

VOLUNTEER ANGLER LOGBOOK SURVEY

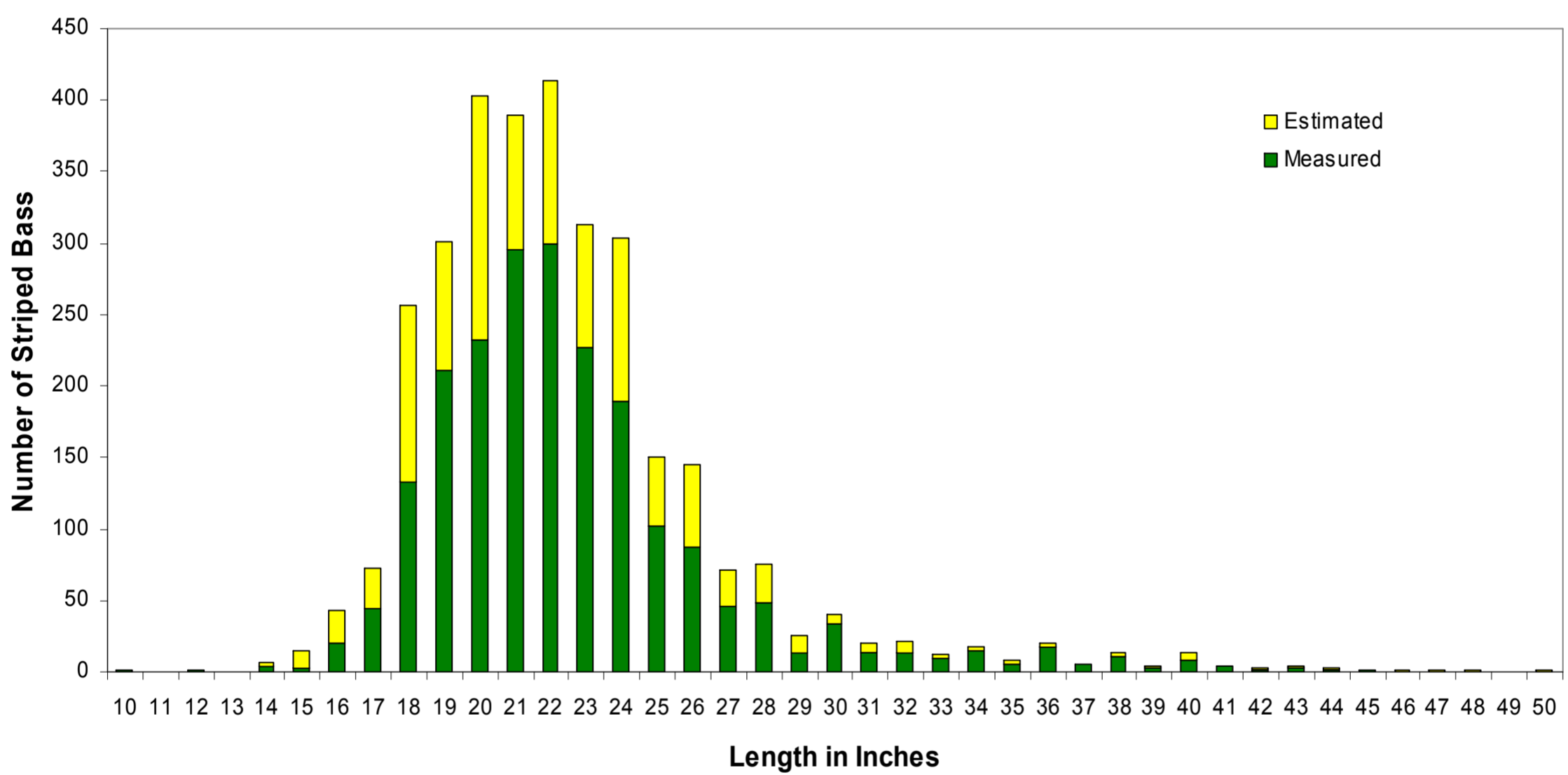
Briefly, this program targets avid striped bass fishermen as a means of collecting additional length data. Though we have increased the sample size of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), it still misses lengths and weights on sub-legal or released stripers because Maine's striped bass fishery has length and bag limits. Coupled with the fact that many anglers opt for catch and release, field interviewers actually see limited numbers of fish.

The Volunteer Angler Logbook (VAL) program is quite simple. An angler records information about fish harvested or released during each trip for him/herself and any fishing companions. Information about each trip is also recorded, including time spent fishing, area fished, number of anglers and target species.

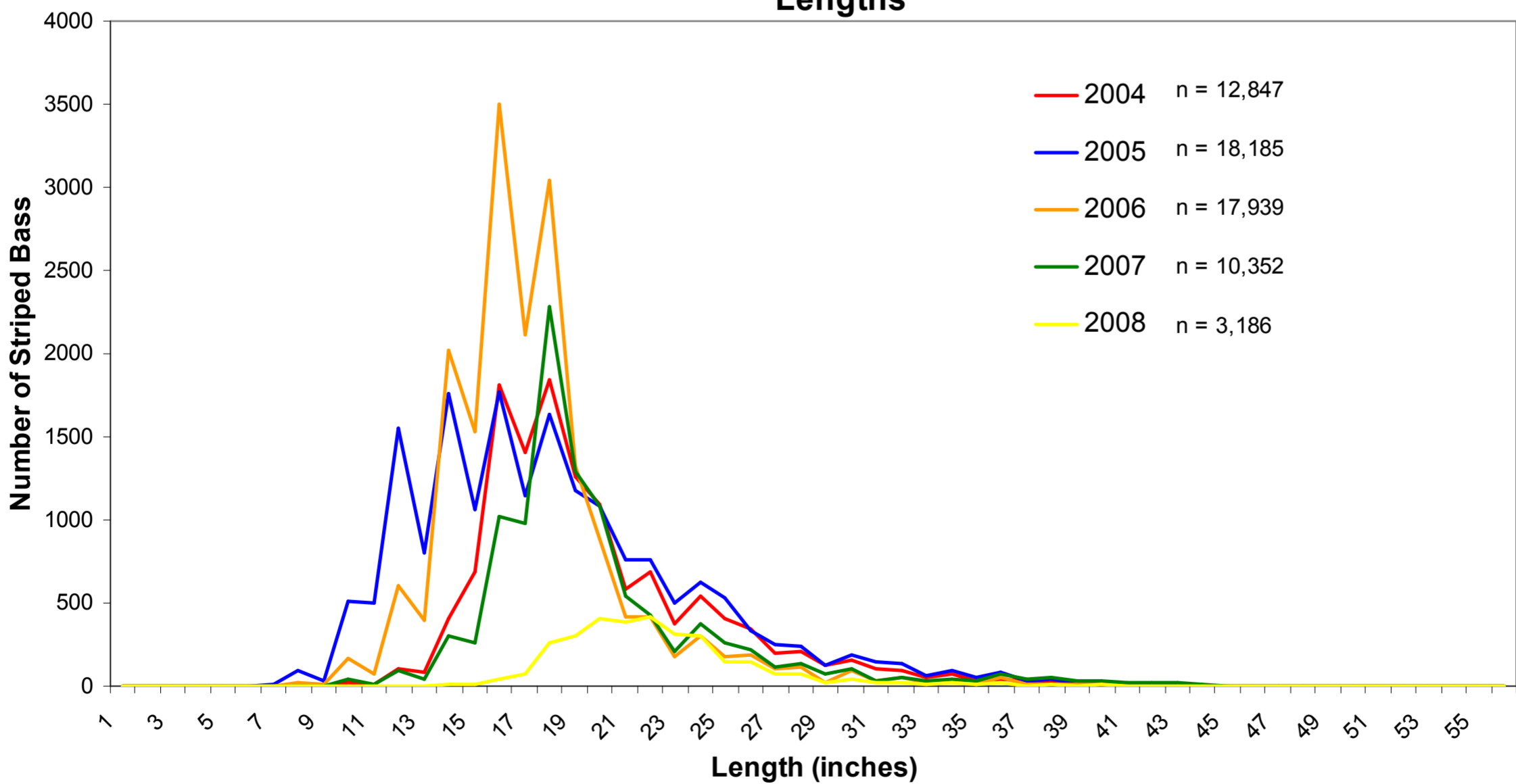
A preliminary summary of the 2008 data follows:

- One hundred sixty eight logbooks were distributed during the 2008 fishing season, of which 102 (61%) were returned and summarized.
- The 102 logbook keepers reported 1,895 fishing trips which, when multiplied by the number of logbook keepers and their fishing companions, resulted in 3,096 individual angler-trips.
- The 102 logbook keepers reported they and their fishing companions fished for more than 10,000 angler-hours over the course of the season.
- A total of 3,447 striped bass were caught on 826 trips in 2008. This was the lowest total recorded since the logbook program was started in 1996. (See bottom left graph for catch rates.)
- The highest total was in 2005 when 28,476 striped bass were caught on 2,203 trips. (See bottom left graph for catch rates.)

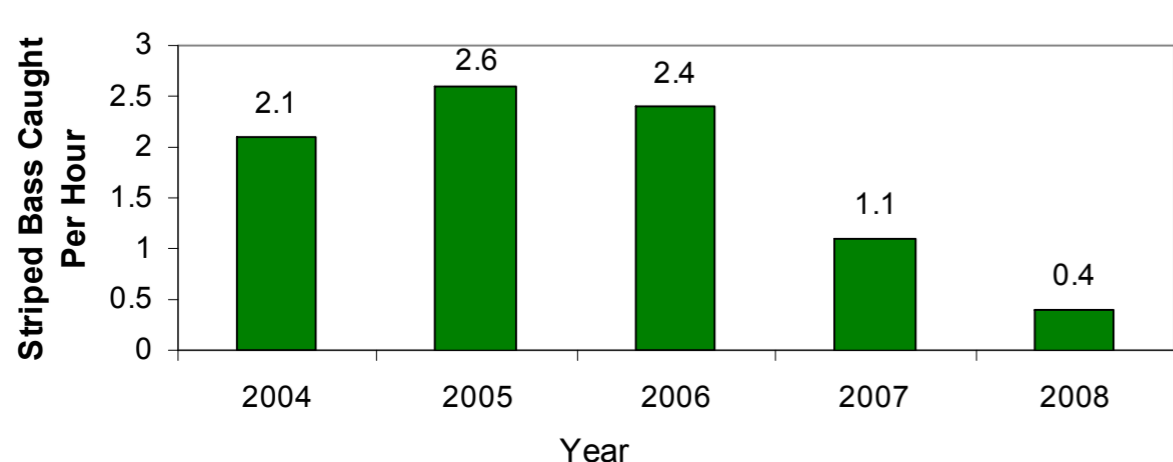
2008 Striped Bass Length Frequency Using Measured and Estimated Lengths (n=3,186)



5 Year Trend in Striped Bass Length Frequency Using Estimated and Measured Lengths



Striped Bass Caught Per Hour



Average Trip Cost

