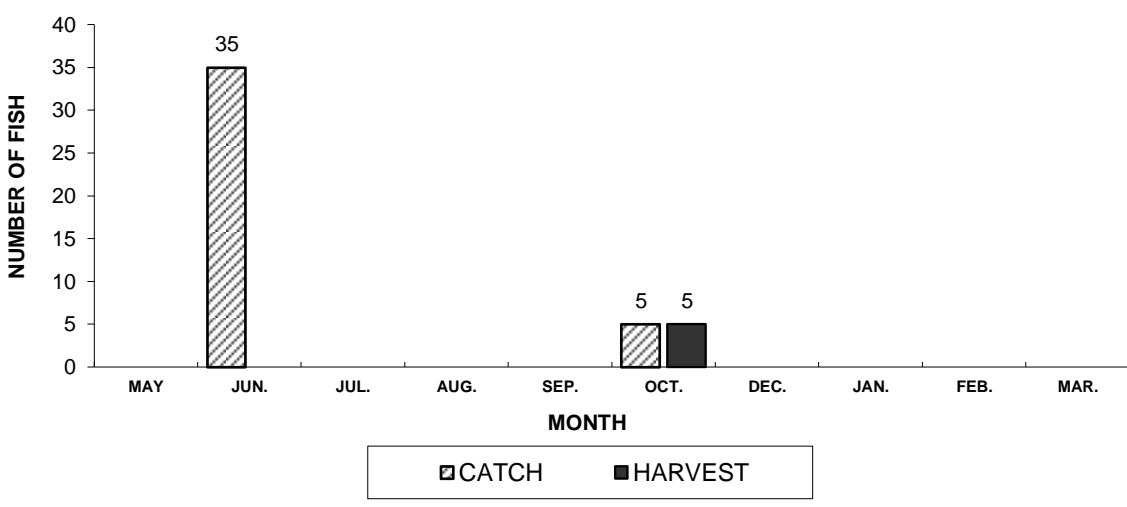


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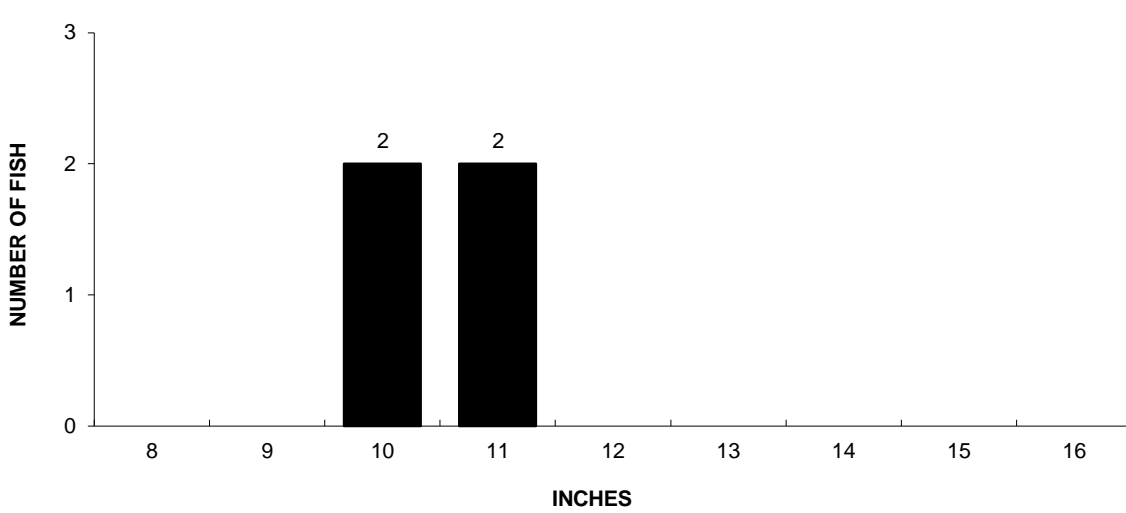
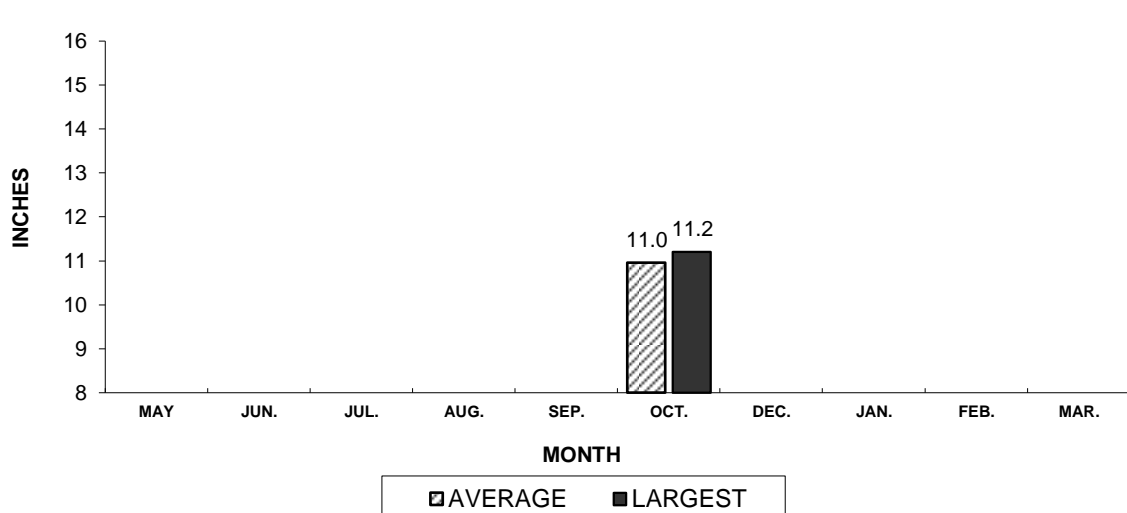


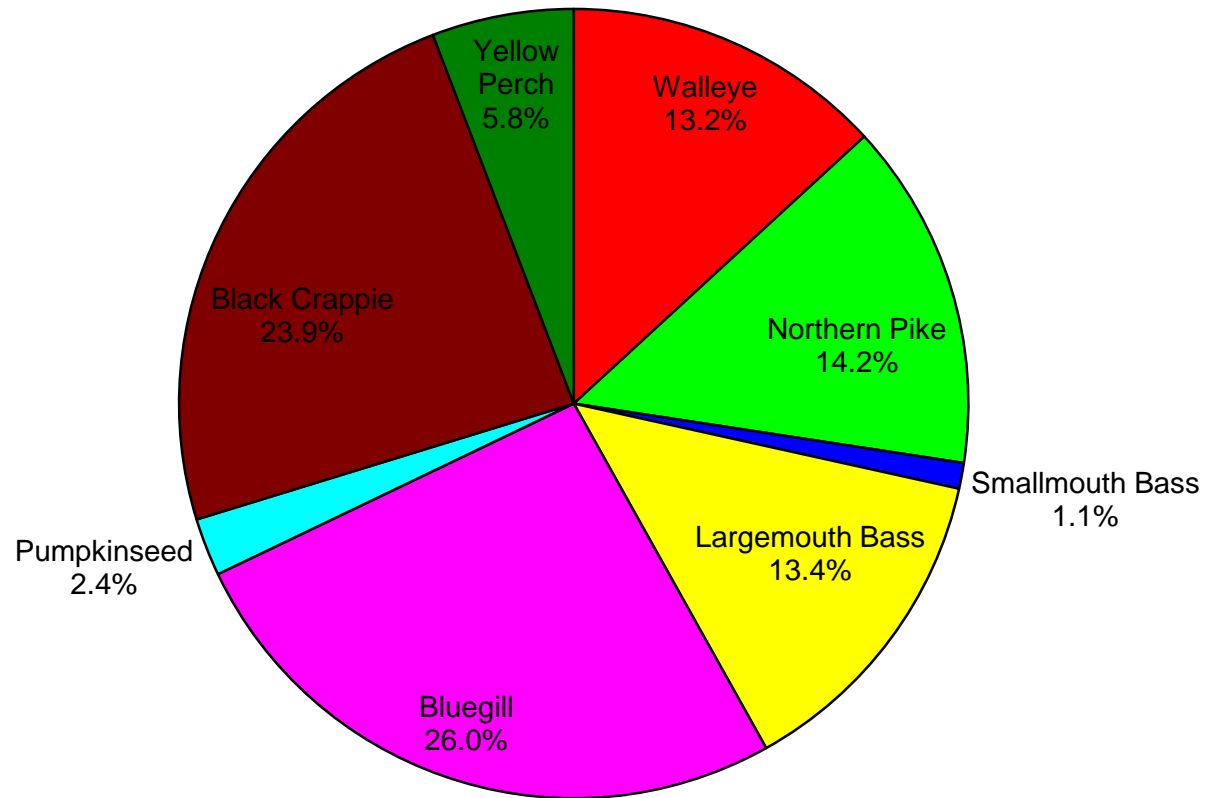
FIGURE 5. AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED



TOTAL ANNUAL ANGLER DIRECTED EFFORT BY SPECIES

Bear Lake 20014-15

This graph illustrates the percentage of time that anglers spent fishing for each species during the entire creel survey. The percentages are based on the species of fish anglers told the clerk they were fishing for, not what they actually caught. If a particular species is not present in the graph it is because no one reported they were fishing for that species.



SEASONAL ANGLER EFFORT SUMMARY

20014-15

Estimated angler fishing effort on Bear Lake for each month surveyed and by season. March includes data collected to the end of gamefish season.

Month	Number of Angler Party Interviews	Total Angler Hours	Total Angler Hours/Acre	Barron County Average Hours/Acre	Ceded Territory Average Hours/Acre
May	70	2755	2.0	4.8	5.1
June	103	5482	4.0	6.8	6.4
July	102	5655	4.2	6.5	6.9
August	100	4253	3.1	4.3	5.4
September	63	1559	1.1	2.5	3.3
October	33	537	0.4	0.6	1.5
December	54	1149	0.8	1.9	1.1
January	54	2095	1.5	2.7	1.6
February	24	1446	1.1	2.8	1.5
March	3	64	0.0	0.3	0.2
*Summer Total	471	20240	14.9	25.6	28.6
*Winter Total	135	4754	3.5	7.7	4.4
Grand Total	606	24994	18.4	33.4	33.0

*"Summer" is May-October; "Winter" is December-March

Number of Angler Party Interviews is the number of groups of anglers interviewed by the creel clerk. A party is considered the members of a group who fish together in the same boat, ice shanty, or from shore. The clerk fills out one interview form for each group of anglers. The number of individual anglers actually contacted by the clerk is usually much greater than the number of groups listed in this table since most groups consist of more than one angler.

Total Angler Hours is the estimated total number of hours that anglers spent fishing on this lake during each month surveyed.

Total Angler Hours/Acre is the total angler hours divided by the area of the lake in acres. This is useful if you wish to compare effort on this lake to others.

County Average Hours/Acre is the average angler effort in hours per acre for county lakes that have been surveyed since 1990. This value can be useful in comparisons as well.

Ceded Territory Average Hours/Acre is the average angler effort in hours per acre for inland lakes in the ceded territory surveyed between 1990 and 2013. This value can be used to compare this lake to other lakes in the ceded territory.

CREEL SURVEY HISTORY/SYNOPSIS

BEAR LAKE, BARRON COUNTY

CREEL YEAR: 20014-15

SPECIES	DIRECTED EFFORT (Hours)	PERCENT OF TOTAL	TOTAL CATCH	SPECIFIC CATCH RATE (Hrs/Fish)	TOTAL HARVEST	SPECIFIC HARVEST RATE (Hrs/Fish)	MEAN LENGTH OF HARVESTED FISH
Walleye	6210	13.2%	943	7.1	220	33.3	19.0
Northern Pike	6716	14.2%	5981	2.0	1142	5.9	22.5
Smallmouth Bass	498	1.1%	87	9.1	0	NA	0.0
Largemouth Bass	6335	13.4%	8209	1.1	1381	5.0	14.7
Bluegill	12258	26.0%	31919	0.4	19918	0.6	7.3
Pumpkinseed	1118	2.4%	108	10.0	108	10.0	7.4
Black Crappie	11288	23.9%	14993	0.8	11530	1.0	10.1
Yellow Perch	2741	5.8%	1673	2.8	230	16.7	9.8
Rock Bass	0	0.0%	261	NA	0	NA	0.0
Black Bullhead	0	0.0%	40	NA	5	NA	11.0

CREEL YEAR;2008-09

SPECIES	DIRECTED EFFORT (Hours)	PERCENT OF TOTAL	TOTAL CATCH	SPECIFIC CATCH RATE (Hrs/Fish)	TOTAL HARVEST	SPECIFIC HARVEST RATE (Hrs/Fish)	MEAN LENGTH OF HARVESTED FISH
Walleye	6379	7.9%	1322	7.1	209	33.3	19.2
Northern Pike	14557	18.0%	10310	2.5	1400	12.5	21.9
Smallmouth Bass	1319	1.6%	355	11.1	12	NA	14.1
Largemouth Bass	10552	13.1%	6550	2.7	650	25.0	15.7
Bluegill	24773	30.7%	85959	0.3	33042	0.8	7.2
Pumpkinseed	4073	5.0%	3625	1.3	1903	2.4	7.2
Black Crappie	18914	23.4%	28579	0.7	10519	1.9	9.7
Yellow Perch	125	0.2%	5161	0.7	683	2.6	9.5
Rock Bass	0	0.0%	1860	NA	242	NA	9.3
Black Bullhead	0	0.0%	31	NA	0	NA	NA