

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

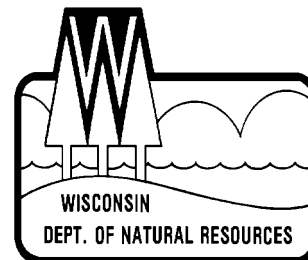
LIPSETT LAKE

2022 – 2023 CREEL SURVEY REPORT
BURNETT COUNTY



Treaty Fisheries Publication

Compiled by
Gina Winther
DNR Treaty Fisheries Technician



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INTRODUCTION

Fish populations can fluctuate due to a variety of factors including natural forces like climate, reproductive success, predation, and competition. Human activities such as fish harvest, stocking, habitat change, and invasive species introduction can also have significant impacts. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries crews regularly conduct fishery surveys on lakes and reservoirs to gather the information needed to monitor changes, identify concerns, evaluate past management actions, and to prescribe fishery management strategies. Netting and electrofishing surveys are used to gather data on the status of fish populations and communities, measuring such parameters as species composition, population size, reproductive success, size and age distribution and growth rates.

The other key component of the fishery that we often need to measure is angler harvest to assess its impact on the fishery.

On many lakes in the Ceded Territory of northern Wisconsin, the harvest of fish is divided between sport anglers and the six Ojibwe tribes who harvest fish under rights granted by federal treaties. The tribes harvest fish mostly using a highly efficient method, spearing, during a relatively short time period in the spring. Every fish in the spear harvest is counted – a complete “census” of the harvest.

It would be highly impractical and very costly to conduct a complete census of every angler who fishes on a lake. Therefore, we conduct creel surveys.

A creel survey is an assessment tool used to sample the fishing activities of anglers on a body of water and make projections, or estimates, of harvest and other fishery parameters. Creel survey clerks work on randomly selected days and shifts, forty hours per week. The survey is conducted during the open season for gamefish from the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday

in March. Creel surveys are generally not conducted in November when fishing effort is low and ice conditions are often unsafe. The survey is run during daylight hours, and shift times change from month to month as day length changes.

Creel survey clerks travel their lakes using a boat or snowmobile to count the number of anglers at predetermined times, and to interview anglers who have completed their fishing trip. Data are collected on what species they fished for, catch, harvest, lengths of fish harvested, marks (fin clips or tags), and hours of fishing effort. Collecting information at the end of a fishing trip provides the most accurate assessment of angling activities, and it avoids the need to disturb anglers while they are fishing.

A computer program is used to estimate catch and harvest of each species, catch and harvest rates, and fishing effort by month, as well as for the year in total. Accurate estimates require that we sample a sufficient and representative portion of the angling activity on a lake. The accuracy of creel survey results depends on good cooperation and truthful responses by anglers when a creel clerk interviews them.

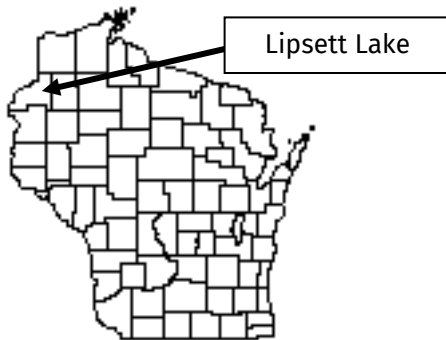
You may have encountered a DNR creel survey clerk on a recent fishing trip. We appreciate your cooperation during an interview. The survey only takes a few minutes of your time, and it gives the DNR valuable information needed for management of the fishery.

This report provides estimates of:

1. Overall fishing effort (pressure)
2. Fishing effort directed at each species
3. Numbers of fish caught and harvested
4. Catch and harvest rates

Also included are a physical description of the lake, discussion of results of the survey, and detailed summaries of fishing effort, catch and harvest.

GENERAL LAKE INFORMATION



LOCATION

Lipsett Lake is located in Burnett County near the city of Spooner.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Lipsett Lake is a 393-acre drainage lake with a maximum depth of 24 feet. Littoral substrate consists primarily of gravel, with lesser amounts of sand, and muck. Lipsett Lake contains soft, slightly acidic water of low transparency.

SEASONS SURVEYED

The open-water creel survey ran from May 7 through Oct. 31, 2022, and the ice fishing creel survey ran from Dec. 1, 2022 through March 5, 2023.

WEATHER

Ice-out on Lipsett Lake was around April 22, 2022. Fishable ice formed in mid-December.

FISHING REGULATIONS

The following seasons, daily bag limits, and length limits were in place during the surveyed season:

SPECIES	SEASON	BAG LIMIT	MIN. SIZE
Largemouth Bass	5/ 7-3/ 5	5	none
Smallmouth Bass	5/ 7-3/ 5	5	none
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass Catch and release only all other times of year			
Musky	5/ 28- 12/ 31	1	40"
Northern Pike	5/ 7-3/ 5	5	none
Walleye	5/ 7-3/ 5	3	15"
	20-24" Protected Slot, 1>24"		
Panfish	year round	25	none
Rock Bass	year round	none	none

SPECIES CATCH AND HARVEST INFORMATION

Summaries of angling effort, catch and harvest information for each species are in Table 2 and Figures 1-10, along with a comparison of these statistics with the previous creel survey in Table 2, if available. Information about species with fishing seasons extending beyond the season surveyed should be considered minimum estimates. Each species page has up to five graphs depicting the following:

- ESTIMATED FISHING EFFORT**
The estimated number of hours during each month that anglers spent fishing for a species.
- ESTIMATED CATCH AND HARVEST**
The estimated number of fish of the indicated species caught or harvested by all anglers, regardless of targeted species.
- ESTIMATED SPECIFIC CATCH AND HARVEST RATES**
The estimated 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 that species is reported.
- LENGTH DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED FISH**
All fish of a species that were measured by the clerk during the entire creel survey season.
- LARGEST AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF HARVESTED FISH**
The largest and average length of a species of fish harvested that month. Only fish measured by the creel survey clerk are reported.

CREEL SURVEY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SURVEY LOGISTICS

We encountered no unusual problems conducting the survey or calculating the projections contained in the report.

GENERAL ANGLER INFORMATION

Anglers spent 7,792 hours, or 19.8 hours per acre, fishing Lipsett Lake during the 2022-23 season (Table 1). That was less than the Burnett County average of 21.9 hours per acre, and less than the fishing effort documented during the 2019-20 creel survey (28.5 hours per acre). May was the most heavily fished month (1,798 hours), and fishing effort was lightest in October (205 hours). The creel clerks were able to conduct 185 interviews throughout the survey.

RESULTS BY SPECIES

WALLEYE (Table 2, Figure 1)

Walleye received 1.4 percent of the fishing effort during the season. Anglers spent 219 hours targeting Walleye. The greatest fishing effort for Walleye was in September (102 hours).

Total catch of Walleye was 23 fish, with no documented harvest during the survey. Highest catch (16 fish) occurred in May. Anglers fished an average of 13.5 hours to catch Walleye during the survey.

NORTHERN PIKE (Table 2, Figure 2)

Fishing effort directed at Northern Pike was 2,361 hours during the season. Northern Pike fishing effort was greatest in February (748 hours). Total catch of Northern Pike was 1,268 fish, with a harvest of 255. Anglers fished an average of 2.6 hours to catch a Northern Pike during the survey. The mean length of harvested Northern Pike was 22.1 inches, and the largest measured was a 32-inch fish.

MUSKELLUNGE (Table 2, Figure 3)

Anglers spent 566 hours targeting Muskellunge during the season. Muskellunge fishing effort was greatest in May (214 hours). Total catch of Muskellunge was 29 fish, and the highest catch (8 fish) occurred in May and September. Anglers fished 37.5 hours to catch a Muskellunge, and there was no documented harvest during the survey.

SMALLMOUTH BASS (Table 2, Figure 4)

No fishing effort was directed at Smallmouth Bass, however, anglers caught 7 fish during the survey. There was no documentation of anglers harvesting Smallmouth Bass.

LARGEMOUTH BASS (Table 2, Figure 5)

Fishing effort directed at Largemouth Bass was 2,417 hours during the season. Largemouth Bass fishing effort was greatest in May (669 hours). Total catch of Largemouth Bass was 2,085 fish, with a harvest of 206. Highest catch (1,107 fish) occurred in May. Anglers fished an average of 1.4 hours to catch a Largemouth Bass during the survey.

PANFISH (Table 2, Figures 6-10)

YELLOW PERCH received 409 hours of directed fishing effort. Total catch of Yellow Perch was 394 fish, with 8 harvested. The mean length of harvested fish was 8.6 inches.

BLUEGILL received 4,826 hours of directed fishing effort. Total catch of Bluegill was 17,315 fish, with 6,614 harvested. The mean length of harvested fish was 7.7 inches.

BLACK CRAPPIE received 3,329 hours of directed fishing effort. Anglers caught 12,074 Black Crappie and harvested 5,227. The mean length of harvested fish was 9.8 inches.

PUMPKINSEED received 1,136 hours of directed fishing effort. Anglers caught 1,545 Pumpkinseed and harvested 338. The mean length of harvested fish was 7.6 inches.

ROCK BASS received 222 hours of directed fishing effort. Anglers caught 242 Rock Bass and harvested 15. The mean length of harvested fish was 8.8 inches.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The DNR would like to thank all the anglers who took the time to offer information about their fishing trip to the survey clerk. Without their cooperation, the survey would not have been possible.

We also thank our cooperator, Dean Perry, who generously allowed the DNR to keep a boat on their property during this survey.

Completion of this survey was possible because of the efforts of the following fisheries management and treaty fisheries staff: Todd Brecka, Gene Hatzenbeler, Misty Rood, Angelena Sikora, Bill Sobaski and Gina Winther. Creel clerks during the survey period were Rachel Schoenecker and Gina Winther.

This creel report was reviewed by Gene Hatzenbeler and Angelena Sikora.

Additional copies of this report, and those covering other local lakes, can be obtained online at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/north/trtycr/srvys.html>

Table 1. Sportfishing effort summary, Lipsett Lake, 2022-23 season; compared to 2019-20 creel results, Burnett County averages, and Ceded Territory averages.

Month	Number of Angler Party Interviews	Total Angler Hours	Total Angler Hours/Acre	2019-20 Total Angler Hours/Acre	Burnett County Average Hours/Acre	Ceded Territory Average Hours/Acre
May	22	1,798	4.6	3.5	3.8	4.8
June	20	935	2.4	5.3	3.9	6.2
July	20	1,056	2.7	4.9	3.8	6.6
August	8	595	1.5	2.7	3.0	5.2
September	13	530	1.3	2.0	2.0	3.2
October	8	205	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.4
December	14	305	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.1
January	34	776	2.0	2.9	1.6	1.7
February	36	1,380	3.5	5.2	1.9	1.6
March	10	213	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Summer Total	91	5,118	13.0	19.3	17.0	27.4
Winter Total	94	2,674	6.8	9.3	4.9	4.6
Grand Total	185	7,792	19.8	28.5	21.9	32.0

Note: Summer is May-October; Winter is December-March

Number of Angler Party Interviews is the number of groups of anglers interviewed by the creel clerk. A party is considered the members of a group who fish together in the same boat, ice shanty or from shore. The clerk fills out one interview form for each group of anglers. The number of individual anglers actually contacted by the clerk is usually much greater than the number of groups listed in this table since most groups consist of more than one angler.

Total Angler Hours is the estimated total number of hours that anglers spent fishing on Lipsett Lake during each month surveyed.

Total Angler Hours/Acre is the total angler hours divided by the area of the lake in acres. This is useful in order to compare effort on Lipsett Lake to other lakes.

2019-20 Total Angler Hours/Acre is the total angler hours divided by the area of the lake in acres. This is from the previous creel survey that took place on Lipsett Lake.

County Average Hours/Acre is the average angler effort in hours per acre for county lakes that have been surveyed since 1990. This value is useful for fishing pressure comparisons with other waters.

Ceded Territory Average Hours/Acre is the average angler effort in hours per acre for inland lakes in the Ceded Territory that have been surveyed since 1990. This value can be used to compare Lipsett Lake to other lakes in northern Wisconsin.

Table 2. Comparison of creel survey synopses, Lipsett Lake, 2022-23 and 2019-20 fishing seasons.

CREEL YEAR: 2022-23

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	219	1.4%	23	13.5	0	*	**
Northern Pike	2,361	15.2%	1,268	2.6	255	9.9	22.1
Muskellunge	566	3.7%	29	37.5	0	*	**
Smallmouth Bass	0	0.0%	7	*	0	*	**
Largemouth Bass	2,417	15.6%	2,085	1.4	206	15.6	14.7
Yellow Perch	409	2.6%	394	1.8	8	131.6	8.6
Bluegill	4,826	31.2%	17,315	0.3	6,614	0.7	7.7
Black Crappie	3,329	21.5%	12,074	0.3	5,227	0.6	9.8
Pumpkinseed	1,136	7.3%	1,545	0.8	338	3.6	7.6
Rock Bass	222	1.4%	242	3.0	15	*	8.8
Bowfin	0	0.0%	7	*	0	*	**

∞

CREEL YEAR: 2019-20

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	285	1.5%	11	25.1	11	25.1	15.8
Northern Pike	3,476	18.3%	1,585	3.1	351	10.7	22.4
Muskellunge	953	5.0%	31	30.8	0	*	**
Largemouth Bass	2,941	15.5%	2,960	1.3	328	13.0	14.3
Yellow Perch	86	0.5%	654	3.2	49	*	8.7
Bluegill	6,213	32.8%	25,320	0.3	9,769	0.6	7.8
Black Crappie	4,872	25.7%	7,531	0.7	3,028	1.6	10.1
Pumpkinseed	140	0.7%	364	2.8	81	4.0	7.4
Rock Bass	0	0.0%	234	*	50	*	8.3

Note: If a species is not shown in a table, no data was collected by the creel clerks for that species.

* Indicates that no fish of this species were caught or harvested (depending on the column) by anglers who specifically targeted this species.

** Indicates that no fish were measured by the creel clerks for this species

WALLEYE

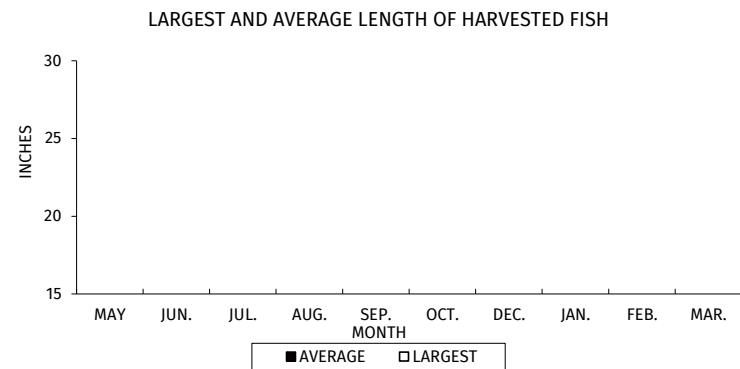
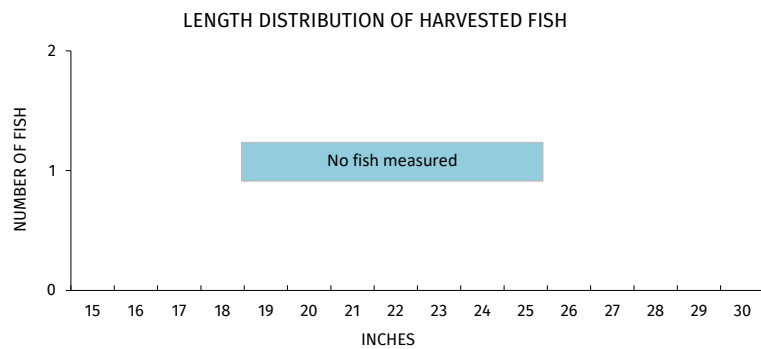
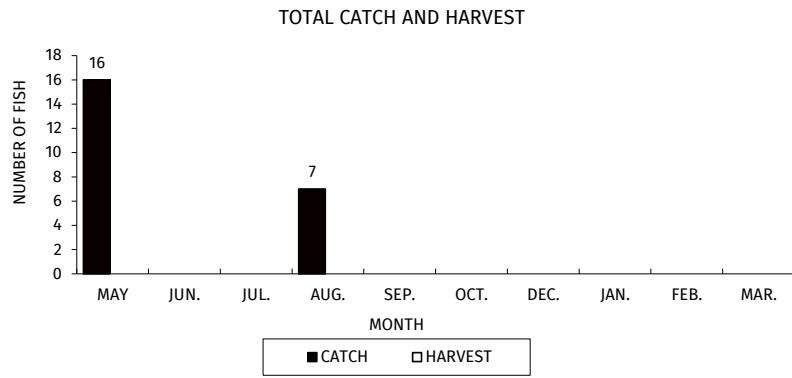
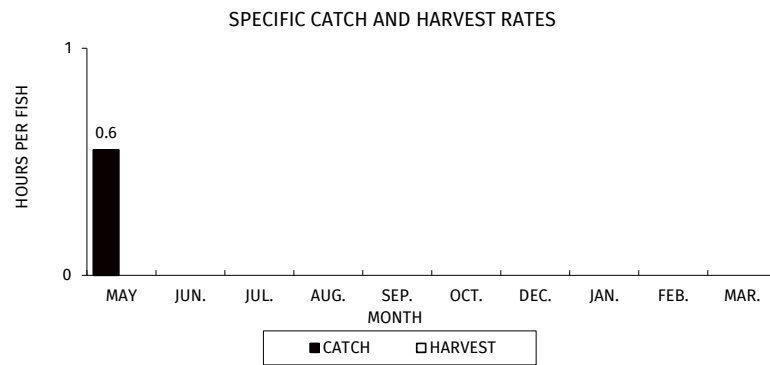
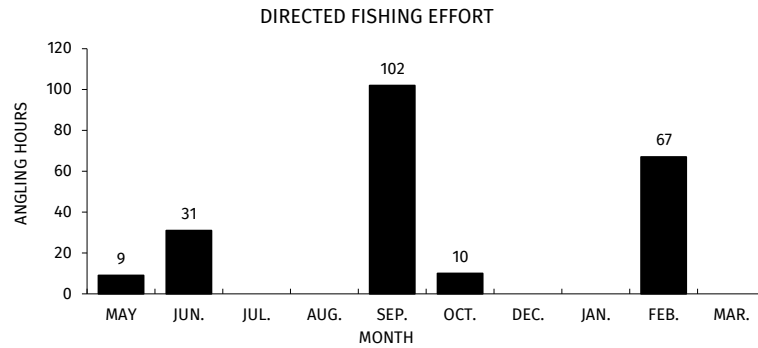
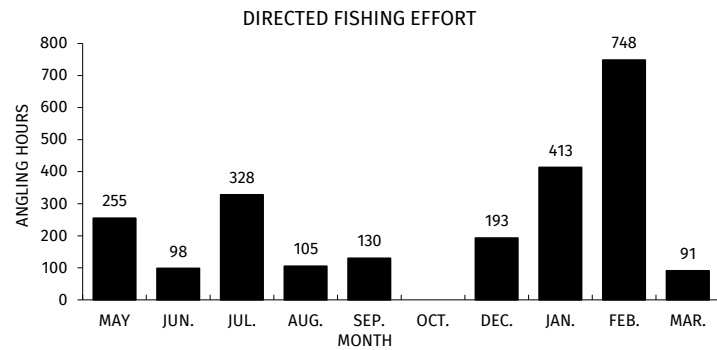


Figure 1. Walleye sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.



NORTHERN PIKE

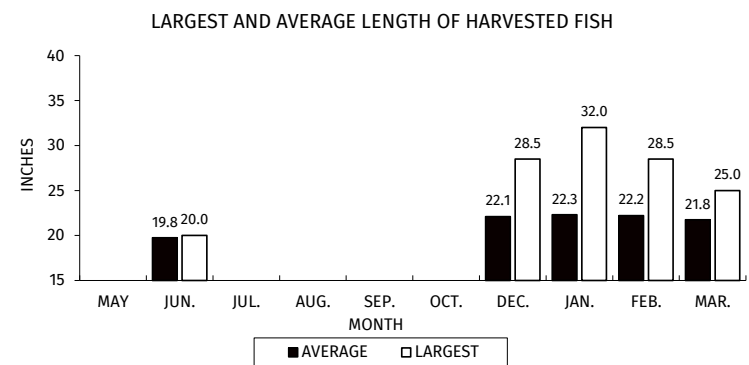
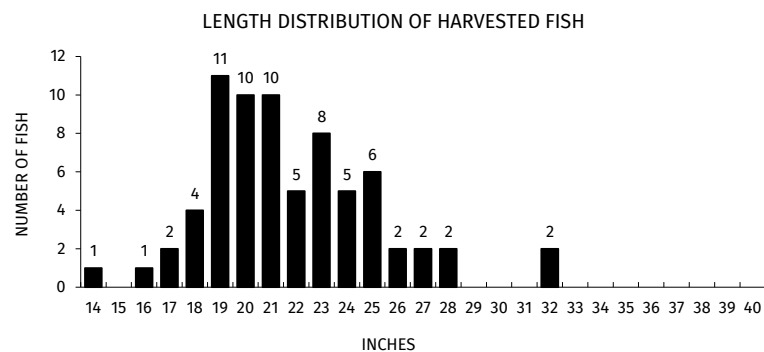
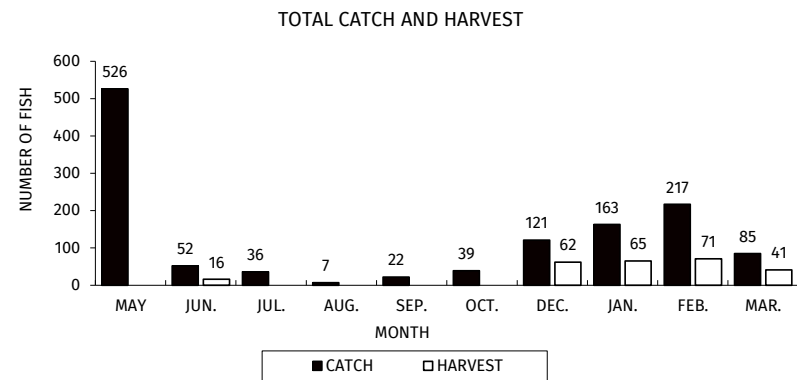
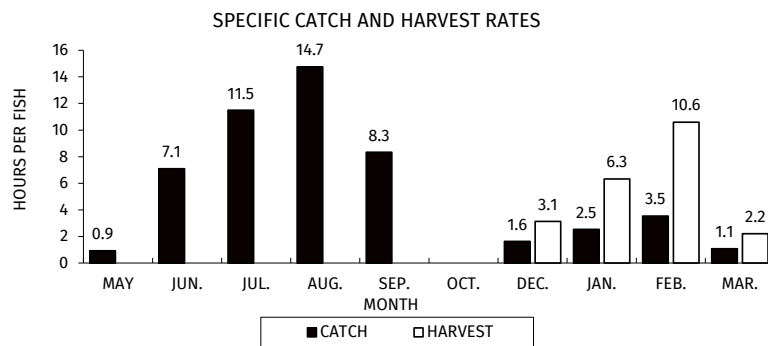
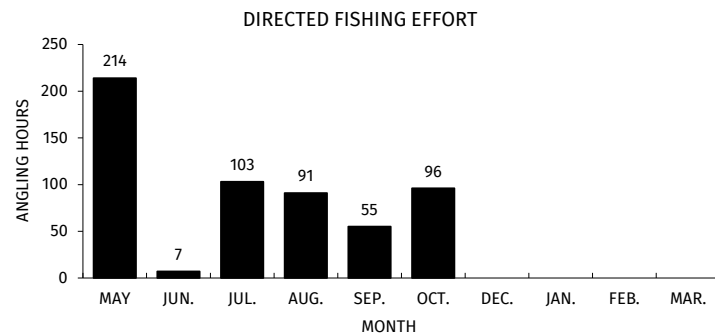


Figure 2. Northern Pike sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.



MUSKELLUNGE

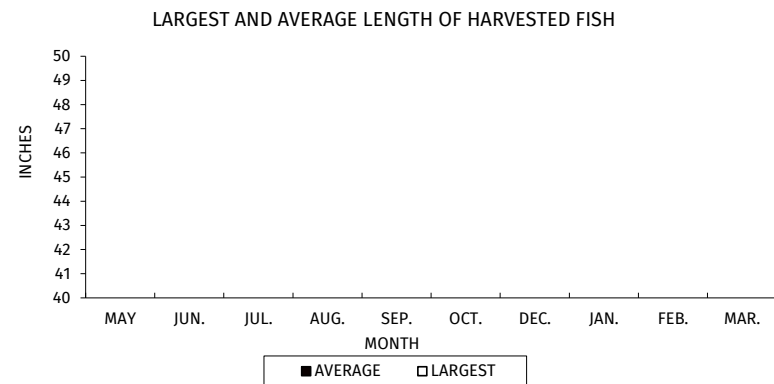
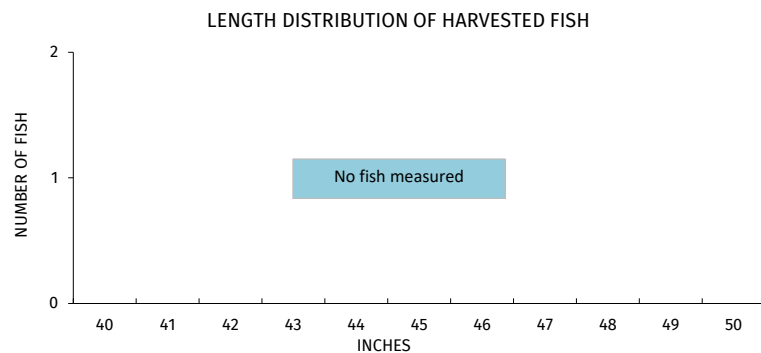
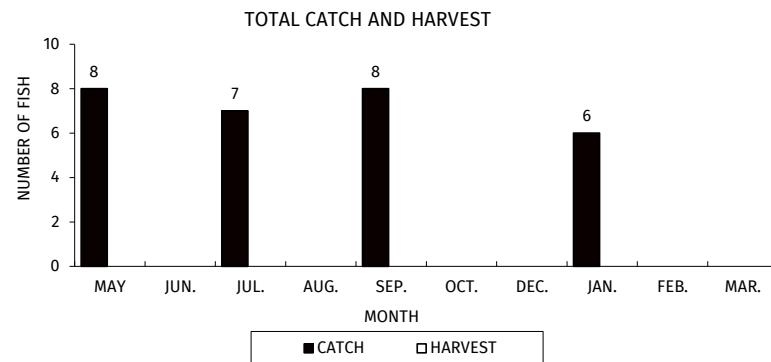
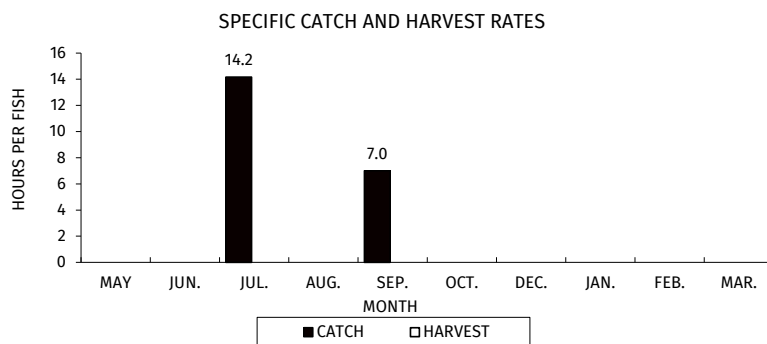


Figure 3. Muskellunge sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

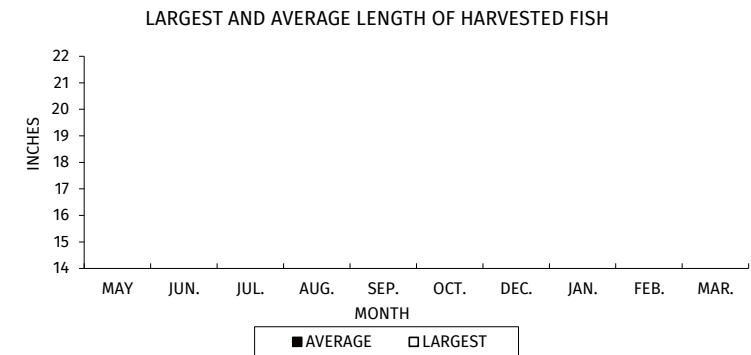
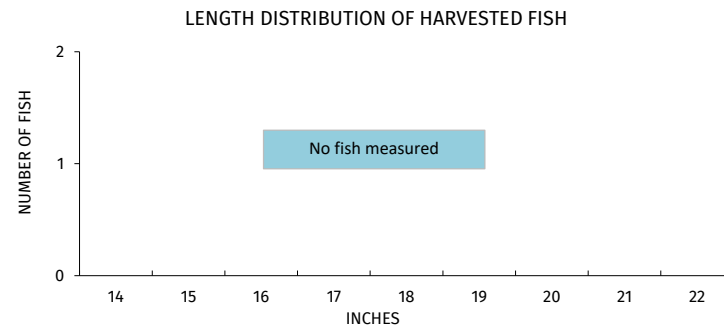
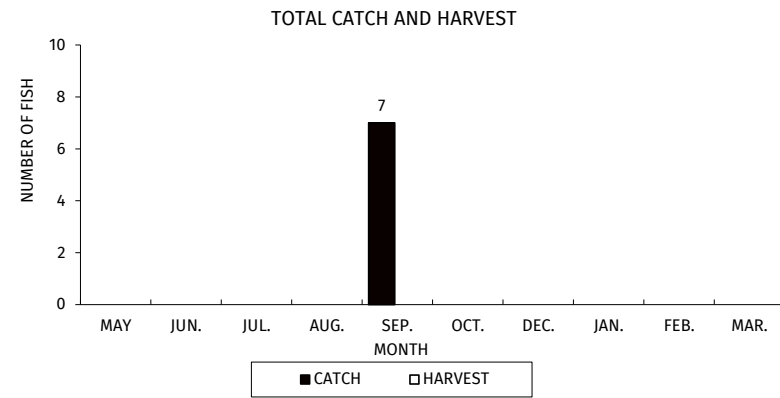
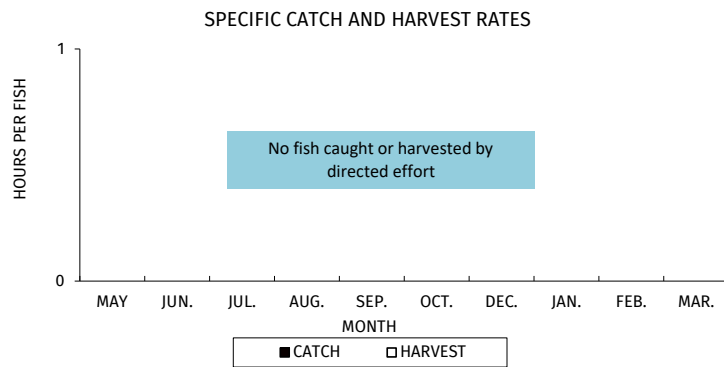
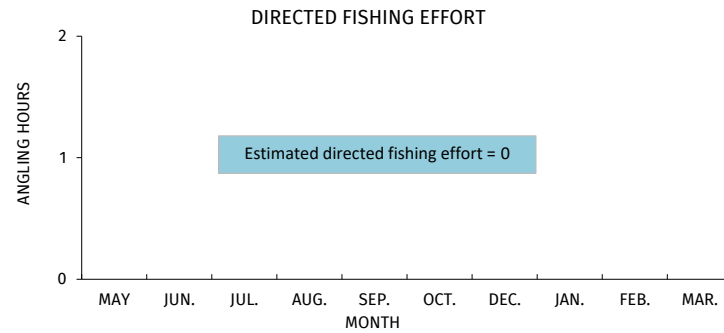


Figure 4. Smallmouth Bass sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

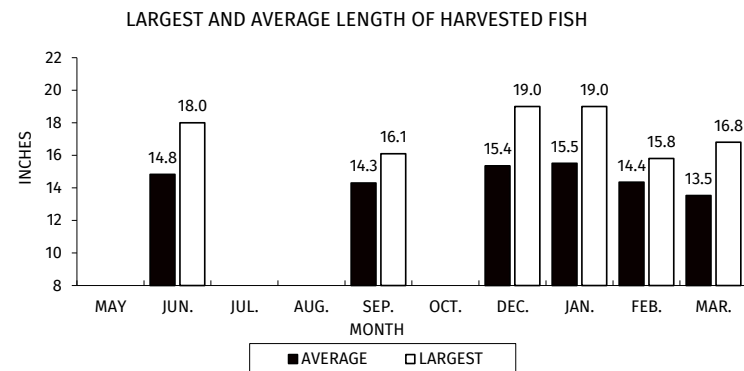
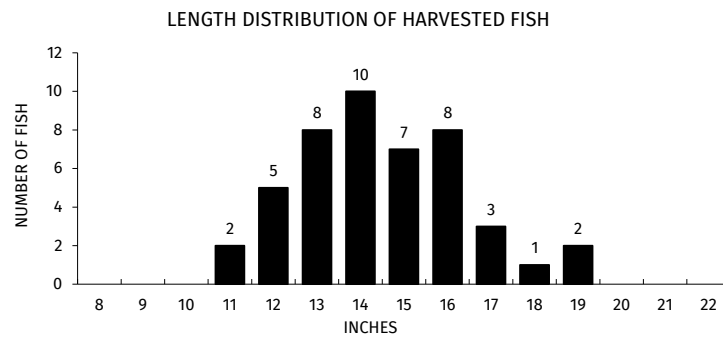
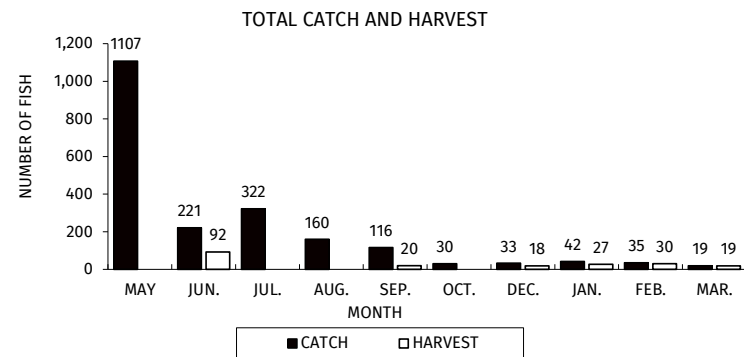
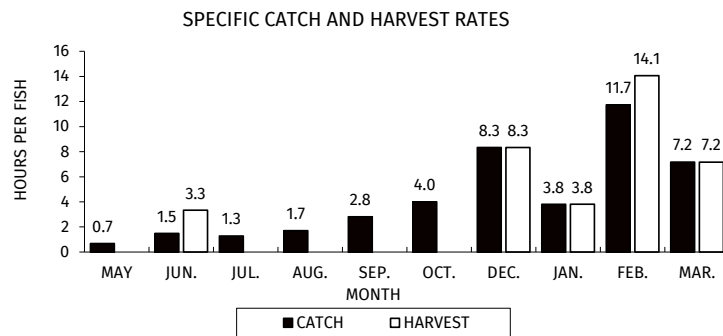
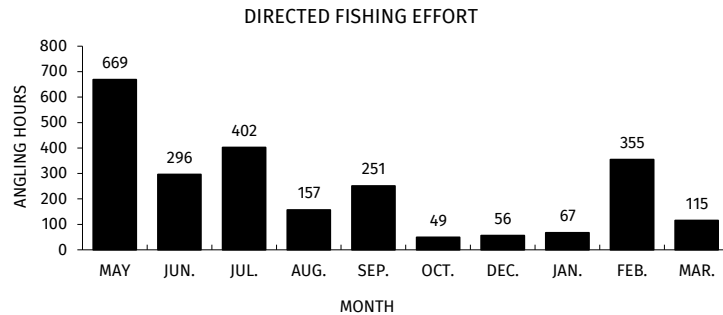


Figure 5. Largemouth Bass sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.

YELLOW PERCH

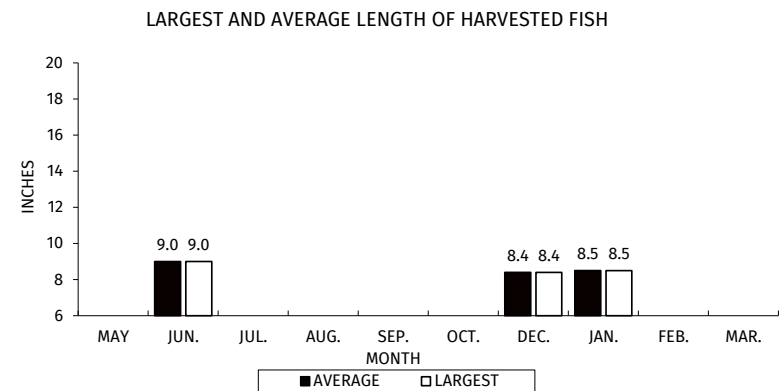
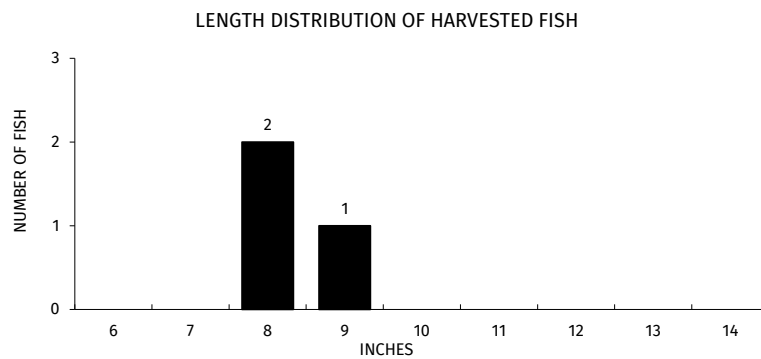
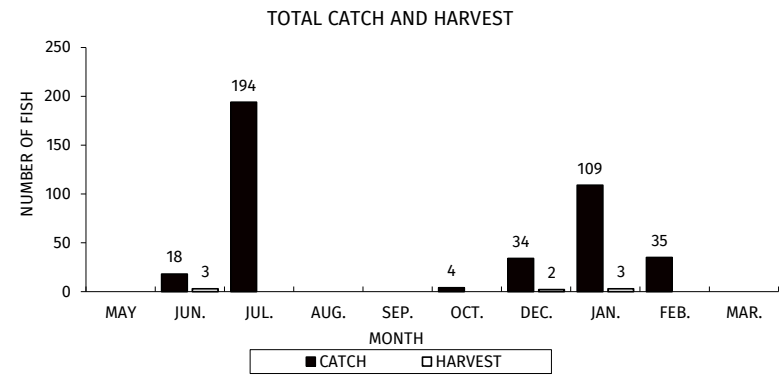
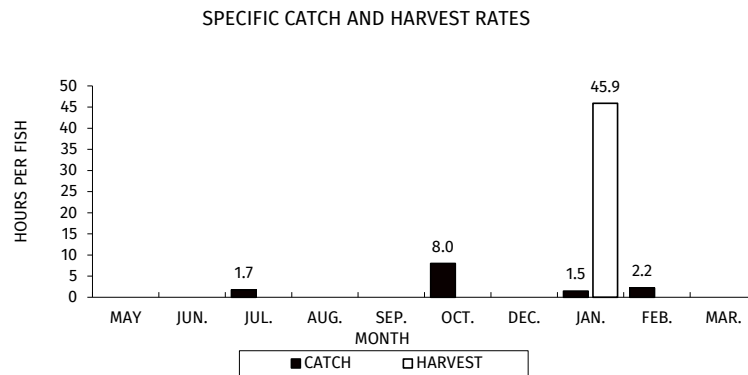
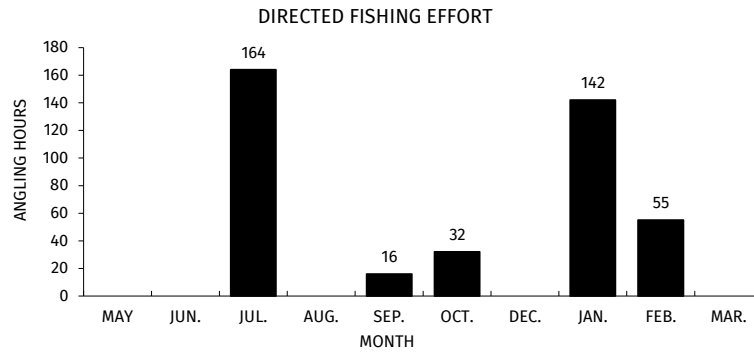


Figure 6. Yellow Perch sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.

BLUEGILL

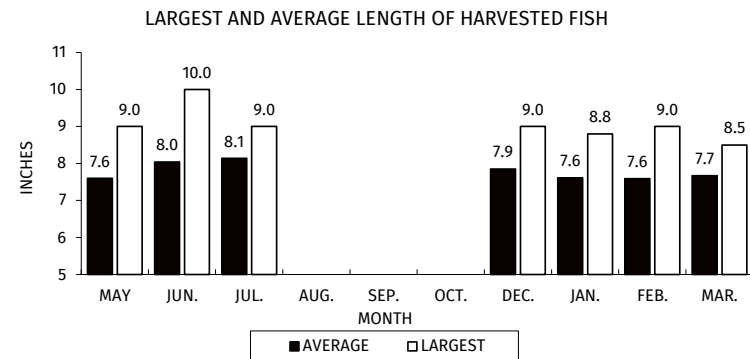
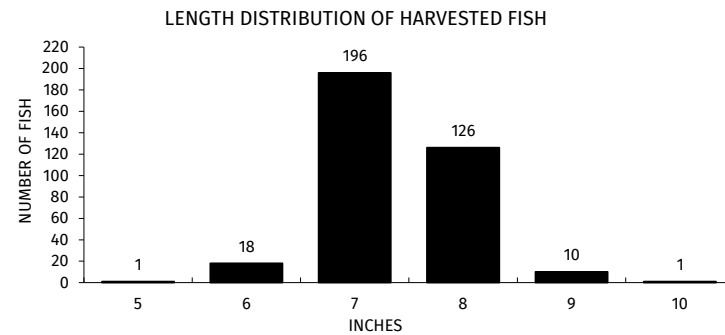
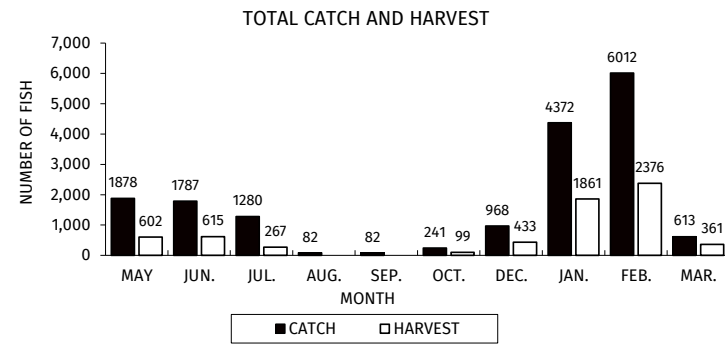
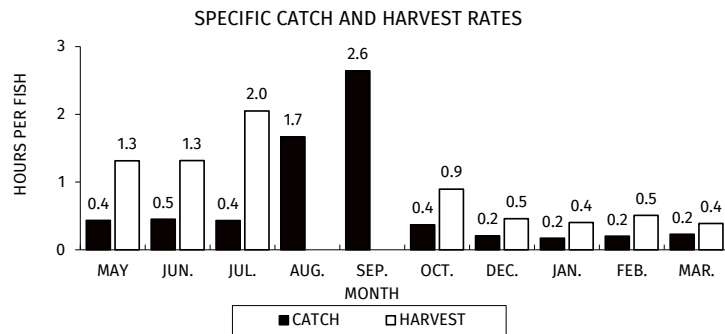
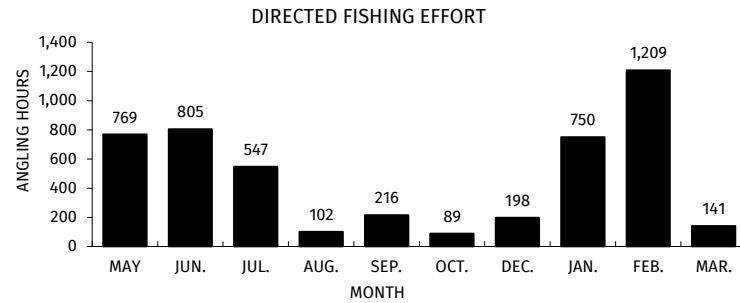


Figure 7. Bluegill sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.

BLACK CRAPPIE

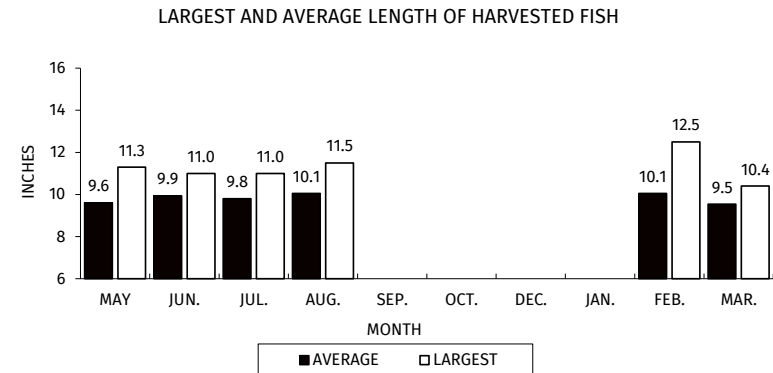
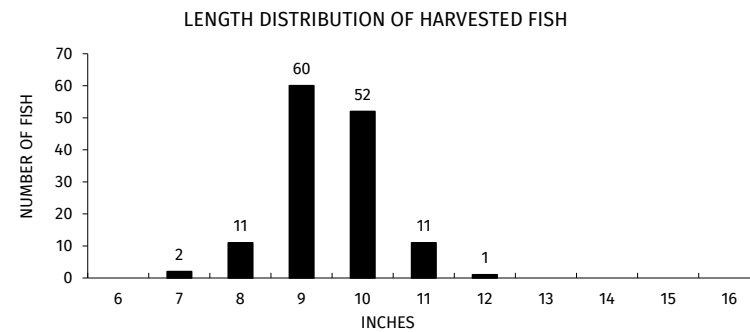
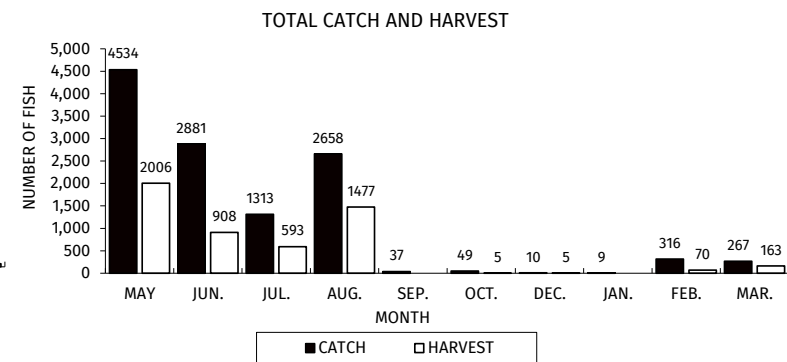
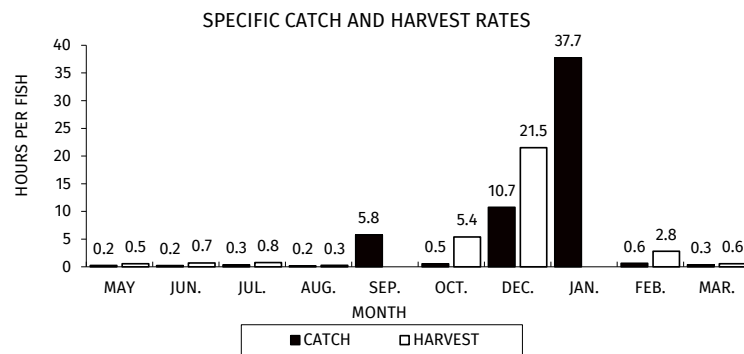
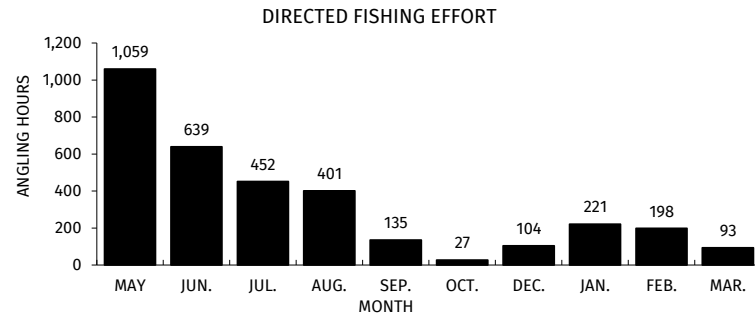
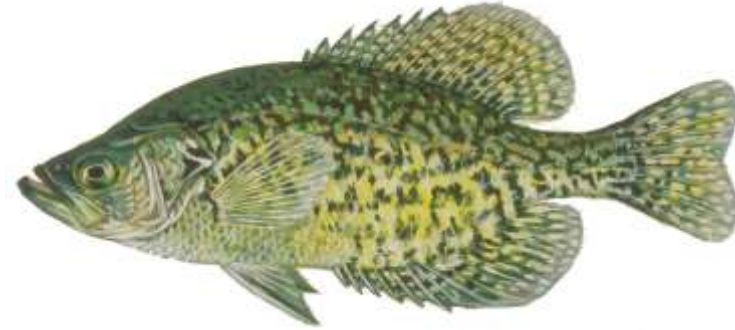


Figure 8. Black Crappie sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.

PUMPKINSEED

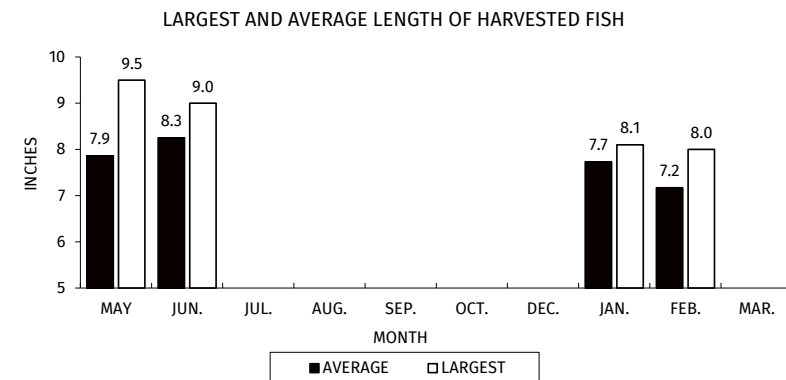
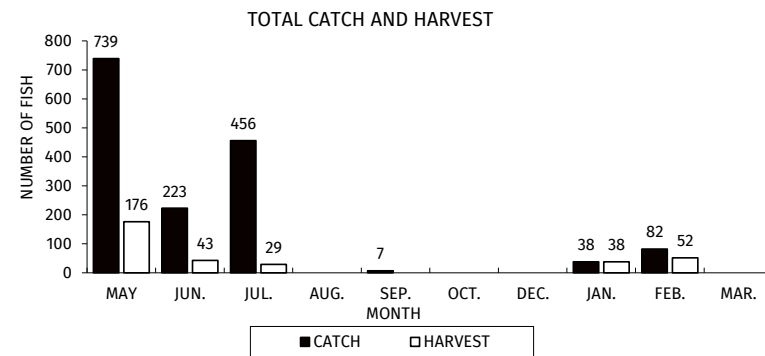
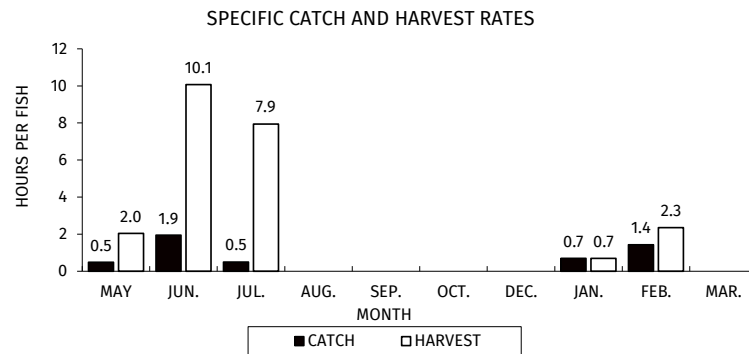
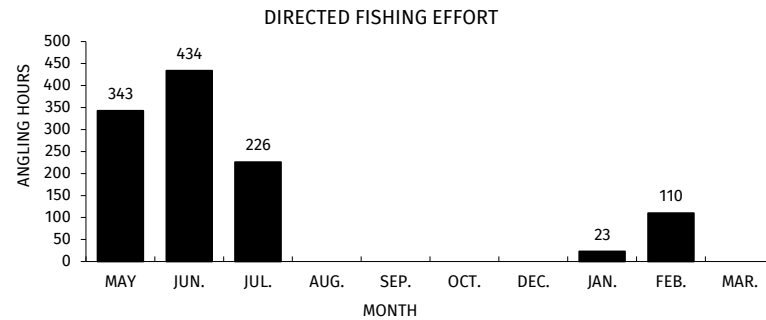


Figure 9. Pumpkinseed sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.

ROCK BASS

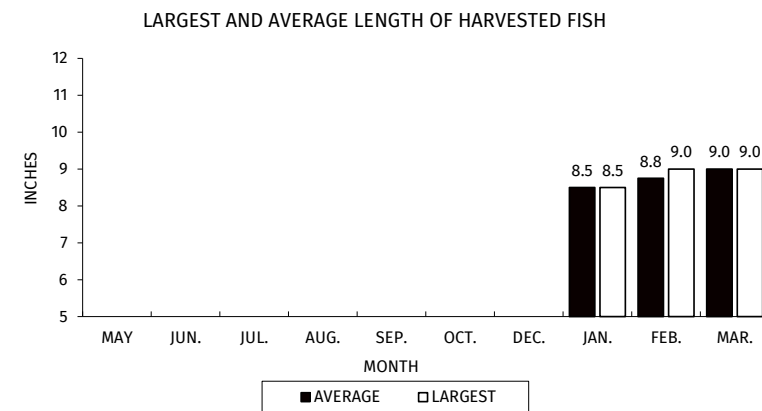
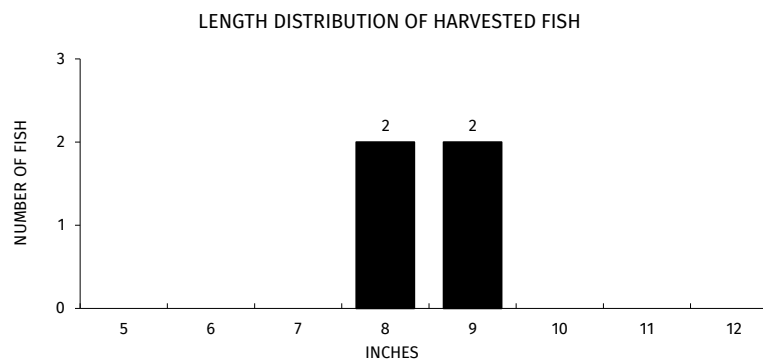
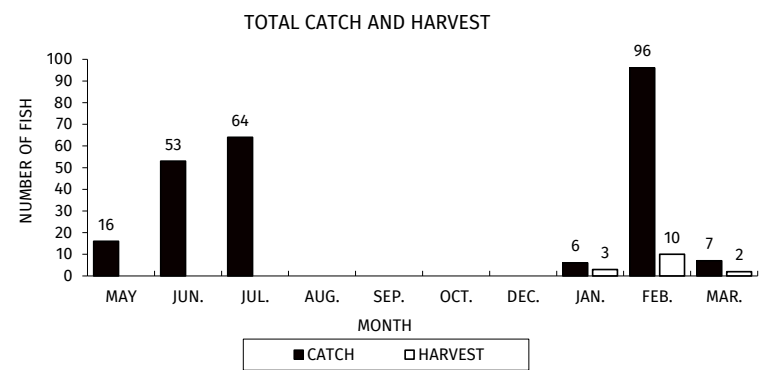
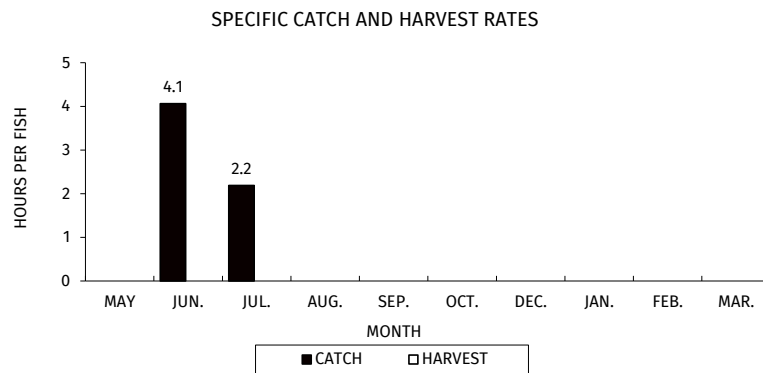
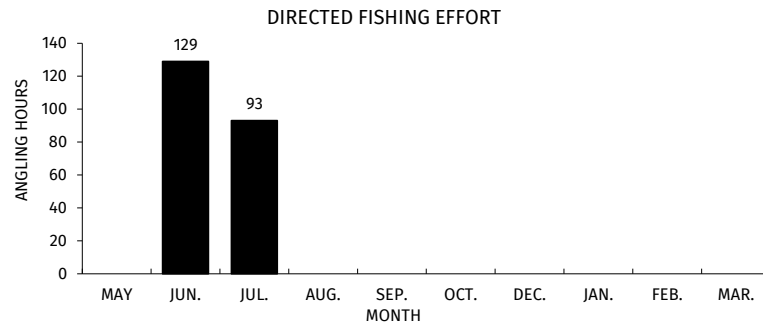


Figure 10. Rock Bass sportfishing effort, catch, harvest, and length distribution, Lipsett Lake, during 2022-23.