



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Smallmouth Bass and Nonnative Fish Monitoring in 2025

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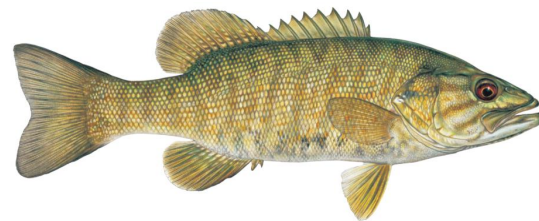


Photo: Freshwaters Illustrated

**AMWG Meeting
February 26, 2026
Phoenix, AZ**

This information is preliminary and is subject to revision. It is being provided to meet the need for timely best science. The information is provided on the condition that neither the U.S. Geological Survey nor the U.S. Government shall be held liable for any damages resulting from the authorized or unauthorized use of the information.

Illustration: Joe Tomelleri

Acknowledgements

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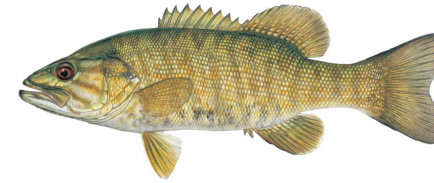


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RECLAMATION

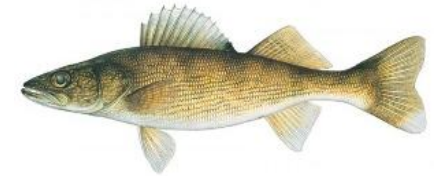


Presentation Outline

- Brief history on smallmouth bass
- Recent SMB captures
- 2025 trips and monitoring results
 - Smallmouth bass
 - Other high-risk nonnatives
- Summary



Smallmouth Bass



Walleye



Striped Bass



Brown Trout

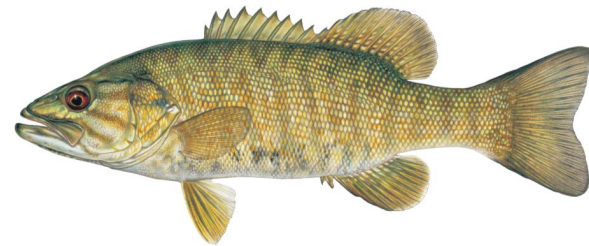


Green Sunfish



Bluegill

SMB History



Lake Mead

2000

1st Capture



Lake Powell

2003

1st Capture



1982-1989

Stocked

(294,088)



Colorado River



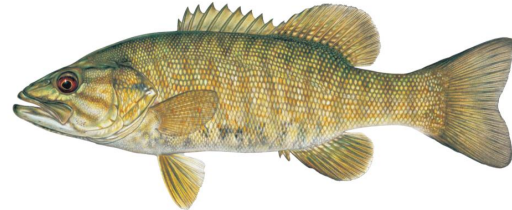
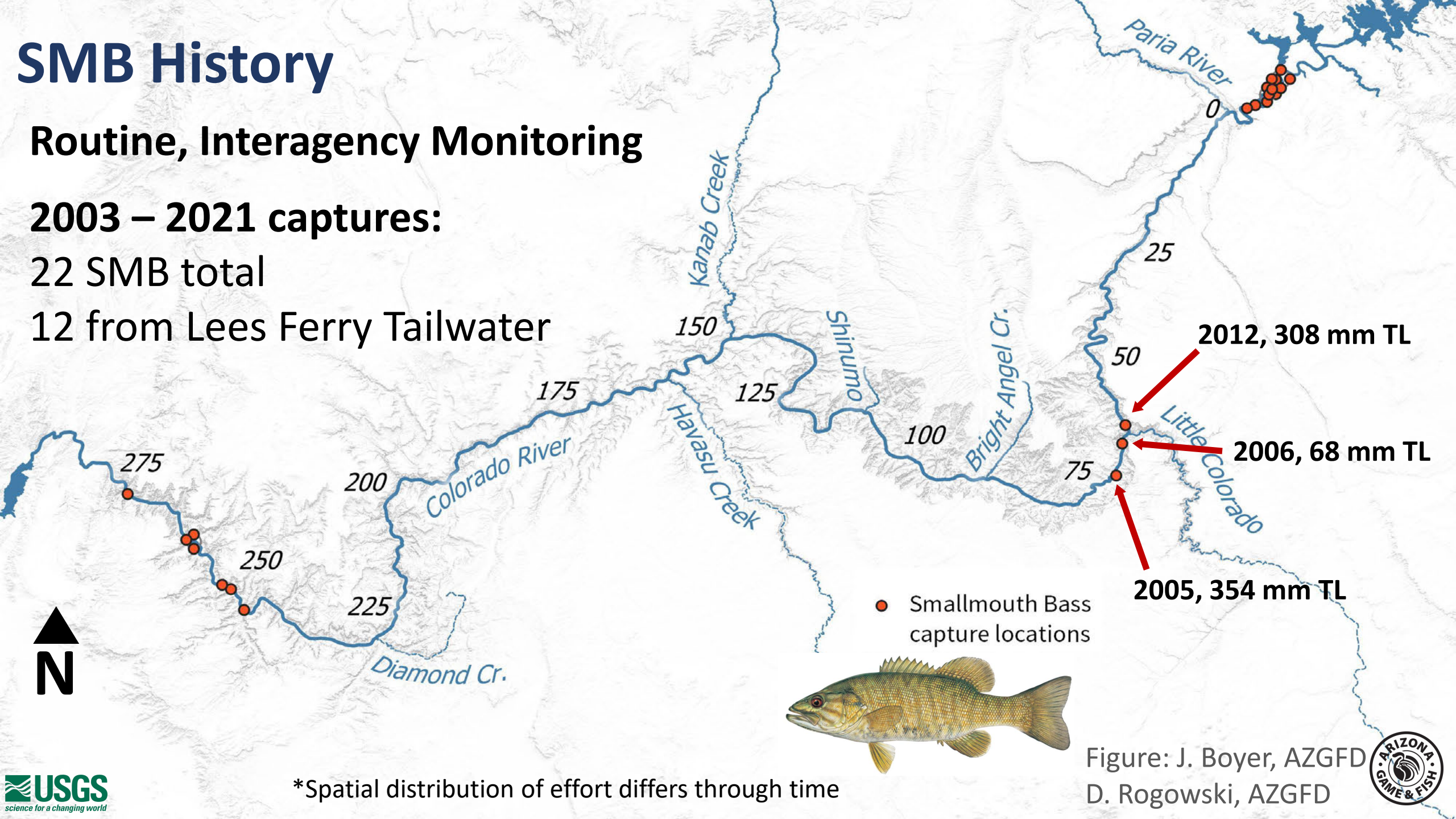
SMB History

Routine, Interagency Monitoring

2003 – 2021 captures:

22 SMB total

12 from Lees Ferry Tailwater



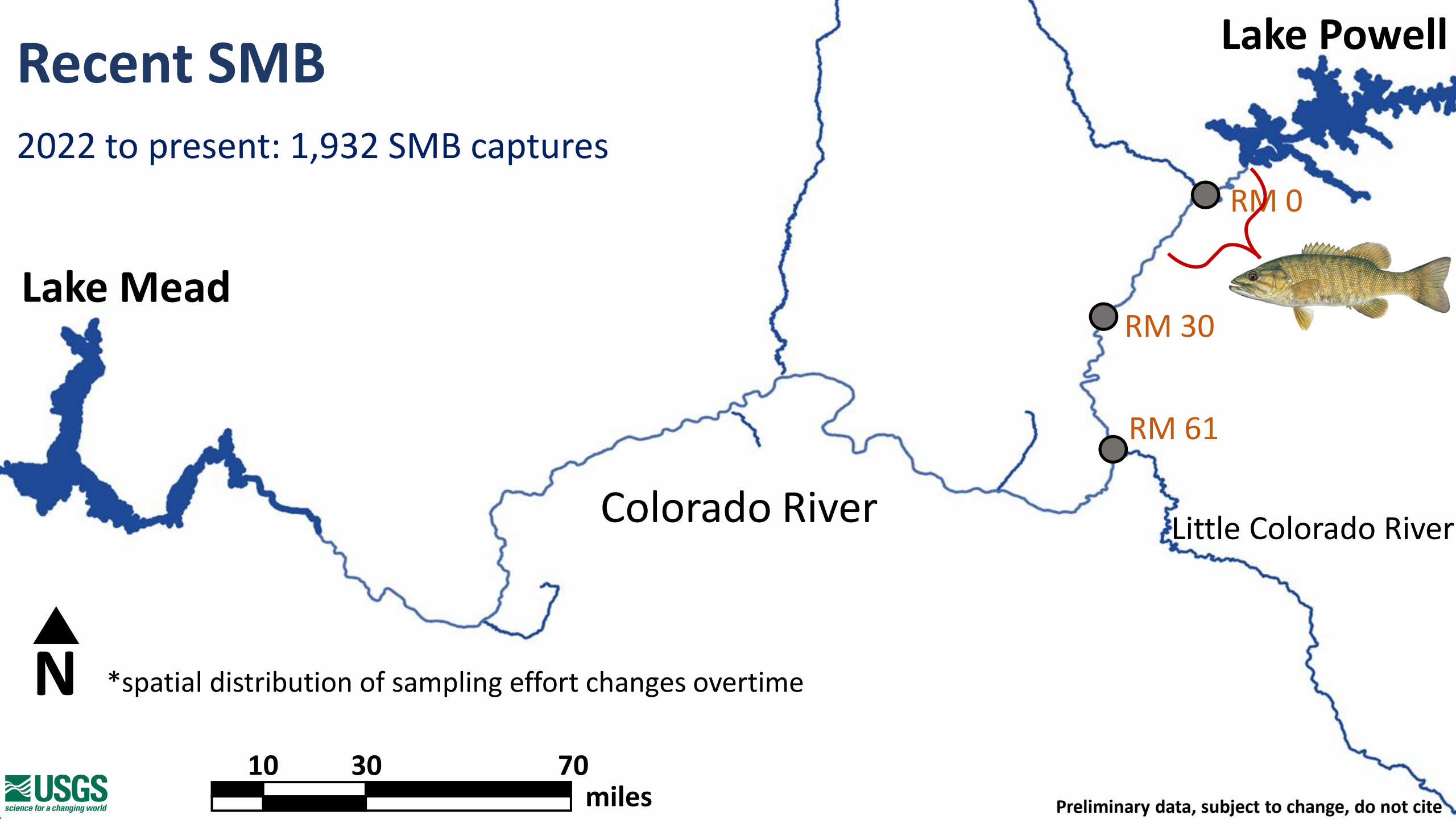
*Spatial distribution of effort differs through time

Recent SMB

2022 to present: 1,932 SMB captures

Lake Mead

Lake Powell



Colorado River

Little Colorado River

RM 0

RM 30

RM 61



*spatial distribution of sampling effort changes overtime



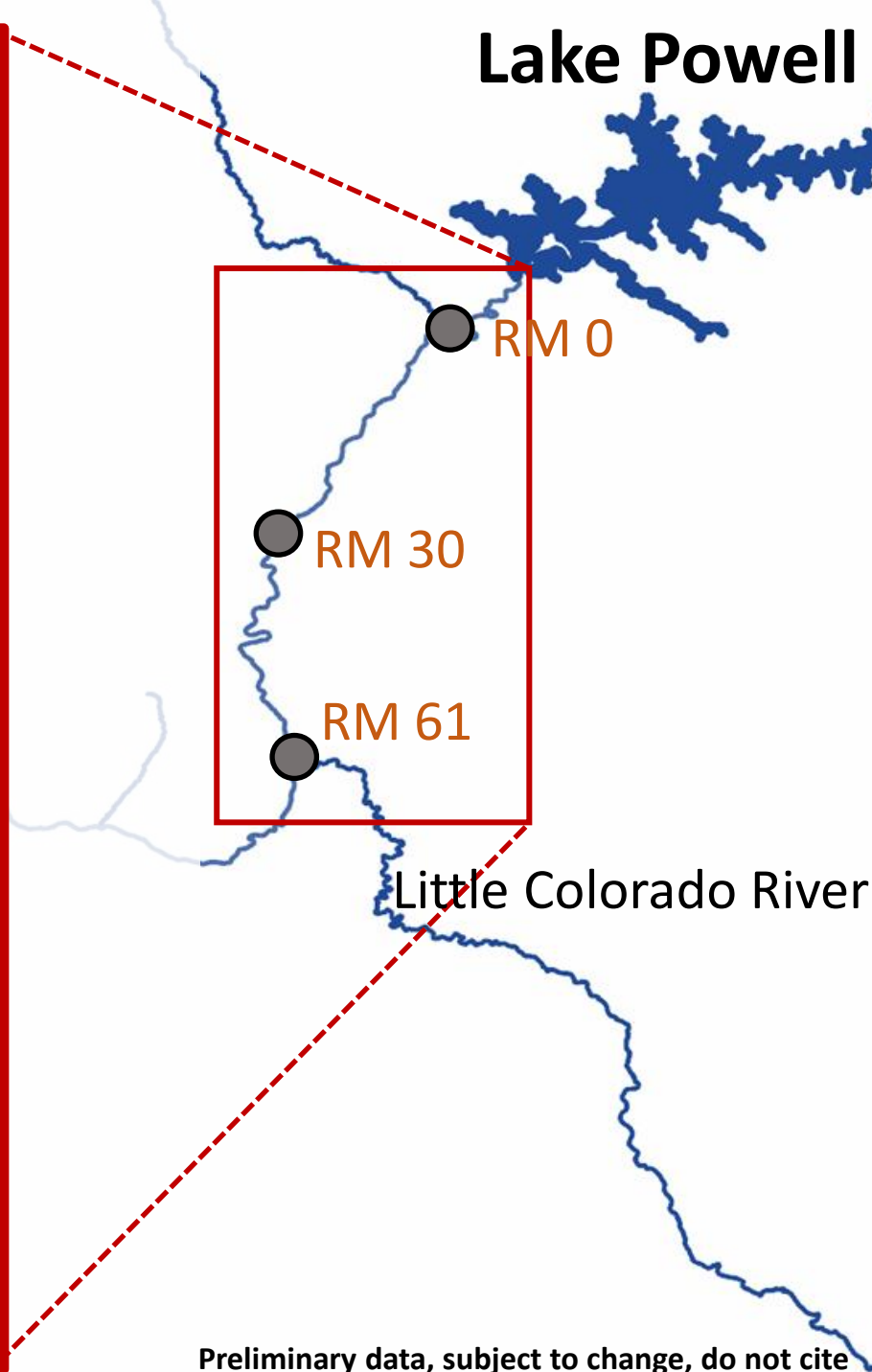
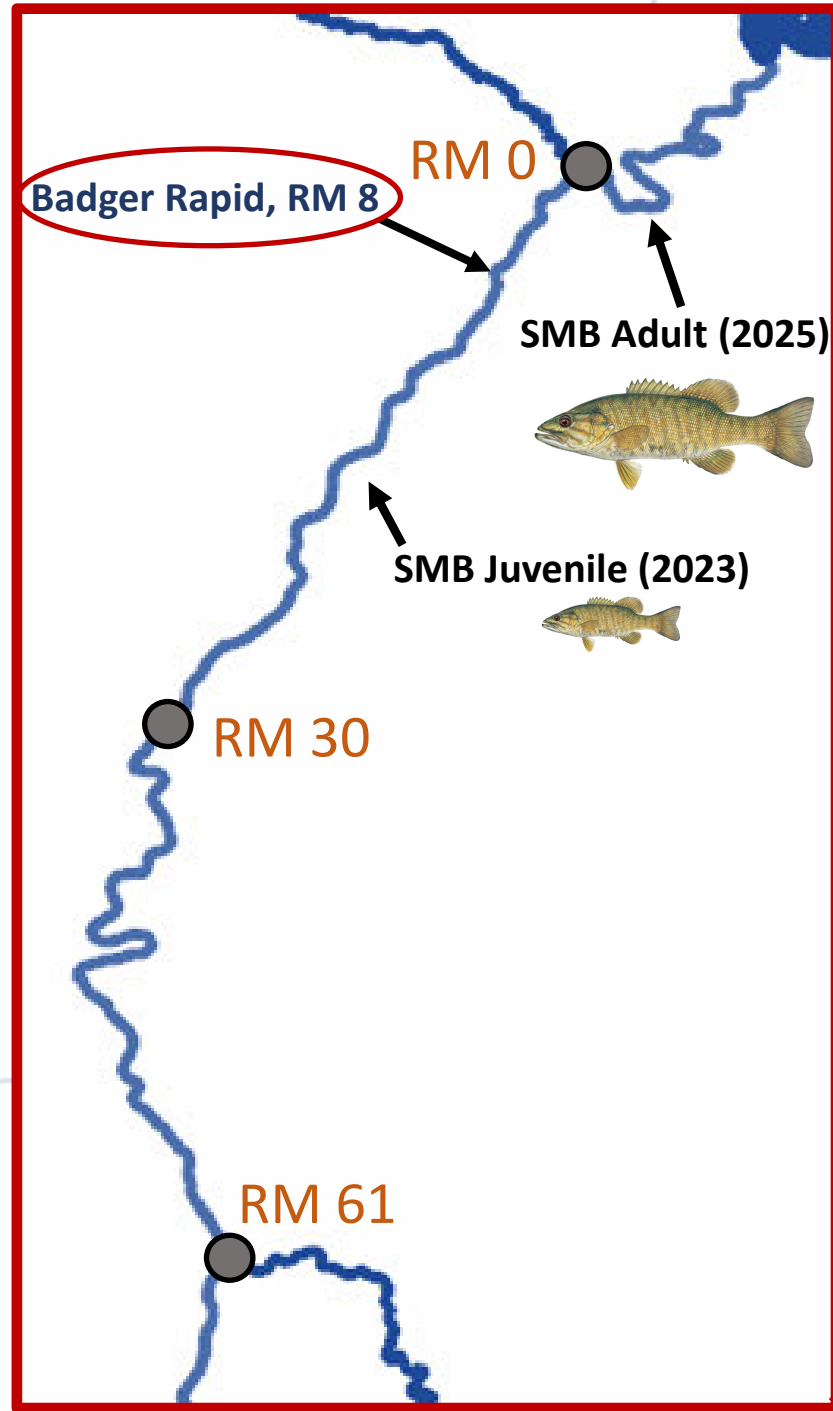
Preliminary data, subject to change, do not cite

Farthest Downstream SMB Captures

2022 – present

Juvenile: RM 16.38 (2023)

Adult: RM -3.49 (2025)

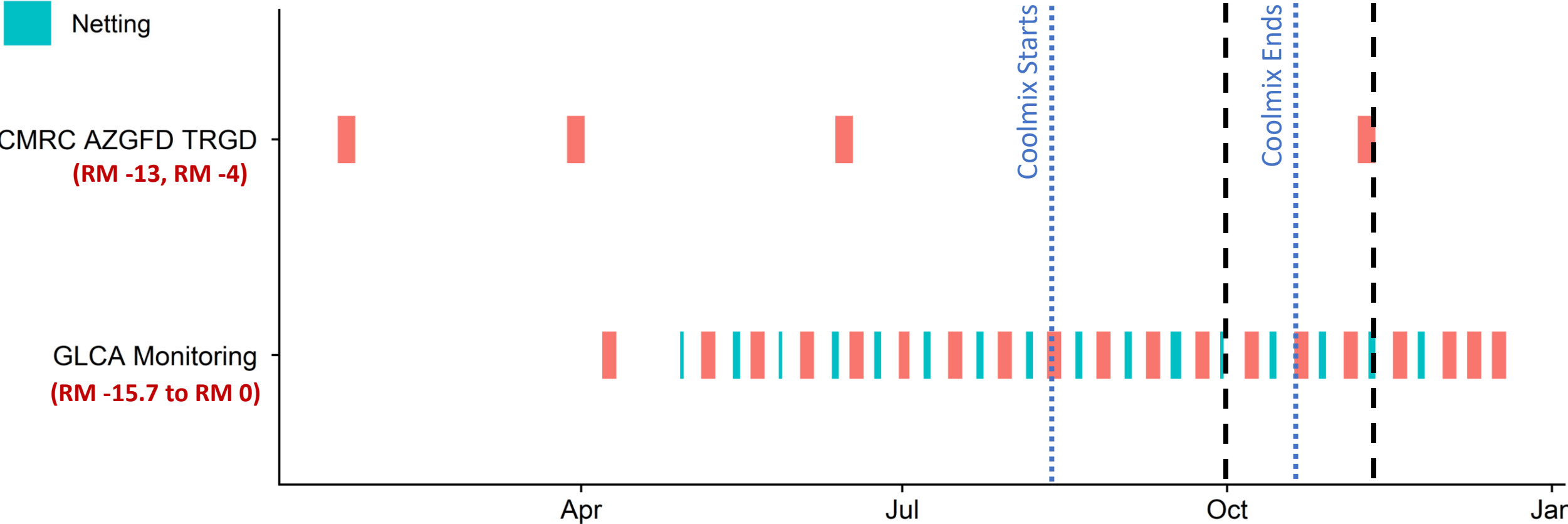


*sampling effort changes

2025 Sampling Effort: Lees Ferry Tailwater

- Gear
- Electrofishing
 - Netting

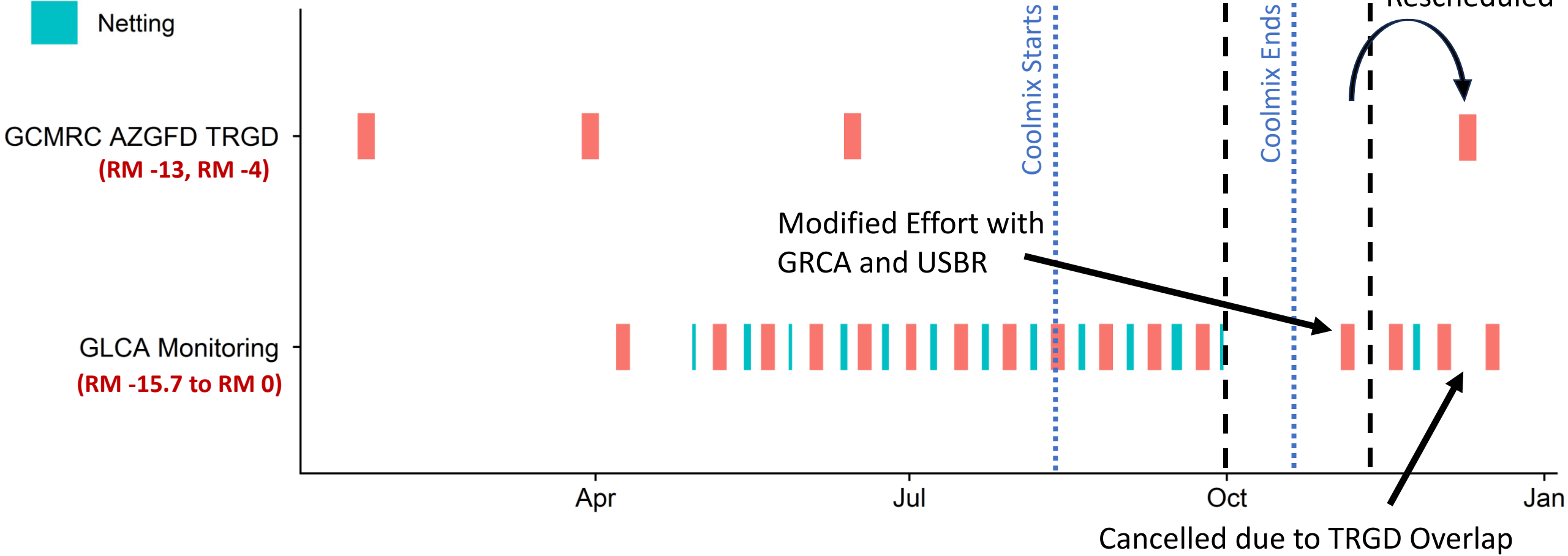
Fisheries- Lees Ferry 2025



2025 Sampling Effort: Lees Ferry Tailwater

- Gear
- Electrofishing
 - Netting

Fisheries- Lees Ferry 2025

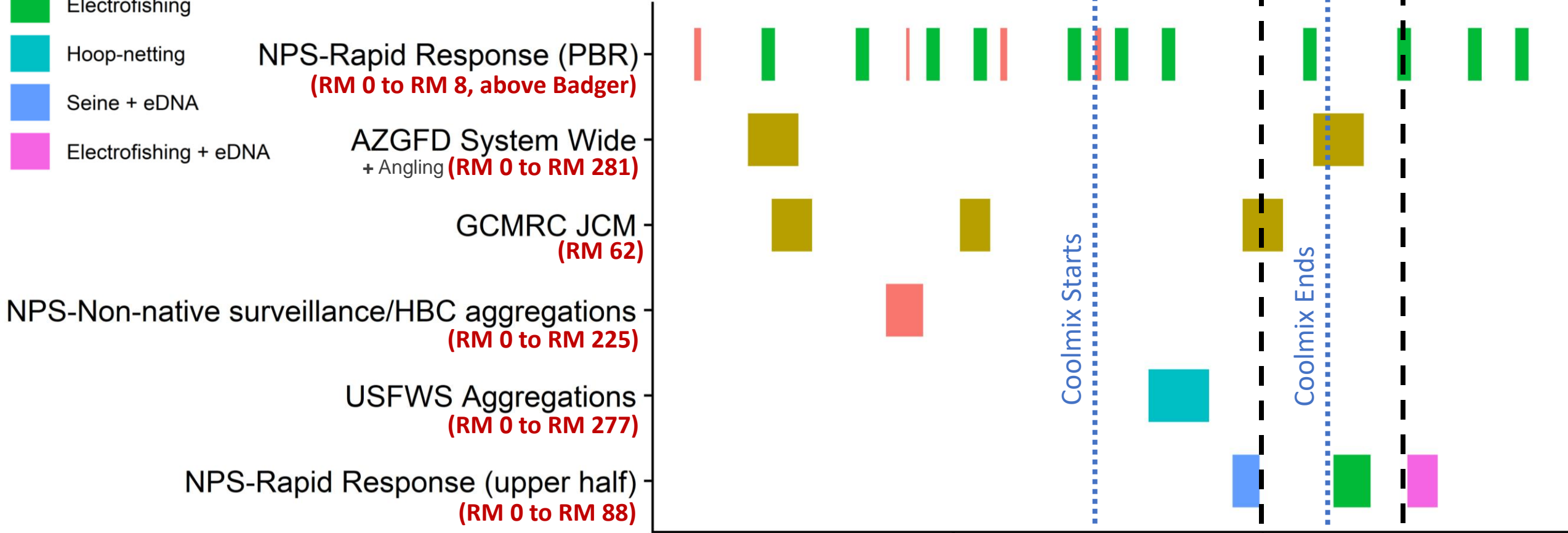


2025 Sampling Effort: Downstream

Gear

- Seine + Hoop-netting
- Electrofishing + Hoop-netting
- Electrofishing
- Hoop-netting
- Seine + eDNA
- Electrofishing + eDNA

Fisheries- Grand Canyon Mainstem 2025



Preliminary data, subject to change, do not cite

Figure: B. Healy, USGS

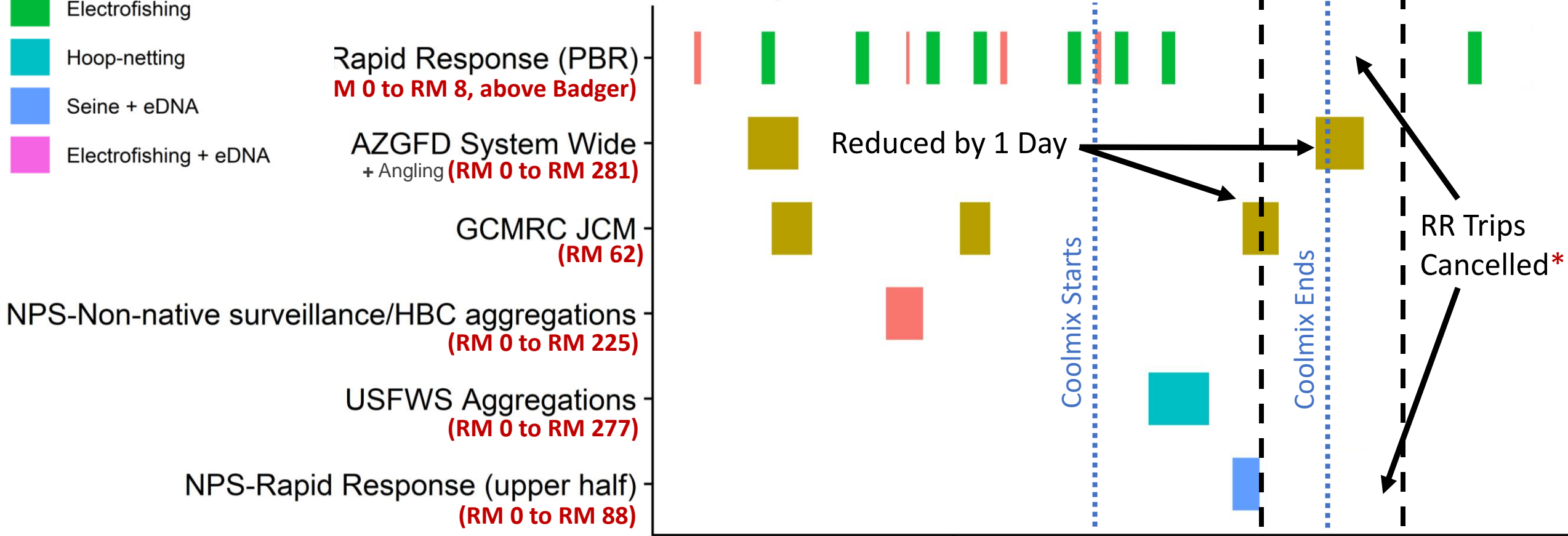
2025 Sampling Effort: Downstream

*Shutdown led to canceled trips, with reduced effort during and after cool mix flows, but total NPS RR effort increased in 2025. Some spatial coverage lost below Badger Rapid.

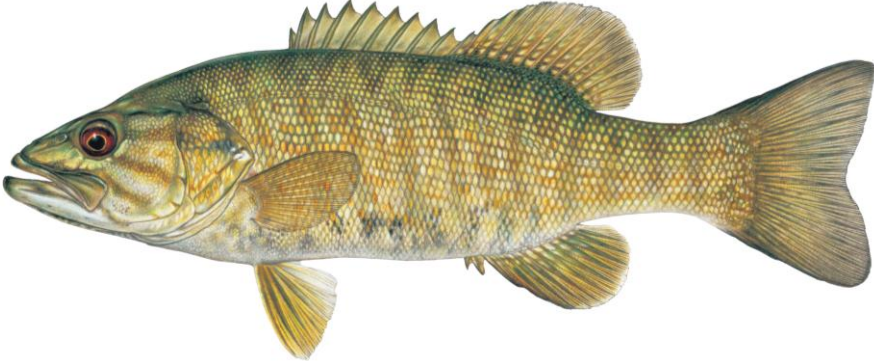
Gear

- Seine + Hoop-netting
- Electrofishing + Hoop-netting
- Electrofishing
- Hoop-netting
- Seine + eDNA
- Electrofishing + eDNA

Fisheries- Grand Canyon Mainstem 2025



2025 Smallmouth Bass Captures



Total = 51

(compared to 254 in 2024*)

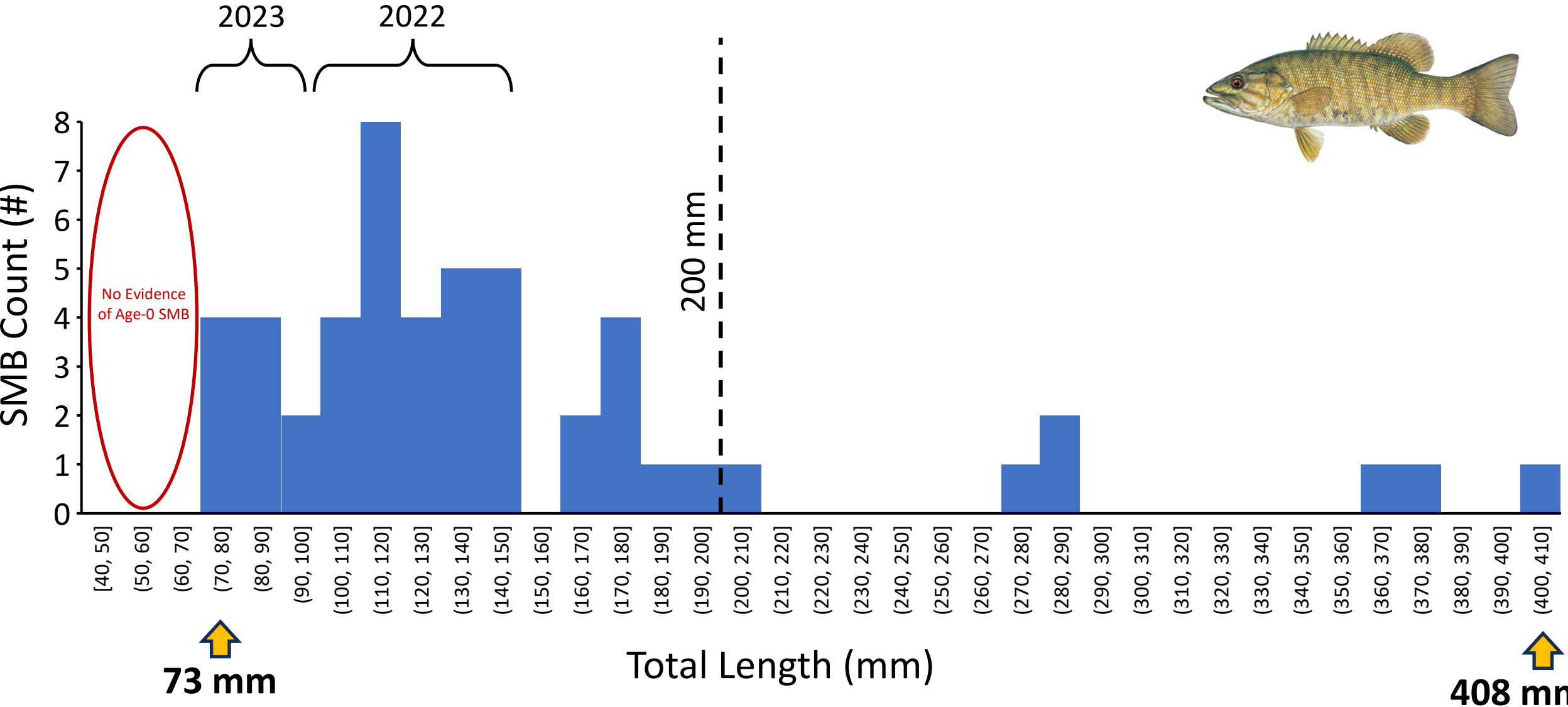
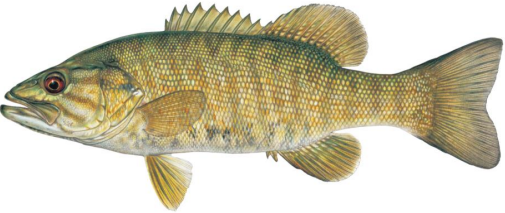
12% from routine, interagency monitoring



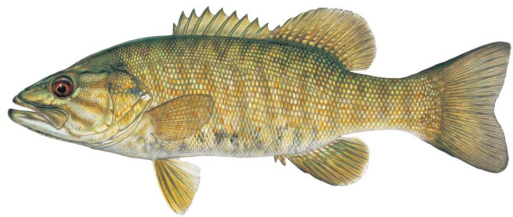
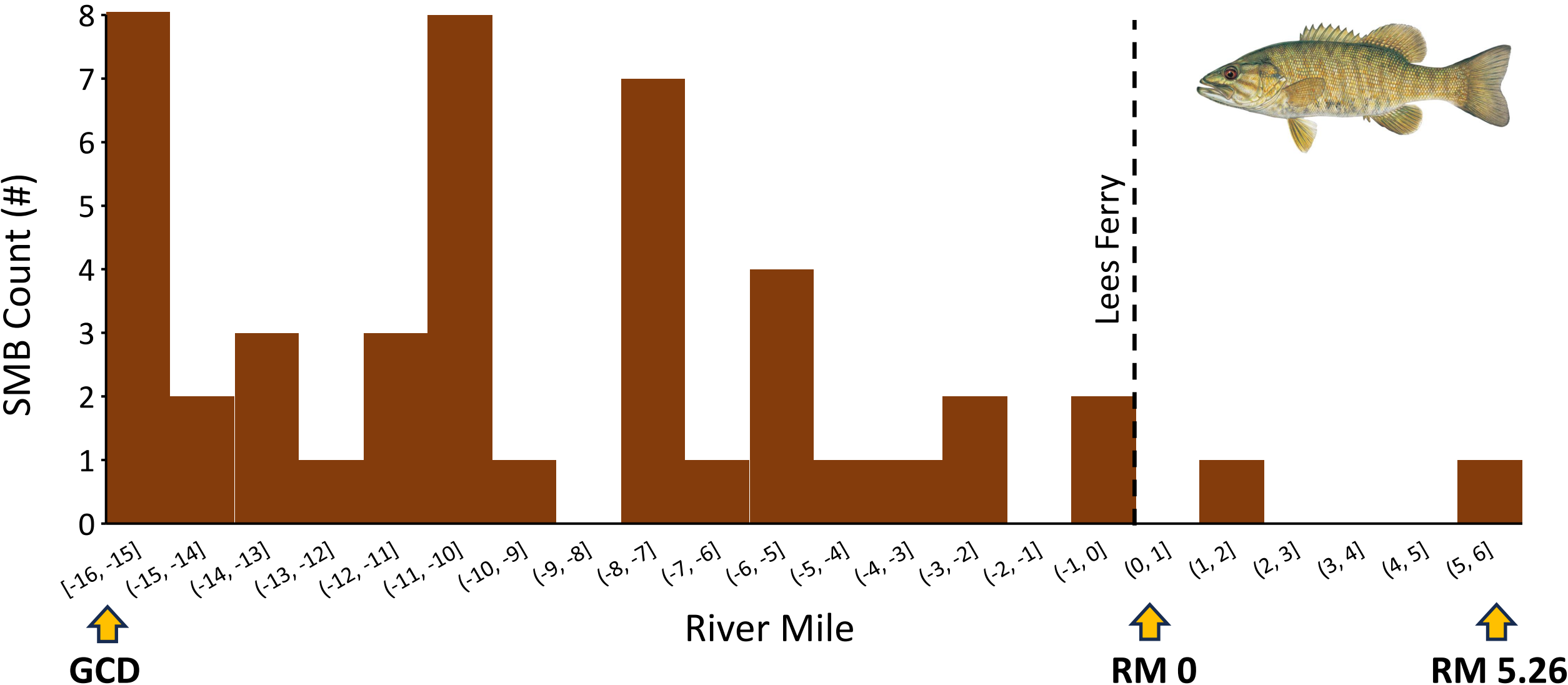
88% from targeted removal effort



2025 Smallmouth Bass Captures: Total Length



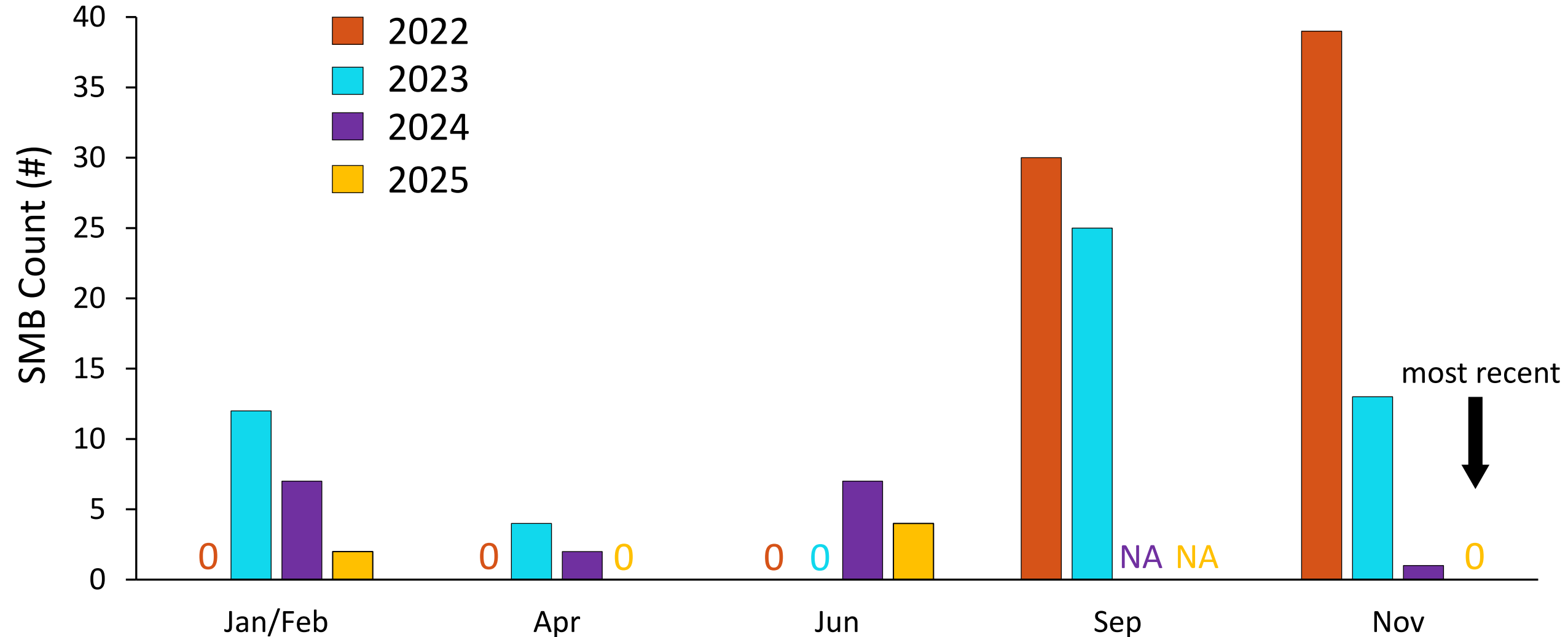
2025 Smallmouth Bass Captures: Location



SMB Captures: Lees Ferry, GCMRC AZGFD TRGD

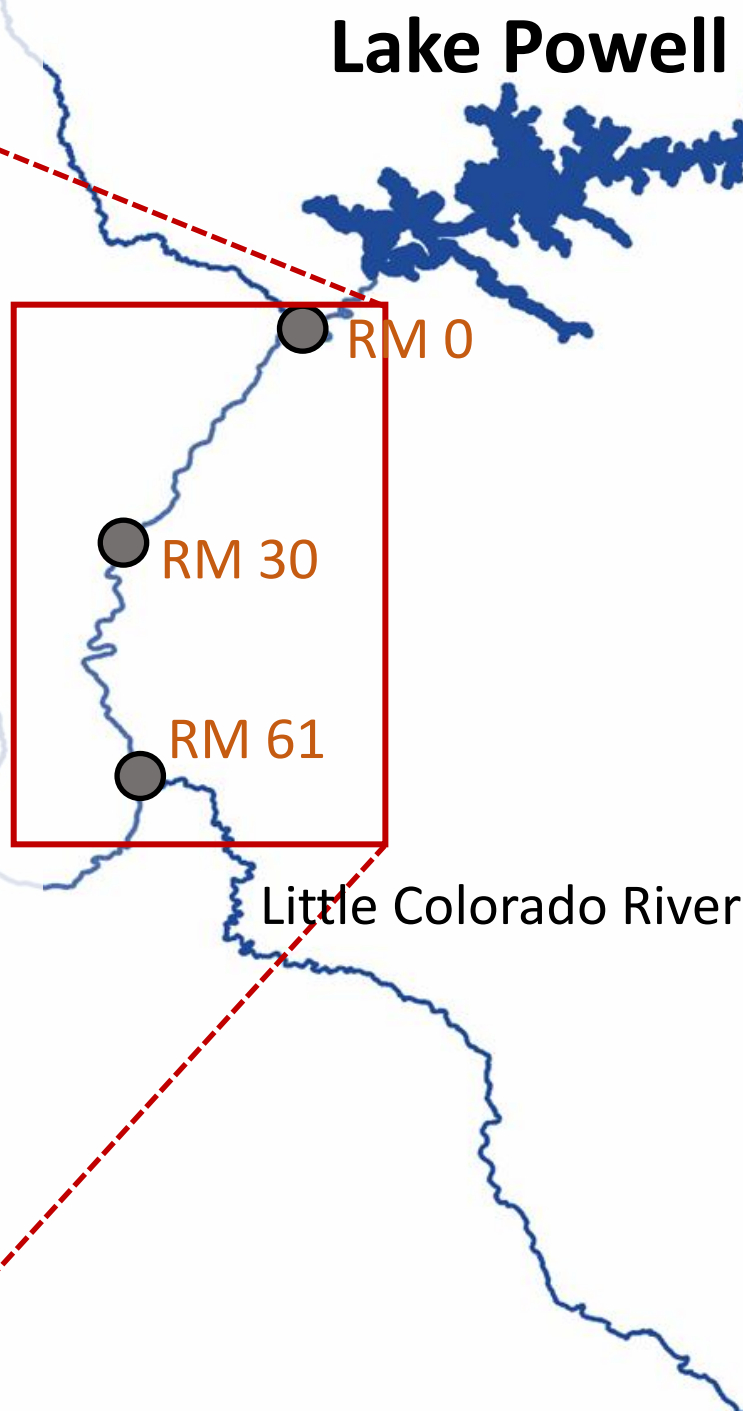
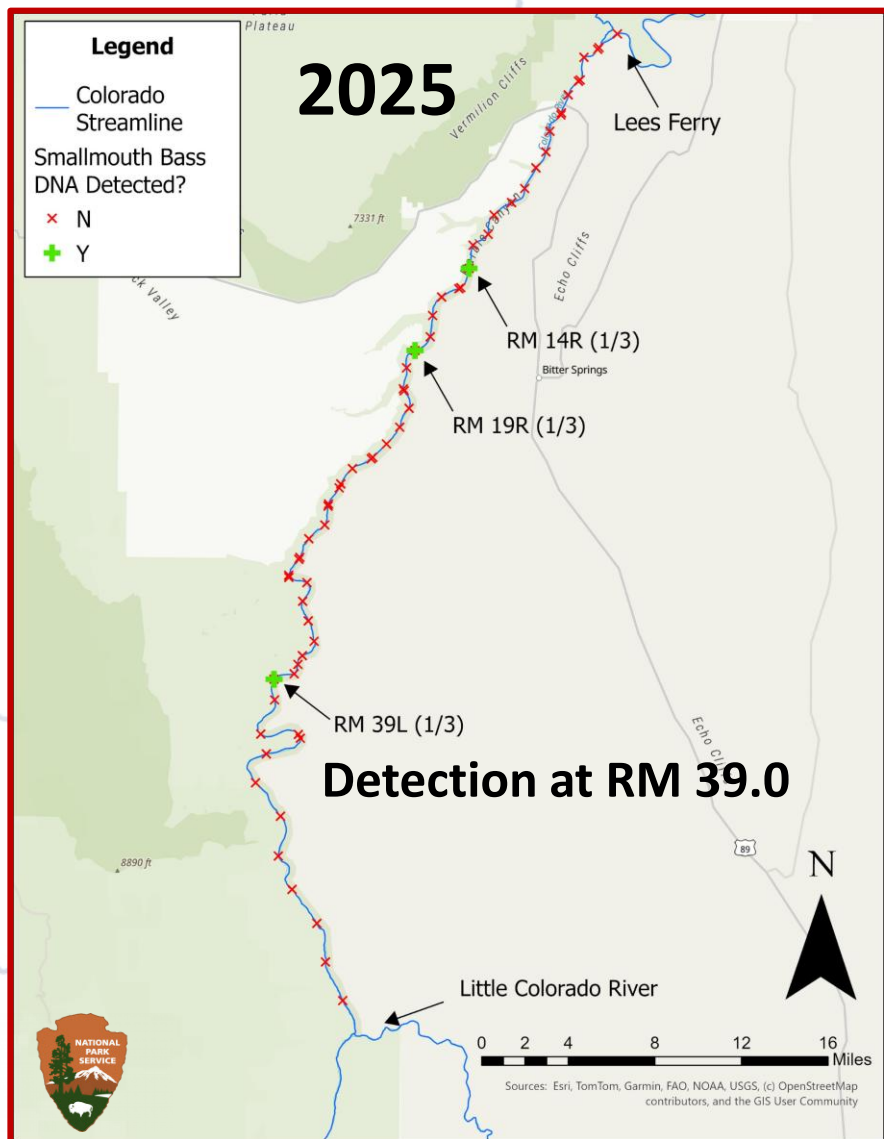
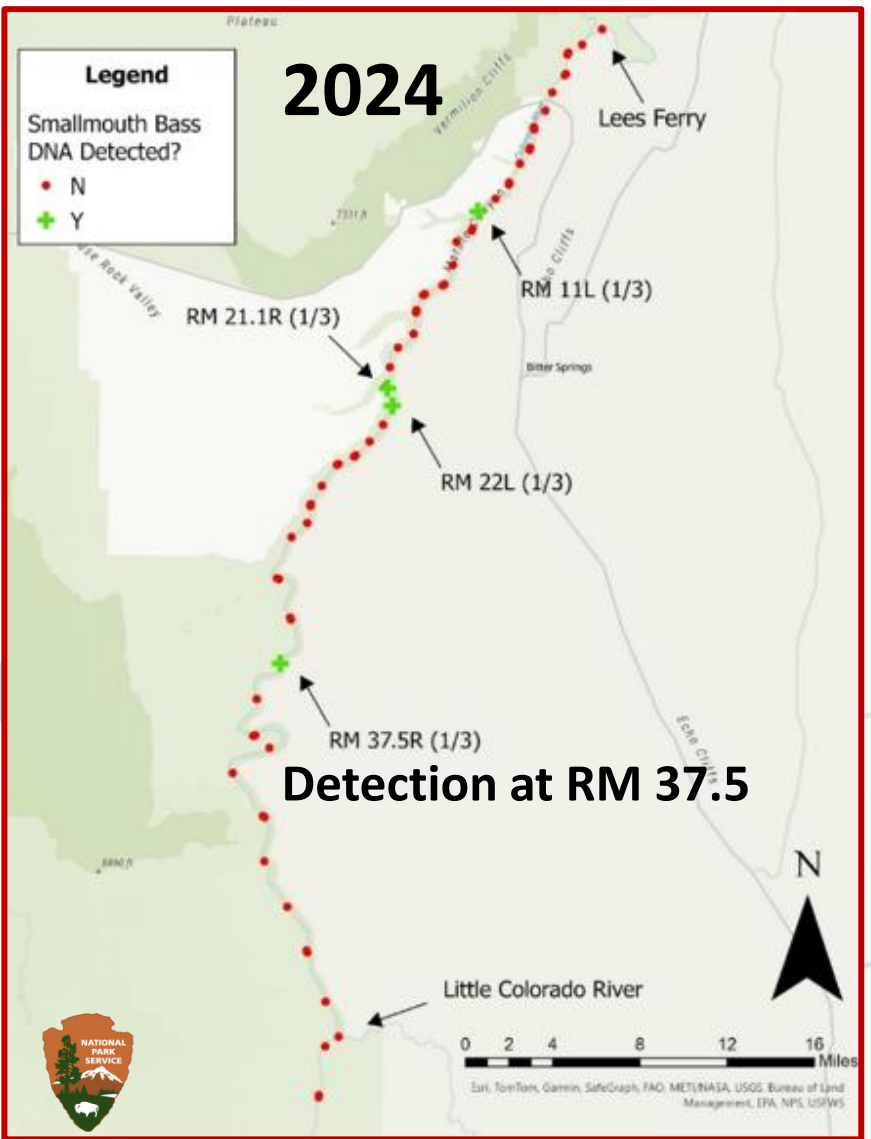


Boat electrofishing, fixed sites (near RM -13 and RM -4)



SMB eDNA Detections

Lake Powell



SMB Research and Monitoring

Determining the effectiveness of removals & flow experiments

To date, no evidence of recruitment in 2024 or 2025

Abundance/
Catch

Distribution/
Dispersal

Growth

Diet

Kinship

Reproduction?

No evidence of
Age-0

Evidence of
Age-0

Age-0 Growth
Rate

Recruitment?

Pop Growth?

Entrained
from Lake?

Reproduced
locally?

When?
(relative to
experimental
actions)

Where?
(mainstem or
backwater)

Entrainment?

Genetic samples

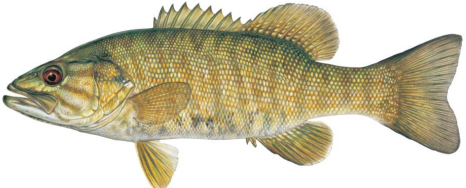
2025 Other High-Risk Nonnative Fishes Captures

(2024*)

System Wide

51 (254)

Smallmouth Bass



4,533 (15,718)

Green Sunfish



485 (1,405)

Brown Trout



366 (354)

Bluegill



43 (52)

Walleye



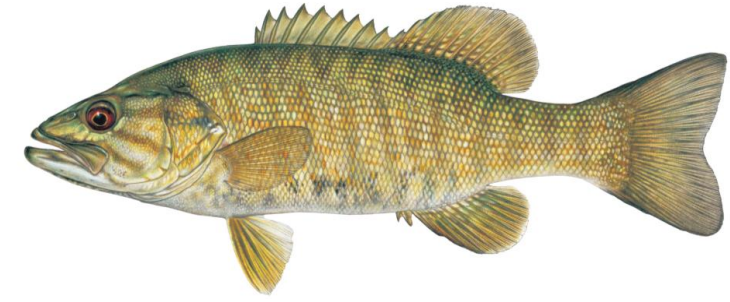
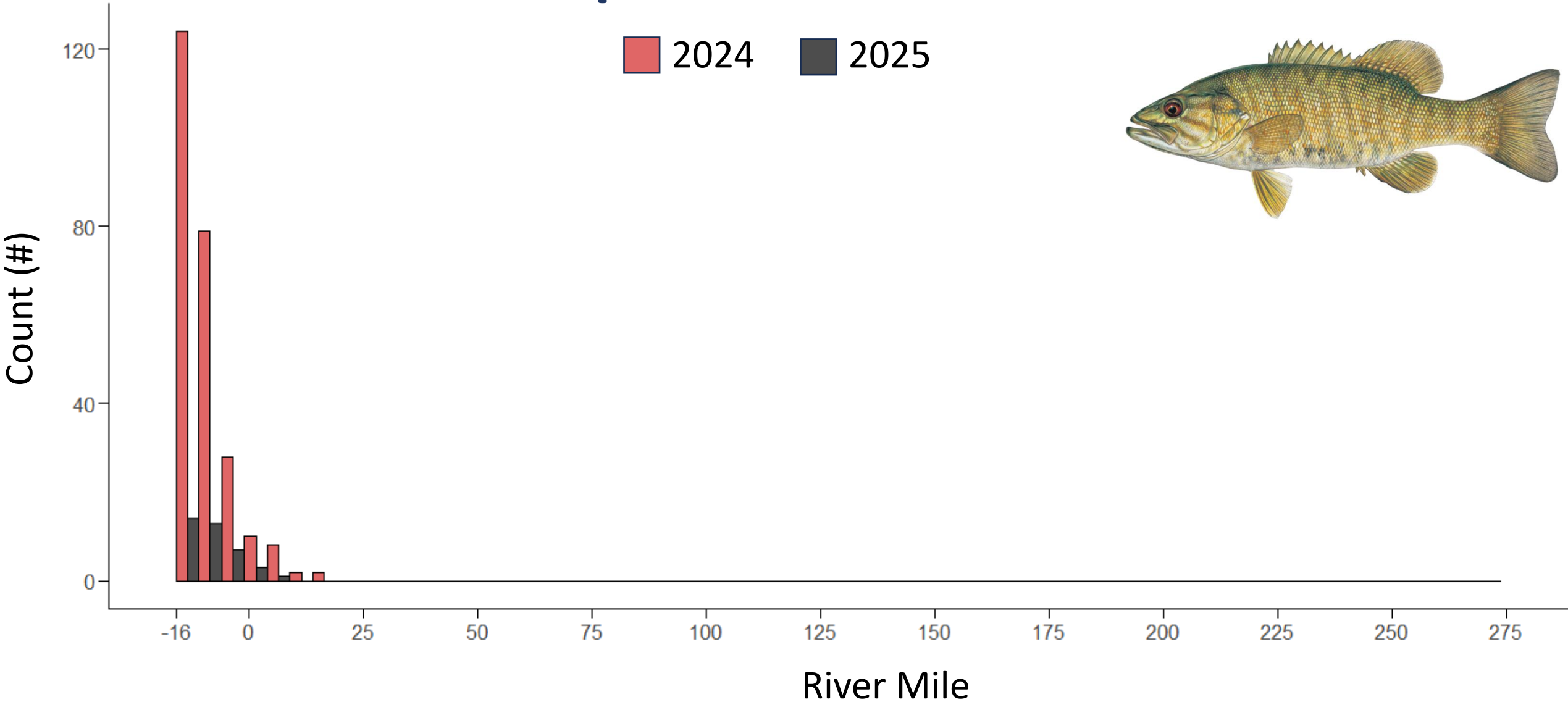
8 (3)

Striped Bass

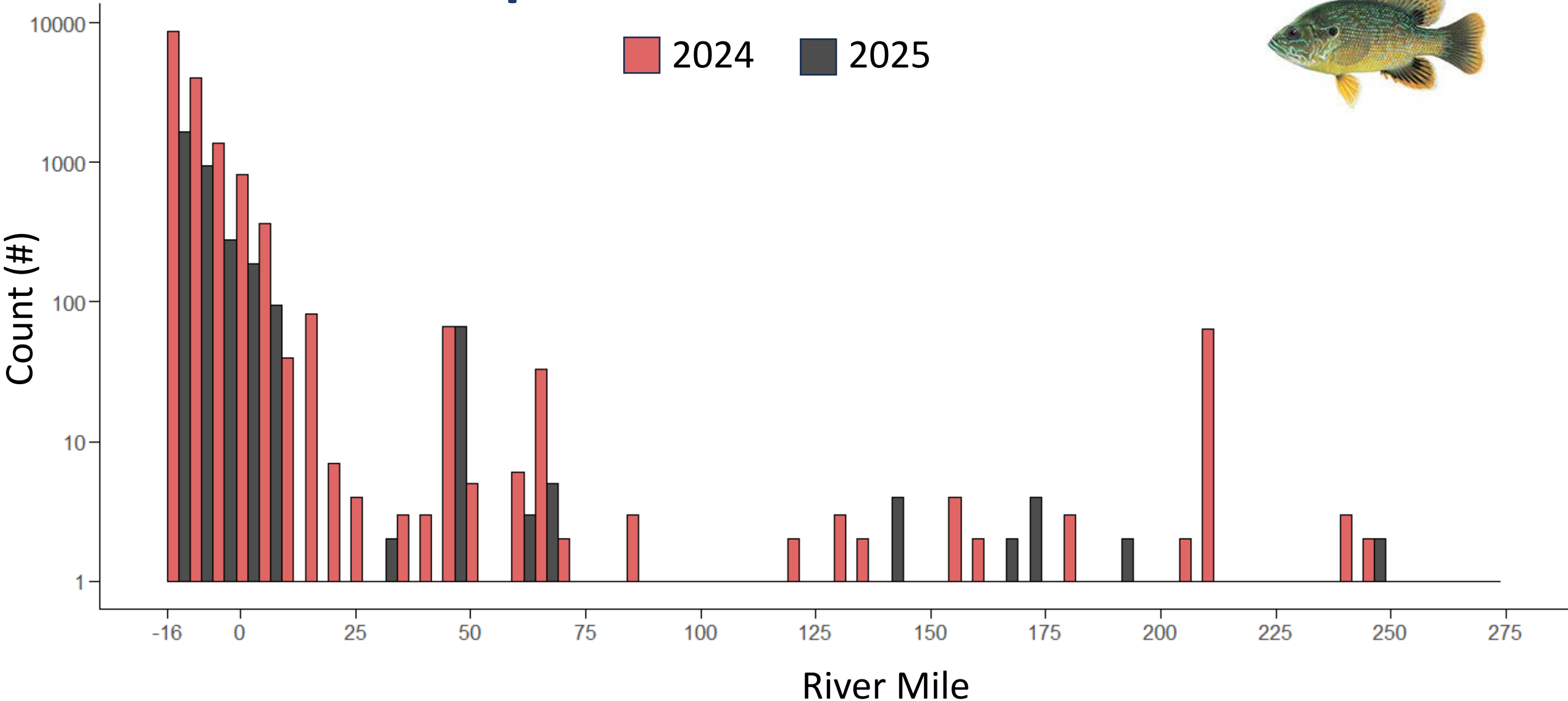


Smallmouth Bass Captures: Location

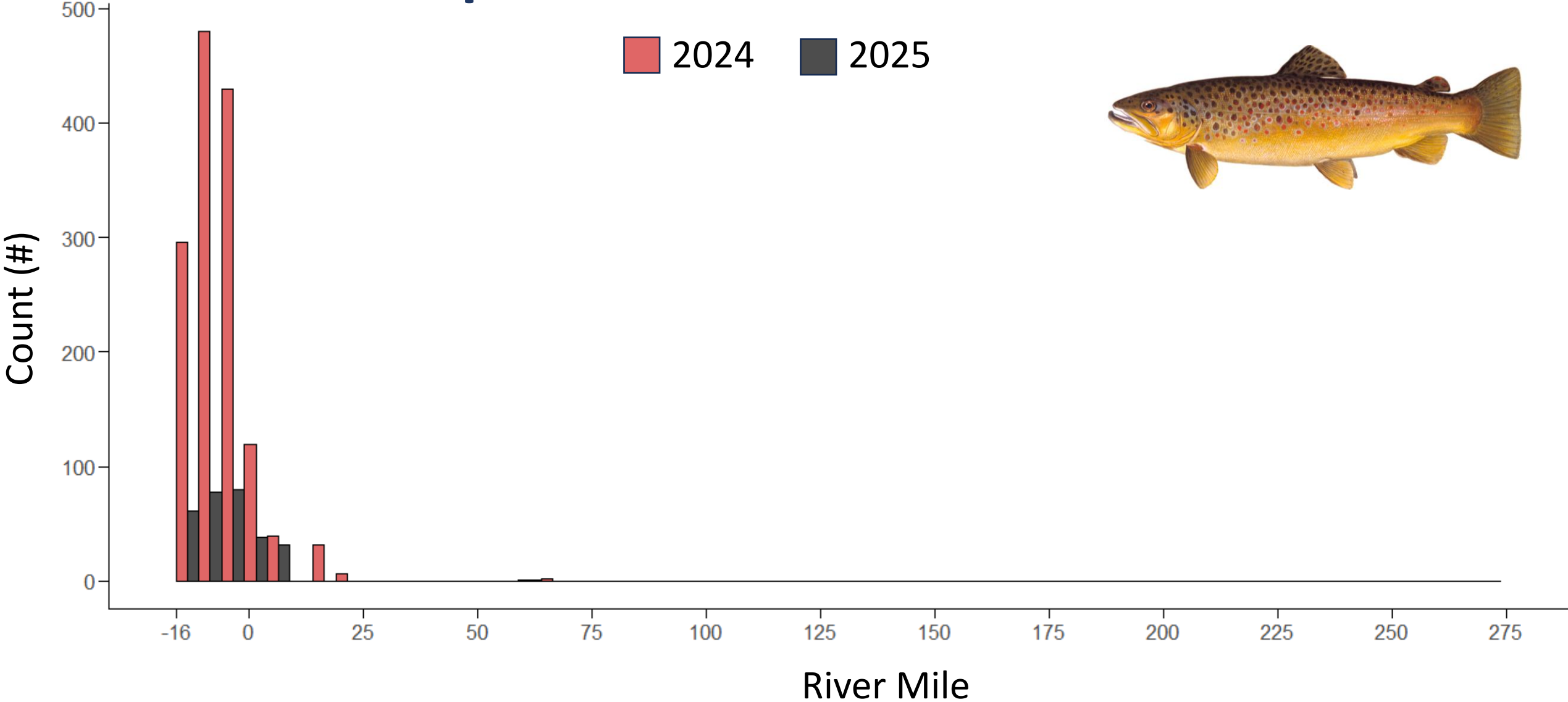
(Full calendar year)



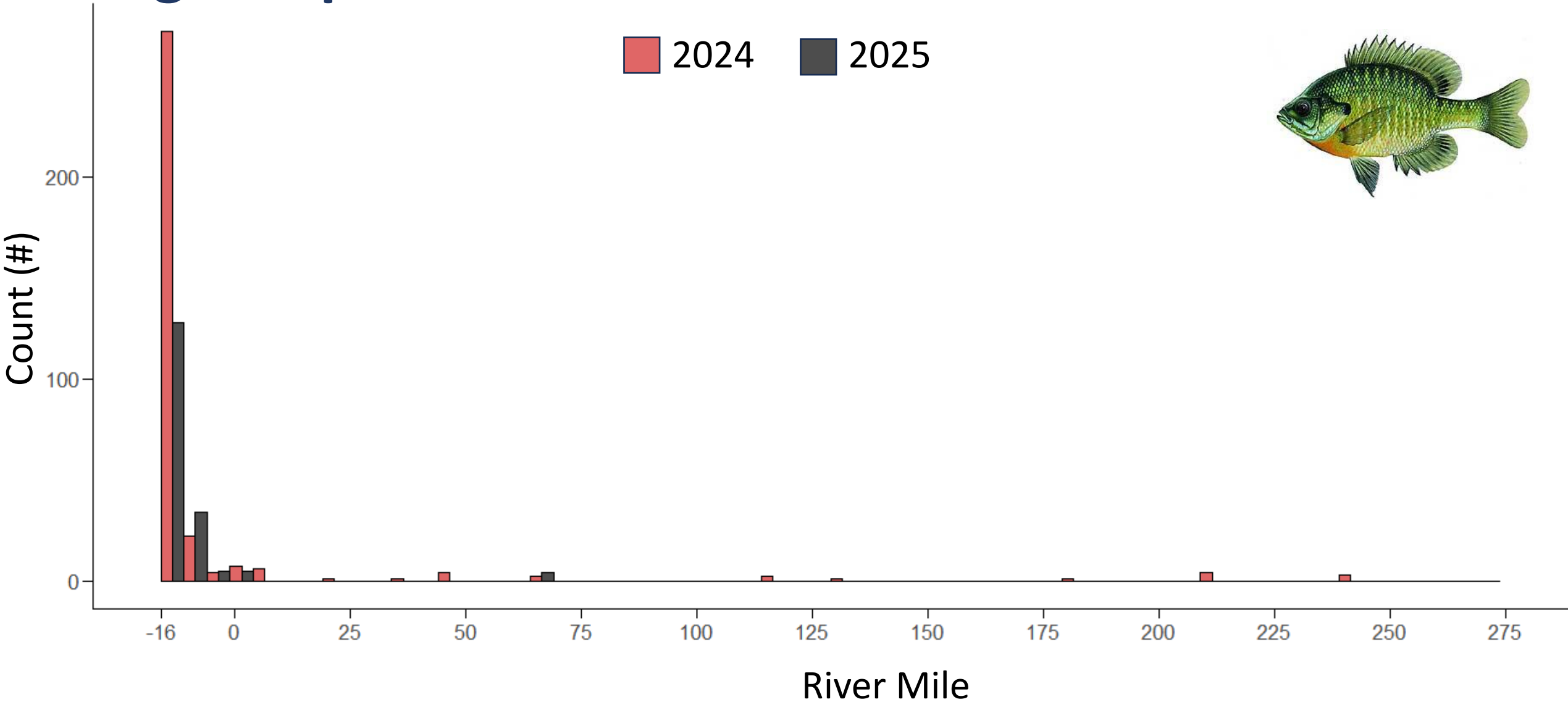
Green Sunfish Captures: Location



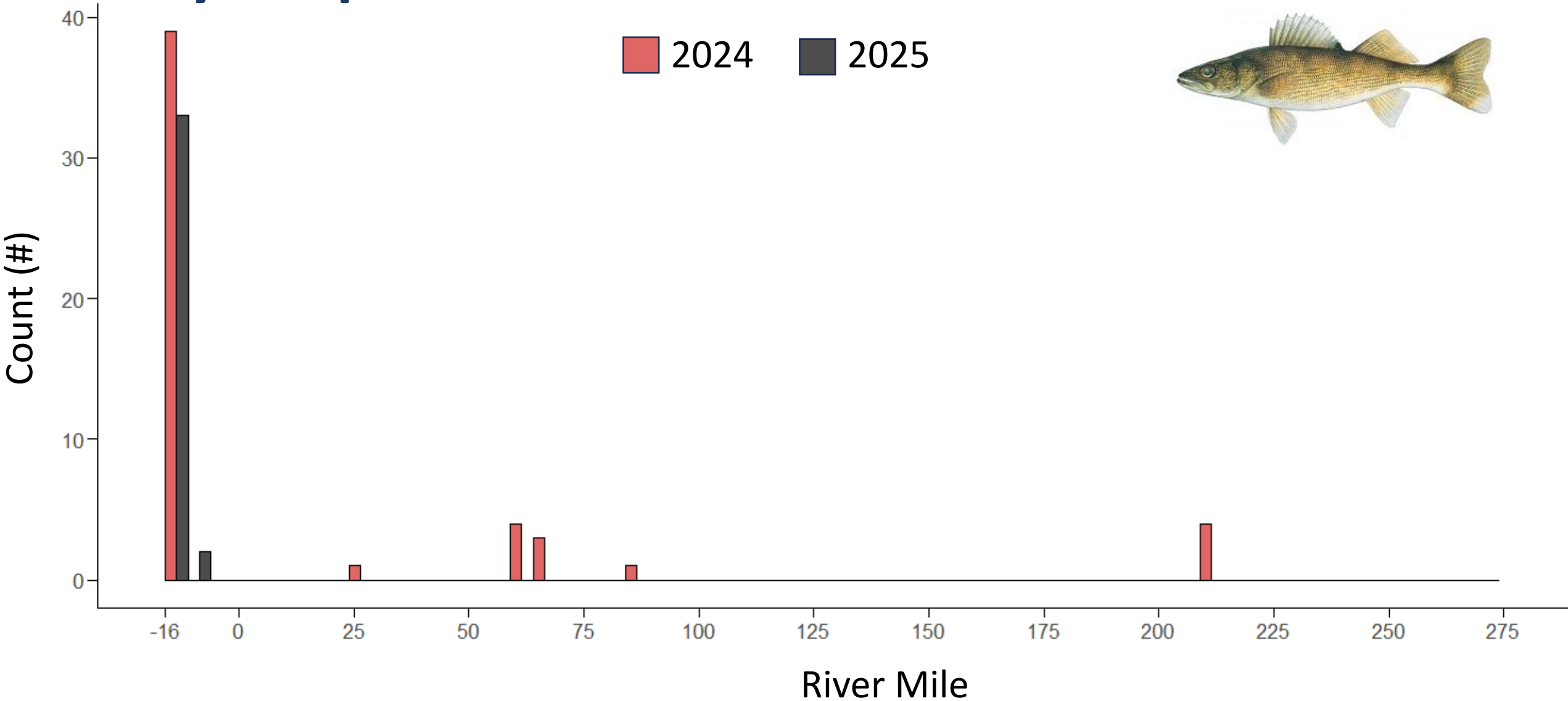
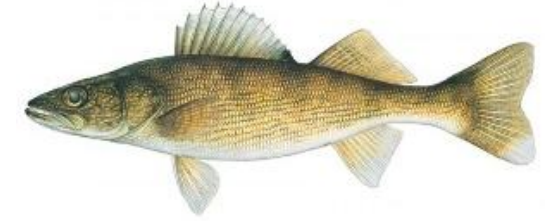
Brown Trout Captures: Location



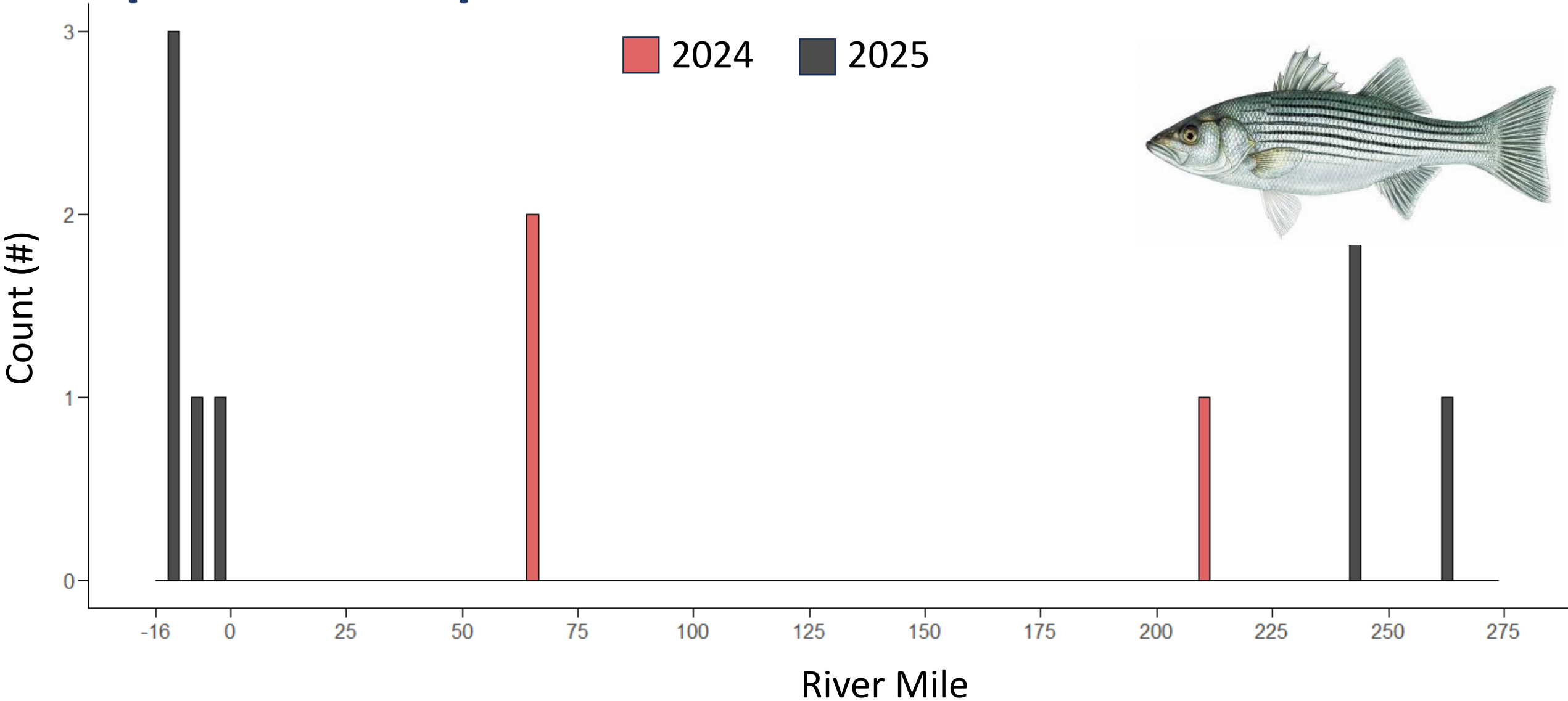
Bluegill Captures: Location



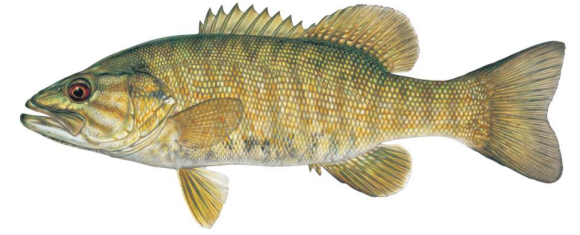
Walleye Captures: Location



Striped Bass Captures: Location

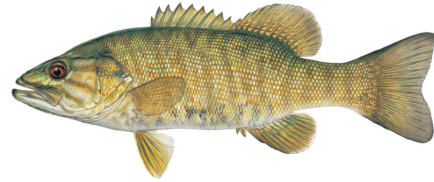


Summary



- 2025 SMB catch was lower than in 2024*
(as with most other high-risk non-native species)
- To date, no evidence of SMB recruitment in 2024/2025
- Continued monitoring across multiple agencies is important

Questions?



Smallmouth Bass



Green Sunfish



Walleye



Striped Bass



Brown Trout



Bluegill

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