

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



FISH MANAGEMENT SURVEY REPORT

LAKE TEXOMA

2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gillnetting was conducted in winter of 2025 to evaluate the status of the striped bass, white bass and channel catfish populations at Lake Texoma. This annual sampling is a joint effort with Texas Parks and Wildlife and is a continuation of a long-term monitoring protocol initiated in 1993.

The striped bass population at Lake Texoma appears to have stabilized over the past three years, returning to levels consistent with long-term averages experienced in the 1990s and 2000s. The 2010s saw population reductions due to extended drought followed by rapid recovery and record high catch rates from 2019 – 2021. In 2025, the striped bass catch rate was 23.9 fish/net-night (Table 1, Figure 1). The majority of the population were fish ranging from 14 – 18 inches with 17% of the population exceeding 20 inches (Figure 2).

Striped bass growth rates remained consistent with past surveys with fish reaching 20 inches between 3 and 4 years old (Table 2, Figure 3). Mortality estimates for striped bass at Lake Texoma are highly variable and may not accurately reflect overall mortality rates annually (Table 3). Estimates across years indicate annual mortality rates of approximately 53 – 58 percent.

Catch rates for all white bass and white bass > 12 inches increased in 2025 over the past two surveys which were below average. Overall catch rate was 7.1 fish/net-night and is more consistent with the long-term average (Figure 4). Approximately 46% of the population exceeded 12 inches with the largest individuals exceeding 15 inches (Figure 5).

Catch rates for channel catfish have stabilized near the long-term average in 2024 and 2025. Catch rates dropped below average in 2021 and appeared to increase from 2022 to 2024. Overall catch rate was 1.9 fish/net-night in 2025 (Figure 6). The majority of the population ranged from 14 – 18 inches with the largest individuals exceeding 20 inches (Figure 7).

Historical stocking records are included in Table 4.

Table 1. Effort, overall fish per net night (CPUE), variability, relative weights (Wr), and CPUE by size groups of striped bass collected by gillnetting from Lake Texoma.

Year	Net-nights	# Fish	Total CPUE	Range (U/L 95% CI)	RSE	Net-nights needed RSE = 20	Wr	CPUE < 12 in	CPUE 12-20 in	CPUE ≥ 20 in
2009	30	704	24.1	±4.8	10.3	8	91	6.6	11.9	5.5
2010	30	580	20.3	±5.8	14.7	16	87	1.5	13.9	5.0
2011	30	347	12.8	±5.1	20.3	31	109	2.3	10.2	0.3
2012	30	680	22.5	±5.6	12.5	12	97	7.9	8.7	6.0
2013	30	475	16.6	±3.6	11.1	9	92	1.2	10.1	5.3
2014	30	655	22.9	±5.6	12.4	12	94	2.4	11.8	8.7
2015	30	383	13.4	±3.8	14.5	16	96	2.6	6.1	4.8
2016	30	193	6.6	±1.9	14.3	15	117	0.5	2.5	3.9
2017	30	489	18.0	±5.3	15.1	17	99	6.6	8.5	2.8
2018	30	504	18.1	±6.7	18.8	26	98	2.3	10.7	5.2
2019	30	889	31.7	±6.3	10.1	8	85	5.6	15.7	10.4
2020	30	826	29.9	±7.7	13.1	13	104	4.4	19.4	6.1
2021	30	1133	39.2	±8.8	11.5	10	100	5.9	18.7	14.7
2022	30	789	27.2	±5.2	9.8	7	101	1.2	18.2	7.8
2023	30	581	20.5	±4.8	12.0	11	94	2.9	11.3	6.3
2024	30	557	20.0	±5.4	13.8	14	95	2.6	12.6	4.7
2025	30	692	23.9	±6.2	13.1	13	98	3.6	16.2	4.1

Figure 1. Fish per net night (CPUE) trend data for striped bass and percent of striped bass greater than 20 inches collected by gillnetting from Lake Texoma. Error bars represent standard error estimates.

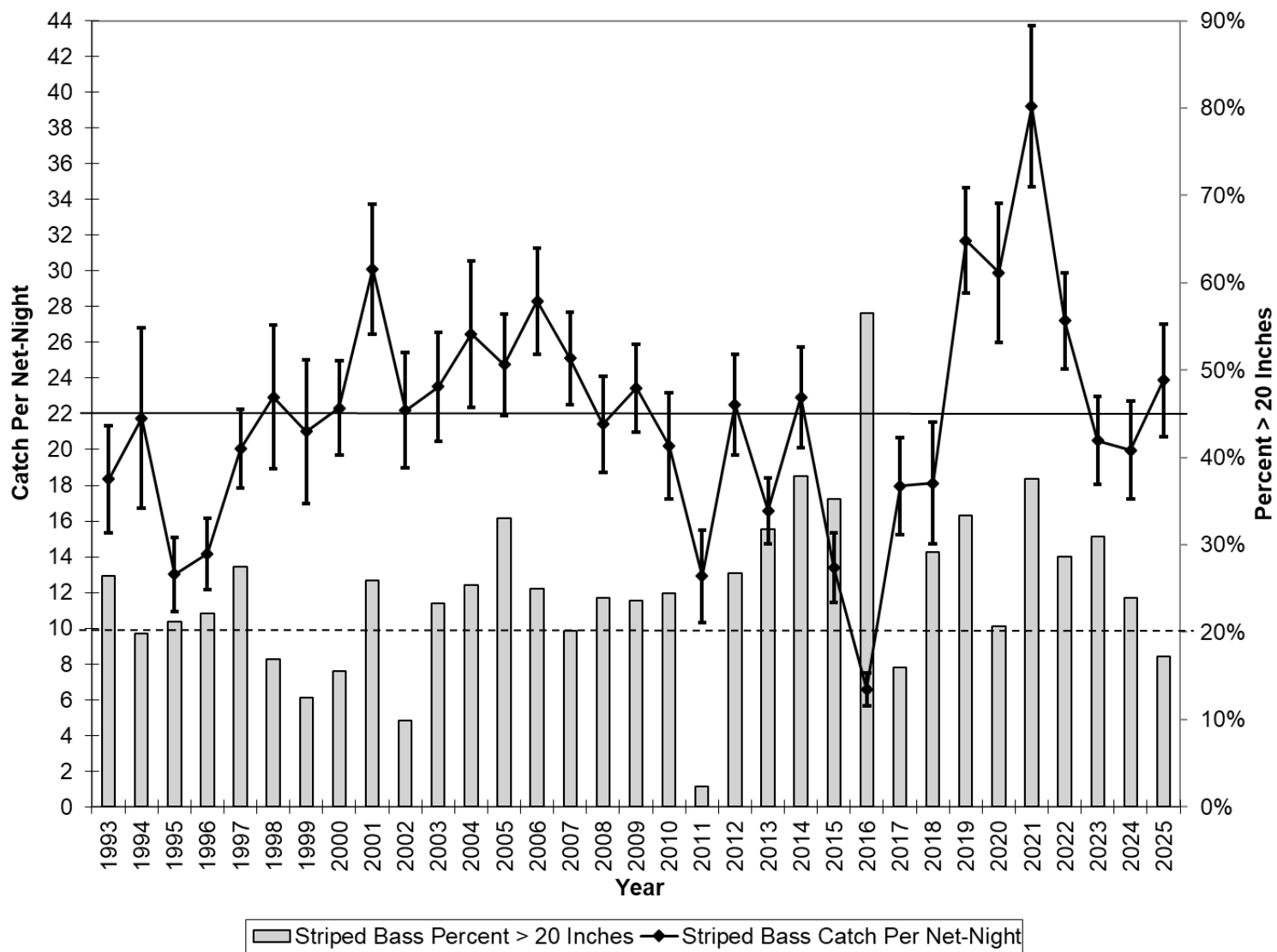


Figure 2. 2025 length frequency distribution for striped bass collected by gillnetting at Lake Texoma. N = 692.

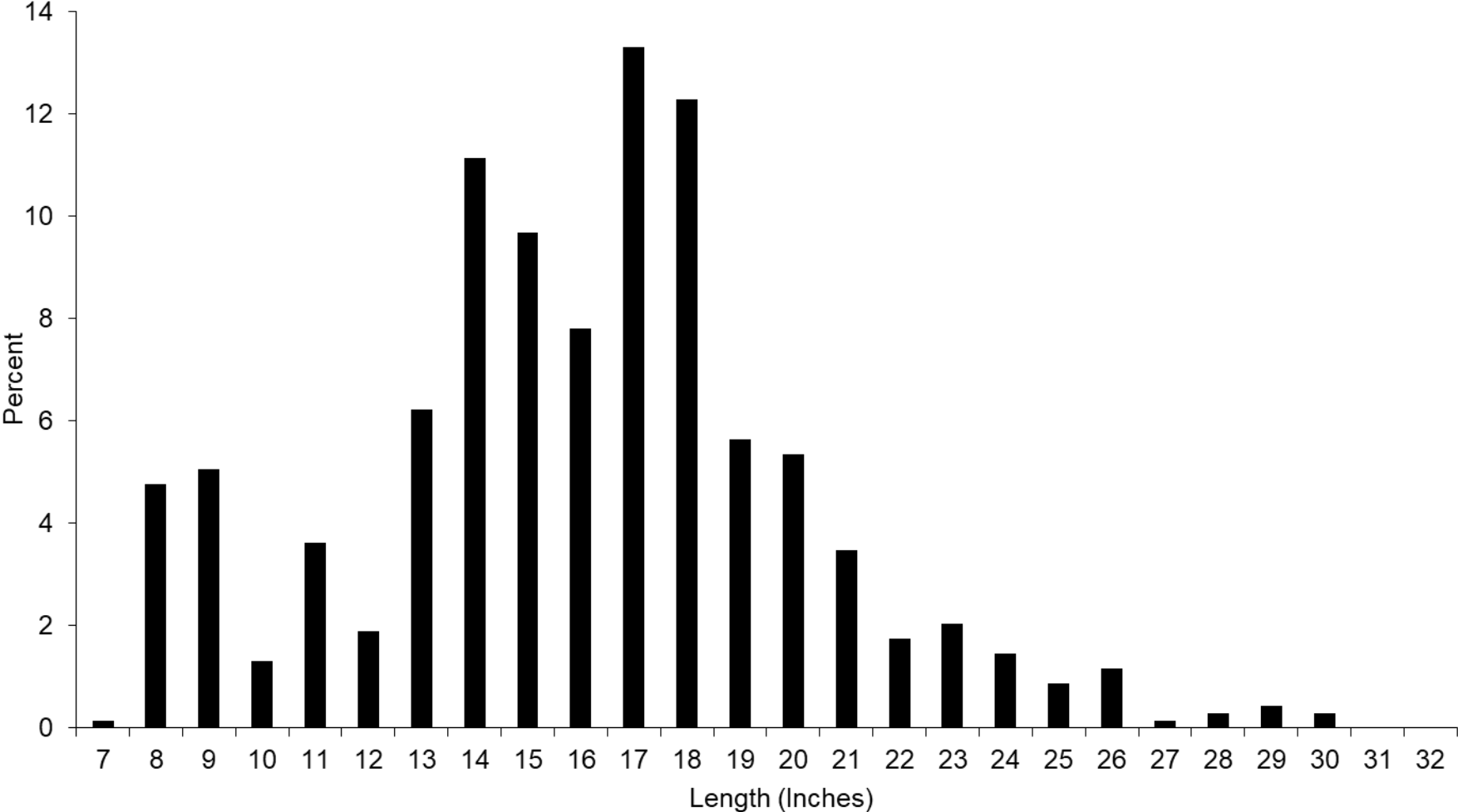


Table 2. Number of striped bass, mean length at age, and variability of striped bass collected by gillnetting from Lake Texoma.

Year	# Aged	# Fish with Length-Age Key	Age-1 (N)	Range (U/L 95% CI)	Age-2 (N)	Range (U/L 95% CI)	Age-3 (N)	Range (U/L 95% CI)	Age-4 (N)	Range (U/L 95% CI)	Age-5 (N)	Range (U/L 95% CI)	Age-6 (N)	Range (U/L 95% CI)
2011	177	347	8.1 (6)	±0.3	11.7 (100)	±0.4	17.0 (228)	±0.2	19.4 (8)	±0.5	24.4 (3)	±2.4	-	-
2013	159	475	9.5 (34)	±0.3	14.0 (6)	±0.8	16.9 (299)	±0.2	23.8 (45)	±0.4	26.4 (90)	±0.3	-	-
2016	105	193	8.7 (13)	±0.4	16.6 (1)	-	19.1 (80)	±0.2	22.5 (83)	±0.3	-	-	25.2 (14)	±1.1
2017	189	484	9.9 (186)	±0.2	16.3 (251)	±0.3	-	-	24.1 (16)	±0.5	25.7 (26)	±0.4	-	-
2018	195	504	9.0 (61)	±0.2	15.8 (298)	±0.2	22.1 (120)	±0.3	-	-	26.1 (10)	±0.7	27.1 (12)	±0.6
2019	243	885	8.8 (139)	±0.1	13.6 (339)	±0.1	20.5 (266)	±0.3	25.6 (118)	±0.3	-	-	28.3 (10)	±1.0
2020	245	826	9.2 (119)	±0.2	15.0 (241)	±0.1	17.8 (277)	±0.1	22.0 (181)	±0.3	26.7 (8)	±0.9	-	-
2021	225	1128	9.1 (154)	±0.2	14.6 (418)	±0.2	19.9 (215)	±0.2	21.2 (220)	±0.2	24.0 (120)	±0.3	30.7 (1)	-
2022	222	786	8.8 (26)	±0.3	14.8 (432)	±0.1	19.0 (136)	±0.3	22.6 (81)	±0.3	23.4 (75)	±0.3	26.5 (36)	±0.7
2023	138	580	8.7 (4)	±0.4	12.4 (217)	±0.2	18.9 (226)	±0.2	22.6 (62)	±0.4	25.1 (31)	±0.7	26.6 (31)	±0.7
2024	163	603	8.6 (11)	±0.3	12.5 (240)	±0.1	16.8 (172)	±0.2	21.6 (63)	±0.4	24.1 (34)	±0.6	27.4 (24)	±0.9
2025	123	691	9.8 (106)	±0.3	14.8 (227)	±0.1	18.0 (236)	±0.1	20.9 (75)	±0.2	24.4 (29)	±0.5	24.8 (8)	±0.9

Figure 3. 2025 Length at age data for striped bass collected from Lake Texoma by gillnetting.

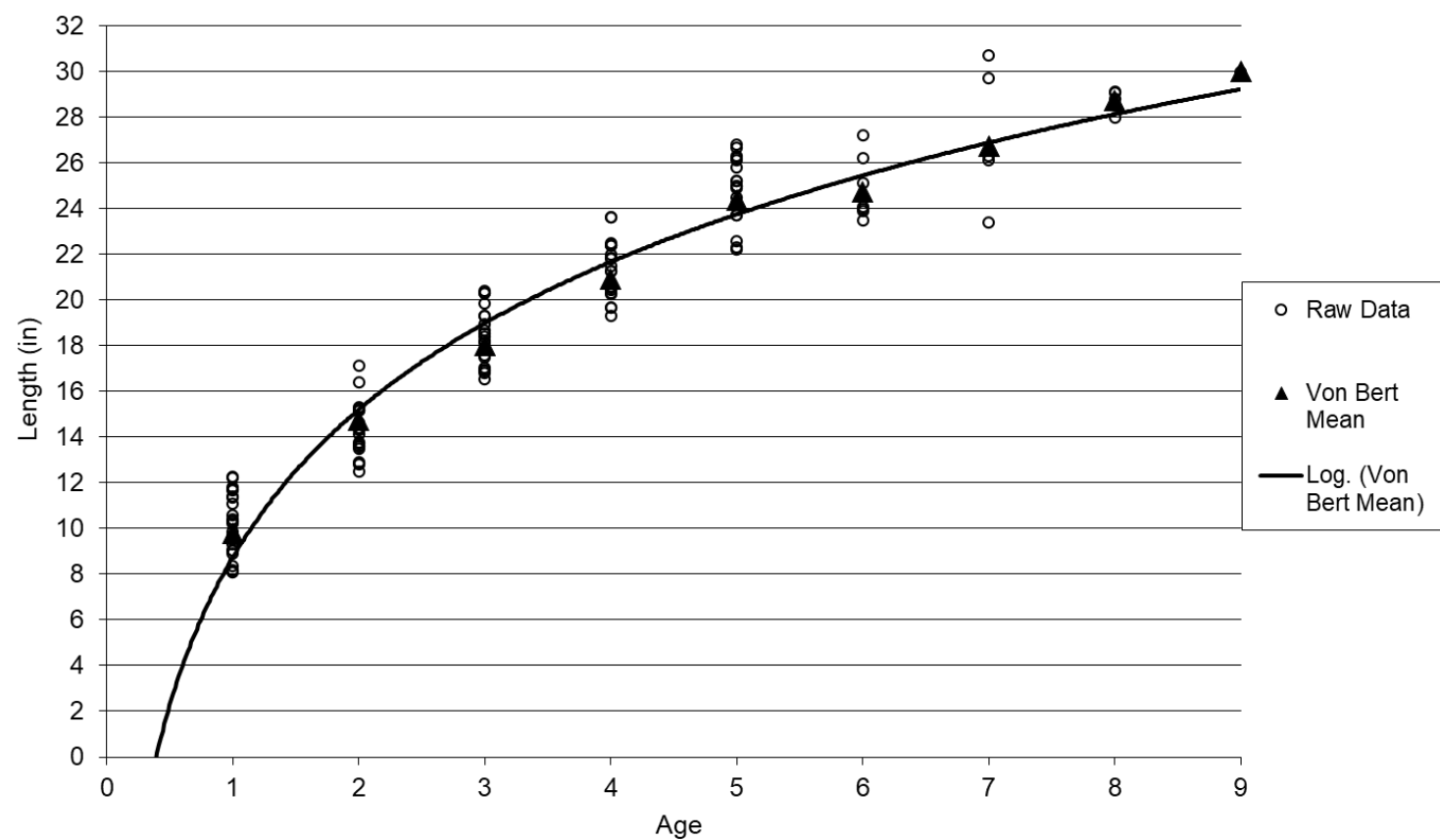


Table 3. Mortality estimates, variability, and maximum observed age of striped bass collected by gillnetting from Lake Texoma.

Year	Annual Mortality	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Observed Max Age
2011	79.9	-202	99	7
2013	63.9	-115	94	7
2016	56.9	46	65	8
2017	54.1	35	68	9
2018	52.4	20	72	8
2019	53.1	32	68	8
2020	78.3	-360189	100	7
2021	59.7	-39	88	6
2022	43.3	21	59	7
2023	55.1	39	67	8
2024	40.3	25	52	9
2025	57.4	48	65	9

Figure 4. Fish per net night (CPUE) trend data for white bass and white bass greater than 12 inches collected by gillnetting from Lake Texoma. Error bars represent standard error estimates.

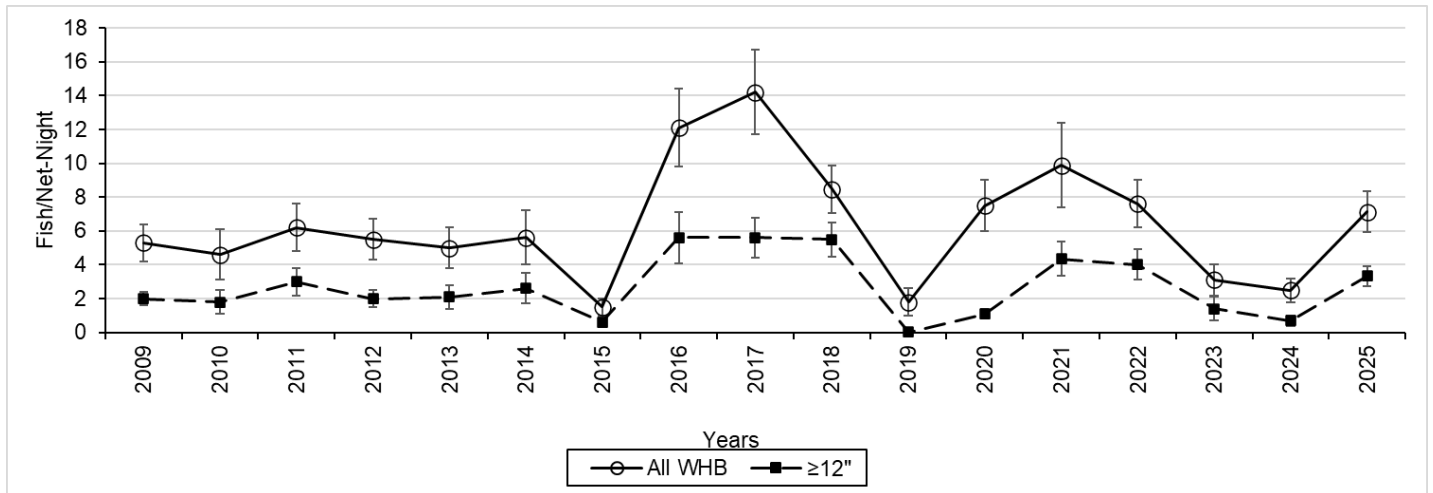


Figure 5. 2025 length frequency distribution for white bass collected by gillnetting at Lake Texoma. N = 207.

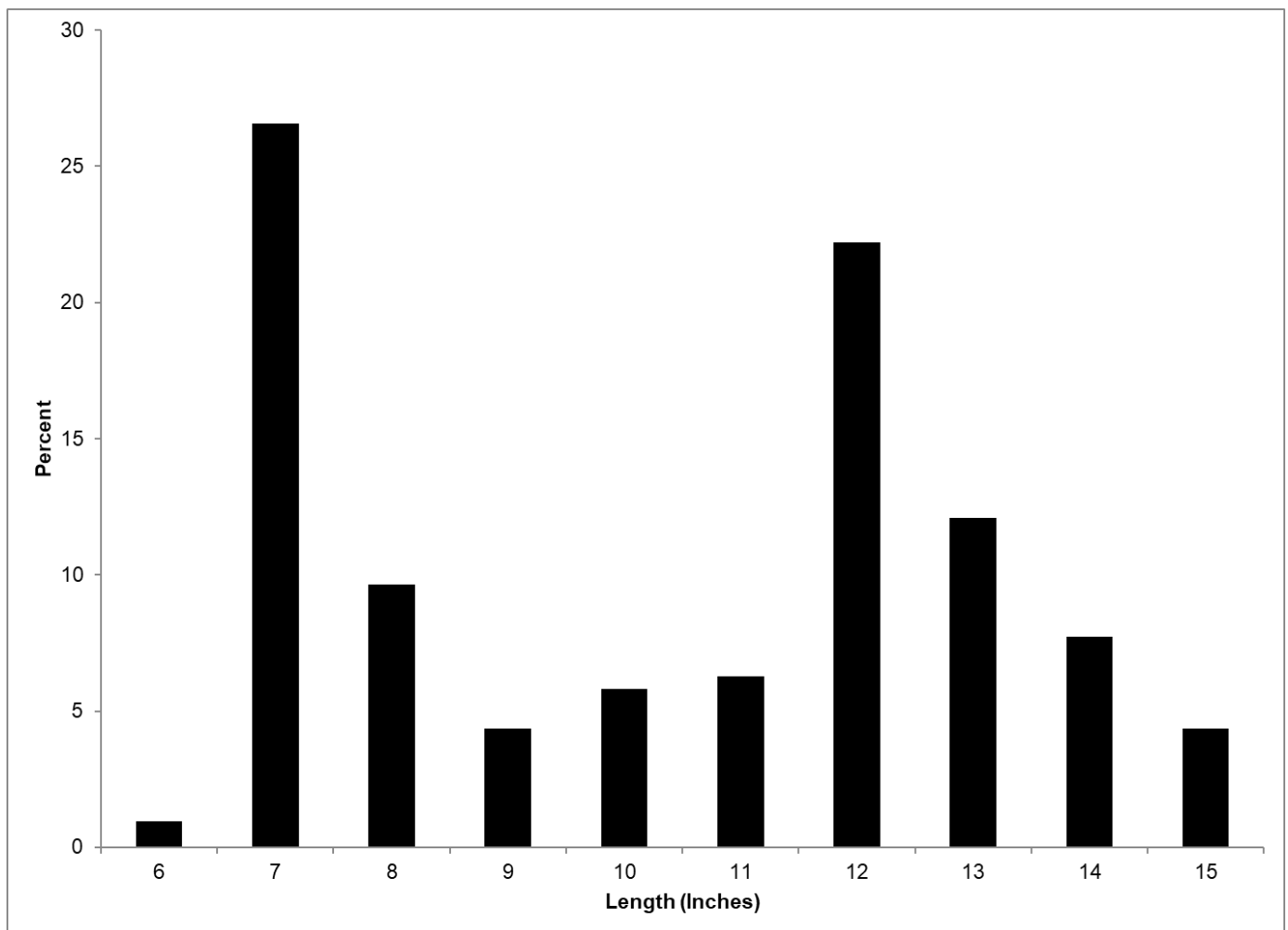


Figure 6. Fish per net night (CPUE) trend data for channel catfish and channel catfish greater than 16 inches collected by gillnetting from Lake Texoma. Error bars represent standard error estimates.

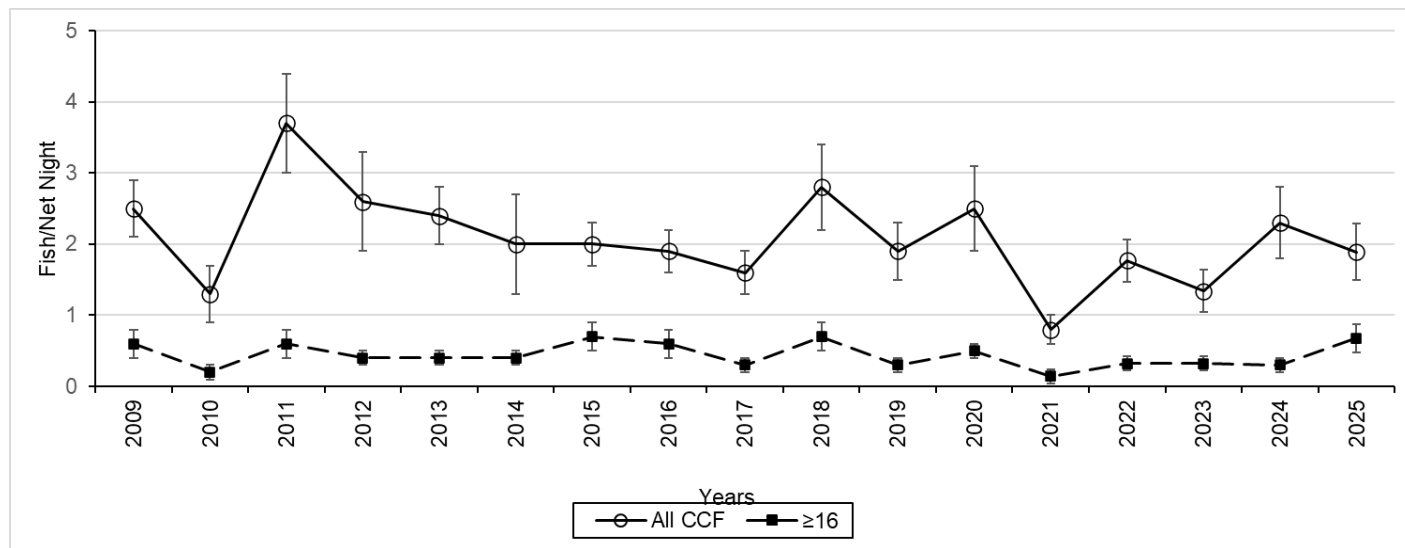


Figure 7. 2025 length frequency distribution for channel catfish collected by gillnetting at Lake Texoma. N = 55.

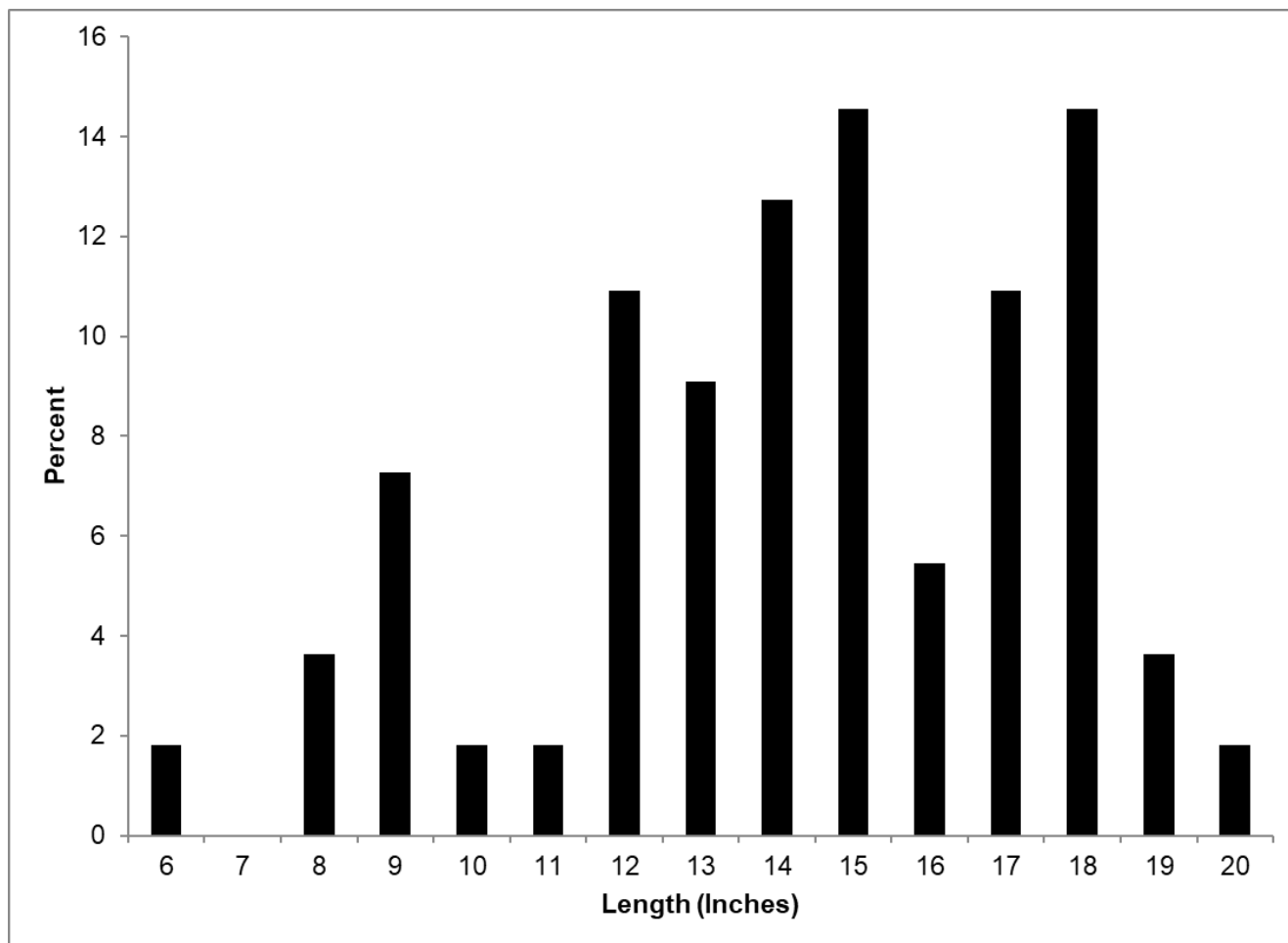


Table 4. Species, number and size of fish stocked in Lake Texoma from 1965 to 2025.

DATE	SPECIES	NUMBER	SIZE
1965	Striped bass	138	Adults
1967	Striped bass	200,000	Fry
1968	Striped bass	5,000	Fingerlings
1968	Walleye	50,400	Fry
1969	Walleye	500,000	Fry
1969	Striped bass	284,614	Fingerlings
1970	Striped bass	77,640	Fingerlings
1971	Striped bass	96,839	Fingerlings
1972	Striped bass	208,340	Fingerlings
1973	Striped bass	141,612	Fingerlings
1974	Florida bass	10,000	Fry
1974	Striped bass	548,898	Fingerlings
1974	Largemouth bass	57,225	Fry
1975	Walleye	4,750,000	Fry
1975	Florida bass	200,000	Fry
1975	Hybrid largemouth bass	80,000	Fry
1976	Walleye	25,000	Fry
1977	Walleye	2,261,000	Fry
1977	Florida bass	23,748	Fingerlings
1977	Striped bass	1,600	Fingerlings
1979	Threadfin shad	31,181	Adults
1981	Smallmouth bass	576,655	Fingerlings
1982	Threadfin shad	1,500	Adults
1982	Smallmouth bass	452,372	Fingerlings
1983	Smallmouth bass	48,104	Fingerlings
1984	Threadfin shad	33,744	Adults
1984	Striped bass	490	Fingerlings
1985	Threadfin shad	38,920	Adults
1985	Florida bass	237,589	Fingerlings
1985	Striped bass	550	Fry
1986	Florida bass	231,850	Fingerlings
1987	Smallmouth bass	6,800	Fingerlings
1991	Smallmouth bass	10,641	Fingerlings
1991	Channel catfish	15,170	Fingerlings
1992	Channel catfish	59	Growouts
1995	Florida bass	100,000	Fingerlings
1996	Smallmouth bass	16,100	Fingerlings
1996	Smallmouth bass	3,900	Fingerlings
1996	Florida bass	51,420	Fingerlings
1996	Florida bass	48,880	Fingerlings
1996	Florida bass	100,300	Fingerlings
1997	Florida bass	109,950	Fingerlings

Table 2. Continued.

DATE	SPECIES	NUMBER	SIZE
1997	Florida bass	100,090	Fingerlings
1998	Smallmouth bass	27,694	Fingerlings
1998	Florida bass	110,500	Fingerlings
1999	Smallmouth bass	20,085	Fingerlings
1999	Florida bass	327,191	Fingerlings
1999	Paddle fish	5,862	Fingerlings
2000	Paddle fish	20,568	Fingerlings
2001	Paddle fish	770	Fingerlings
2001	Threadfin shad	11,300	Adults
2002	C. Florida bass	678,403	Fingerlings
2004	C. Florida bass	234,537	Fingerlings
2005	Paddlefish	31,478	Fingerlings
2007	Paddlefish	2,029	Fingerlings
2010	Threadfin shad	39,252	Adults
2010	C. Florida bass	34,357	Fingerlings
2012	C. Florida bass	372,888	Fingerlings
2013	C. Florida bass	75,066	Fingerlings
2013	C. Florida bass	288	Adults
2014	C. Florida bass	50	Adults
2015	C. Florida bass	50,067	Fingerlings
2017	C. Florida bass	130,250	Fingerlings
2018	C. Florida bass	111,665	Fingerlings
2018	C. Florida bass	202	Adults
2019	C. Florida bass	400	Adults
2020	C. Florida bass	61,230	Fingerlings
2020	Channel catfish	46,812	Fingerlings
2022	Channel catfish	41,496	Fingerlings
2023	C. Florida bass	120,661	Fingerlings