Muskellunge Angler Survey Summary 2019

Illustrations by Joseph R. Tomelleri ©

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MDNR-Esocid Committee

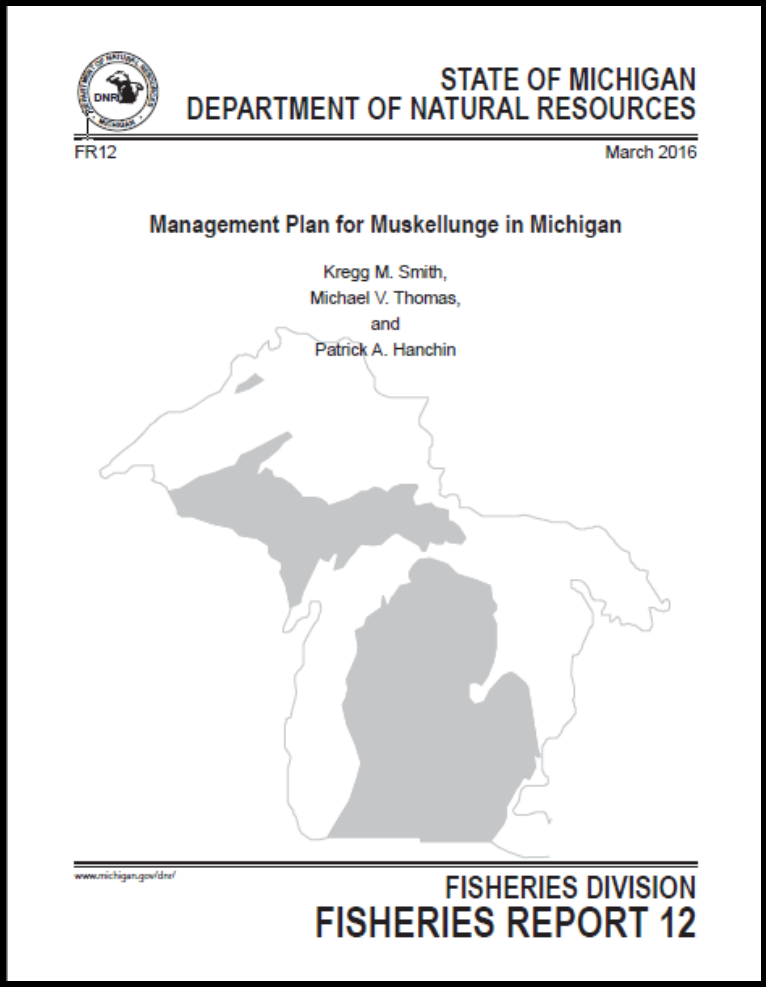
NRC Meeting- May 14, 2020

Overview

- Management Plan
- Angler Survey Details
- Results
- Angler Diary Program-Pilot

Muskellunge Management Plan

- Management Framework
- Published March 2016



Musky Management Plan Goals

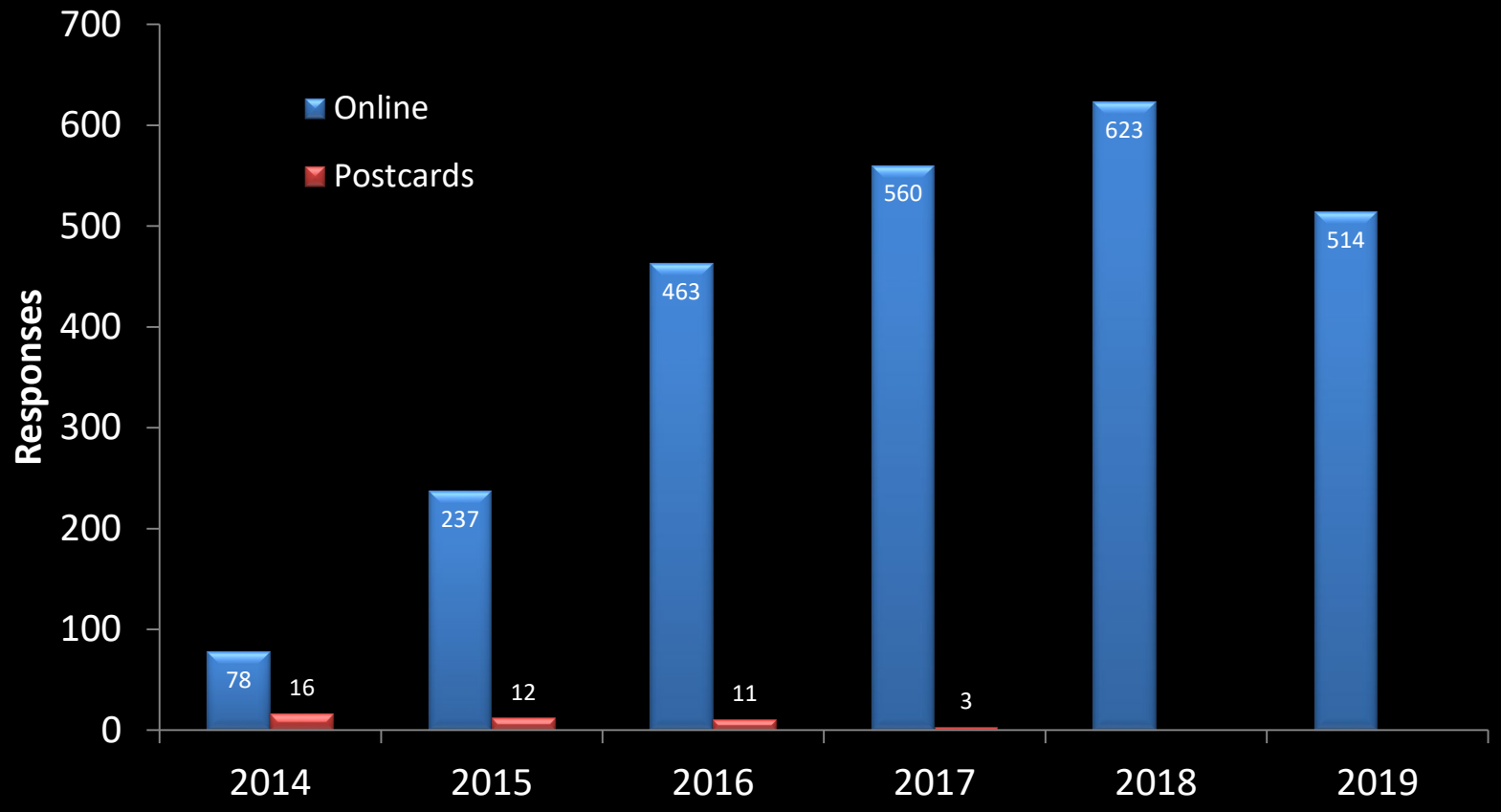
est. 2011 and published 2016

1. Habitat improvements
2. Ensure adequate technical information is available
3. Protect/maintain/enhance recreational Muskellunge fisheries
4. Promote the recreational value of Michigan's Muskellunge fisheries
5. Provide a variety of fishing opportunities for Muskellunge in Michigan

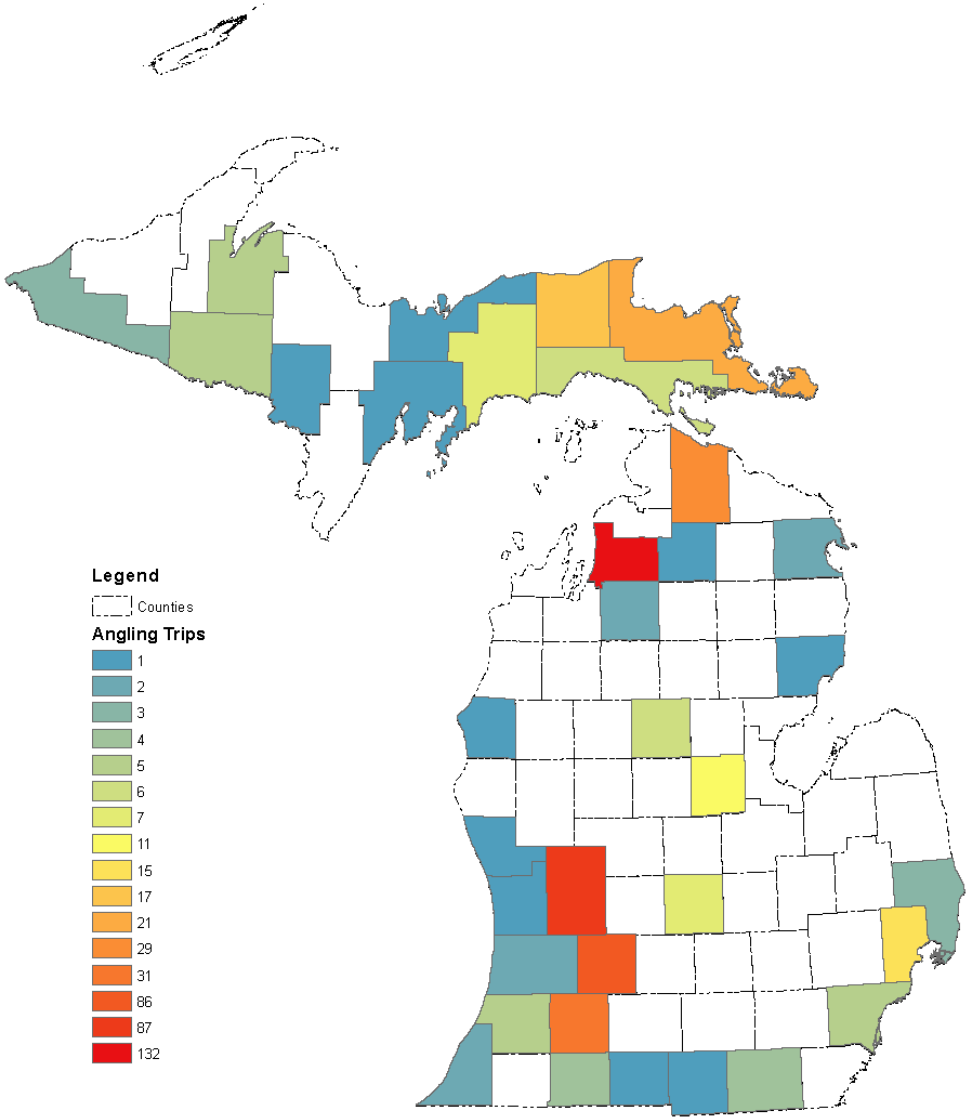
Angler Survey Description

- 2014- postcard survey
- 2016- online only
- Access at Michigan DNR-Fishing webpage
  - Click Muskellunge
- 14 questions (11 for repeat anglers)
- Completed by an angler who targeted or caught a muskellunge during their trip
- One entry for every trip

Survey Participation

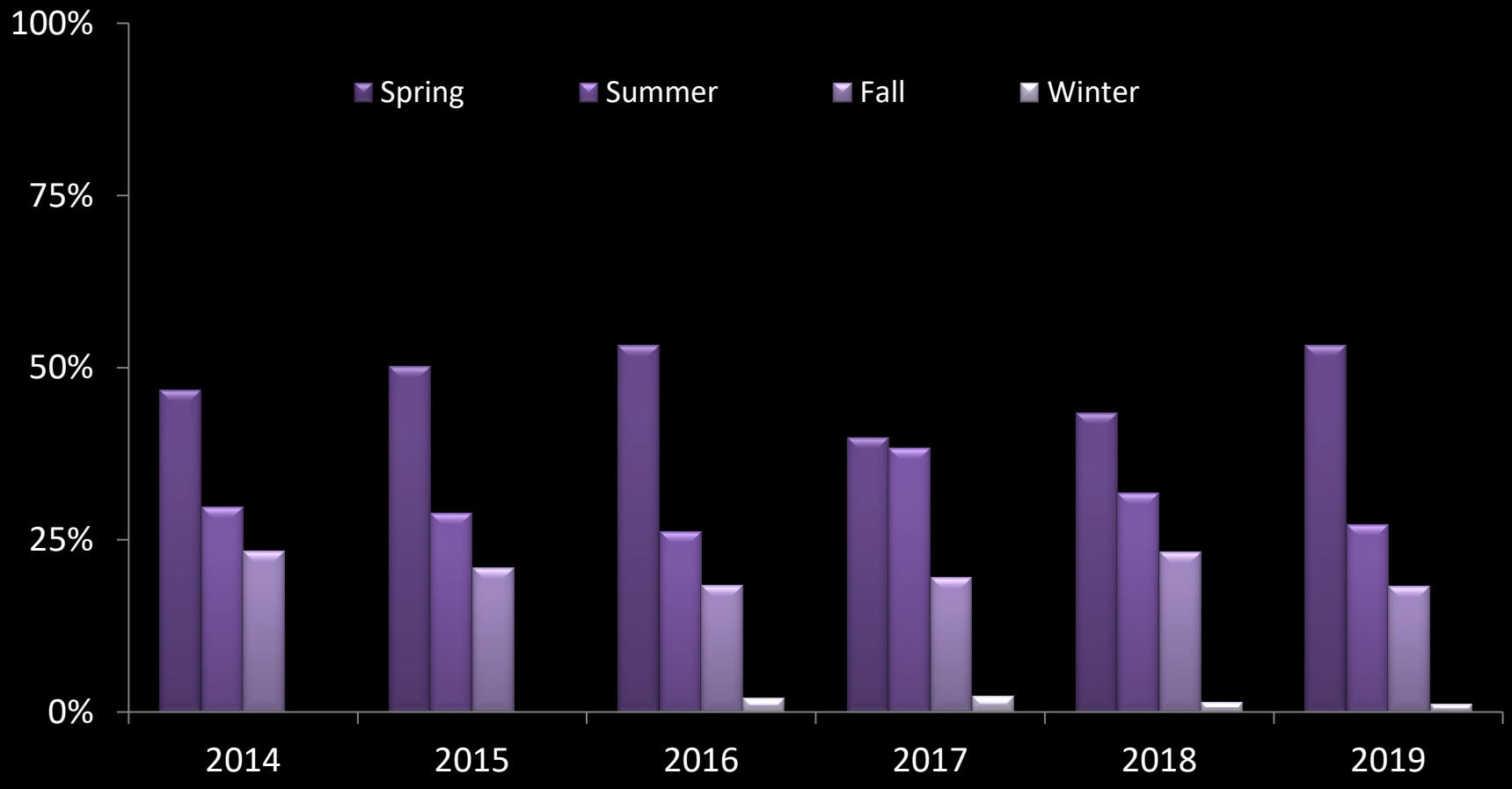


Muskellunge Angling Trips in 2019/2020

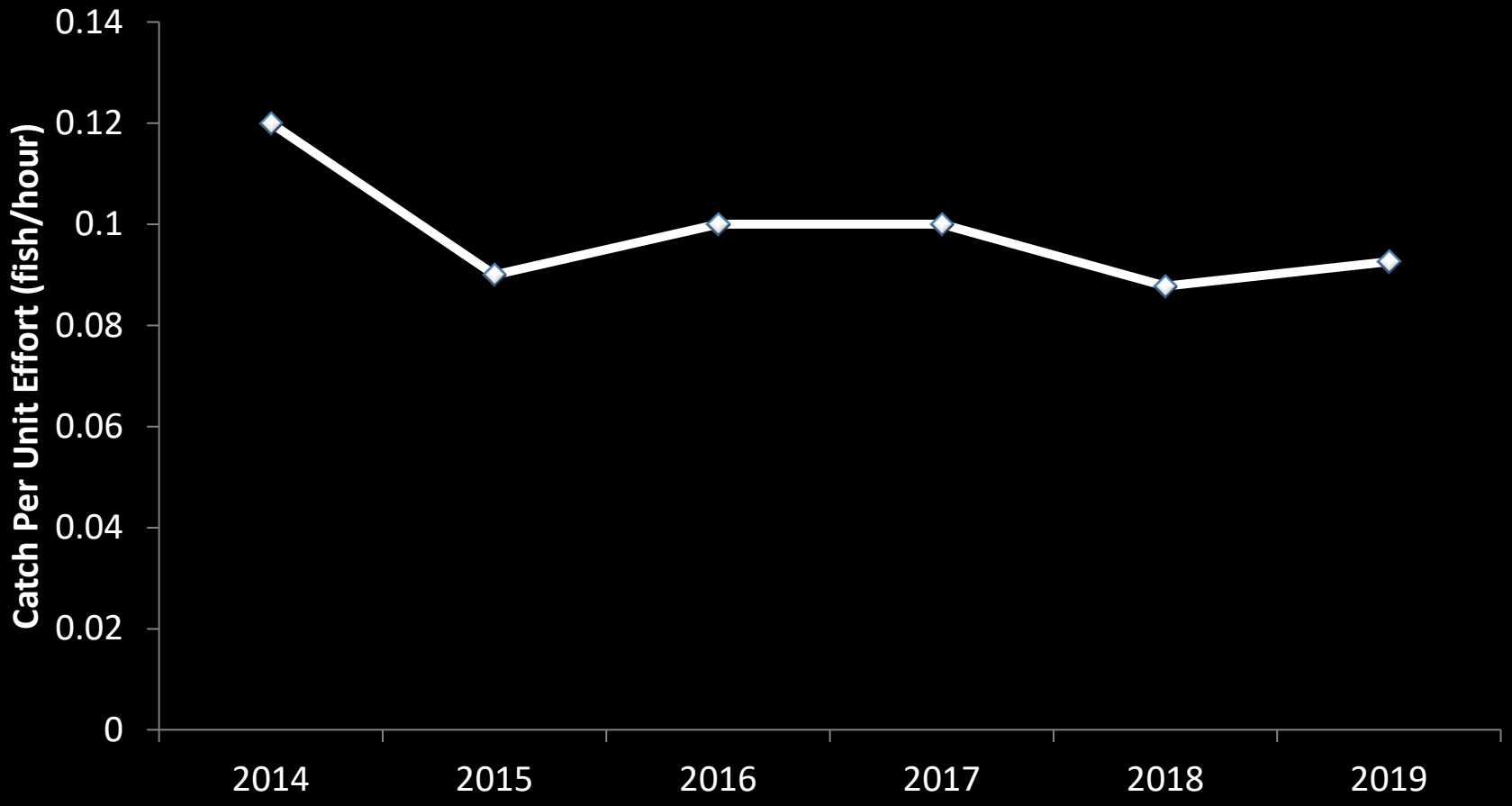


Map by M. Tonello- DNR-GIS

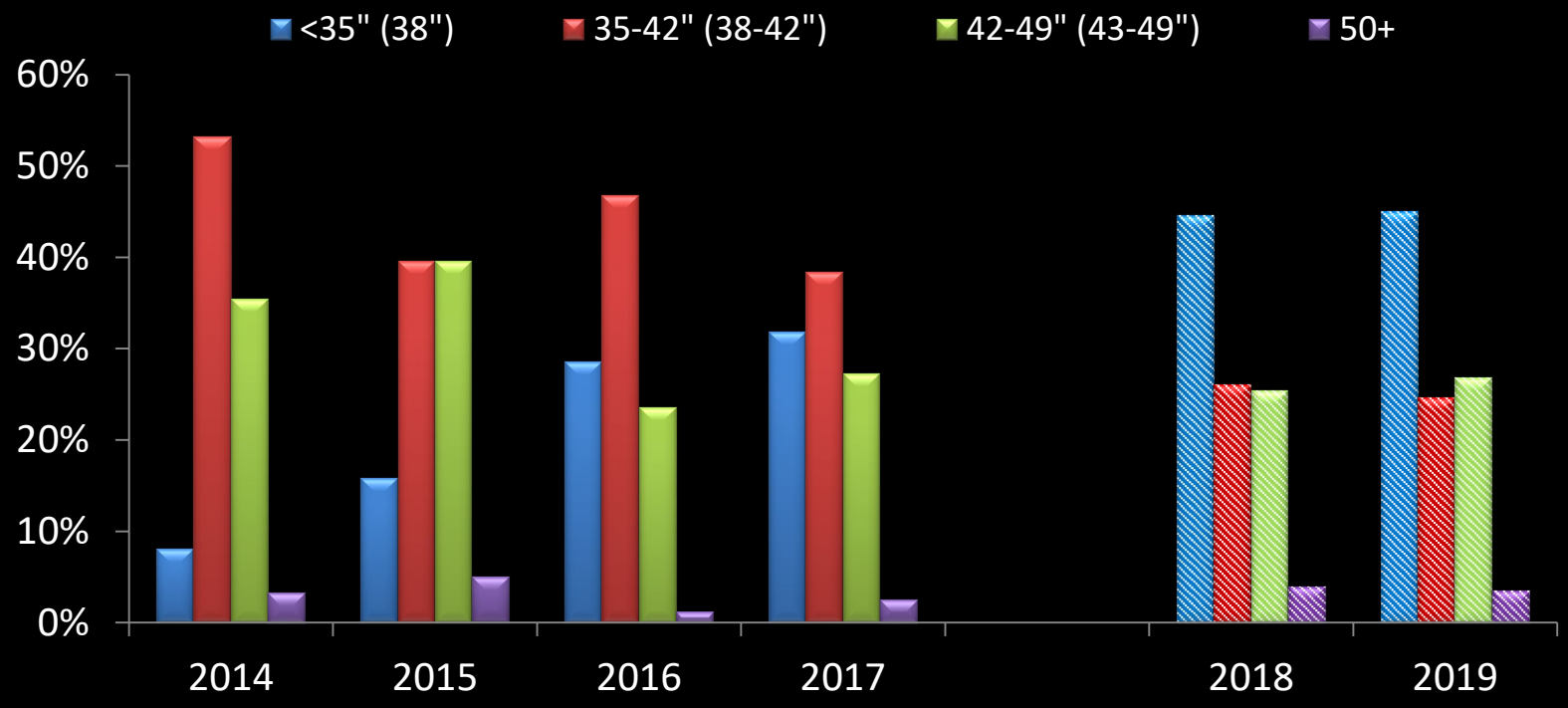
Angler Hours by Season



Musky caught per hour



Musky catch by size category

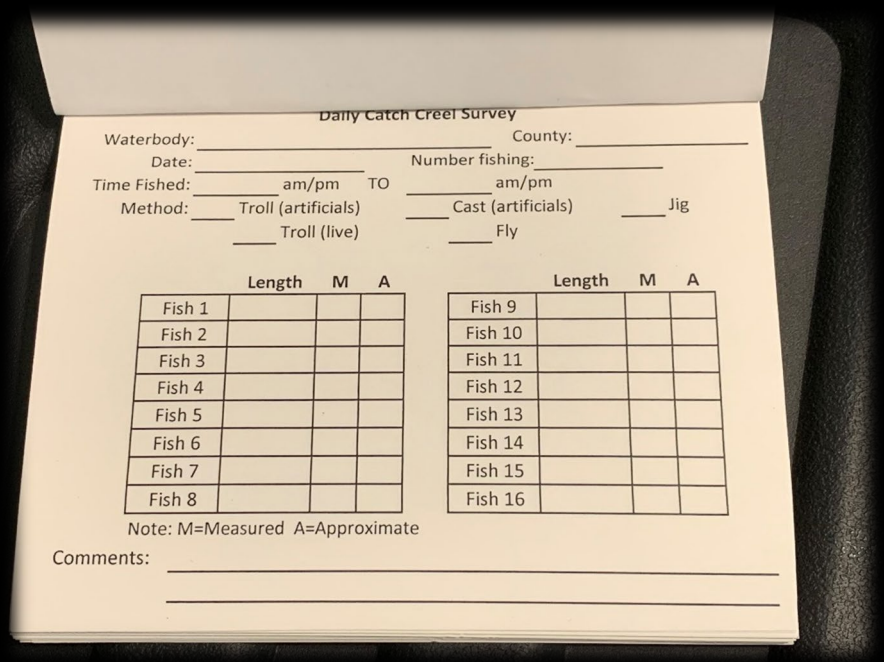


2019 Angler Survey Results

- 514 trips reported
- 65 individual anglers (provided contact information)
- 2,494.5 total reported angler hours
- On average, an angler made 7.9 trips
- Average angler trip was 4.8 hours
- Musky catch rate= 0.09 fish/hour
- On average anglers caught .45 fish per trip
  - Took more than two trips to catch at least 1 Musky
- A total of 231 Musky were caught
- Anglers targeted non-stocked waters 11% more than stocked waters

Angler Diary Program

- 2020
  - Pilot- 8 anglers
  - Any water statewide
  - Supplement traditional surveys methods
  - Obtain population data
  - Catch rates
  - Size structure
- 2021
  - Increase participation
  - Fin ray collection



Daily Catch Creel Survey

Waterbody: _____ County: _____

Date: _____ Number fishing: _____

Time Fished: _____ am/pm TO _____ am/pm

Method: ____ Troll (artificials) ____ Cast (artificials) ____ Jig

____ Troll (live) ____ Fly

	Length	M	A
Fish 1			
Fish 2			
Fish 3			
Fish 4			
Fish 5			
Fish 6			
Fish 7			
Fish 8			

	Length	M	A
Fish 9			
Fish 10			
Fish 11			
Fish 12			
Fish 13			
Fish 14			
Fish 15			
Fish 16			

Note: M=Measured A=Approximate

Comments: _____

_____

Thank You