

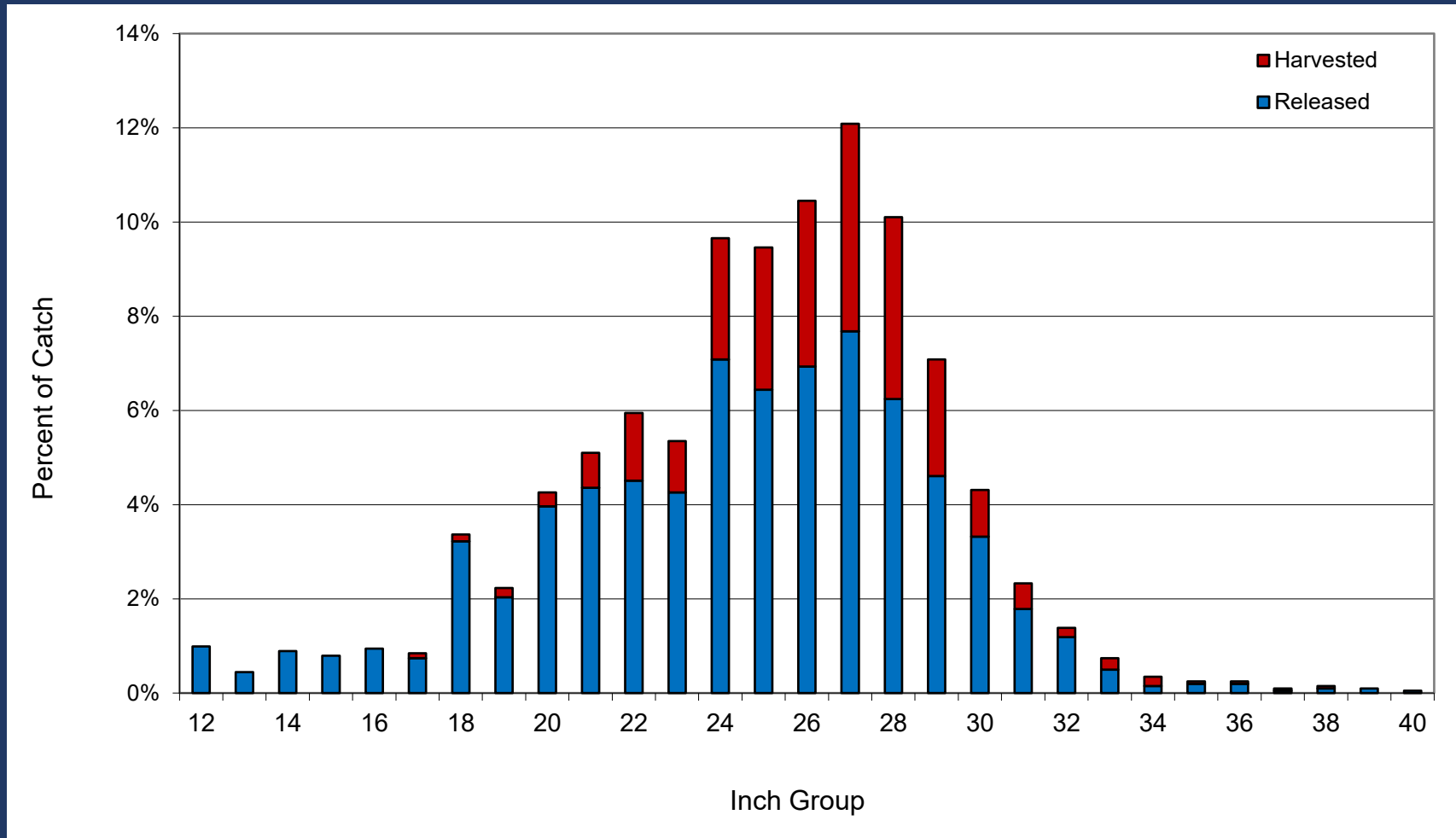
Smith Mountain Striper Club - 2026



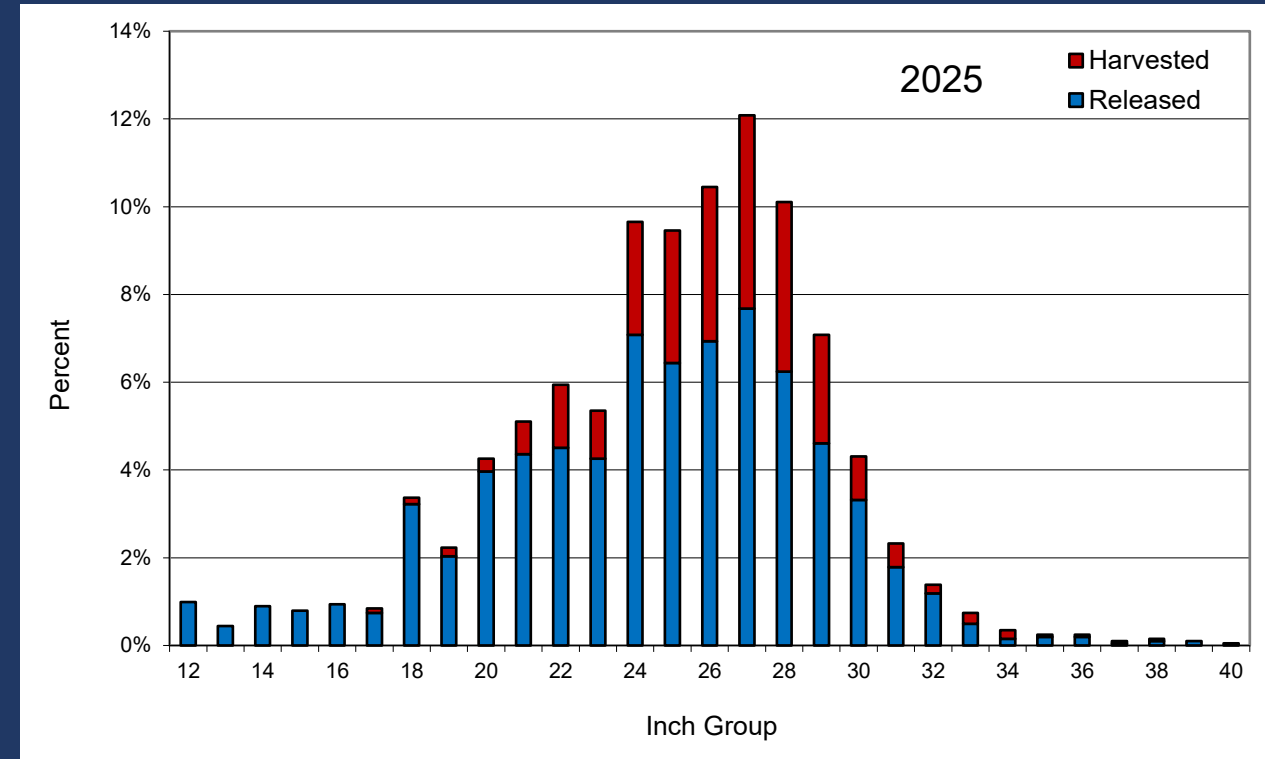
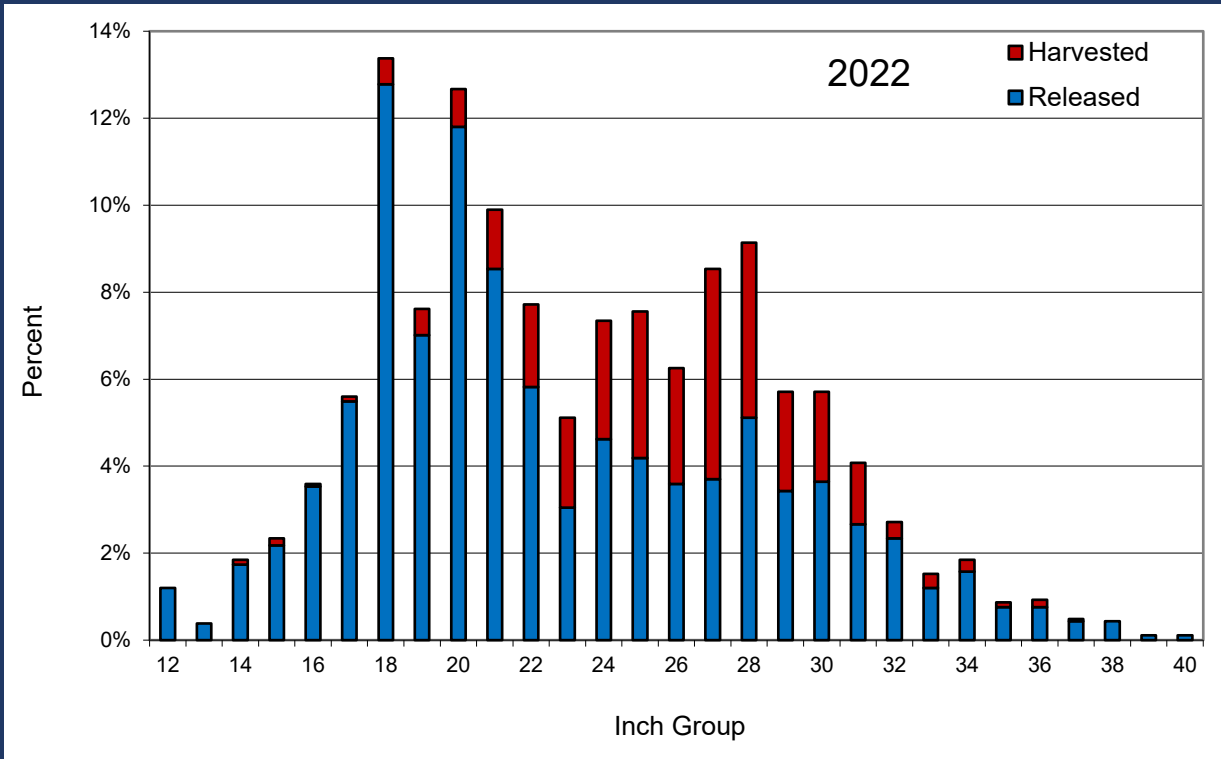
Dan Wilson



Angler Diary Data - 2025

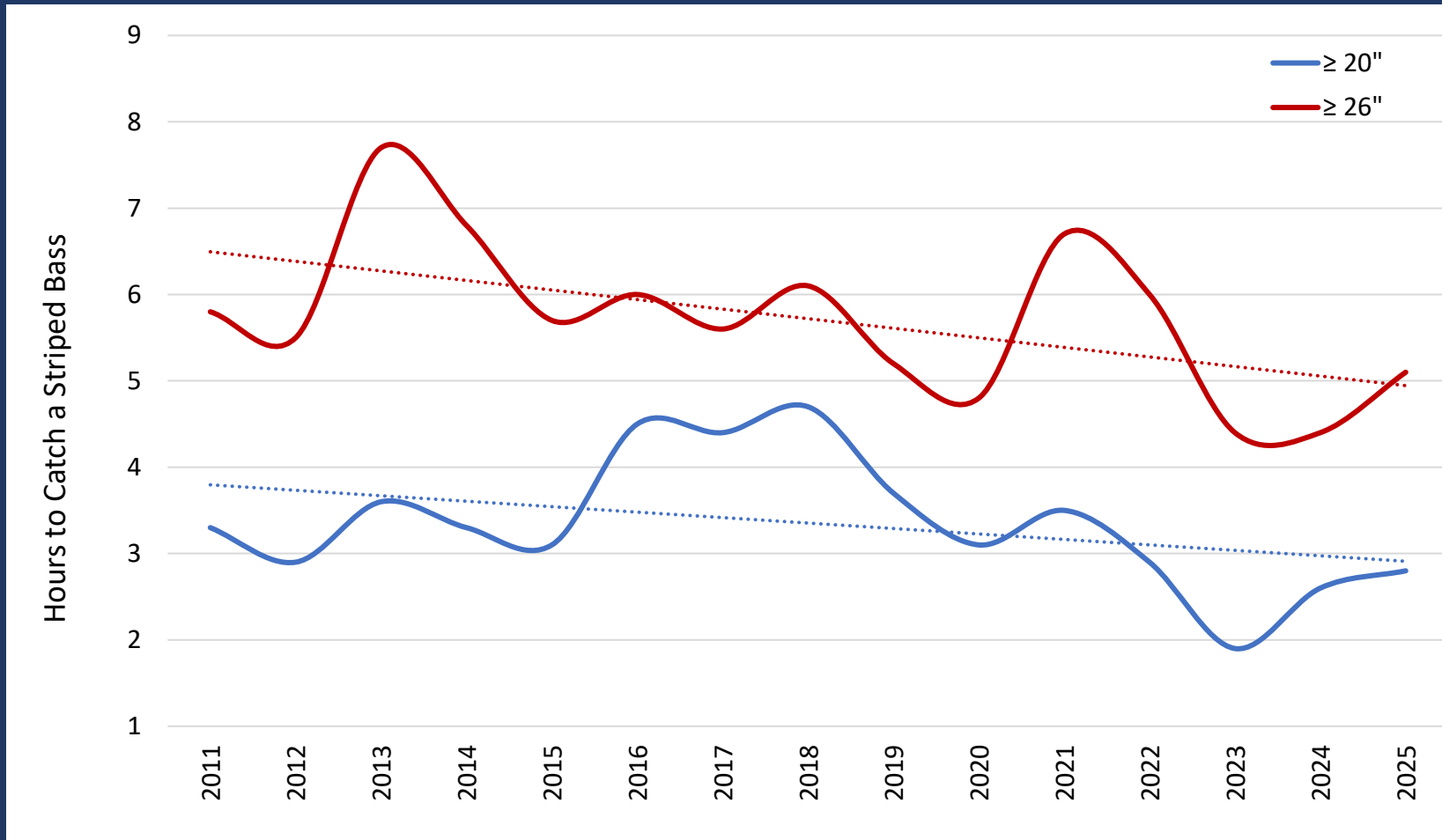


Angler Diary Data – 2022 & 2025

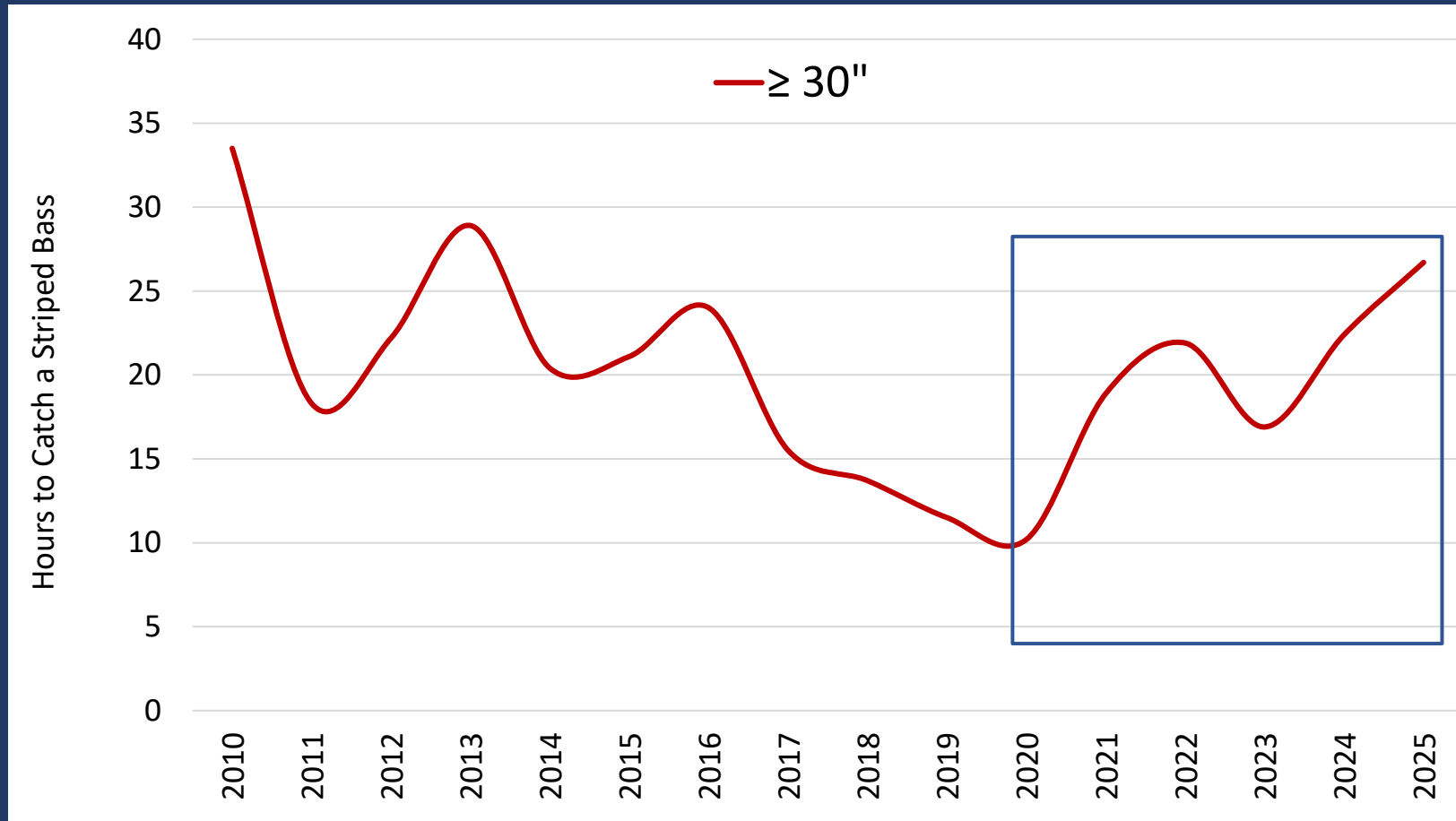


Angler Catch Rate from Diaries

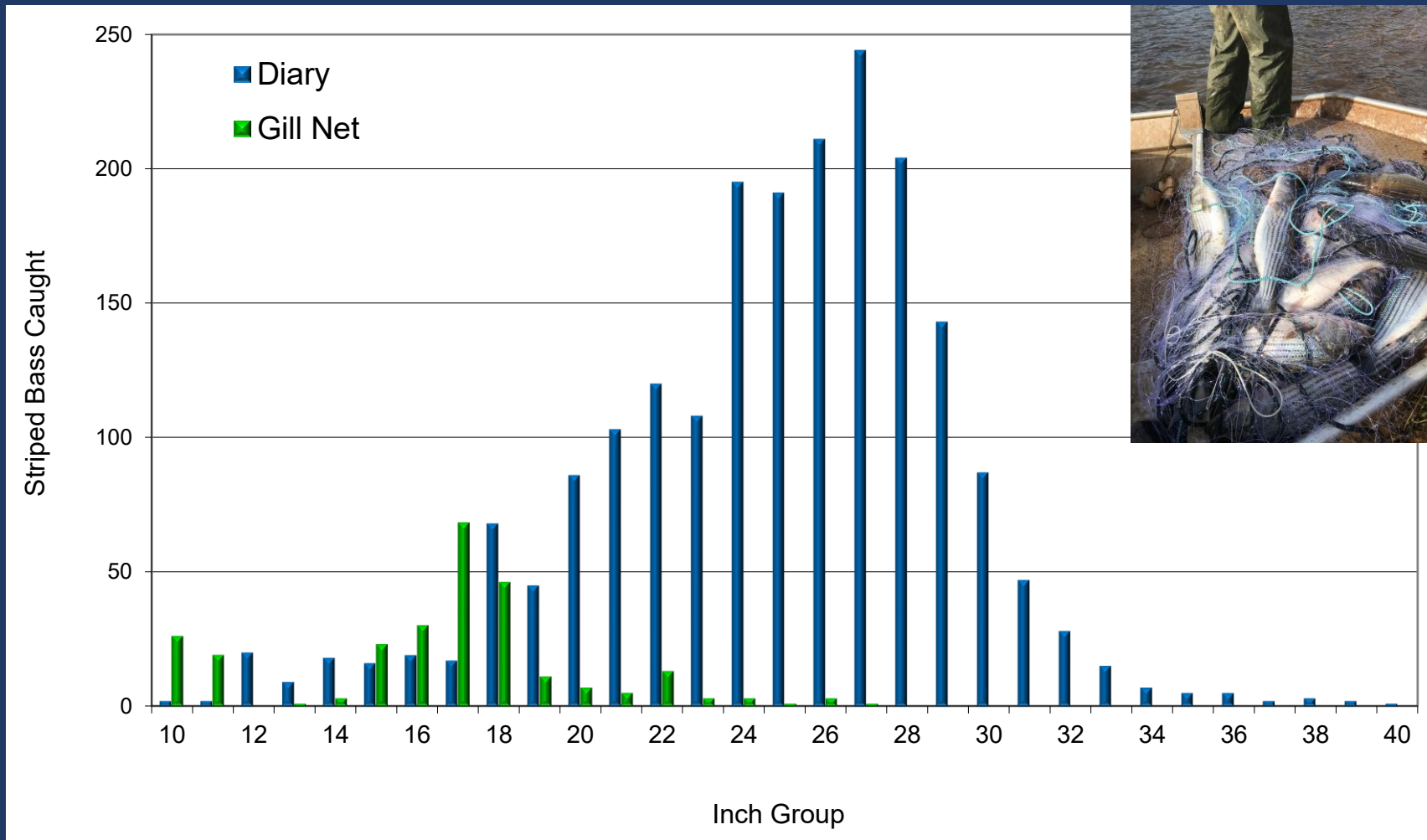
(hours of fishing to catch a Striped Bass)



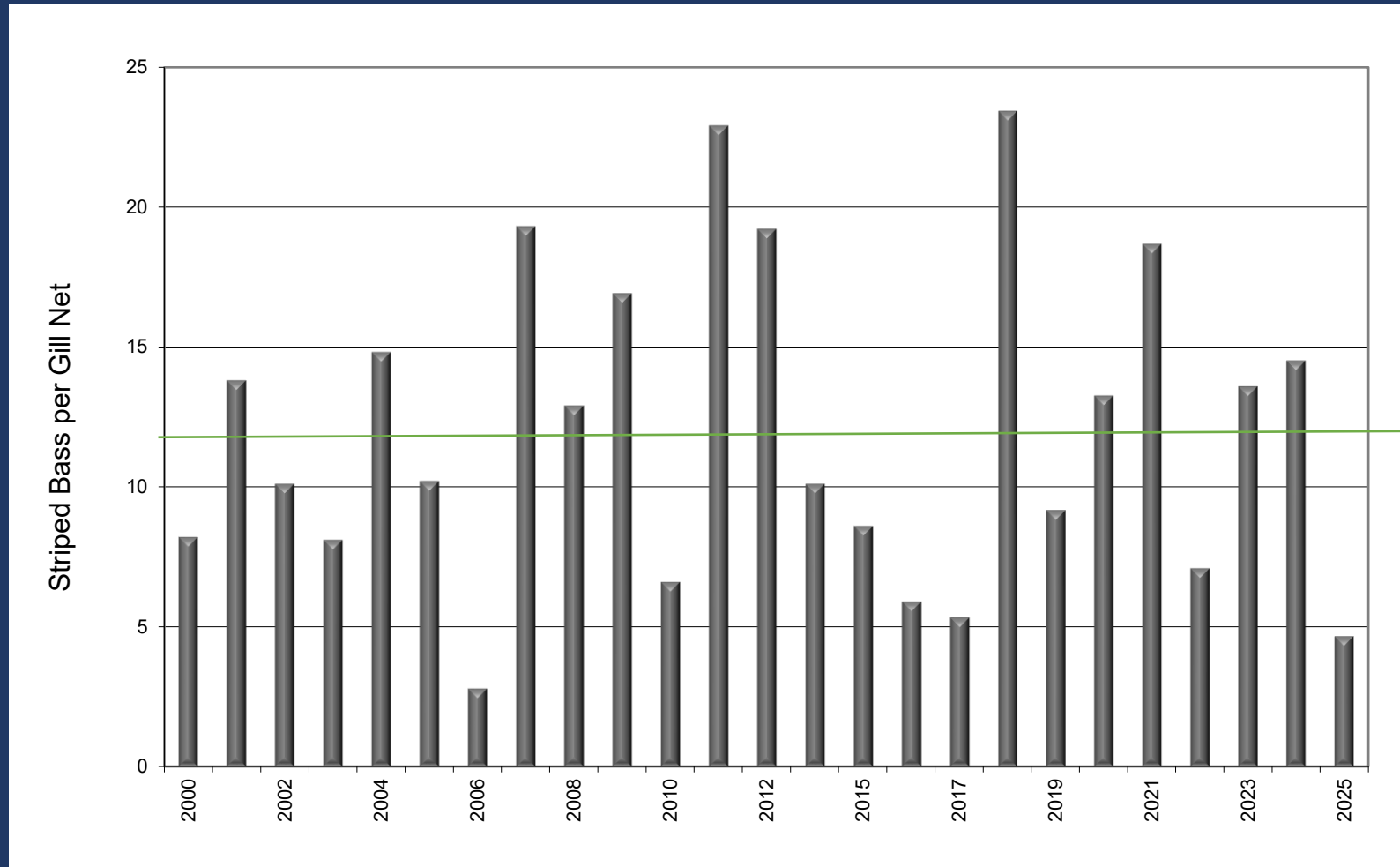
Angler Catch Rate from Diaries



Gill Nets & Diaries - 2025



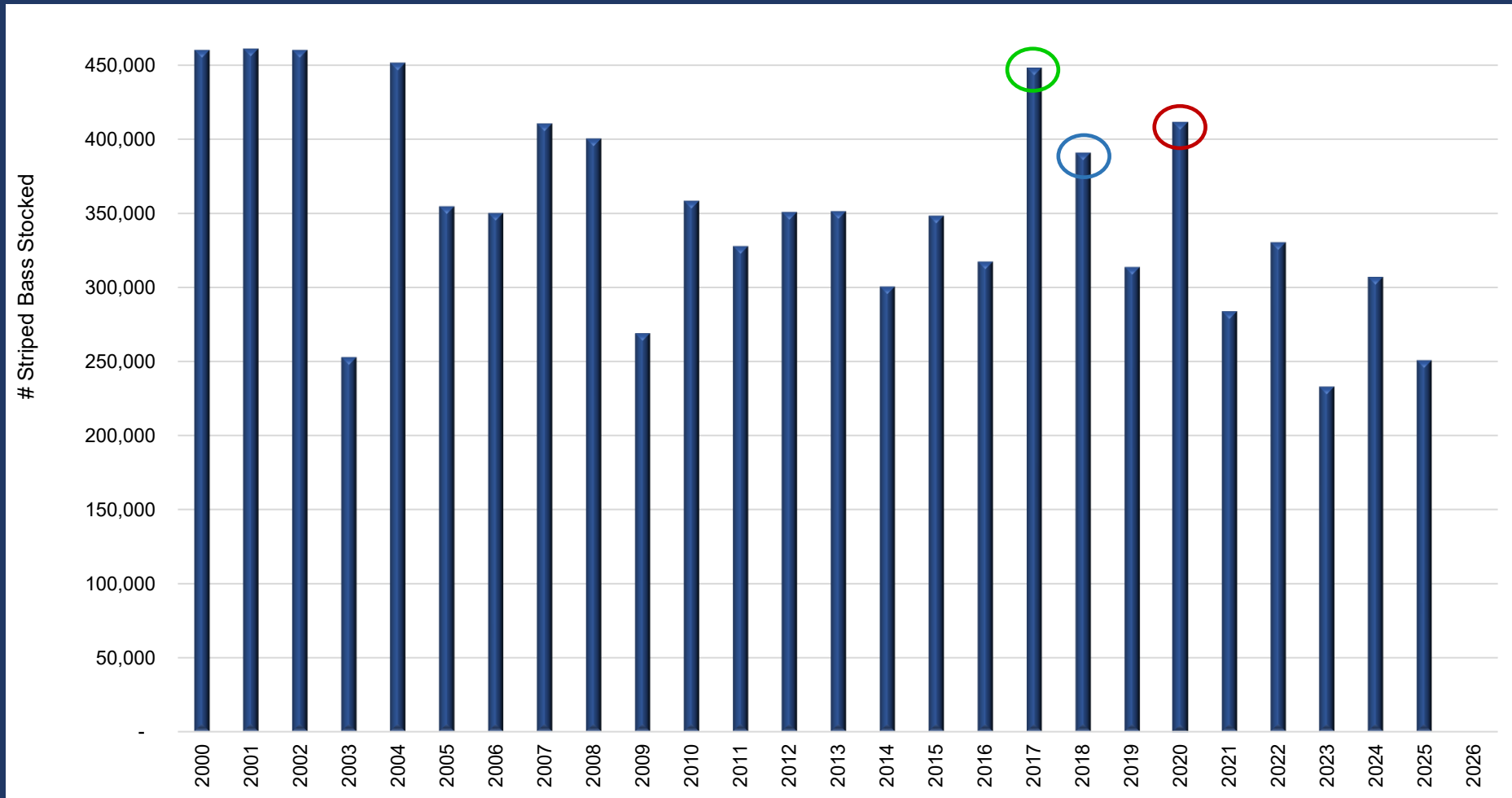
Gill Nets - Striped Bass Age 1½



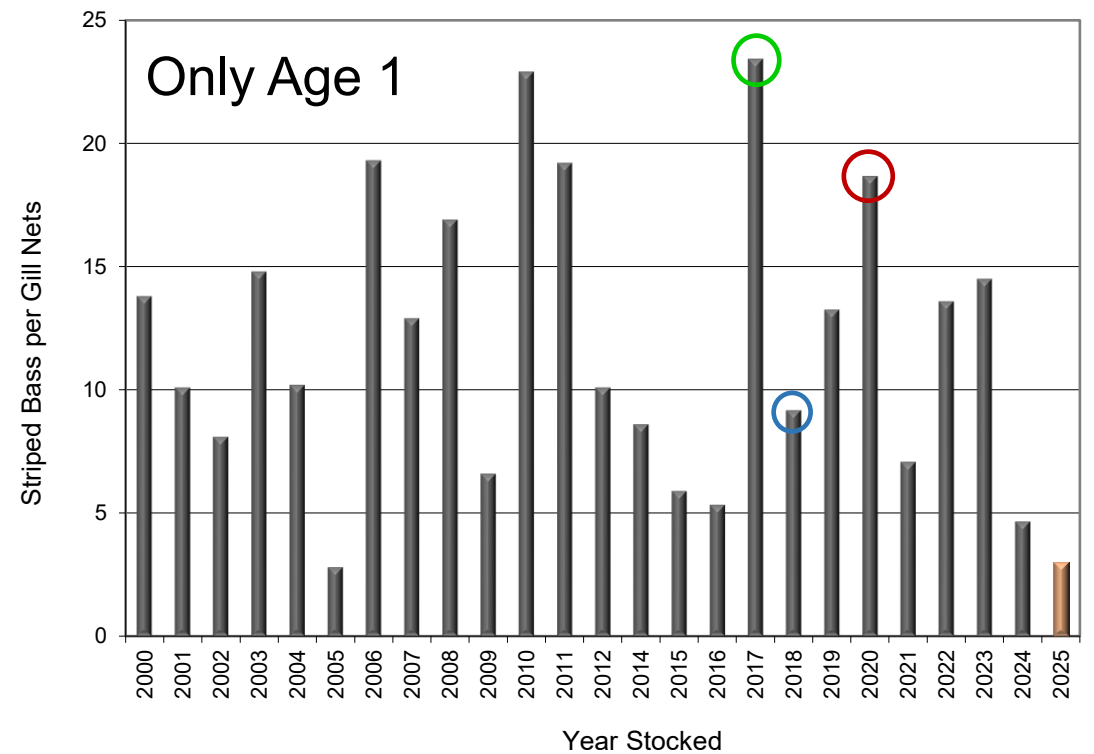
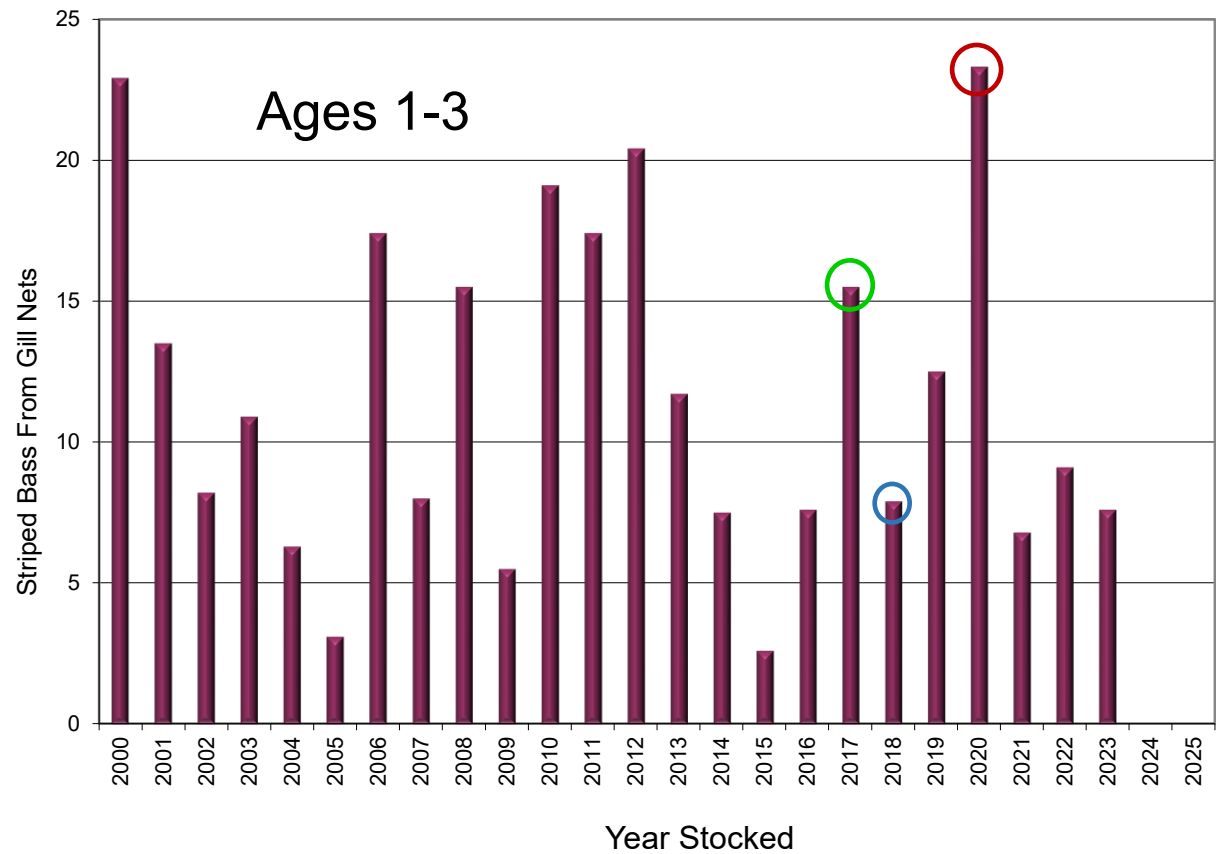
Average



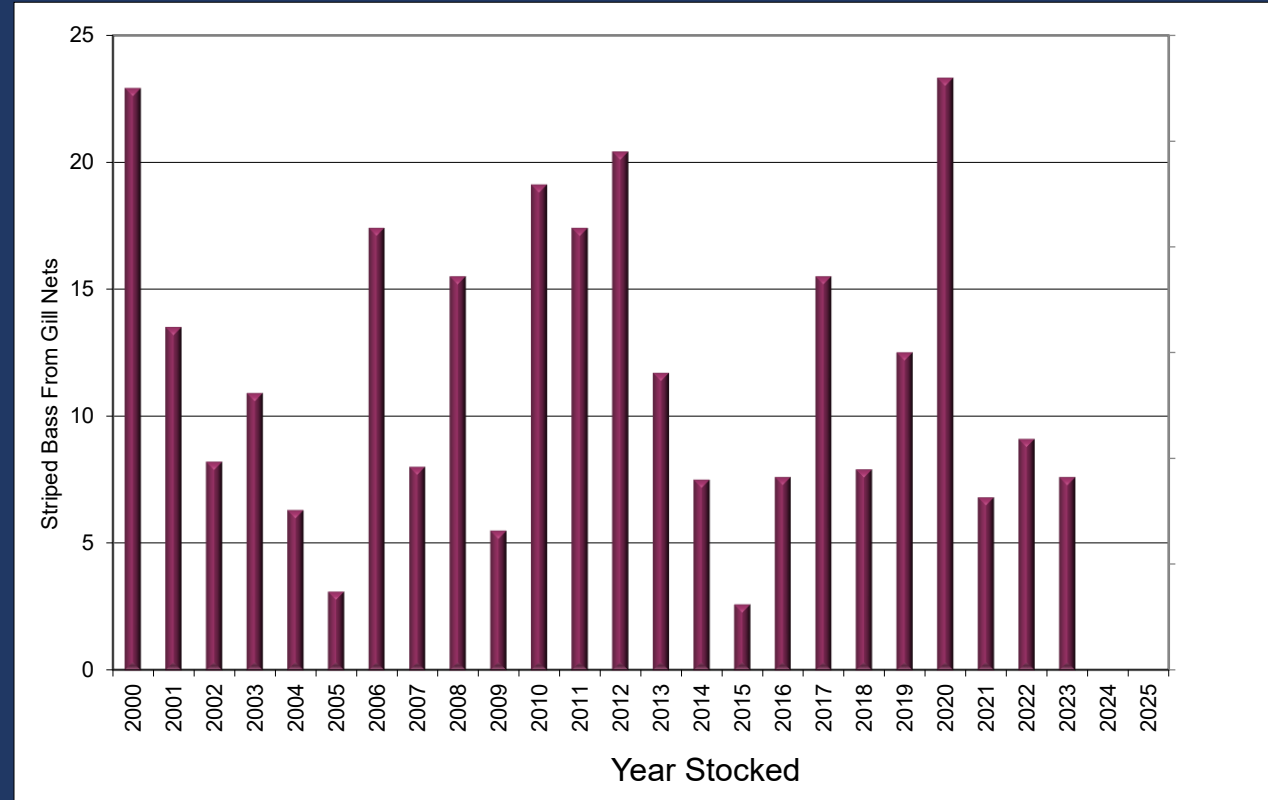
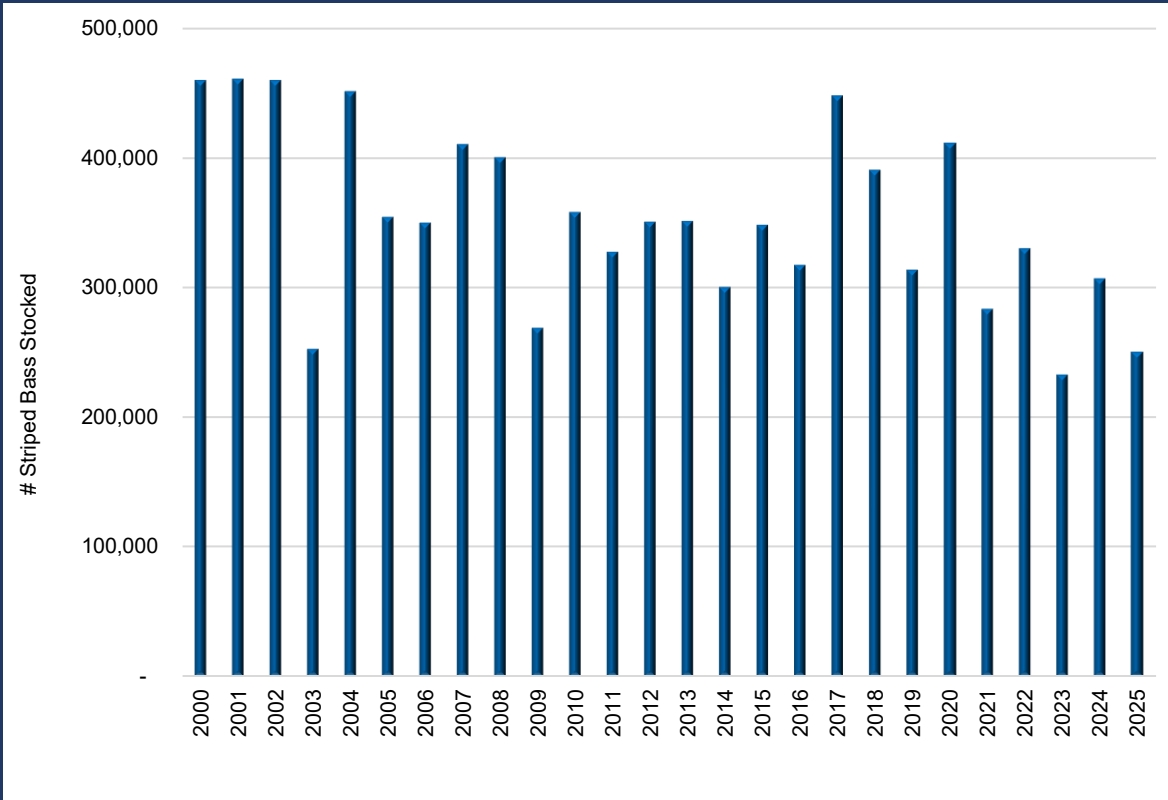
SML Striped Bass Stocking



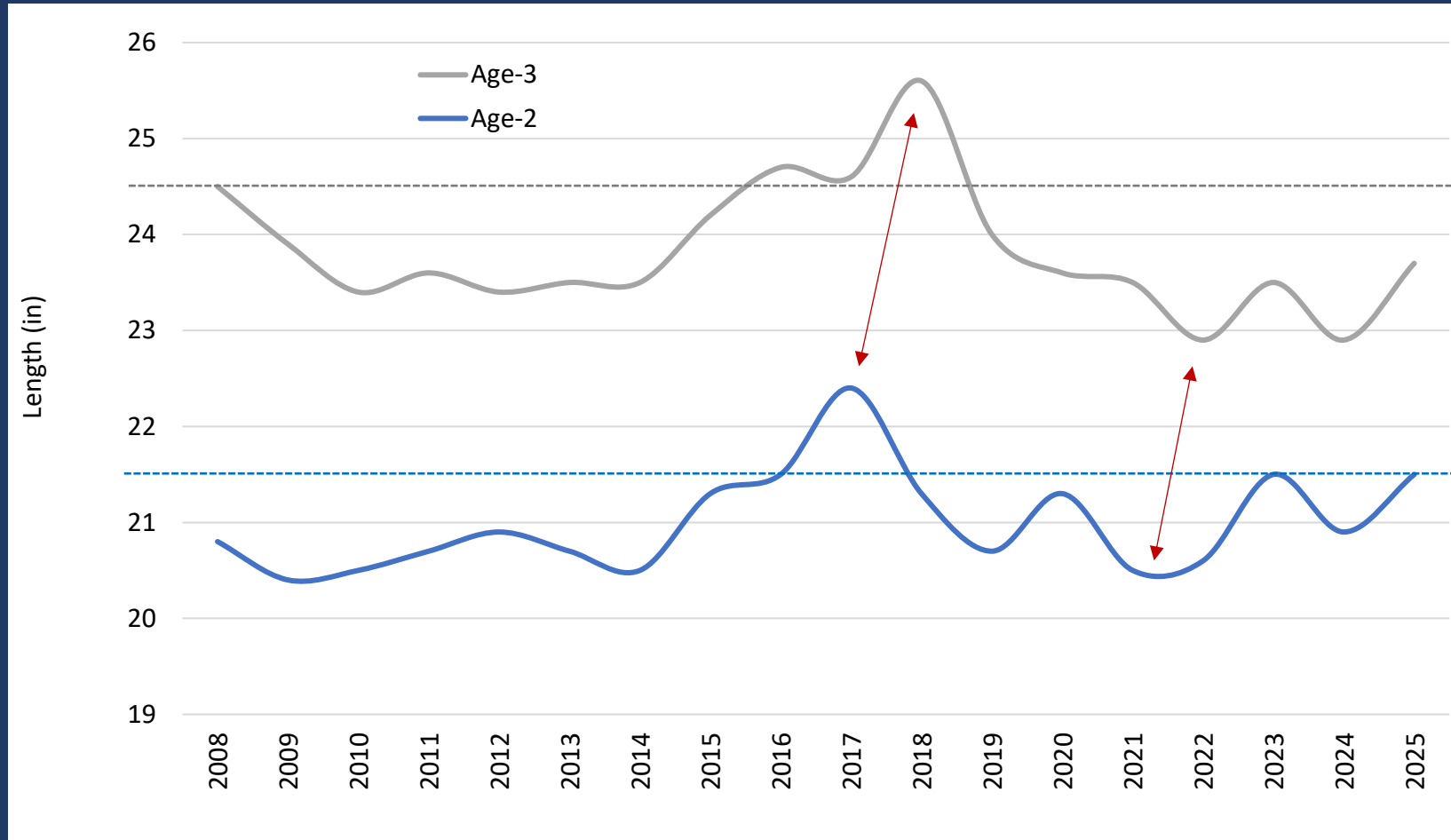
Gill Nets - Striped Bass Survival Index (Based on Ages 1-3)



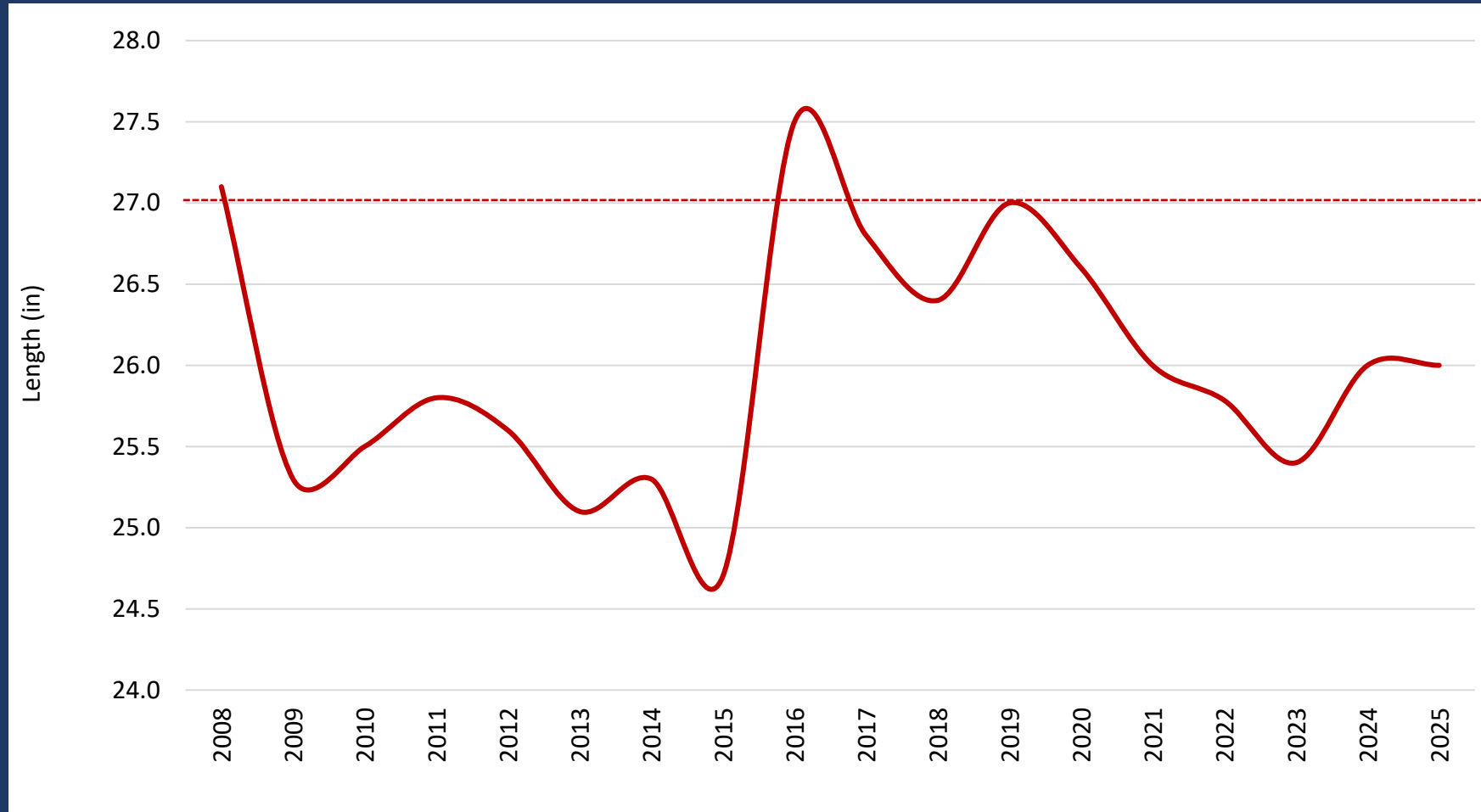
Stocking vs Gill Nets



2 & 3 Year Old Striped Bass Growth

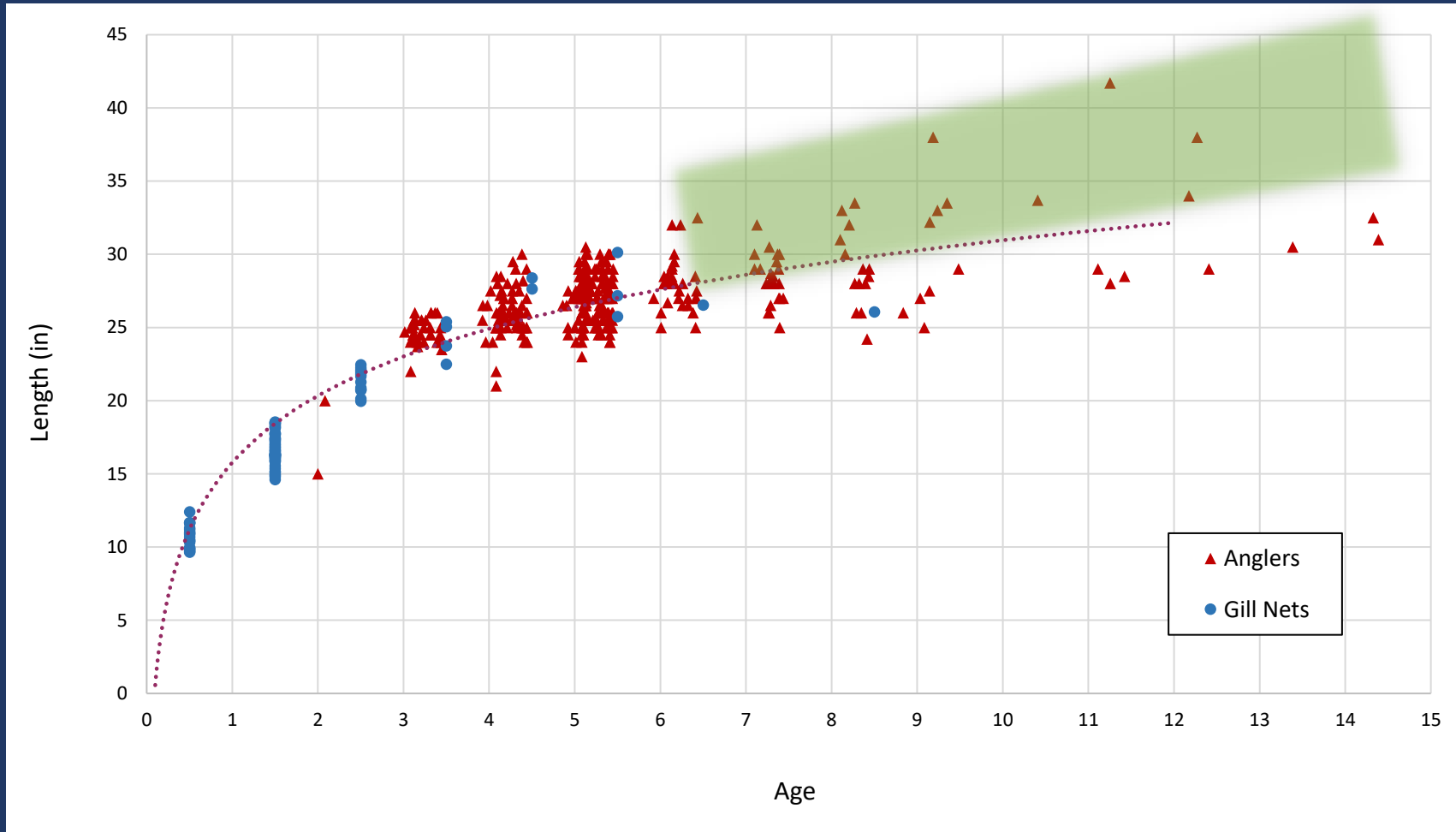


4 Year Old Striped Bass Growth

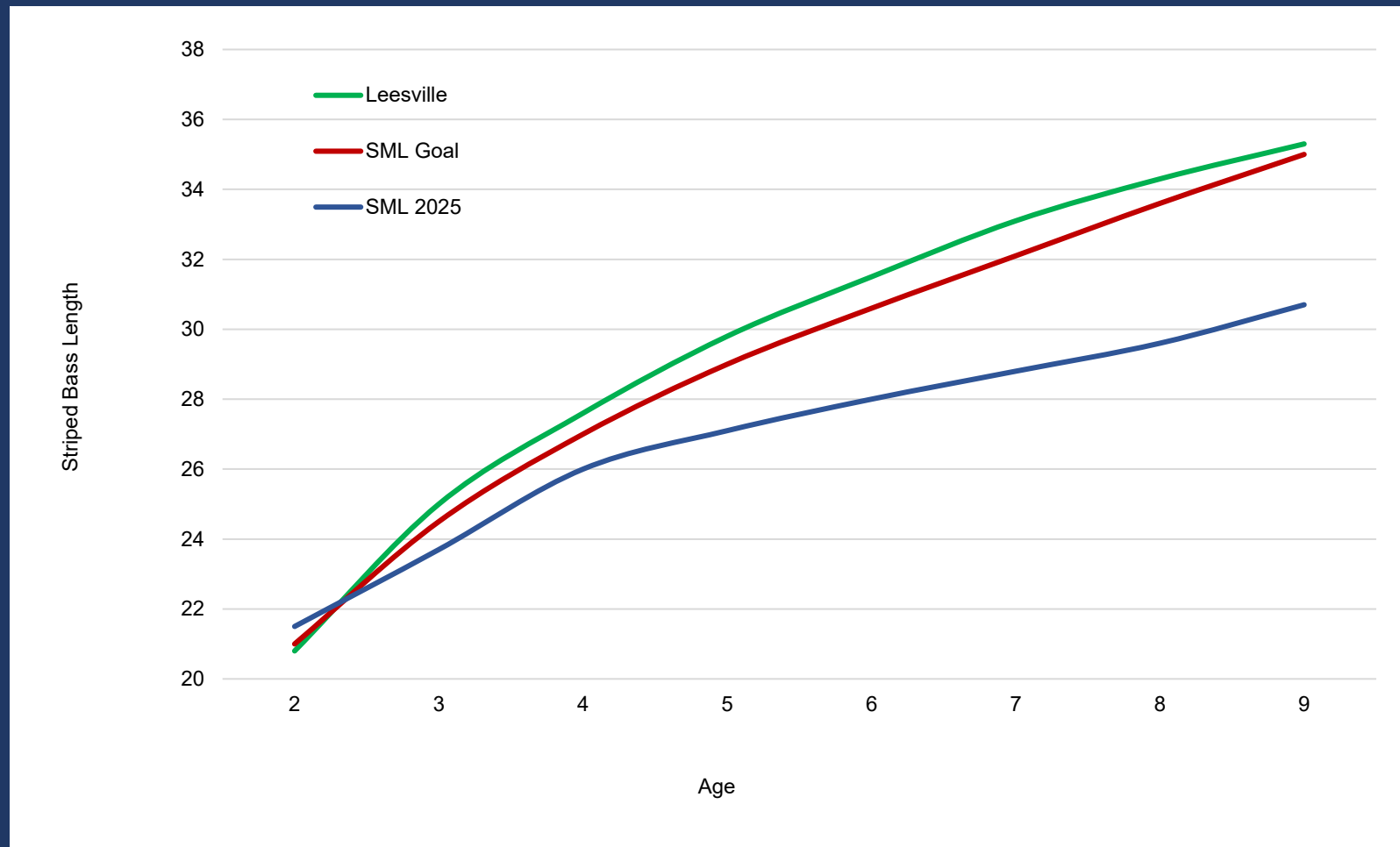


Striped Bass Ages vs Lengths – 2025

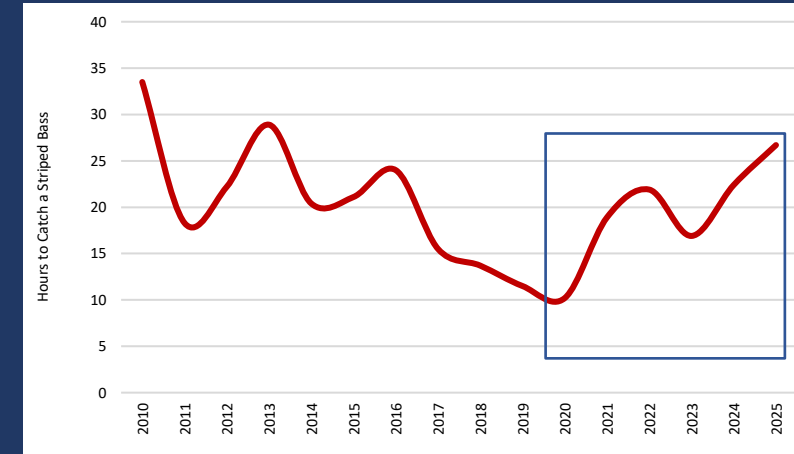
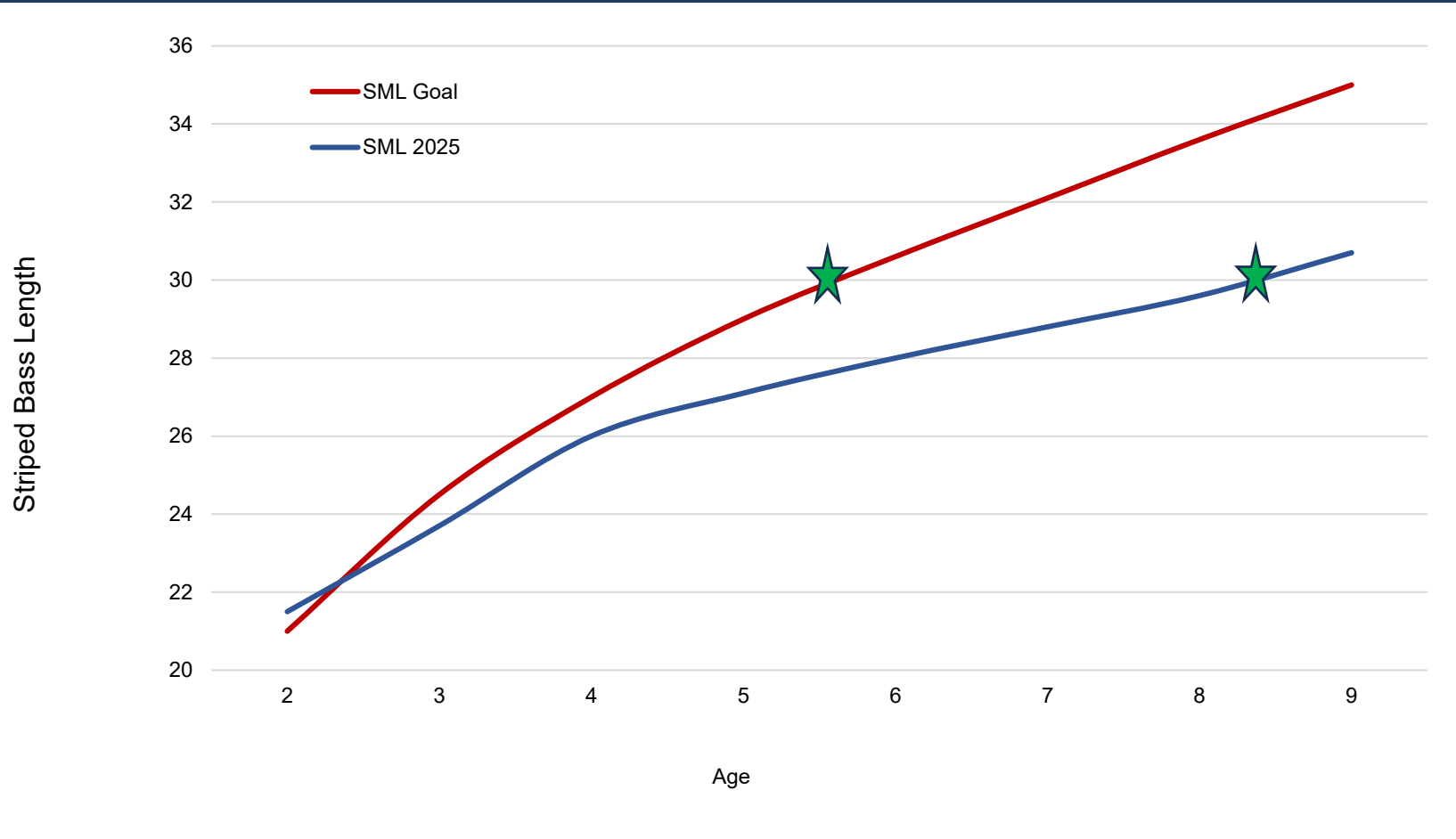
(N = 370 Anglers, 50 Nets)



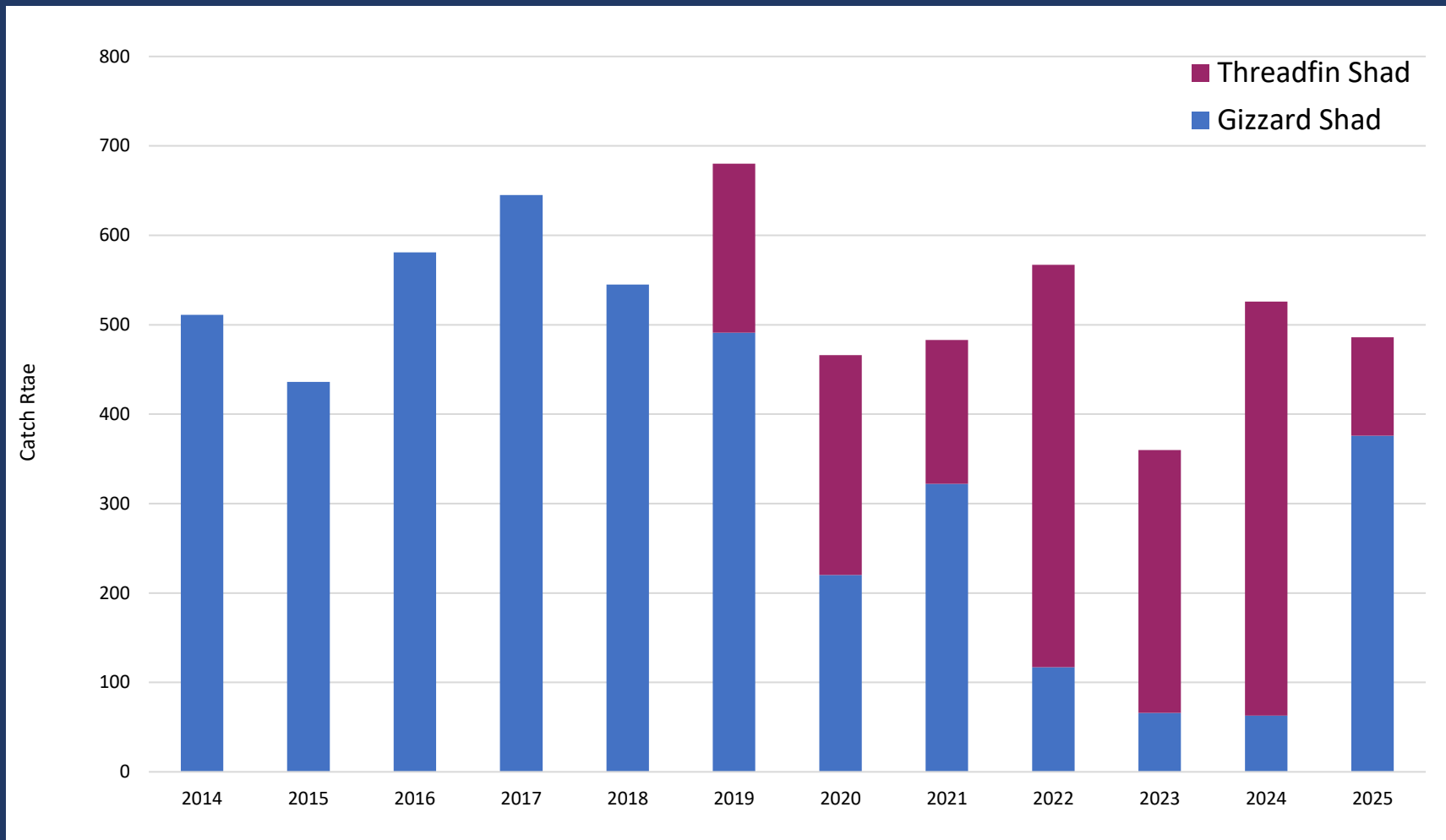
SML Striped Bass Growth



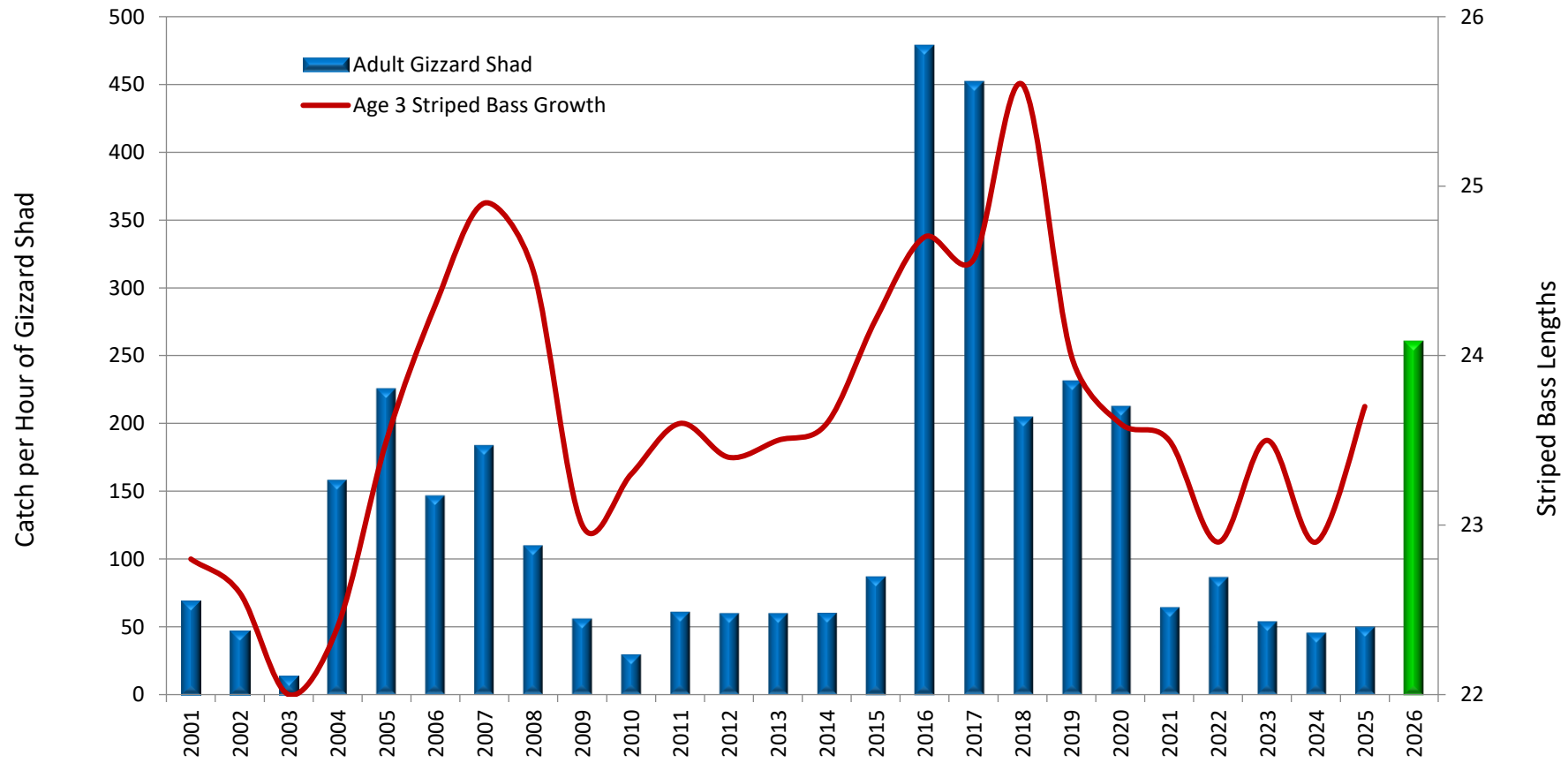
SML Striped Bass Growth



SML Shad

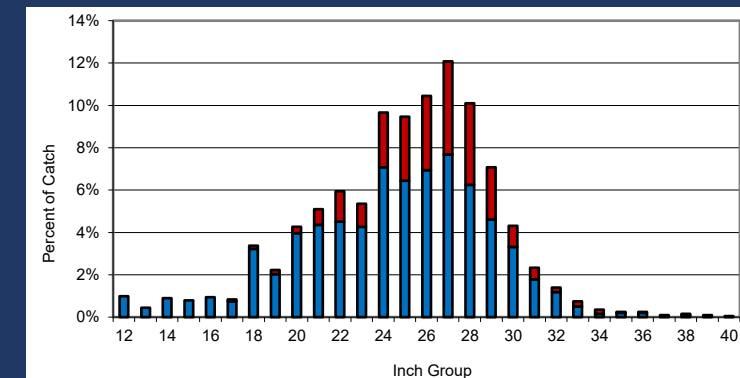
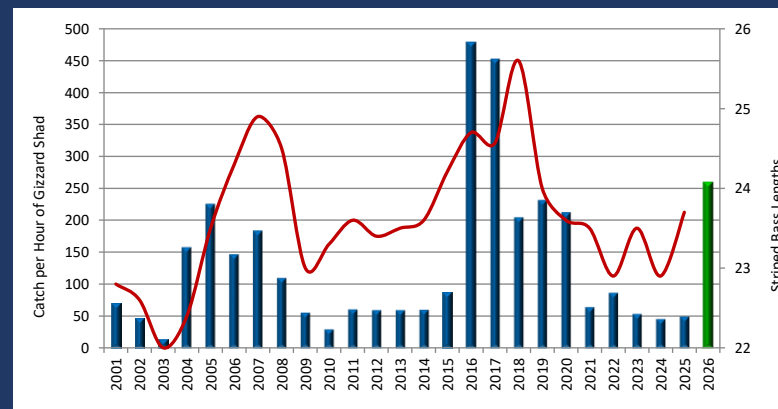
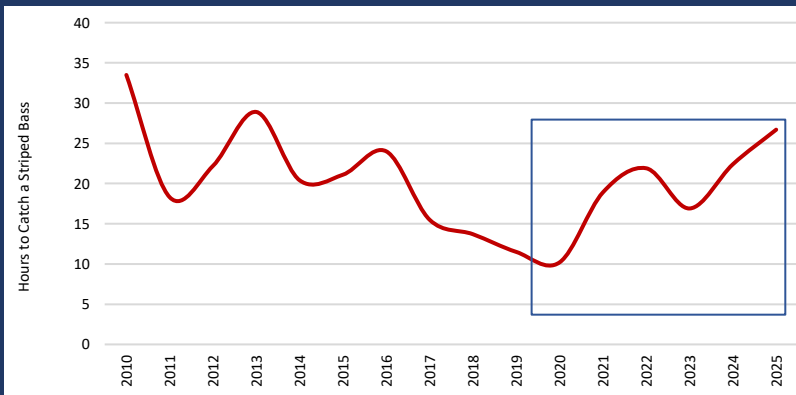
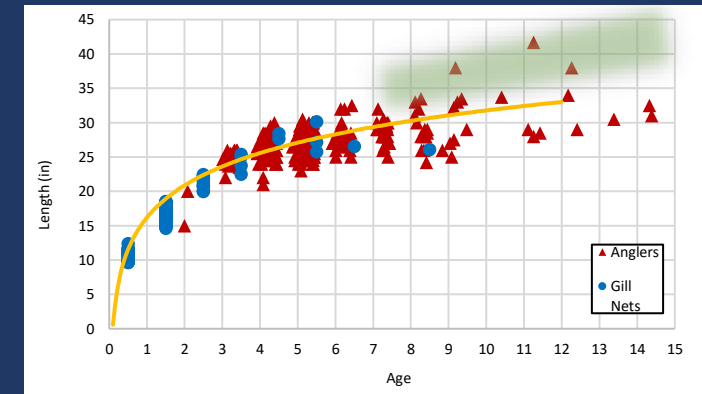
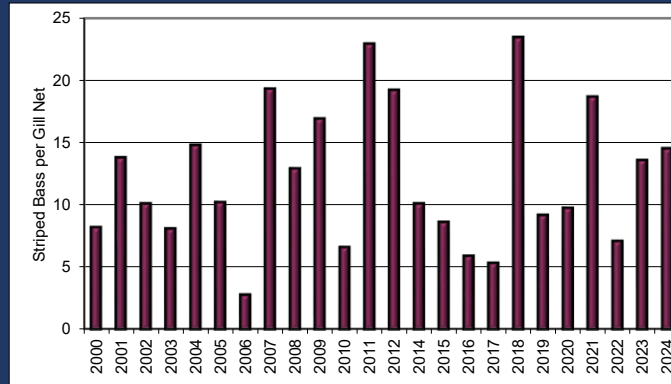


SML Shad



How Are Stocking Rates Determined?

- Recent stocking #'s & survival
- Striped Bass growth
- Forage Base
- Angler Catch Rates
- Striped Bass size and age structure

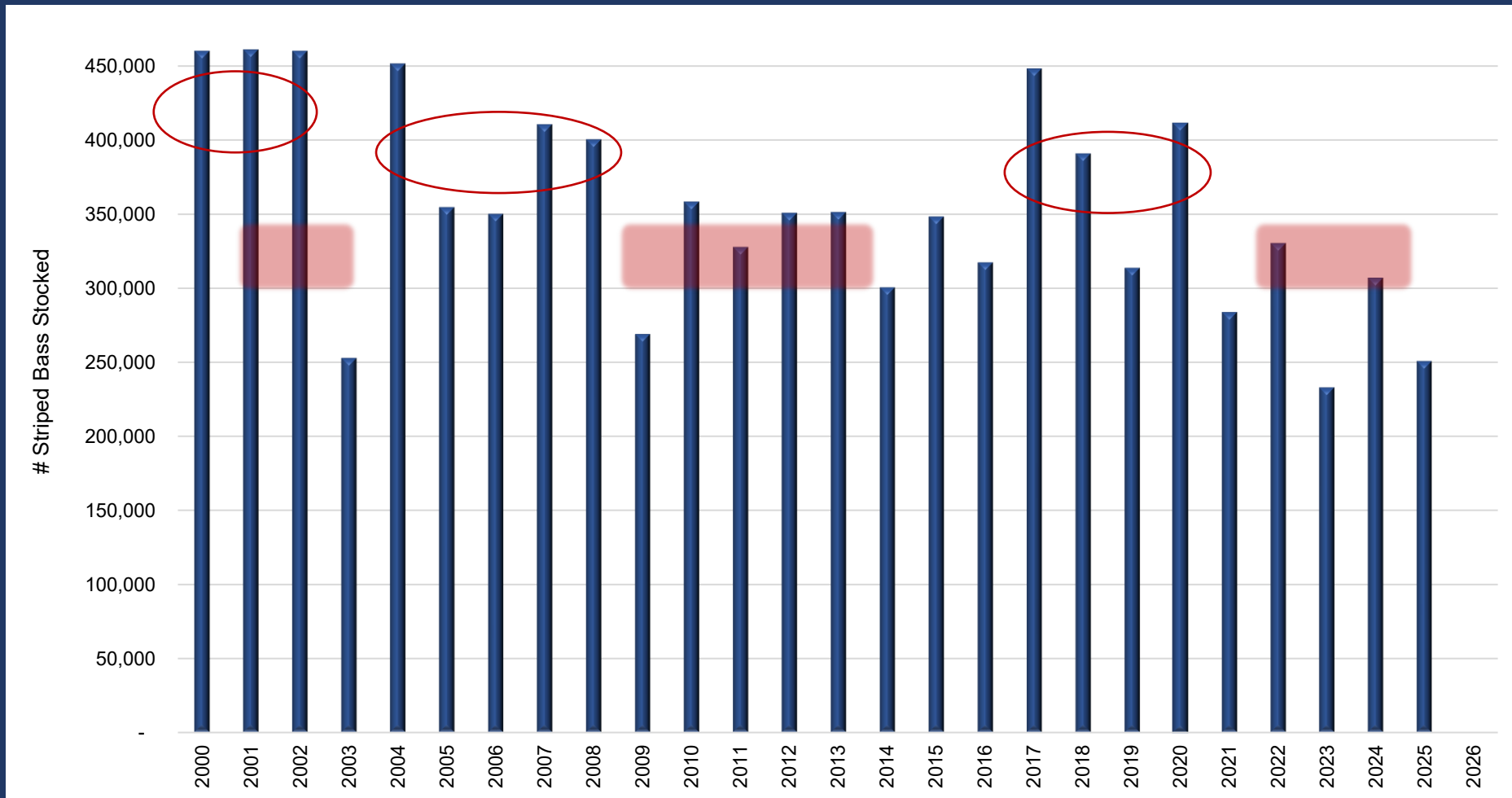


How Are Stocking Rates Determined?

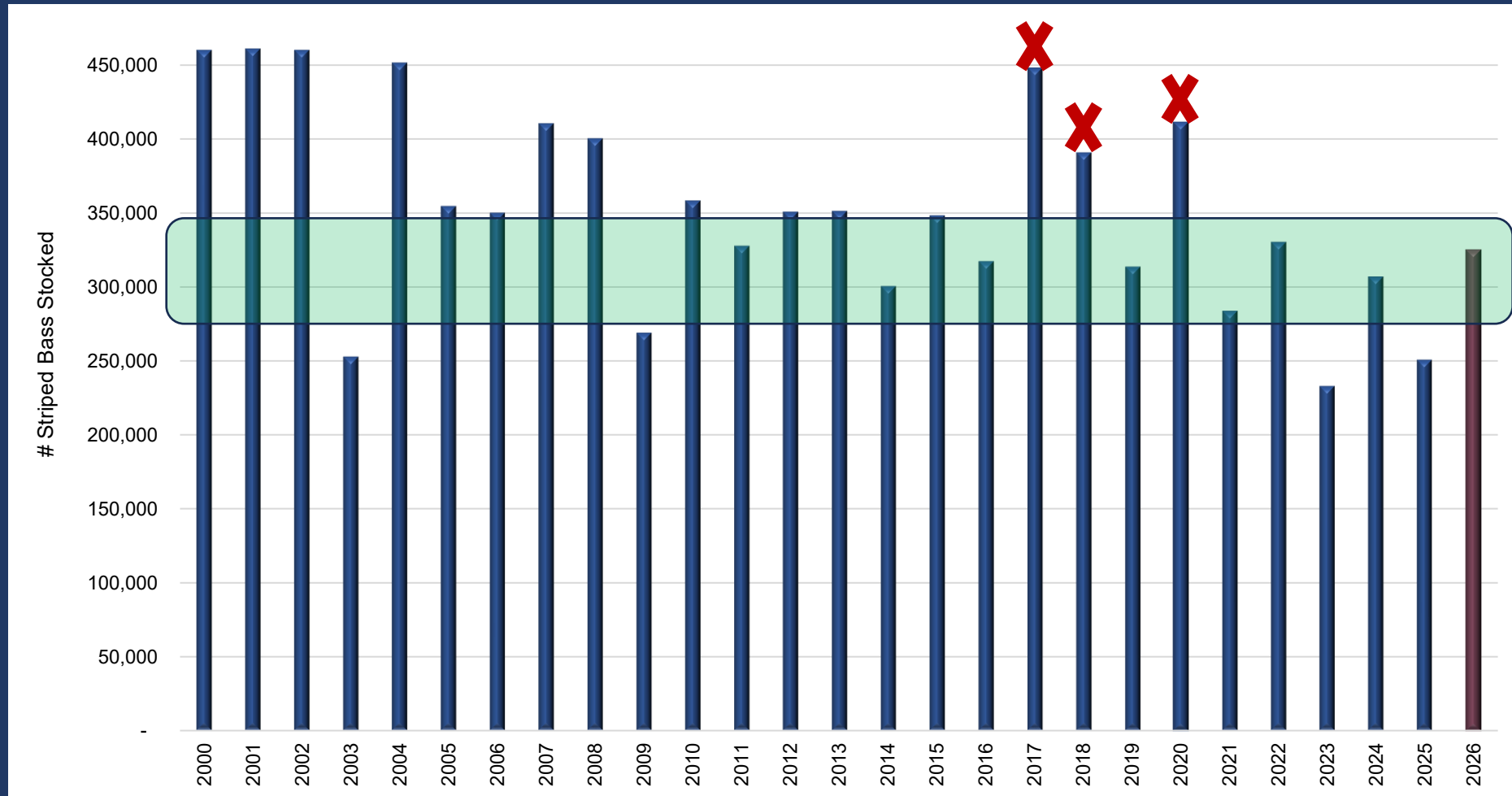
(Planning for 2026)

- Recent stocking survival
 - Less than average #'s stocked since 2021 (intentional), stocking survival in 2024-2025 appears to be lower than normal (not intentional)
- Striped Bass growth
 - Growth is not at management goals yet, but is improving for younger fish
- Forage Base
 - There are positive shifts in the forage base
- Angler Catch Rates
 - Angler catch rates are still good, but starting to decline (indicates adult fish #'s are declining)
- Striped Bass size and age structure
 - The large 2020-year class that caused most of the recent negative impacts, is fading

SML Striped Bass Stocking



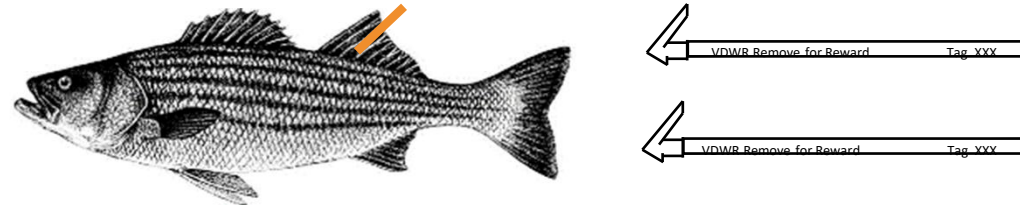
SML Striped Bass Stocking



\$\$\$\$ Reward \$\$\$

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and Coastal Carolina University are currently conducting a Striped Bass Tagging study.

Rewards: Orange Tags= \$25 each & White Tags= \$150
Fish with orange tags will have 1 or 2 tags. Please remove all tags.



Tags MUST be returned for reward

333 Stripers Tagged

14 Reward \$25
250 Reward \$50
69 Reward \$150

49 (15%) Tagged
Stripers Reported
Caught

6 Reward \$25
30 Reward \$50
13 Reward \$150

Mail tags to address
printed on tag or drop off at
the following locations:
Indian Point Marina
SML Tackleshack
VA DWR Forest office

Information needed with tag:
1. Name and address
2. Fish harvested or released (most vital)
3. Date caught
4. Fish length
5. Caught with live or artificial bait
6. Nearest marker # (example R28, B12)
7. How many tags did fish have (1 or 2)

For more information, please contact Dan Wilson (Dan.Wilson@dwr.virginia.gov)

Thank you for your assistance!
Tag reports are vital to study success.

Funding and support provided by:



Questions?

\$50



\$150



Stocking 2017-2020

2017 = 13 ramp stockings

2018 = 13 ramp stockings

1st Year pelagic stocking 2020

2020 = 10 ramp stockings (61%)

5 pelagic trips (39%)

Do Striped Bass Float if Died After Release?

Striped Bass that died, left the area where they were released. (no floaters immediately after release)

8 Striped bass were caught, sacrificed, placed on the bottom at 30-50 ft depths (C&R mortality study fish that died, rested on bottom at 35'-45')

4 days later

- 1 fish near shoreline but on land
- 7 still on lake bottom (88%)

6 days later

- 1 fish on land approximately 90 ft from shoreline
- 1 fish on shoreline
- 5 still on lake bottom (63%)

7 days later

- homeowner finds partial striper with tag on shoreline (one of 5 remaining from previous day)

10 days later

- 1 fish on shoreline
- 1 fish too far from lake to pinpoint location (not where placed on day 1)
- 2 fish near shoreline but on land

Do Striped Bass Float if Died After Release?

- All Striped Bass that died, immediately left the area from where they were released
- All recovered tags had either partial or no body parts remaining
- * You will NOT find dead fish the next day where you fished if some died after they were released