

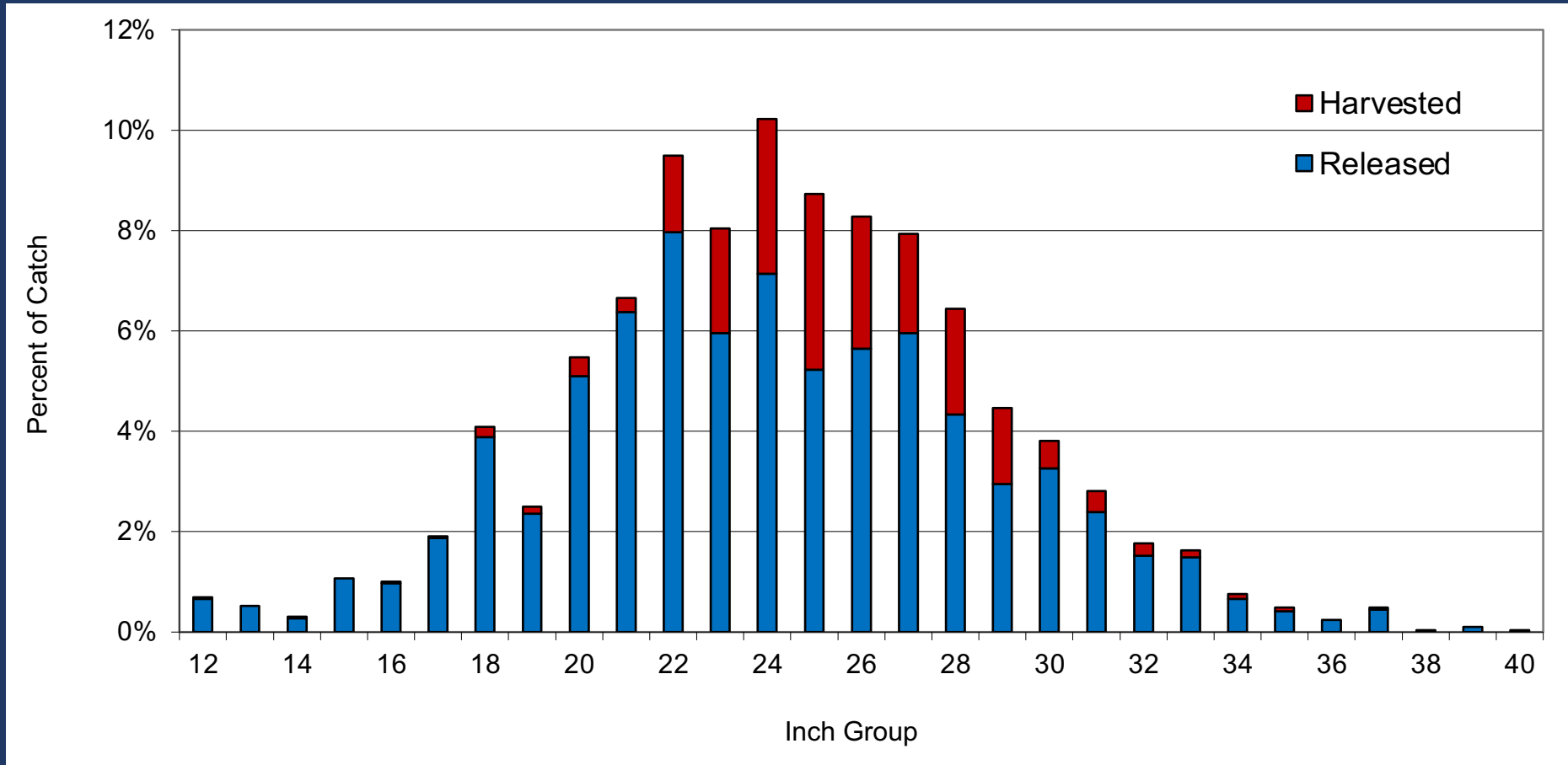
Smith Mountain Striper Club - 2024



Dan Wilson

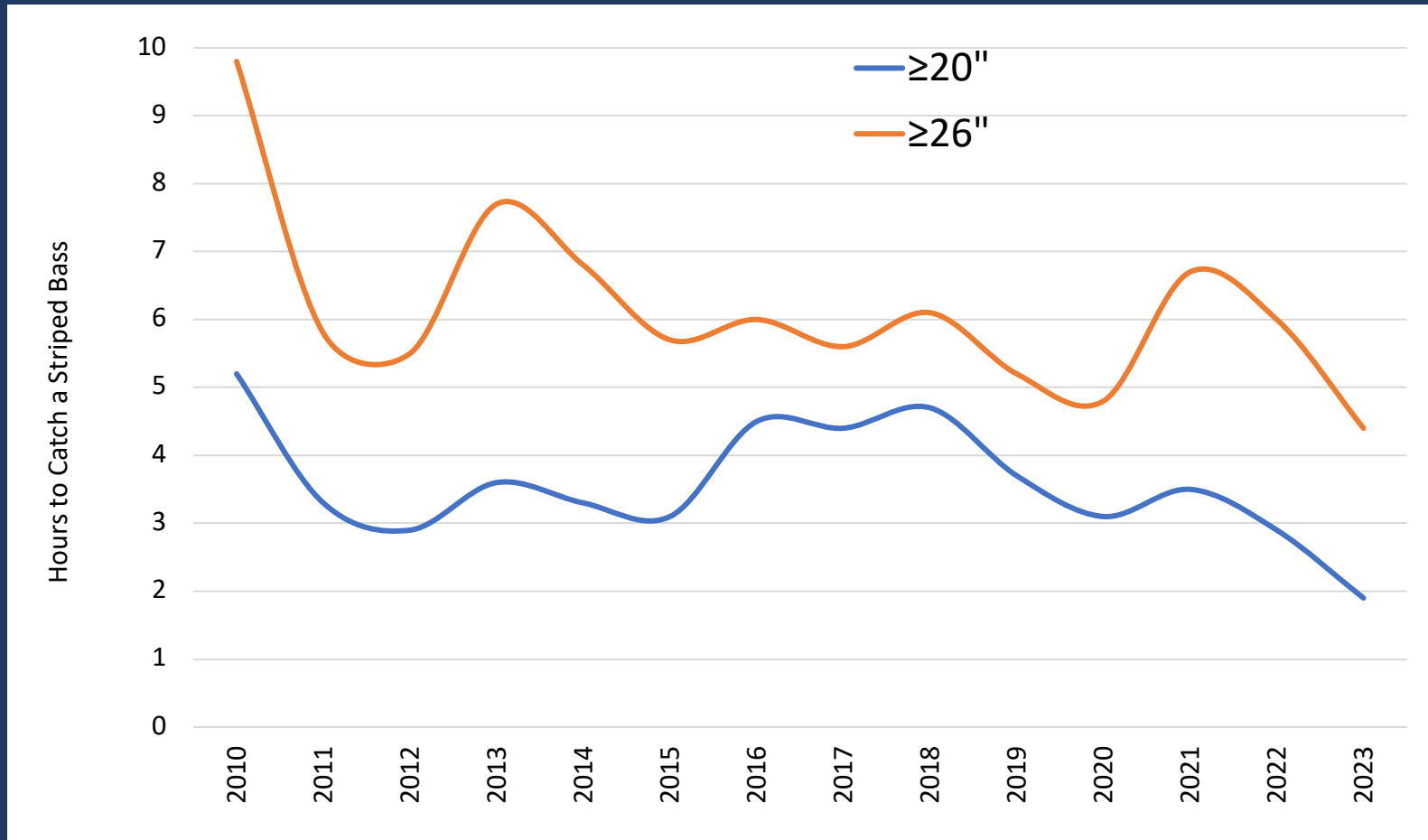


Angler Diary Data - 2023



Angler Catch Rate from Diaries

(hours to catch a Striped Bass)

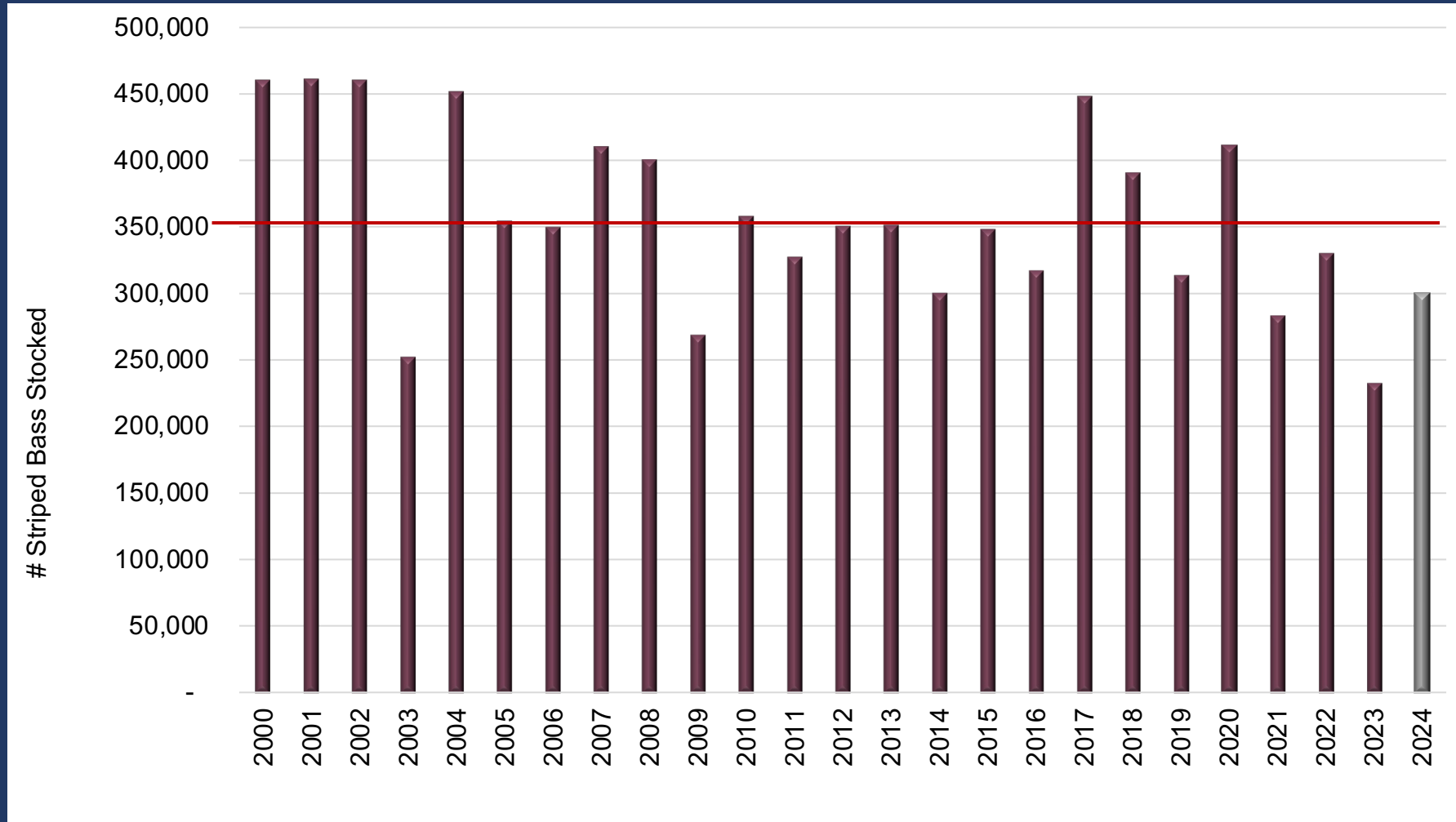


2023 Stocking

- 233,000 Striped Bass were stocked
- All Striped Bass were stocked by boat for the first time

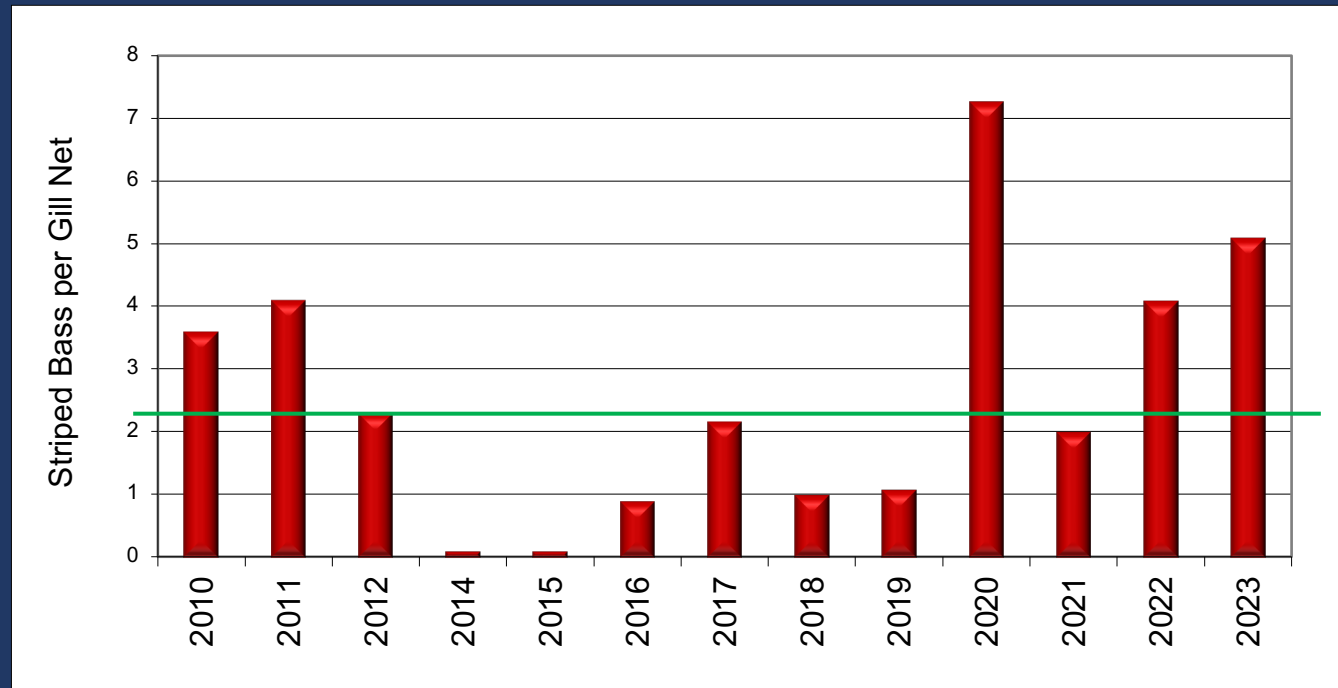


SML Striped Bass Stocking

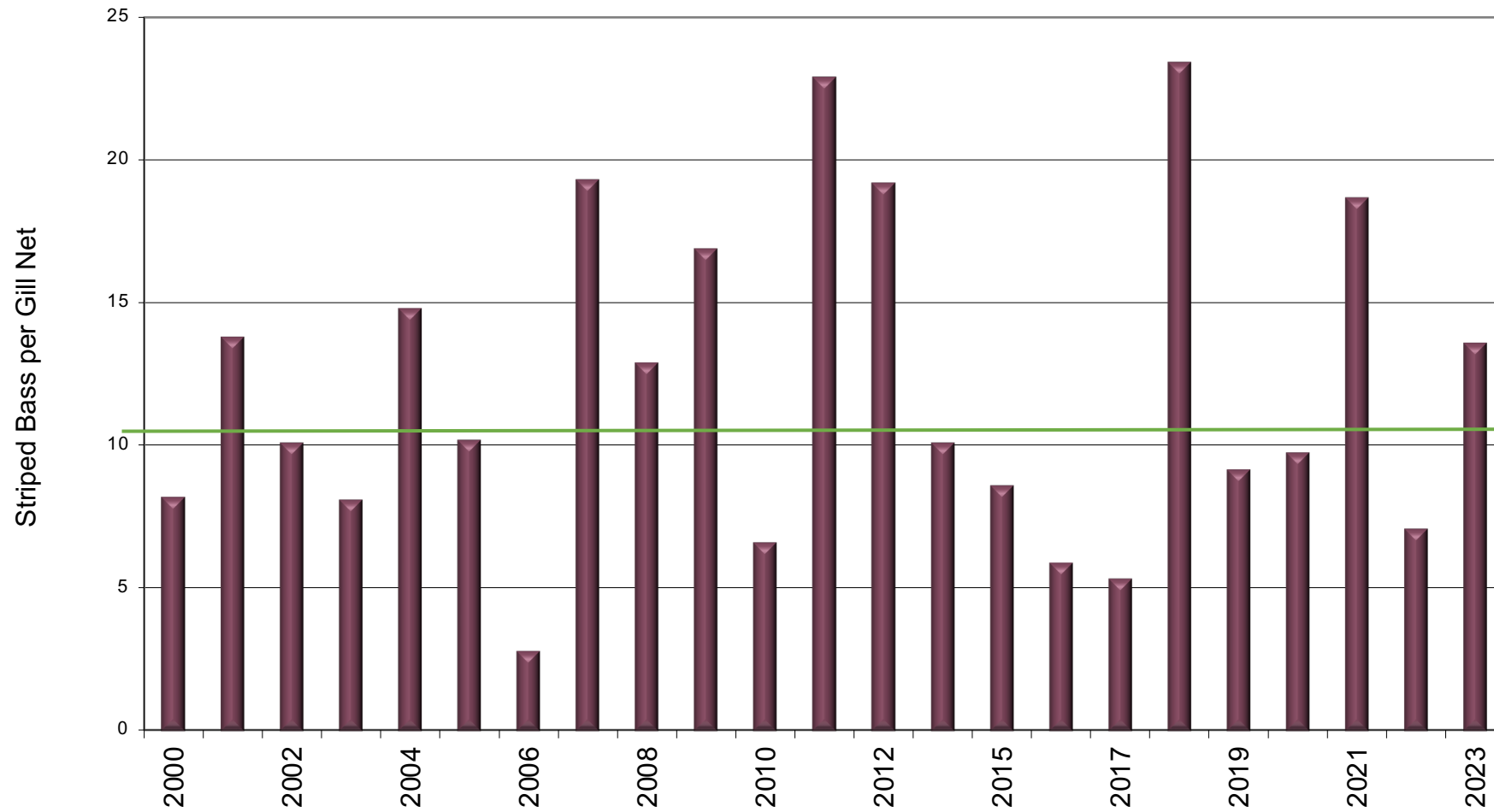


Gill Net 6-month-Old Striped Bass

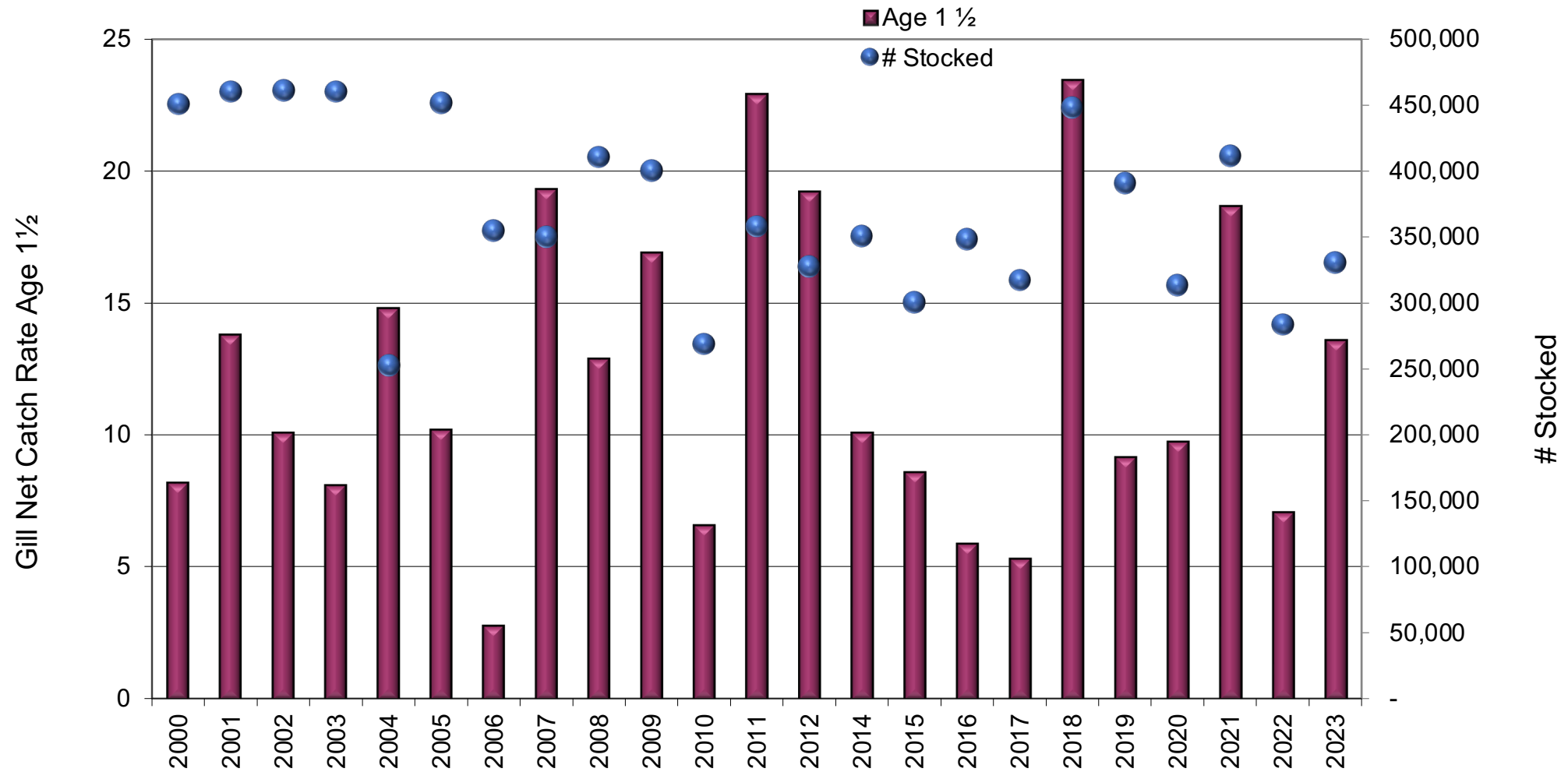
- 6 month old striped bass catch in gill nets hasn't been the best predictor of year class strength
- Except – any year that had > 2.2 fish/net produced a good year class



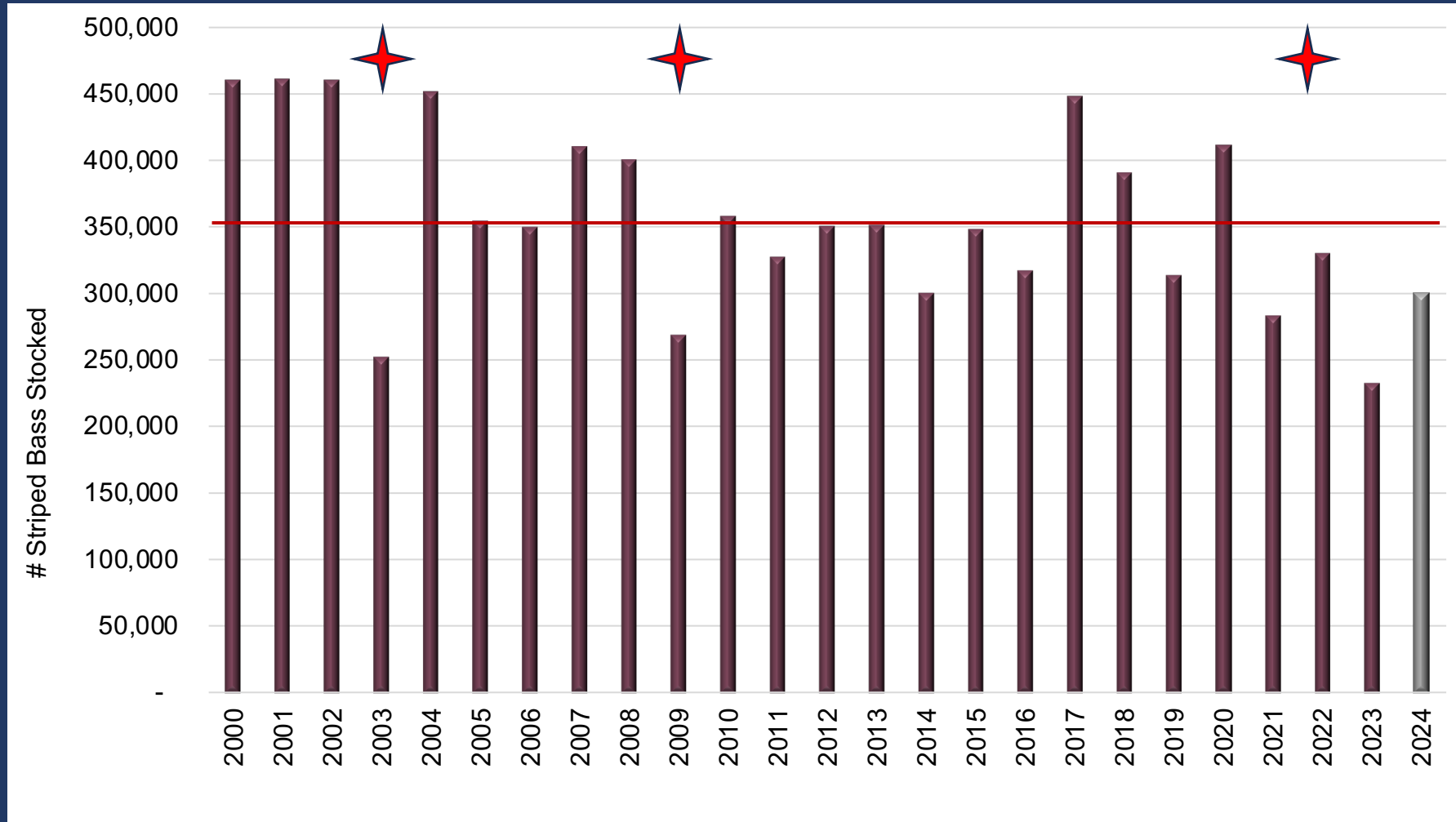
Gill Nets - Striped Bass Age 1½



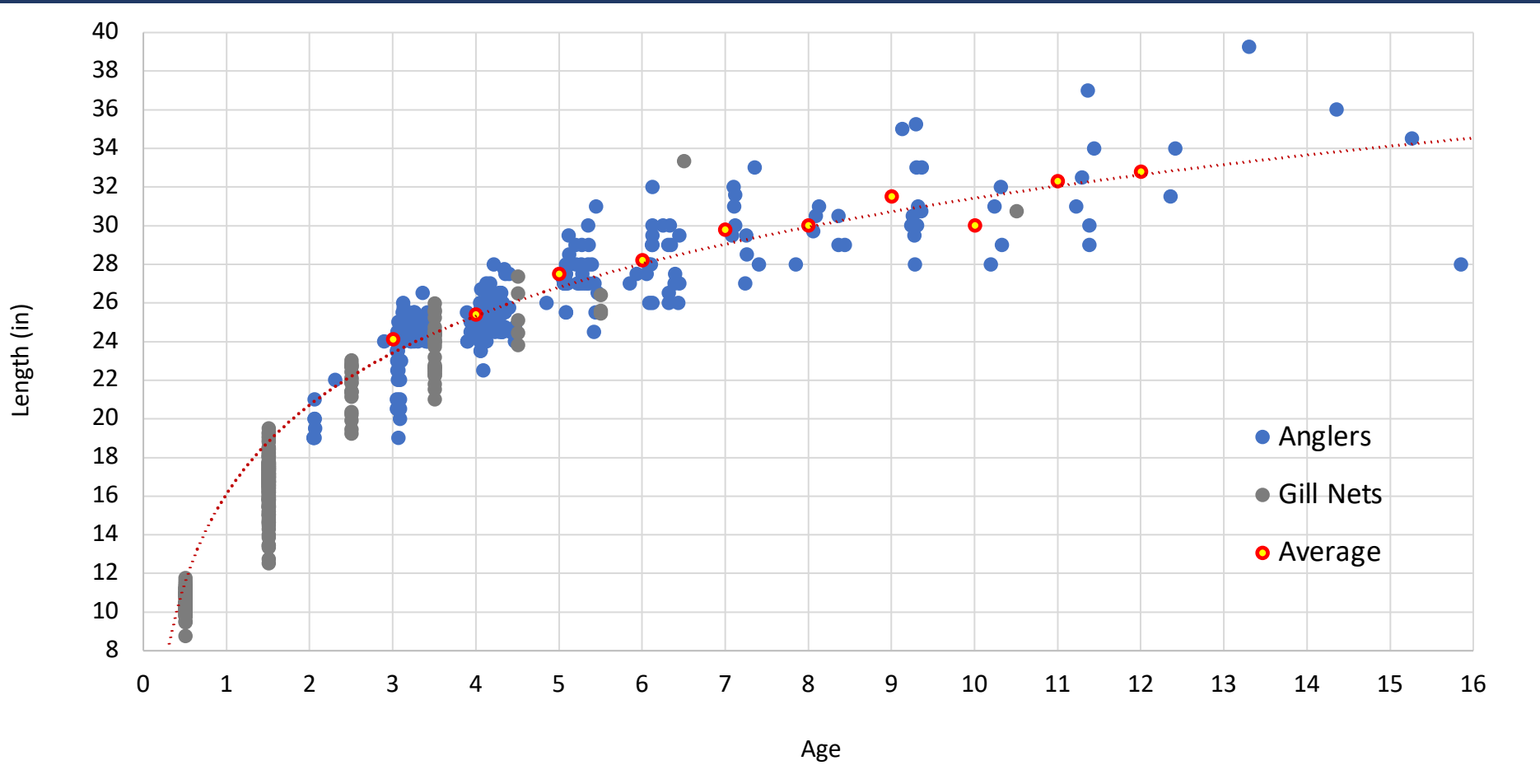
Striped Bass Age 1½ vs Stocking



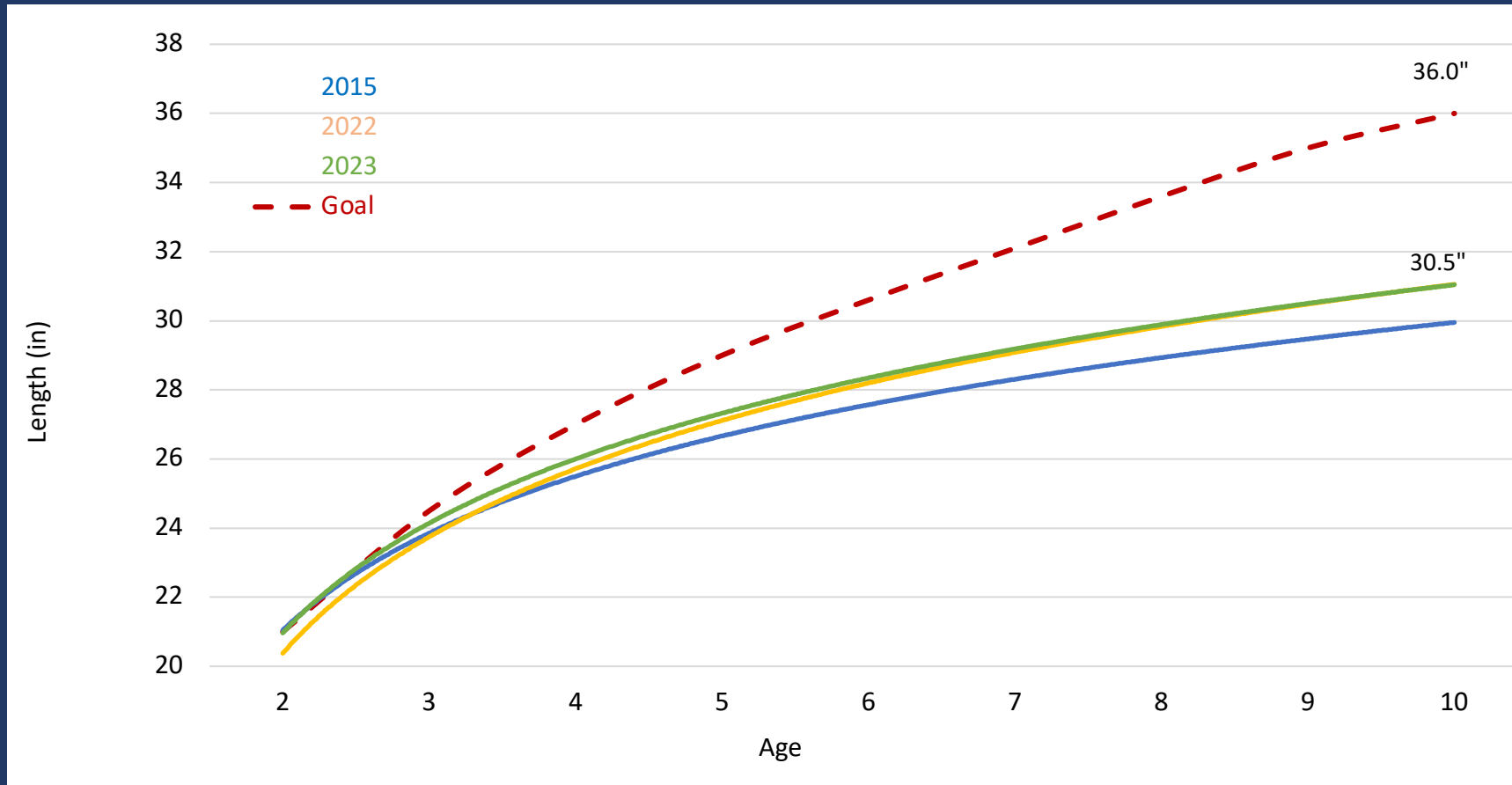
SML Striped Bass Stocking



Striped Bass Ages vs Lengths - 2023

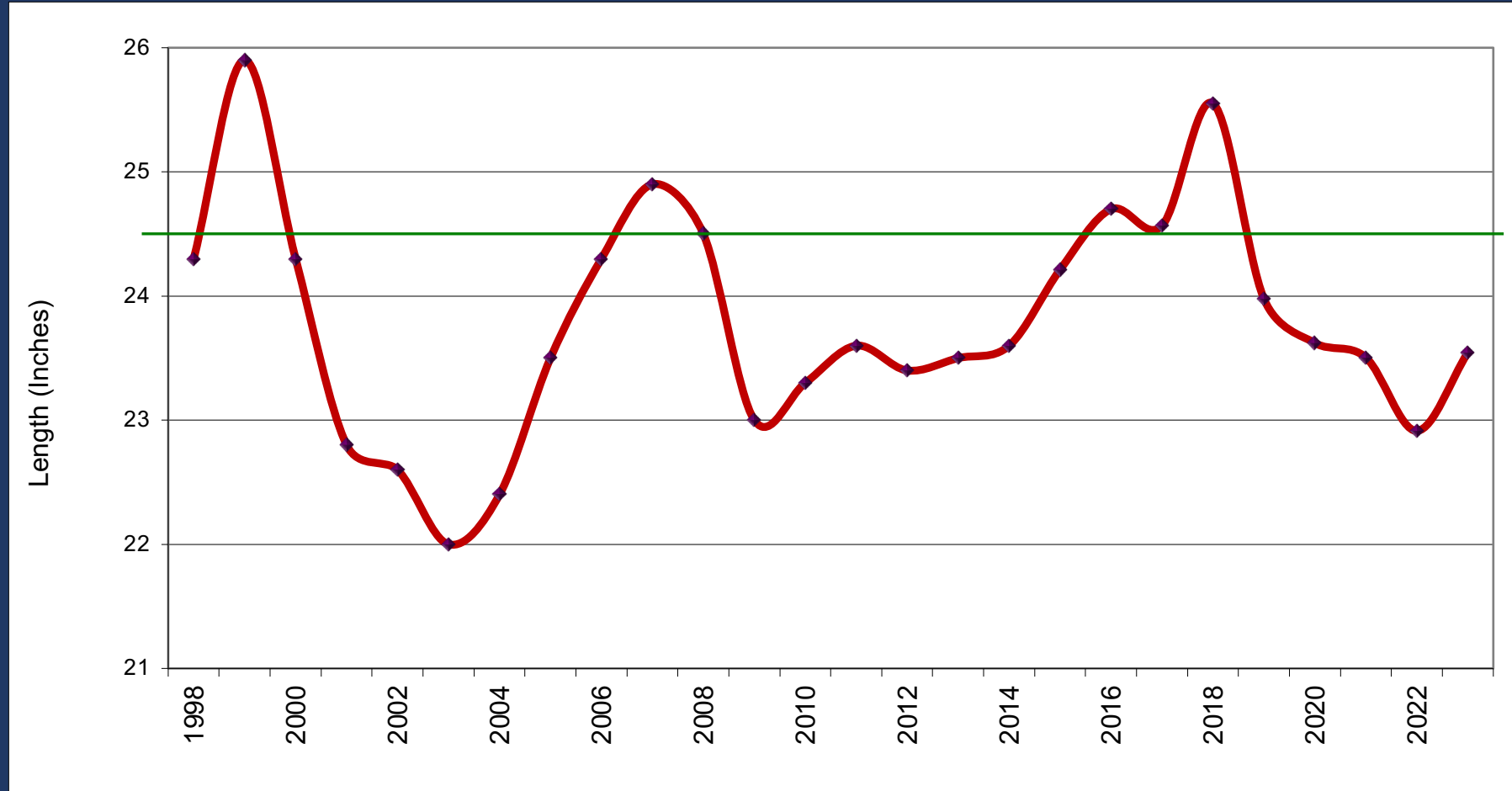


SML Striped Bass Growth



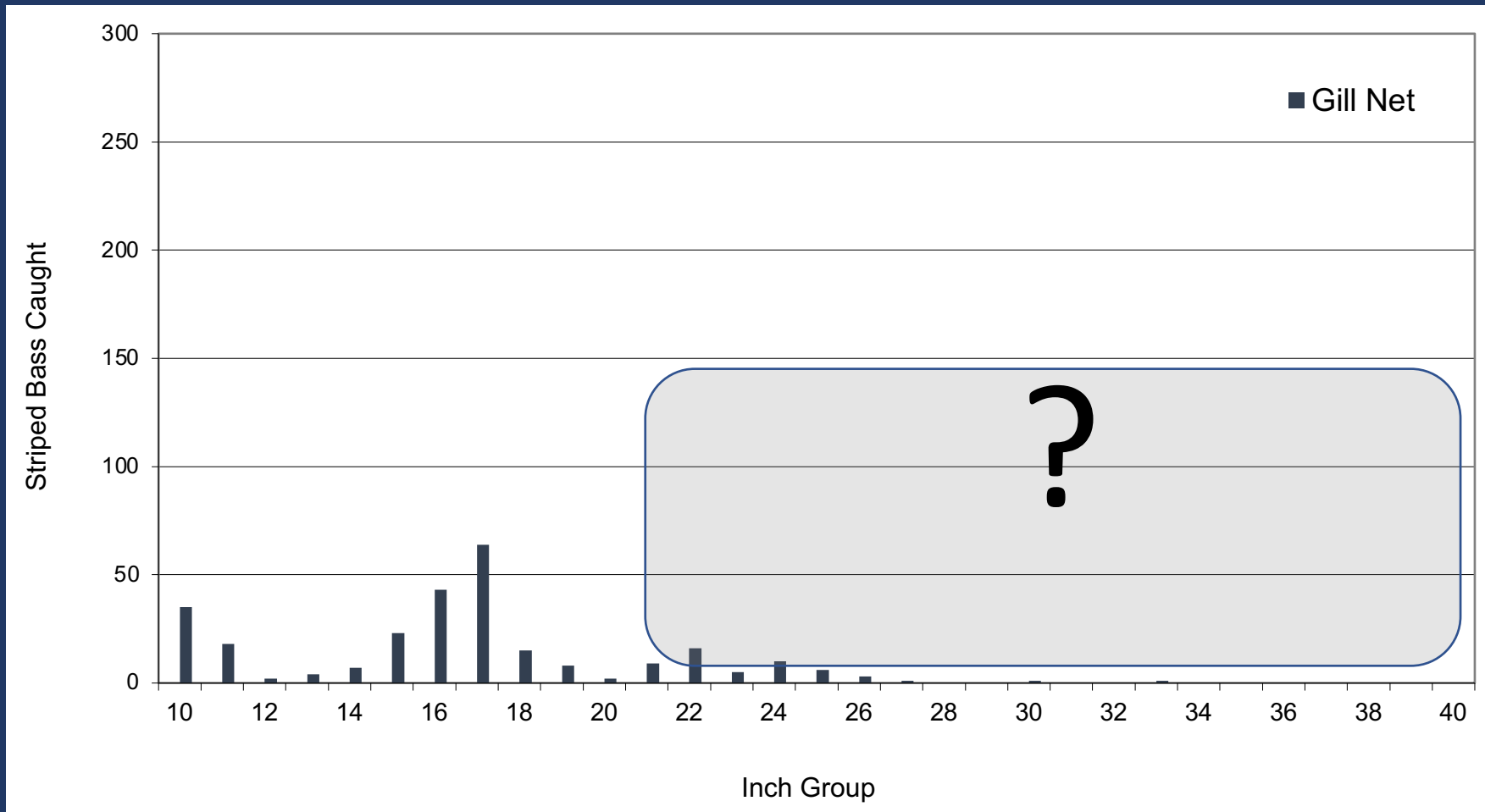
3½ Year Old Striped Bass

(Ages 2 & 3 Slightly Improved)

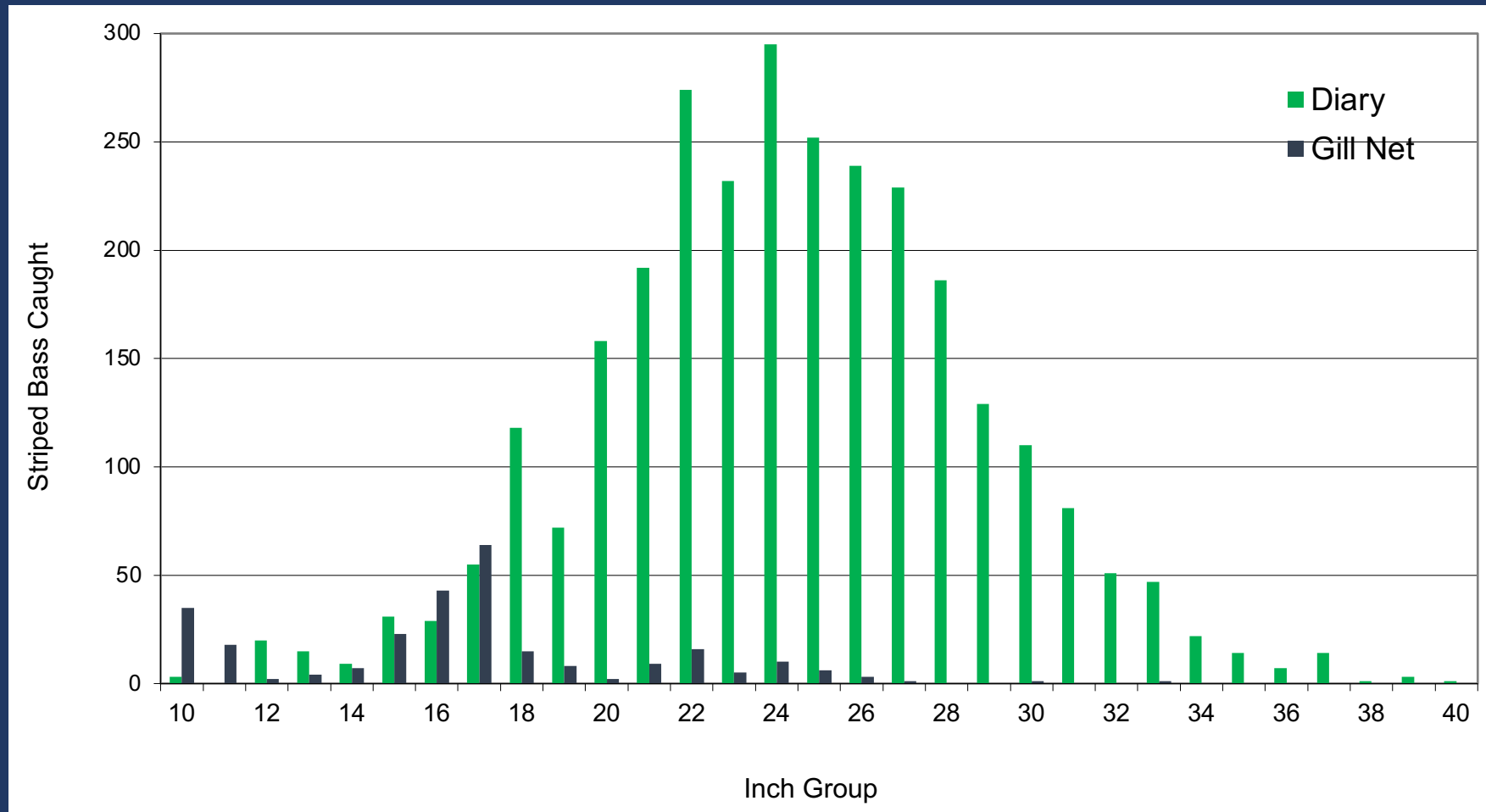


Gill Nets & Diaries – 2023

(Diaries are Important!)



Gill Nets & Diaries - 2023



Striped Bass Heads for Growth Data

- Provided DWR paper forms are water resistant
- Normal paper will fall apart, information often not discernable/lost
- If using other paper, place in ziplock bag
- Place in mouth of the striped bass head

Name: _____

Email: _____

or

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ - _____

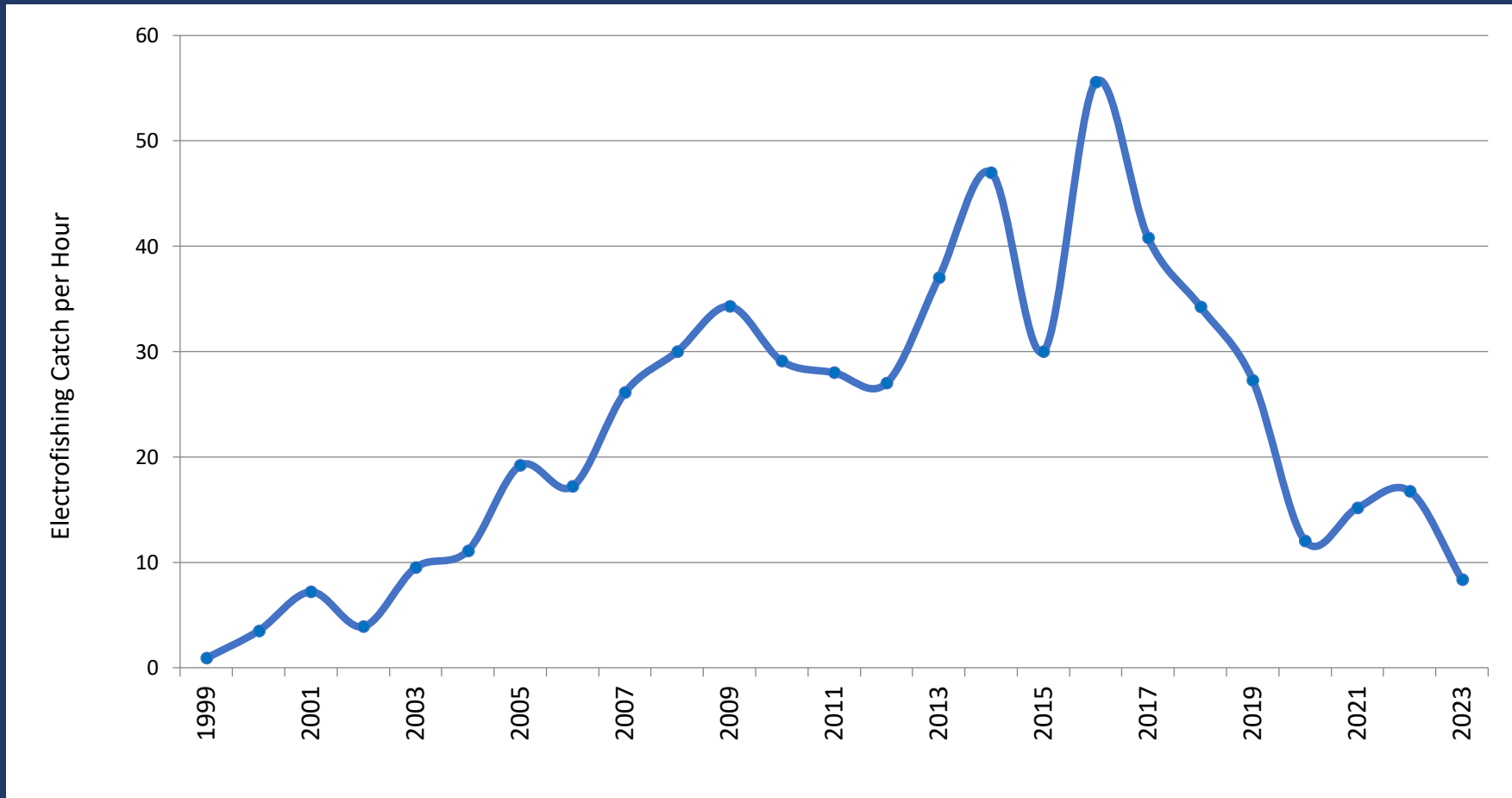
*Length: _____ Weight (if available): _____

*Date Caught: _____ / _____ / _____

*Required information

Place this paper in mouth of striper

SML White Perch

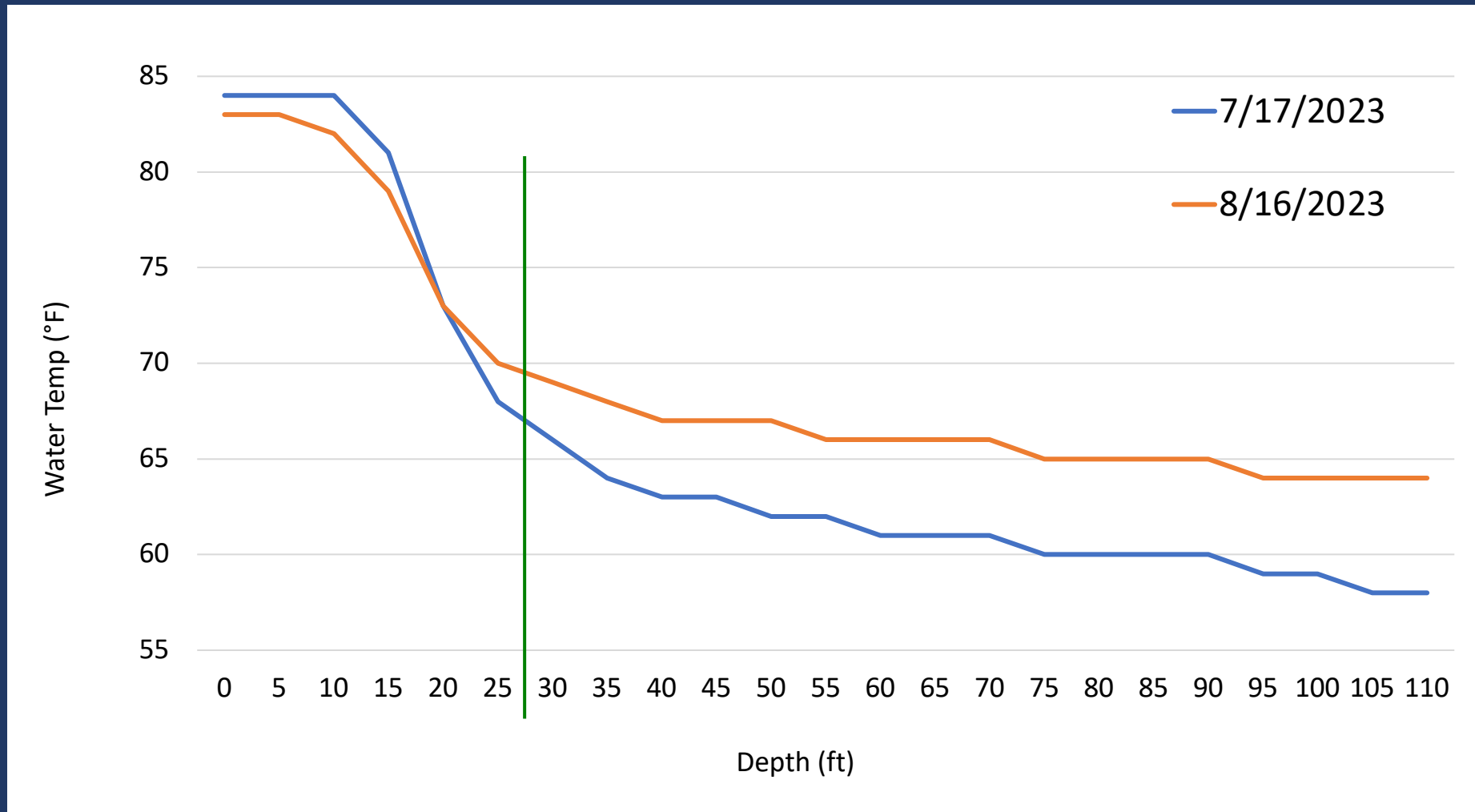


Notes from 2023 Summer Release Study

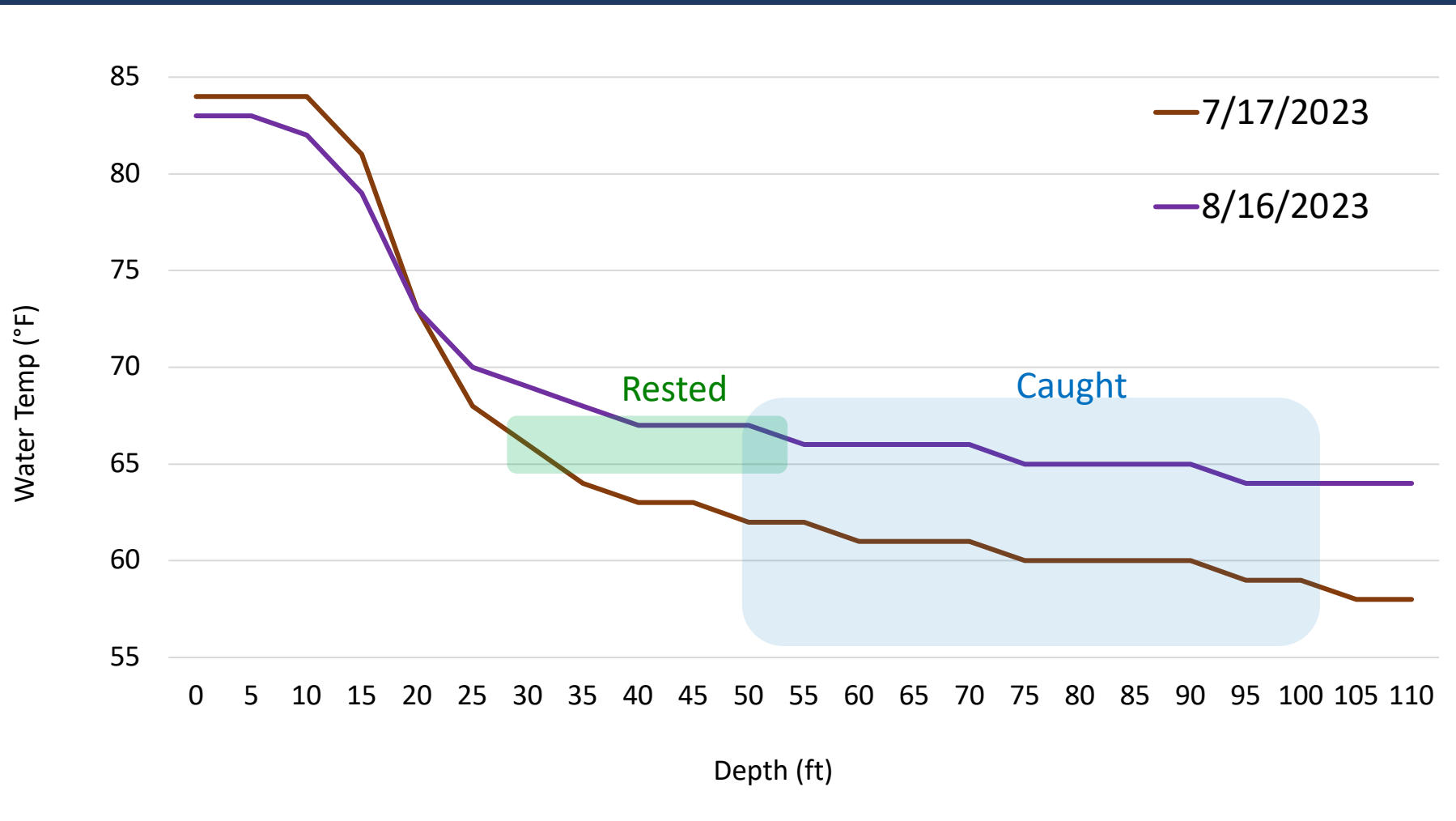
- 2023 work was to test equipment, tagging strategies, and better prepare for full upcoming study
- Tagged 14 stripers
- Size range: 22"-32"
- Caught at 50'-102' depths, on artificial baits
- Catch & Processing time 1:33 – 4:33 (min:sec)
- Some died and some survived, not enough data to make any conclusions
- All tagged stripers immediately moved from release site approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and didn't move for 2-3 days even if survived

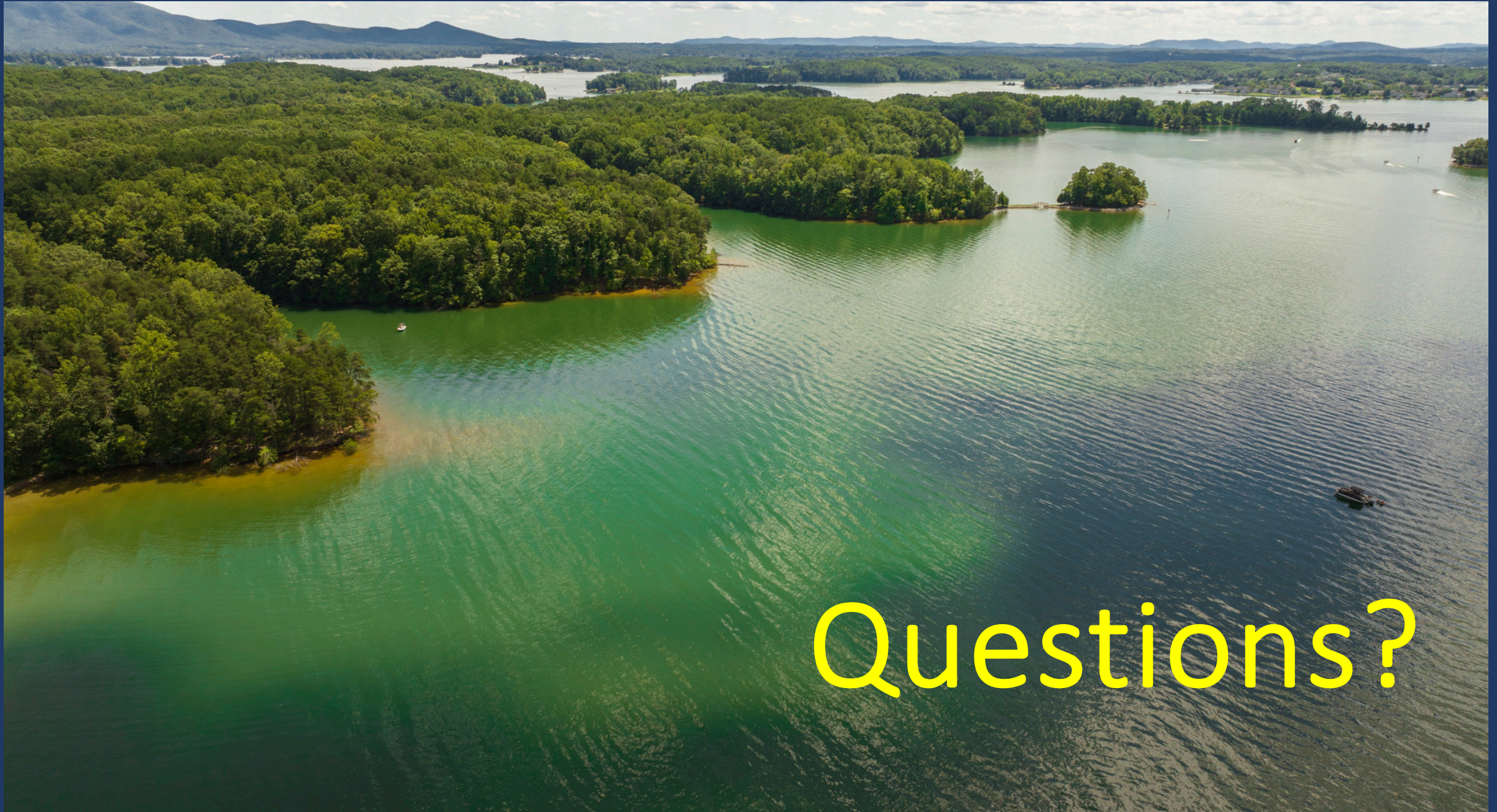


SML Temperature Profile Summer 2023



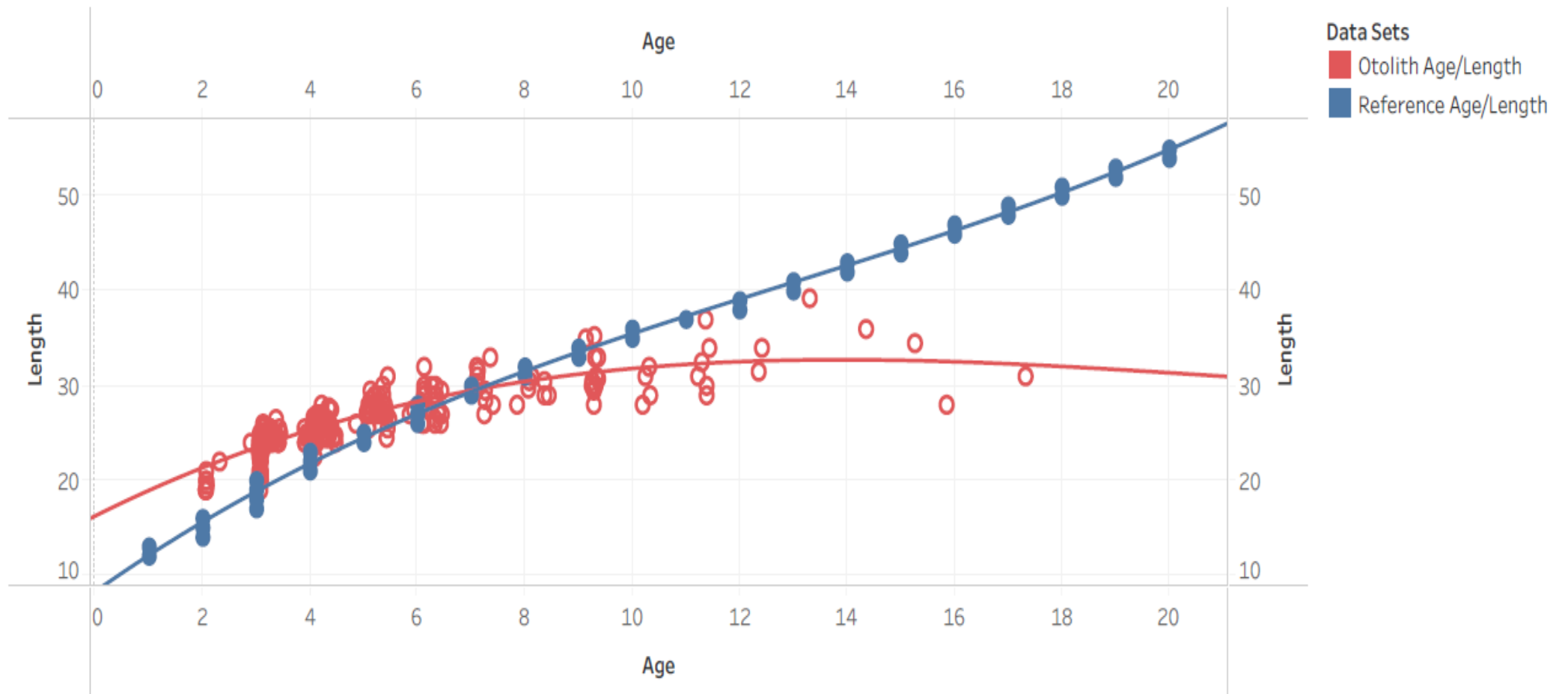
Where Caught and Rested





Questions?

SMSC Striper Age/Length



Notes from the 2023 meeting

- I said SML stocking request goes in after everyone else, some took that as we get the leftovers so we should put our number in first. SML is getting less fish because I take too long.
- My statement that I would prefer to stock 0 STB in 2023 was taken that I am looking for long term severe stocking reductions.
- I cannot convey the bait issue using only gizzard shad, not understandable for the public, best to just leave the bait issue out of the presentation and focus only on STB growth.
- One of Dwayne's comments to others is we need to just keep stocking so when they gizzard shad return, there will be STB there and ready to eat them. – do you pasture more cows if your run out of grass to prepare for a time when there will be more grass?
- The argument that we should have the same as another lake – you can't pick and choose each issue from a separate body of water – the trophy fish at one TN lake, liberal regulations at a higher density put & take, high stocking rates with no large fish, stocking rates at oligotrophic & eutrophic lakes, low vs high density of anglers, etc.
- Feedback and listening to comments about the meeting: I gave too much information and it's obvious a lot of people got confused by bait vs stocking vs growth etc. The simple message of current slow growth reflects too many STB and we need numbers to come down a little to improve growth and fish health.

Striper Club notes & Recommendations Feb 2024

DWR challenges

- too many STB
- not enough bait
- declining GZS
- stunted growth > 7yrs old

SMSC observations

- 3-6 year old STB are thriving at/above DWR growth chart
- STB healthy , adapted to feeding on THS, ALE, BBH
- 24-28" STB and Bait are plentiful

SMSC recommendations

- continue momentum of 24-28" STB
- Increase participation with DWR for heads, nets, diaries, stocking
- 100% pelagic stocking of 250-300