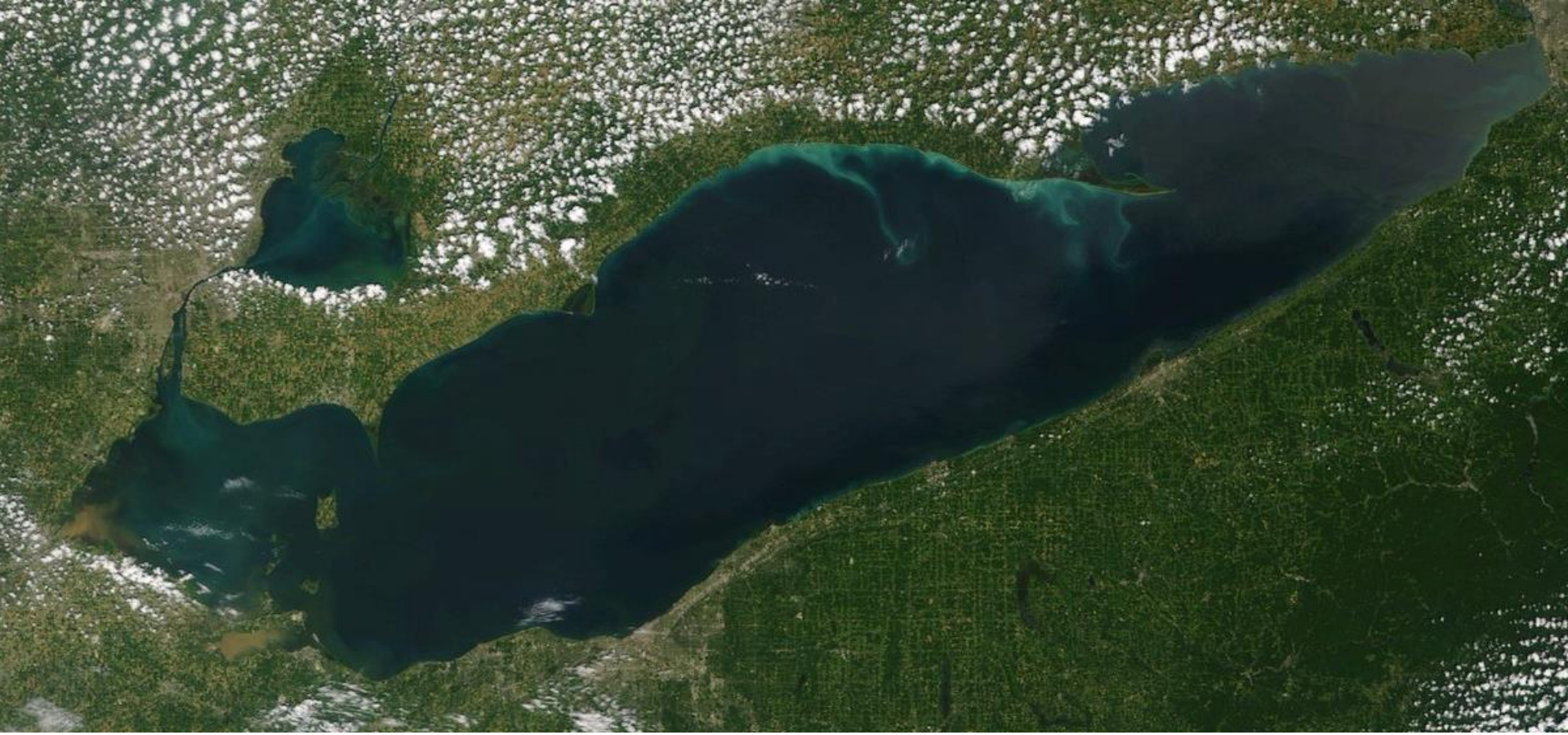


# Ohio's Lake Erie Fisheries

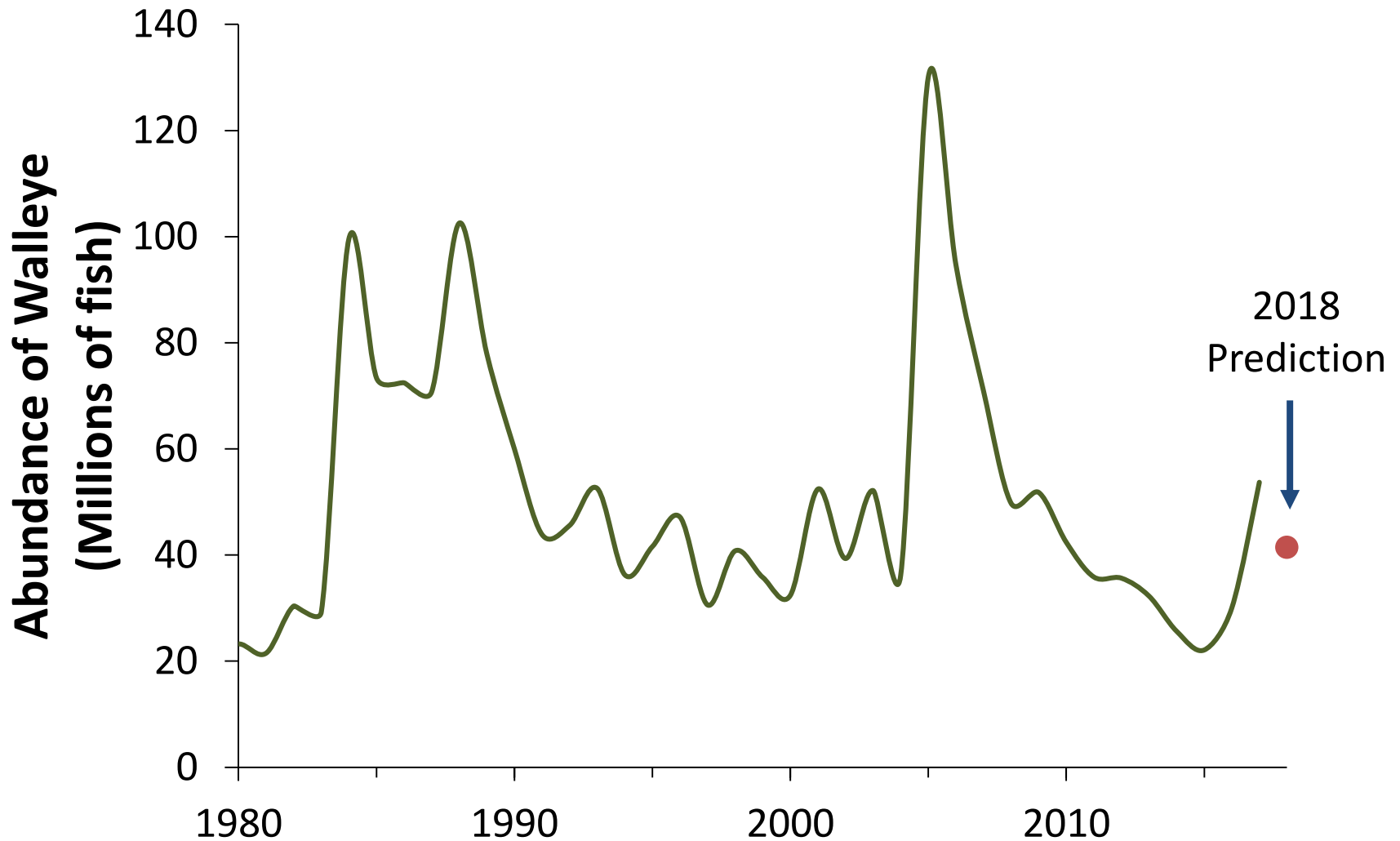
## 2018 Outlook



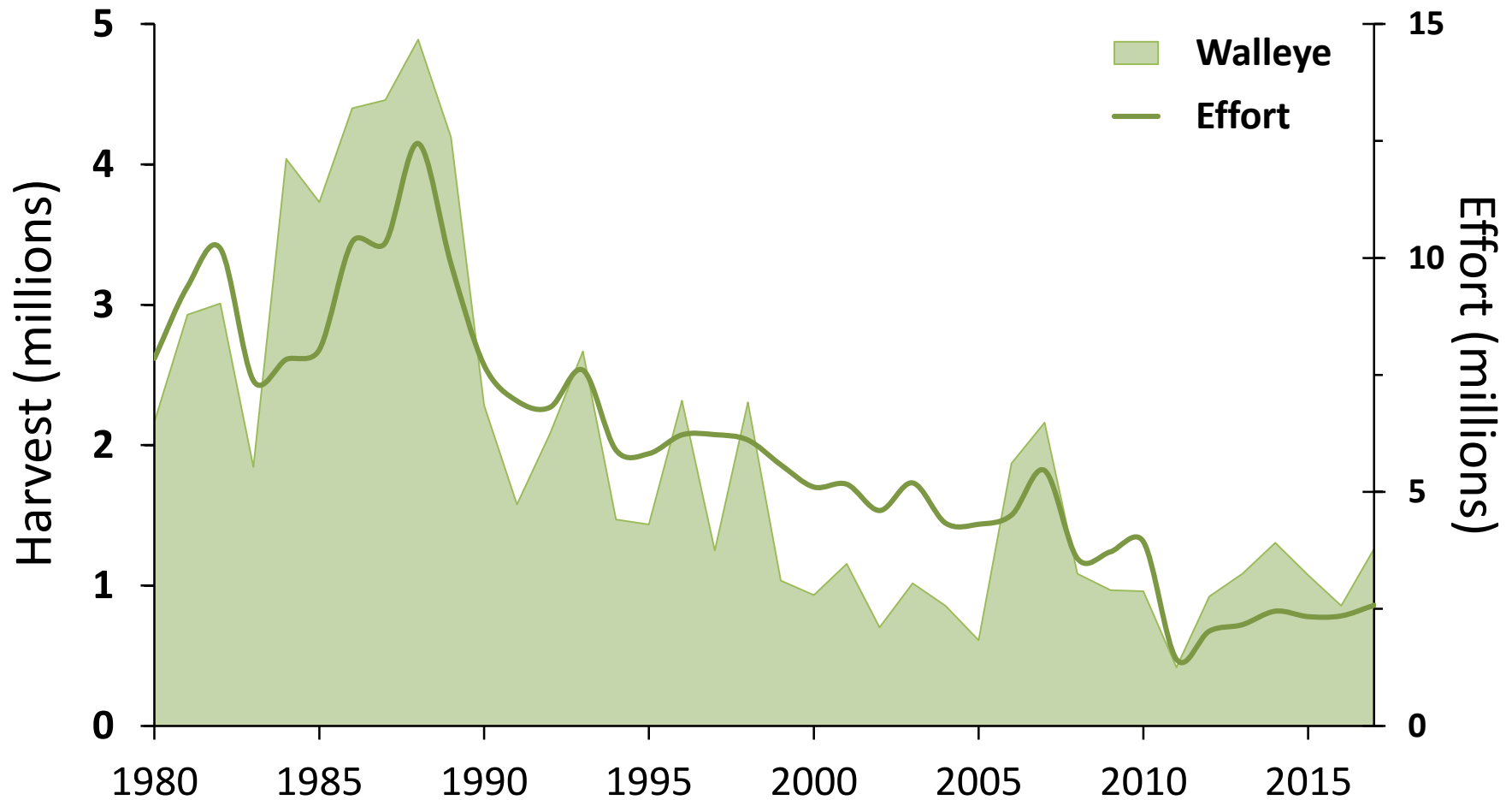
# Fishery Status and Forecasts Overview

- Walleye
- Yellow Perch
- Small/Largemouth Bass
- Steelhead
- Lake Trout

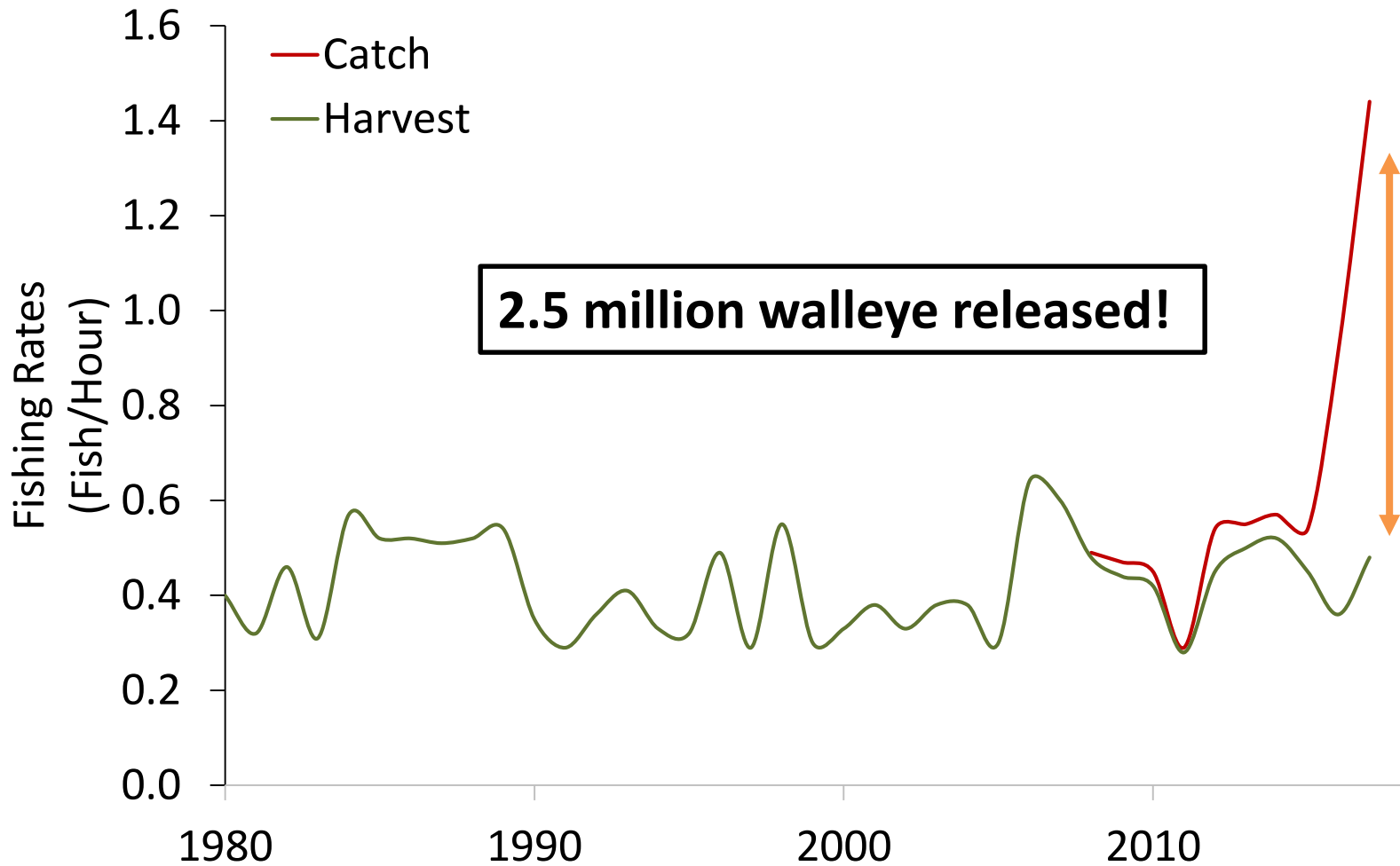
# Walleye Abundance



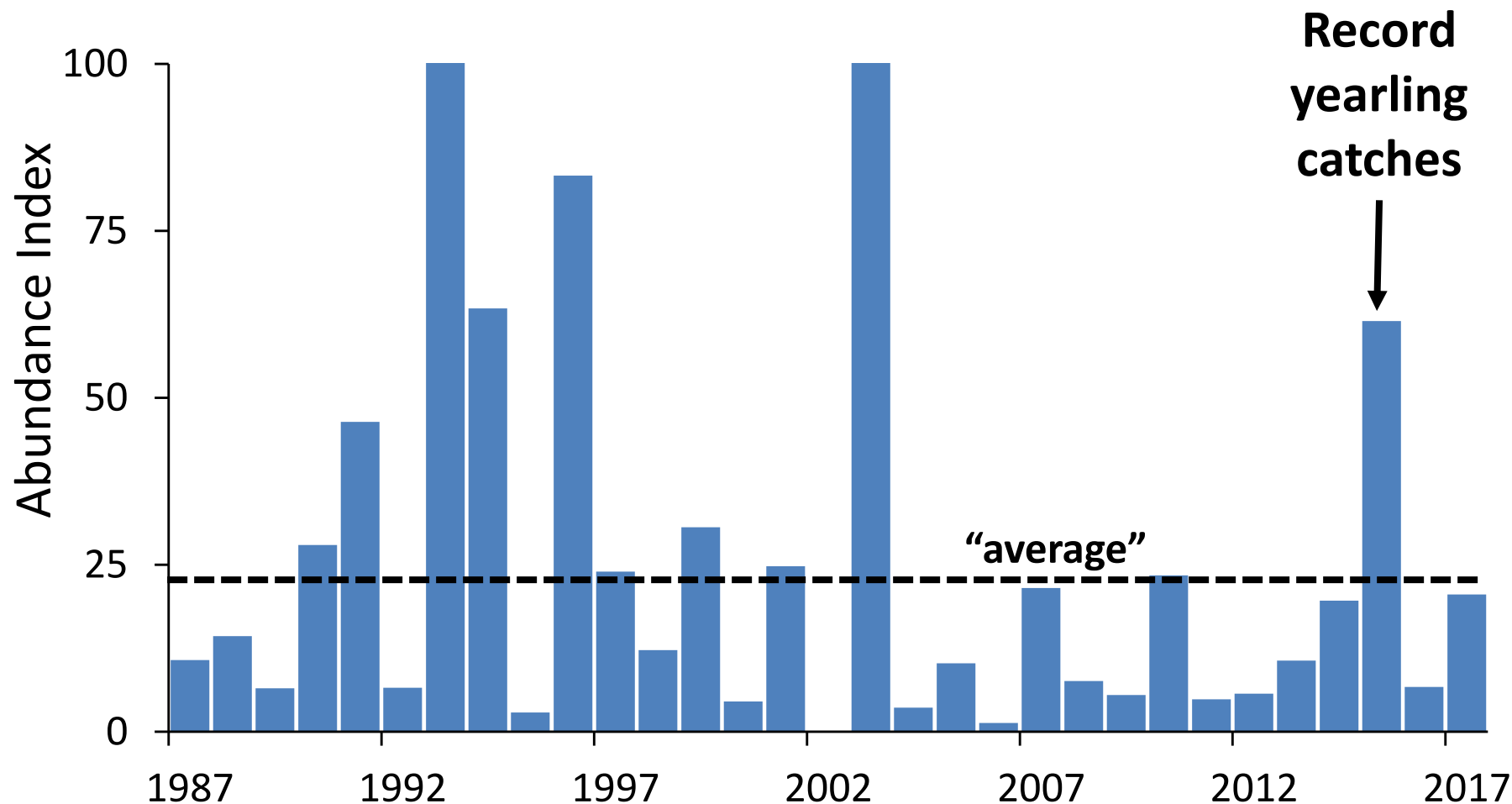
# Walleye Harvest and Effort



# Walleye Fishing Rates



# Walleye Hatch Strength



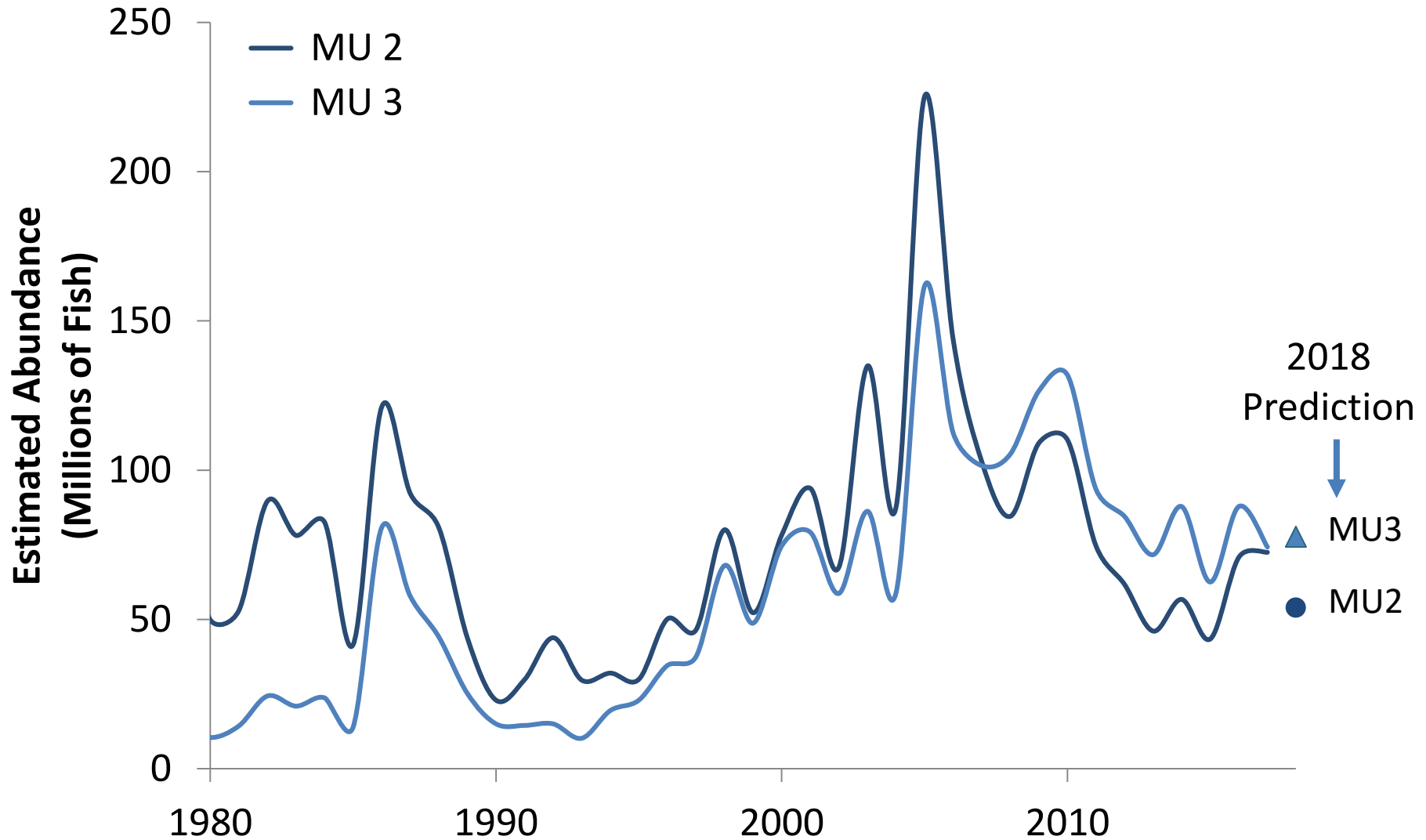
\*West Basin Trawl Survey



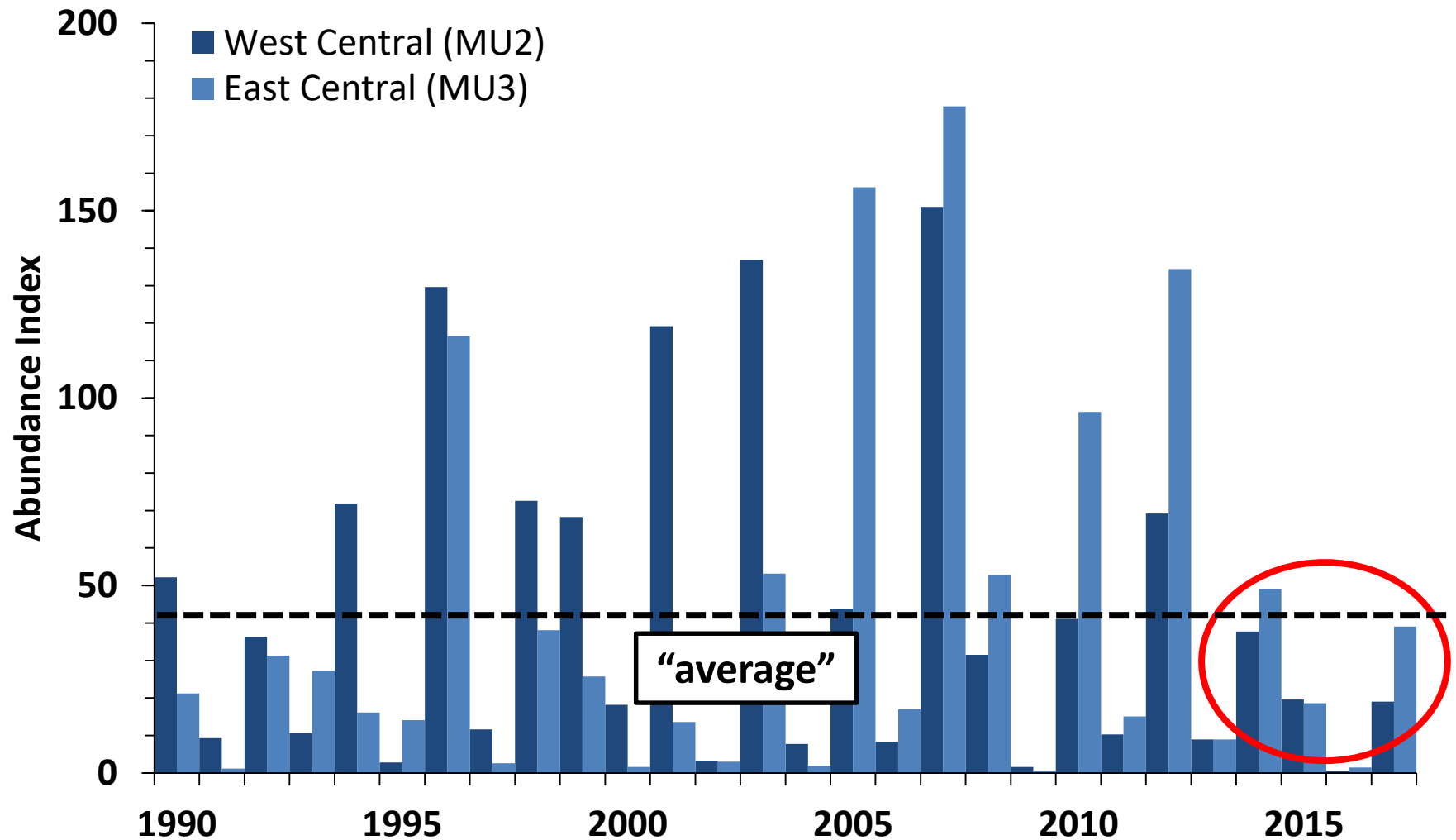
## 2018 Walleye Forecast – Excellent

- Population increasing with most sub-legal fish now legal
- Catch dominated by 17"-20" fish (ages 3 – 4)
  - 2003 Hatch – trophy fish

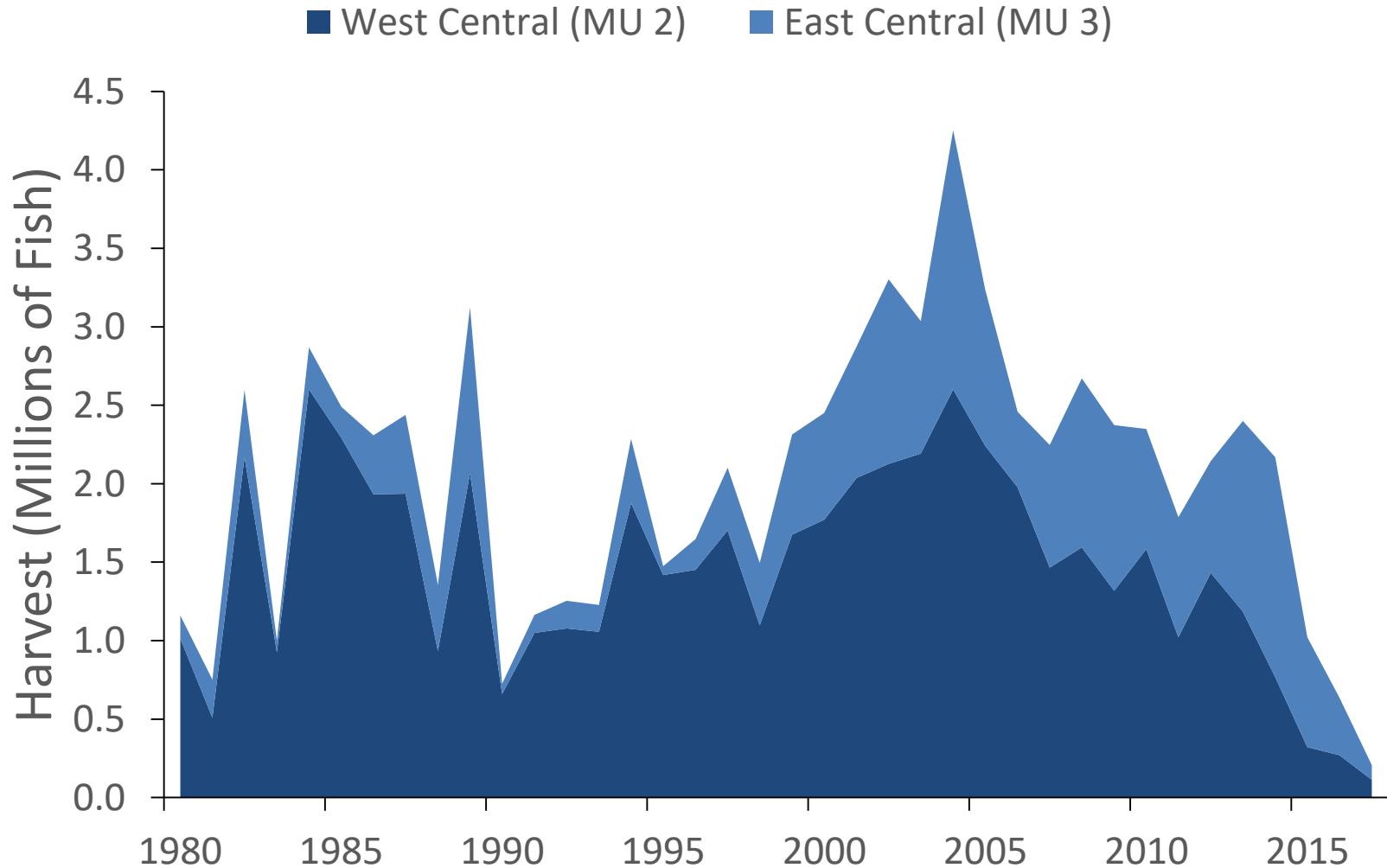
# Yellow Perch Abundance



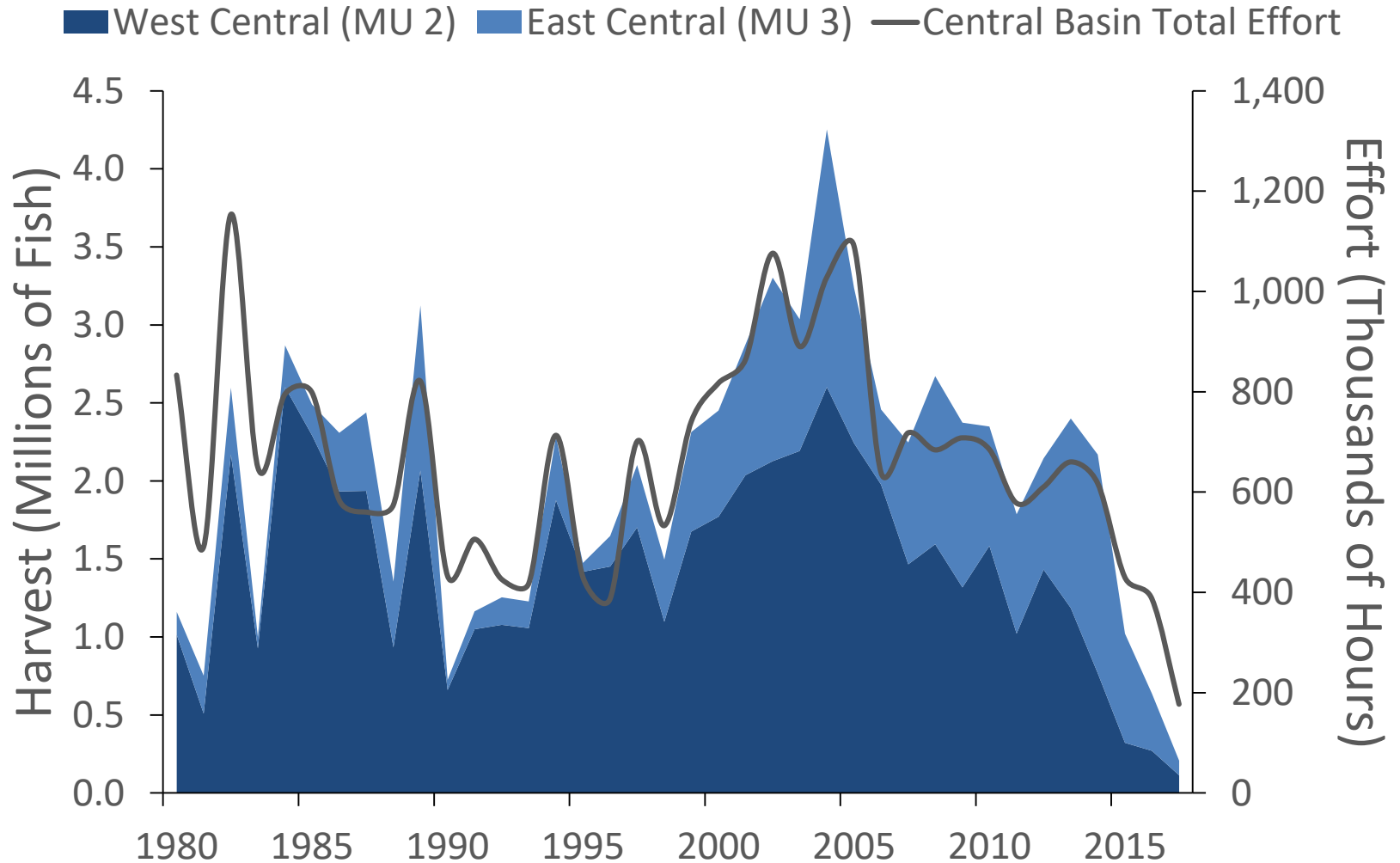
# Yellow Perch Hatch Success



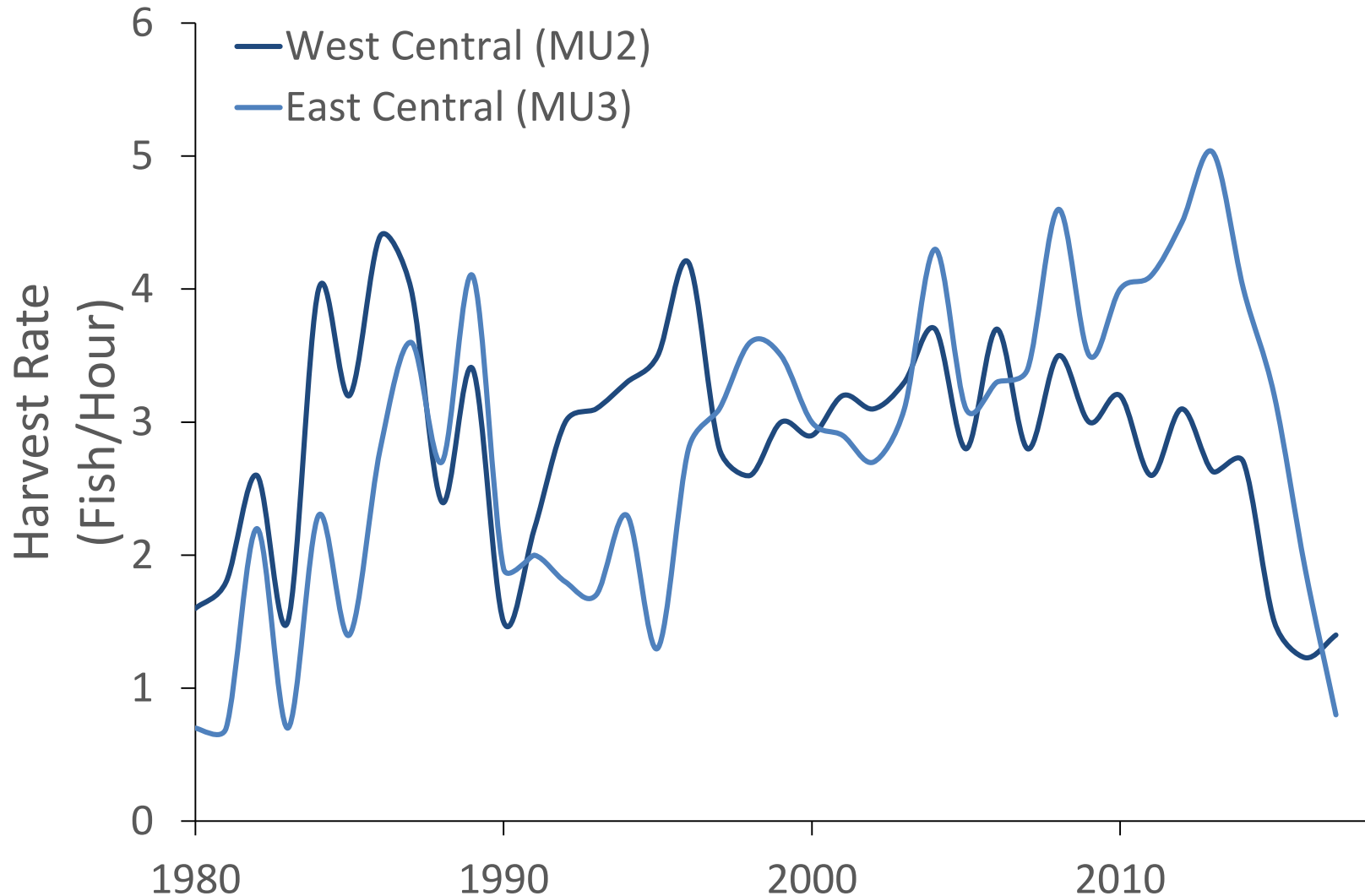
# Yellow Perch Sport Harvest



# Yellow Perch Sport Harvest



# Yellow Perch Sport Harvest Rate

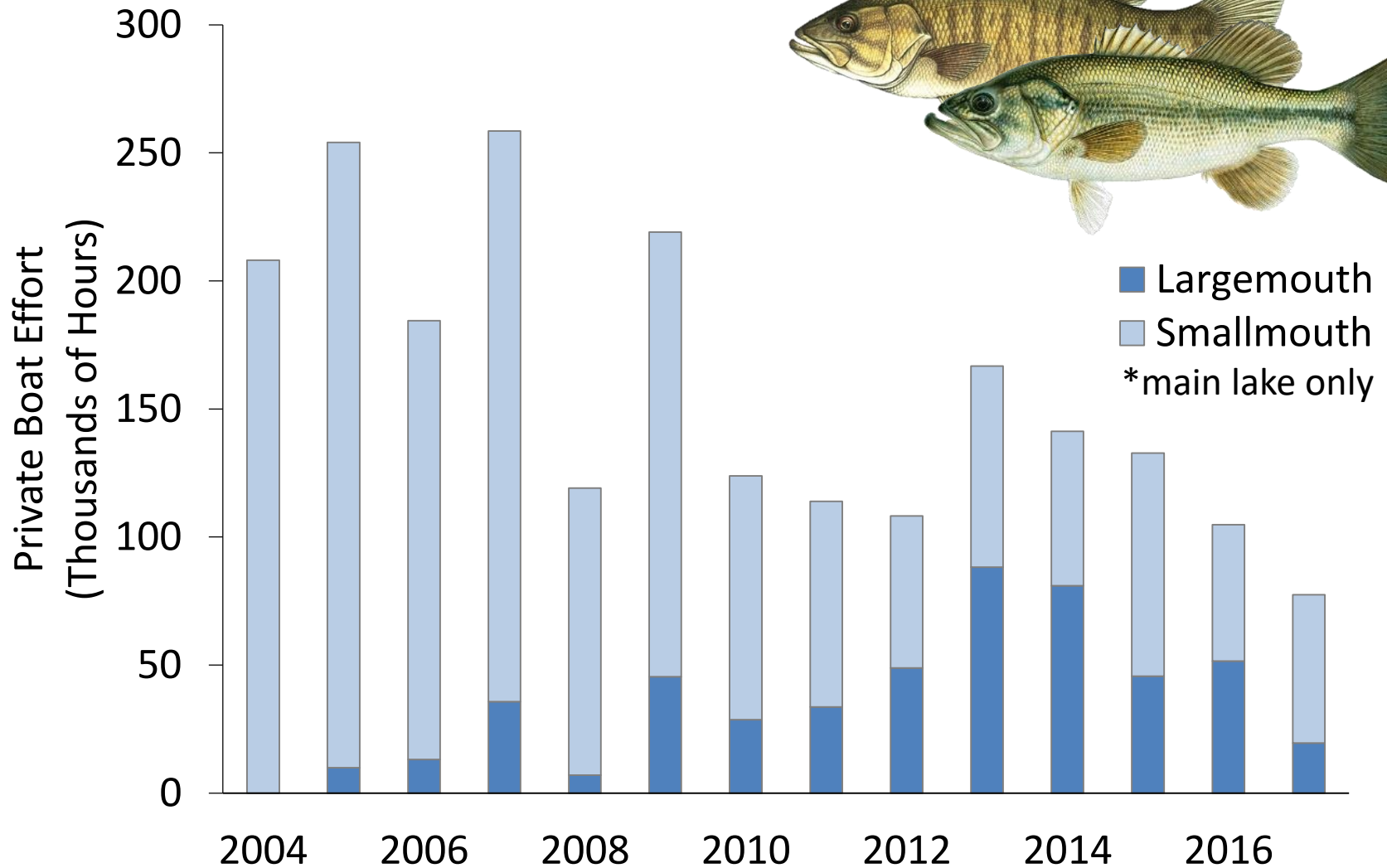
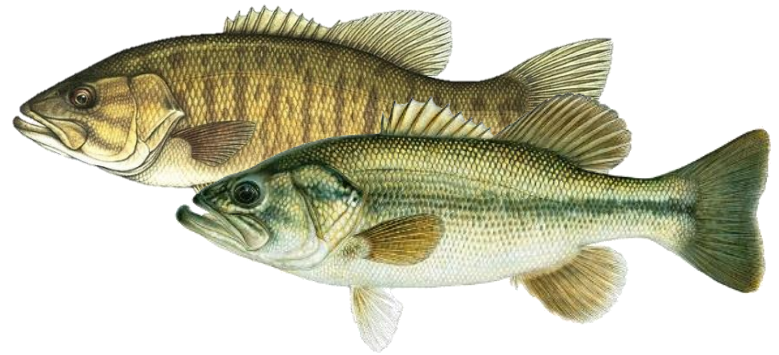




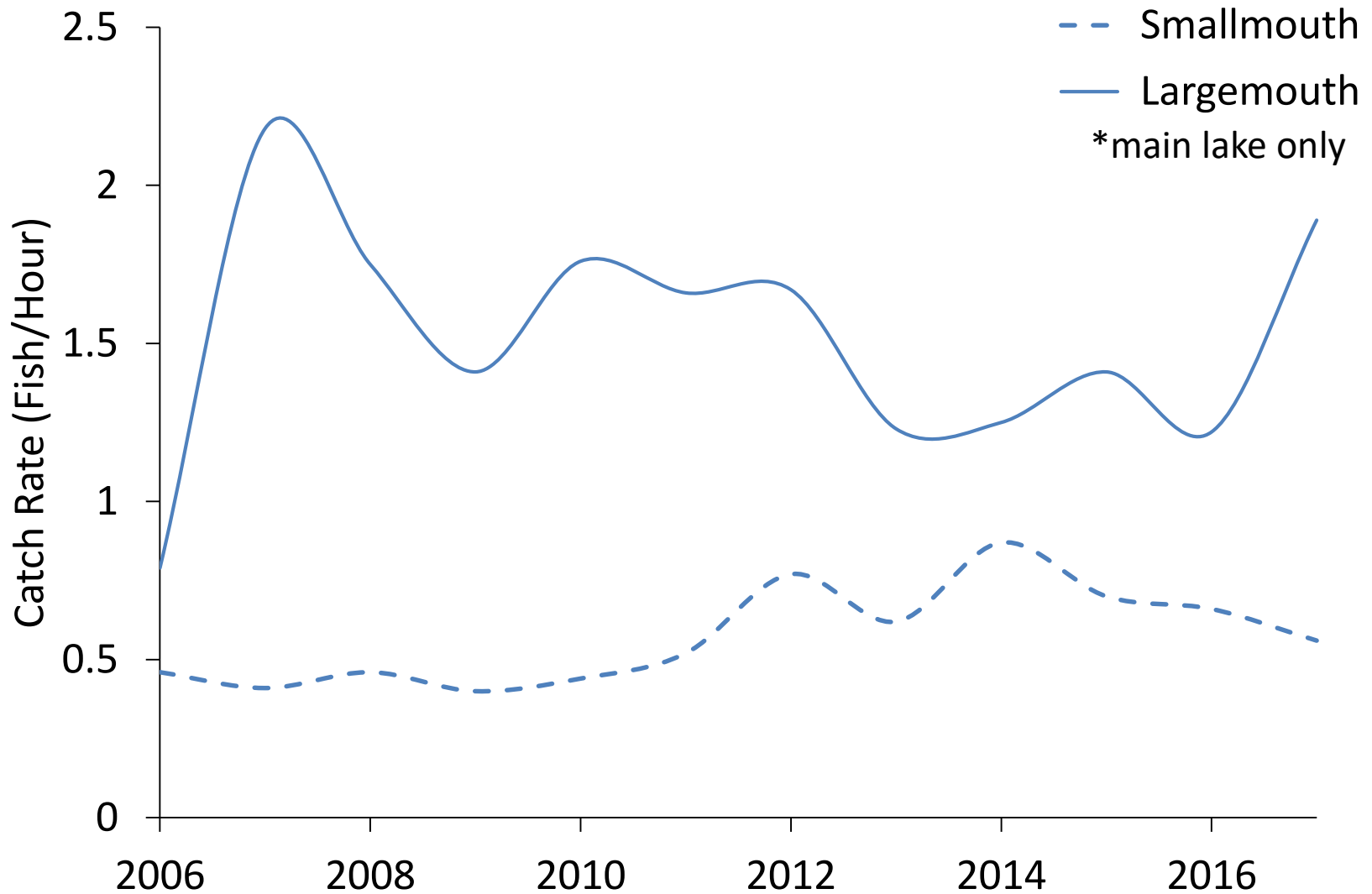
## 2018 Yellow Perch Forecast

- Below previous highs, expect similar conditions to 2017
- Catch dominated by 10-11" fish (Ages 4 and 6)
- No change in bag limits

# Lake Erie's Black Bass



# Lake Erie's Black Bass





## 2018 Black Basses Forecast

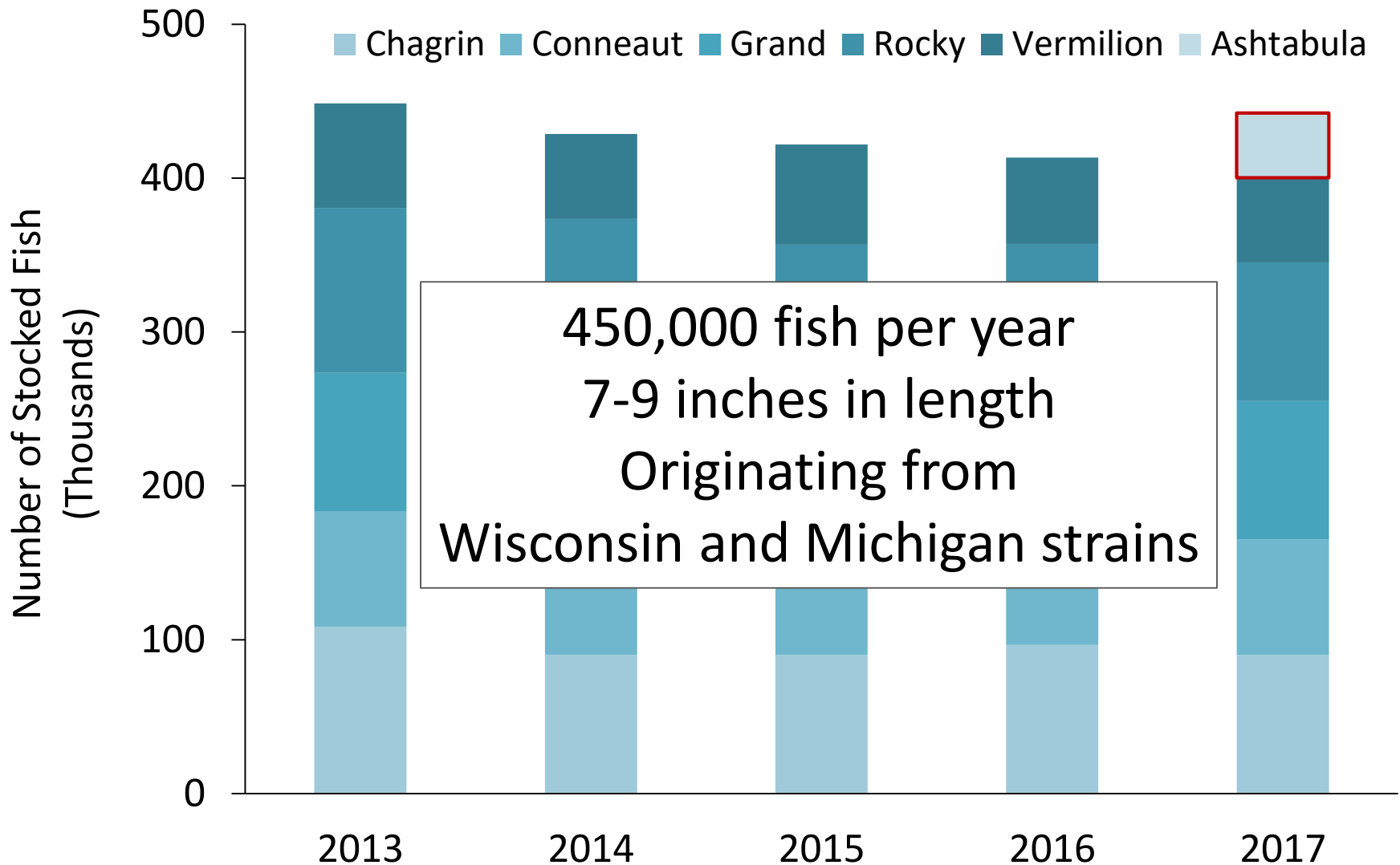
### Smallmouth Bass

- Catch dominated by 6 year old fish in Central Basin
- Older fish providing trophy opportunities

### Largemouth Bass

- High catch rates with ~2 fish/hr in 2017

# Steelhead

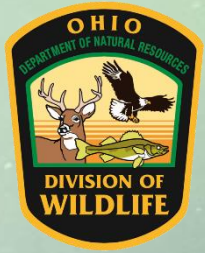


# Lake Trout

- 2012: stocking locations were expanded in to the Central and Western Basins in Lake Erie
- 2017: reports of fish in the Grand, Rocky, and other tributaries
  - Rare event throughout the Great Lakes
  - First time report of a river run lake trout in Lake Erie
  - Timing coincides with the spawning season of this species and age at maturity (5 years of age)



Photo Credit: USGS Lake Erie Biological Station



# Questions?

- **Fisheries Research Units**
  - Sandusky  
(419) 625-8062
  - Fairport Harbor  
(440) 352-4199
- **1-800-WILDLIFE; 1-888-HOOKFISH**
- **Wildlife.ohiodnr.gov**
  - Fish Ohio forms online



Photo by A. Muir