

Michigan Fisheries: The Big Picture



Presented by: Jay Wesley and Brian Gunderman
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Fisheries Management

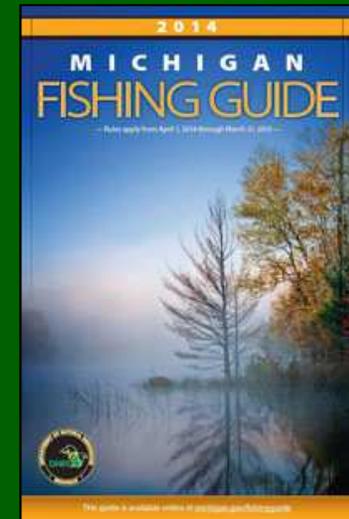
- Stocking

- restore populations (sturgeon)
- create fishing opportunities
 - lack of spawning habitat
- adjust predator:prey ratios



- Regulations

- prevent overexploitation
- prevent spread of undesirable species
- enforce principles of fair chase
- reduce hooking mortality





Fisheries Management

- Habitat Protection and Improvement
 - habitat altered due to dams, dredging, historic logging activity, erosion, shoreline armoring, etc.





Fisheries Management

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Projects:
dam removals
bank stabilization
tree drops

**Driven by
research**



Fisheries Management

- Outreach and Education
 - Salmon in the Classroom
 - How and where to fish
 - Shoreline management advice
 - Aquatic invasive species control



**Keep Our
Waters
Great!**



Don't Dump Your Bait!

*Fish diseases like Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)
can be transferred in your bait bucket!*

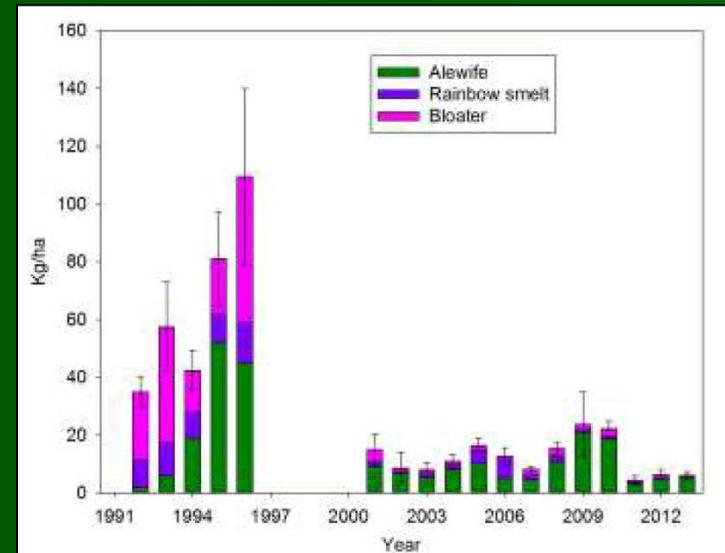


Lake Michigan Fishery

Forage Base 2013

Acoustic (open water) survey (Warner et al. 2014)

- Total prey fish biomass 2nd lowest in time series
- Weak year class of alewife in 2013
- Abundance of yearling and older alewife steady since 2011
- Native prey species rare





Lake Michigan Fishery

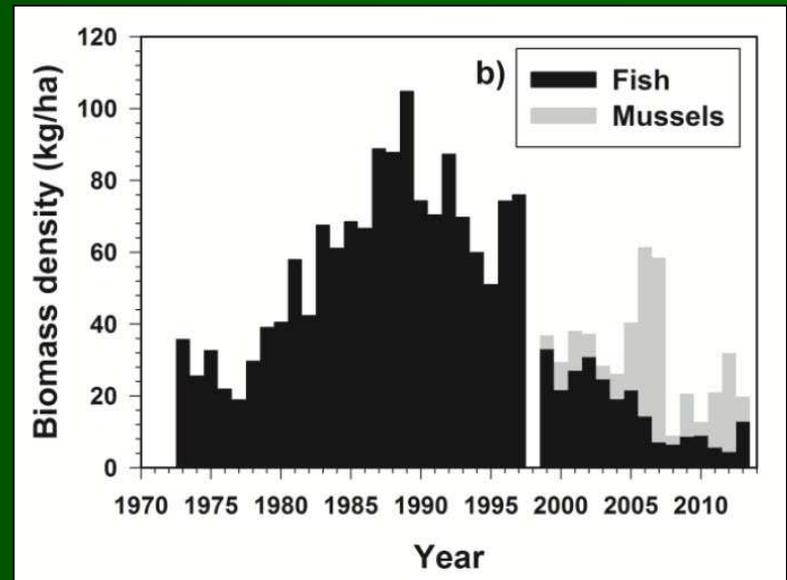
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Bottom trawl survey (Madenjian et al. 2014)

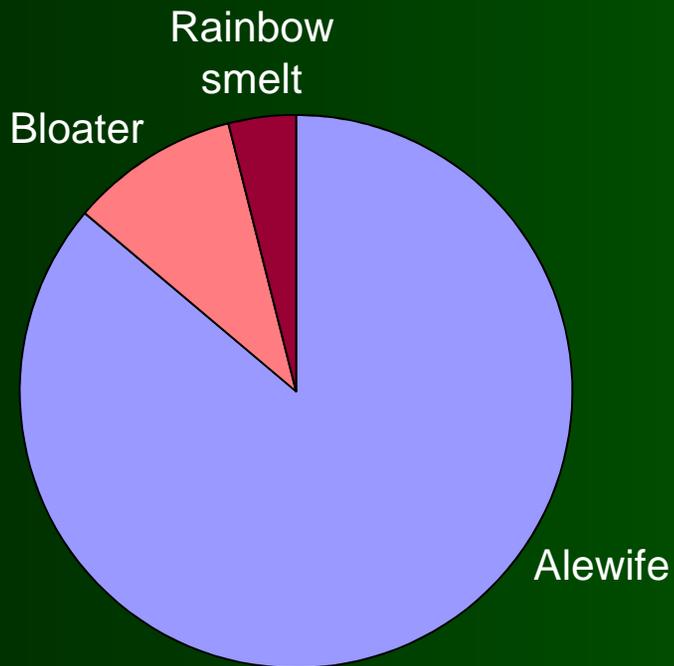
- Increase in alewife?
- Only prey species doing well
= round goby





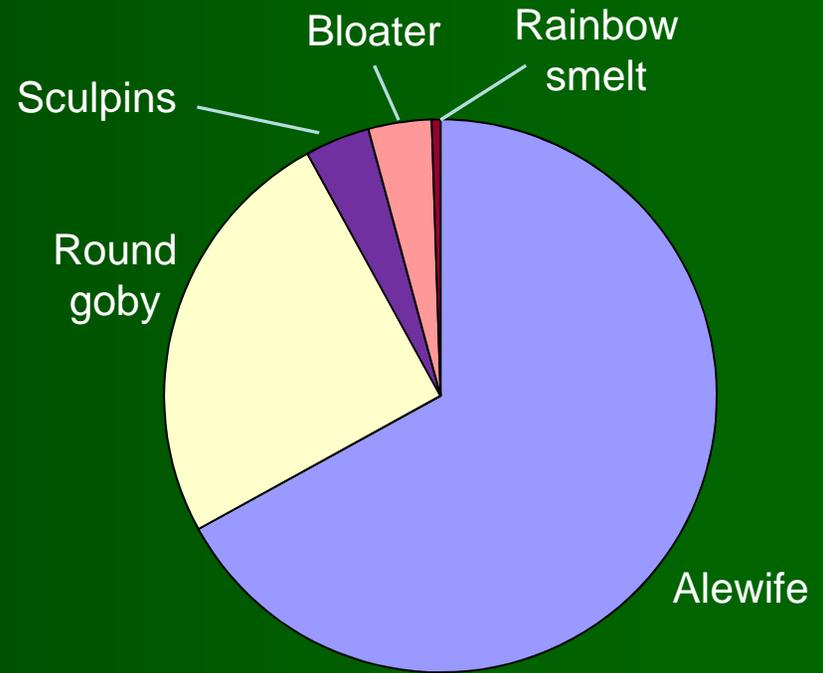
Lake Michigan Fishery

ACOUSTIC



10% native

BOTTOM TRAWL



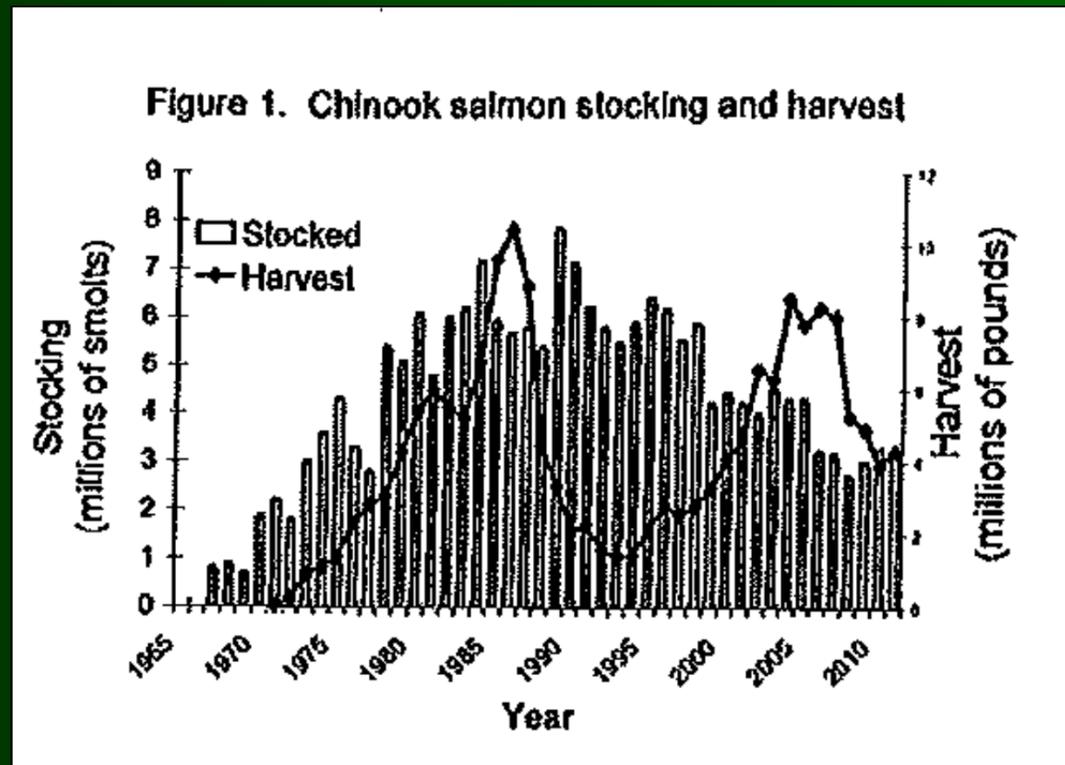
8% native



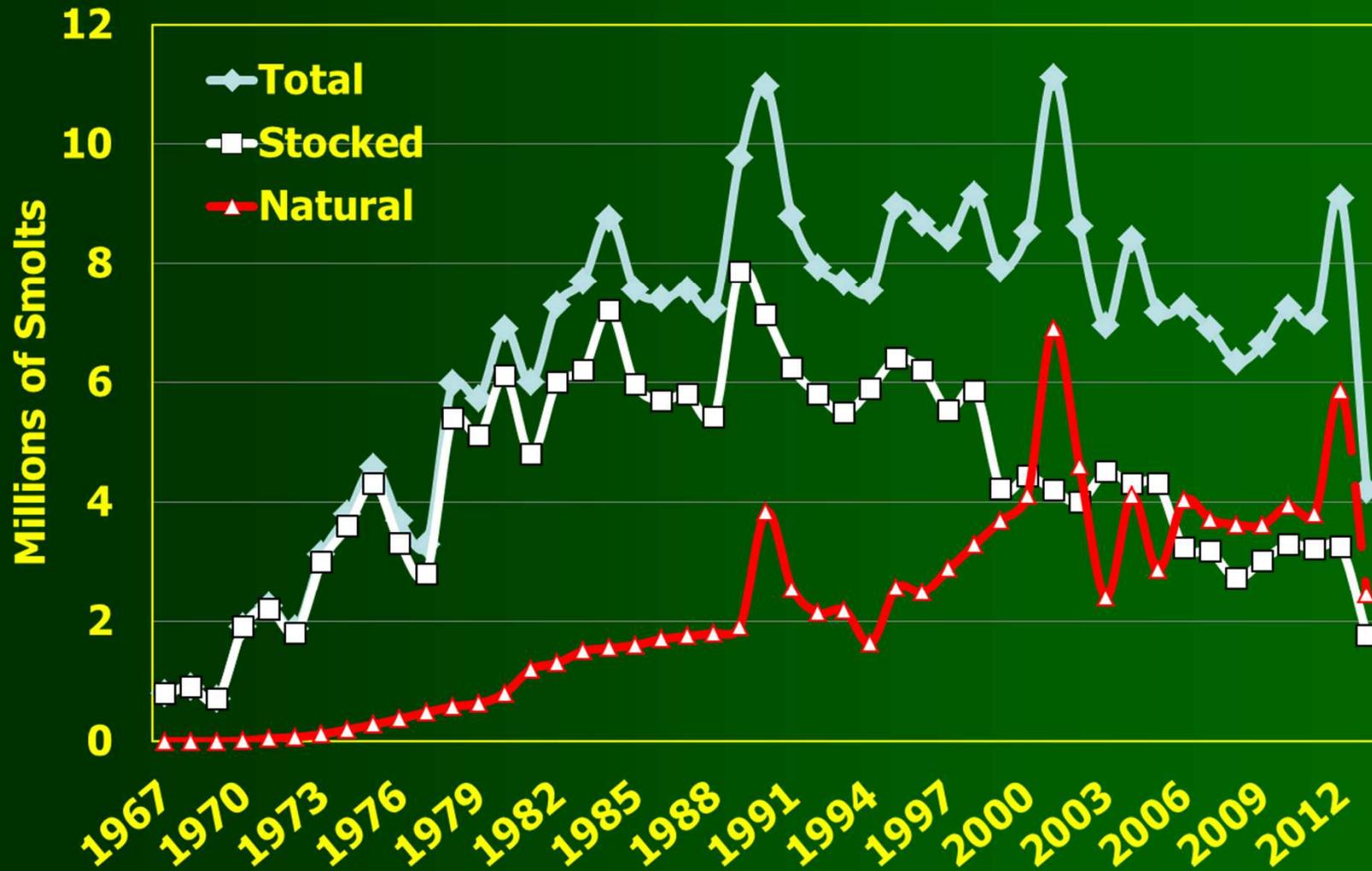
Lake Michigan Fishery

Chinook Salmon (*Claramunt et al. 2013*)

- Variable survival, fishing effort, & natural reproduction
- Stocking reductions in 1999, 2006, and 2013
- 2013: 50% reduction lakewide; 67% reduction in MI

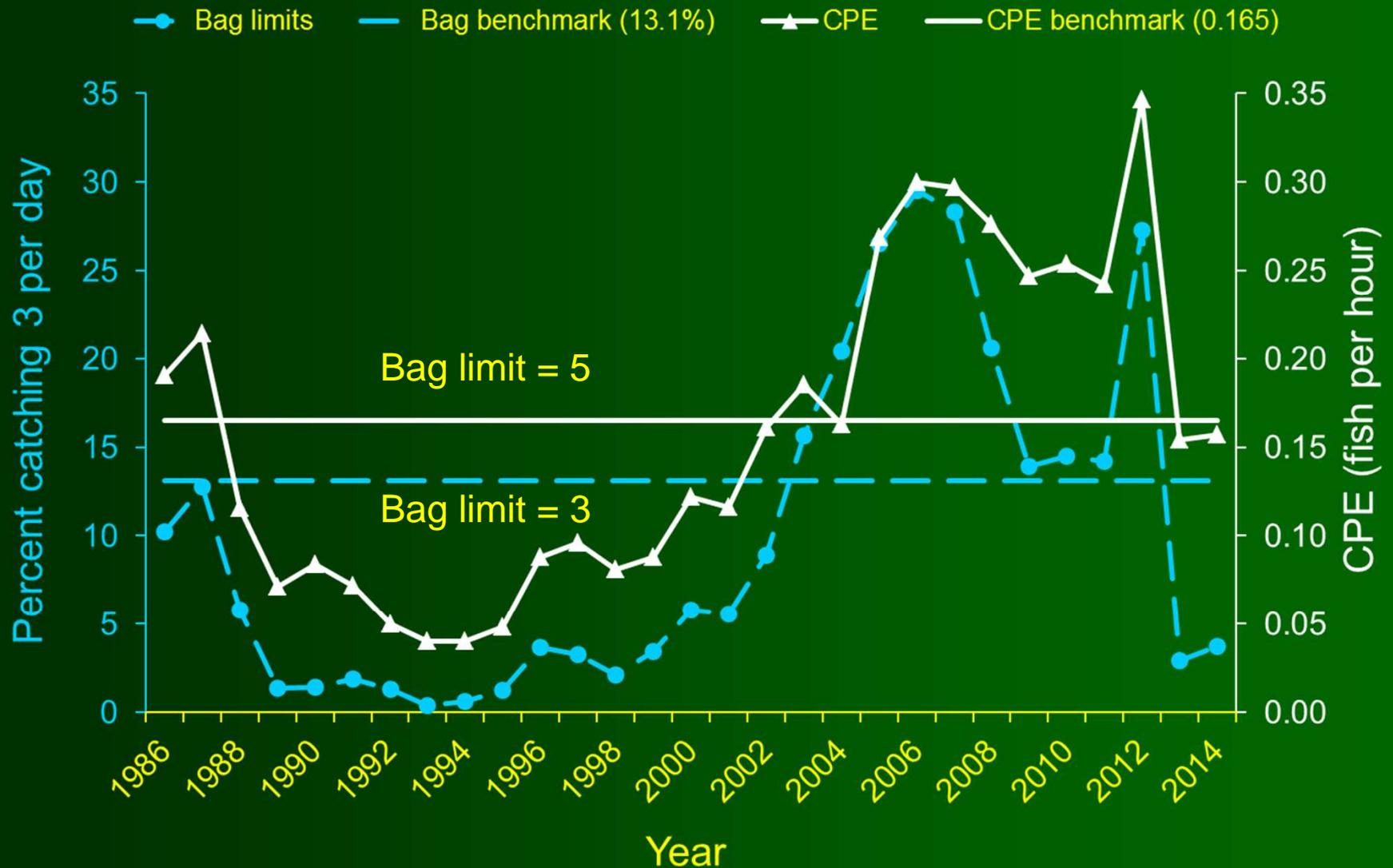


Estimated Chinook Salmon Recruitment in Lake Michigan, 1967-2013



Slide provided by R. Claramunt

Percent of charter anglers catching 3 Chinook salmon per day and catch rate (fish/hour) of Chinook salmon



Slide provided by R. Claramunt

Thank You



Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

www.michigan.gov/dnr