

Brant Lake

Summer 2008 Fishing Summary:

- Fishing pressure was higher than 2006 and 2007 and similar to 2003-2005.
- Fishing pressure was highest in May and June and declined substantially by late-summer.
- Walleye catch and harvest rates were similar to preceding years. However, total catch was the highest seen since 2004. Anglers only harvested only about 30% of walleyes caught, and 65% of these were less than 14 inches long.
- Yellow perch catch and harvest has been declining since 2002.
- Black crappie fishing has remained steady since 2005.
- Catch and harvest rates for bluegills were low, but the harvested fish were 8-10+ inches long.
- Smallmouth bass catch rates remained high, and only about 13% of the catch was harvested. Most of the harvested smallmouth were less than 14 inches long.

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.

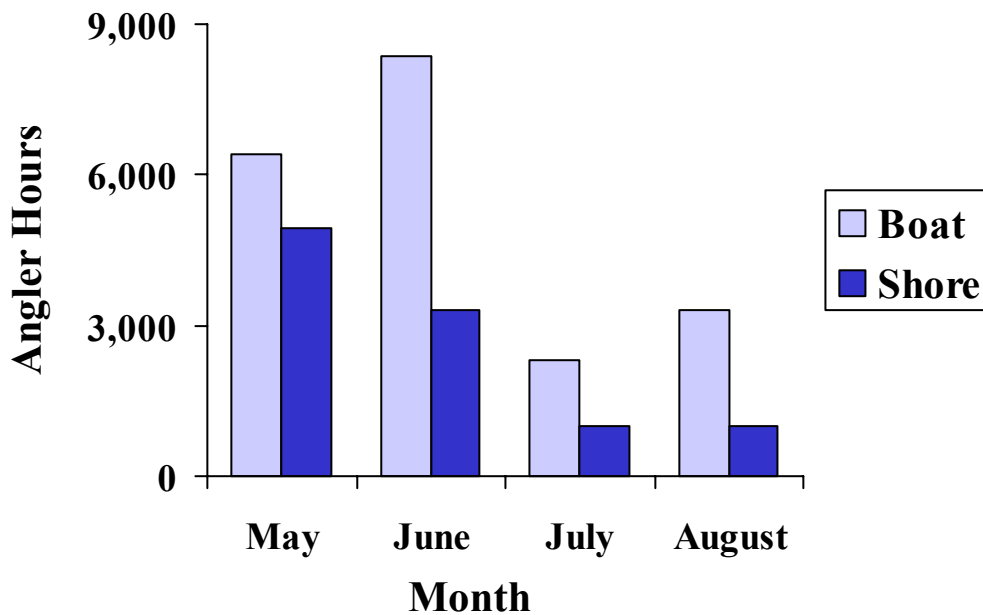


Figure 1. Monthly fishing pressure on Brant Lake during summer 2008.

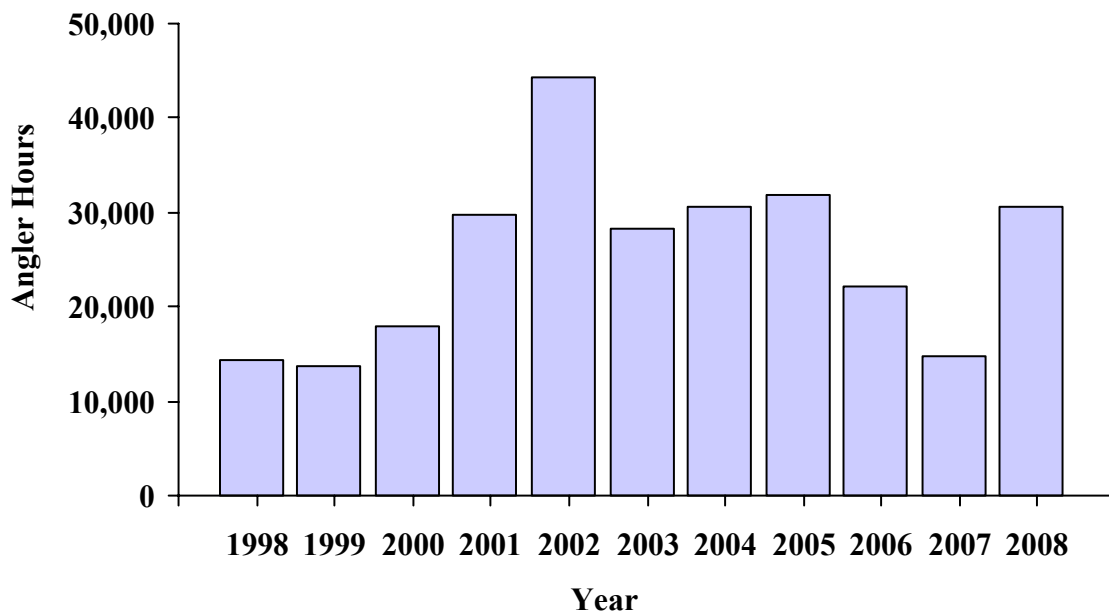


Figure 2. Summer fishing pressure (May through August) on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

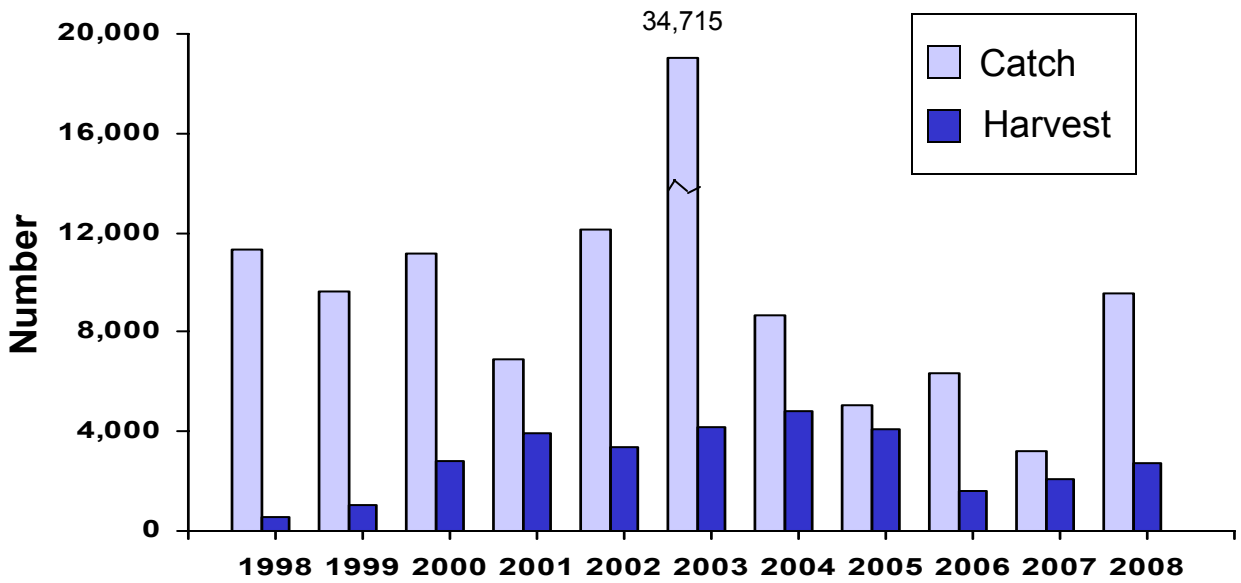


Figure 3. Summer walleye catch and harvest on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

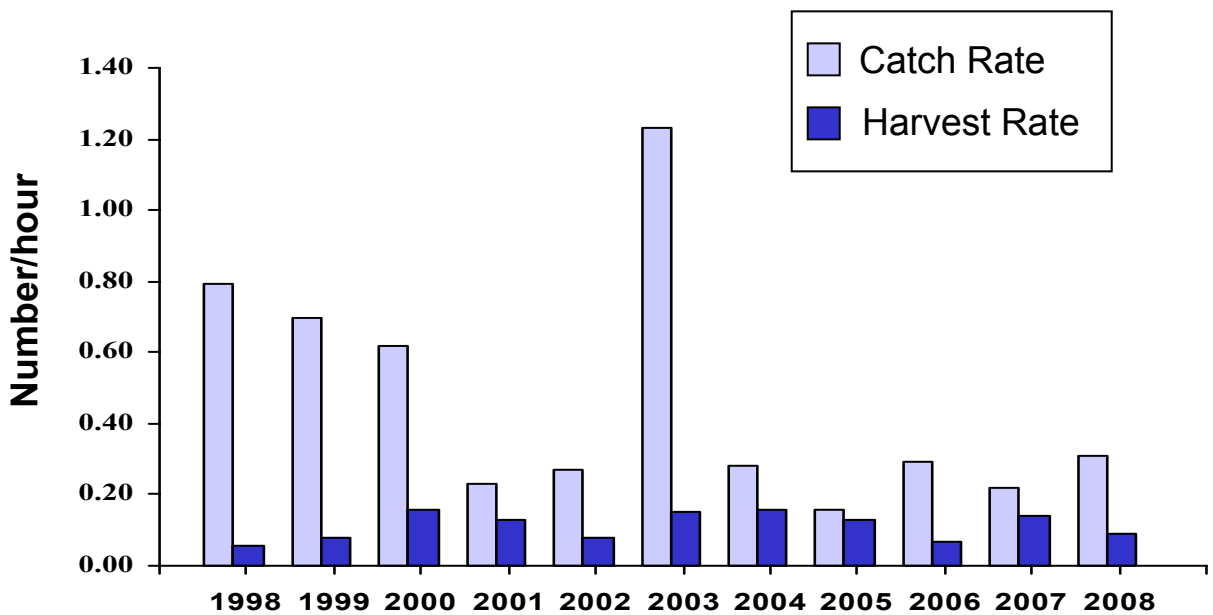


Figure 4. Summer walleye catch and harvest rates on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

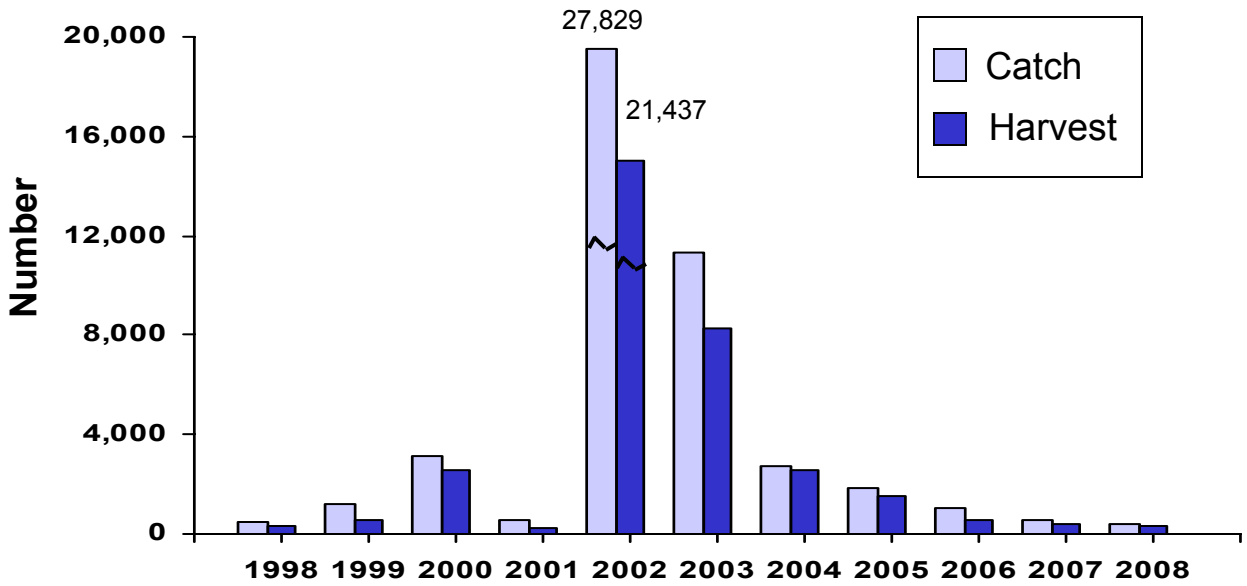


Figure 5. Summer yellow perch catch and harvest on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

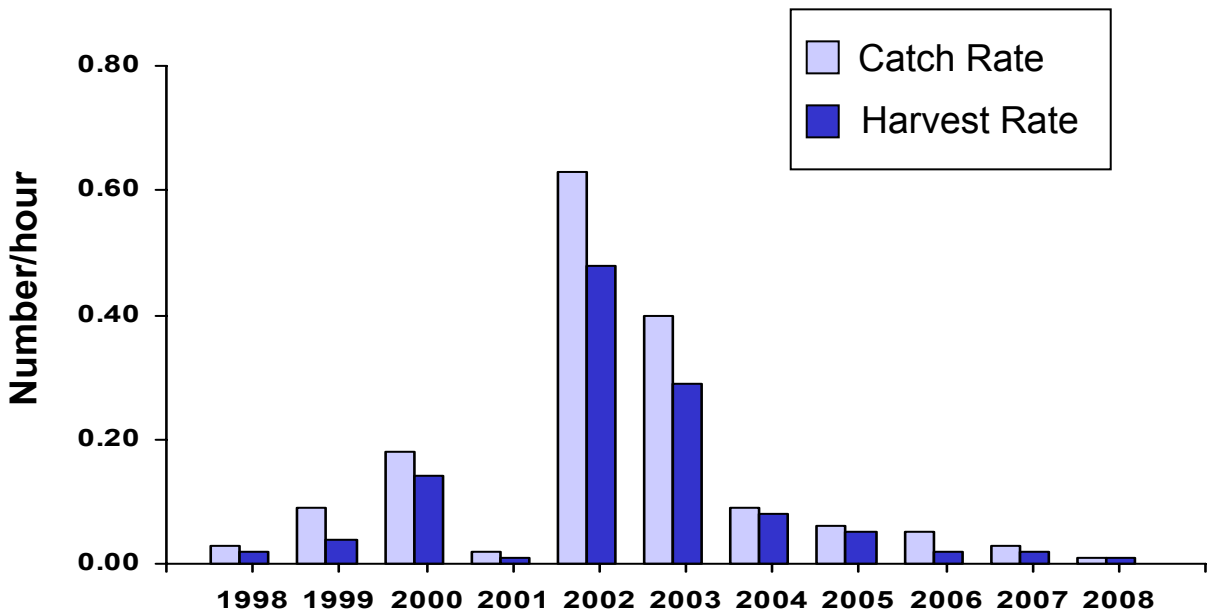


Figure 6. Summer yellow perch catch and harvest rates on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

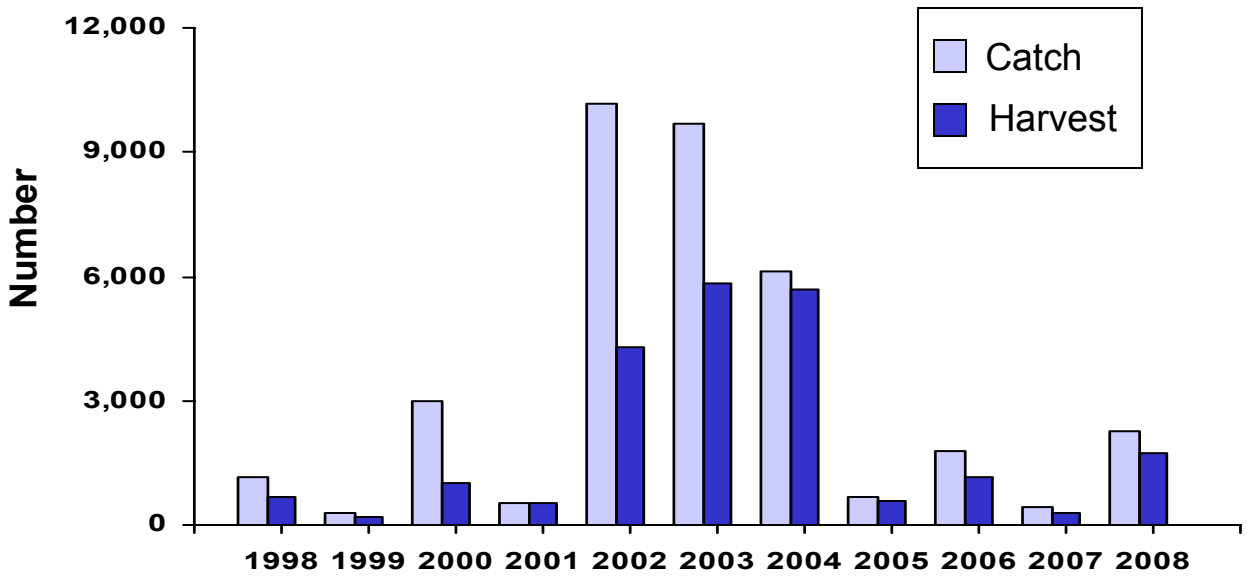


Figure 7. Summer black crappie catch and harvest on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

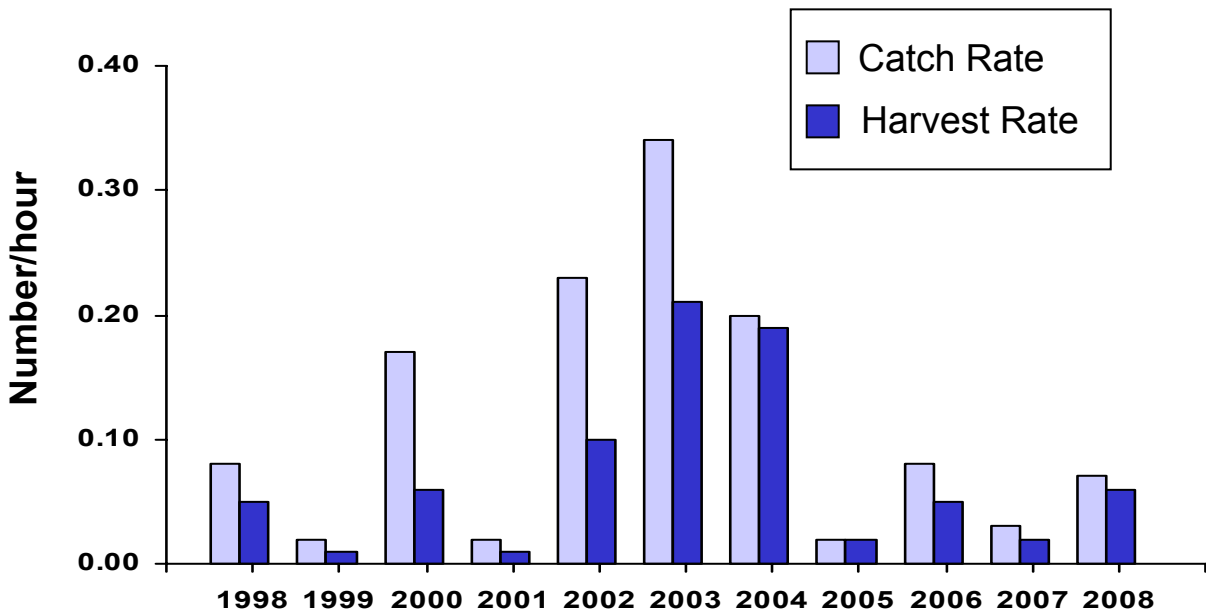


Figure 8. Summer black crappie catch and harvest rates on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

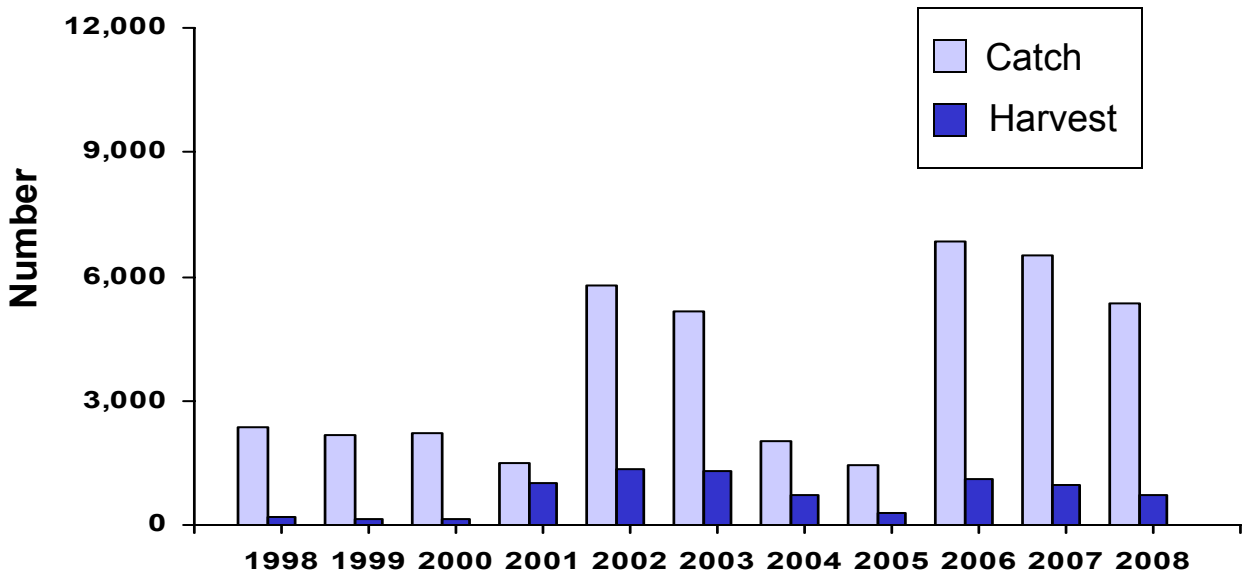


Figure 9. Summer smallmouth bass catch and harvest on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

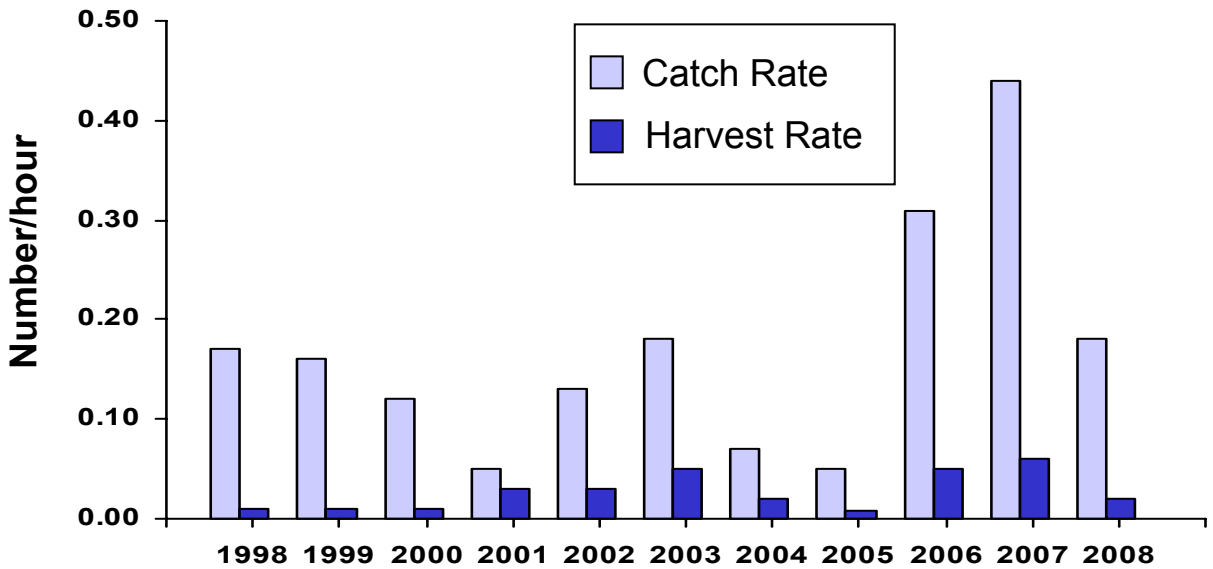


Figure 10. Summer smallmouth bass catch and harvest rates on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

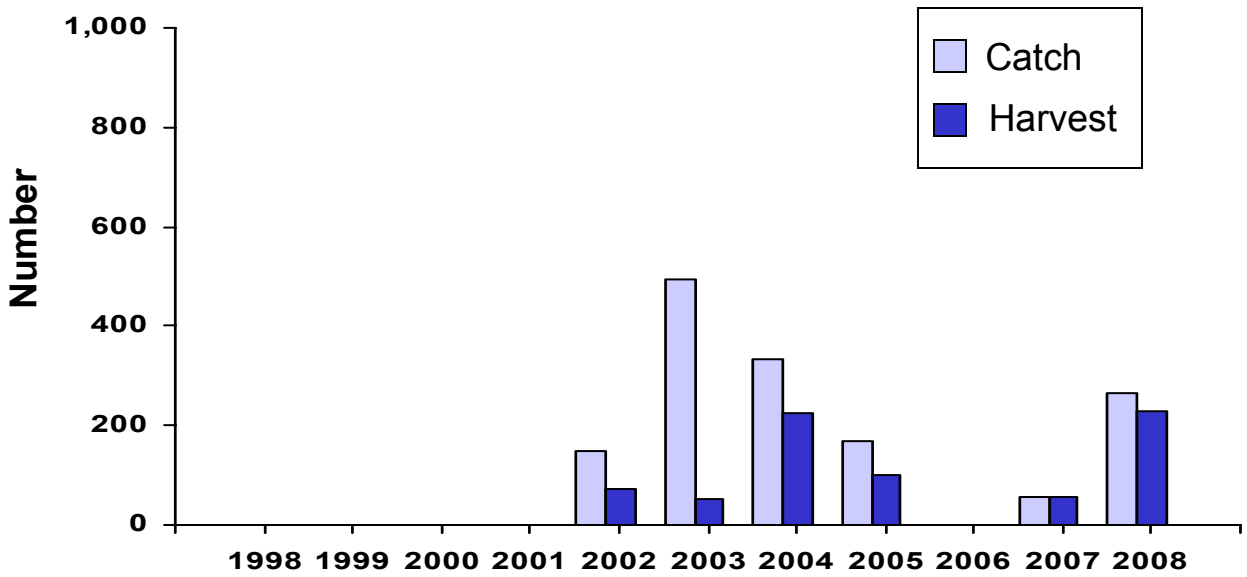


Figure 11. Summer bluegill catch and harvest on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.

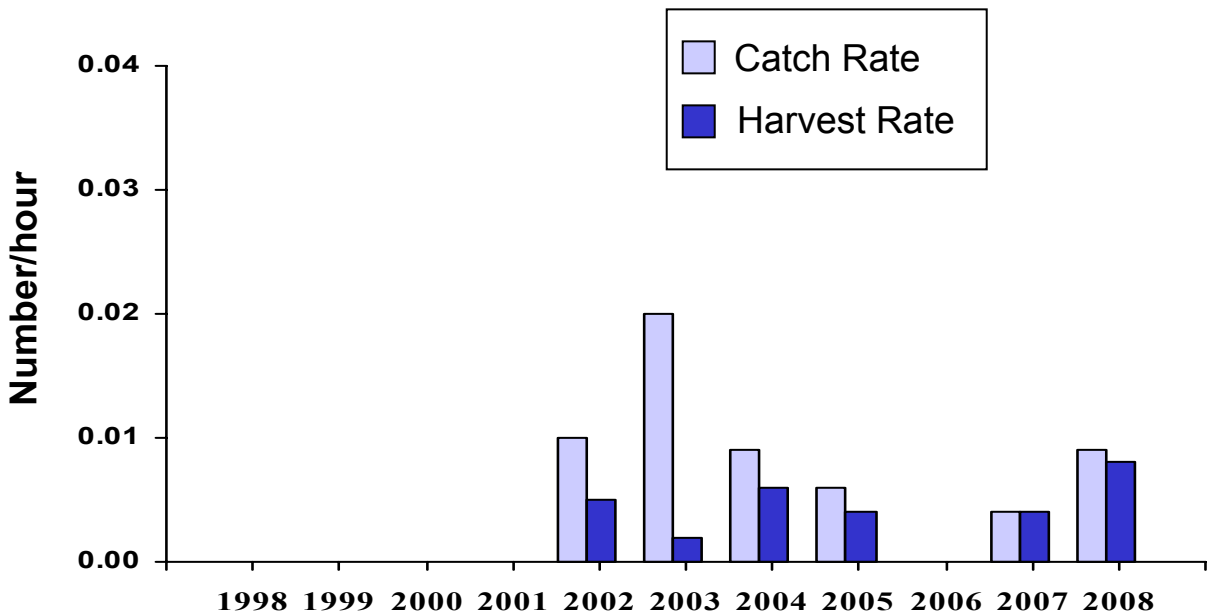


Figure 12. Summer bluegill catch and harvest rates on Brant Lake, 1998-2008.