Fisheries Management in Swan Lake

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Region B Fisheries – Wes Ashe, Jason Seiders, Scott Davis

Swan Lake

- ~1,400 surface acres
- Average depth = 34 ft., Max depth = 87 ft.
- Above average water quality
- Oligotrophic – low nutrient content & algal production
- Moderate development along perimeter

Swan Lake – Current Regulations

Ice Fishing:

- Open in January & February only
- 2 lines/angler
- Daily bag limit – 2 salmon - 14”, 2 togue - 18”

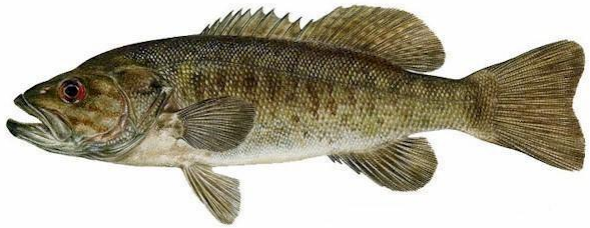
Open Water Fishing:

- Open April – September
- Closed October – December - togue spawning
- Same daily bag limits

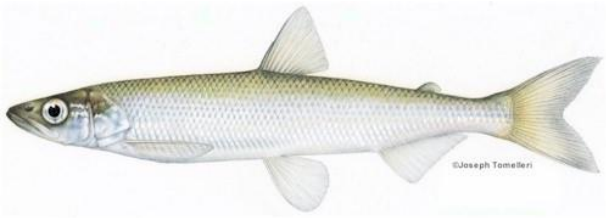
Swan Lake – Stocking History

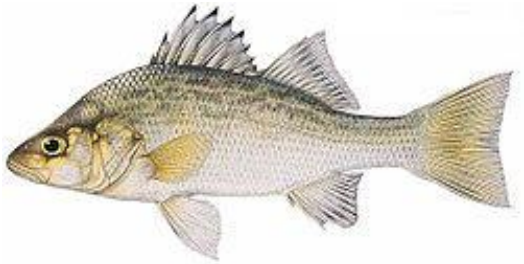
YEAR	BROOK TROUT	SALMON
2000	7450	850
2001	4100	850
2002	4100	850
2003	4100	850
2004	5320	850
2005	4100	0
2006	4100	0
2007	2285	600
2008	2200	500
2009	2250	600
2010	2350	600
2011	2350	600
2012	2400	600
2013	2500	600
2014	2500	600
2015	2000	600

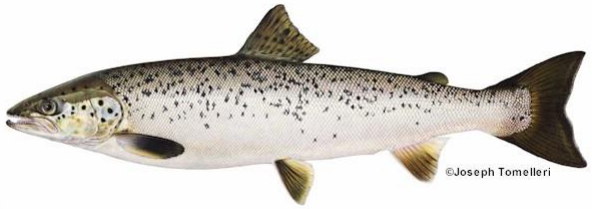
Swan Lake – Fish Assemblage



Landlocked salmon
Lake trout
Brook trout
Rainbow smelt
Smallmouth bass
Largemouth bass
White perch
Yellow perch
Chain pickerel
White sucker
Brown bullhead
American eel
Pumpkinseed sunfish
Several minnow species







****21 total fish species****

Togue & Salmon

Swan Lake Togue

-Stocked by MDIFW from 1971-1981

-Population now wild & self-sustaining

-Consume a variety of fish & insects

Swan Lake Salmon

-Stocked by MDIFW since 1940

-Stocking numbers have fluctuated

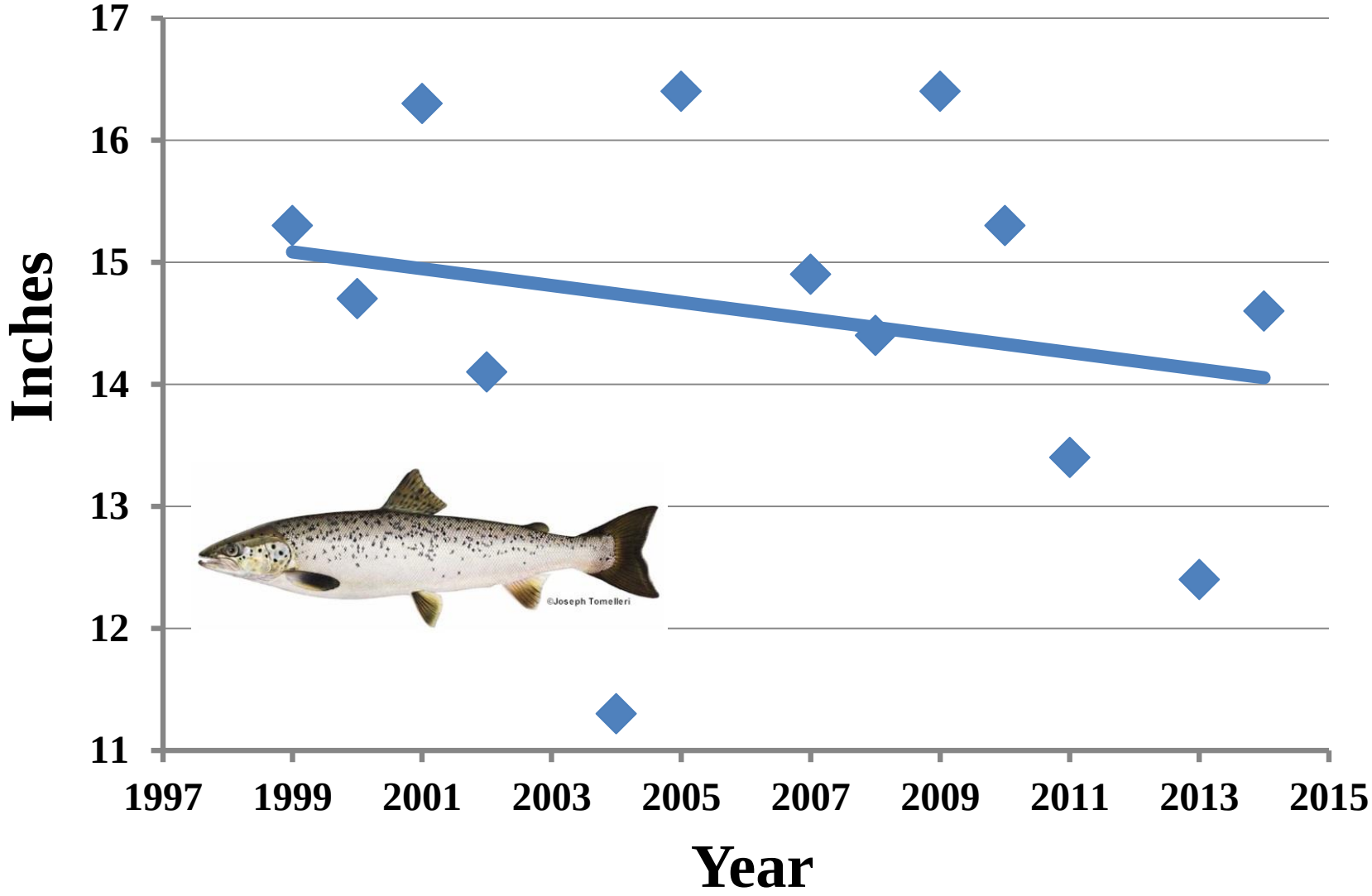
-Population has few wild fish

-Consume smelt almost exclusively

Volunteer Anglers

Average Salmon Length – Volunteer Anglers

Bag Limit: 2 fish, 14”



Volunteer Anglers

Salmon Catch Rates – Volunteer Anglers

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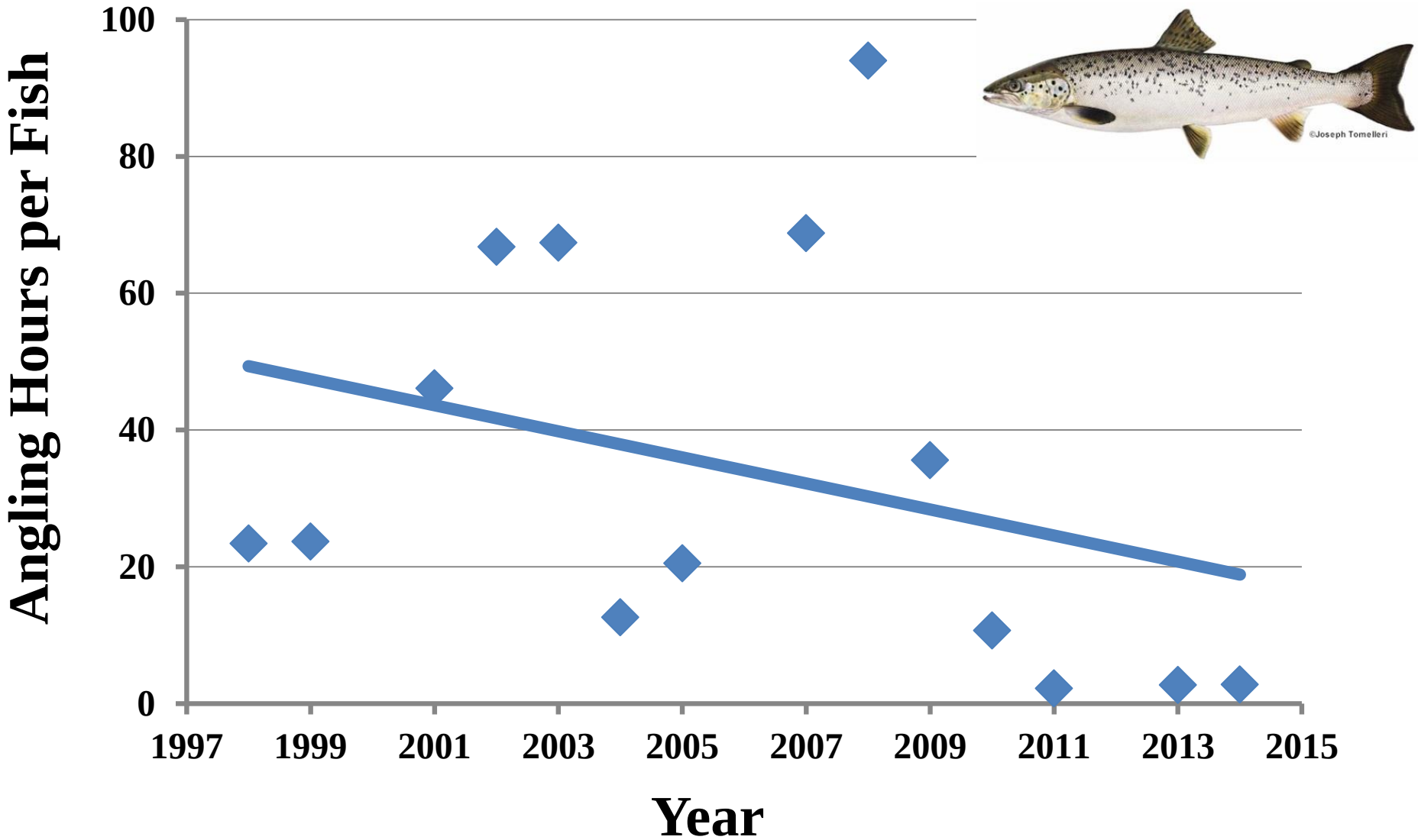

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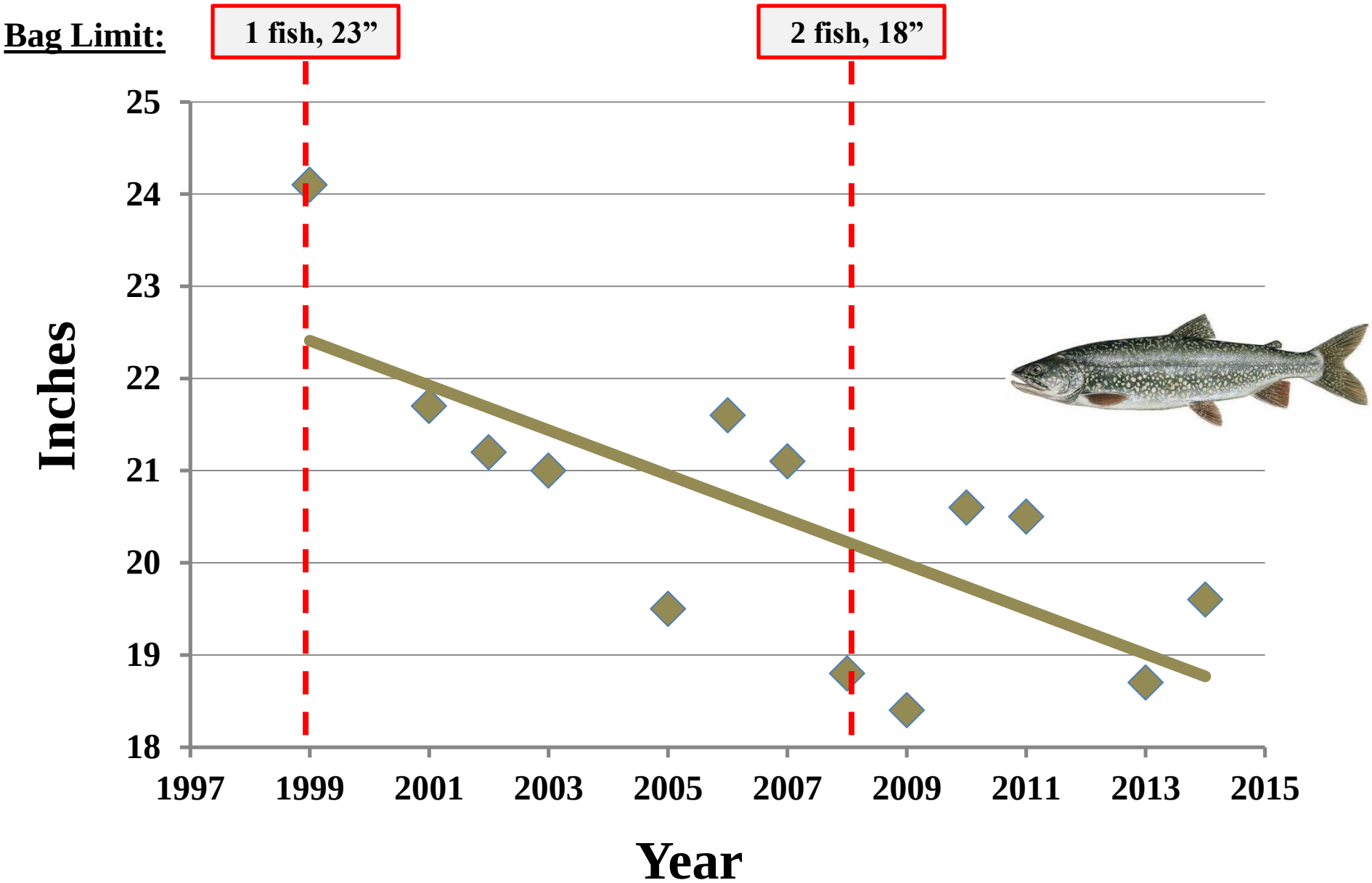

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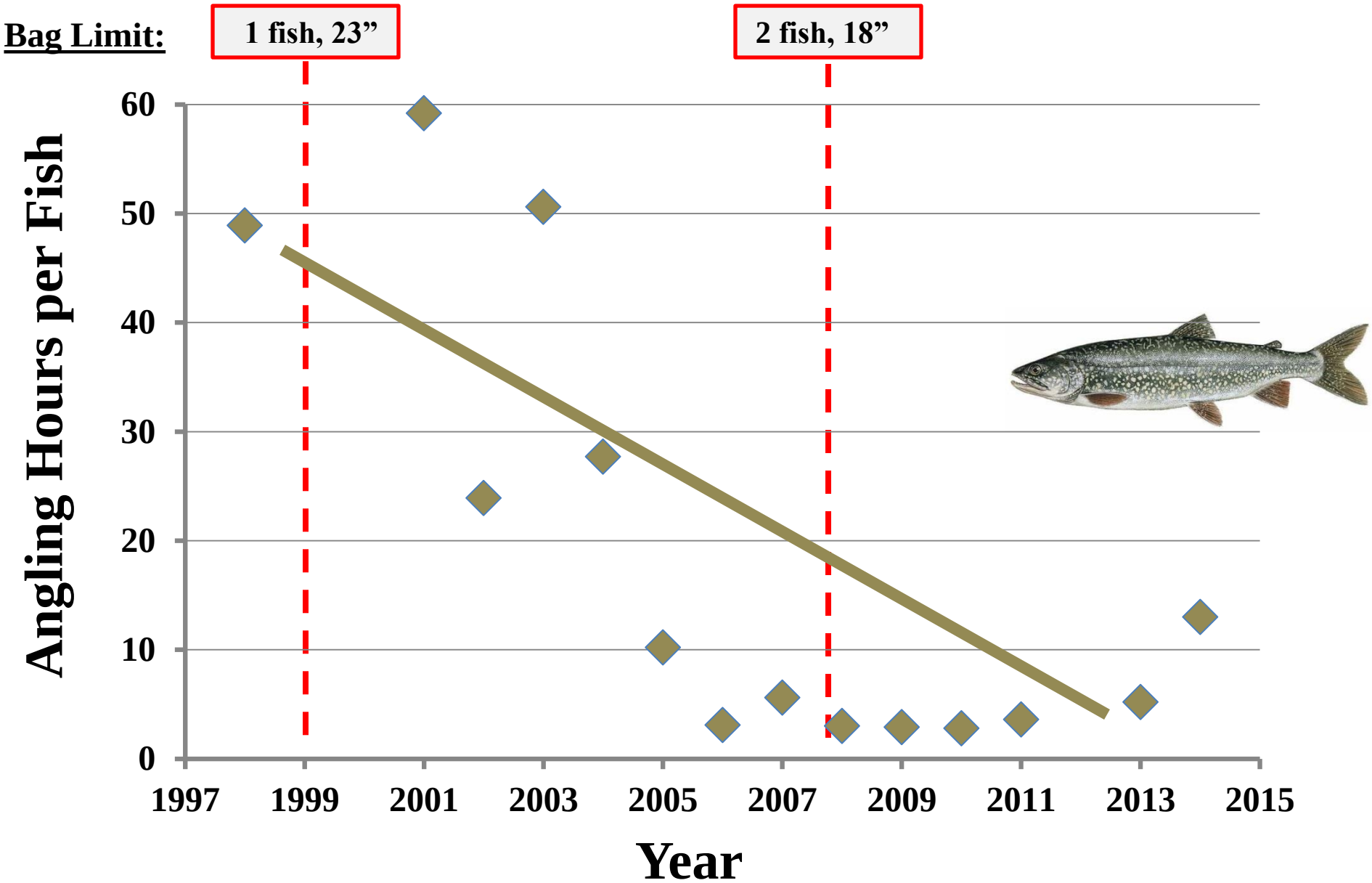

Trapnet Data

Average Salmon Length - Trapnetting

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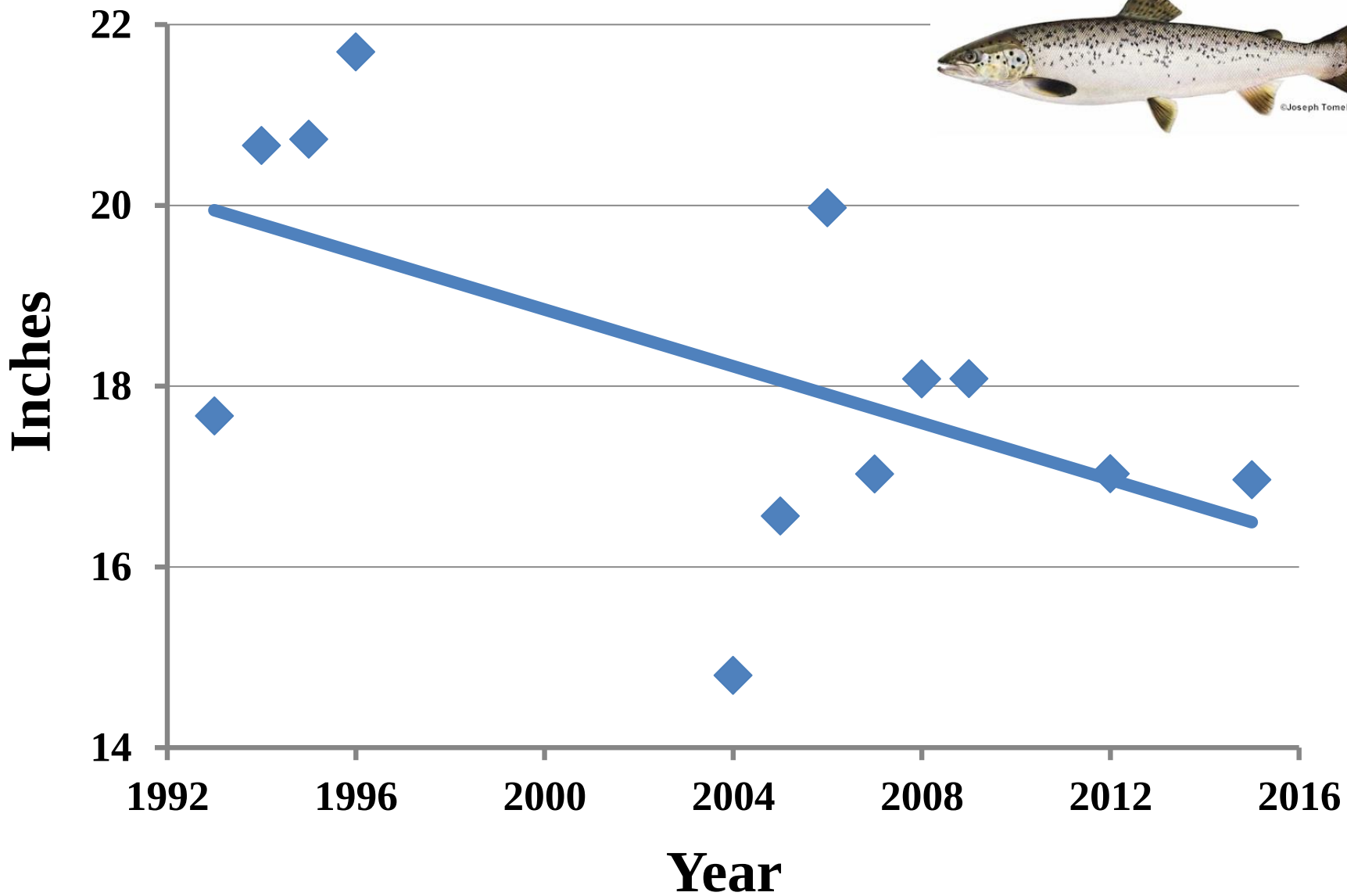

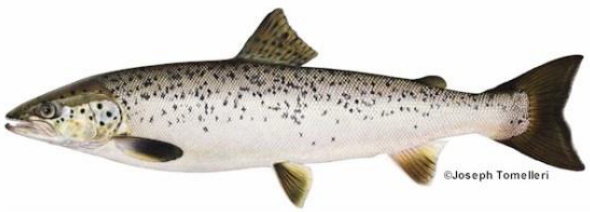

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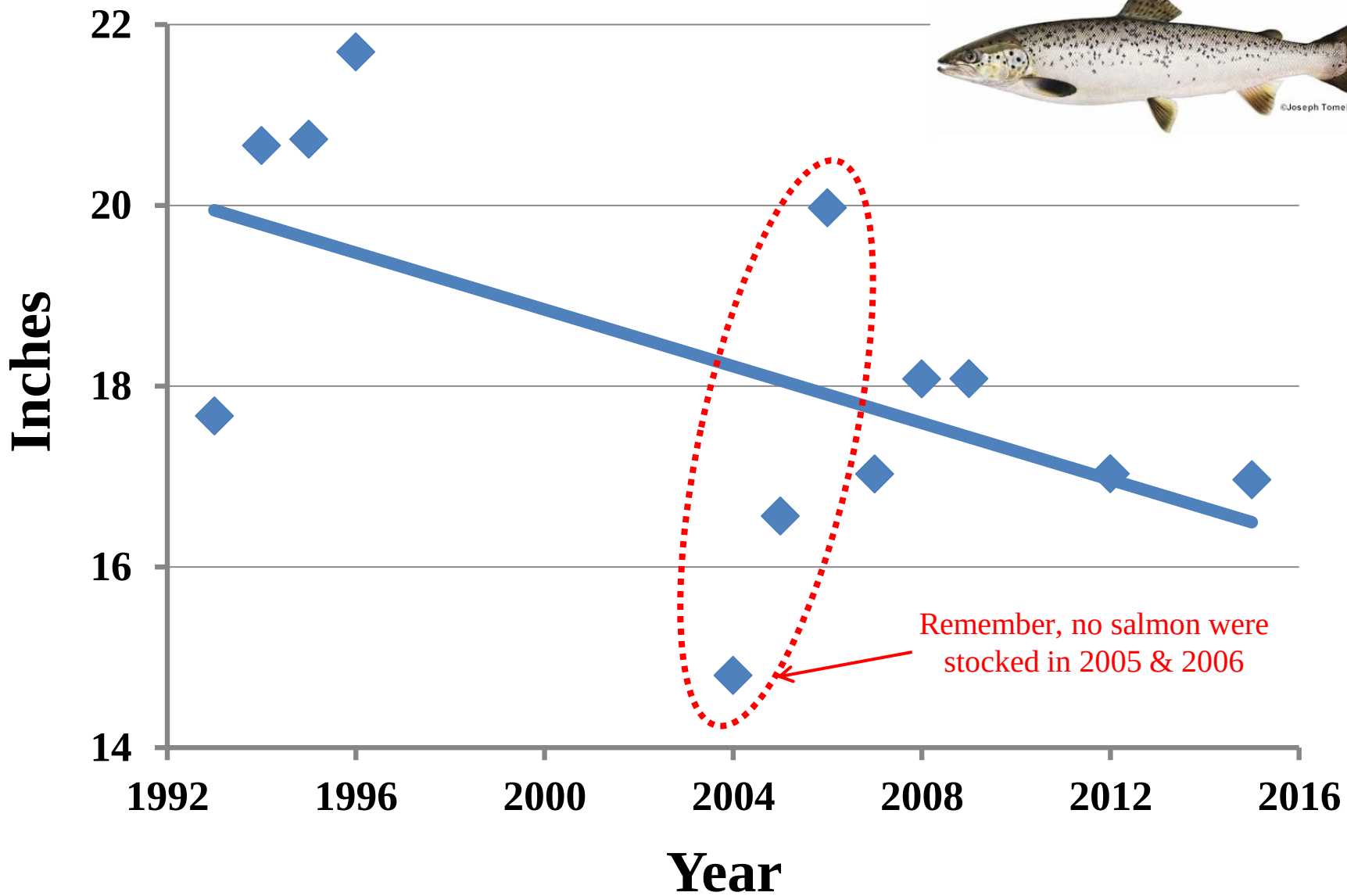

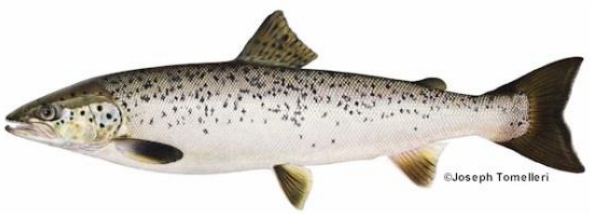

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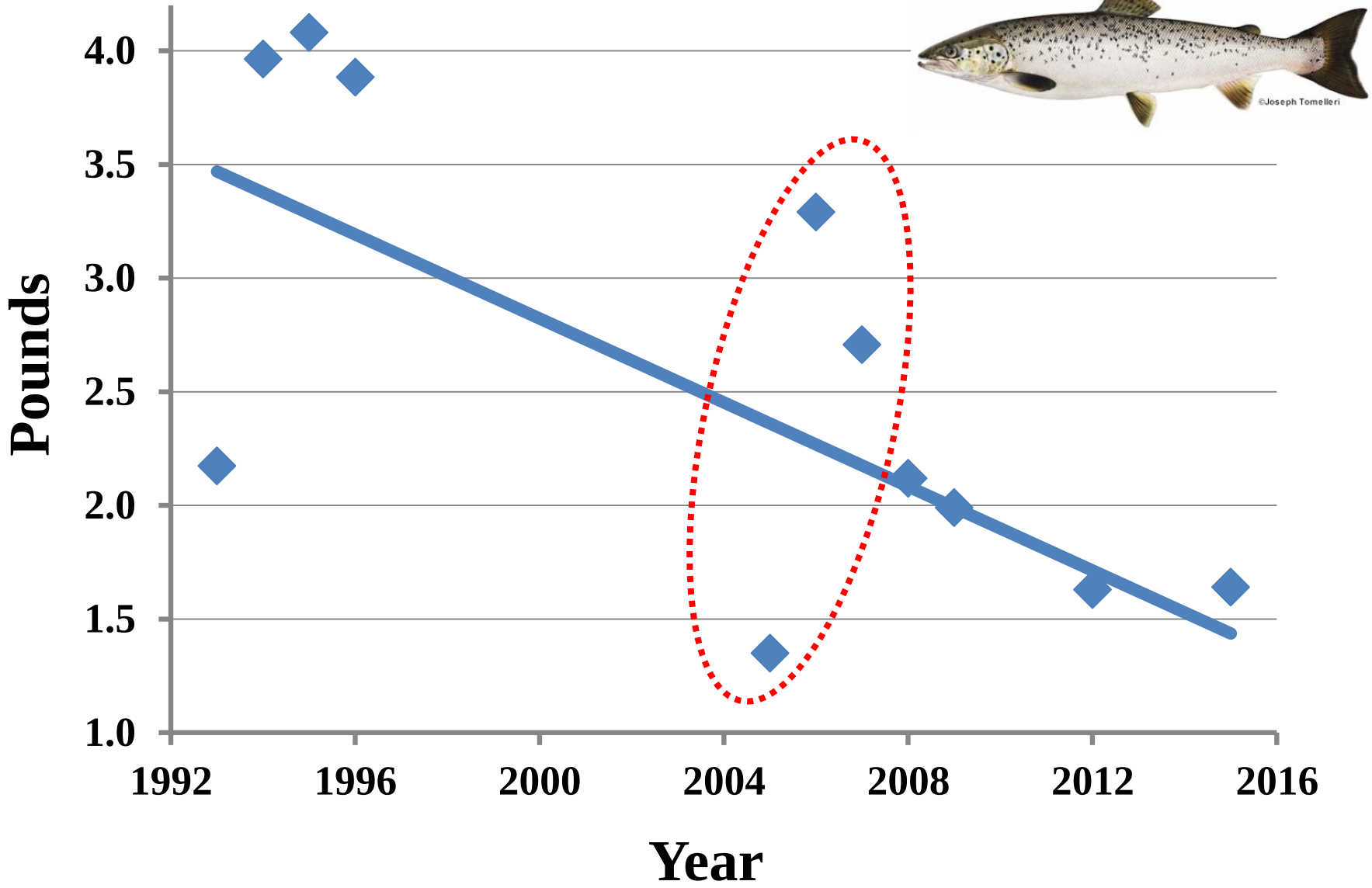

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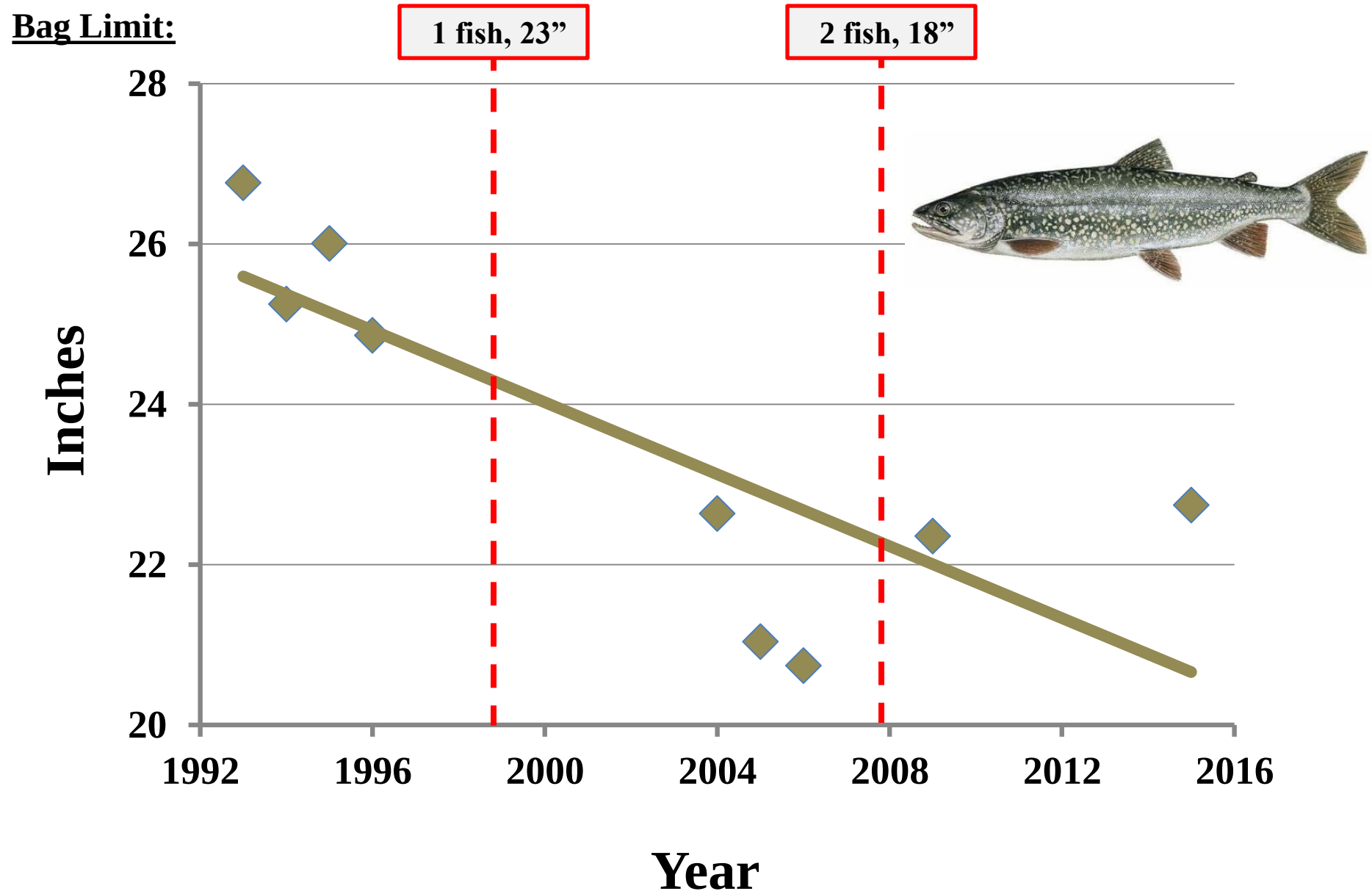

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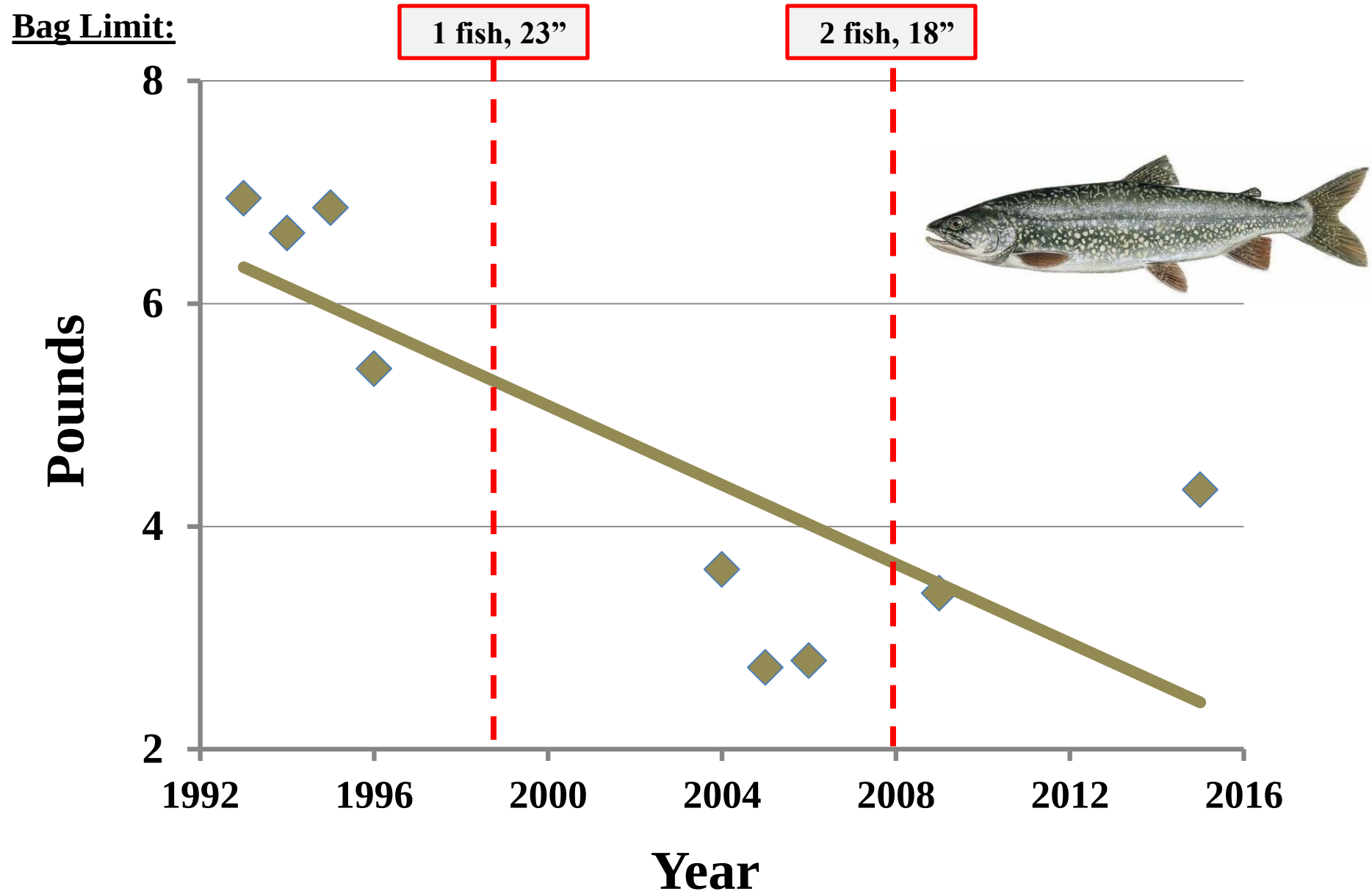
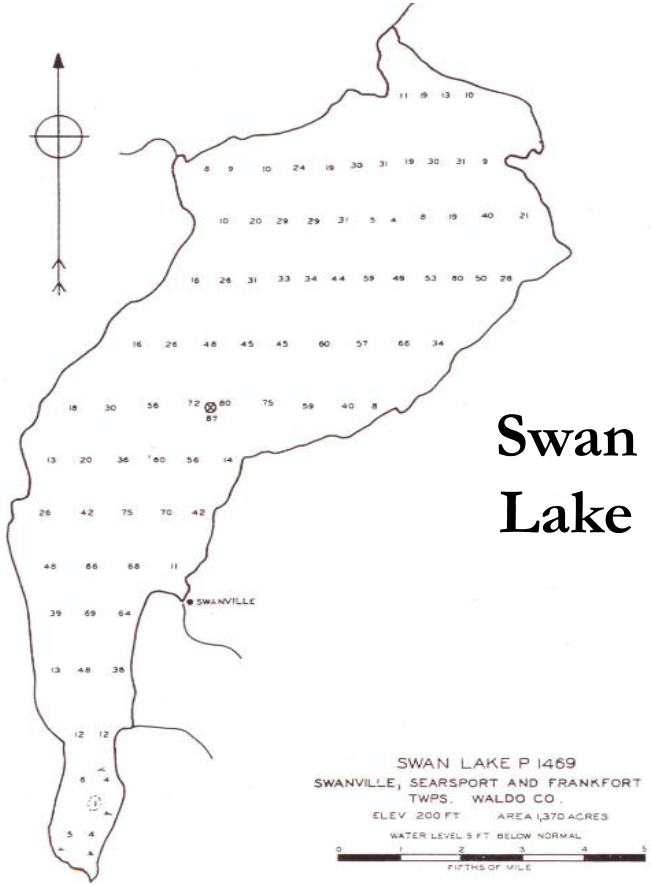


Winter Creel Survey Results

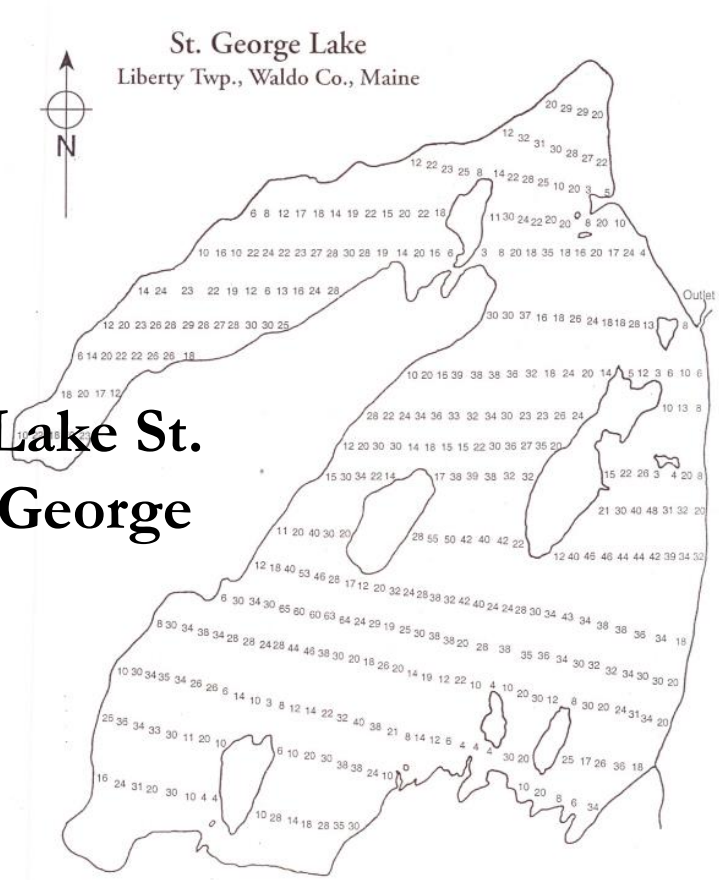
	Swan Lake - 2015	Lake St. George - 2014
Acreage	1388	1040



Swan Lake

VS.

Lake St. George



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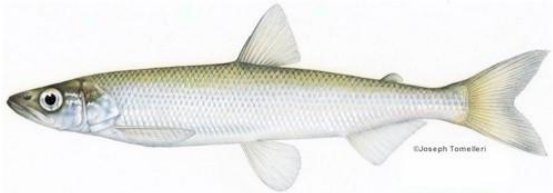
# of Salmon Harvested	23	168
# of Togue Harvested	73	--

Summary

- Salmon (& brook trout) are stocked at high densities, especially in a water w/ wild togue & sensitive rainbow smelt populations
- Volunteer angler data showed decline in salmon/togue size, and a dramatic increase in catch rates
- Trapnet data revealed a precipitous decline in salmon/togue size over past two decades
- Creel survey indicated low angler use and few salmon (or brook trout) harvested



Future Management

1) Decrease salmon stocking number from 600 to 400

2) Extend ice fishing season to include March

3) Reduce brook trout stockings
   - Provide year-round brook trout program in Goose R.

4) Assess togue and salmon populations with more frequent trapnetting and creel surveys moving forward

The End

Questions? Comments?

Thank you.