

The yellow perch volunteer angler survey has provided a wealth of information since its inception in 2008. The information provided by anglers provides a snapshot of the length frequency of the catch, both kept and released. In addition, we can determine catch (all yellow perch caught) per angler hour (CPAH) and harvest (only kept yellow perch) per angler hour (HPAH). Both of those values are indicators of relative abundance.

Volunteer angler surveys do contain some bias because people may not accurately remember their results or because people participating in the survey may not be representative of the entire fishing population. Another source of bias is that participants may only relate particularly successful trips. Nevertheless, the information provides valuable insight into the performance of the fishery.

ANGLER PARTICIPATION

The following table summarizes angler participation since 2008. The number of anglers responding to the survey has dropped 35% since 2008, and the number of trips has dropped 29%, but the number of lengths submitted by anglers was higher than 2008. Although the number of river systems is impressive (22 tidal systems represented in 2010), many of the systems have less than 5 responses.

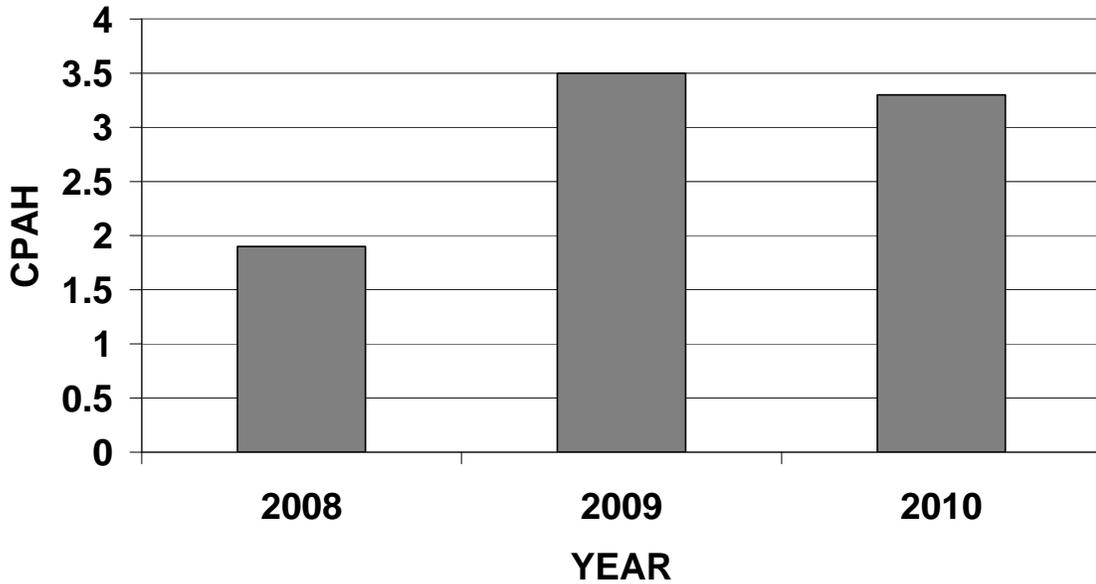
Year	Anglers	Trips	Lengths	Systems
2008	142	216	809	27
2009	81	189	3,896	23
2010	92	154	3,259	22

CATCH PER ANGLER HOUR AND HARVEST PER ANGLER HOUR

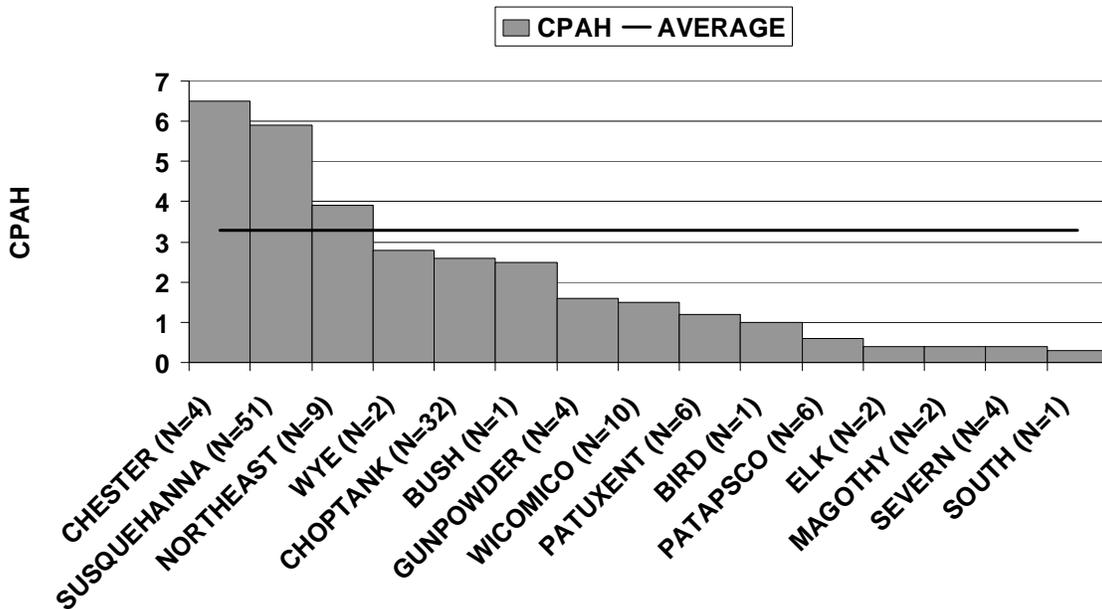
The number of yellow perch caught per angler hour (CPAH) is a good barometer of the availability of yellow perch in any year. Harvest per angler hour (HPAH) is a good indication of the quality of the fishery. Even though many anglers practice catch and release fishing, a high HPAH value

indicates that there are a fair amount of large yellow perch being caught. The length data provided by anglers indicated that the probability of a yellow perch being kept increases dramatically at and above 11", an indication of angler preference.

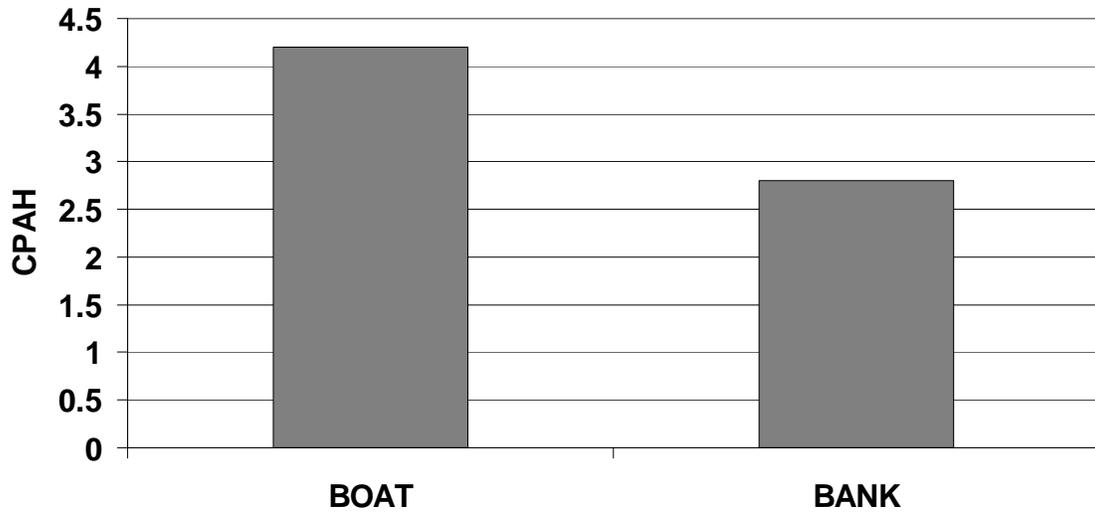
Yellow perch catch per angler hour (CPAH) from 2008, 2009 and 2010 on-line survey



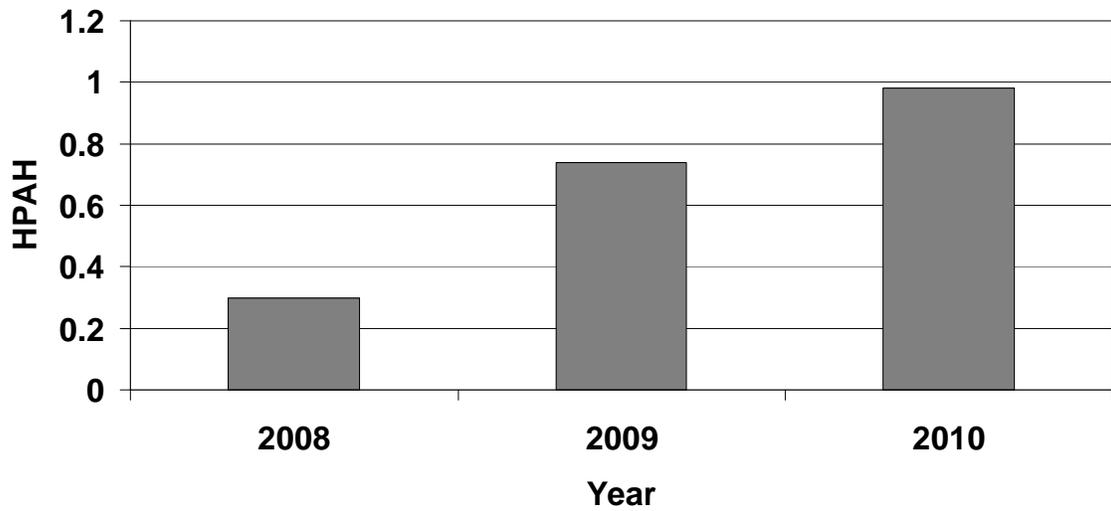
**2010 YELLOW PERCH CATCH PER ANGLER HOUR BY SYSTEM
(N= Number of reports from each system)**



2010 Yellow perch catch per angler hour (CPAH) for boat and bank anglers

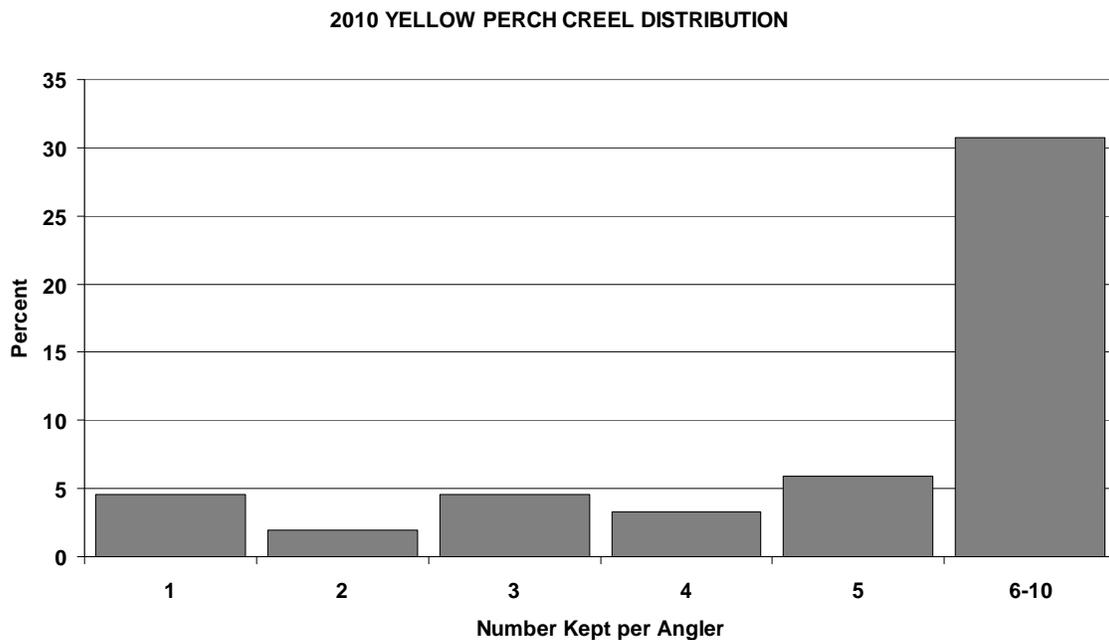


Yellow perch harvest per angler hour (HPAH) from 2008, 2009, and 2010 on-line survey



CREEL DISTRIBUTION

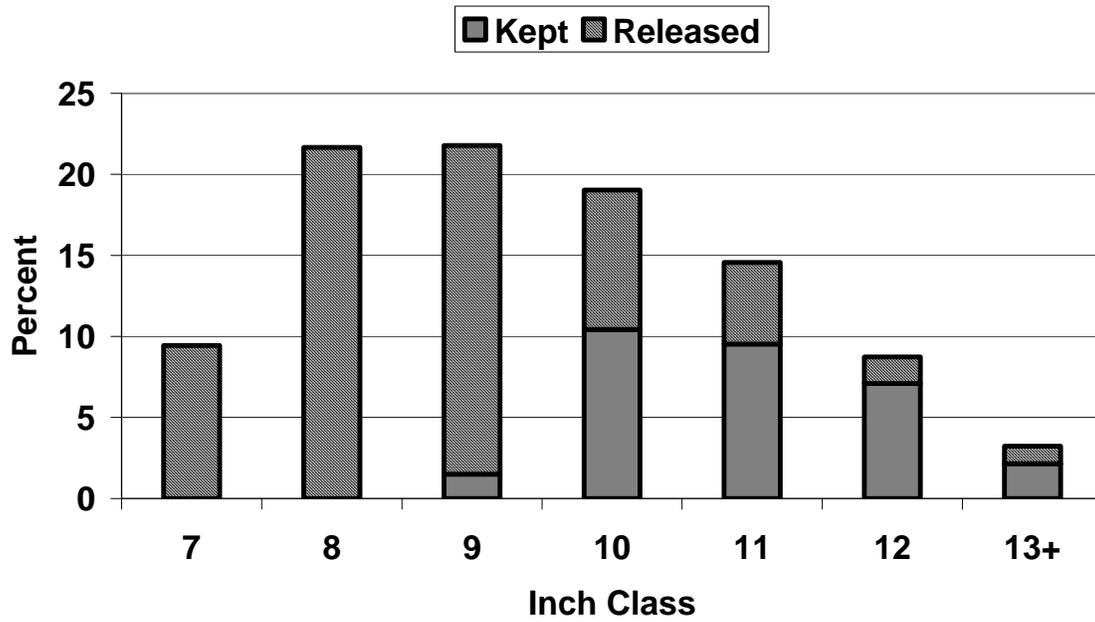
Some 49% of the yellow perch anglers responding to the survey kept at least one yellow perch, but the vast majority of those anglers (31%) kept between 6 and 10 yellow perch.



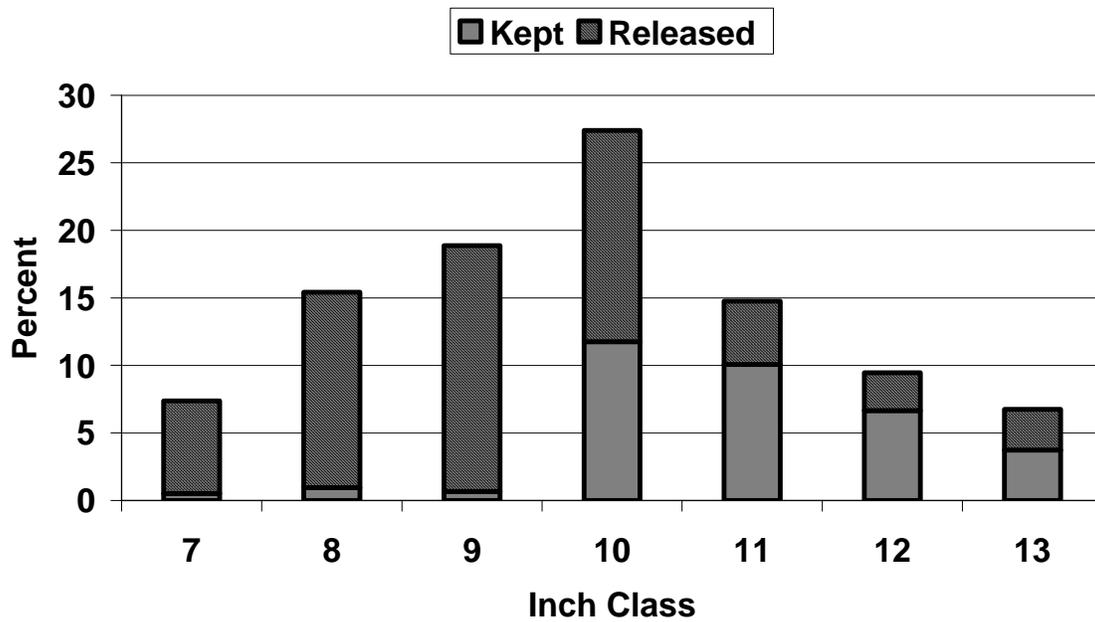
LENGTH DISTRIBUTIONS

Length distributions of the catch can reveal many aspects of fish populations. For example, 8" and 9" yellow perch accounted for about 45% of the catch in 2009, and grew out to the 10" and 11" size classes in 2010. The length distributions also indicate a high quality fishery with about 1/3 of the population greater than 10".

2009 Yellow Perch Length Distribution from Volunteer Angler Survey



2010 Yellow Perch Length Distribution from Volunteer Angler Survey



CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE NEEDS

Anglers were also asked to rank their fishing experience in terms of success and quality. Great strides have been made, according to your responses. About 2/3 of anglers rated their success as good or excellent, and over 3/4 of the anglers rated the quality of their fishing trip as good or excellent.

Continued support from the recreational fishery is vital. The number of length measurements submitted by our cooperating anglers is outstanding, and the geographic coverage (22 systems in 2010) also exceeded expectations. However, the low number of reports from many of those systems decreases our ability to characterize the local fishery. For example, the Chester River fishery is one of the most popular and successful fisheries, but only 4 reports were submitted. In previous years, reports from the Chester River were among the most frequent submissions. In addition, please be reminded that even a poor day's fishing is data! Please submit reports regardless of your success.