

10-Brook Trout Bag Limit Summary

Coldwater Resources Steering Committee
September, 2016

Gaylord



Upper Peninsula 10 Brook Trout Bag Limit Regulation Study



- Study will run during 2013-17 on 11 UP rivers
 - Treatment rivers with 10 fish bag
 - Experimental control rivers
 - Additional rivers chosen for potential expansion of the regulation in 2015
- Electrofishing, creel, postcard, and online surveys will be used to obtain both biological and fishing-related information

Going in

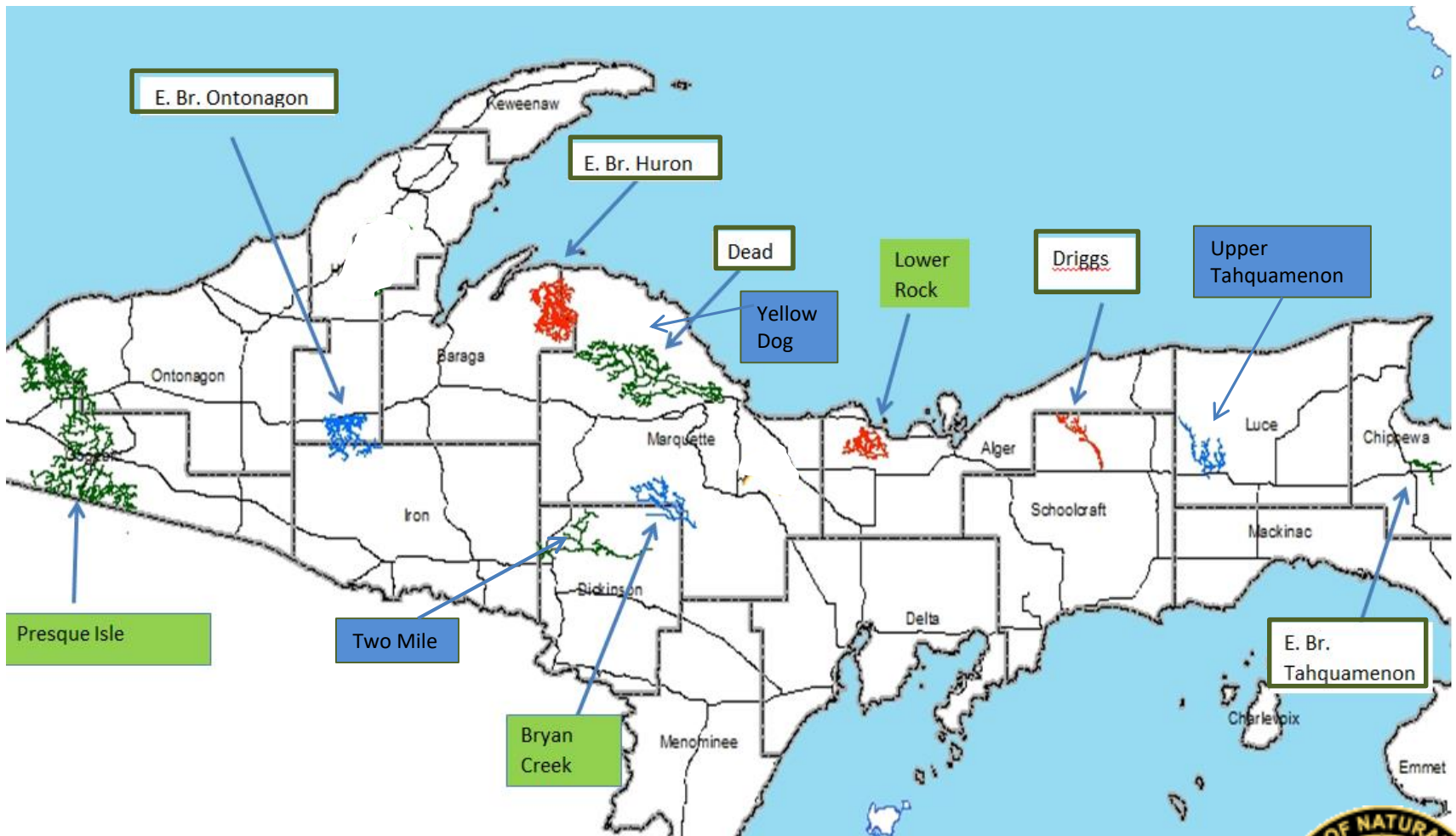
- 10-brook trout bag predicted to have minimal effect on populations (based on biology, field and angler surveys, computer simulations)
- Opportunities to harvest more fish predicted to increase angler interest/participation/effort



5 Treatment 2013

3 Treatment 2015

3 Control



Electrofishing

Numbers of legal-sized fish

- Treatment ↓ (-58%)
- Control ↑ (+47%)

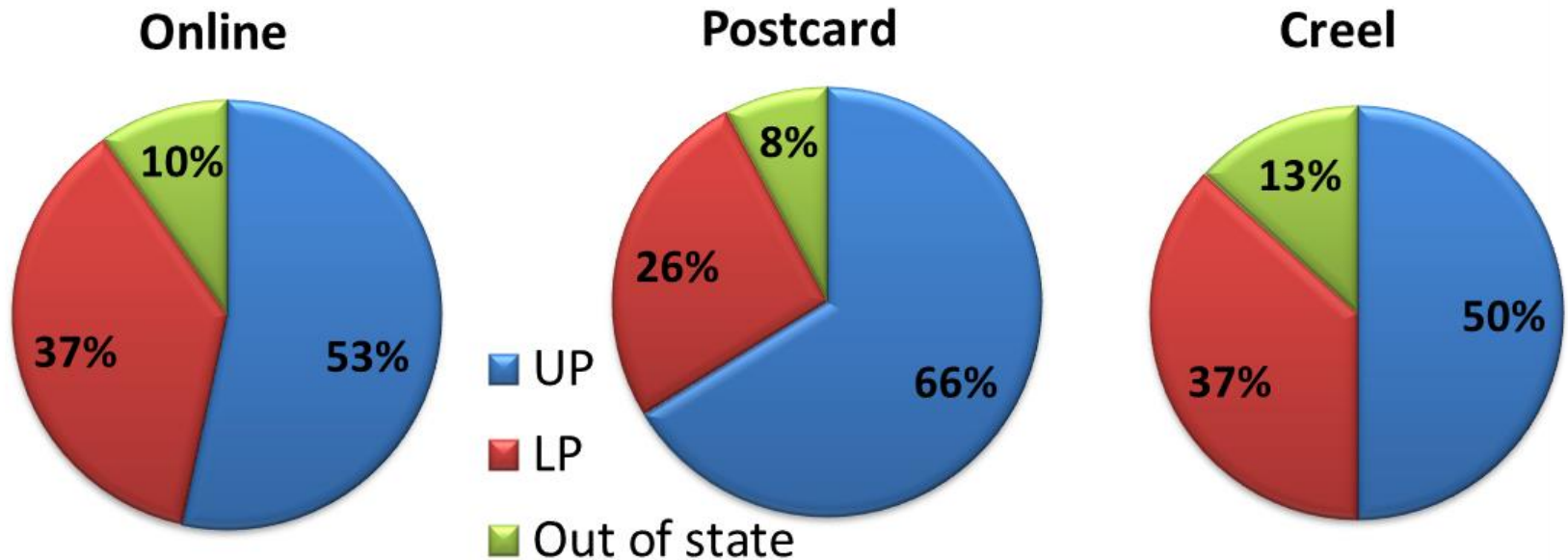
Creel survey estimates

Data from 4 streams (Treatment & Control)

- Local pop. depletion under 10 bag?
- Decreased effort under 10 bag?

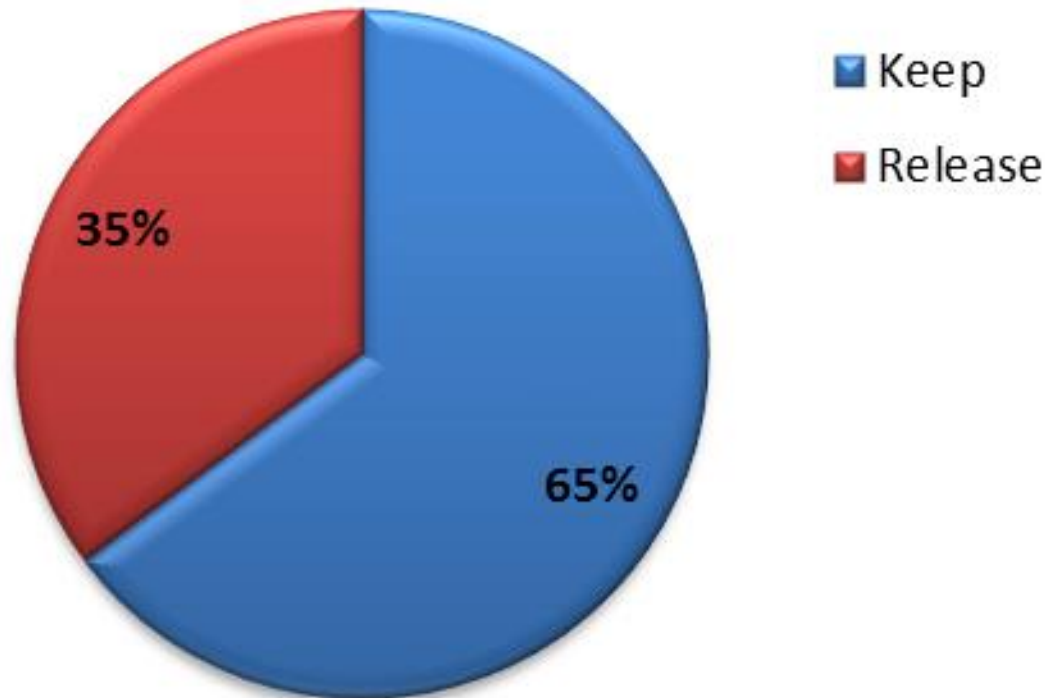


Residence of brook trout survey respondents



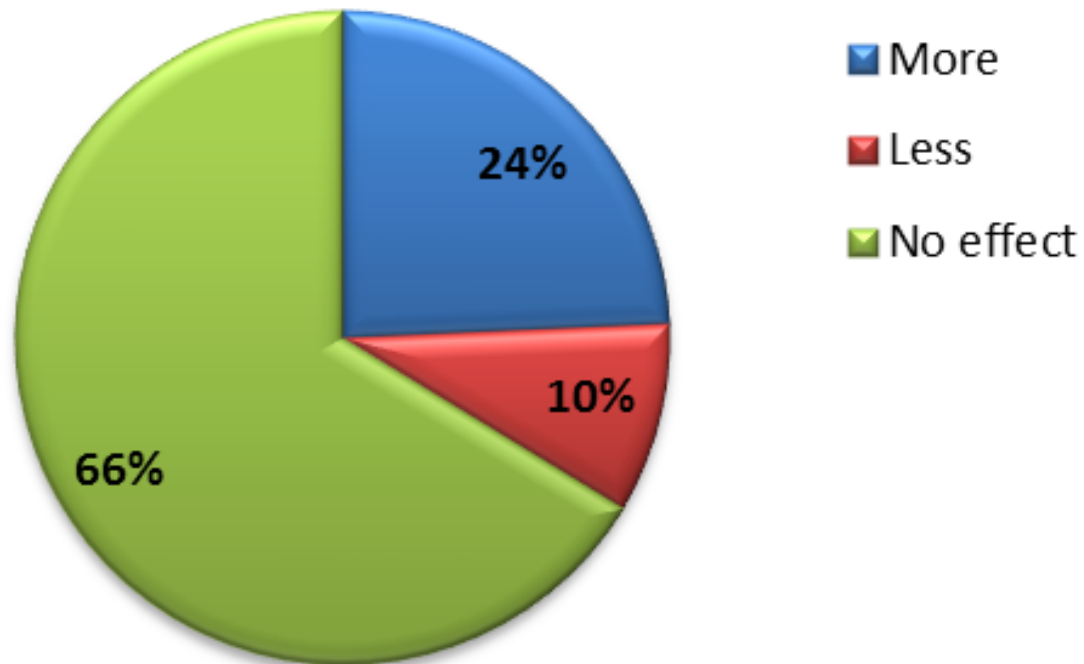
When you catch a legal-sized trout, what do you usually do with them?

N=383



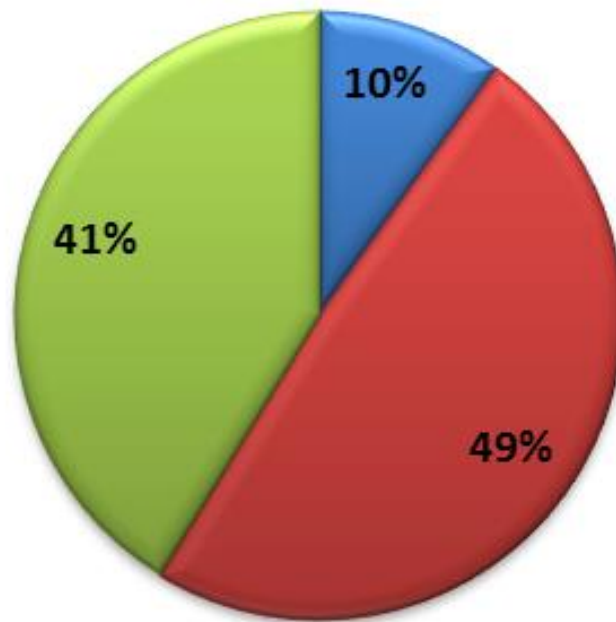
How does/would having a 10-brook trout bag limit on a river influence how often you'd fish there?

N=362



In your opinion, how does/would having a 10-brook trout bag limit affect a river's brook trout population?

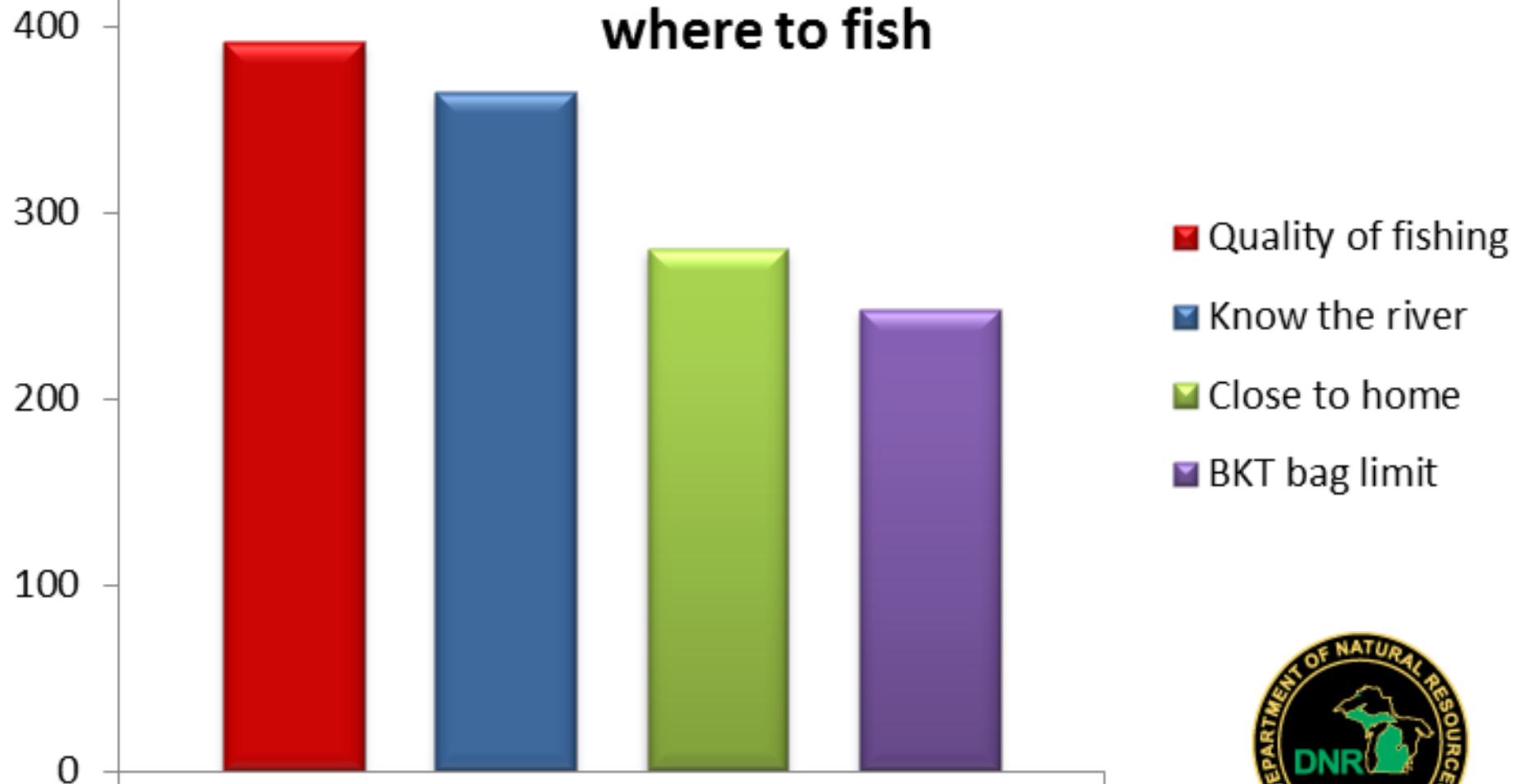
N=383



- Positive
- Negative
- No effect

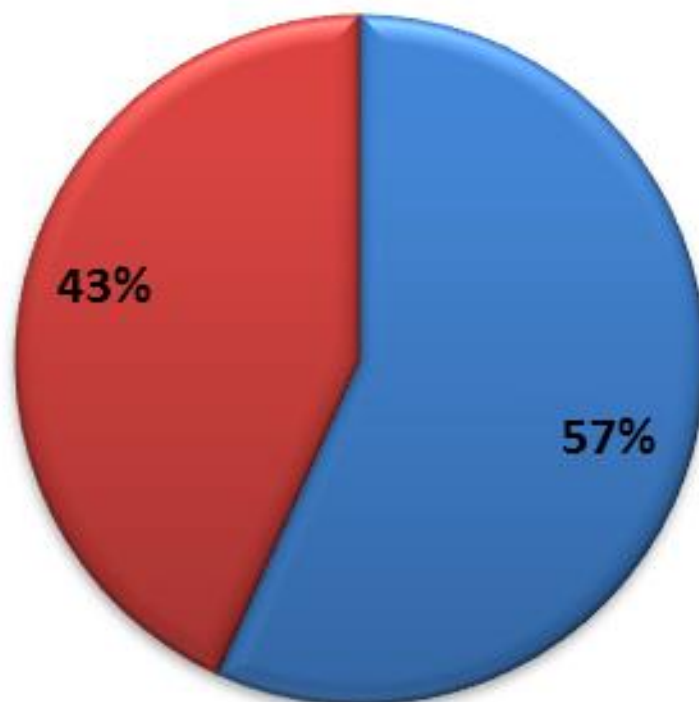


Importance of factors that helped you choose where to fish



Which brook trout bag limit do you personally prefer for all UP rivers?

N=384



■ 5 fish

■ 10 fish



Preliminary indications

Minimal effect on populations?

- UP brook trout populations highly variable
- 10-fish bag has potential to deplete local pops

Increase angler effort?

- Bag limit relatively unimportant to most anglers
- Decreased effort due to 10-fish bag ?
- Majority of anglers prefer 5-fish bag

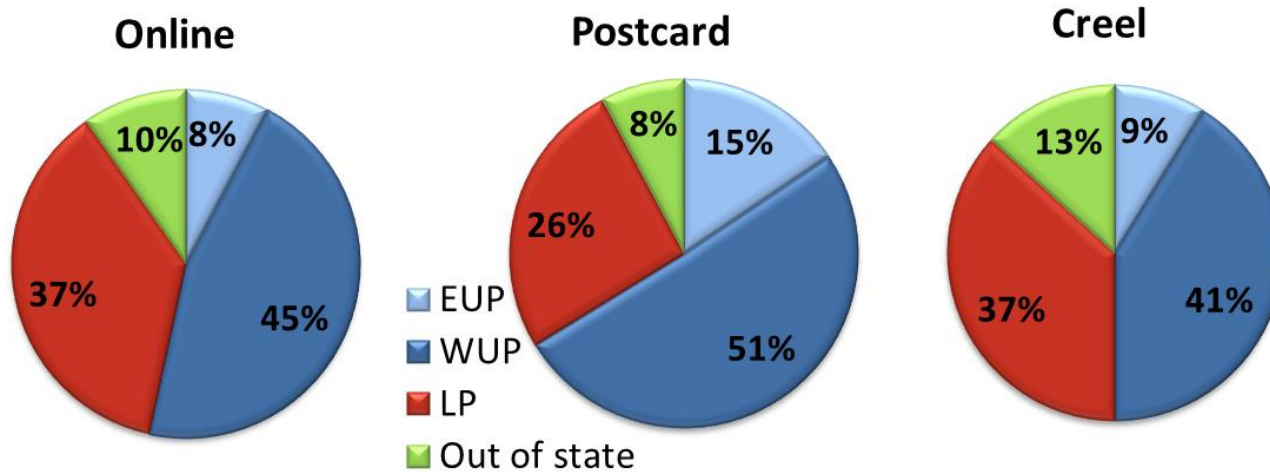
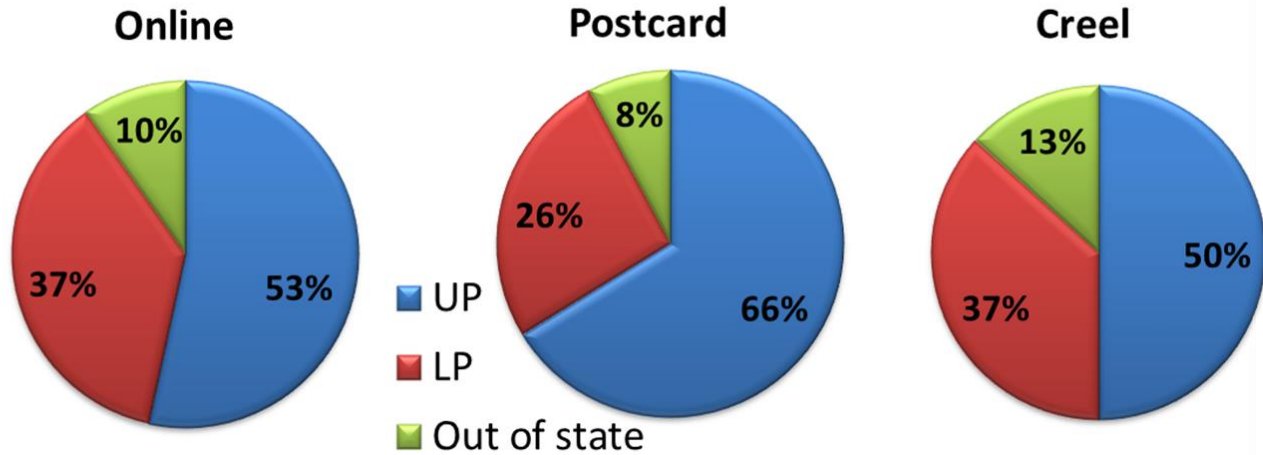


Thank you

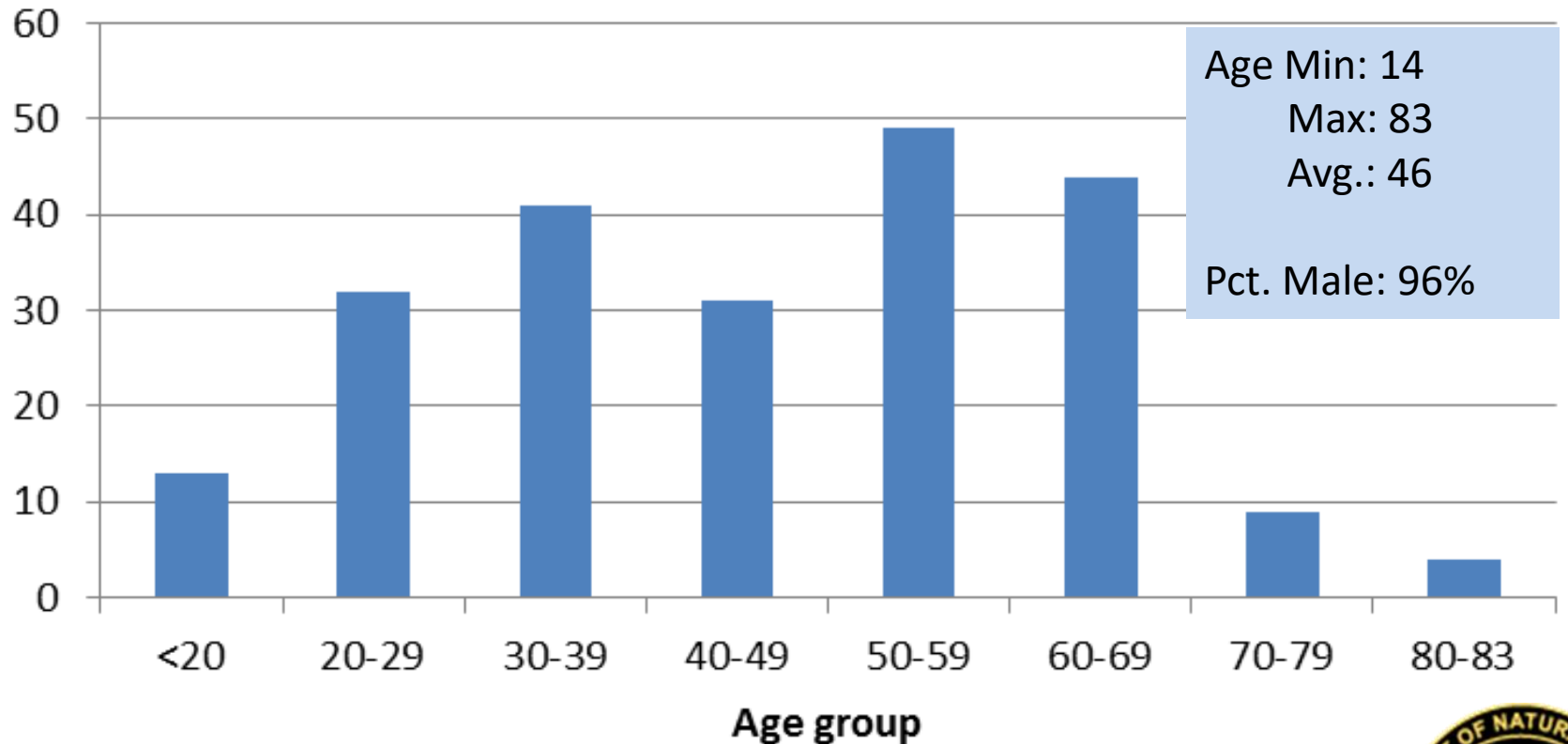
Questions and comments?



Residence of brook trout survey respondents



Number of anglers (creel survey)

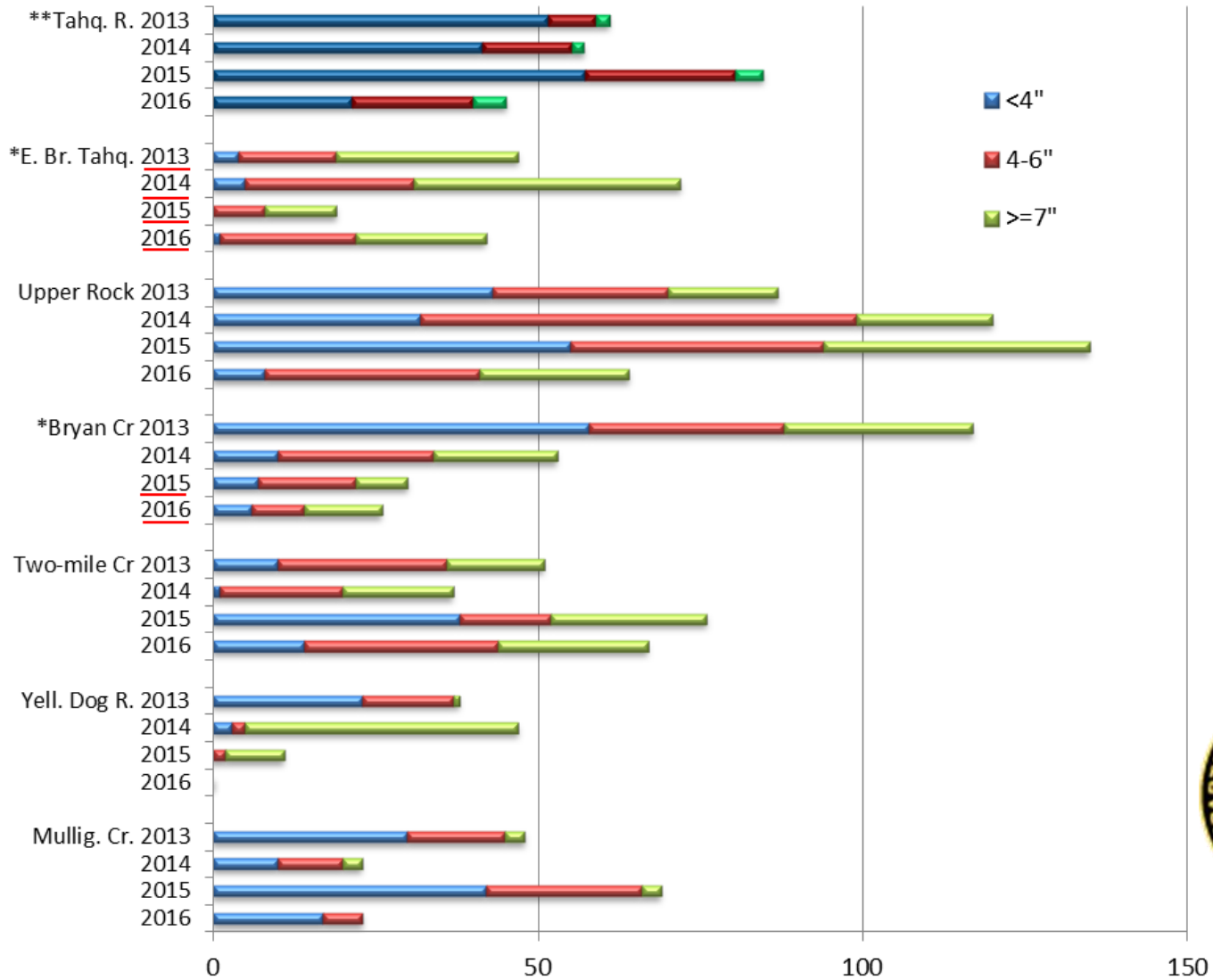


Creel survey statistics

Stream	# Anglers	Kept fish		Caught fish	
		% Limit	Avg. #	% Limit	Avg. #
Bryan Cr. (2013-14)	53	11%	1.9	32%	5.3
Bryan Cr. (2015)	21	10%	2.4	10%	2.4
Two Mile Cr. (2013-14)	27	4%	1.5	33%	4.1
Two Mile Cr. (2015)	7	14%	1.3	14%	1.3
E. Br. Tahq.	23	9%	1.9	9%	2.1
Upper Tahq.	77	3%	0.6	13%	2.4



Electrofishing brook trout catches in 1000-ft reaches of 10-bag study streams



Population trends by size group for Treatment and Control streams

