

Henry Lorenzen
Chair
Oregon

Bill Bradbury
Oregon

Guy Norman
Washington

Tom Karier
Washington



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

W. Bill Booth
Vice Chair
Idaho

James Yost
Idaho

Jennifer Anders
Montana

Tim Baker
Montana

October 3, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Kerry Berg

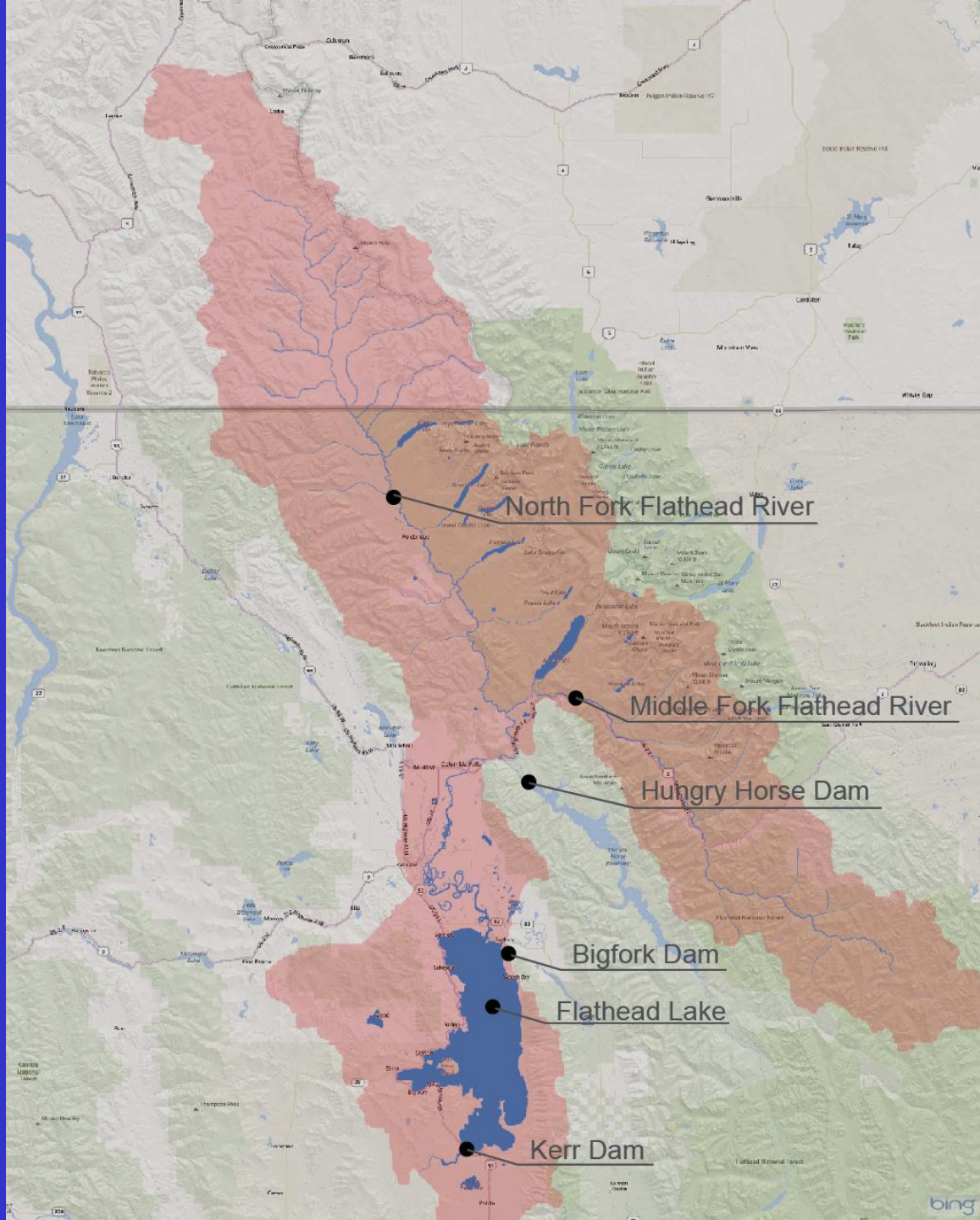
SUBJECT: Presentation on Hungry Horse Mitigation Work

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Les Evarts and Barry Hansen: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Summary: Hungry Horse Mitigation is a long-term mitigation effort to mitigate loss and harm to fisheries and habitat caused by the construction and operation of Hungry Horse Dam. The project supports scientific research to inform adaptive management actions designed to perpetuate self-sustaining fisheries, emphasizing preservation of native fish assemblages and their habitats. Projects are designed to understand, sustain, and maximize ecosystem integrity and resilience, thereby achieving mitigation goals efficiently and cost-effectively. By design, previous accomplishments inform new efforts each year. Project activities are diverse and their timeframes and durations vary.

For more information on this project go to <https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/isrp/isrp2016-10/> to view the Hungry Horse Mitigation Retrospective Report completed last year and the ISRP review of that report.



North Fork Flathead River

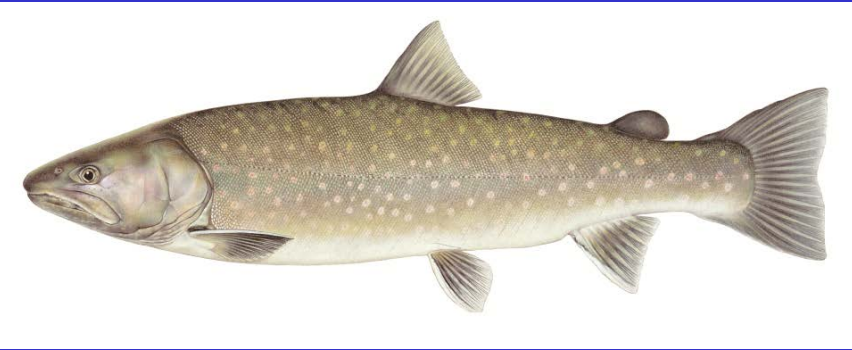
Middle Fork Flathead River

Hungry Horse Dam

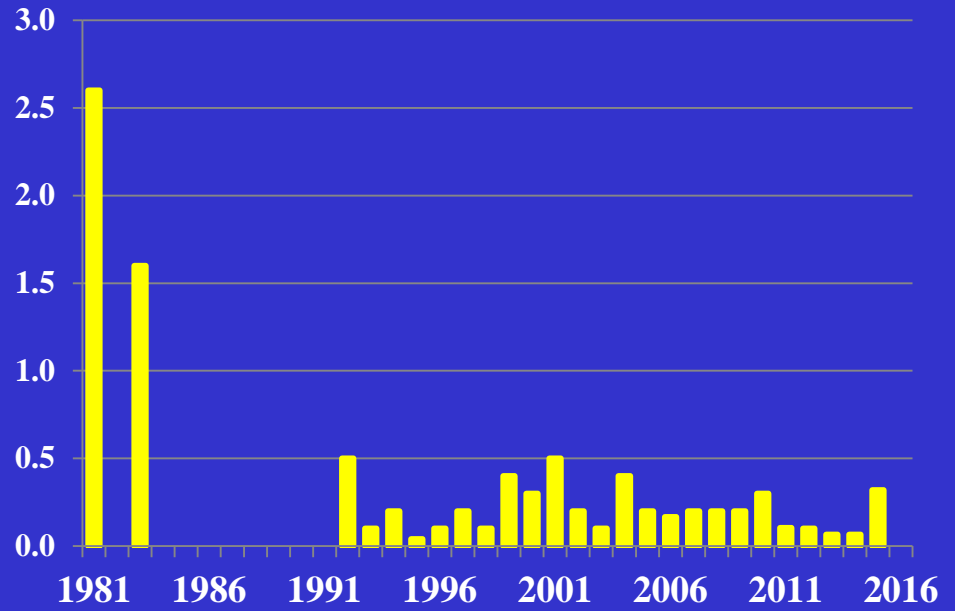
Bigfork Dam

Flathead Lake

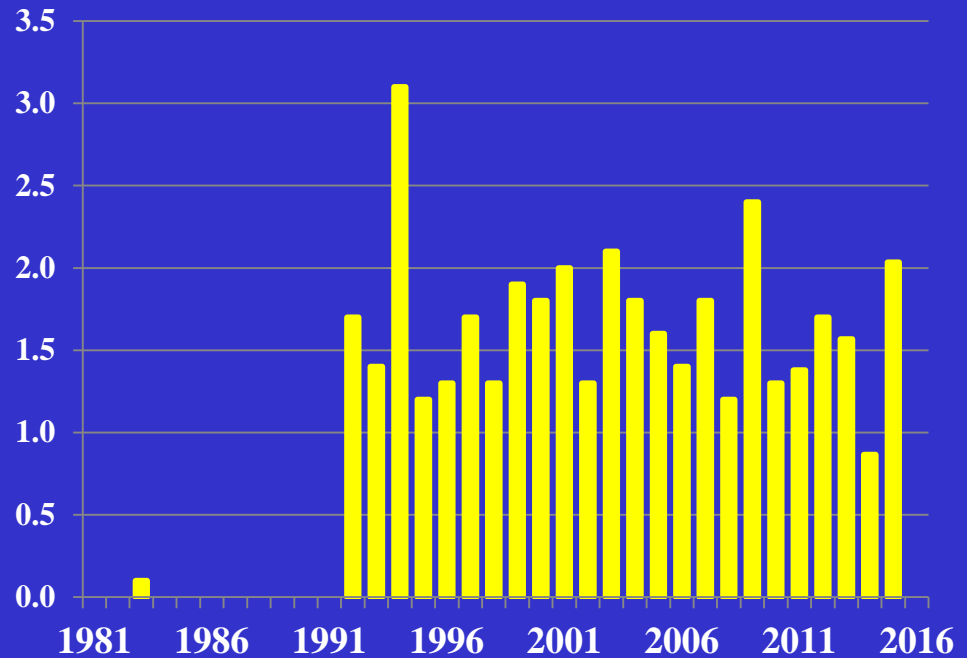
Kerr Dam



Bull trout per net



Lake trout per net



2000

**Fisheries
Management
Plan Adopted**

**FLATHEAD LAKE AND RIVER FISHERIES
CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN
2001-2010**



View of Flathead Lake from Wild Horse Island



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501



**Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes**
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
406-675-2700

November 2000

FLATHEAD LAKE AND RIVER FISHERIES COMANAGEMENT PLAN 2001 - 2010

STRATEGY: Fish Population Management

**A. Suppress Nonnative Fish Through Recreational
Angling, B. Commercial, and C. Netting**

**Mack Days
Begins**

2000

2002

**Fisheries
Management
Plan Adopted**



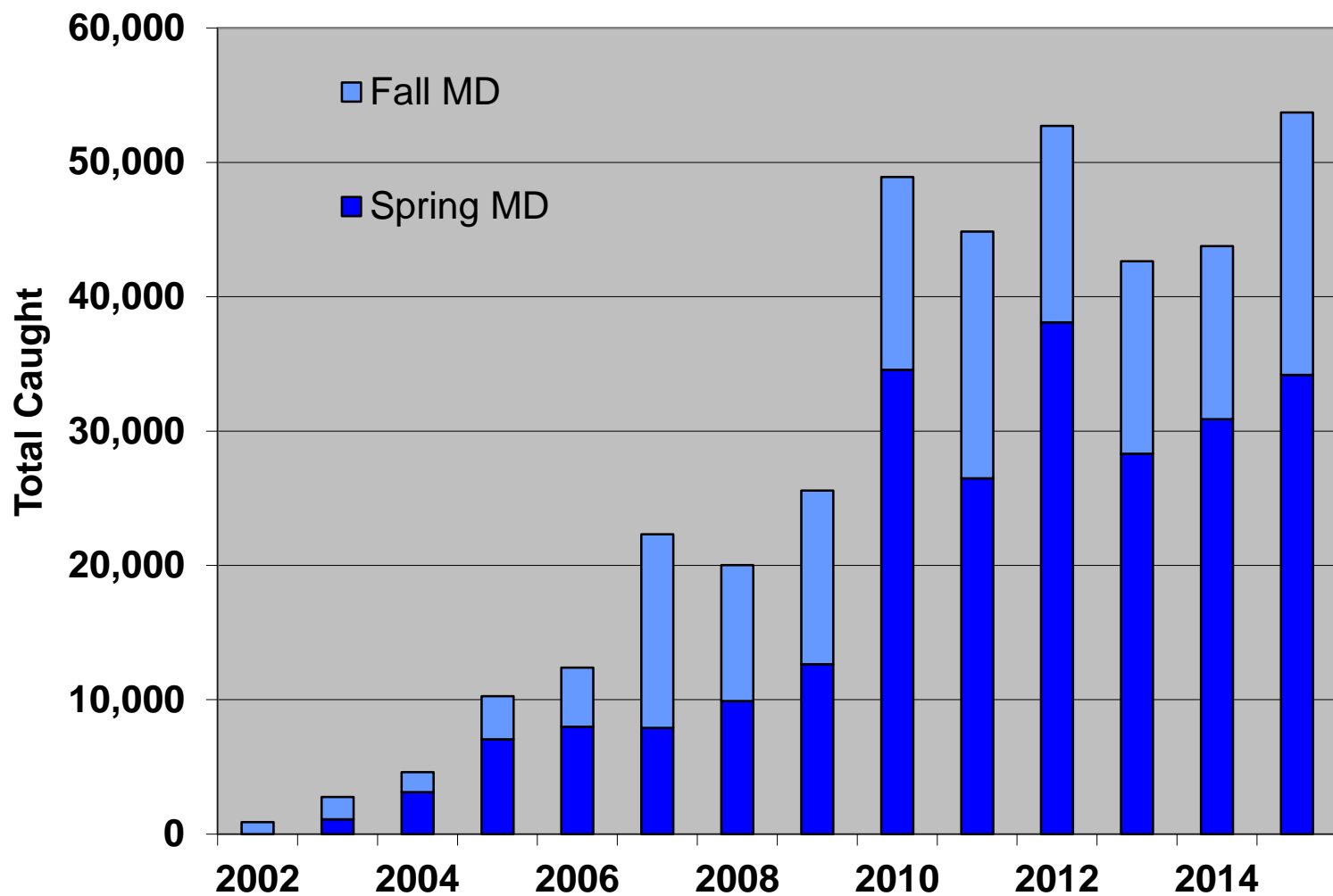
FISHING CONTESTS

Photo: Cindy Benson

Top 10 Anglers – Spring Mack Days



14,096 lake trout



**Mack Days
Begins**

2000

2002

**Fisheries
Management
Plan Adopted**

2014

**EIS completed,
Netting begins**

2014

Executive Summary
Final Environmental Impact Statement



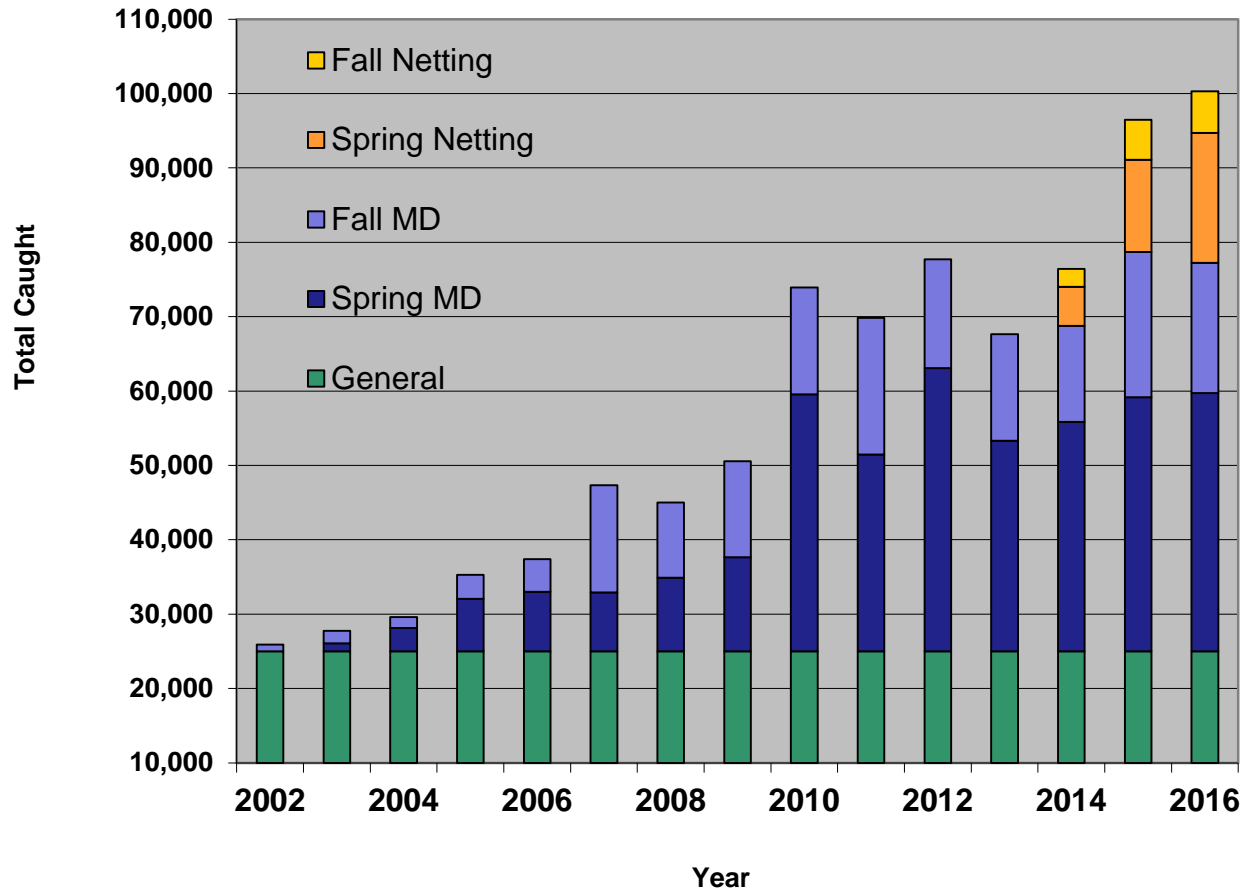
Proposed Strategies to Benefit Native Species
by Reducing the Abundance of Lake Trout
Flathead Lake, Montana



CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES



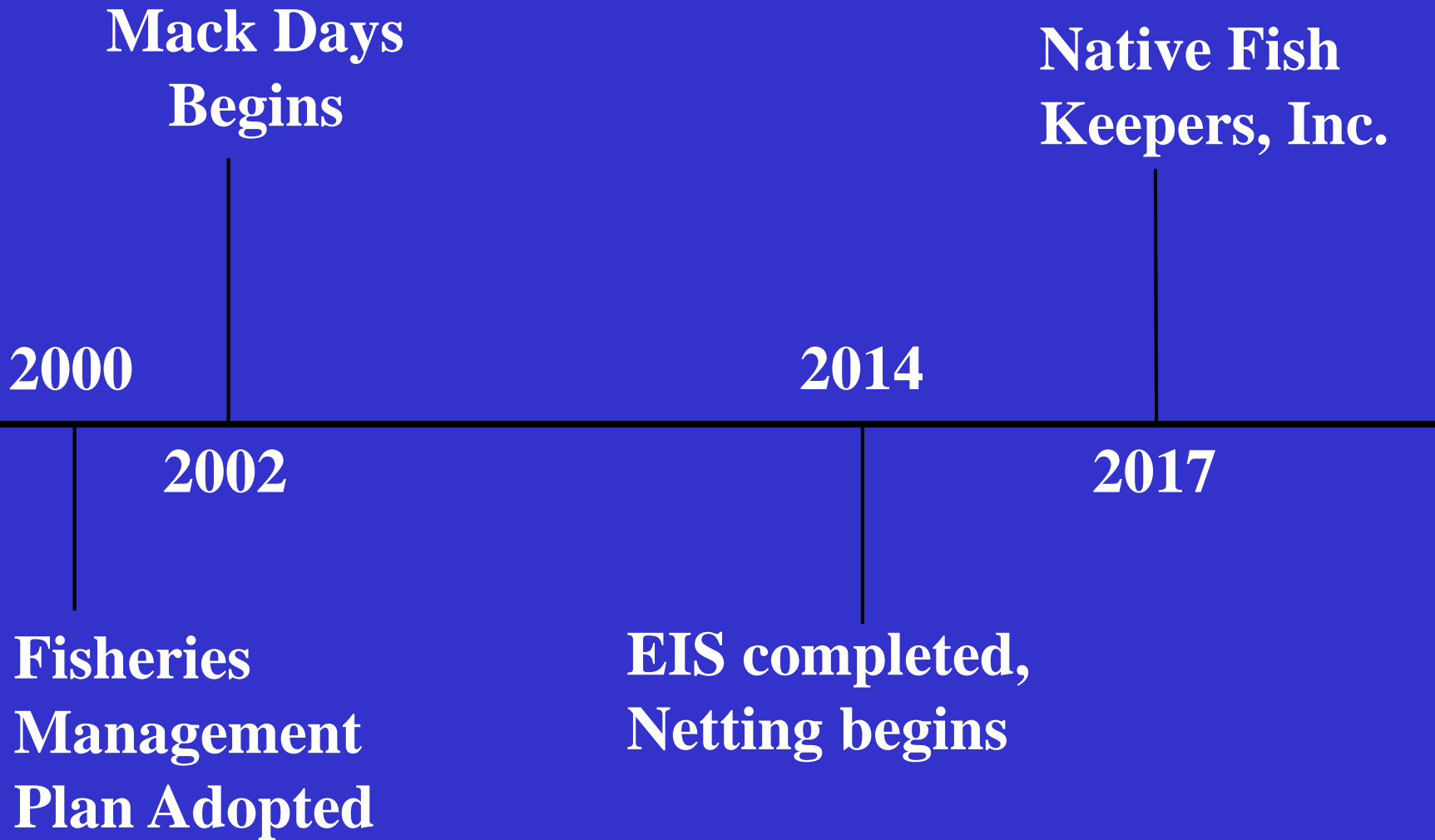












2000

**Fisheries
Management
Plan Adopted**

2002

**Mack Days
Begins**

2014

**EIS completed,
Netting begins**

2017

**Native Fish
Keepers, Inc.**



Exceptional Fillets from an Exceptional Place

We offer the highest quality lake trout and whitefish fillets. Our fish are caught from the cold, clean waters of Flathead Lake and within hours of being caught are filleted and flash frozen in our certified processing facility. The exceptional flavor, color and texture of lake trout derives from Mysis shrimp, an introduced crustacean that caused the population explosion of lake trout, yet contributes to the fine quality of its flesh. Additionally, lake trout are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, known to protect and promote heart and brain health.



Our Story

We are the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana. We are working hard to protect native trout. Our fisheries management decisions integrate traditional knowledge and current science. One of the largest threats to native bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout is predation by non-native lake trout. Bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout are culturally and spiritually important to us, and both species are especially vulnerable to predation by lake trout.

In response to declines of bull trout, the federal government listed them as threatened in 1998. The Tribes are countering the threat in Flathead Lake by employing multiple fisheries management tools to reduce lake trout abundance, including incentivized harvest by recreational anglers, and gillnetting. Bycatch of native trout has been effectively addressed by educating anglers and by careful placement of nets in very specific areas and depths of the lake.

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

The program to suppress lake trout is expensive; it requires multiple boats, extensive fishing gear, numerous personnel, and most importantly, it must go on perpetually. To help offset costs of suppression, the Tribes established this company, Native Fish Keepers, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation to market lake trout. When you purchase these fish you are supporting conservation of native cutthroat and bull trout. The harvest and marketing program supports substantial tribal employment and recreational angling throughout our community.

Immediately after we remove the fish from the nets, we place them on ice and transport them to our state-of-the-art processing facility, where they are filleted, pin-boned, and flash frozen.



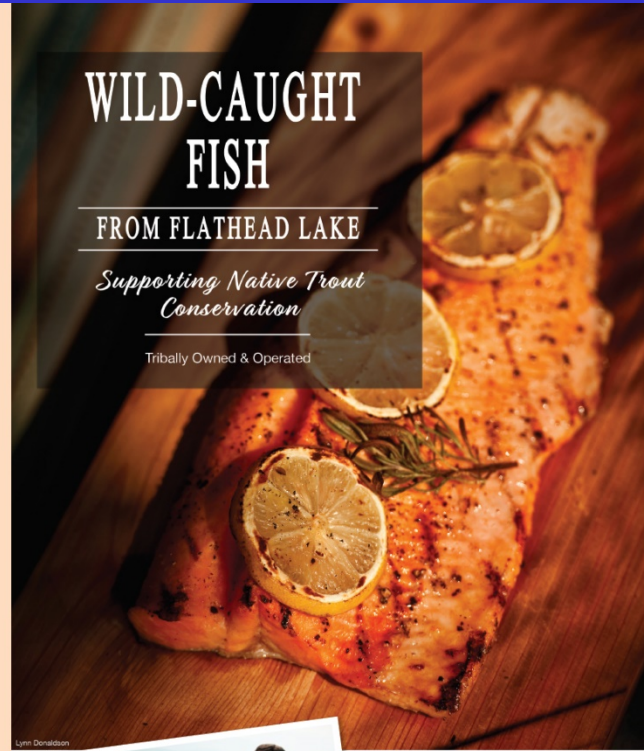
Native trout species like bull trout (top) and westslope cutthroat trout (bottom) helped sustain the Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille Tribes for millennia, now we are working to restore their populations and habitats.



WILD-CAUGHT FISH FROM FLATHEAD LAKE

Supporting Native Trout Conservation

Tribally Owned & Operated



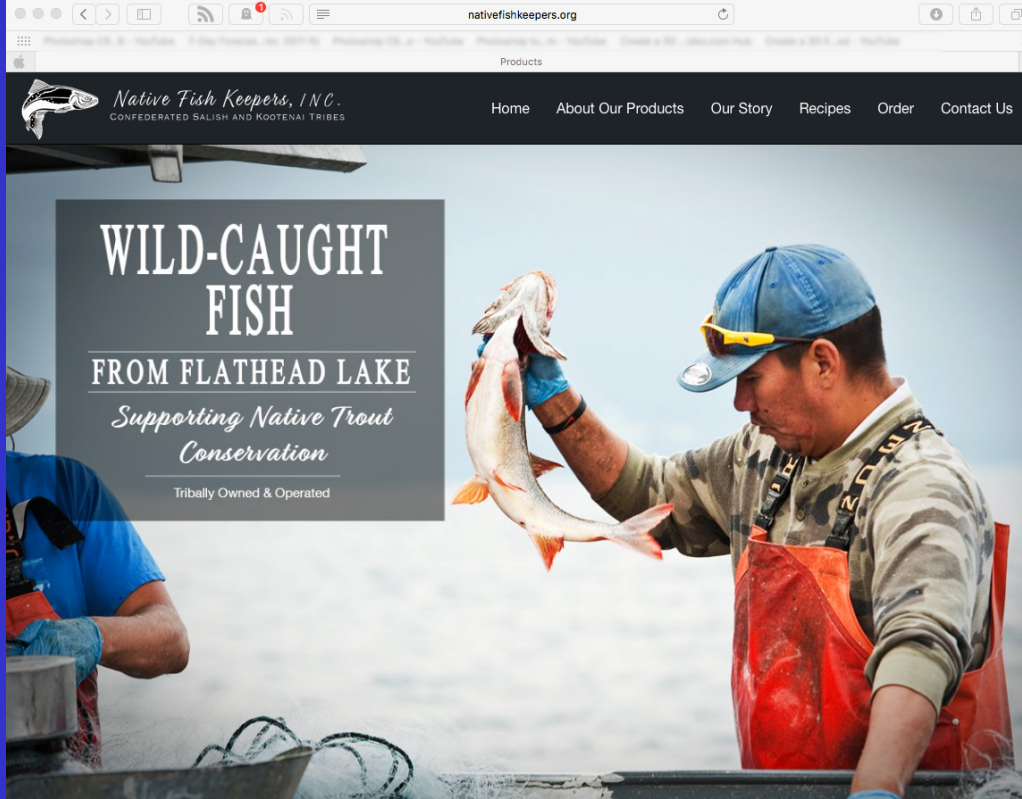




WILD-CAUGHT LAKE WHITEFISH
FROM PLATHEAD LAKE
Native Fish Experts, Inc.

PASTA
PIA
ONS
ERRE
ETTES
\$3.91

LOCAL



- [We Value Native Trout](#)
- [The Problem](#)
- [Management](#)
- [From Net to Table](#)

Working to Restore Native Trout

We are the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana. We are working hard to protect native trout. Our fisheries management decisions integrate traditional knowledge and current science. One of the largest threats to native bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout is predation by non-native lake trout.

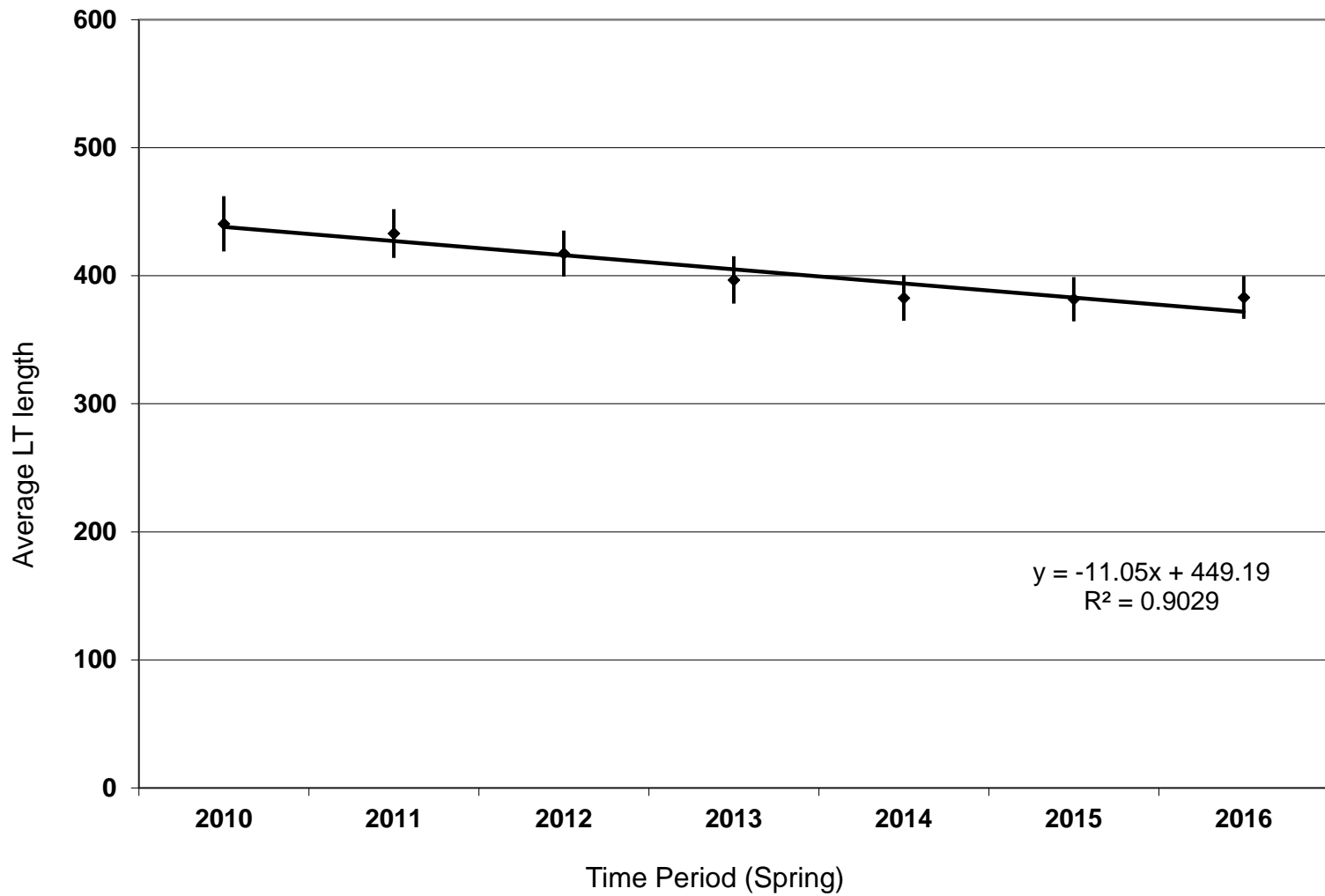


Lake trout (like the one shown at left) prey on nearly all fish species present in Flathead Lake, and they have hit bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout especially hard. Both species are important culturally and spiritually to us. Populations have declined to the point that many experts are concerned that the bull trout could become extinct. Westslope cutthroat trout have declined by roughly two thirds since monitoring began in 1981.

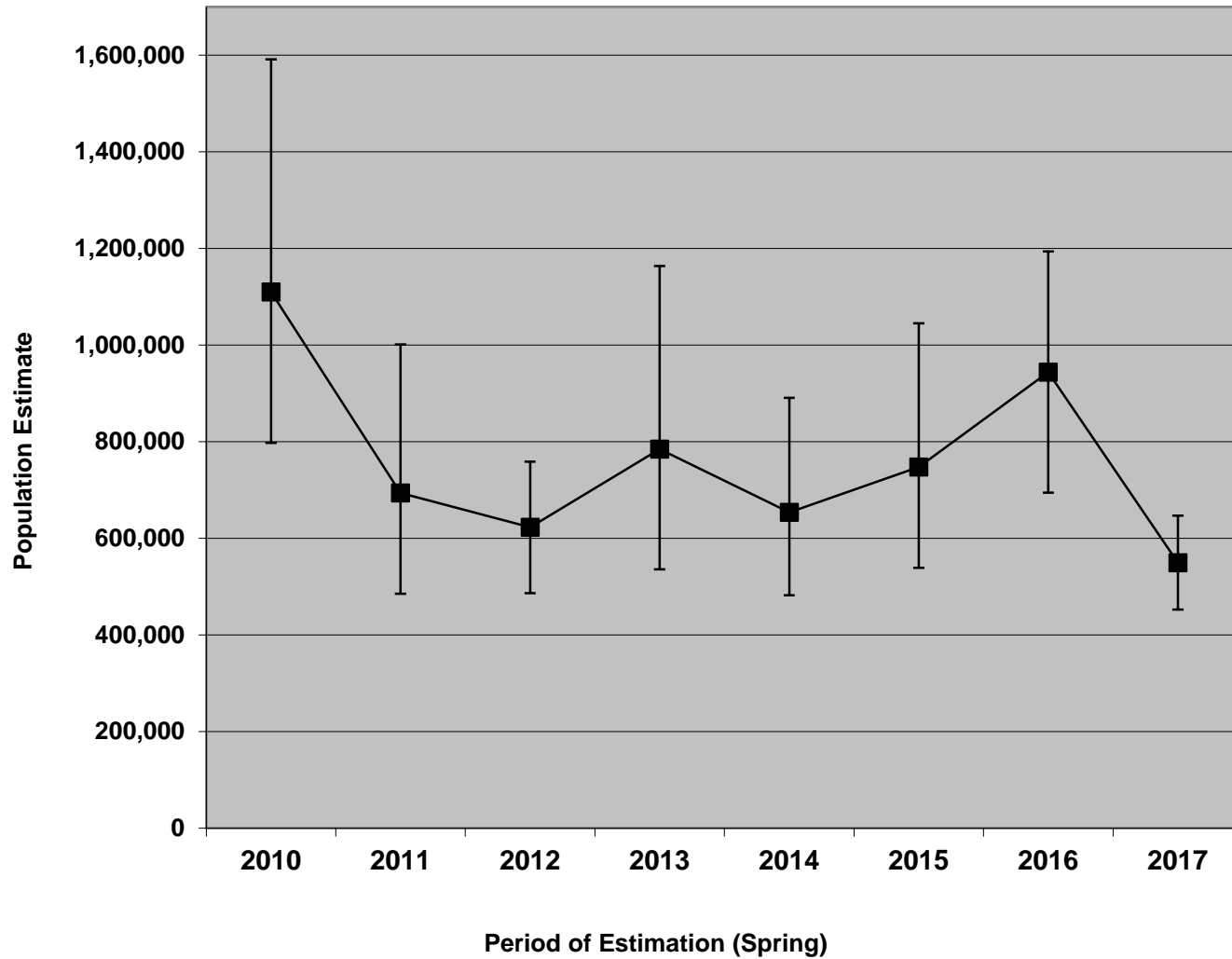
Summary of Activities in 2016
of the
Lake Trout Suppression Program to
Benefit Native Species
in
Flathead Lake

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
and
Technical Review and Analysis by Dr. Michael Hansen,
USGS, Great Lakes Science Center

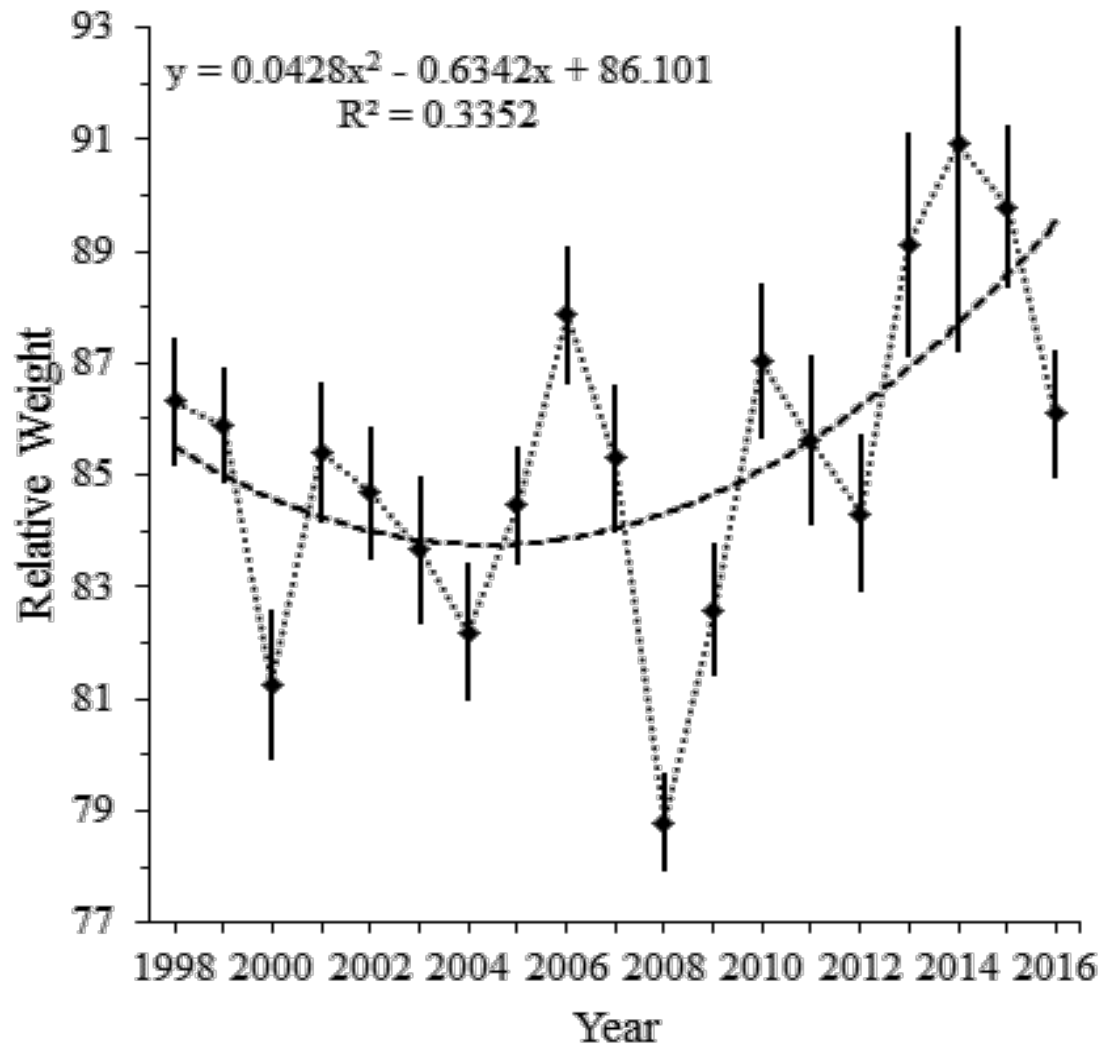
Average Length of Angler's Catch



Population Estimates



Changes in Relative Weight



Bycatch from Netting



2014-2016

48,617 Lake Trout

39 Bull Trout