



Michigan Steelhead - Large River Creel Survey Biological Data

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NRC Fisheries Subcommittee Meeting

June 13, 2024

2024

Michigan Fishing Regulations

Rules apply from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025



Outline

- Review creel catch, effort, and catch rate
- Present biodata
 - Clip vs. unclip
 - Sex ratio
 - Size at age
 - Age distribution
- Stocking numbers
- Present angler preferences from creel
- Lake Michigan steelhead population trends, harvest, and prey
- Summary/Recommendations



Steelhead Management Goal

Provide year-round Steelhead angling opportunities to diverse user groups with differing ability levels and preferred fishing methods in Michigan's Great Lakes and connected rivers.



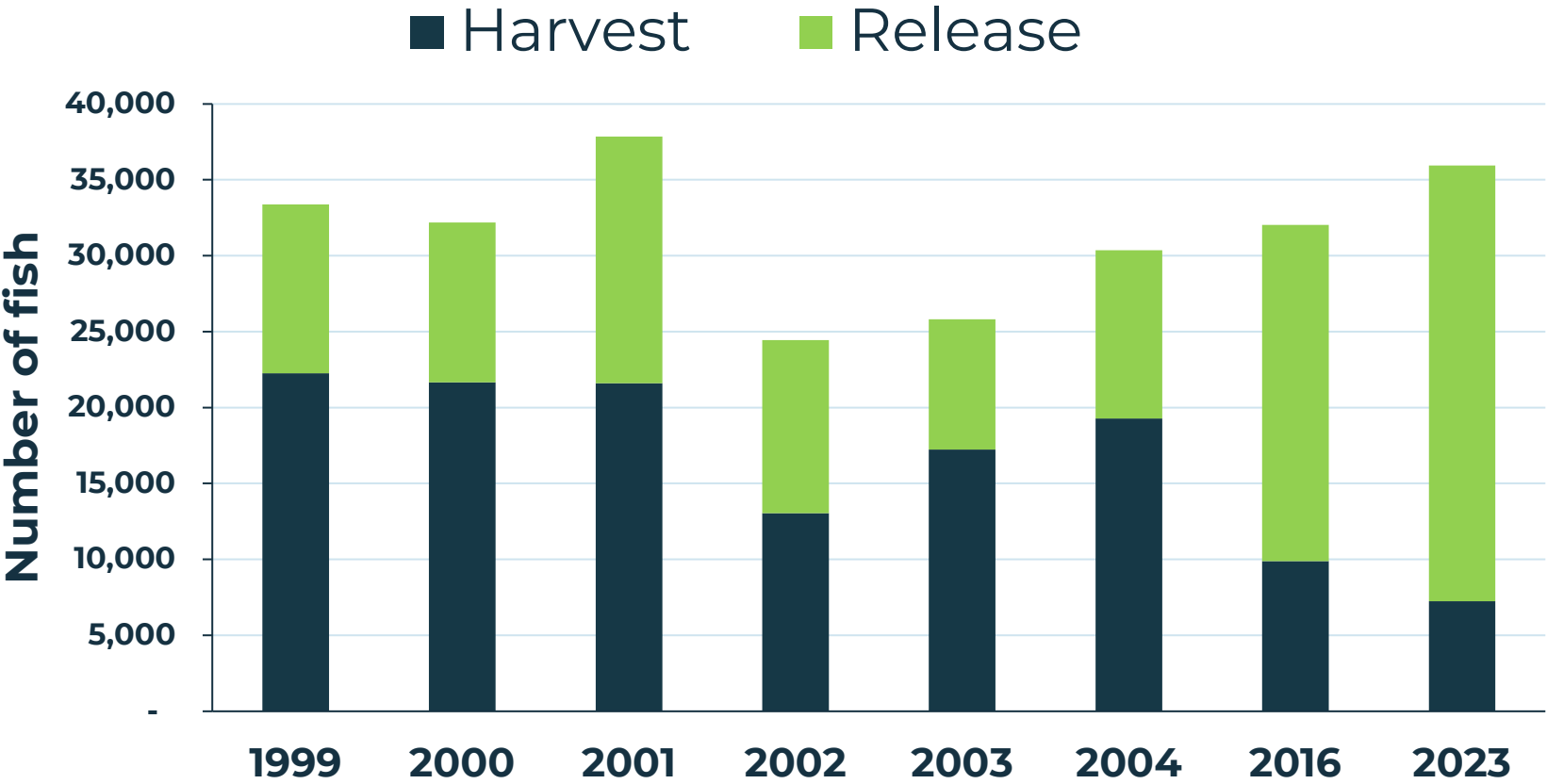
Illustration provided by Joseph R. Tomelleri ©

Creel Survey - Manistee and Muskegon Rivers

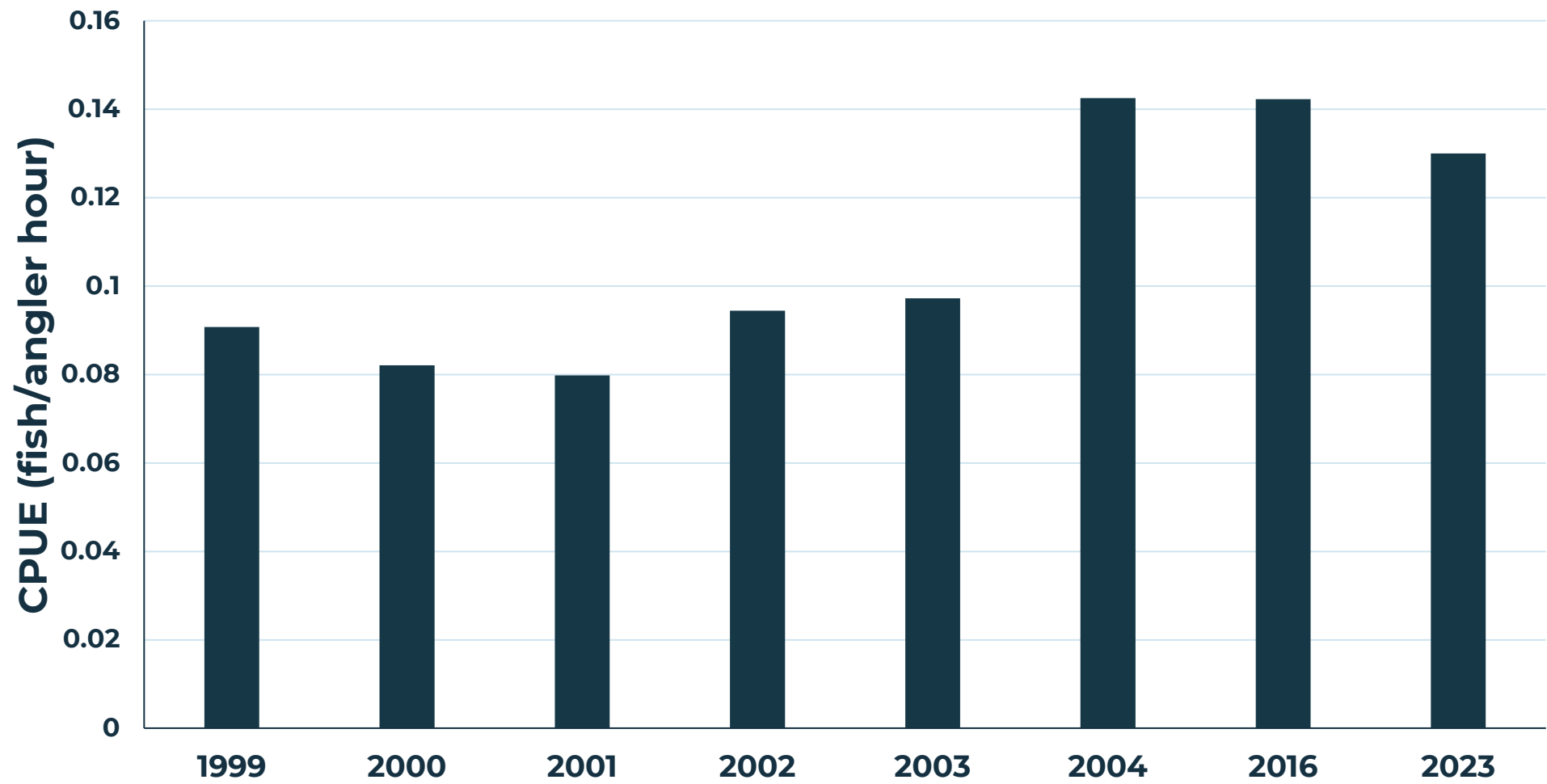
- Angler interviews conducted from Oct. 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023
- Provided estimates of fishing effort and harvest
- Collection of biological samples to assess age and growth
- 163 days of creel on both rivers
- Manistee River had 1,198 interviews
- Muskegon River had 867 interviews



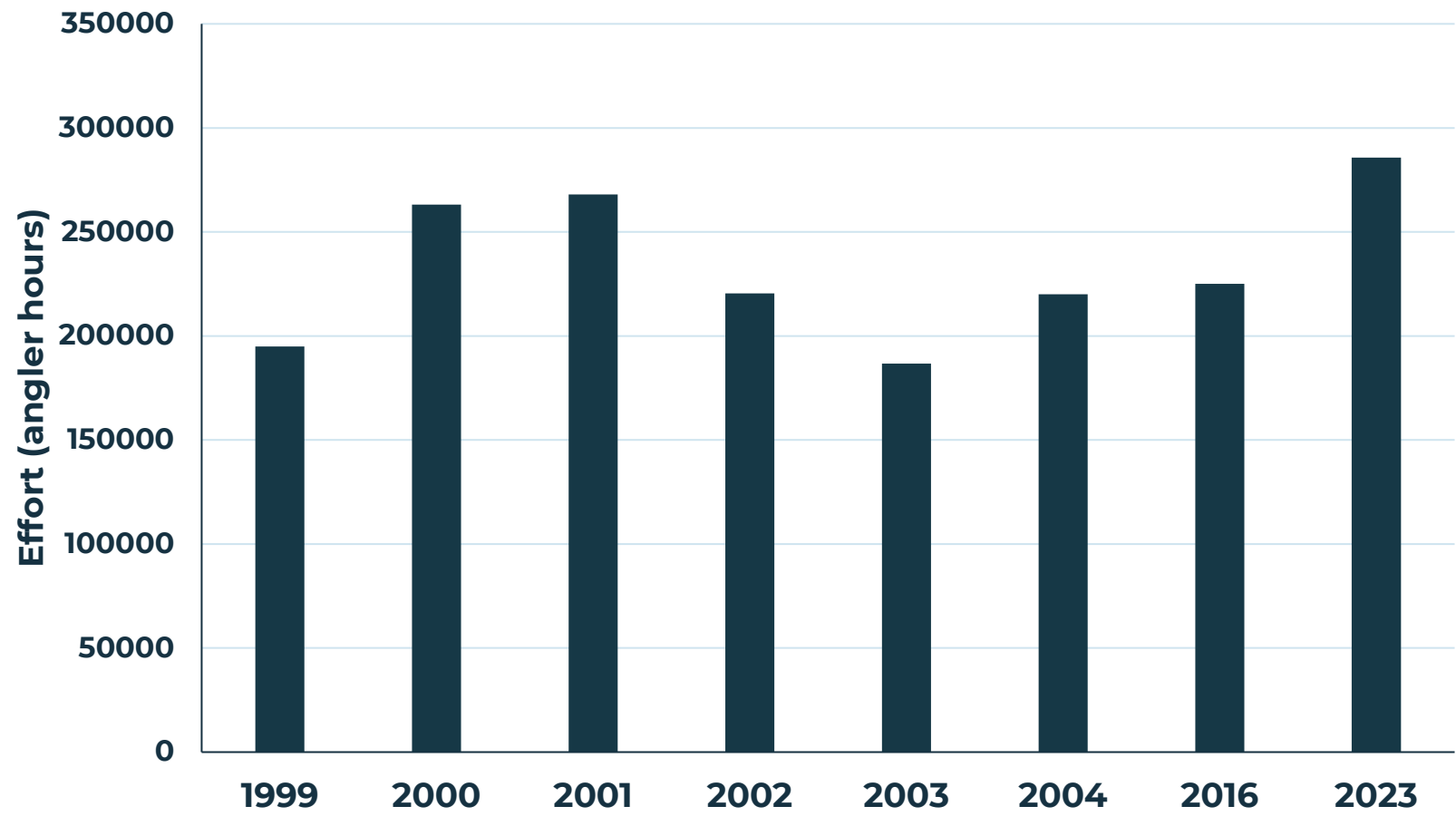
Manistee River – Steelhead Total Catch



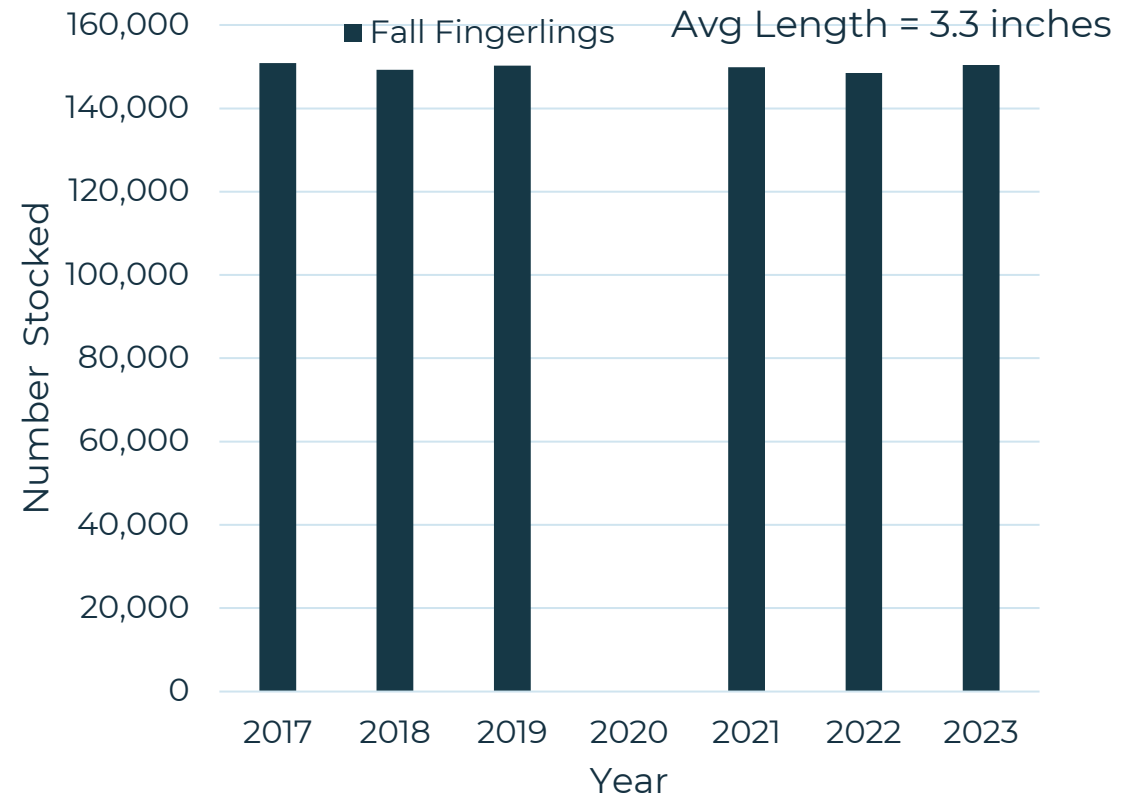
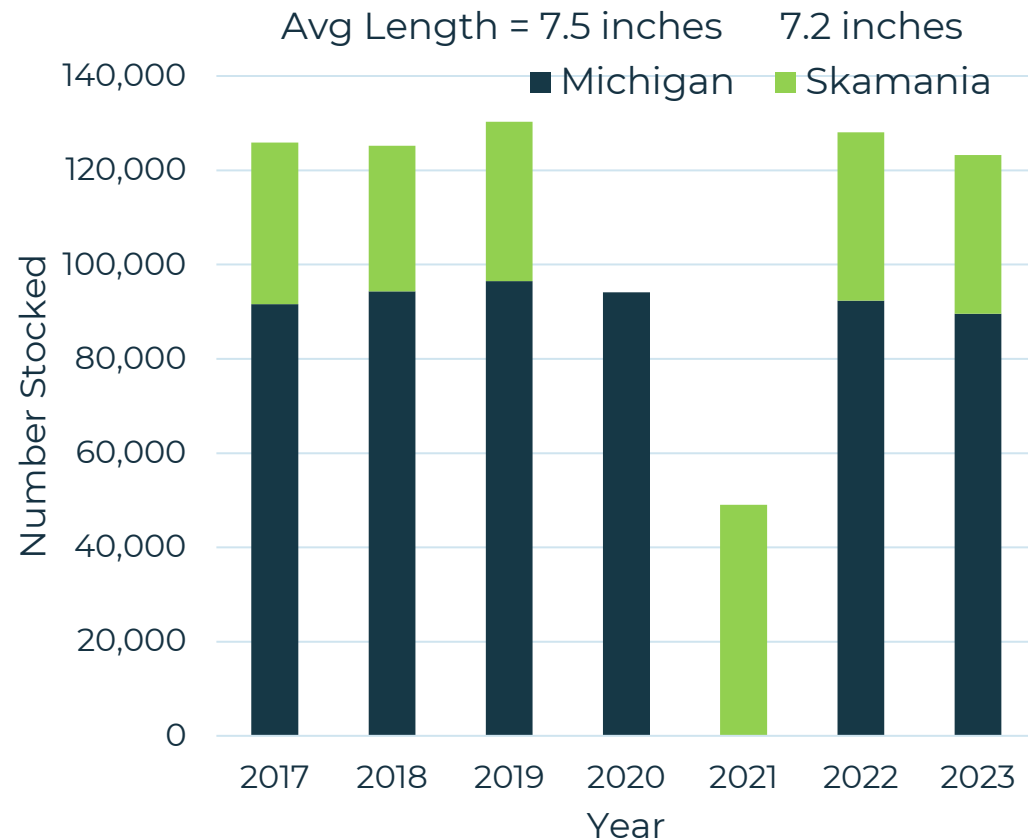
Manistee River – Steelhead Catch Rates



Manistee River – Total Angler Effort



Manistee River Steelhead Stocking



Manistee River

- Steelhead Origin
 - 160 Clipped = 50.2% Hatchery
 - 159 No Clip = 49.8% Wild
- Wild Steelhead Stream Age
 - Age 1 = 103 (68.2%)
 - Age 2 = 48 (31.8%)

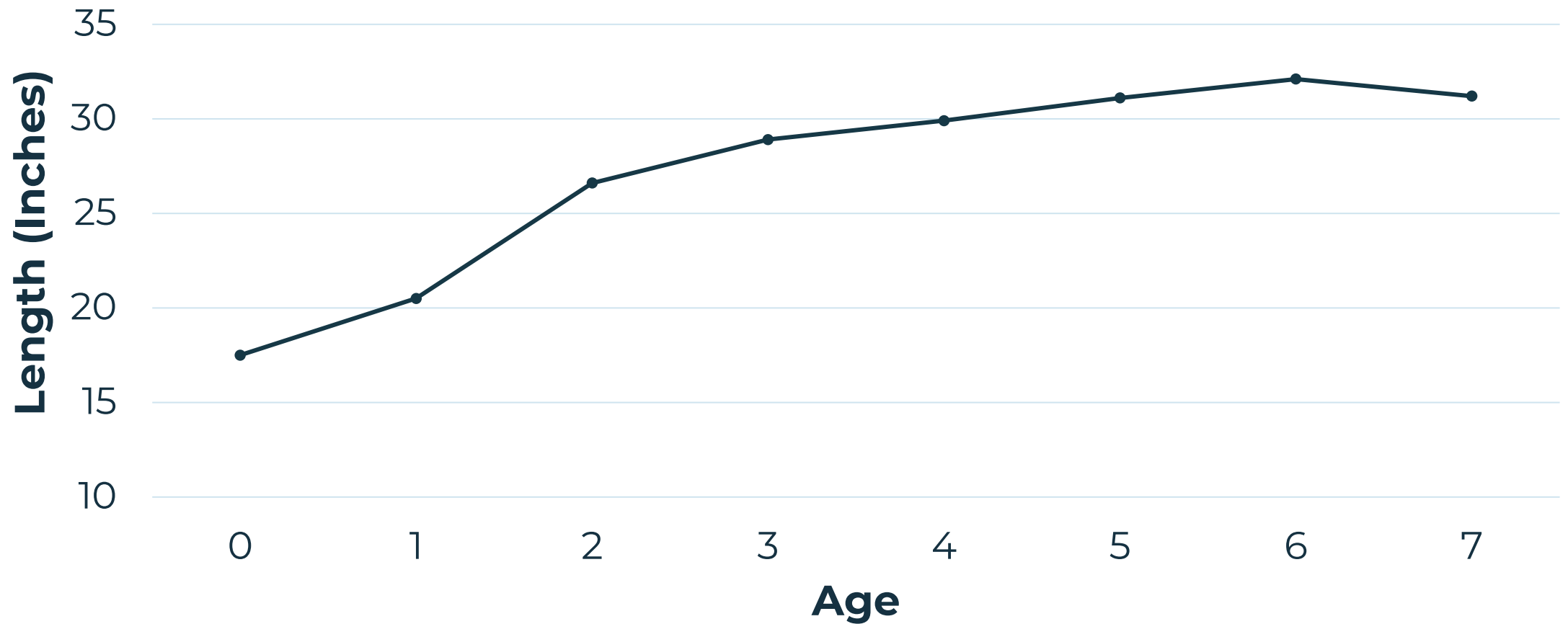


Manistee River Steelhead

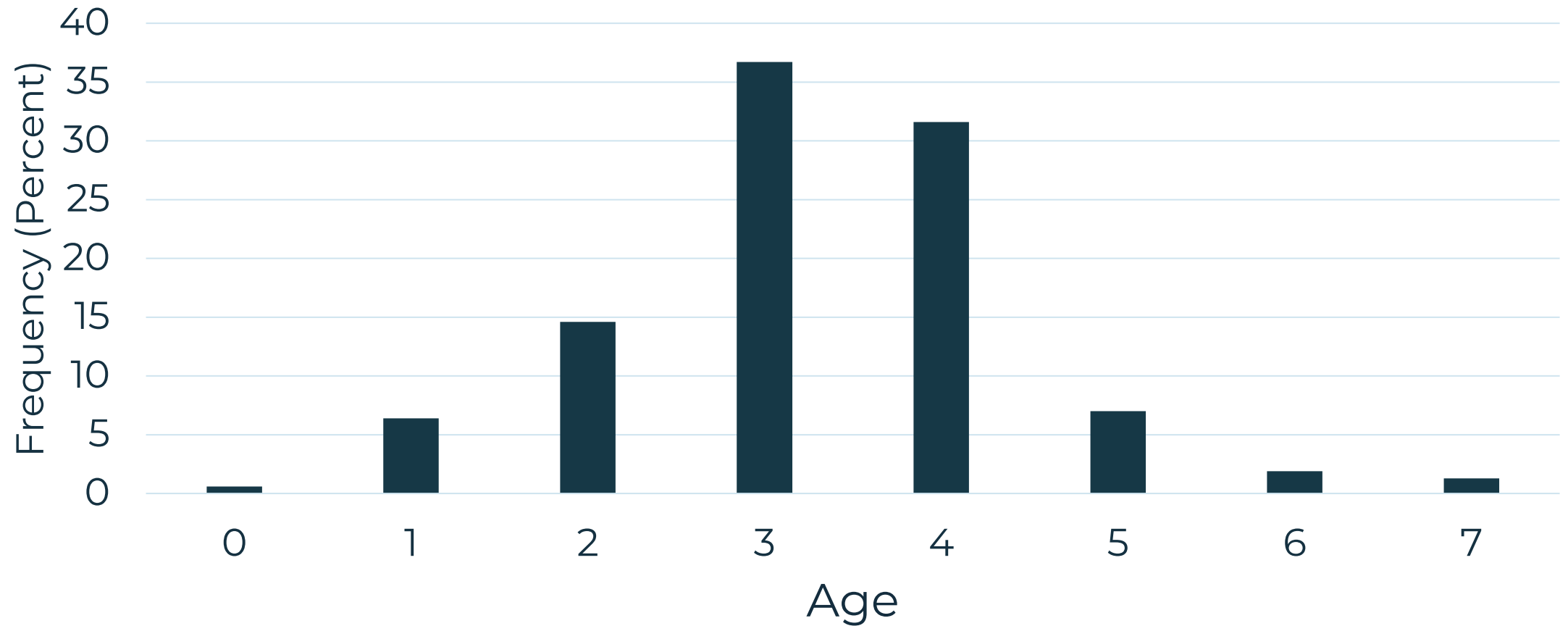
	Number	Percent	Avg Length	Avg Age
Male	161	50.5	27.5	3.0
Female	158	49.5	28.4	3.3



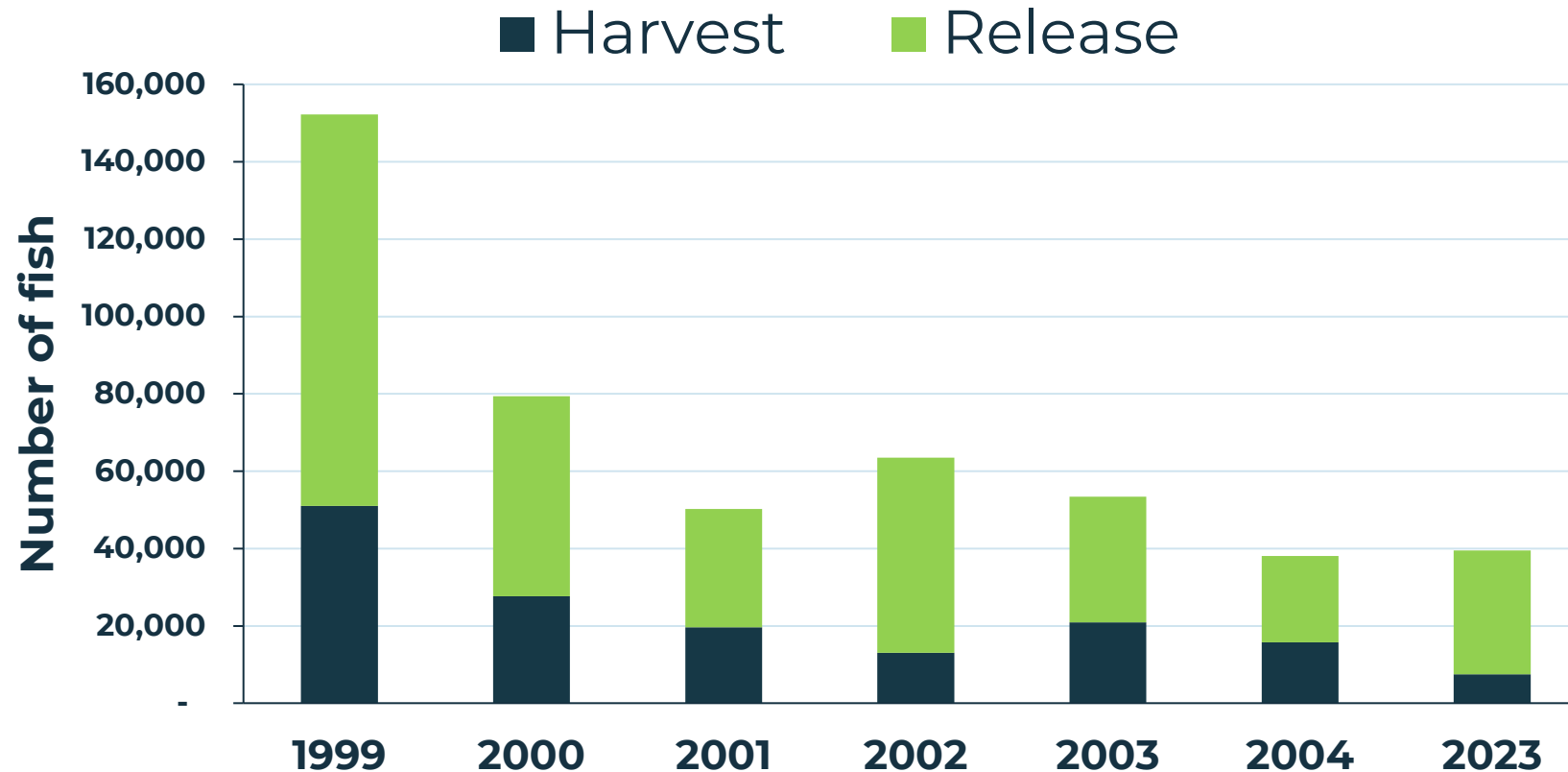
Manistee River – Steelhead Average Length at Age



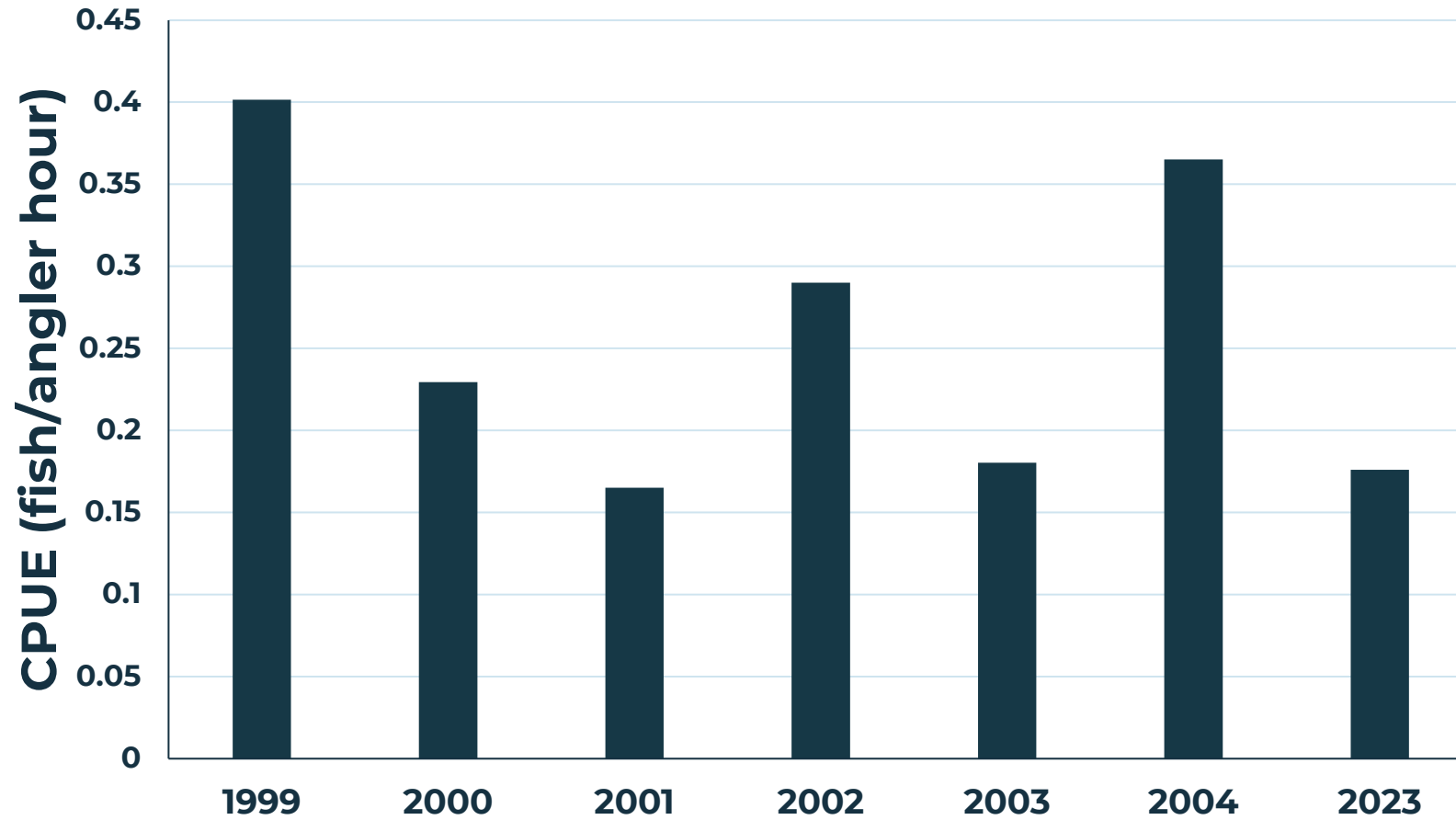
Manistee River – Steelhead Age Frequency



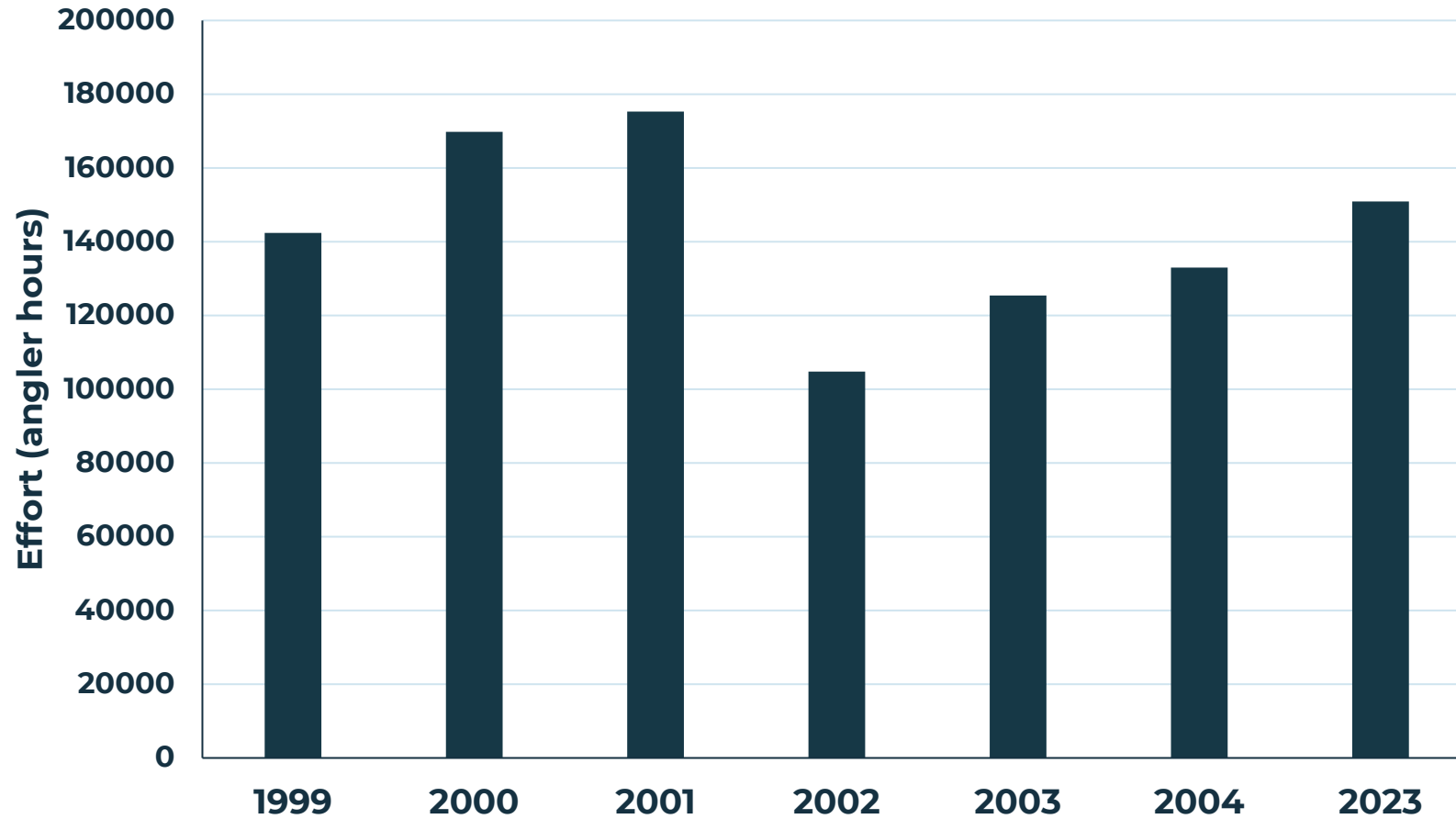
Muskegon River – Steelhead (Rainbow) Total Catch



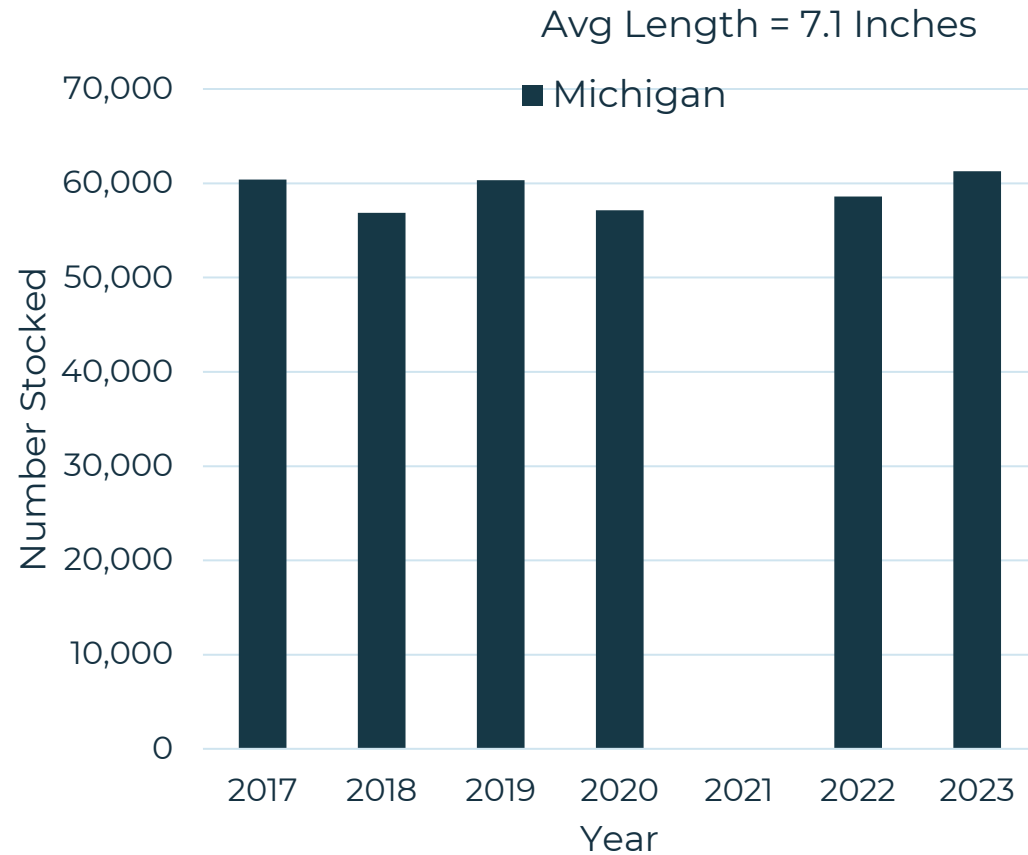
Muskegon River – Steelhead Catch Rates



Muskegon River – Total Angler Effort



Muskegon River Steelhead Stocking



Muskegon River

- Steelhead Origin
 - 202 Clipped = 74.3% Hatchery
 - 70 No Clip = 25.7% Wild
- Wild Steelhead Stream Age
 - Age 1 = 47 (70.1%)
 - Age 2 = 20 (29.9%)

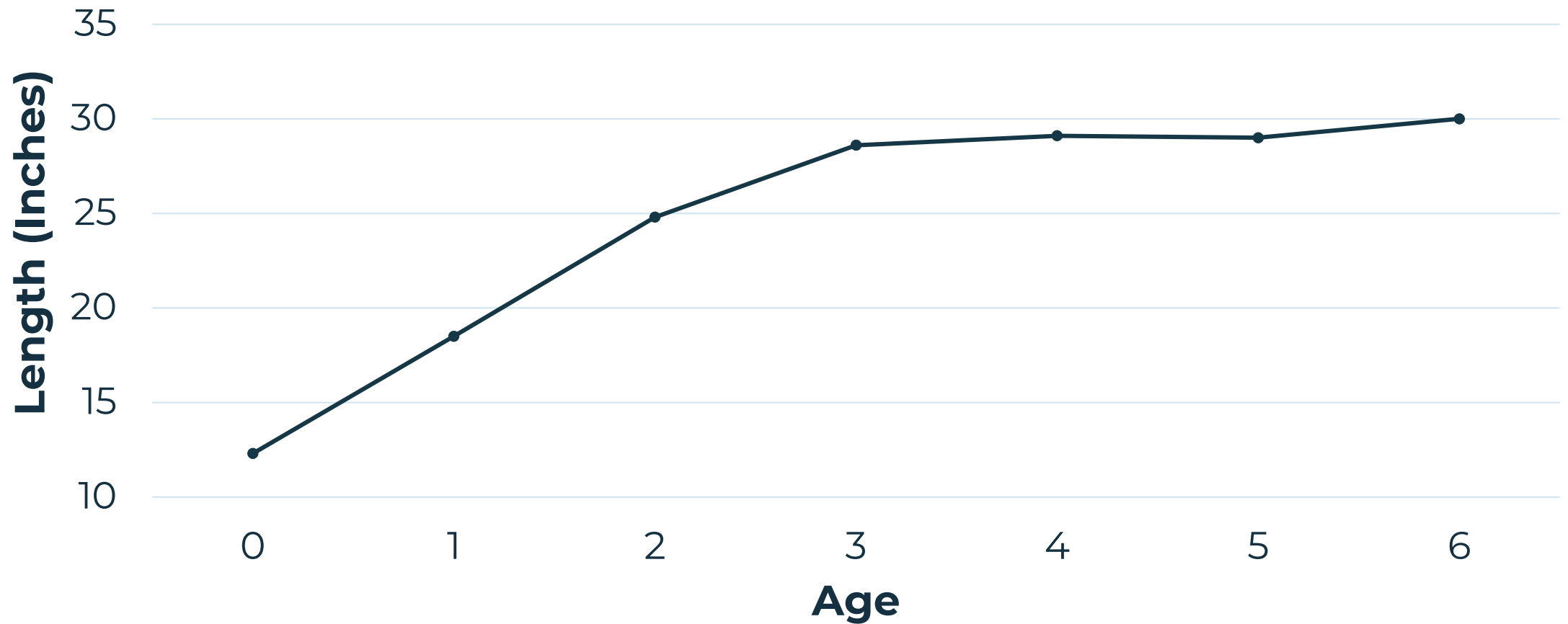


Muskegon River Steelhead

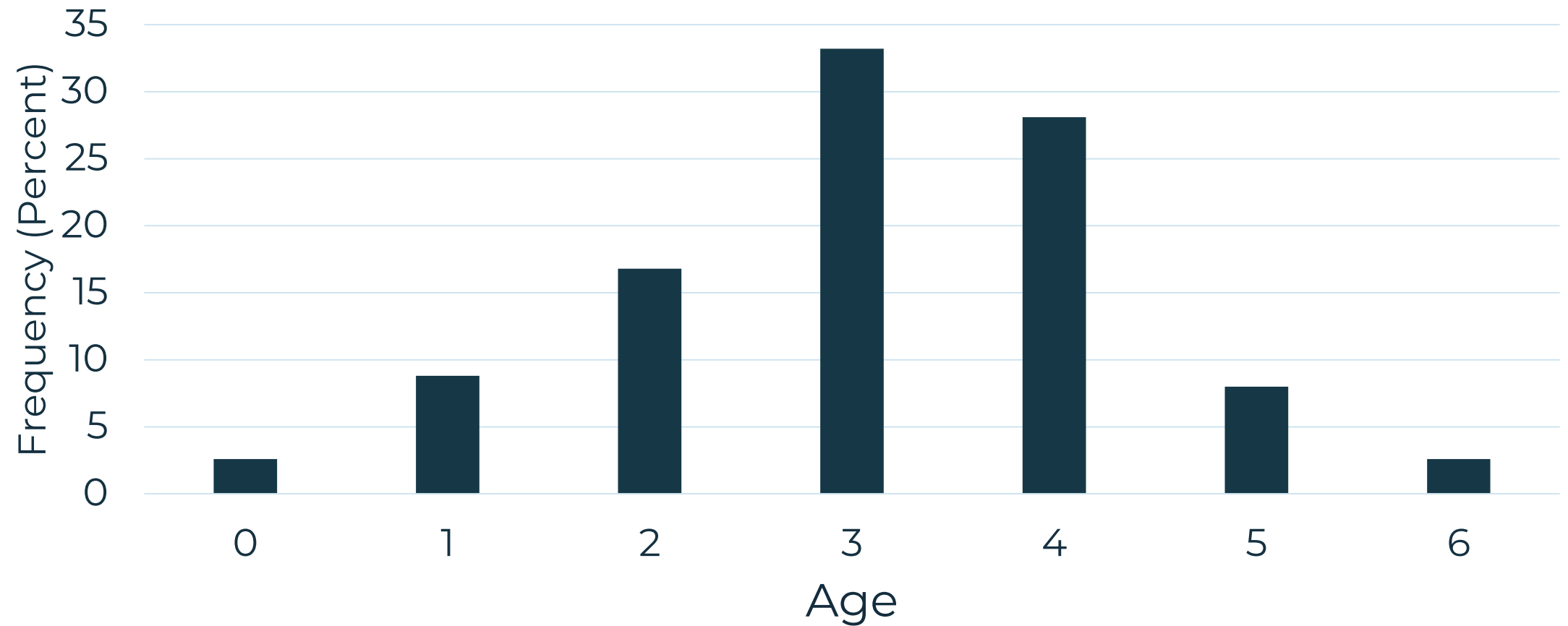
	Number	Percent	Avg Length	Avg Age
Male	122	44.7	25.5	2.9
Female	151	55.3	28.0	3.4



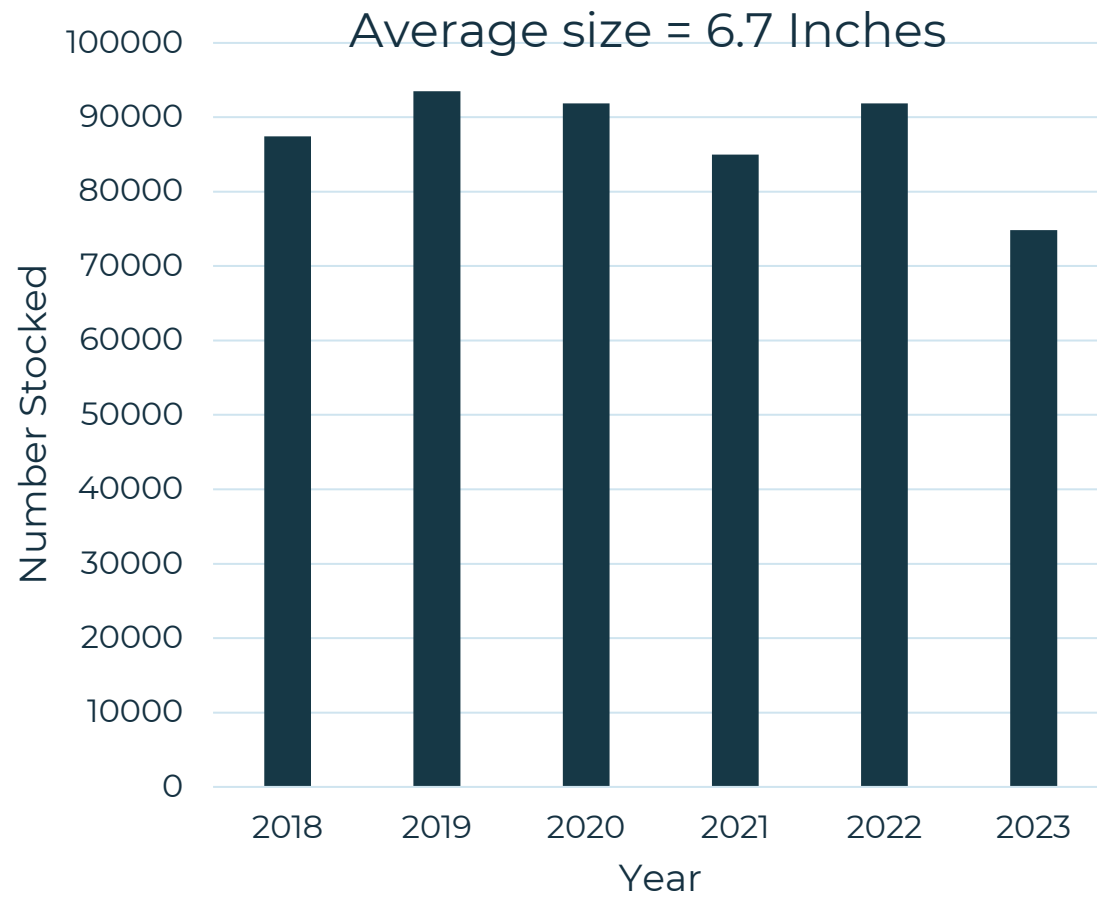
Muskegon River – Average Steelhead Length at Age



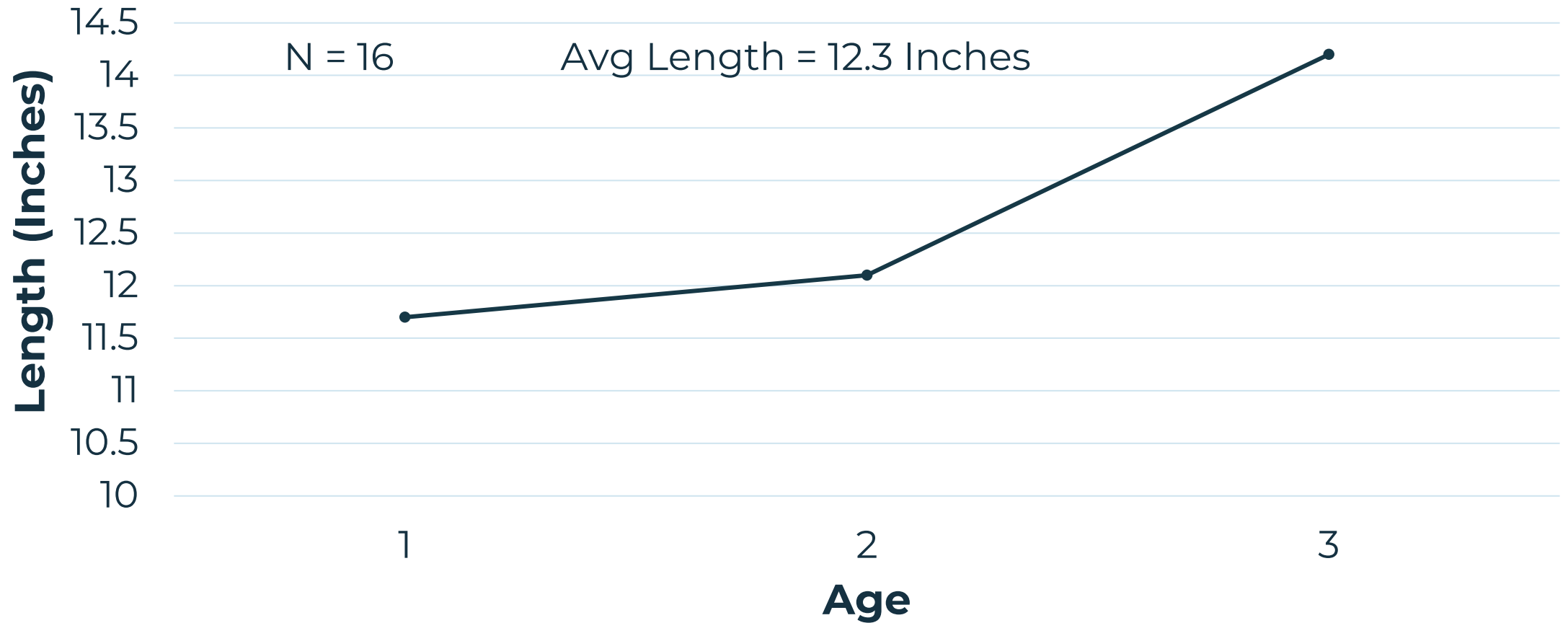
Muskegon River – Steelhead Age Frequency



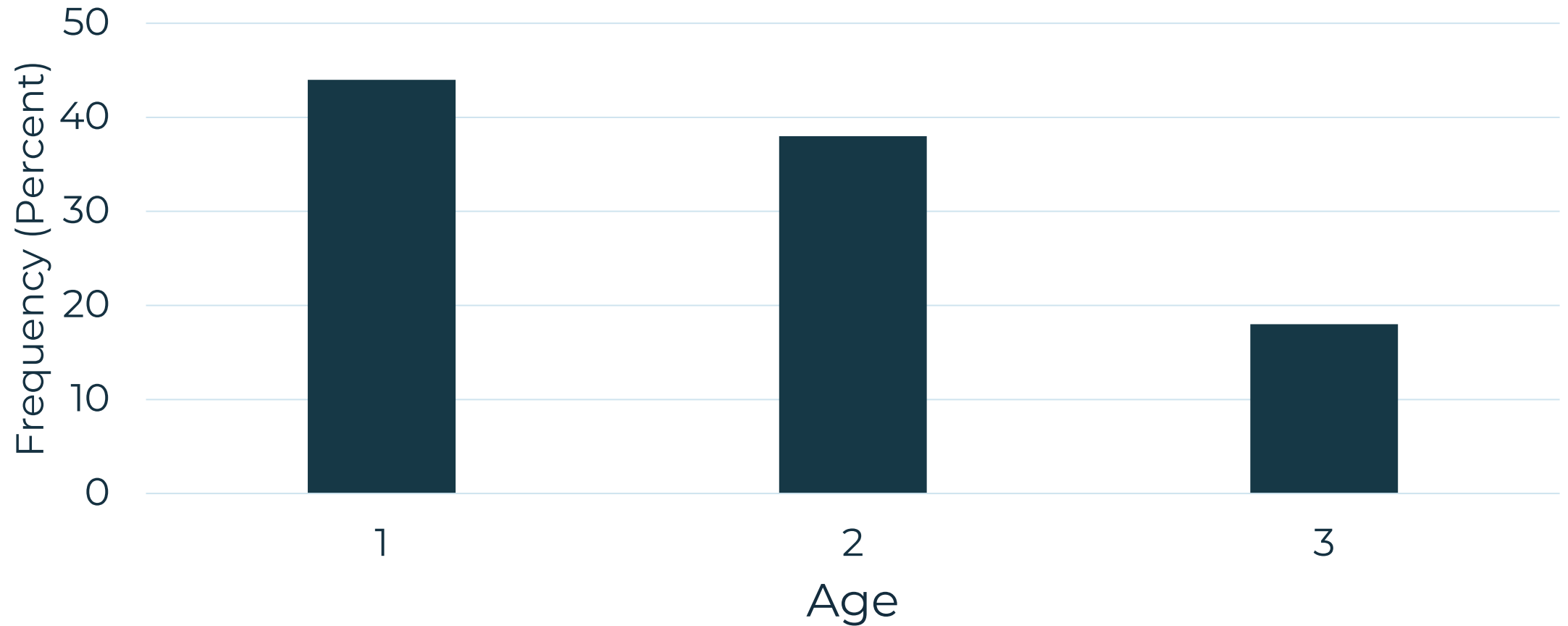
Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout – Muskegon River



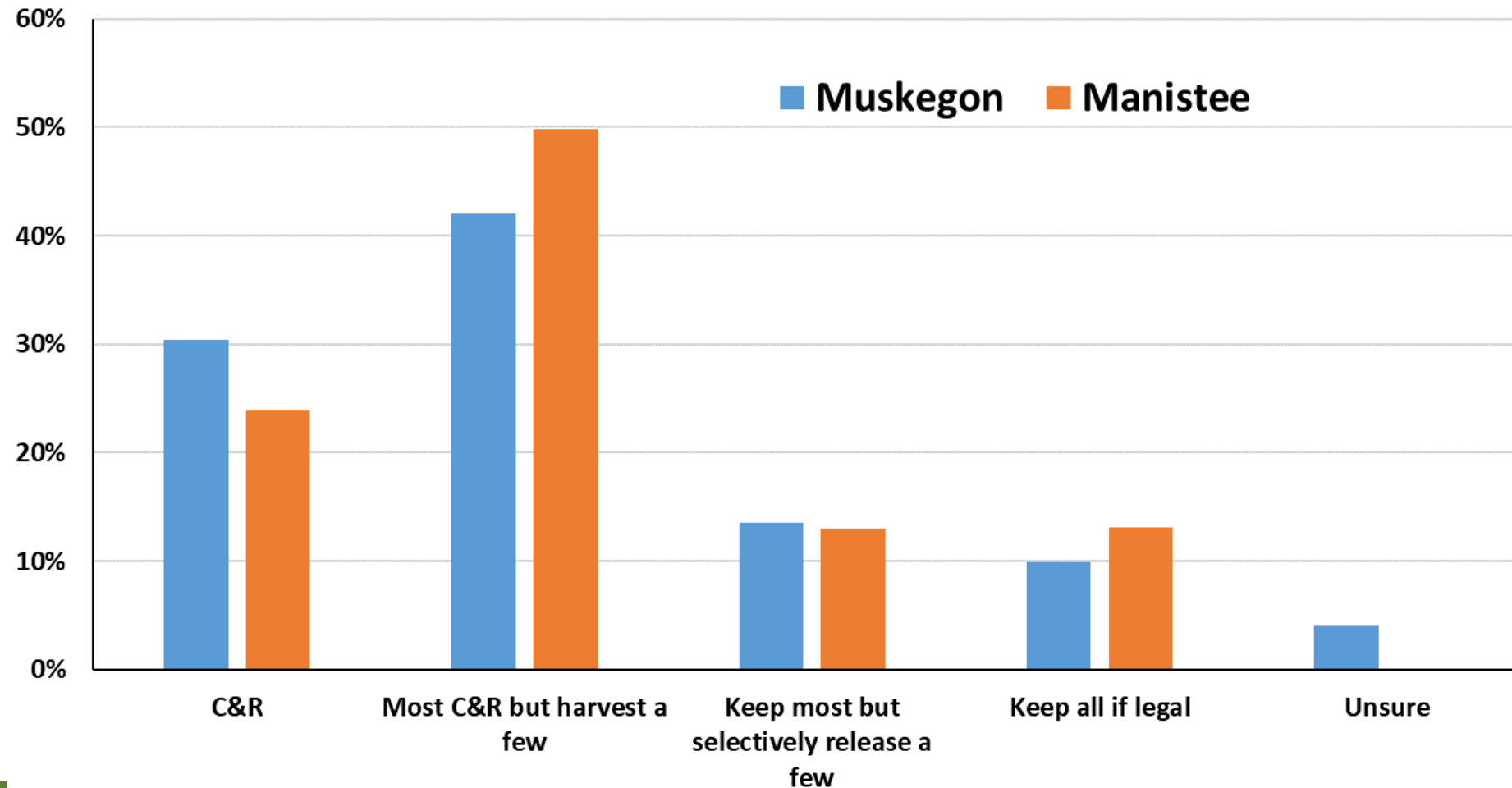
Eagle Lake Strain – Muskegon River



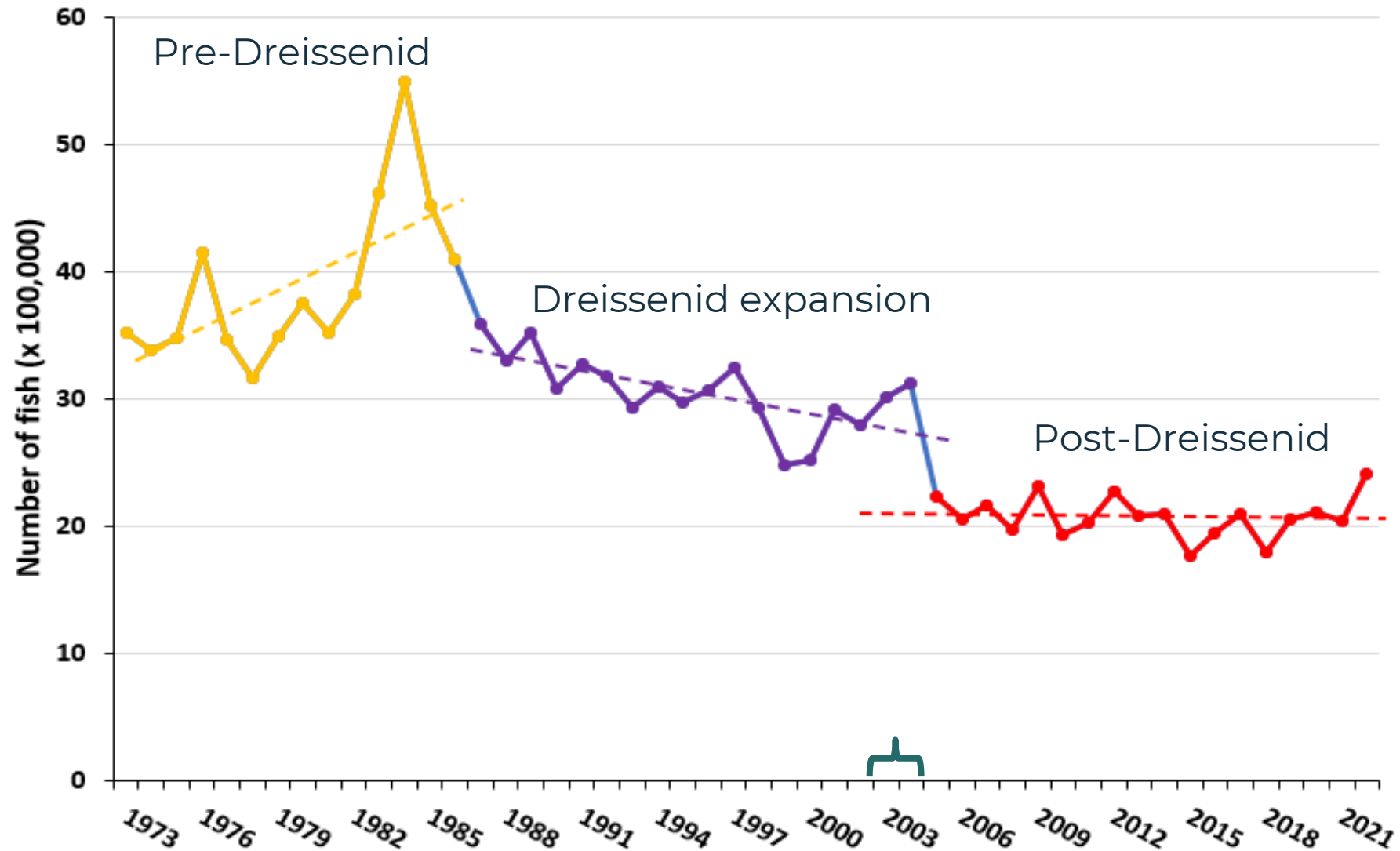
Muskegon River – Eagle Lake Age Frequency



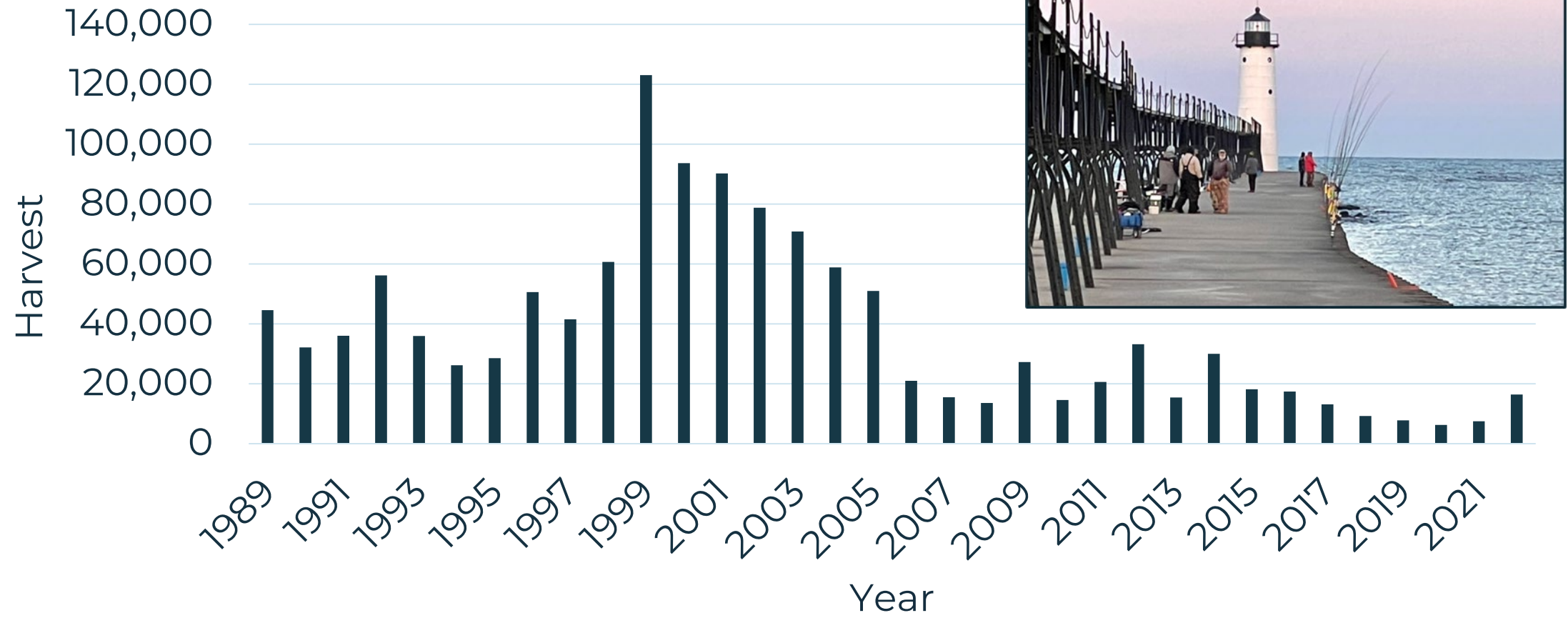
Personal Approach to Steelhead Fishing – Creel Survey



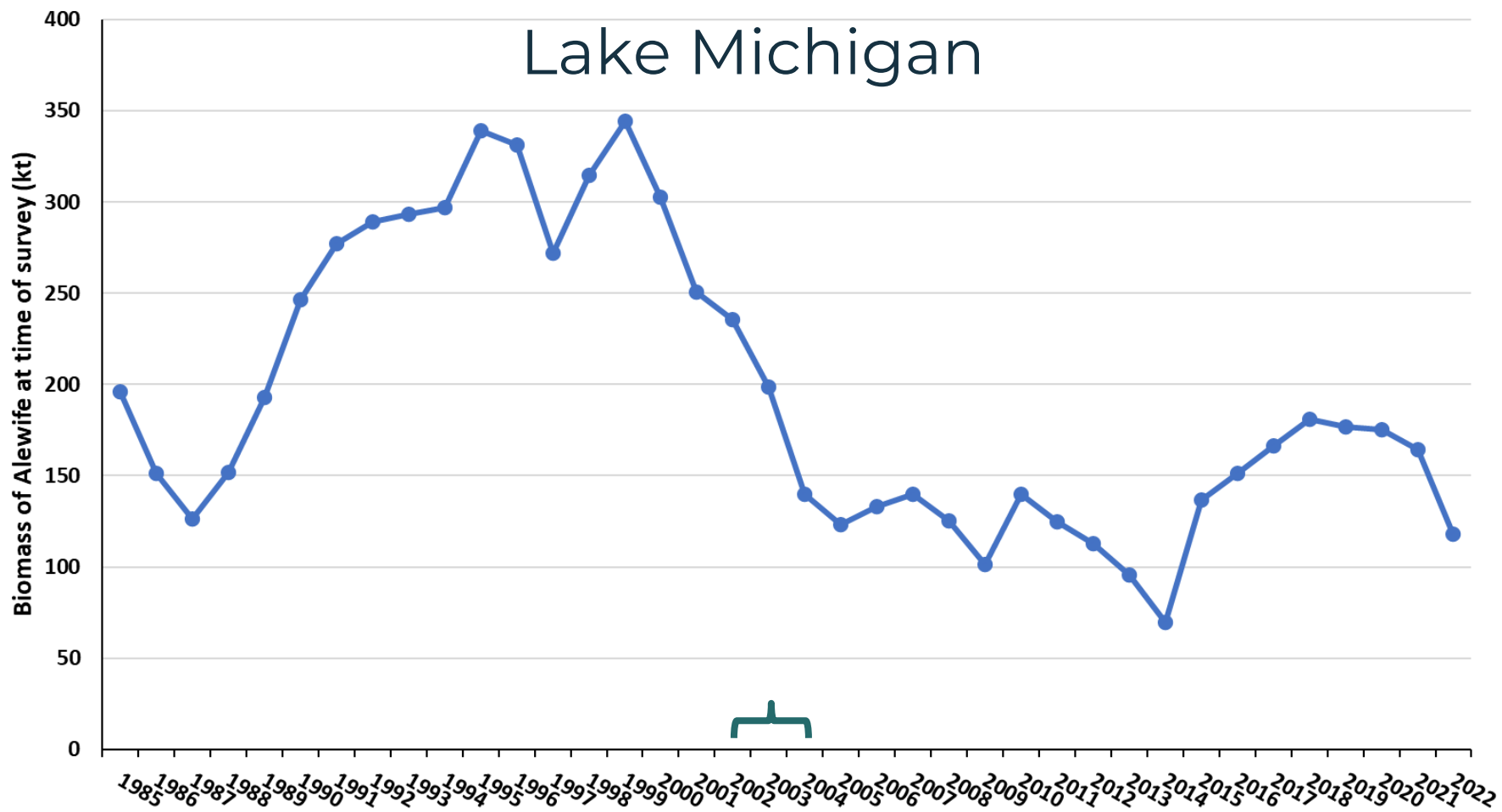
Status of Steelhead in Lake Michigan



Lake Michigan Steelhead Creel Harvest

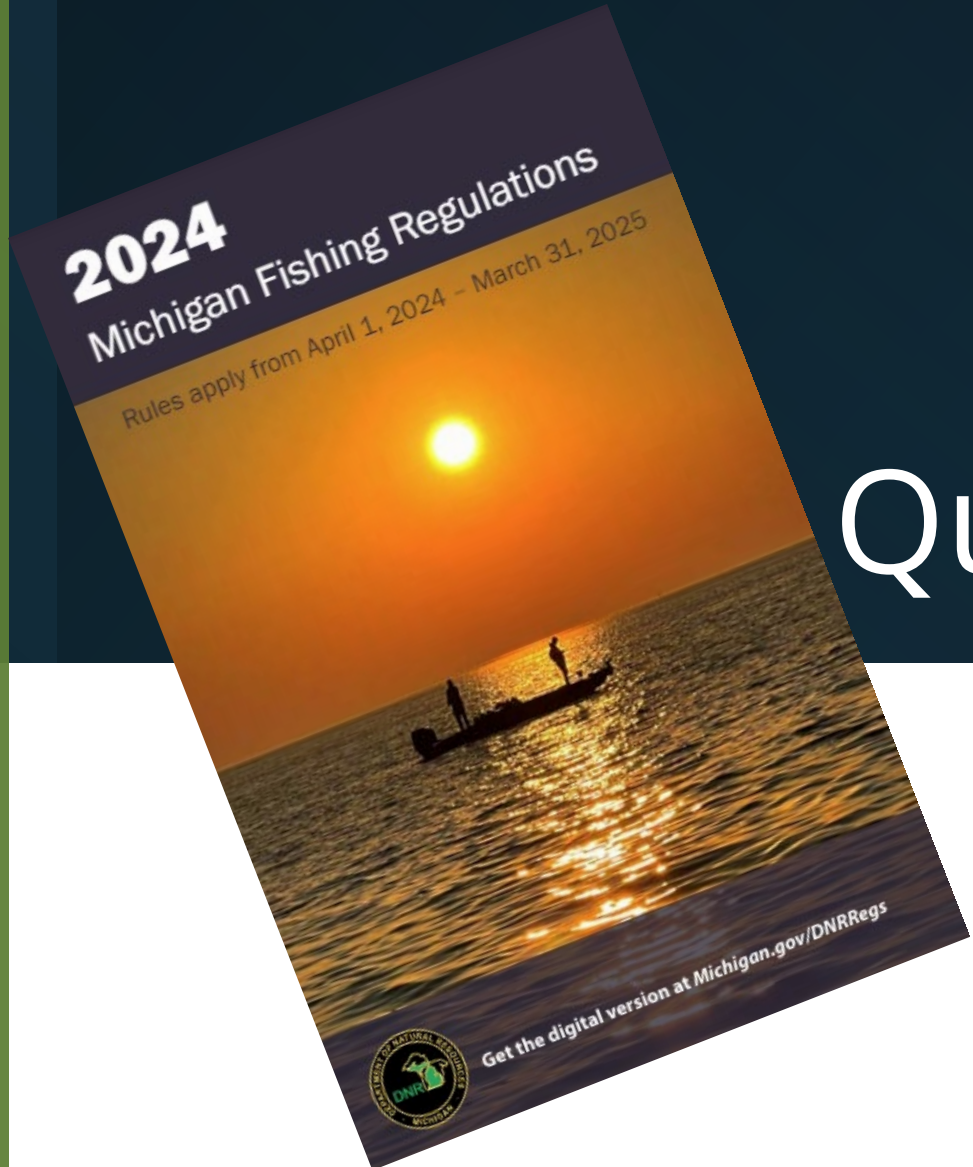


Estimated Alewife Biomass – Surrogate for Prey Status



Summary

- Naturalized steelhead contributing to fishery and stocked fish supplementing catch
- Multiple year classes of steelhead represented in fishery
- Catch rates and catch not indicative of declining population
- CIR or mostly CIR with some selective harvest adopted by about 70% of anglers
- Steelhead population in Lake Michigan stable since 2005
- Great Lake anglers support low for lower bag limits
- No need for further reductions beyond DPL on select rivers
- Great Lake DPL should remain same



Questions



Land Use Order of the Director No. 4 of 2024

Electric Bicycle Use on PRD & FRD Administered Lands

June 13, 2024

Electric Bicycle Defined

257.13e

"Electric bicycle" means a device upon which an individual may ride that satisfies all of the following:

- a) The device is equipped with all of the following:
 - i. A seat or saddle for use by the rider.
 - ii. Fully operable pedals for human propulsion.
 - iii. An electric motor of not greater than 750 watts.
- b) The device falls within 1 of the following categories:





CLASS 1



CLASS 2



CLASS 3

Pedal Assist



Throttle



Max Speed

20 mph

20 mph

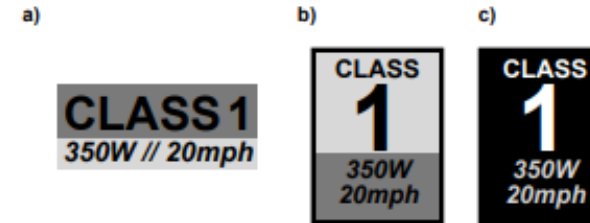
28 mph

E-Bike Labels

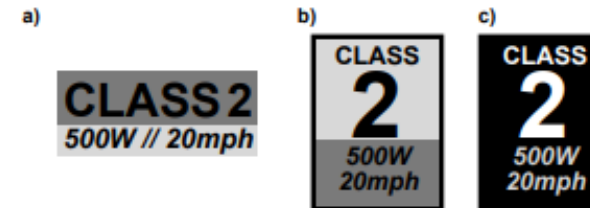


EXAMPLE OF GENERIC CLASS LABELS

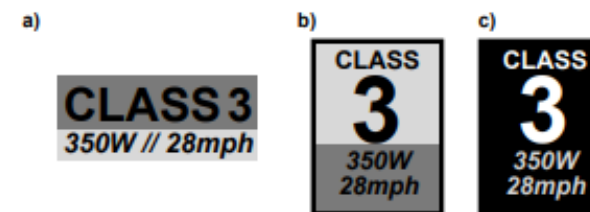
CLASS 1: 350W // 20MPH



CLASS 2: 500W // 20MPH



CLASS 3: 350W // 28MPH



Michigan Laws on E-Bikes

257.662a

- Except as otherwise provided, an individual riding an electric bicycle is subject to the same requirements under this act as an individual riding a bicycle.
- Beginning on January 1, 2018, a manufacturer or distributor of electric bicycles offered for sale or distribution in this state shall permanently affix in a prominent location on the electric bicycle a label that contains the classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage of the electric bicycle
- A person shall not tamper with or modify an electric bicycle so as to change the manufactured motor-powered speed capability or motor engagement of the electric bicycle without replacing the label required under subsection (2) with an appropriate label printed in Arial font and in at least 9-point type.
- For purposes of this act, a device shall not be considered an electric bicycle if the motor is modified in a manner that no longer meets the criteria described in section 13e, or if the motor exceeds 750 watts.



Area of Expanded Use



- Statewide Parks and Recreation Division and Forest Resource Division lands open to bicycle use including state parks, recreation areas, linear trails, and state forest pathways and campgrounds.
- Would not include the High Country, Shingle Mill or Pickeral Lake Pathways.
- Would not be open on Wildlife Division lands.

Allowable Operation of Ebikes on DNR Managed Natural Surface Non-Motorized Trails and Pathways

A local authority or agency of this state having jurisdiction over a trail described in this subsection may allow and regulate the operation of an electric bicycle on a trail that has a natural surface tread made by clearing and grading the native soil with no added surfacing materials (MCL 324.72105)

- Land Use Order of the Director 5.27



Proposed Land Use Order

- A person may operate a class-1 electric bicycle on a trail/pathway which is open to bicycle use parks and recreation division and forest resource division lands open to bicycle use. Exception for three pathways.
- A person with a mobility disability may operate a class-2 electric bicycle on a trail/pathway open to bicycle use upon the issuance of a use permit.



E-Bike LUOD Survey

- As of the close of the survey received 5,747 responses. The responses identified that:
- 1,591 ride ebikes
- 3,216 do not ride ebikes
- 616 sometimes ride ebikes
- 324 do not ride trails
- 54.29% support proposed LUOD
- 41.26% oppose proposed LUOD
- 4.45% indifferent to proposed LUOD



DNR E-bike Resources



- Website: [E-bikes in Michigan](#)
- Updated signage
 - Placed at trailhead of bicycle trails to identify class of ebike authorized for use
 - Contain QR code to survey
- Renewed signage at locations where Park and Recreation Division and Wildlife Division lands abut to remind visitors that bicycles (and ebikes) are not authorized on Wildlife Division lands.
- Educational materials
 - Add to website
 - Place at campground headquarters
- On-going survey to evaluate use
- Two virtual public input meetings

Any Questions?

Thank you!

Electronic Harvest Tag Option For Turkeys

Adam Bump

DNR Wildlife Division

Tom Weston

DNR Marketing & Outreach



E Harvest Tags

- Offer a new and quick/efficient way to purchase and validate licenses
- Rapidly expanding tool across the country
- Eliminates need to have physical tag
- Would not be likely to have a significant impact on harvest
- Turkeys are a good pilot species, especially fall then spring



Considerations

- Enforcement
 - Requiring physical marking reduces concerns
- Stakeholders generally supportive but want traditional paper tags to remain an option
- E harvest tags may only be purchased or validated using DNR Hunt/Fish App
- Increases purchase options and allows for quick purchase
 - Take advantage of turketunities



Recommendation

- Add electronic harvest tags as an option for purchase for turkeys
- Retain existing license purchase options
- Require physical “tagging” of harvested birds
 - Securely attach something (duct tape, other durable material) with information to aid in enforcement
 - Customer ID
 - Date of Harvest
 - Validation #





Thank You