



Salmon in the Classroom Workshop

Trends in the Salmon Fishery:
Lake Superior
Lake Huron
Lake Michigan

CORY KOVACS

MDNR-FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

NEWBERRY





Brief Outline

- Salmon Stocking History
- Statewide Angler Survey Program Overview
- Angler Effort
- Salmonid Catch Summaries
 - Lake Huron
 - Lake Michigan
 - Lake Superior
- Where to catch salmon



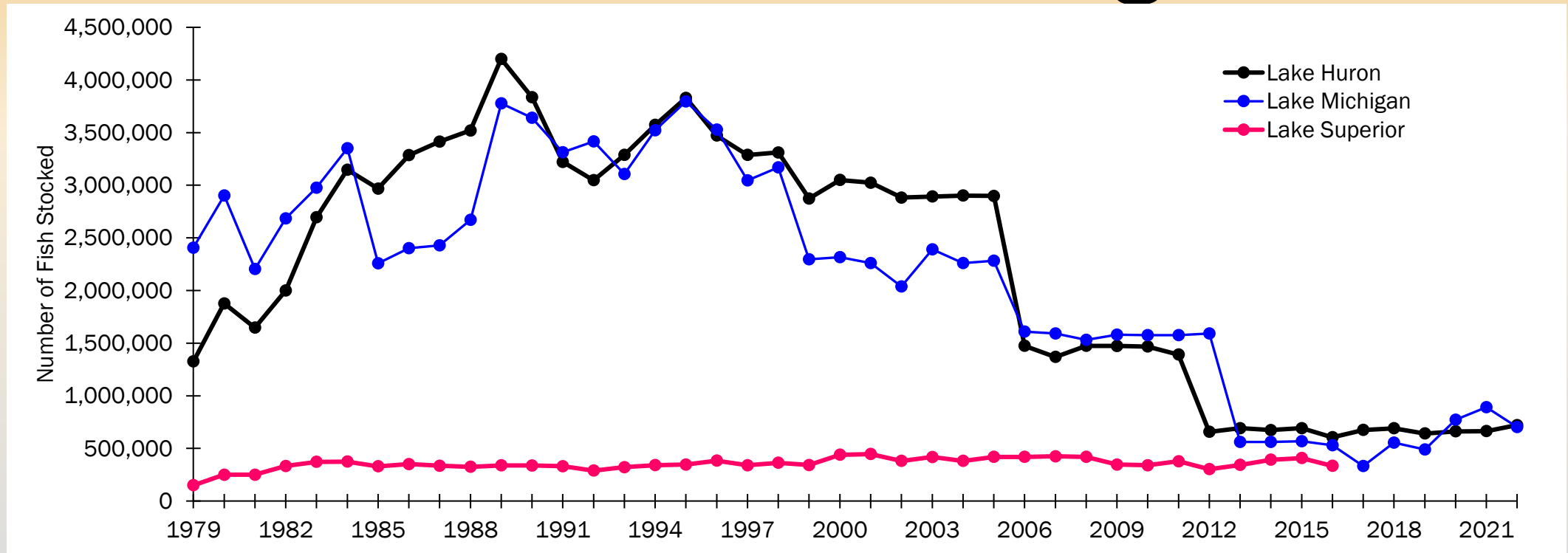
Great Lakes Salmon Stocking

- Pacific Salmon stocking began in Michigan in 1966
- Chinook Average Annual Stocking by Great Lake
 - Lake Huron- 2,215,957
 - Lake Michigan- 2,124,267
 - Lake Superior- 352,765*

*Last stocked 2016



Chinook Stocking



Fish illustrations courtesy of
Joseph R. Tomelleri ©



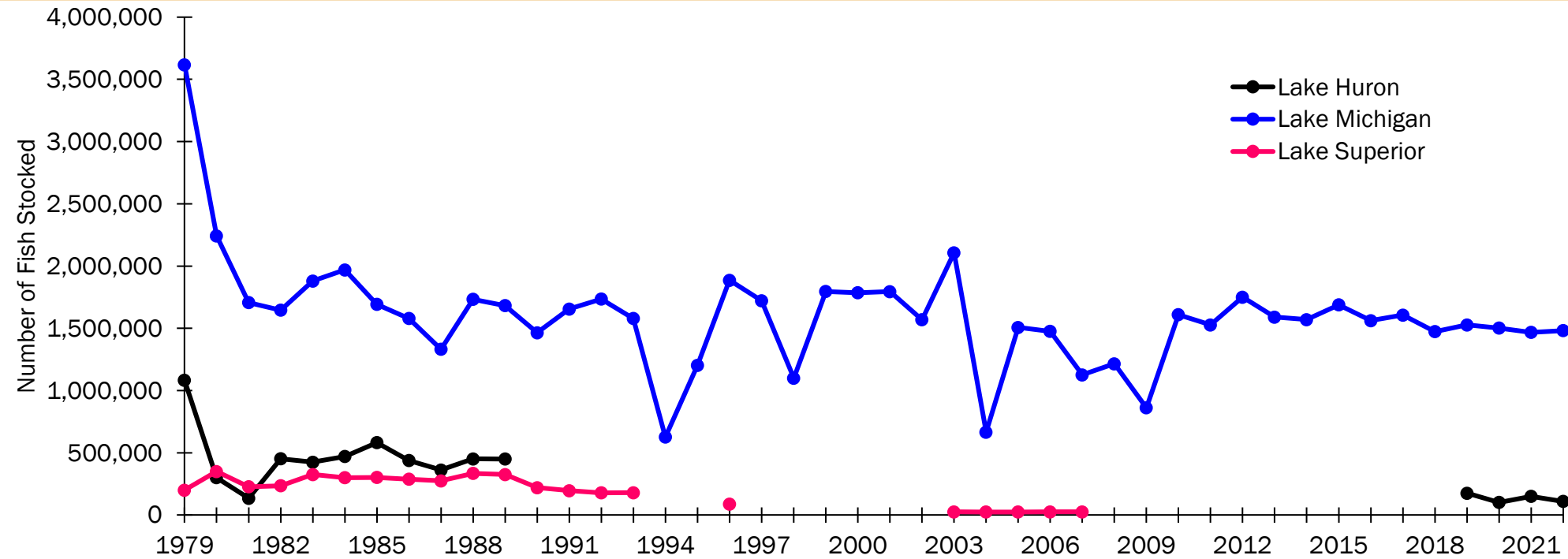
Great Lakes Salmon Stocking

- Coho Average Annual Stocking by Great Lake
 - Lake Huron- 379,008
 - Lake Michigan- 1,597,960
 - Lake Superior- 197,523*

*Last stocked 2007



Coho Stocking



Fish illustrations courtesy of
Joseph R. Tomelleri ©



How do we evaluate the recreational fishery?



Angler Survey Overview



- 1986-Great Lakes Creel formally began
- 65 Great Lakes ports surveyed annually
- 35-40 people (FTE and Seasonal) employed annually for Great Lakes creel
- Clerks work weekends, early mornings, and late nights to gather angler interviews
- Interview about 35,000 anglers annually
- Interact with additional 35-40K non-anglers annually
- Creel on average about 3.5 million angler hours across all Great Lakes

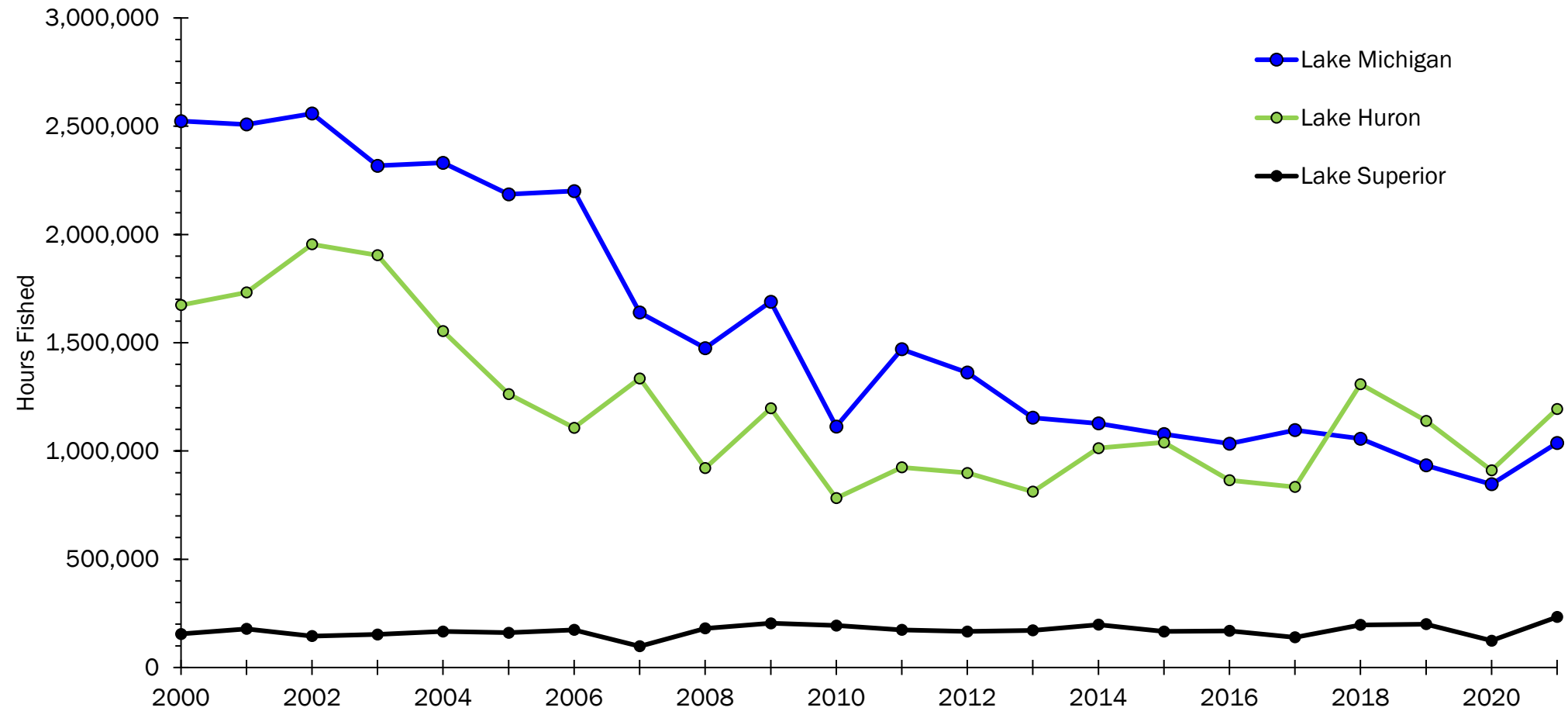


Why are creel surveys so important?

- Evaluate management actions
- Gather feedback from anglers on their values and opinions
- Identify trends in the fishery

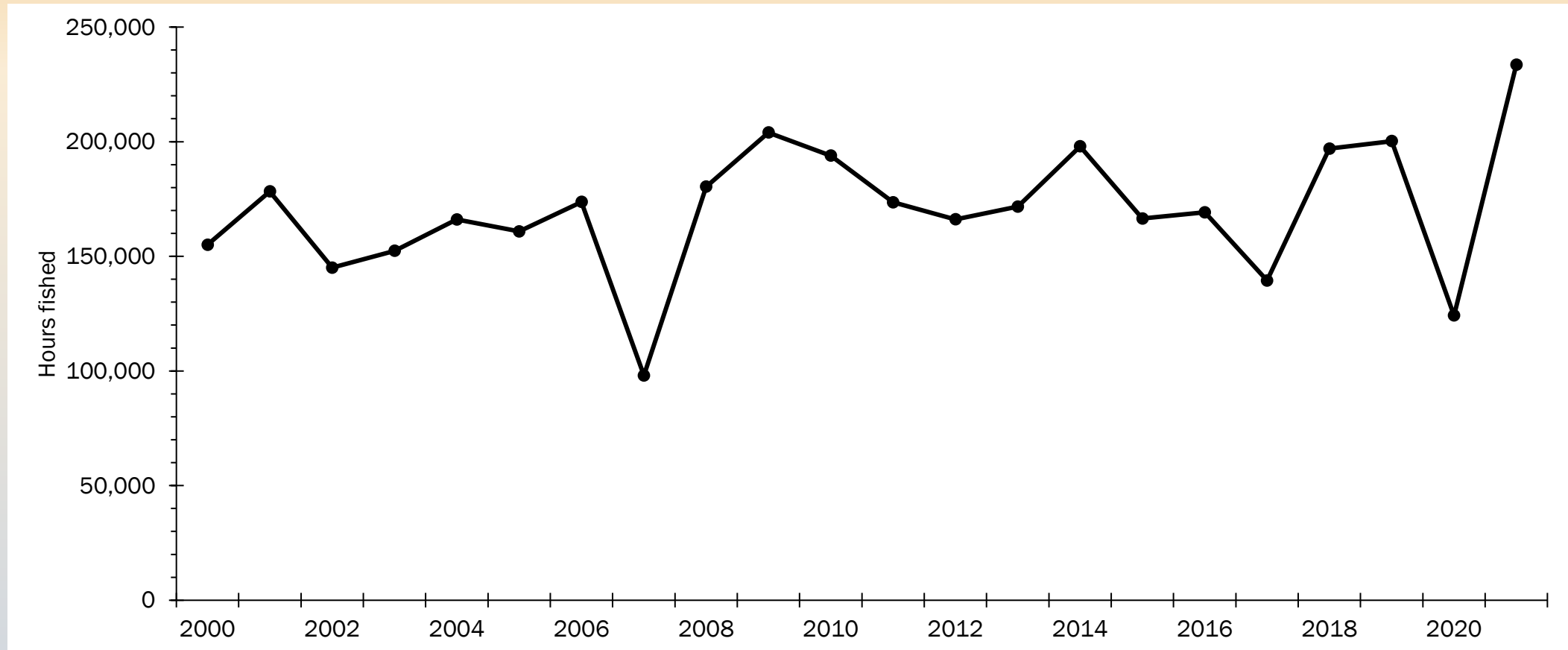


Angler Effort

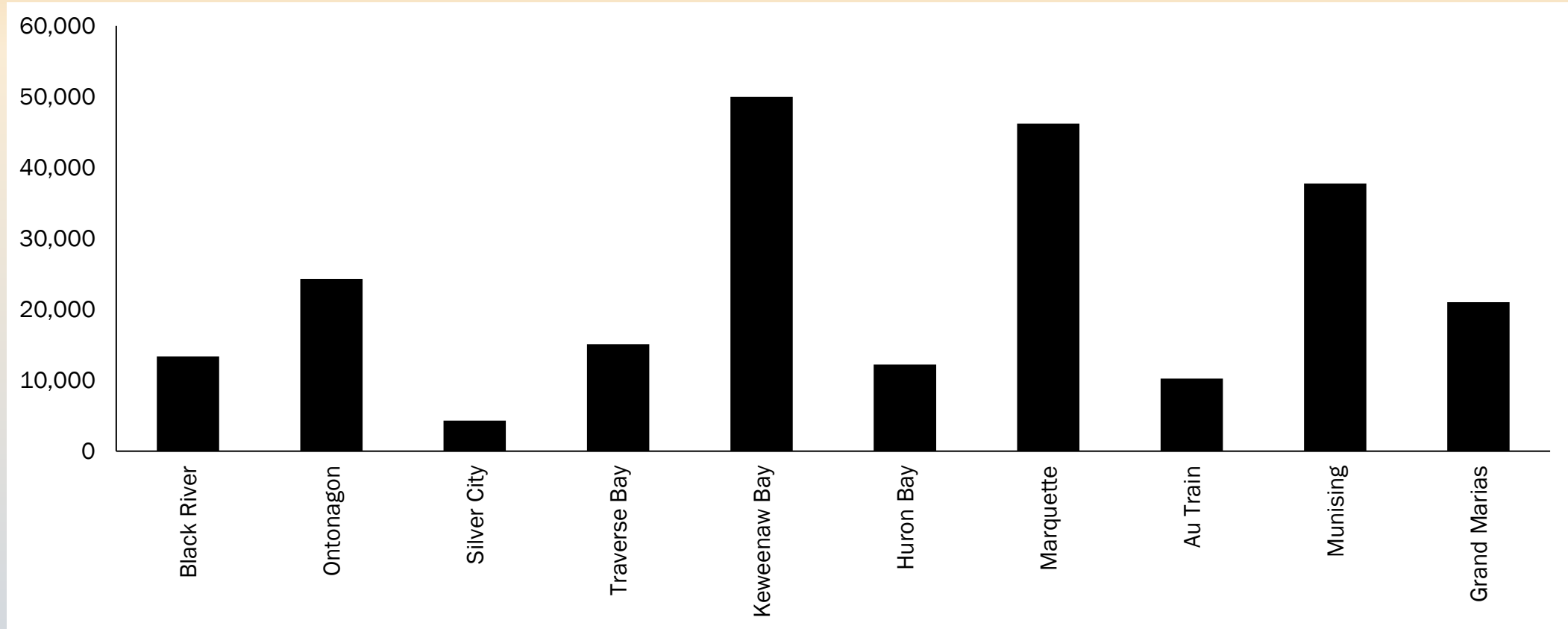




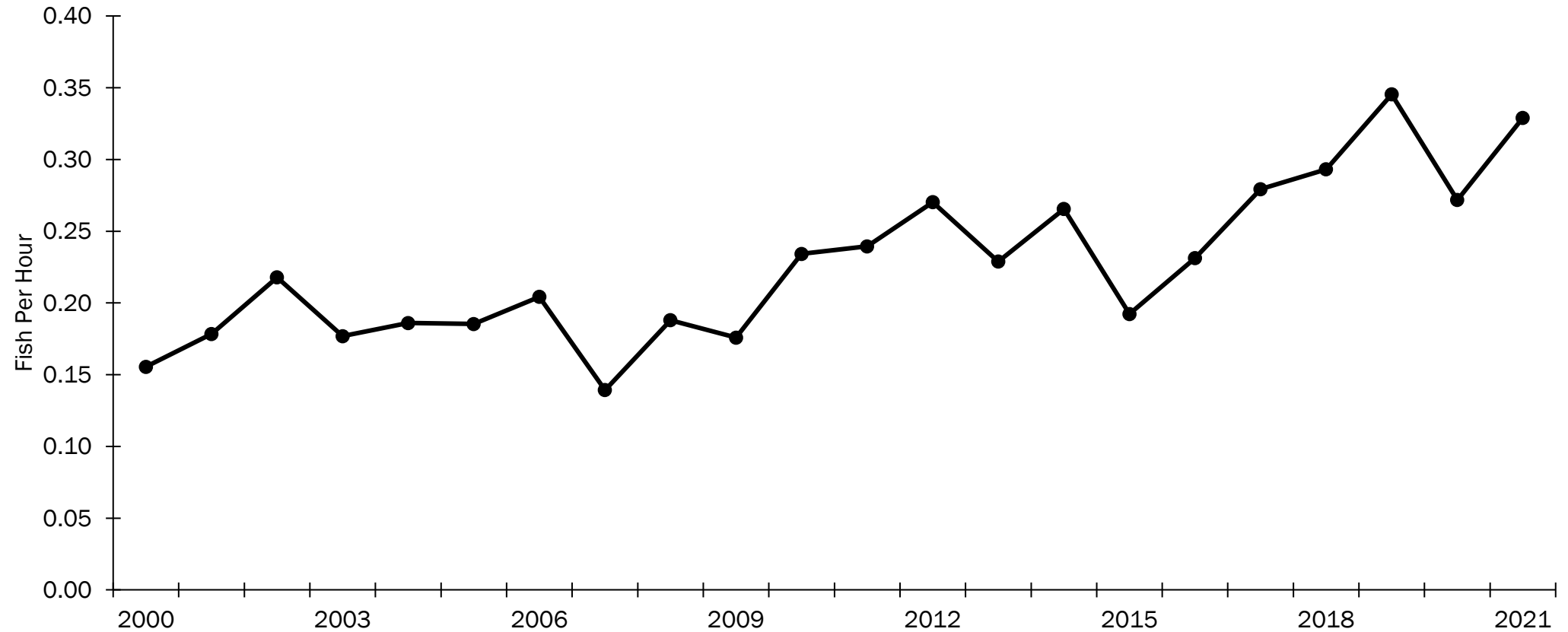
Lake Superior Angler Effort



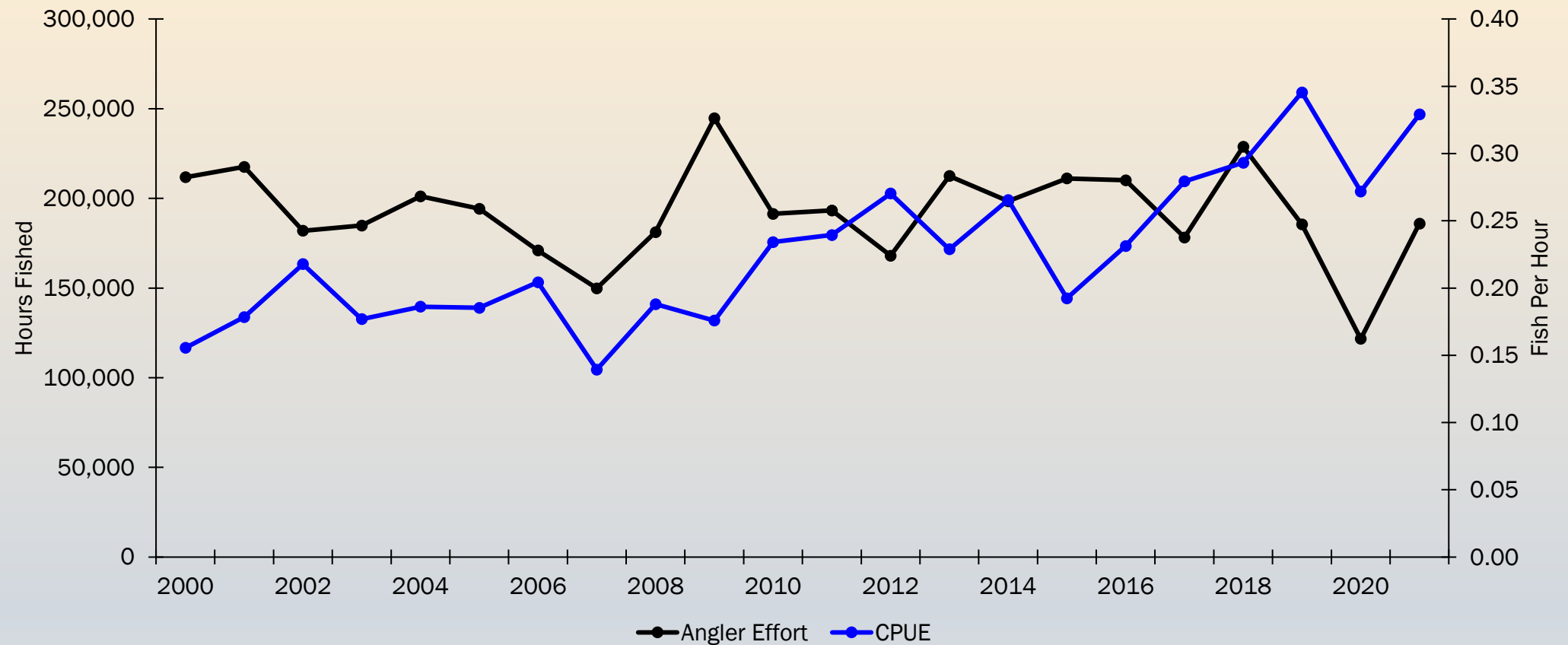
Average Annual Angler Hours by port on Lake Superior 1987-2021



Total CPUE of Salmonids on Lake Superior 2000-2021

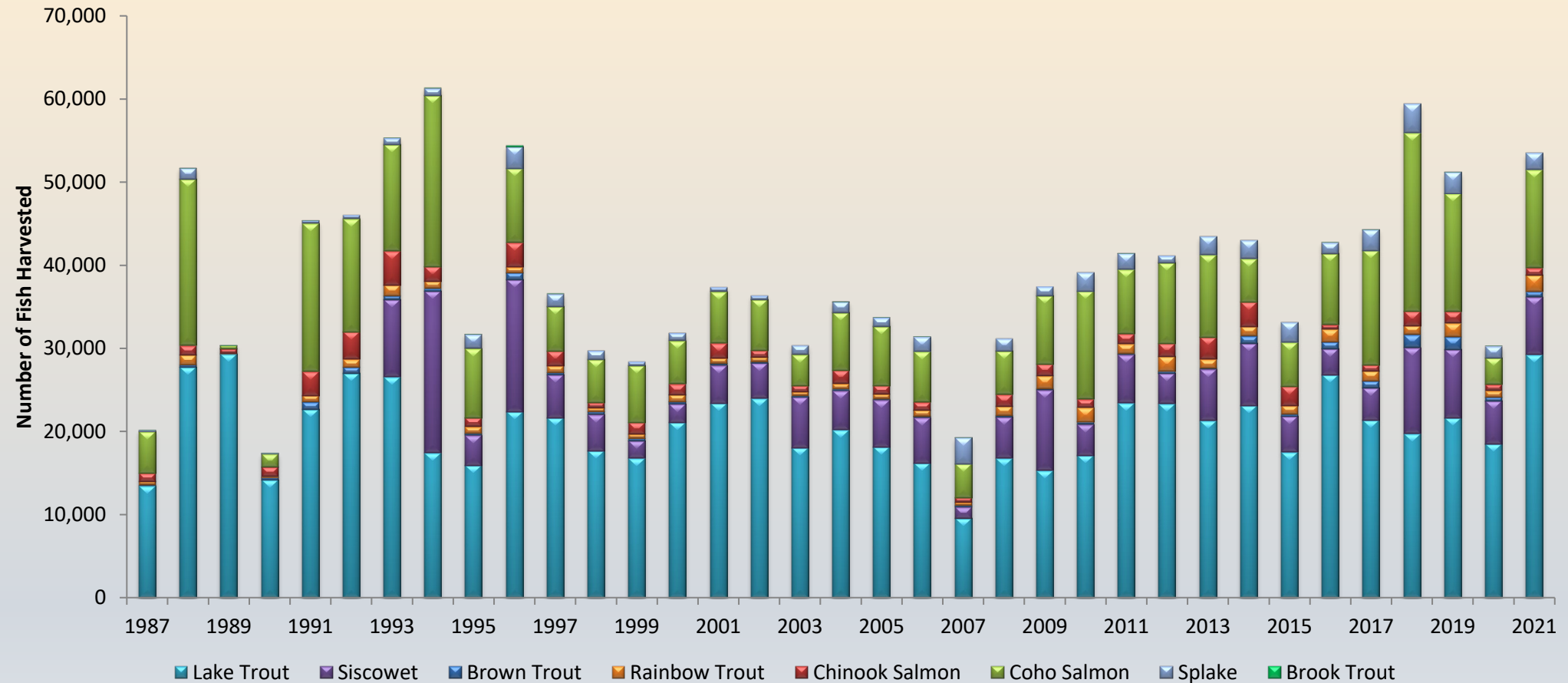


CPUE and Angler Effort on Lake Superior 2000-2021

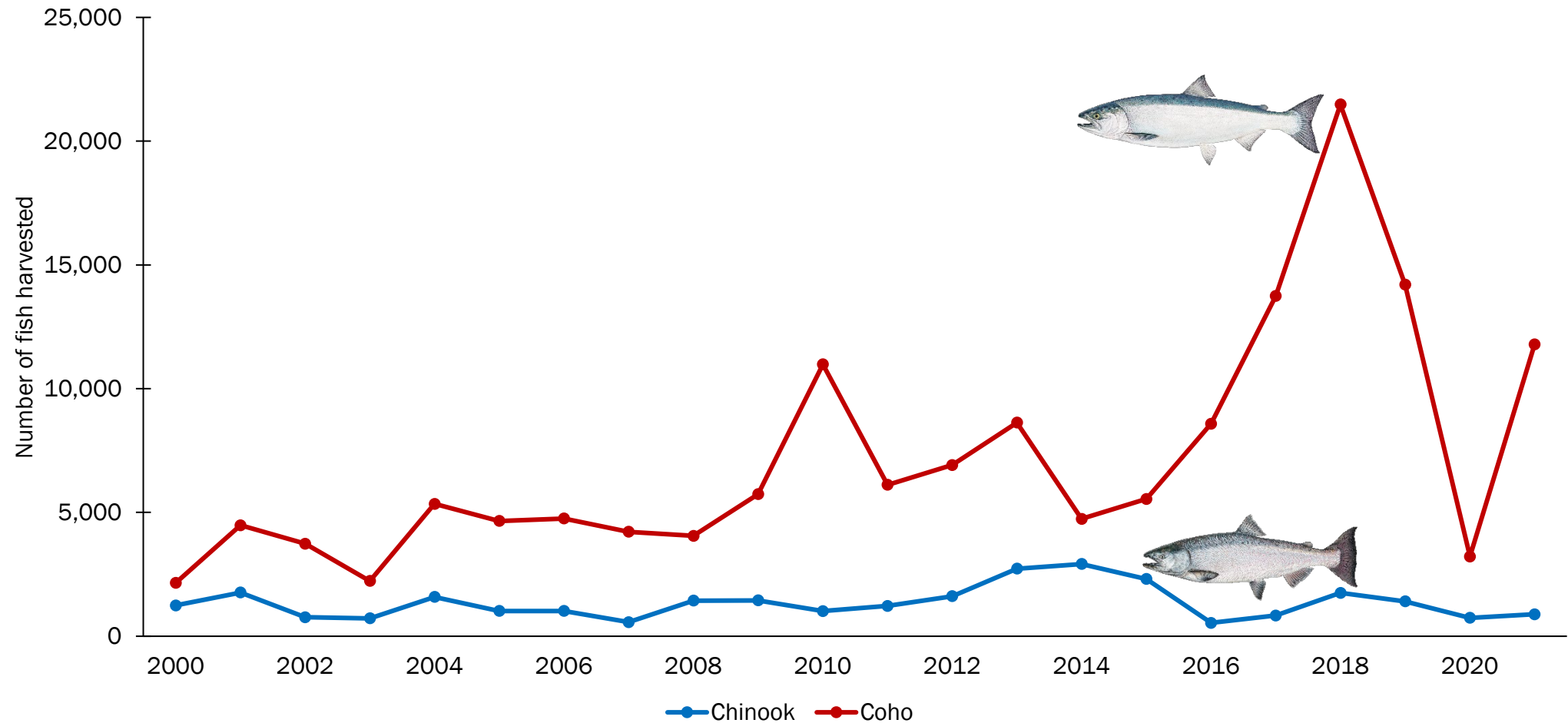




Salmonids Harvested on Lake Superior 1987-2021



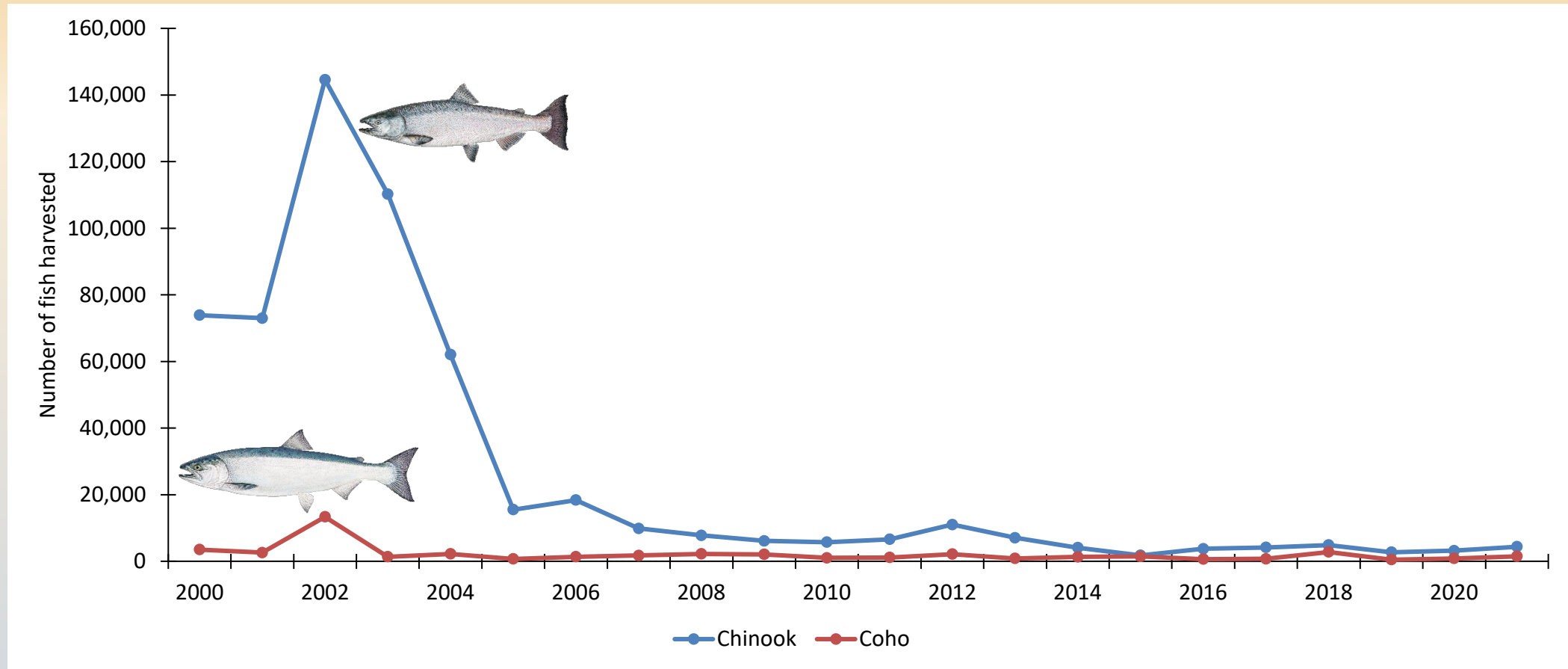
Lake Superior



*Fish illustrations courtesy of
Joseph R. Tomelleri ©

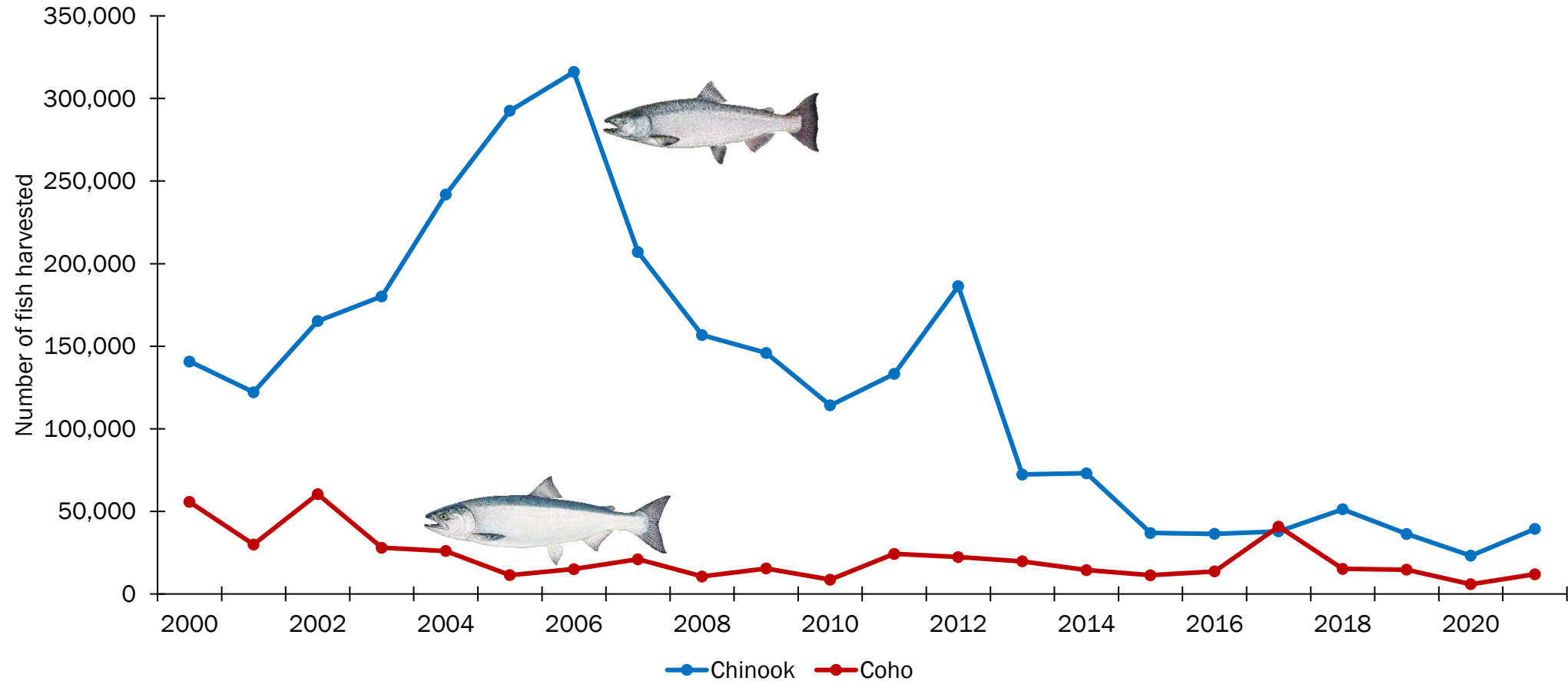


Lake Huron



*Fish illustrations courtesy of Joseph R. Tomelleri ©

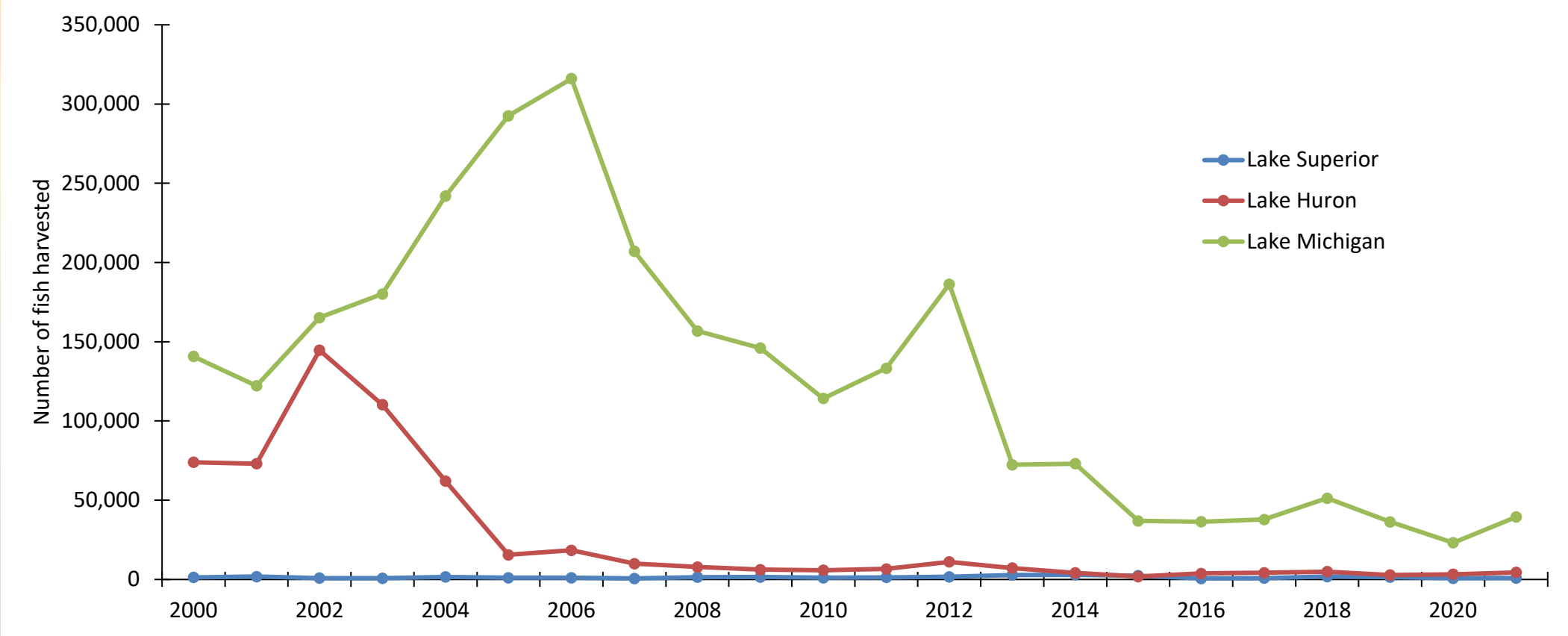
Lake Michigan



*Fish illustrations courtesy of Joseph R. Tomelleri ©



Chinook Harvest

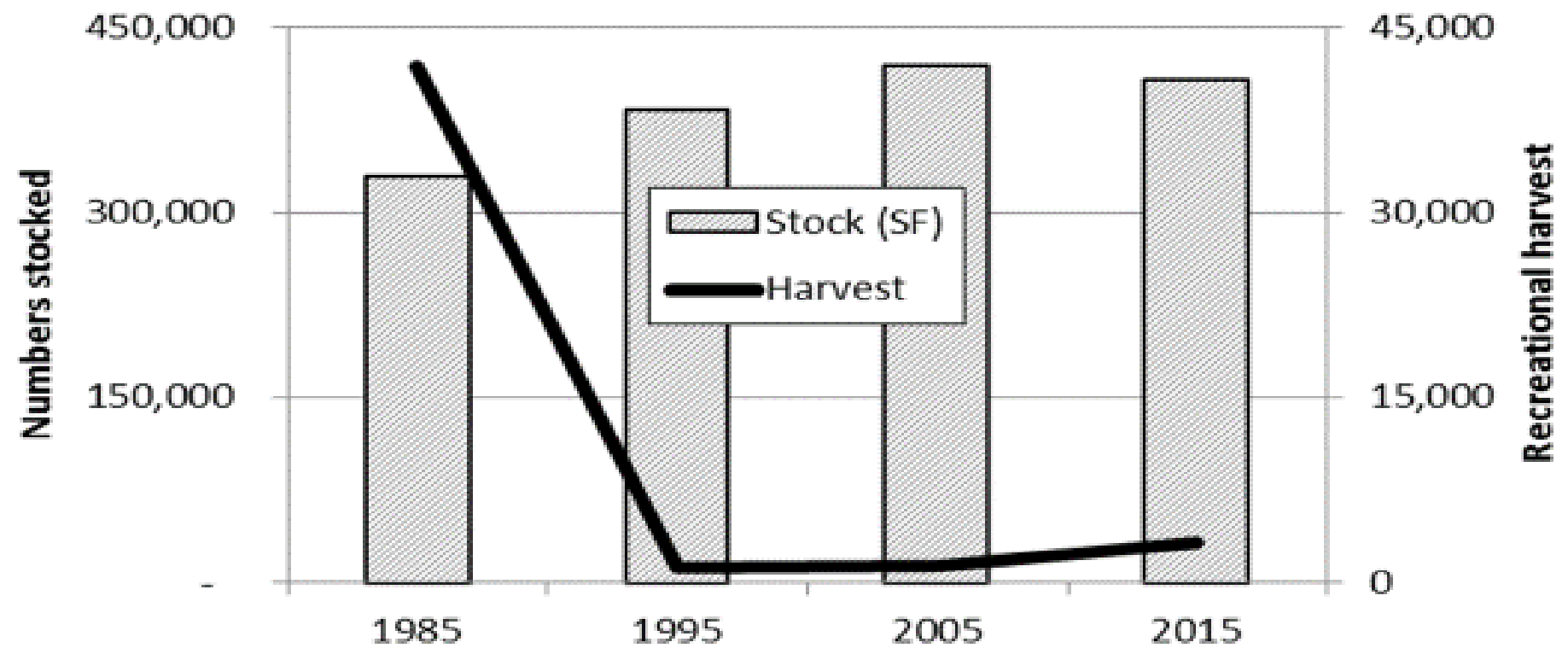


Fish illustrations courtesy of
Joseph R. Tomelleri ©





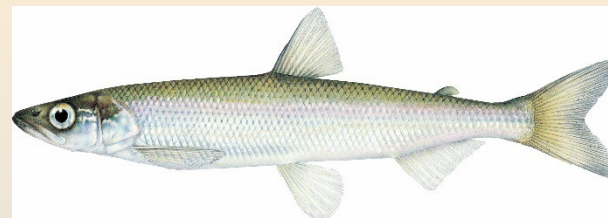
Chinook Salmon, Lake Superior



Salmon ecology in Lake Superior

- What do they eat?

- Rainbow smelt
- Sticklebacks

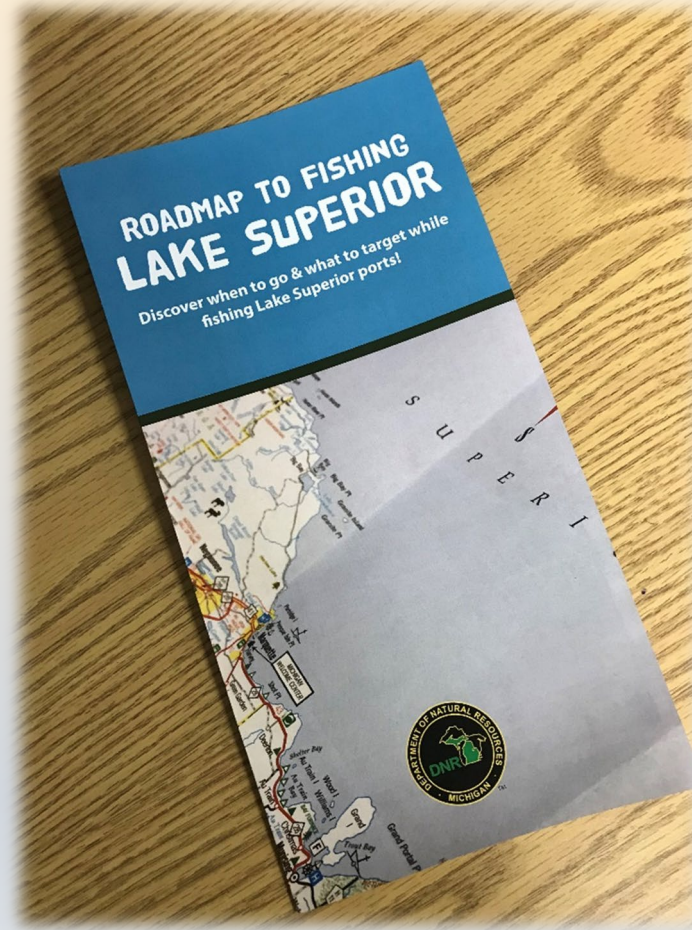


- How have they become self-sustaining?

- Spawning habitat in Great Lakes tributaries
- Rebounding water levels



Where to catch Superior Salmon



ROADMAP TO FISHING LAKE SUPERIOR: HAVE A SUPER TIME!

Want to fish Lake Superior, but aren't sure when or where to go? This roadmap is a starting point to provide you with information on many fishing sites and times of the year when great opportunities exist.

Please note this is not an exhaustive list.



Port	Black River Harbor	Ontonagon	Eagle Harbor	Copper Harbor	Traverse Bay	Keweenaw Bay	Marquette	Au Train-Shelter Bay	Munising	Grand Marais	St. Marys River
Feb - March						brown trout, Chinook, cisco, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, siscowet, smelt, splake, steelhead, yellow perch	brown trout, Chinook, cisco, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, siscowet, smelt, splake, steelhead, yellow perch	brown trout, burbot, coho, smelt, steelhead	brown trout, Chinook, cisco, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, splake, steelhead, yellow perch	coho, lake whitefish, n pike, yellow perch	cisco, walleye, yellow perch
April - May	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, steelhead	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, steelhead		siscowet	Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead	brown trout, Chinook, cisco, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, siscowet, smelt, splake, steelhead	brown trout, Chinook, cisco, coho, lake trout, round whitefish, siscowet, smelt, splake, steelhead	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, splake, steelhead	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, siscowet, splake, steelhead, yellow perch	Chinook, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, siscowet, smelt, steelhead	Chinook, cisco, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, n pike, sm bass, steelhead, walleye, yellow perch
June - Aug	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, siscowet, steelhead, walleye	Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead	lake trout, splake, steelhead	Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead, yellow perch	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, siscowet, splake, steelhead, yellow perch	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead	Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead		coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, siscowet, steelhead	Atlantic, channel catfish, Chinook, cisco, lake whitefish, n pike, pink, sm bass, steelhead, walleye, yellow perch
Sept - Oct	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, steelhead	Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead, walleye	coho, lake trout	splake	Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead	brown trout, Chinook, coho, lake trout, round whitefish, siscowet, splake, steelhead	coho, lake trout	Chinook, coho, lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, siscowet, splake, steelhead	coho, lake trout, siscowet, steelhead	Atlantic, Chinook, lake whitefish, n pike, pink, sm bass, steelhead, walleye, yellow perch

Come experience the excellent fishing on Michigan's biggest Great Lake: Superior!



March 2018

Rivers and Streams

West Lake Superior

Big Iron River	Falls River
Black River	Silver River
Carp River	Huron River
Dead River	Firesteel River

East Lake Superior

Chocolay River	Anna River
Rock River	Miner's River
Sucker River	Two Hearted River
Pendills Creek	Hurricane River



Thank you for your participation in
Salmon in the Classroom!

Questions?

Cory Kovacs
MDNR-Fisheries Biologist
906-293-5131 x 4071



Lake Superior Creel Ports

