



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Mississippi River Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes
Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 3

ORDER OF BUSINESS	12/20/2021	6:30PM	Zoom - Virtual
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Mike Britton at 6:33PM
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Mike Britton, Wes Domine, Reed Kabelowsky, Hugh Hatch, Maurice Amundson, Ed Peters, Travis Burce, Bob Ziel, Ted Engelein, Tad Beutin, Wayne Stietz, Tim Morgan, Mark Noll, Lester Ryder, Barbara Dahlgren, Rick Wayne, Dan Heidel A quorum was declared.
EXCUSED	Not present - Charles Gauger, Julie de la Terre, Andrew Novak, William Howe, Jody Bigalke, Marc Schultz, Pearl Holmstead, Kelly Tollefson (due to short notice - no one will be declared unexcused).
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Kari lee-Zimmerman, David Heath. Bob Jumbeck announced he had a conflict - submitted an e-mail.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Mike Britton introduced the meeting and went over the agenda.
ACTION	Motion by Mark Noll and 2nd by Wayne Stietz to approve the agenda as posted - carried.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Within and to the support of Wisconsin Conservation Congress process; it is the mission of the Mississippi River Committee (MRC) to advise the Wisconsin NRB and Department of Natural Resources on issues, rules, or policies which affect the river and/or other associated natural resources. The MRC strives to stay acquainted with current river resource management; the science in support or opposition to that management; and with public opinion thereof. The MRC encourages river management agencies to seek public participation in management decisions or policy. Influence stemming from the MRC shall be generated with greatest intentions toward long term benefits to all fish and wildlife resources; and with an emphasis toward preserving public access and harvest of game resources, (i.e., preserving outdoor heritage activities of hunting, fishing, and trapping).
ACTION	Reed read the mission statement - Motion by Rick Wayne and 2nd by Travis Burce to approve the mission statement - carried

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Mike announced that he did not receive any requests to address the meeting. Mike advised that the resolution author would be in attendance at the meeting - Mike introduced Troy Hanson.
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A.

1.	Pool 7 panfish daily, and possession limits (320221)	Mike Britton
	DISCUSSION Mike Britton read the resolution. David Heath shared a power-point like presentation on fisheries information including sizes, numbers, harvest estimates, growth rates, factors affecting mortality and many other aspects of the river and Lake Onalaska. The presentation will be attached. This was an excellently prepared presentation that was very specific to the resolution. Bob Jumbeck sent an e-mail in lieu of his absence: Committee – Unfortunately I will not be able to join the meeting tonight as I have a scheduling conflict. I do want to express my thoughts on resolution 320221. From a law enforcement stand point it is always best to try and have consistent regulations whenever possible. The river in particular has been subject to challenges, particularly in the recent past with bluegill limit differences	

	from pool to pool depending on what side of the river you fished. MN and WI have done really good things to work cooperatively in the process of getting the majority of bag limits in line with each other up and down the river. I feel keeping consistent regulations outweighs a 5 fish reduction on ½ of 1 pool. As for the license fee increase, that of course is a legislative decision / process. Jumbeck. Rick Wayne - Question about Bass numbers (predators) and their effect on panfish populations? Troy Hanson (author)- mentioned growing number of pelicans and cormorants. Mike Britton - Question on how long it takes for bluegill to reach 8"? Ed Peters - Question/comment on flathead catfish population and effect on panfish - especially bluegills? - Mentioned a Nebraska study that indicated high predation on panfish by flatheads. Dan Heidel - Question clarifying that this would cause Onalaska to be only pool/water body on river to have 10 bag rule? - answer was yes. Travis Burce - Comment that Minn. utilized the 10 bag rule for a period of time - felt fishing was very good after the rule was in affect. Comment that he supports the resolution. Tim Morgan - Commented on Iowa's generous limits for years and likes the new reduced, 15 limit. Also commented that guides are taking a large chunk of the panfish. Wes Domine - Thanked Troy Hanson for submitting the resolution and for being involved in the process. Thinks that 15 limit needs some time to show affects. Troy Hanson - Commented that he understands that the 15 bag change is recent and the groups reluctance to make a change so quickly. Made a point of asking group what they would propose to control the human factors affecting the large burden on the resource? Barbara Dahlgren - Commented that she was in favor of resolution and explained that it would give us a very good test case and some good info on the effect of the 10 bag limit.
ACTION	Motion by Wes Domine and 2nd by Tim Morgan to reject the resolution as written - carried Two members opposing the rejection (Burse and Dahlgren)
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2.	[DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]	[PRESENTER]
	DISCUSSION	
	ACTION	
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. Future Committee Meetings

Mike Britton

DISCUSSION	Mike Britton explained that the group has been given okay to conduct two meetings each year. Mike went over traditional meeting times for past meetings and some suggestions to hold meetings Feb-March and late August as was traditional. Reed suggested that Kari send out a doodle poll to make the information easier to compare - Kari said that she could do that - Mike Britton will get her some dates. Mike commented on the many agency resources that have been available to us for our meetings and their importance to our meetings. Rick Wayne commented that the 3rd weekend in February and August would be easy. Dave Heath thought he could accommodate this.
ACTION	Kari will send out a doodle poll soon to census availability.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Mike Britton and Kari Lee-Zimmerman	

C. [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

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III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Maurice Amundson - Commented that the resolution was not written real well and asked if resources such as fisheries personnel and local delegates were consulted. Reed Kabelowsky - Commented that at our recently held Rules and Resolutions meeting the subject of resolution writing was addressed and there is a need for the Congress to strive to do better in helping to write resolutions. Training video and possibly a seminar to train delegates was discussed. Mike Britton thanked everyone for their participation and thanked the author again for submitting.
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	A motion by Maurice Amundson and 2nd by Wayne Stietz to adjourn at 7:39PM - carried.
SUBMITTED BY	Reed C. Kabelowsky
DATE	[Date]

Panfish Populations, Mississippi River Pool 7

Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Mississippi River Advisory Committee.
20 December 2021.

David Heath, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, La Crosse, WI.



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Regulations



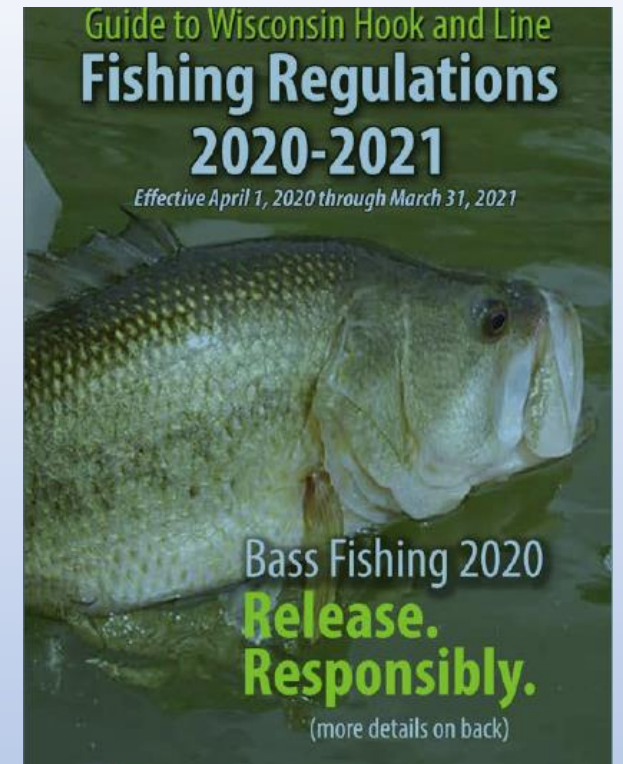
Conducted 2 years of public input.

Included in-person meetings, and online surveys to develop and then refine proposed regulations.



Spring 2019 CC hearing: passed 5260 to 1461 (78%).

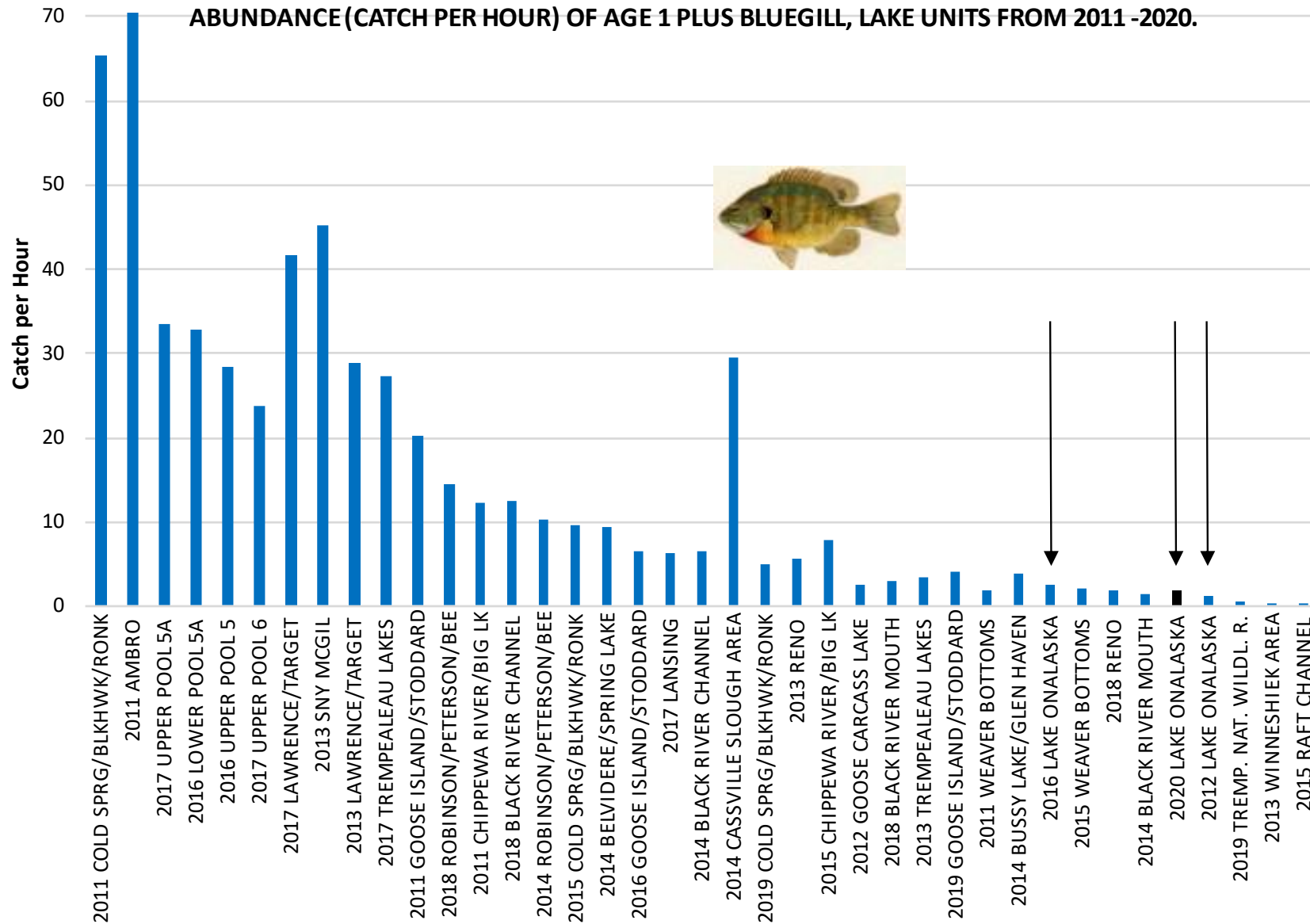
April 2020, a 15 bag limit each of Sunfishes, Crappie and Yellow Perch went into effect.



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Lake Onalaska Area Panfish Population Status

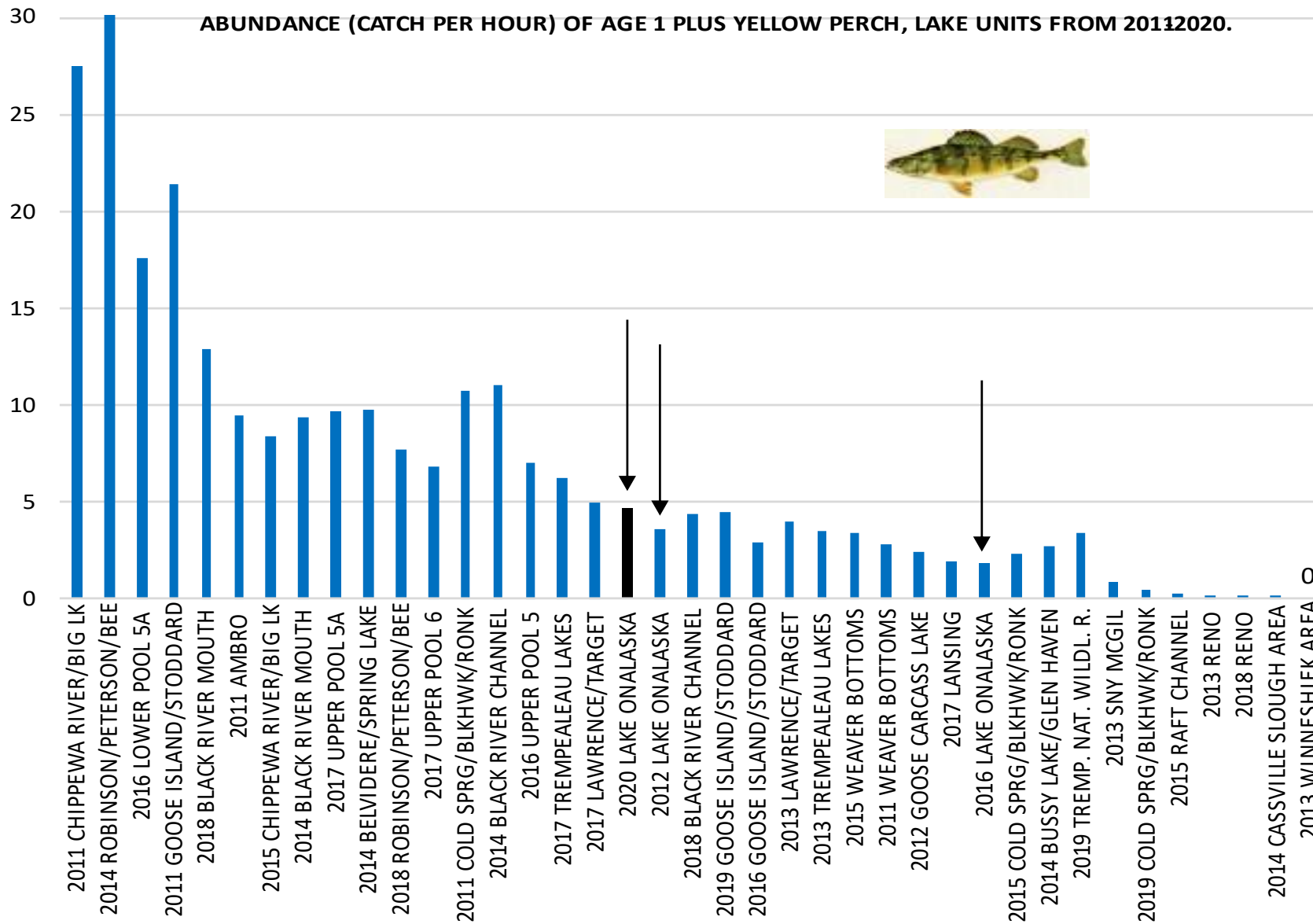


Lake Onalaska had consistently low bluegill abundance from 2012, 2016 and 2020 compared to other Mississippi River surveys.

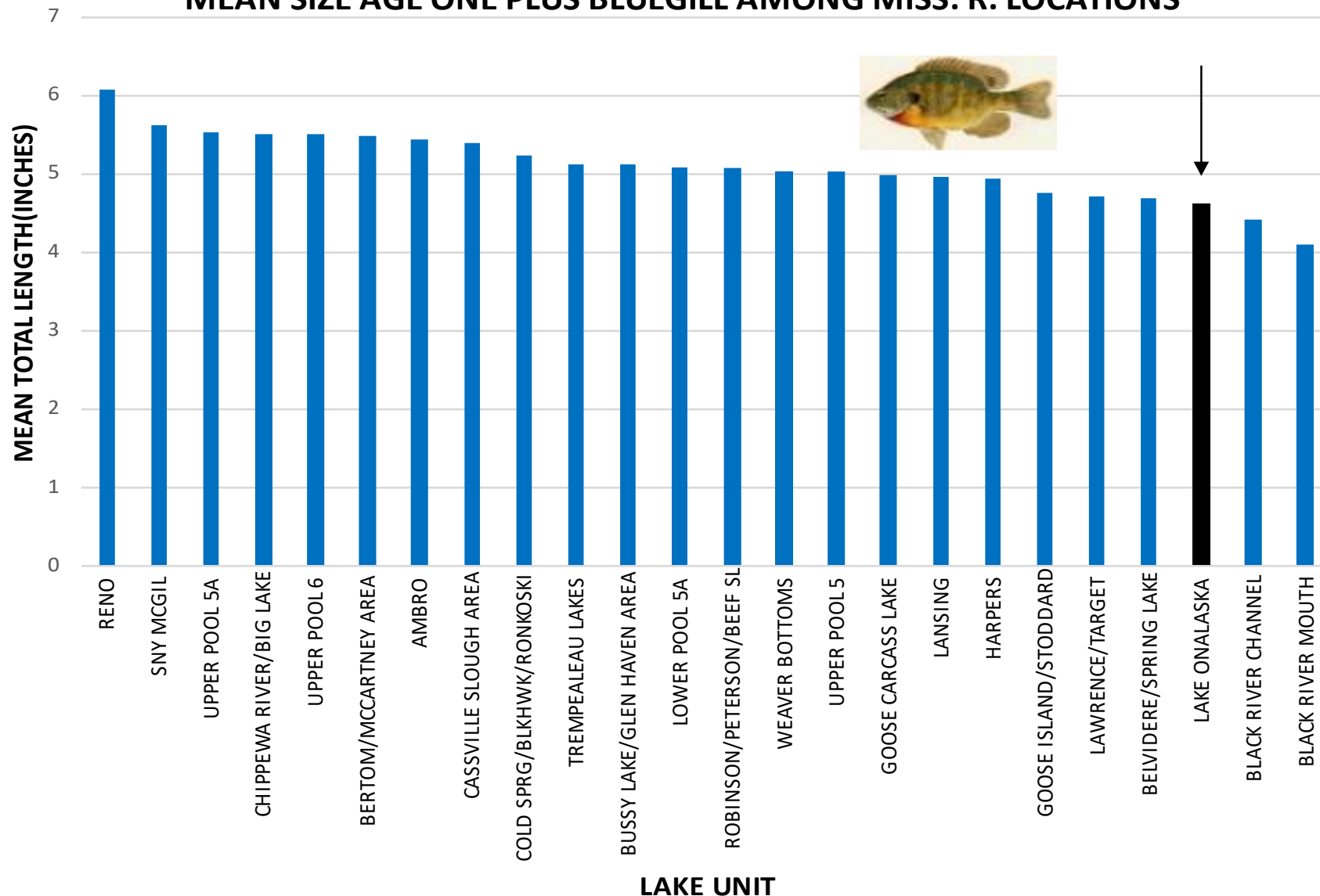


Lake Onalaska Area Panfish Population Status

Lake Onalaska had fairly average perch abundance from 2012, 2016 and 2020 compared to other Mississippi River surveys.



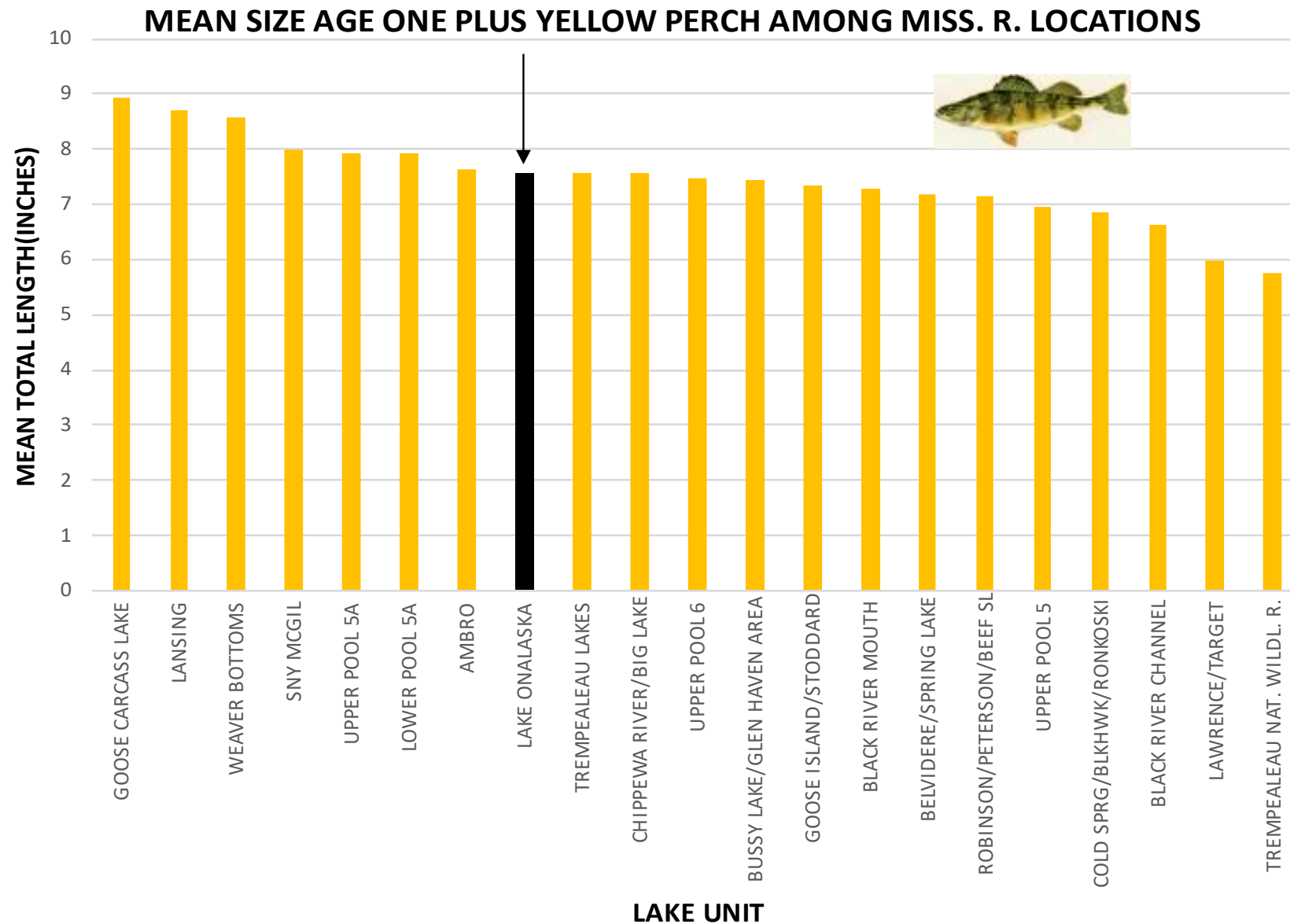
MEAN SIZE AGE ONE PLUS BLUEGILL AMONG MISS. R. LOCATIONS



Lake Onalaska Area Panfish Population Status

Lake Onalaska had small bluegill size from 2012, 2016 and 2020 compared to other Mississippi River surveys.





Lake Onalaska Area Panfish Population Status

Lake Onalaska had average perch size from 2012, 2016 and 2020 compared to other Mississippi River surveys.



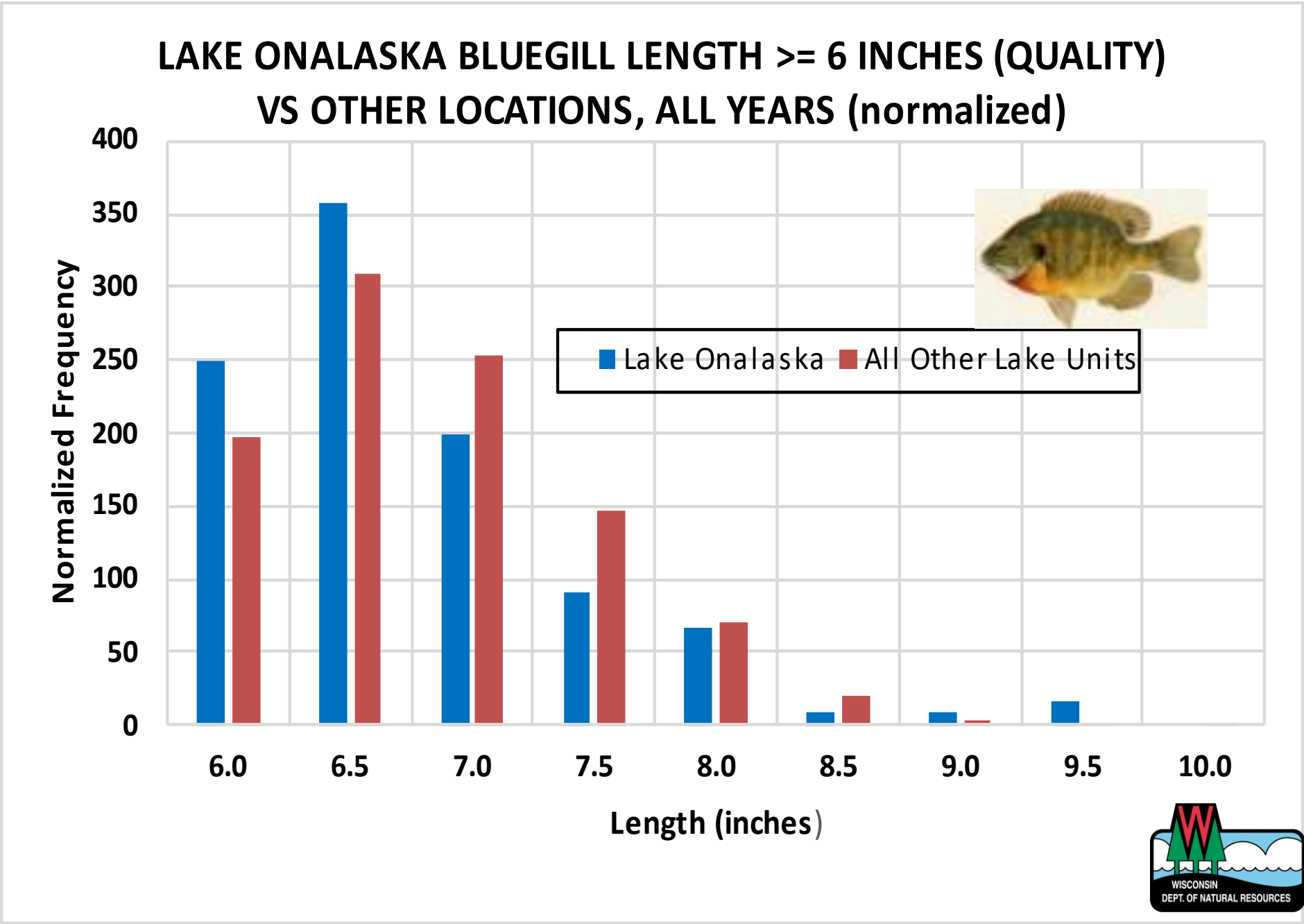
Summary

- The most common panfish (bluegill) has lower numbers and smaller size than other Mississippi River survey locations. Perch are average.
- Similar to Lake Onalaska, Black River mouth has low bluegill numbers and small average size.
- Trempealeau Lakes has average bluegill abundance size.
- Is exploitation the reason for Lk. Onalaska differences?

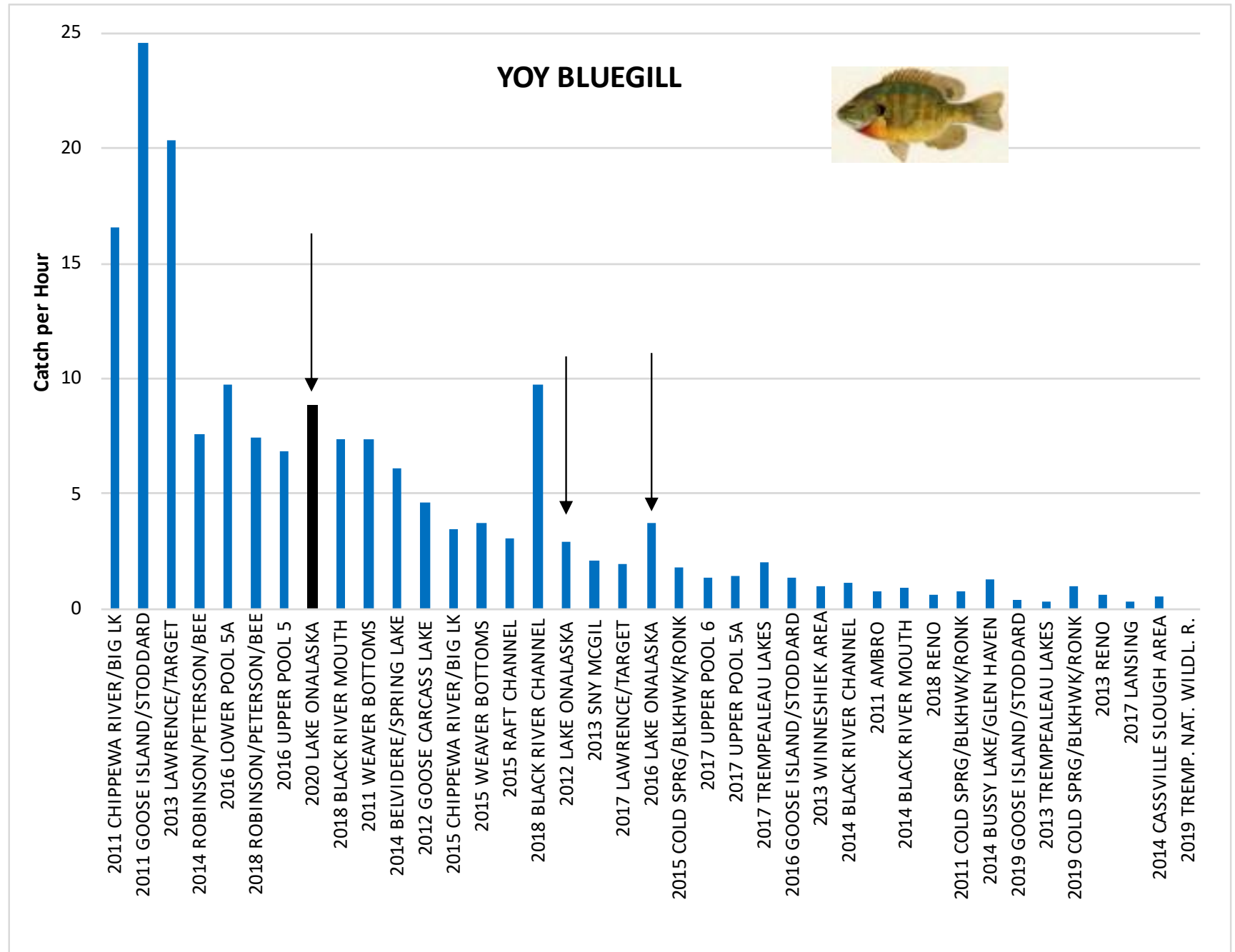


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There is evidence that bluegill harvest has a more noticeable effect in Lake Onalaska than other locations.



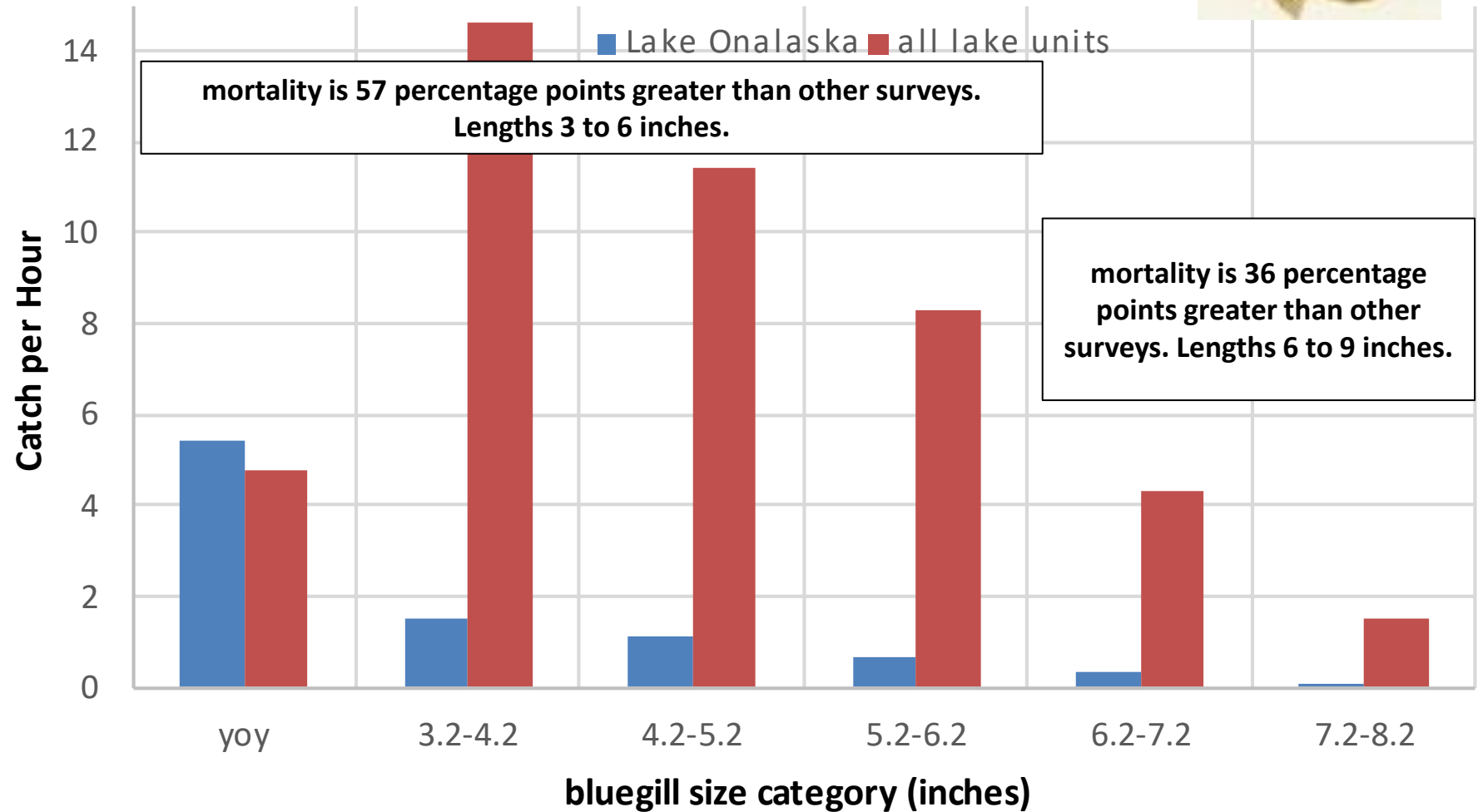
Lake Onalaska
bluegill
reproduction is
high relative to
other locations.



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There is evidence that mortality of young Lake Onalaska bluegill has a more effect than harvest.

Lake Onalaska Bluegill Relative Abundance (Catch per Hour) by Inch Bins VS. All 26 Lake Units.



Summary



- Harvest is significant.
- Survival of young-of-the-year bluegill has more of an effect.
- This higher mortality occurs during ages 4 months to 16 months.
- So, maybe habitat has more of an effect.
- It's unlikely DNR would make a regulation change after implementing one so recently.
- If MN did not go along with a regulation change, the goal of similar regs across state lines would fail.

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Questions?



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