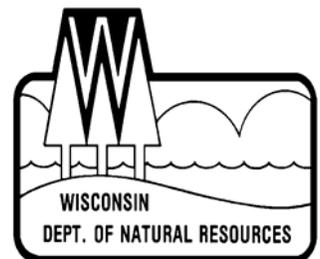


WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CREEL SURVEY REPORT

BEAR LAKE
BARRON COUNTY
2008-2009



Treaty Fisheries Publication
2009



INTRODUCTION

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regularly conducts netting and electrofishing surveys of area lakes and reservoirs to determine what species of fish are present, how many of each there are, and what is the health of these populations. Information is also needed to determine the impact sport anglers are having on fish populations. To gather this information we conduct creel surveys.

A creel survey is a management tool used to measure the fishing activities of the anglers on a body of water. The key word in the last sentence is **SURVEY**. We can not practically interview every angler (census) who fishes on a lake. Creel surveys are designed to have a creel survey clerk on a lake, working random shifts, forty hours each week throughout the fishing season. Each month these shifts cover a sample of all the daylight hours. A computer program is then used to accurately calculate estimates of all angler activity. This data is summarized by month using information collected by the creel survey clerk.

Creel survey clerks travel around their assigned lakes using a boat or snowmobile to count and interview anglers. Typically only anglers that have completed their fishing trip are interviewed. We prefer not to disturb anglers while they are fishing.

You may have encountered one of the department's clerks on a recent fishing trip and were interviewed. It only takes a moment of your time, but it helps us determine quite a lot about the fishery.

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 the survey; and detailed summaries, by species, of what anglers caught.

Additional copies of this report and those covering other local lakes can be obtained from the Spooner DNR. Written requests should be sent to:

Treaty Fisheries Biologist
WDNR Spooner Office
810 West Maple Street
Spooner WI 54801

GENERAL INFORMATION

Seasons Surveyed

The creel survey started on opening day (5/3) of the 2008 gamefish season and ran through March 1, 2009. The only period not covered by the survey during this time was November 1 through November 30, due to unsafe ice conditions.

Harvest Regulations

The following seasons, daily bag limits, and length limits were in place on this lake in 2008-2009:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>	<u>Min. Size</u>
Largemouth Bass	05/03-3/01	5	14"
Smallmouth Bass	05/03-3/01	5	14"
Musky	5/24-11/30	1	40"
Northern Pike	5/03-3/01	5	none
Walleye	5/03-3/01	*2	15"
Panfish	all year	25	none

*The statewide bag limit was 5 walleye, but due to tribal declarations it was

reduced on this lake.

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

1. ESTIMATED FISHING EFFORT

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

2. ESTIMATED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST RATES

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

3. ESTIMATED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST

Calculated number of fish of the species indicated caught or harvested by all anglers.

4. LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH MEASURED BY THE CREEL CLERK

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

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 survey clerk are reported here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

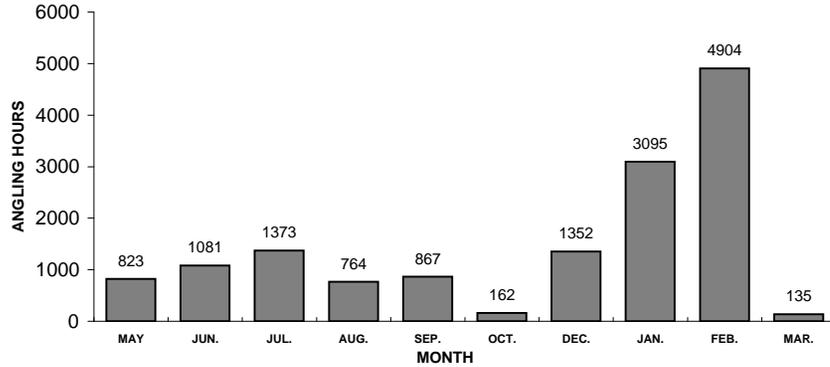
This survey could not have been completed if not for the efforts of the technical staff of the Treaty Fisheries Unit.

Greg Stokes and Misty Rood were the survey clerks on the lake. They endured mosquitoes, rain, snow and bitter winter cold to collect the angler interview information that makes this report possible.

The Department would like to thank Mary Vinopal. She generously allowed the department to keep a boat and snowmobile 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.

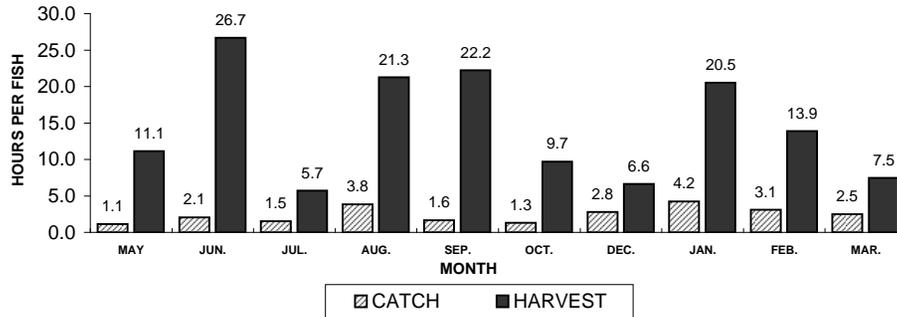
ESTIMATED FISHING EFFORT



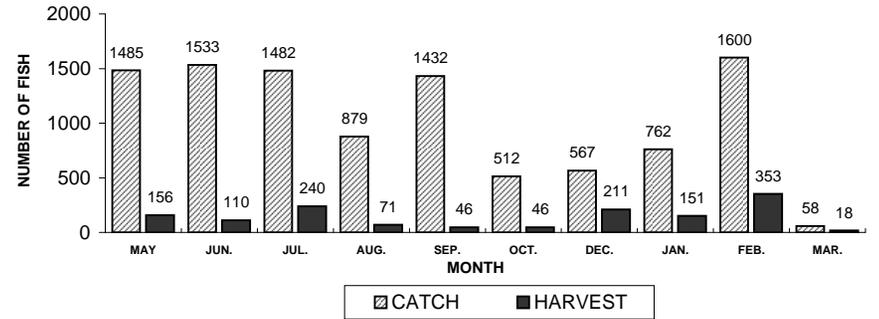
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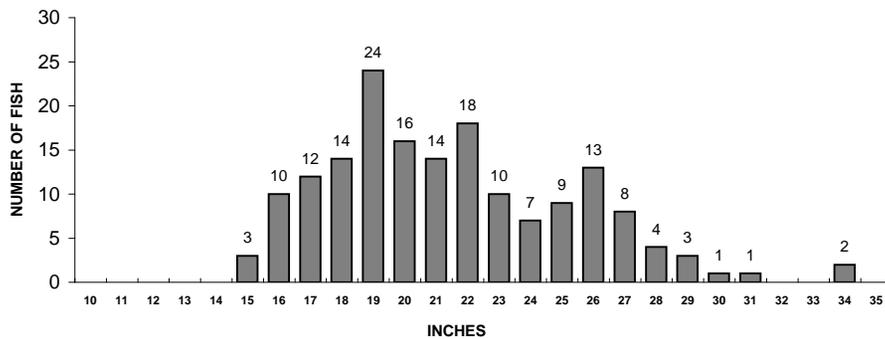
ESTIMATED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST RATES



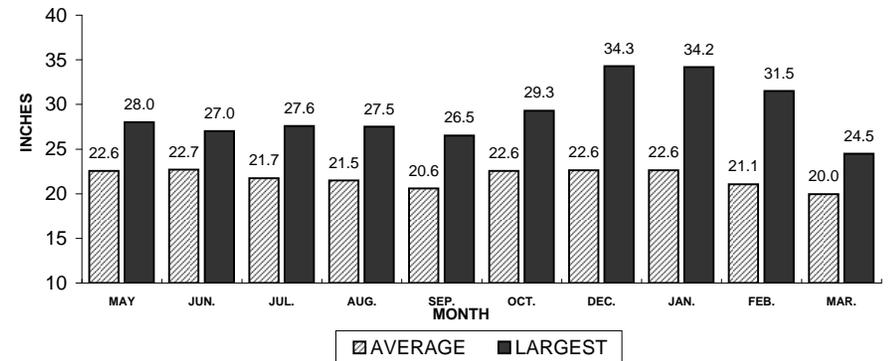
ESTIMATED ANGLER CATCH AND HARVEST



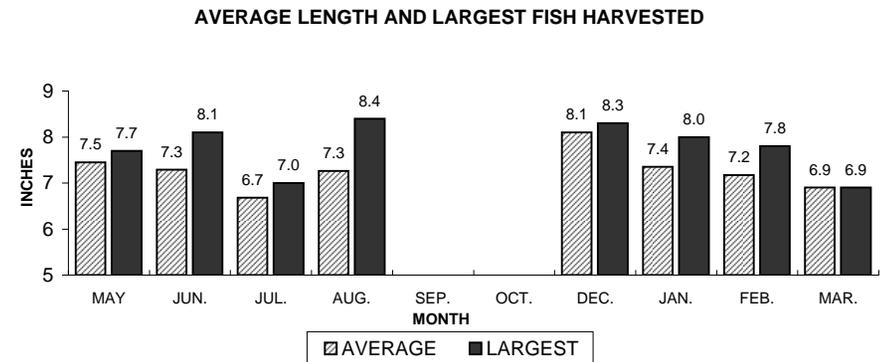
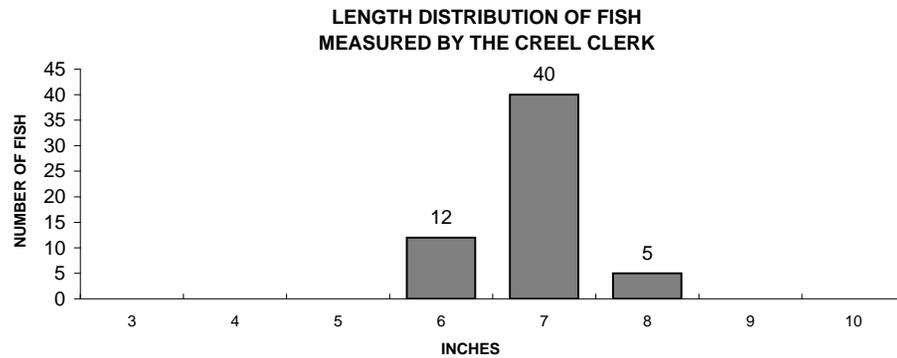
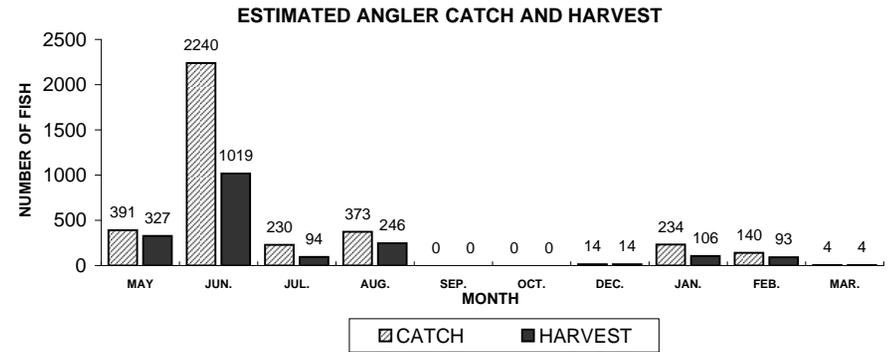
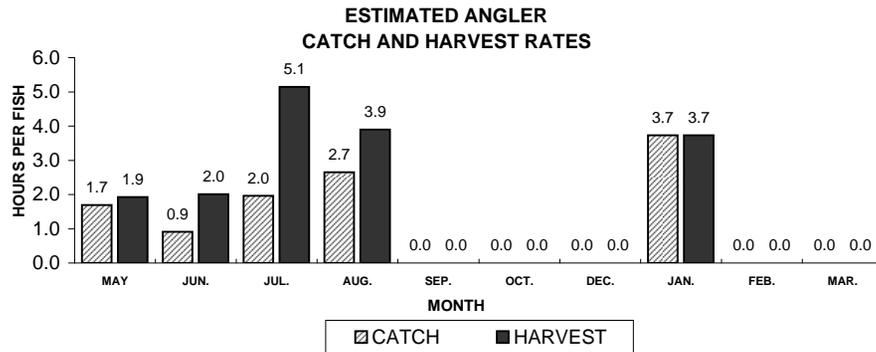
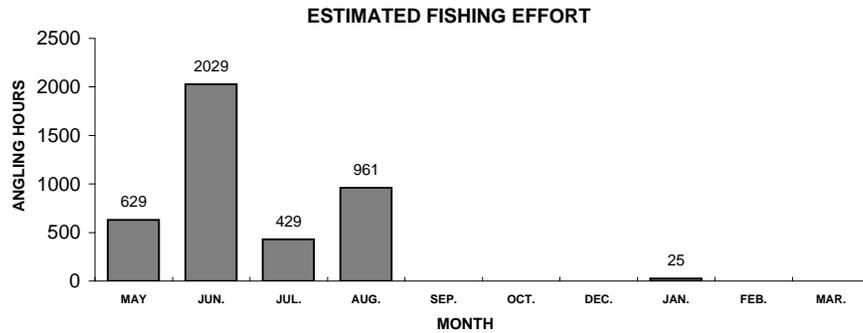
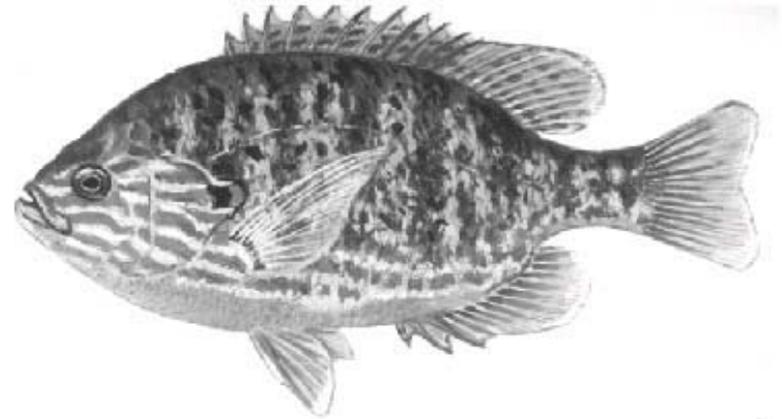
LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF FISH MEASURED BY THE CREEL CLERK



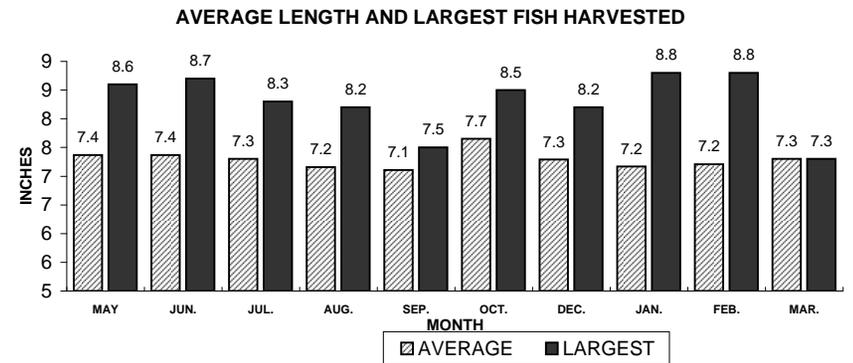
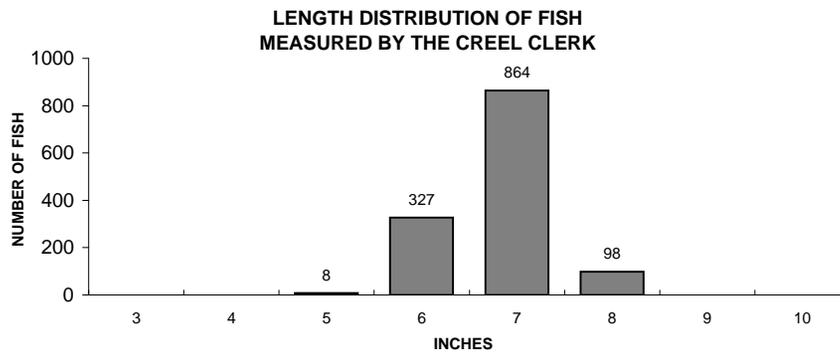
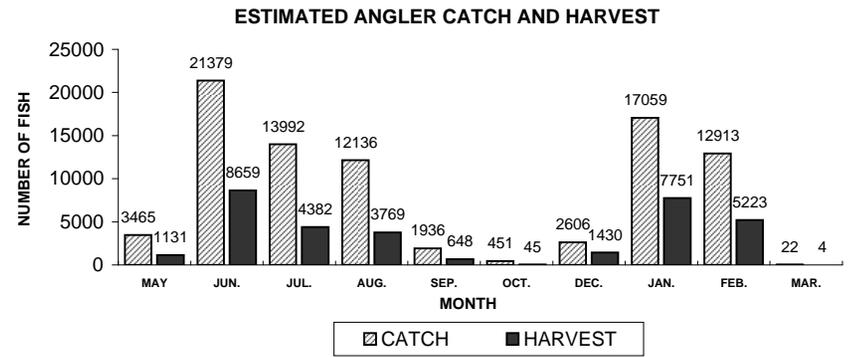
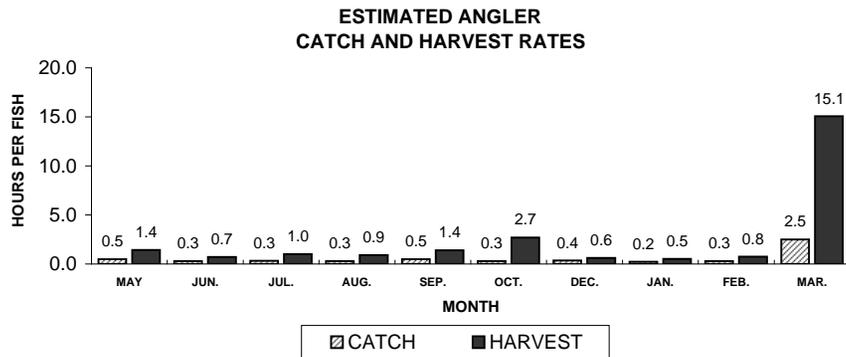
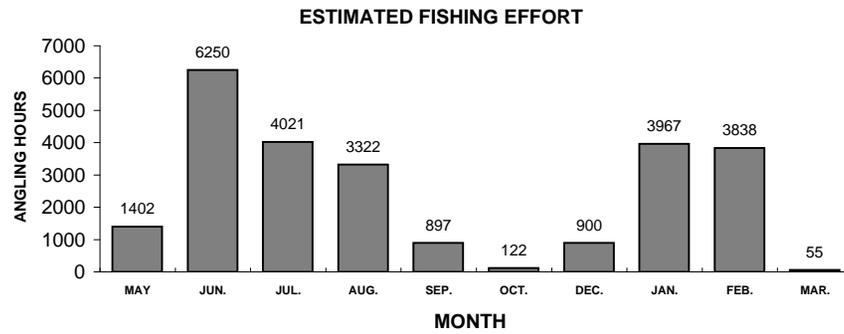
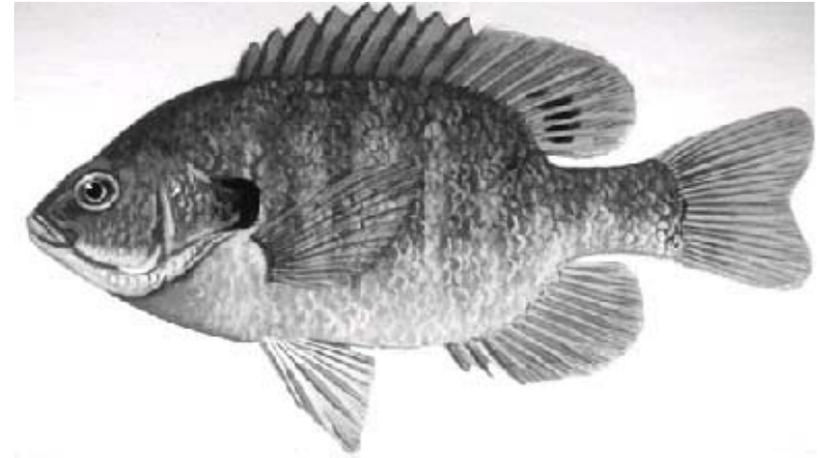
AVERAGE LENGTH AND LARGEST FISH HARVESTED



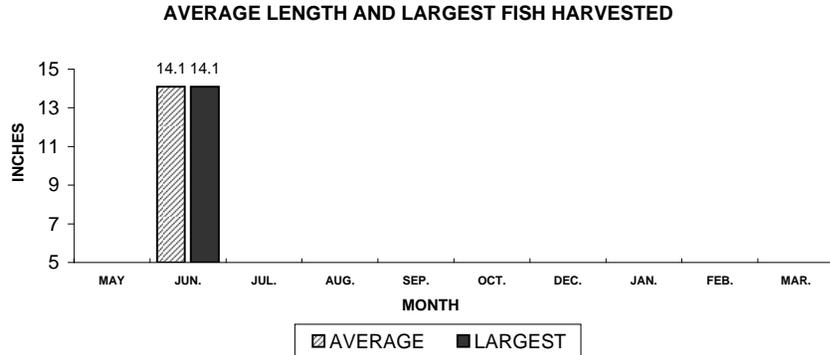
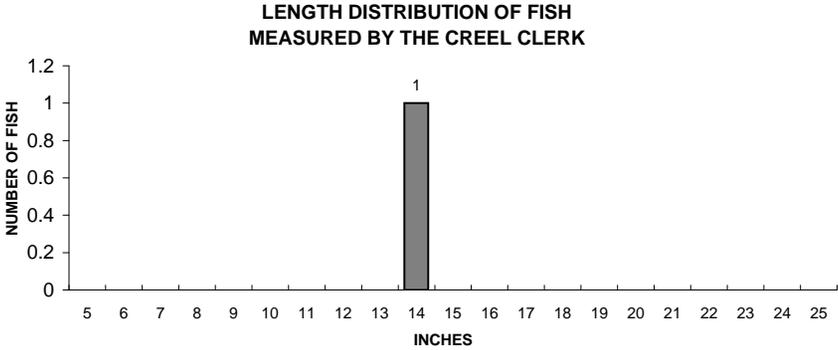
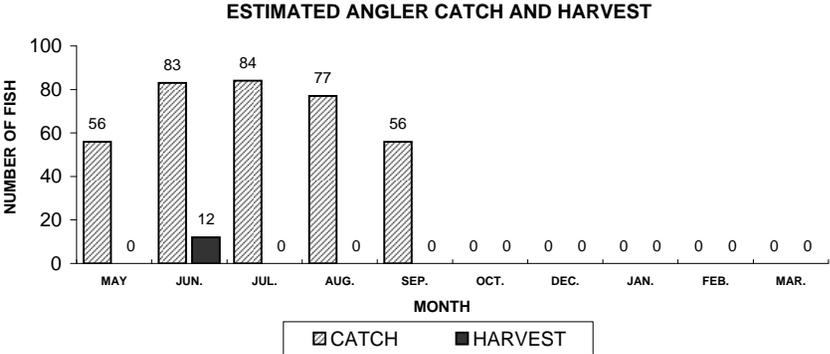
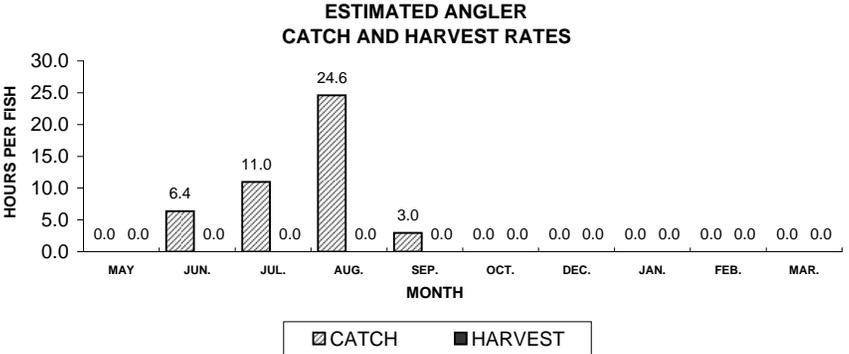
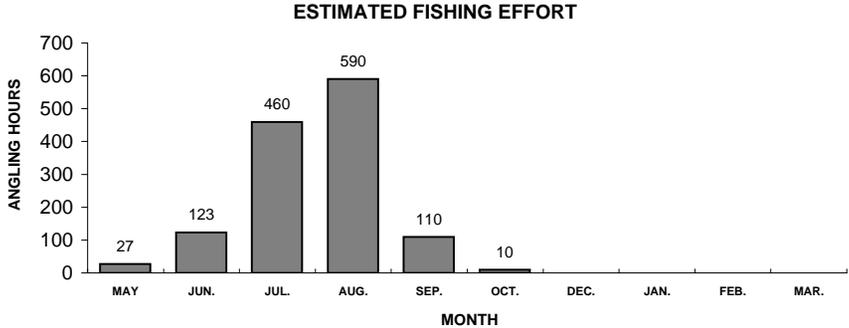
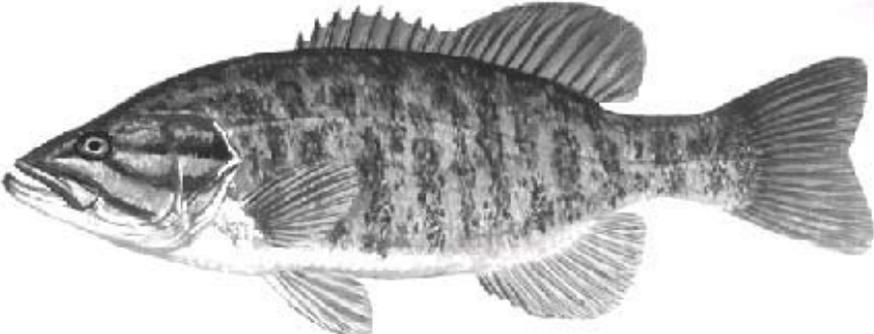
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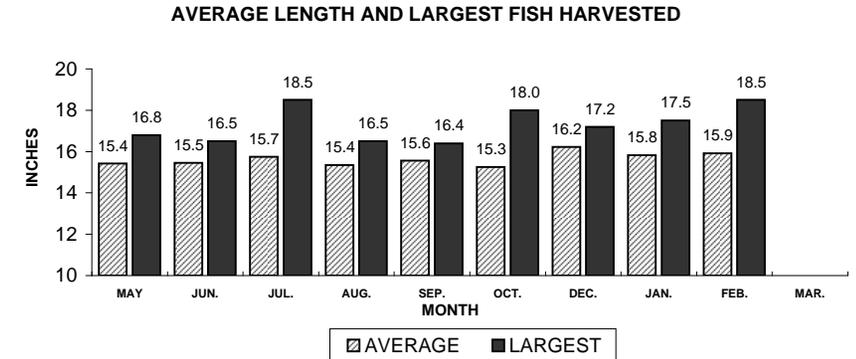
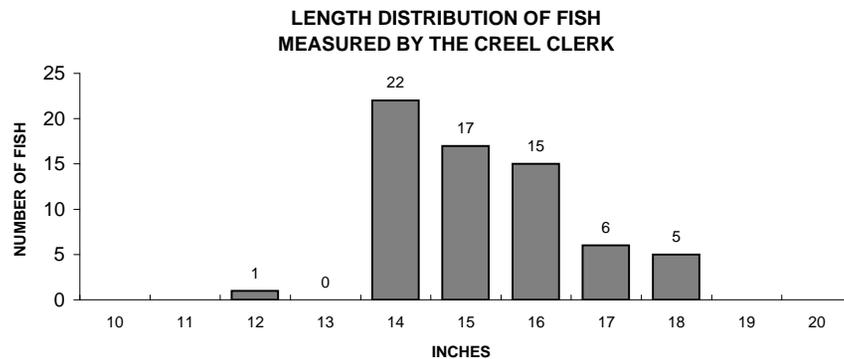
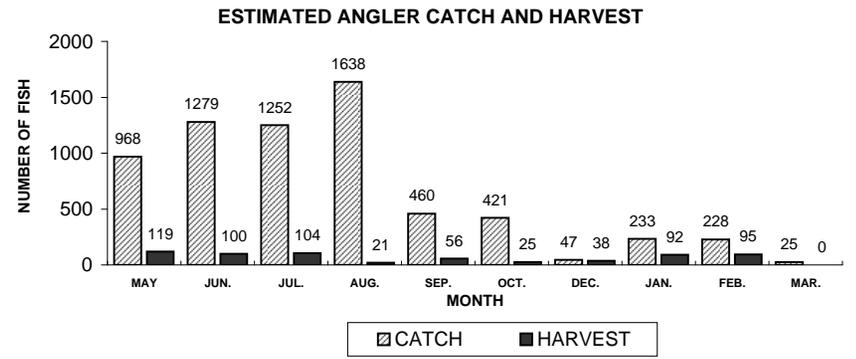
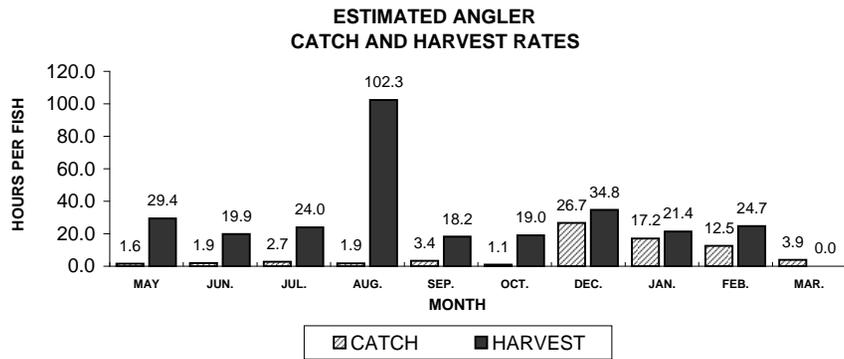
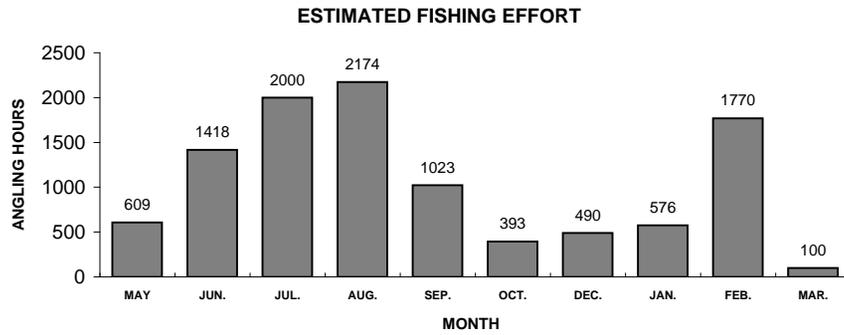
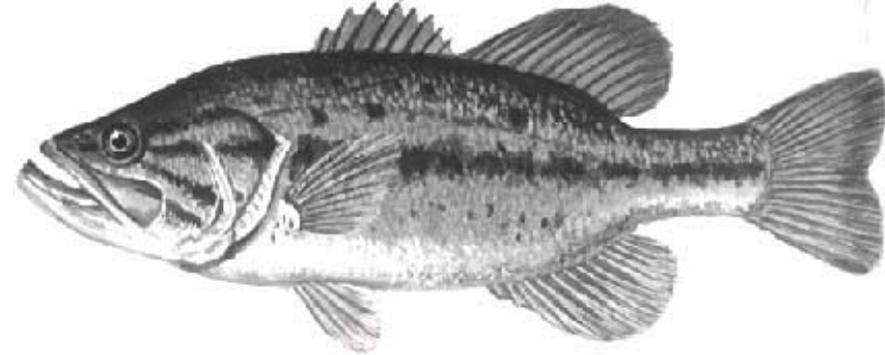
BLUEGILL



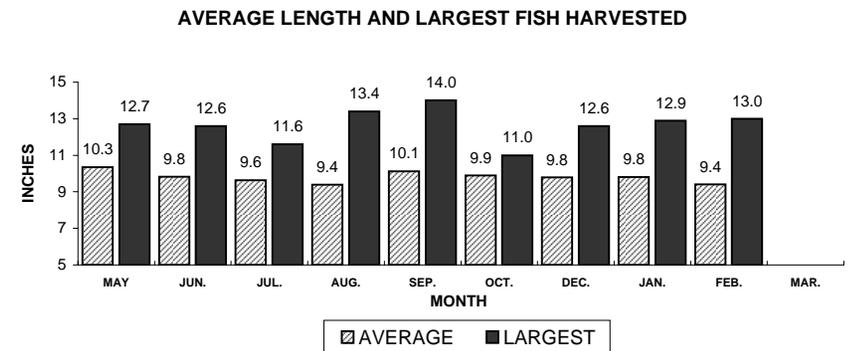
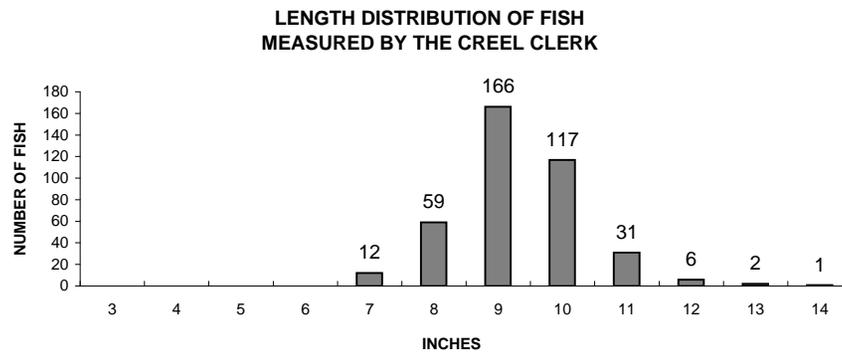
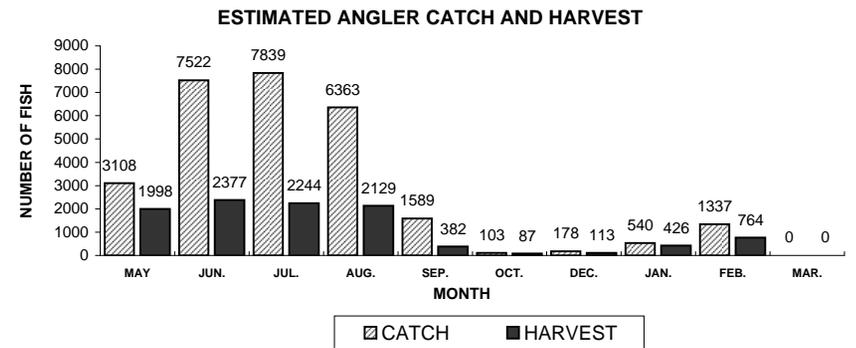
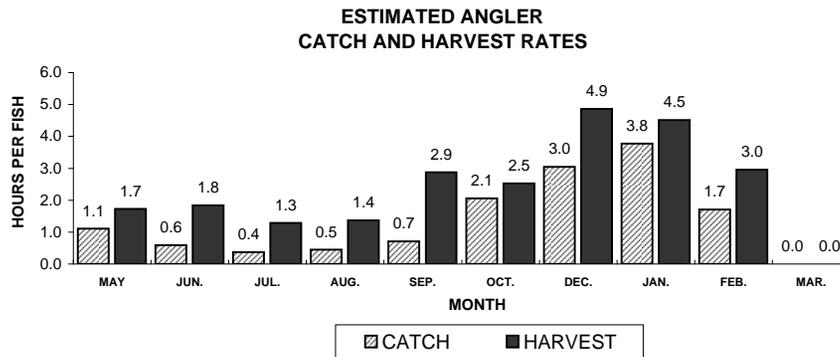
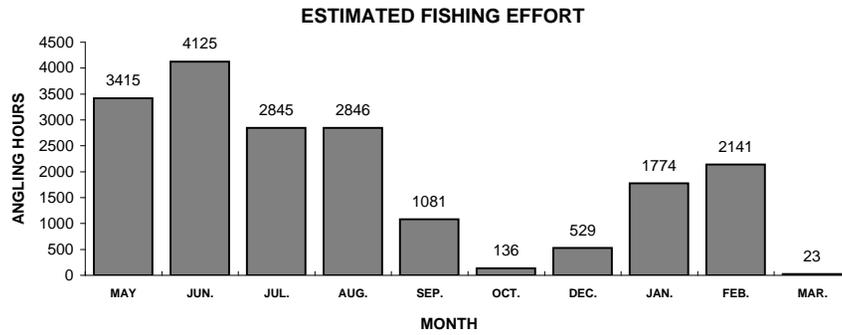
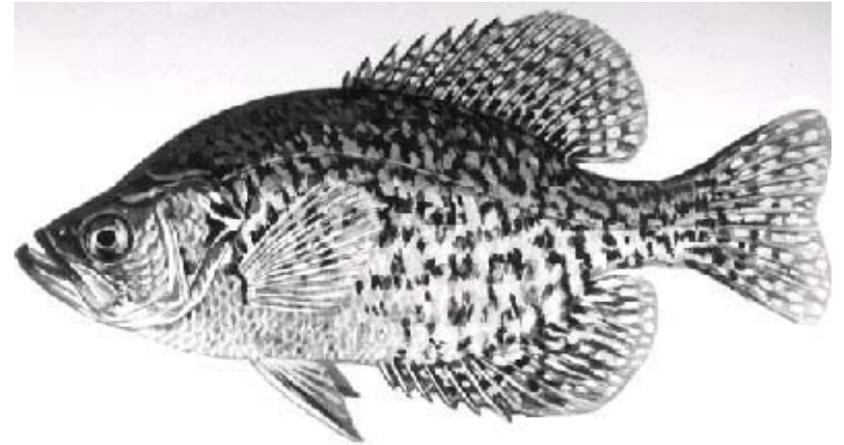
SMALLMOUTH BASS



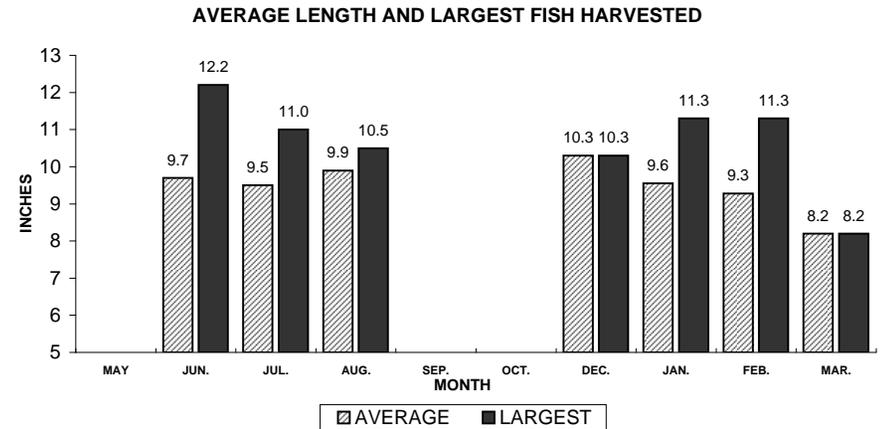
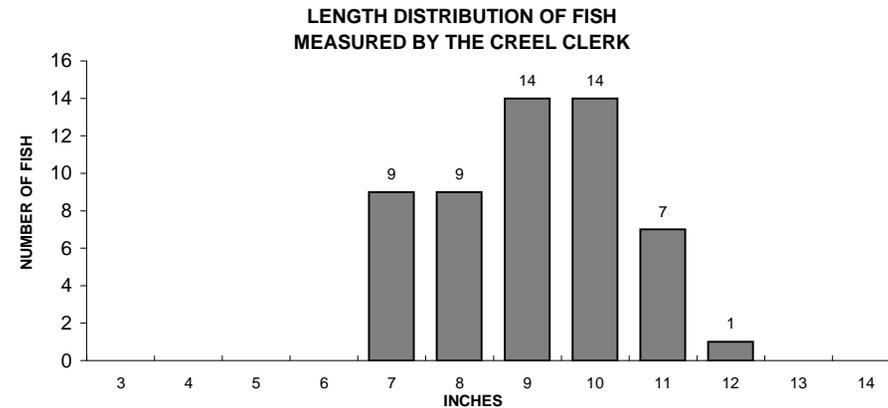
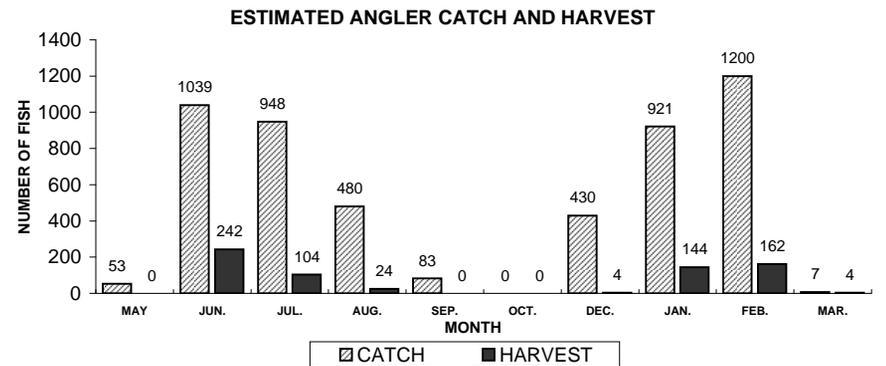
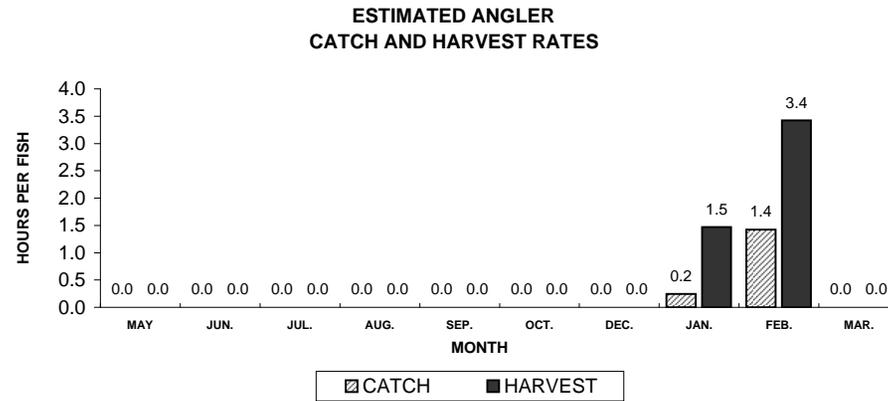
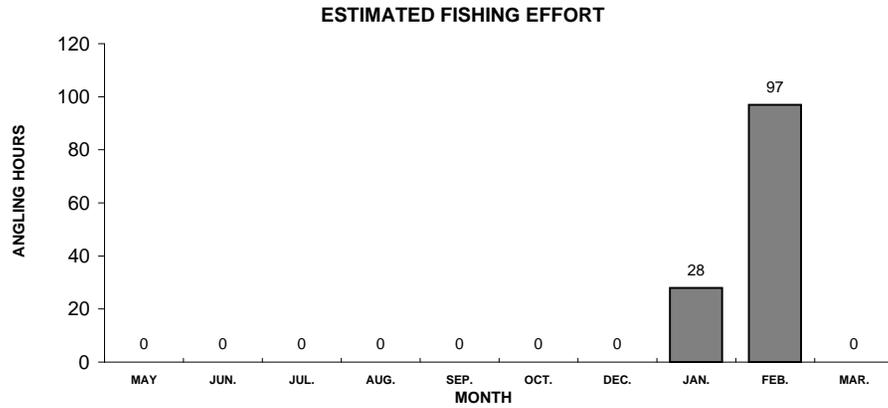
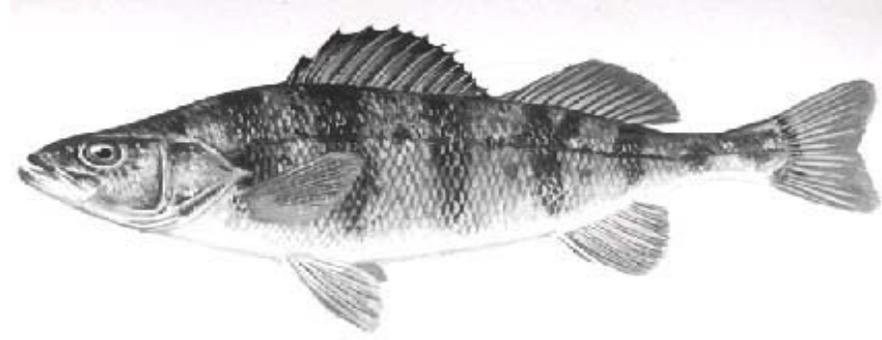
LARGEMOUTH BASS



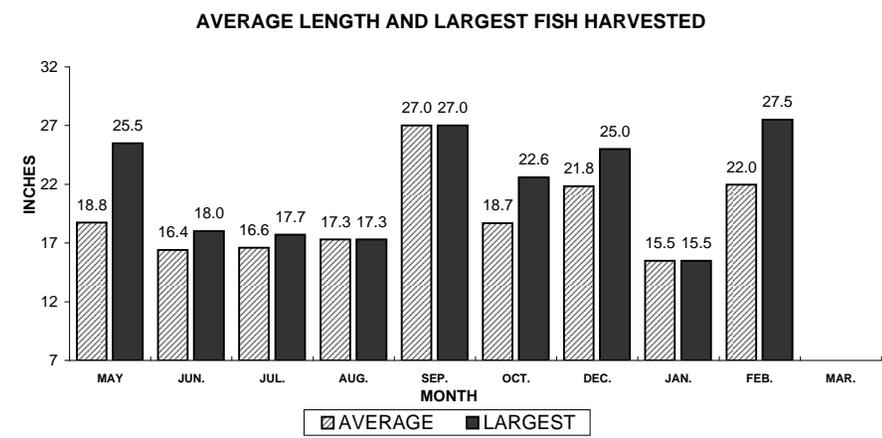
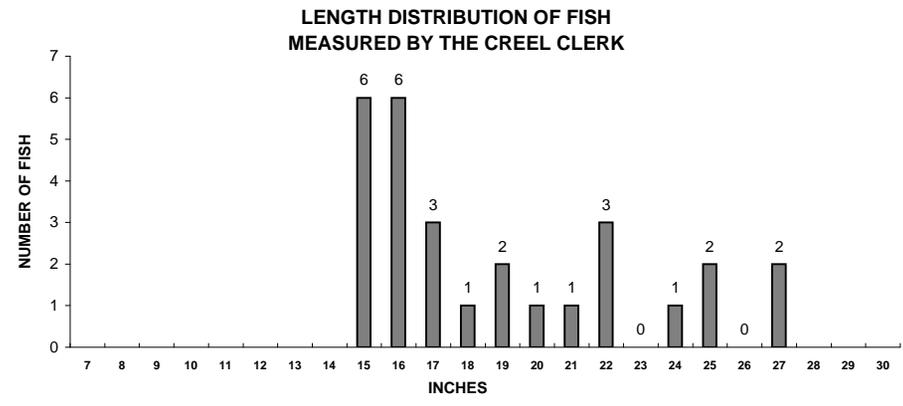
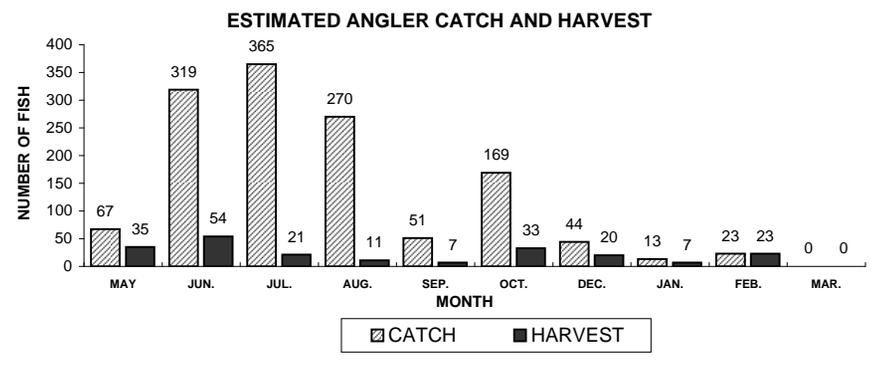
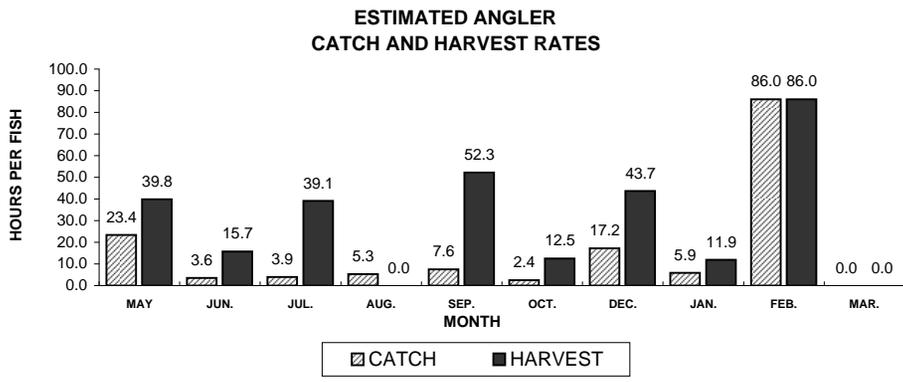
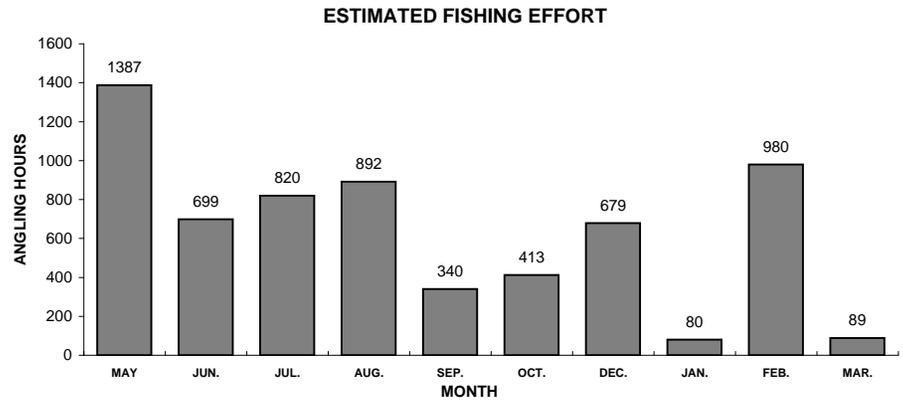
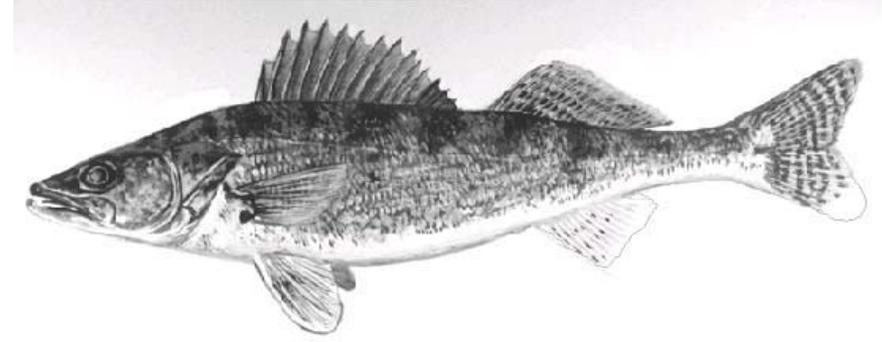
BLACK CRAPPIE



YELLOW PERCH



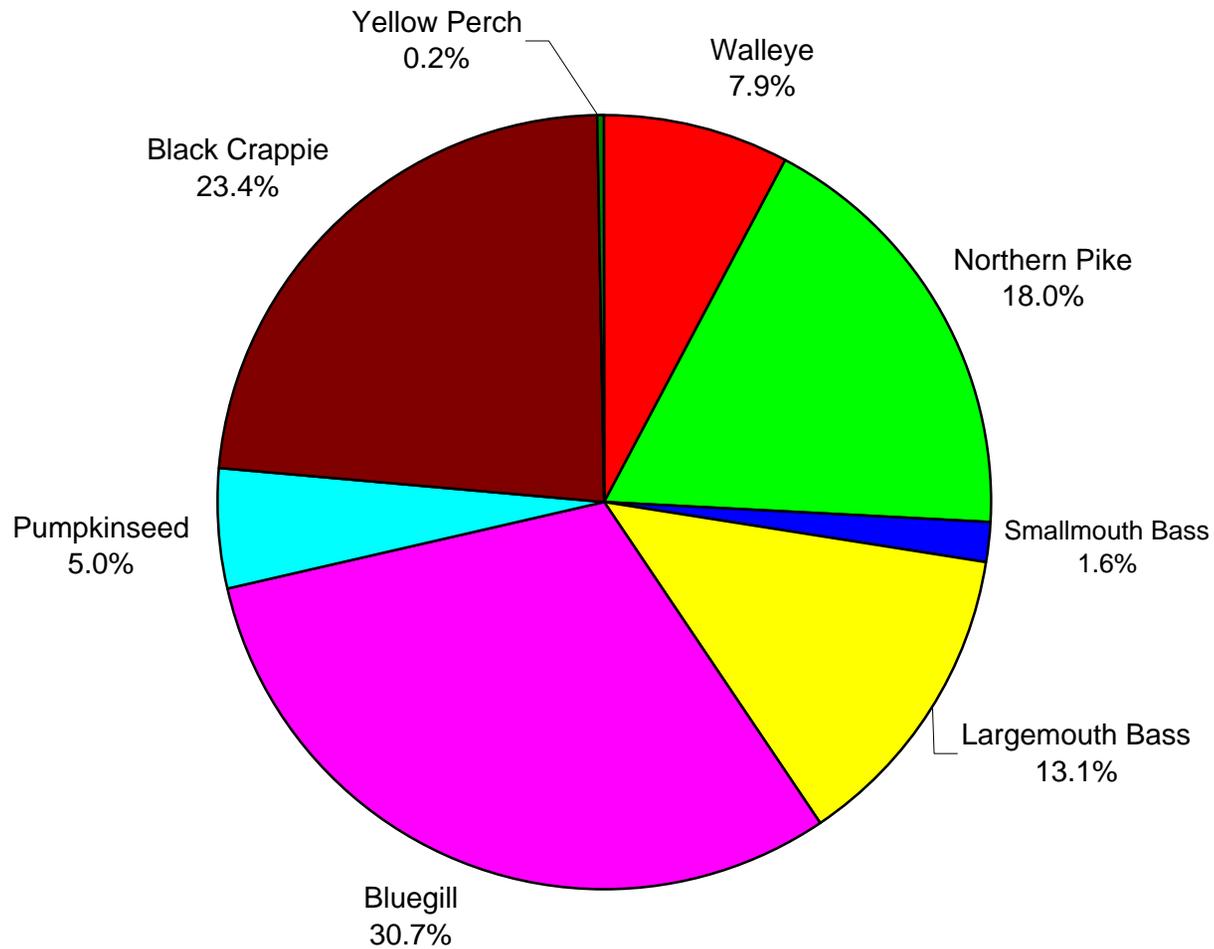
WALLEYE



TOTAL ANNUAL ANGLER DIRECTED EFFORT BY SPECIES

Bear Lake 2008-09

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. Species with very little or no angler effort are not included in this graph.



CREEL SURVEY HISTORY/SYNOPSIS
 BEAR LAKE, BARRON COUNTY

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	7.0	209	36.8	19.2
Northern Pike	14557	18.0%	10310	2.5	1400	12.4	21.9
Smallmouth Bass	1319	1.6%	355	10.8	12		14.1
Largemouth Bass	10552	13.1%	6550	2.7	650	27.3	15.7
Bluegill	24773	30.7%	85959	0.3	33042	0.8	7.2
Pumpkinseed	4073	5.0%	3625	1.3	1903	2.4	7.3
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

CREEL YEAR: 200-01

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	8987	10.4%	966	11.7	384	30.5	18.0
Northern Pike	12658	14.6%	10248	2.2	1836	8.0	20.0
Smallmouth Bass	5144	5.9%	711	18.9	124	165.9	16.1
Largemouth Bass	8088	9.3%	3965	3.3	370	29.8	14.9
Bluegill	24523	28.3%	64825	0.4	31711	0.8	7.6
Pumpkinseed	616	0.7%	3217	1.8	2140	2.6	7.2
Black Crappie	16267	18.8%	9178	1.9	5674	3.2	9.9
Yellow Perch	10223	11.8%	9304	2.8	2056	9.7	9.4