

**Largemouth Bass and Relationships with
Submersed Aquatic Vegetation**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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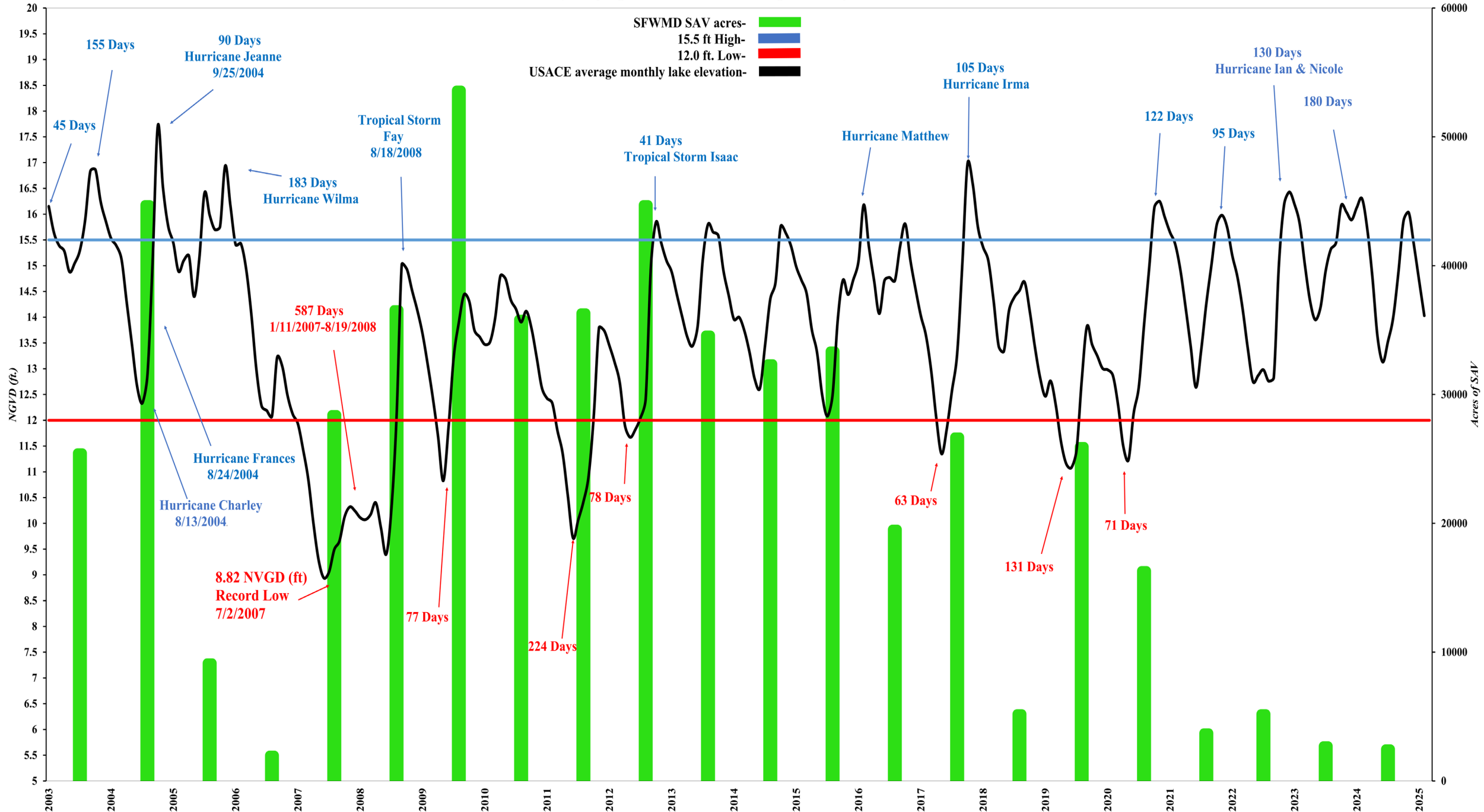
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Lake Okeechobee Hydrograph with Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) acres

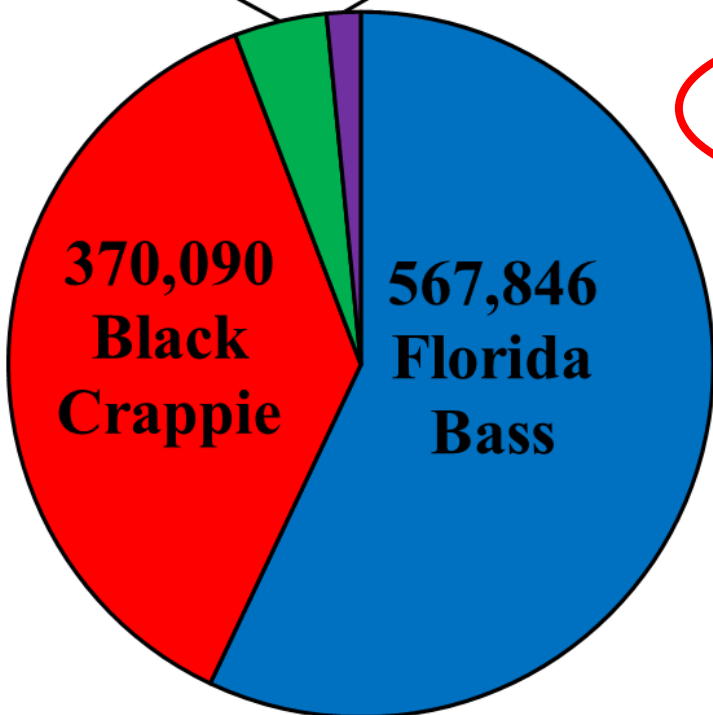




2022-2023 Lake Okeechobee
Estimated Angling Hours By Species
995,703 Total Estimated Hours

Fishing Effort

42,297 Bream **15,470 Other**

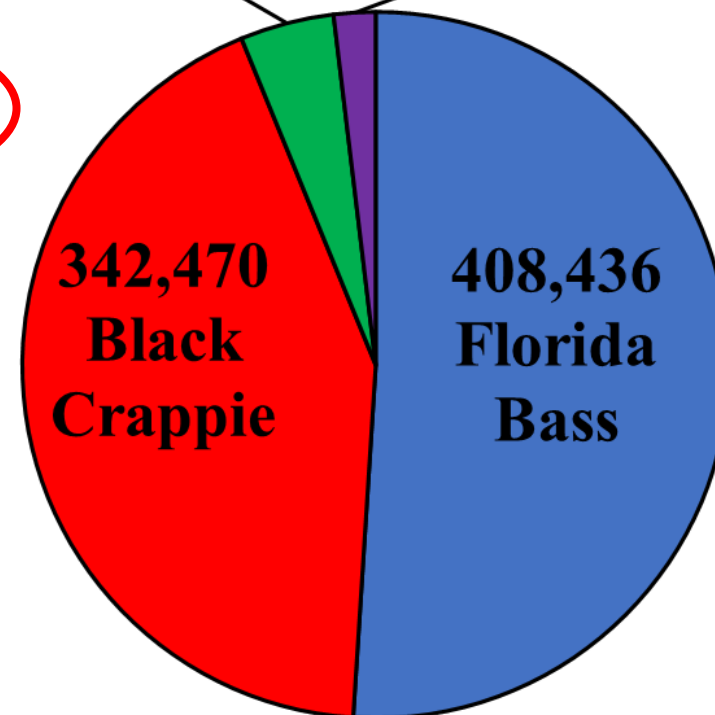


Access Creel Survey
October-June

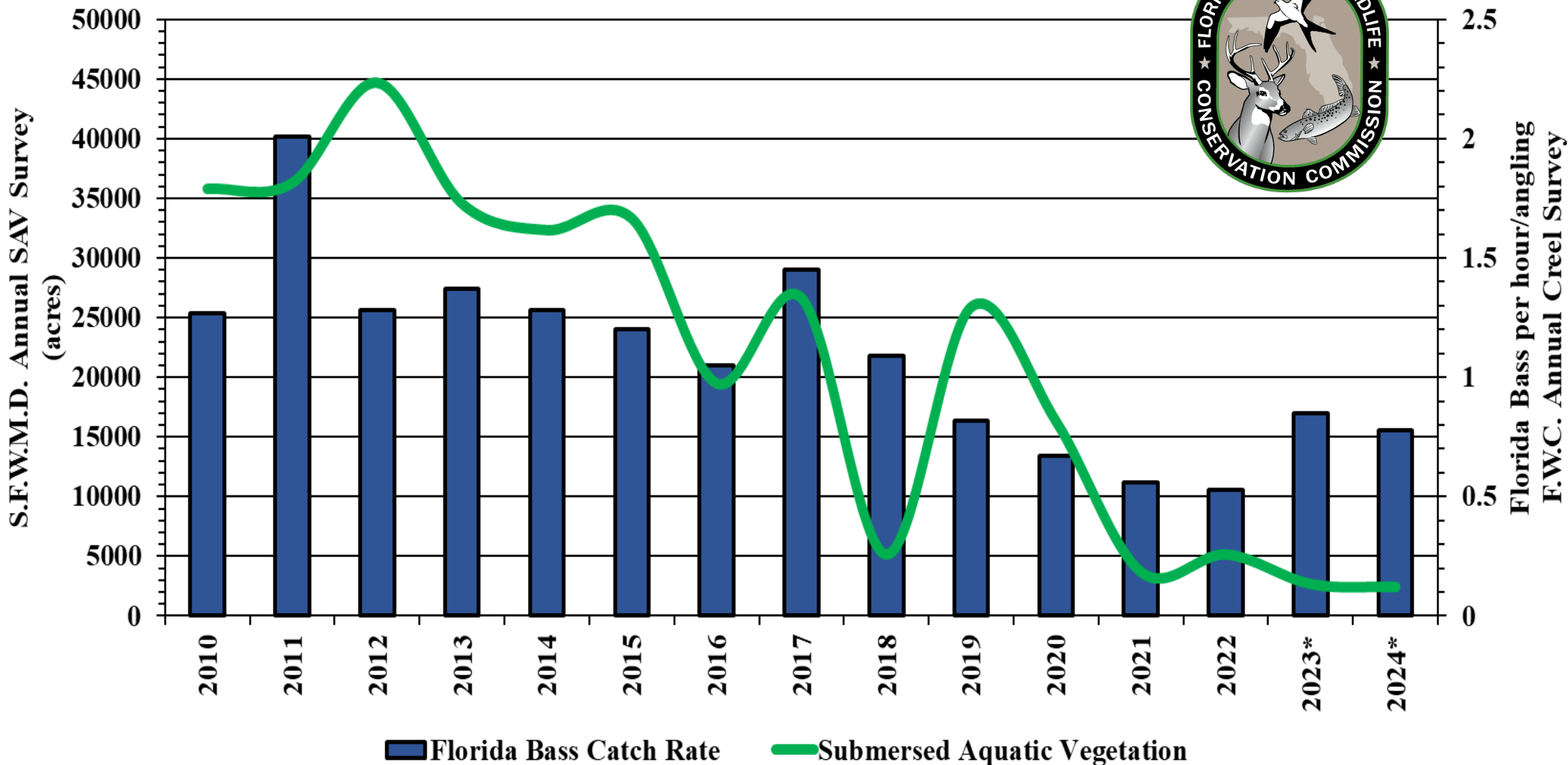
2023-2024 Lake Okeechobee
Estimated Angling Hours By Species
800,595 Total Estimated Hours

Fishing Effort

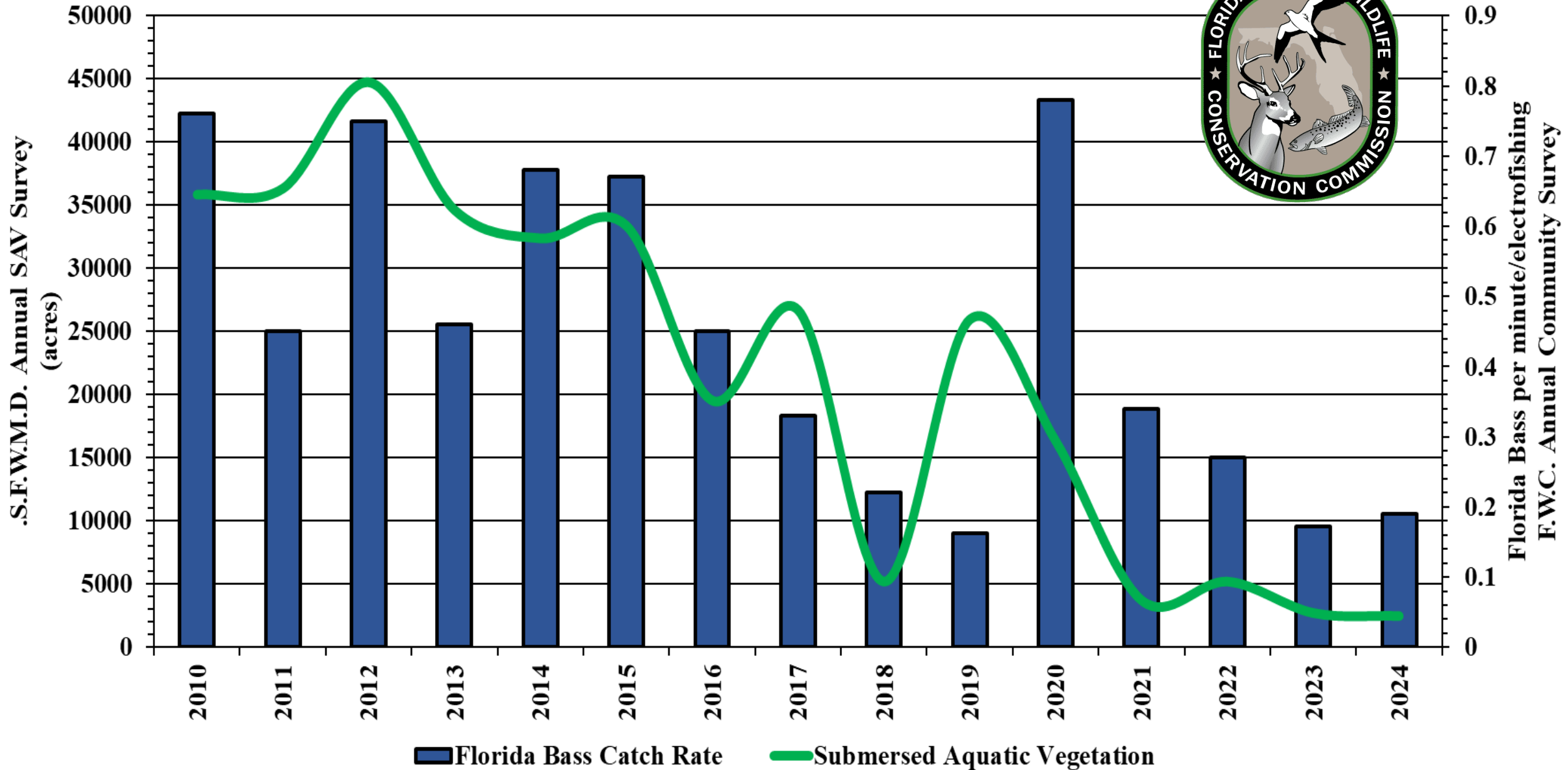
34,396 Bream **15,293 Other**



Lake Okeechobee Florida Bass Creel Catch Rate Relationship with Submersed Aquatic Vegetation



Lake Okeechobee Florida Bass Fall Electrofishing Catch Rate Relationship with Submersed Aquatic Vegetation



Lake Okeechobee Florida Bass Spring Electrofishing Catch Rate Relationship with Submersed Aquatic Vegetation



S.F.W.M.D. Annual SAV Survey

(acres)

50000
45000
40000
35000
30000
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

Florida Bass Catch Rate

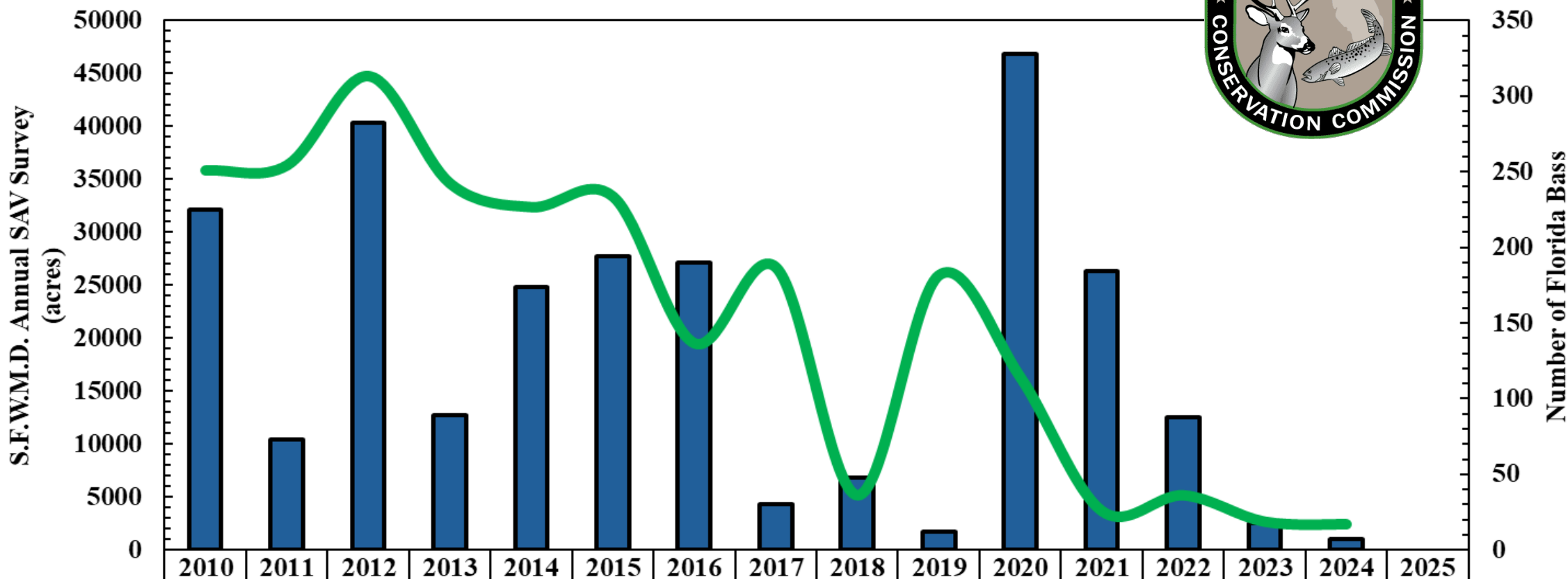
Submersed Aquatic Vegetation

0.9
0.8
0.7
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0

Florida Bass per minute/electrofishing

F.W.C. Annual Florida Bass Survey

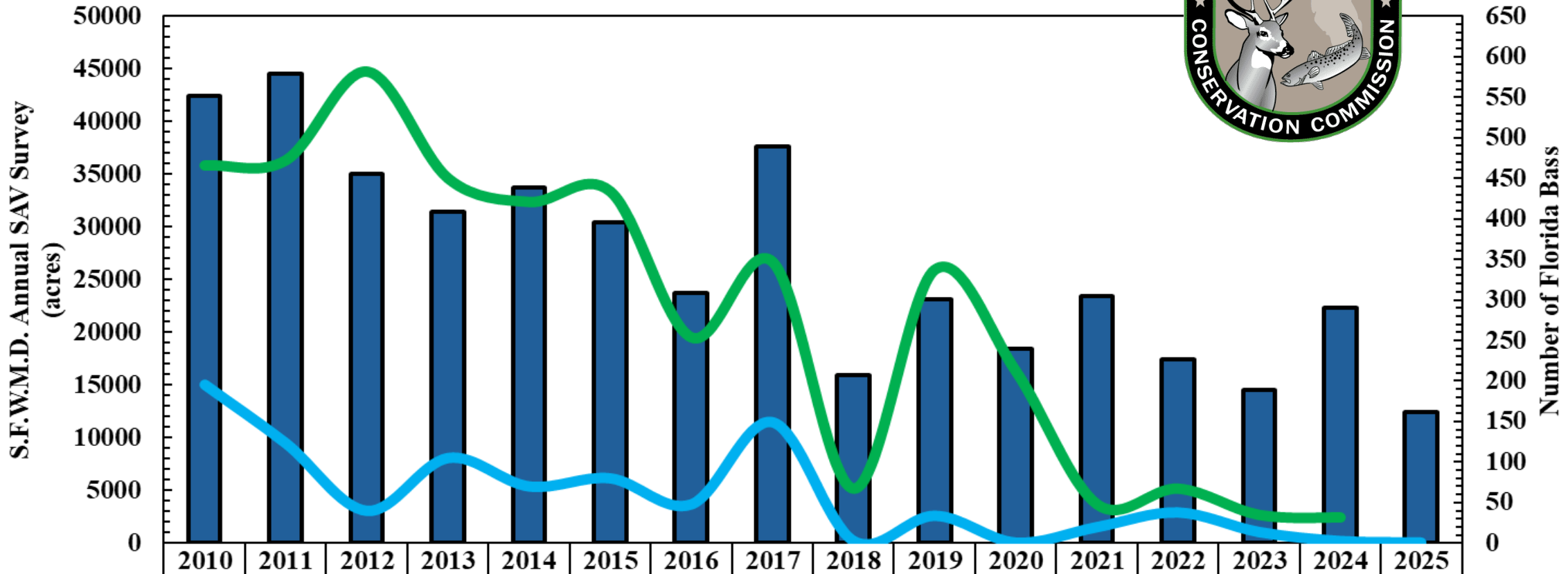
Lake Okeechobee Florida Bass Fall Population Relationship with Submersed Aquatic Vegetation 2010-2025



Fall Juvenile Florida Bass	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	225	73	282	89	174	194	190	30	48	12	328	184	88	18	7	
Acres SAV	35815	36309	44707	34580	32357	33345	19513	26676	5187	25935	16302	3705	5187	2700	2458	

Fall Juvenile Florida Bass Acres SAV

Lake Okeechobee Florida Bass Spring Population Relationship with Submersed Aquatic Vegetation 2010-2025



Total Bass	551	579	455	408	439	395	309	489	207	301	239	304	227	189	290	162
Acres SAV	35815	36309	44707	34580	32357	33345	19513	26676	5187	25935	16302	3705	5187	2700	2458	
Spring Juvenile Bass	195	123	40	105	70	80	48	149	3	34	1	20	38	14	3	1

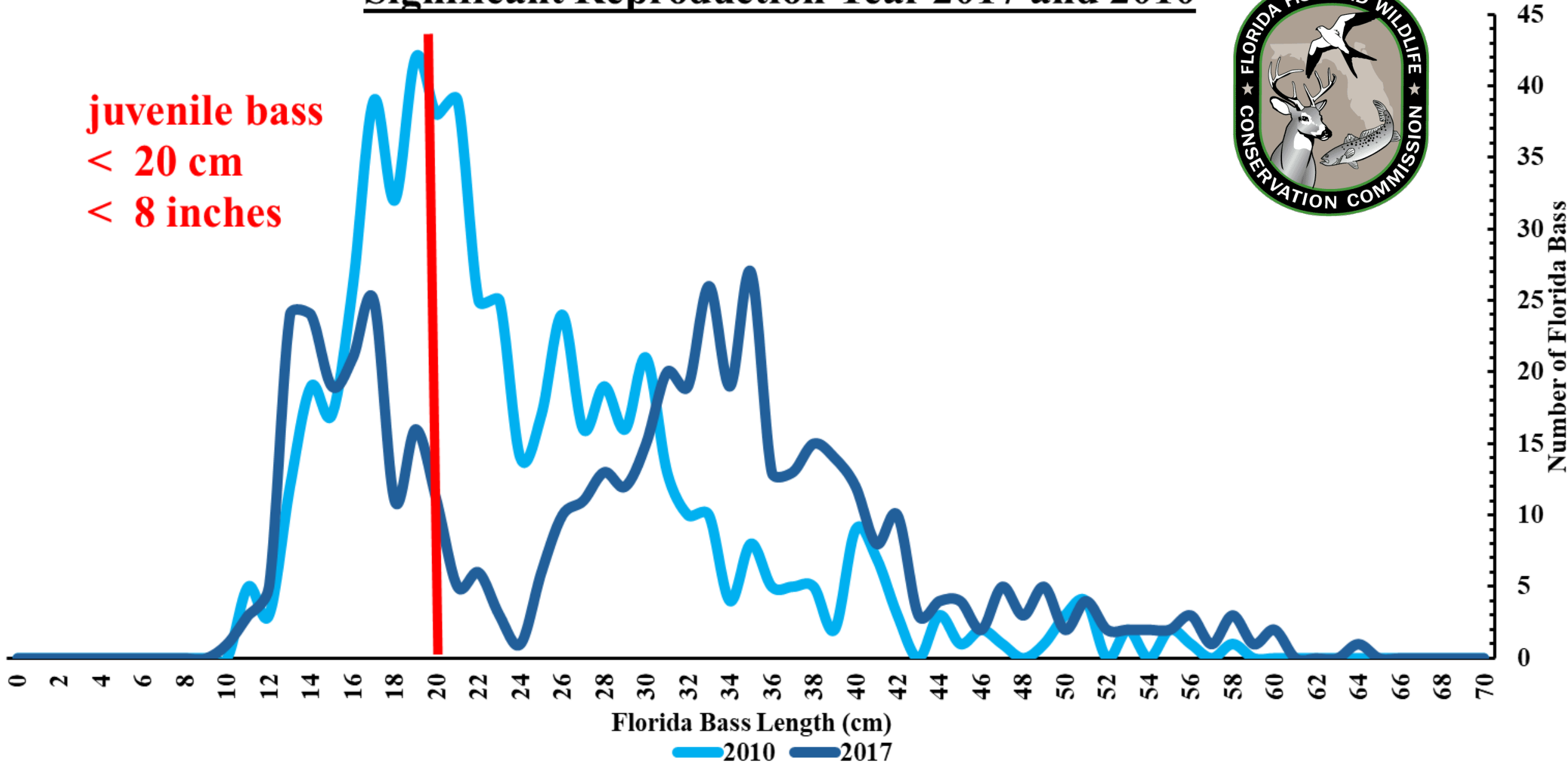
Total Bass
 Acres SAV
 Spring Juvenile Bass

Lake Okeechobee Florida Bass Population Size Structure

Significant Reproduction Year 2017 and 2010



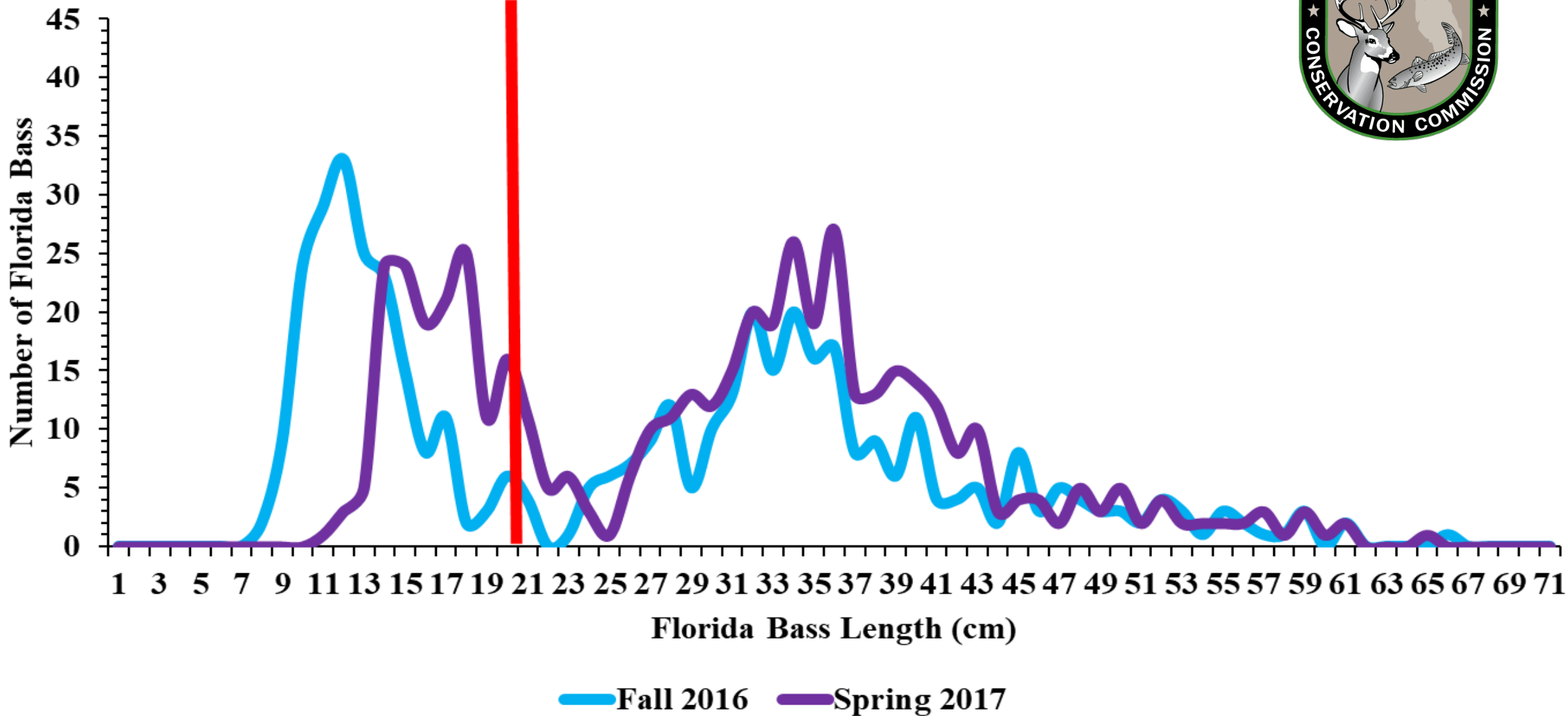
juvenile bass
< 20 cm
< 8 inches



Lake Okeechobee Florida Bass Population Size Structure

2016 Fall vs 2017 Spring

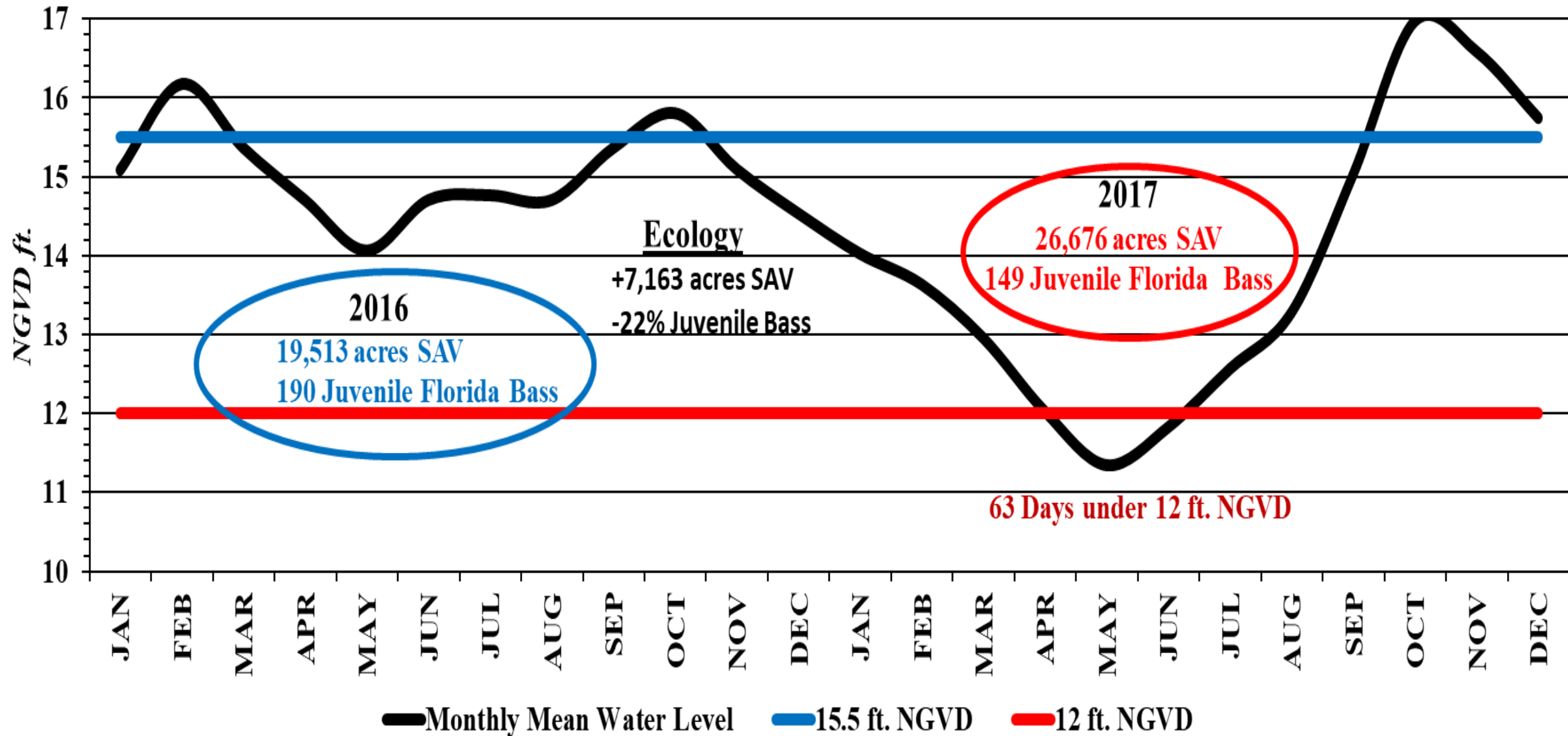
Survival of Juvenile Florida Bass



Lake Okeechobee Hydrograph 2016-2017

Fall Florida Bass vs Spring

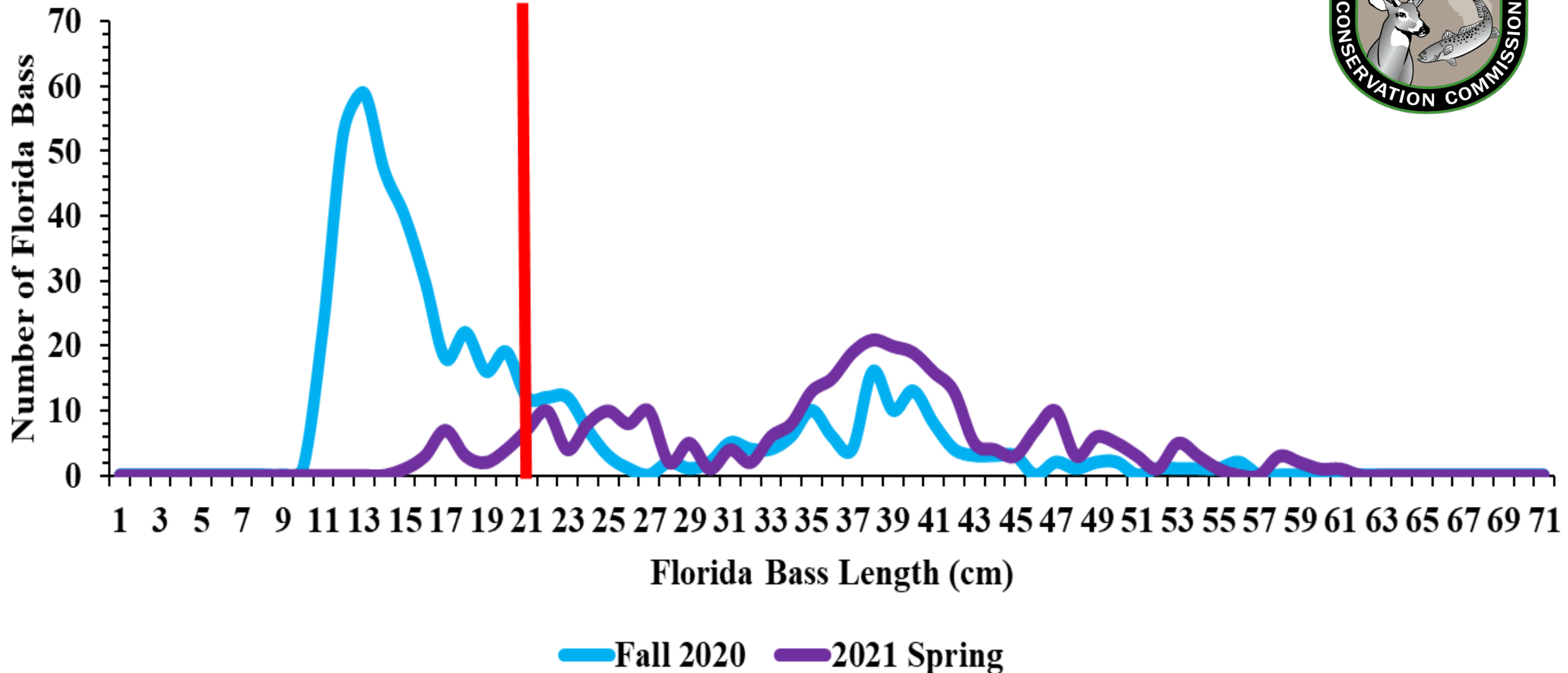
Hurricane Irma
105 Days over 15.5 ft. NGVD



Lake Okeechobee Florida Bass Population Size Structure

2020 Fall vs 2021 Spring

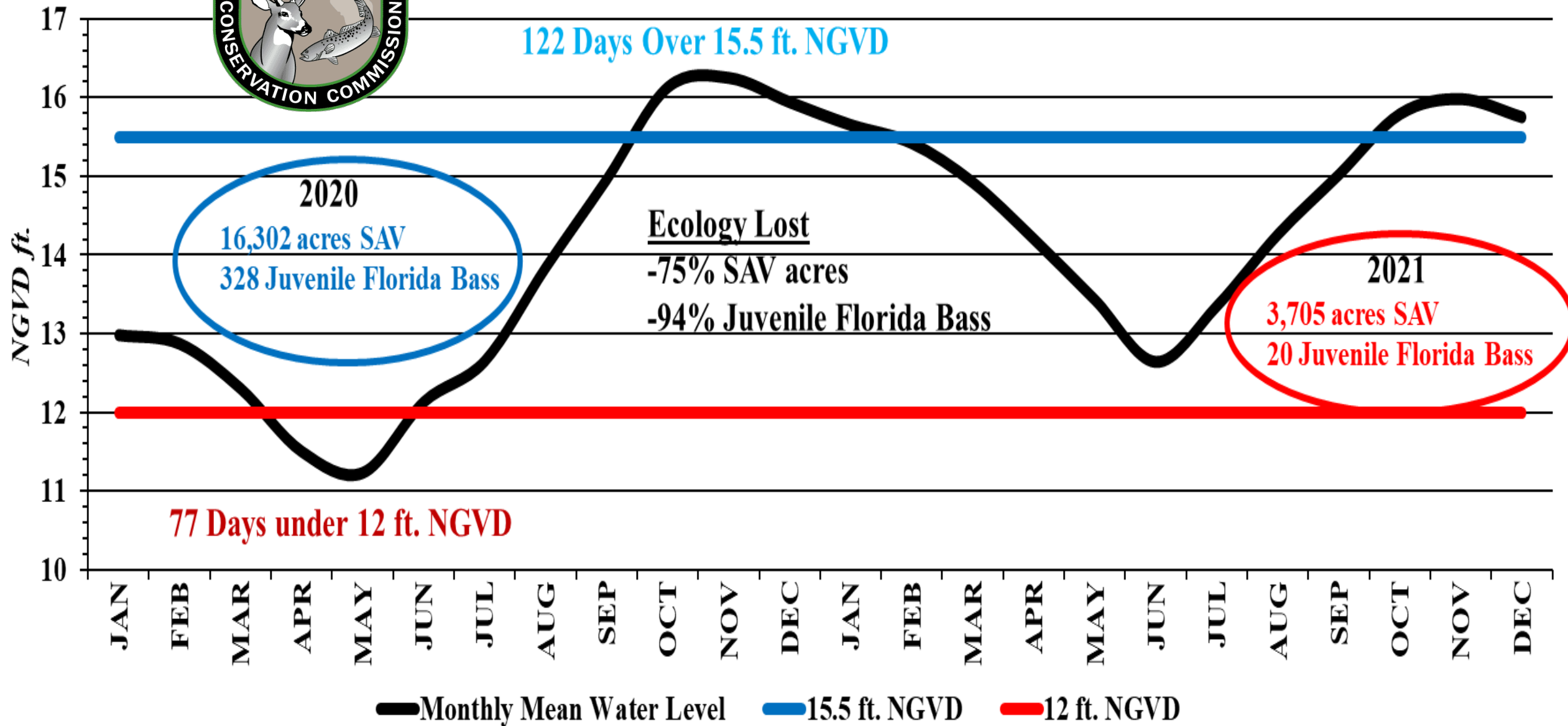
Very Limited Survival of Juvenile Florida Bass

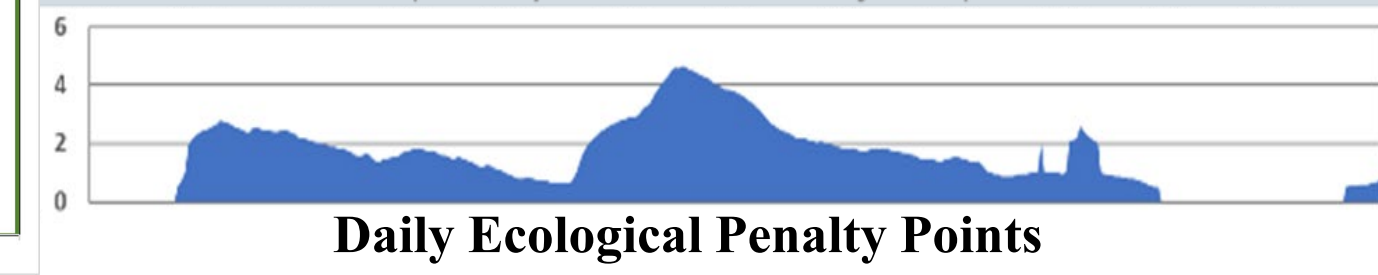
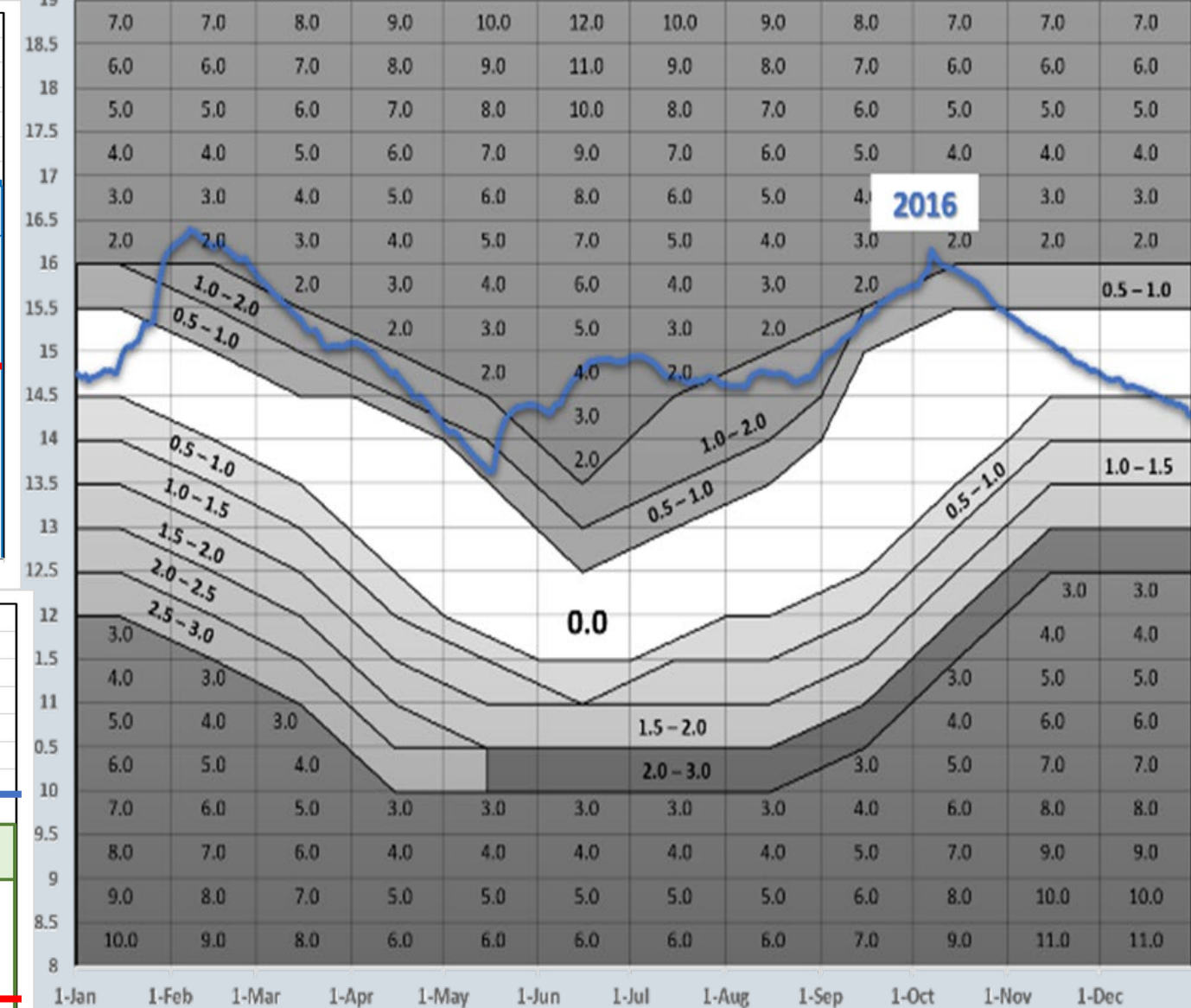
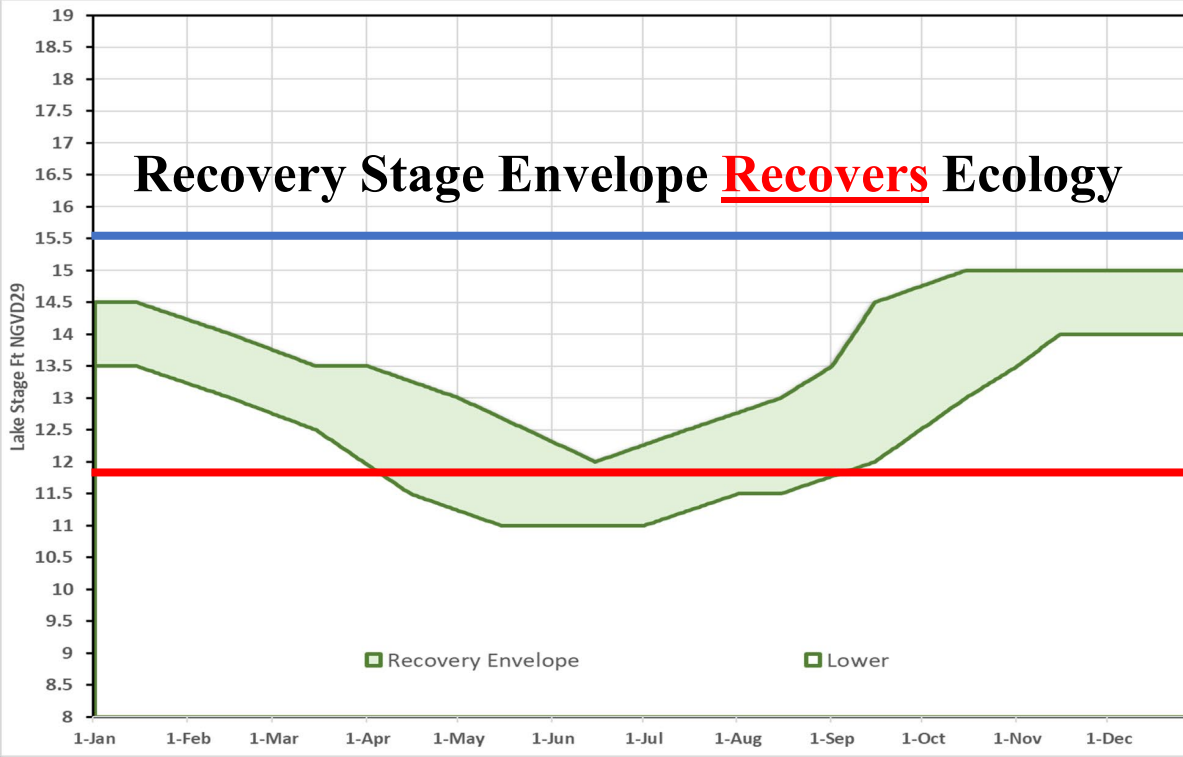
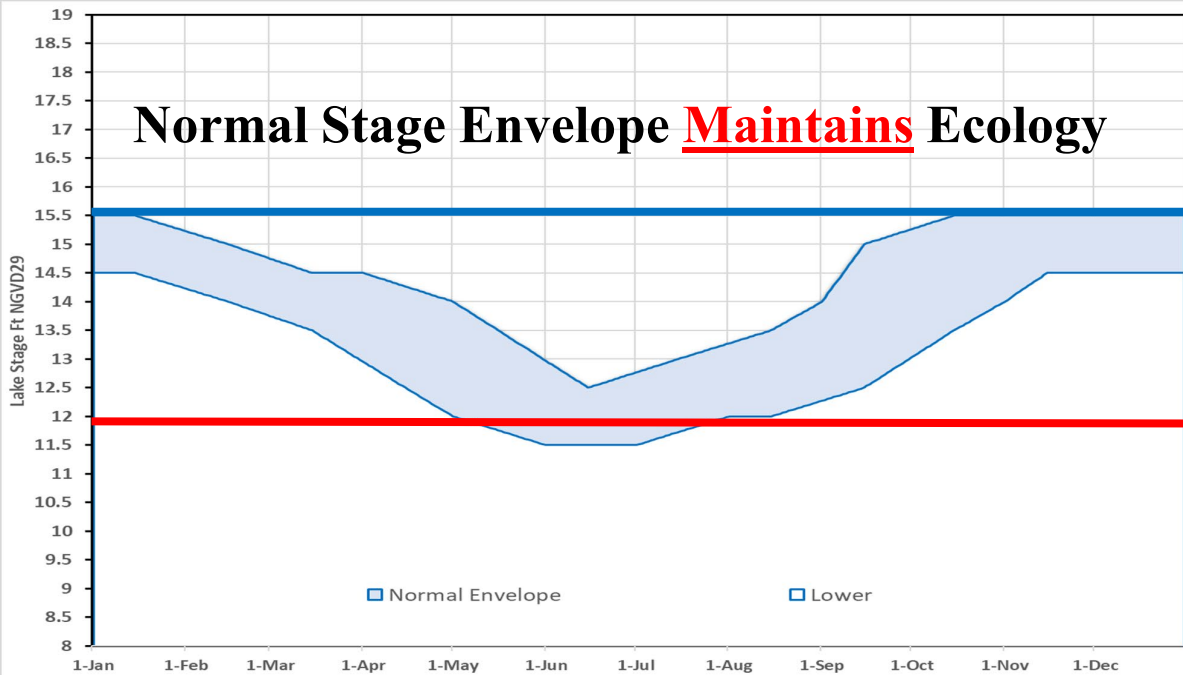




Lake Okeechobee Hydrograph 2020-2021

Fall Florida Bass vs Spring







Lake Okeechobee Ecological Penalty Points 1933-Current

The regulation schedule for the lake from 1951 to 1978 had a high level objective of 15.5 feet NGVD (Trimble and Marban).

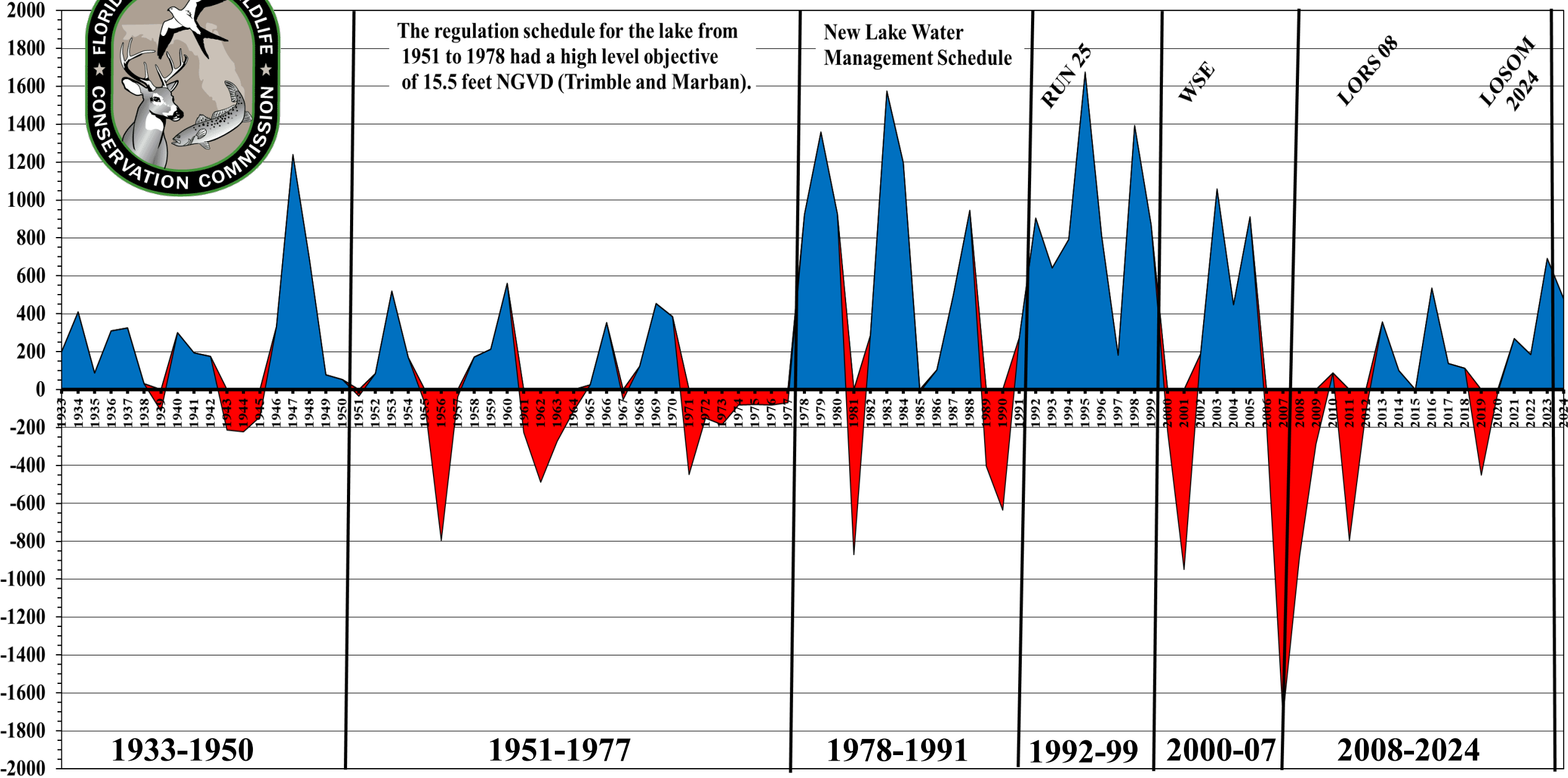
New Lake Water Management Schedule

RUN 25

WSE

LORS 08

LOSOM 2024



1933-1950

1951-1977

1978-1991

1992-99

2000-07

2008-2024

■ High Water Ecological Penalty Points

■ Low Water Ecological Penalty Points