

Lake Thompson

Summer 2008 Fishing Summary:

- Over 50% of the summer fishing pressure occurred in June. Pressure in past years was more evenly distributed throughout the summer.
- Abundant smaller walleye boosted catch rates to a 9-year high. Harvest rates have remained well above the management objective for the last 9 years.
- Yellow perch summer catch and harvest was the lowest on record. Interestingly, catch and harvest during the winter 2007-08 fishery was at a multi-year high.
- Black crappie catch and harvest were at a 10-year high and harvested fish ranged from 9 to 14 inches long.
- Smallmouth bass catch and harvest continues to decline.
- An estimated 160 white bass were caught in 2008. This was the first year that white bass were present in the creel survey.
- About 90% of angling parties interviewed were from South Dakota.
- Over 96% of parties interviewed were targeting walleyes.

The question, "What would you consider to be the best daily limit for panfish (perch, crappies and bluegills)" was asked during the winter 2007-08 and summer 2008 creel surveys. The results are displayed in the following table. The number of responses is in parentheses.

Number of fish/day	Brant Winter 07-08	Thompson Winter 07-08	Madison Lakes ¹ Summer 07-08	Thompson Summer 07-08	Sinai Summer 07-08
5	3% (2)	1% (1)	3% (13)	0% (0)	0% (0)
10	24% (18)	39% (117)	29% (126)	7% (6)	2% (2)
15	26% (19)	20% (60)	20% (88)	16% (15)	13% (16)
20	4% (3)	7% (22)	8% (36)	19% (17)	43% (53)
25	43% (32)	31% (92)	37% (160)	52% (47)	39% (47)
25+	0% (0)	2% (4)	3% (10)	6% (6)	3% (4)
Total	100% (74)	100% (296)	100% (433)	100% (91)	100% (122)

¹ Responses from anglers fishing Lakes Brant, Madison and Herman were combined. Response patterns were similar for each of the three lakes.

Summary:

A 10-fish and 25-fish/day limit were the most frequently given responses to the question. Across all surveys, at least 60% of anglers indicated they wanted limits of 15 or more fish daily. This may have been influenced by the existing 25 panfish/day bag limits currently in place and also by \$3-\$4 gasoline (mentioned often). The response pattern for the Thompson-Sinai creel survey is different for unknown reasons.

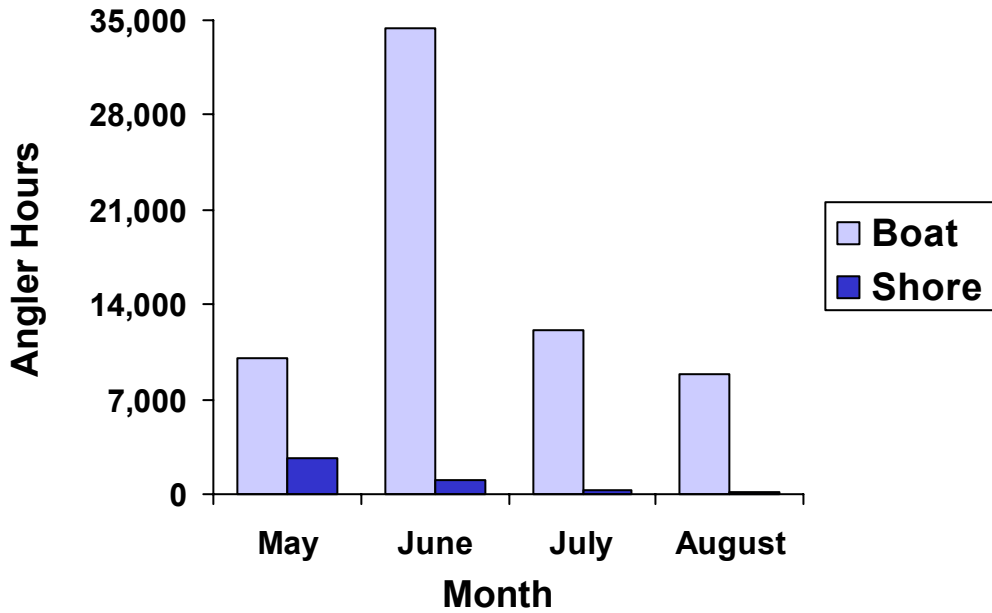


Figure 1. Monthly fishing pressure on Lake Thompson during summer 2008.

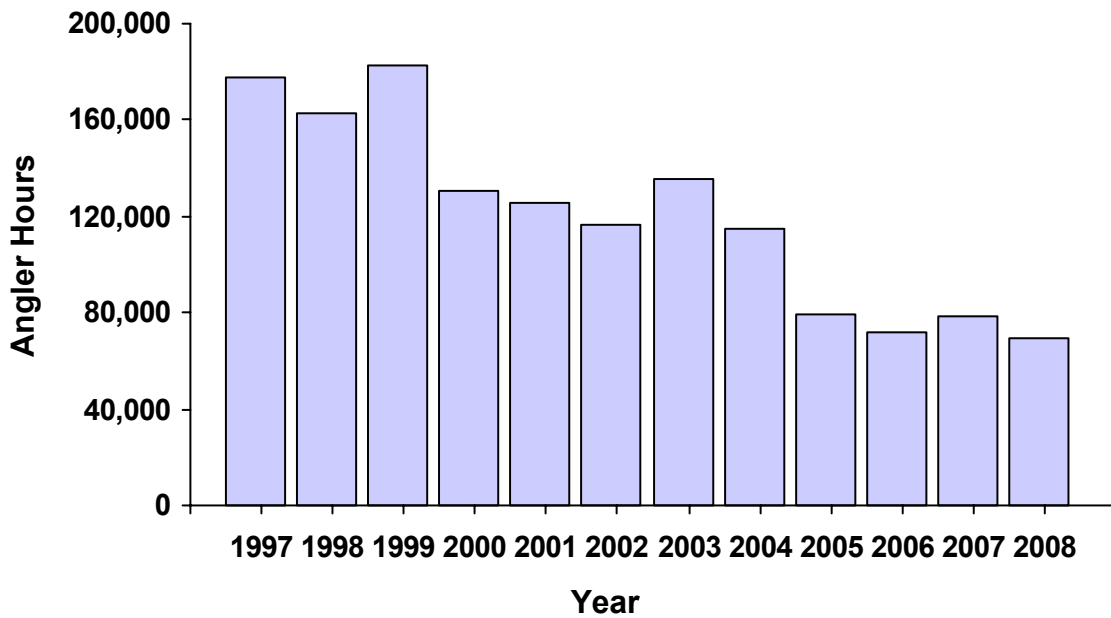


Figure 2. Summer fishing pressure (May through August) on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

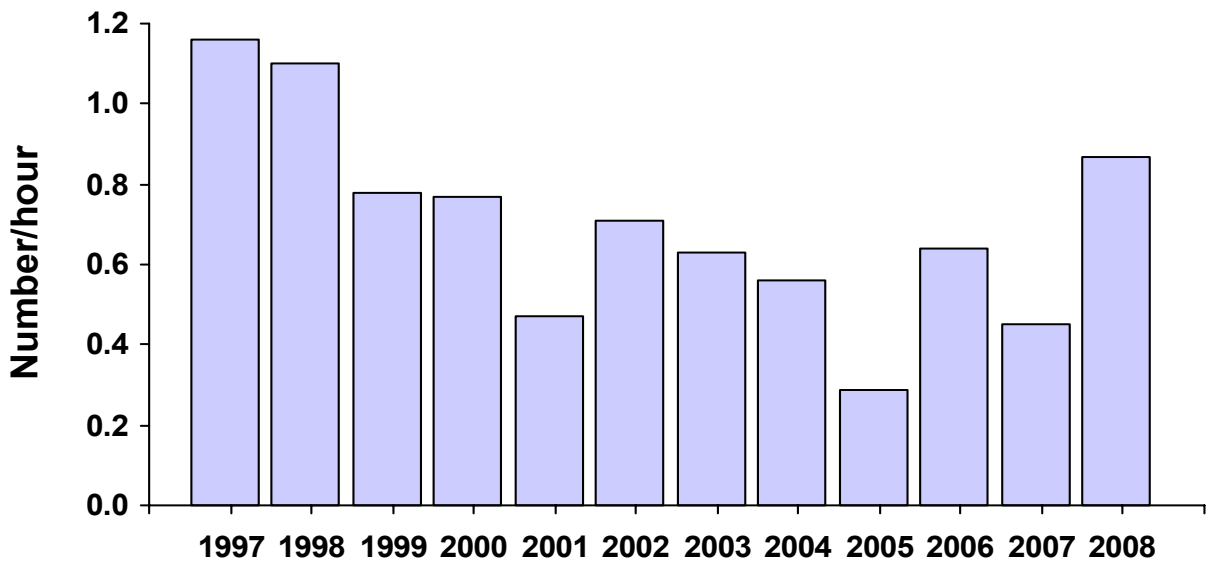


Figure 3. Summer walleye catch rate (number/h) on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

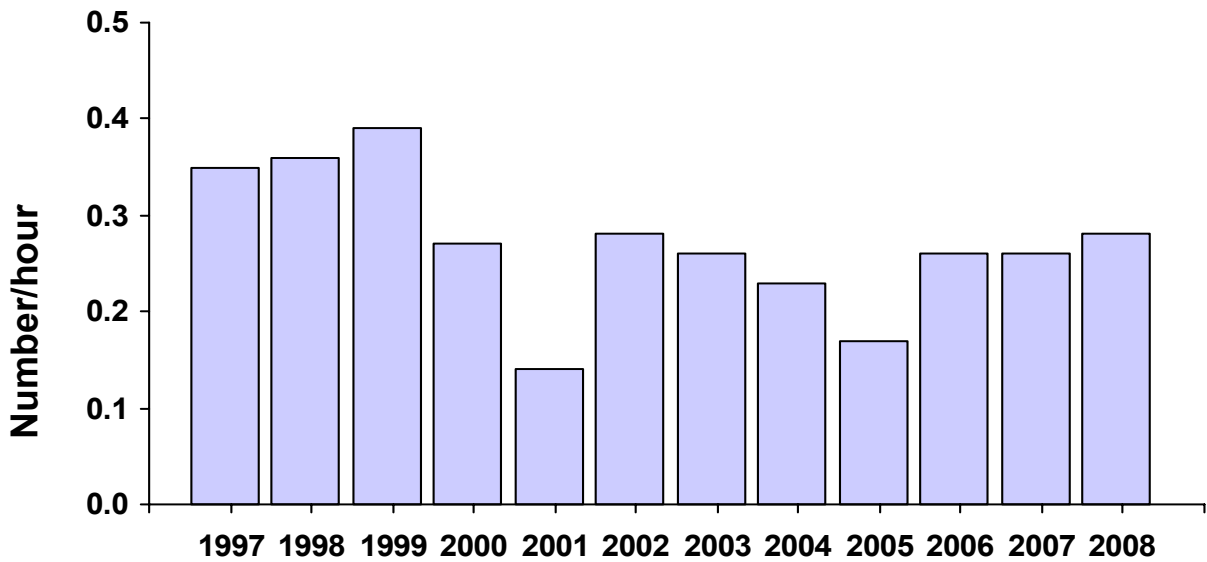


Figure 4. Summer walleye harvest rate (number/h) on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

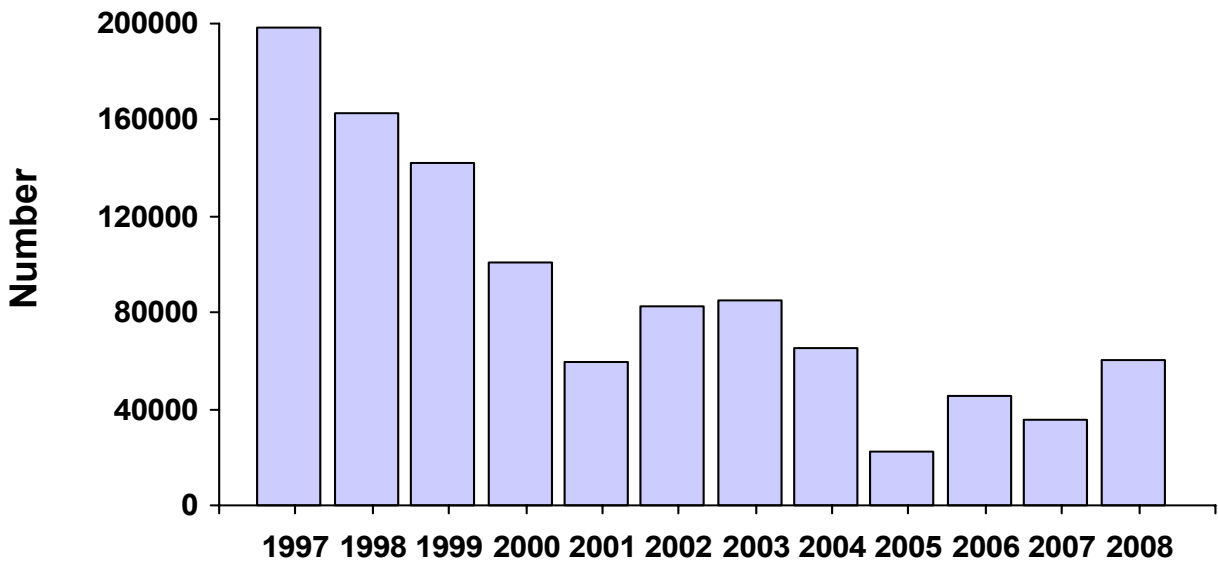


Figure 5. Summer walleye catch on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

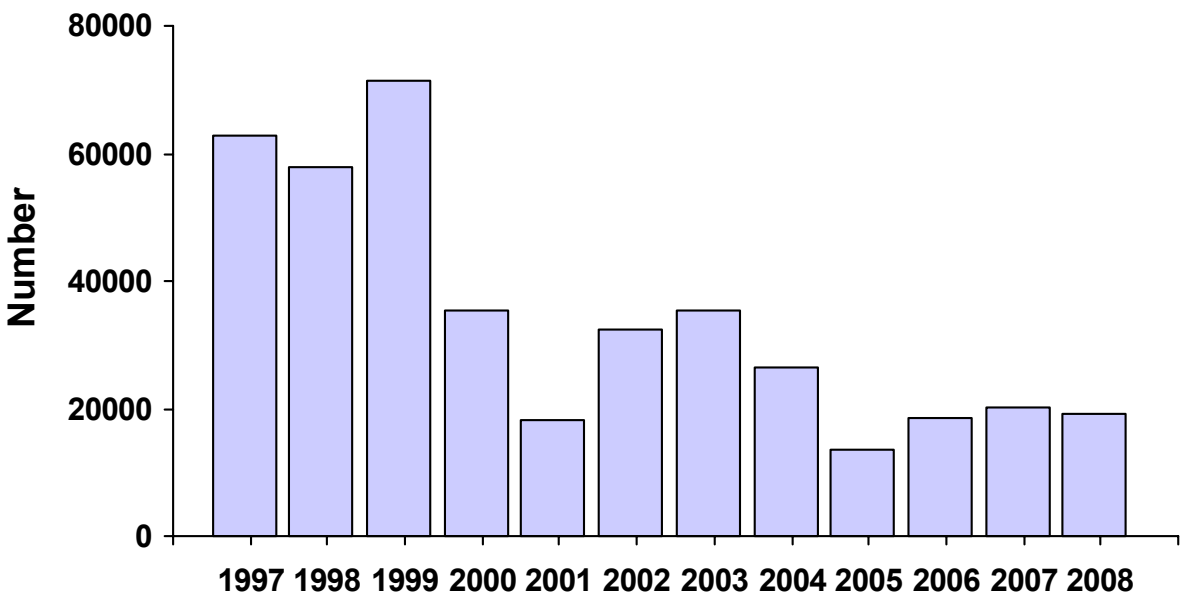


Figure 6. Summer walleye harvest on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

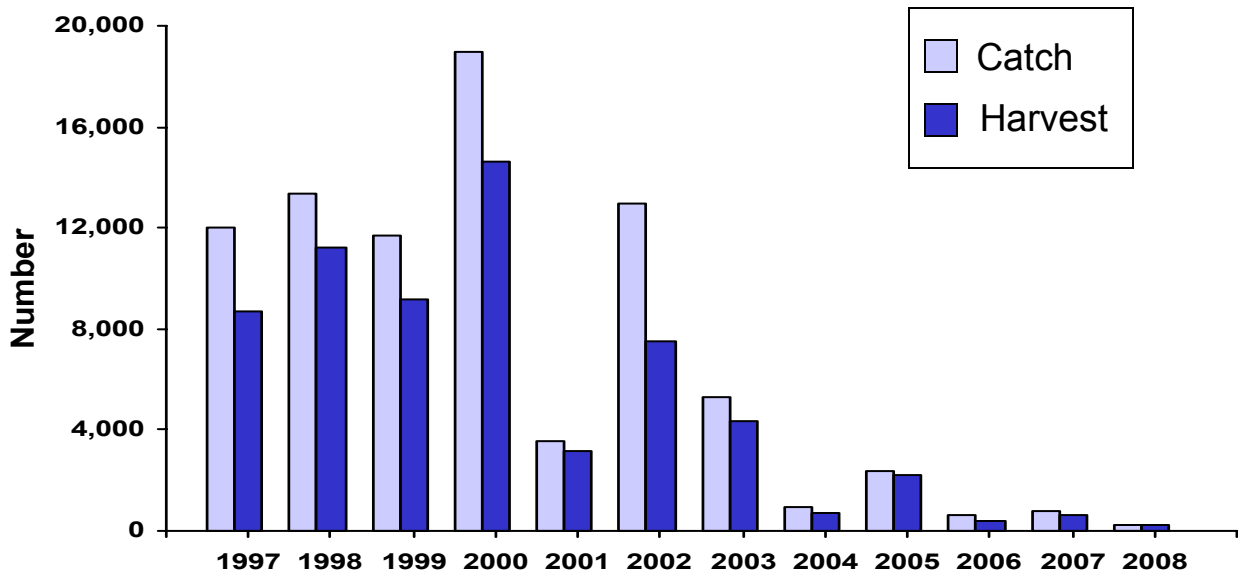


Figure 7. Summer yellow perch catch and harvest on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

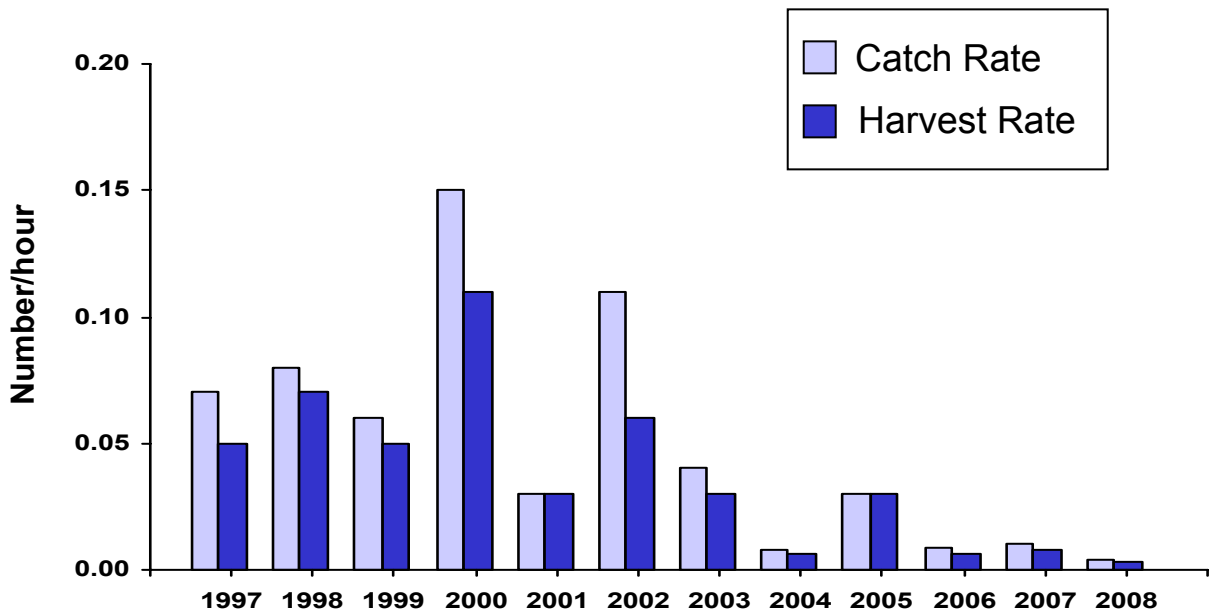


Figure 8. Summer yellow perch catch and harvest rates on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

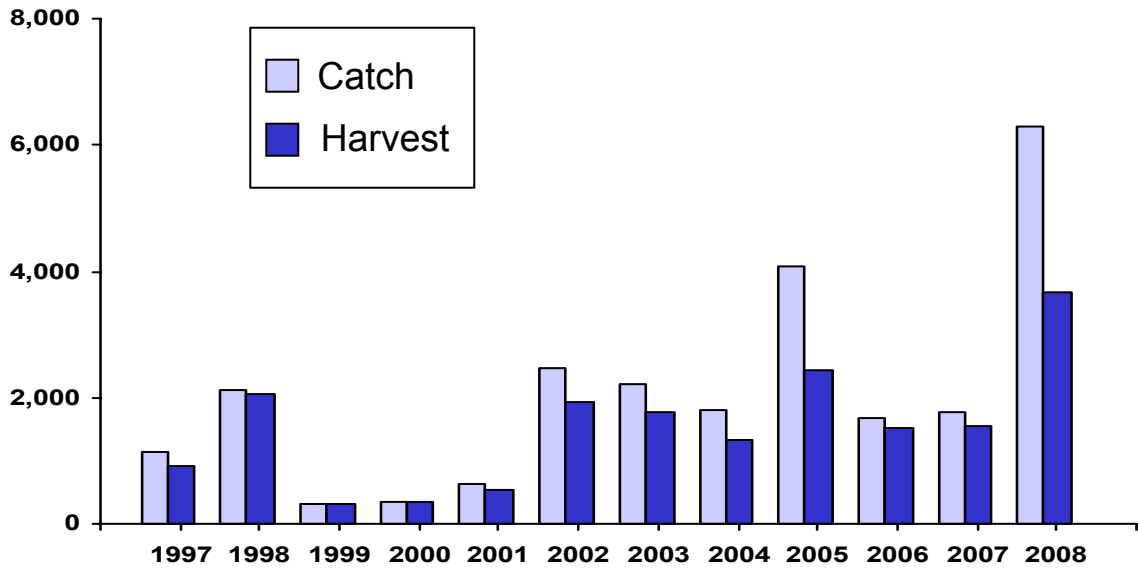


Figure 9. Summer black crappie catch and harvest on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

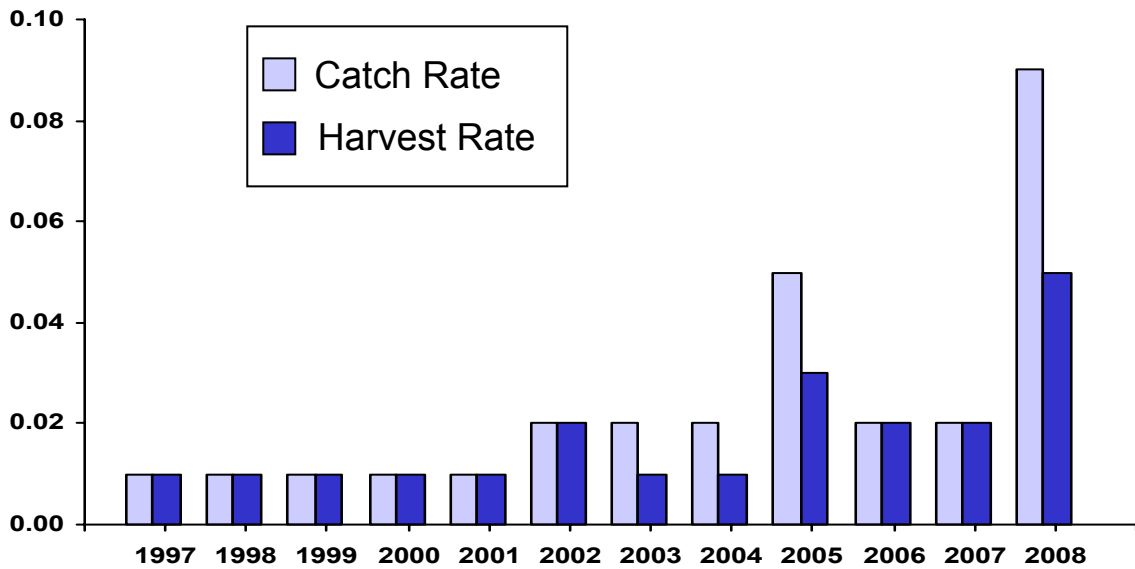


Figure 10. Summer black crappie catch and harvest rates on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

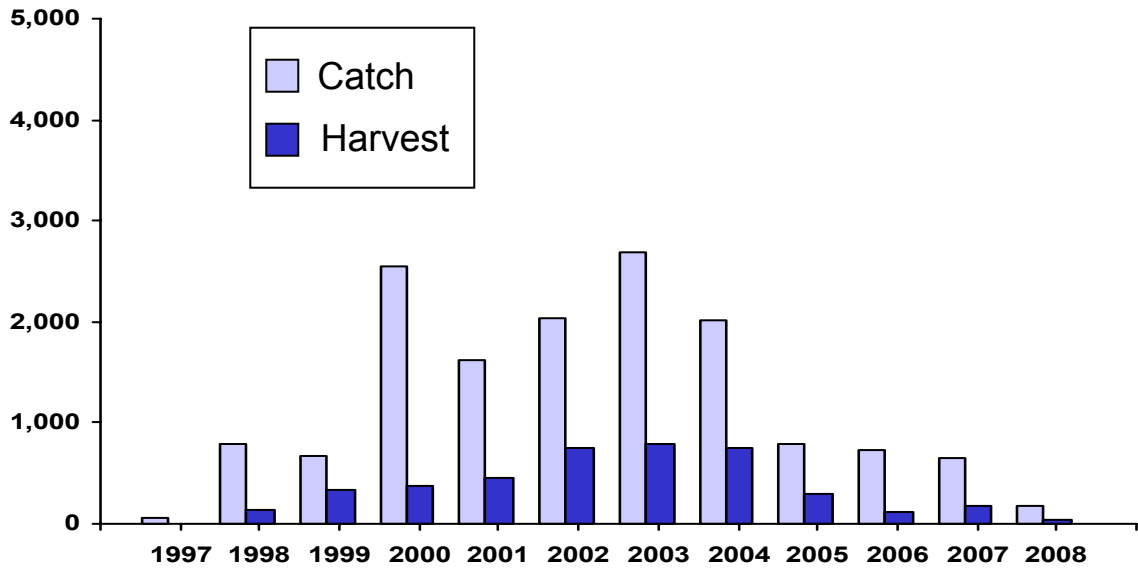


Figure 11. Summer smallmouth bass catch and harvest on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.

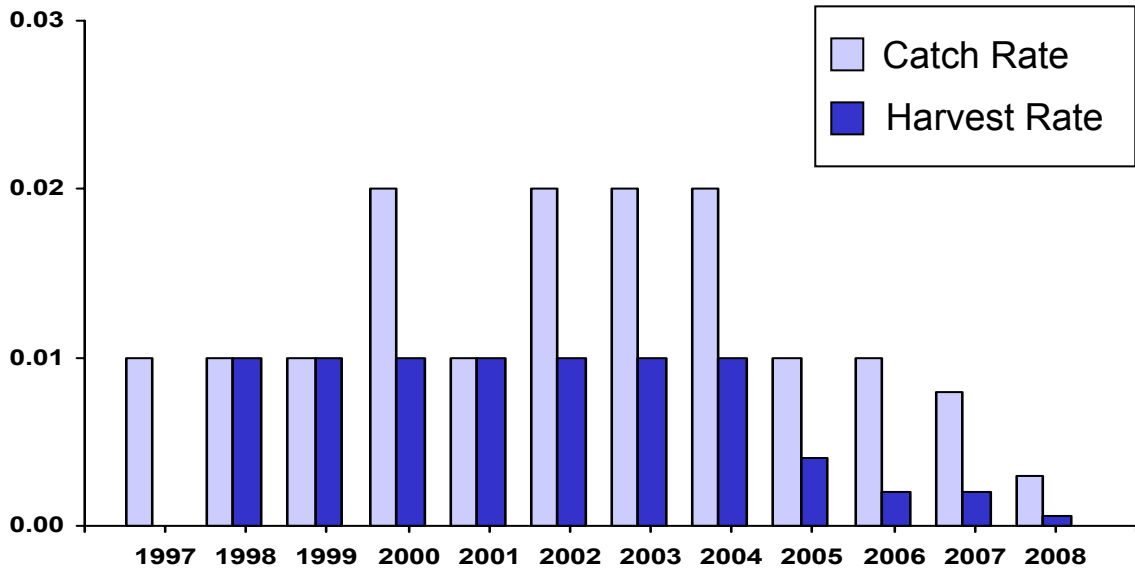


Figure 12. Summer smallmouth bass catch and harvest rates on Lake Thompson, 1997-2008.