

2025 Trout Update

Jim Habera

TWRA Region 4 Fisheries Program Manager

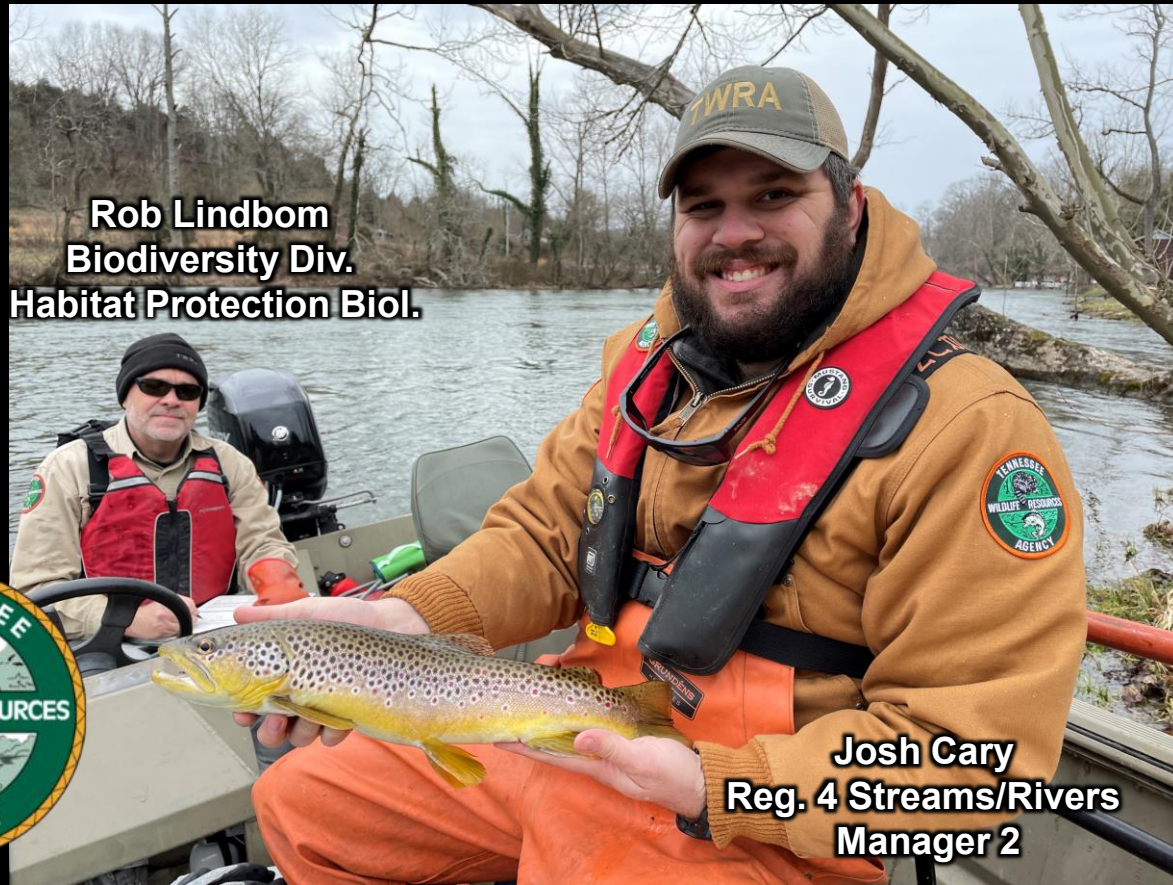


Daulton McCartney
Reg. 4 Streams/Rivers
Technician 2

Sally Petre
Reg. 4 Streams/Rivers
Unit Leader

South Holston Tailwater 2025

12 monitoring sites
(10 min./site; 2 h total effort)



Rob Lindbom
Biodiversity Div.
Habitat Protection Biol.

Josh Cary
Reg. 4 Streams/Rivers
Manager 2



South Holston Tailwater 2025



South Holston Tailwater 2025



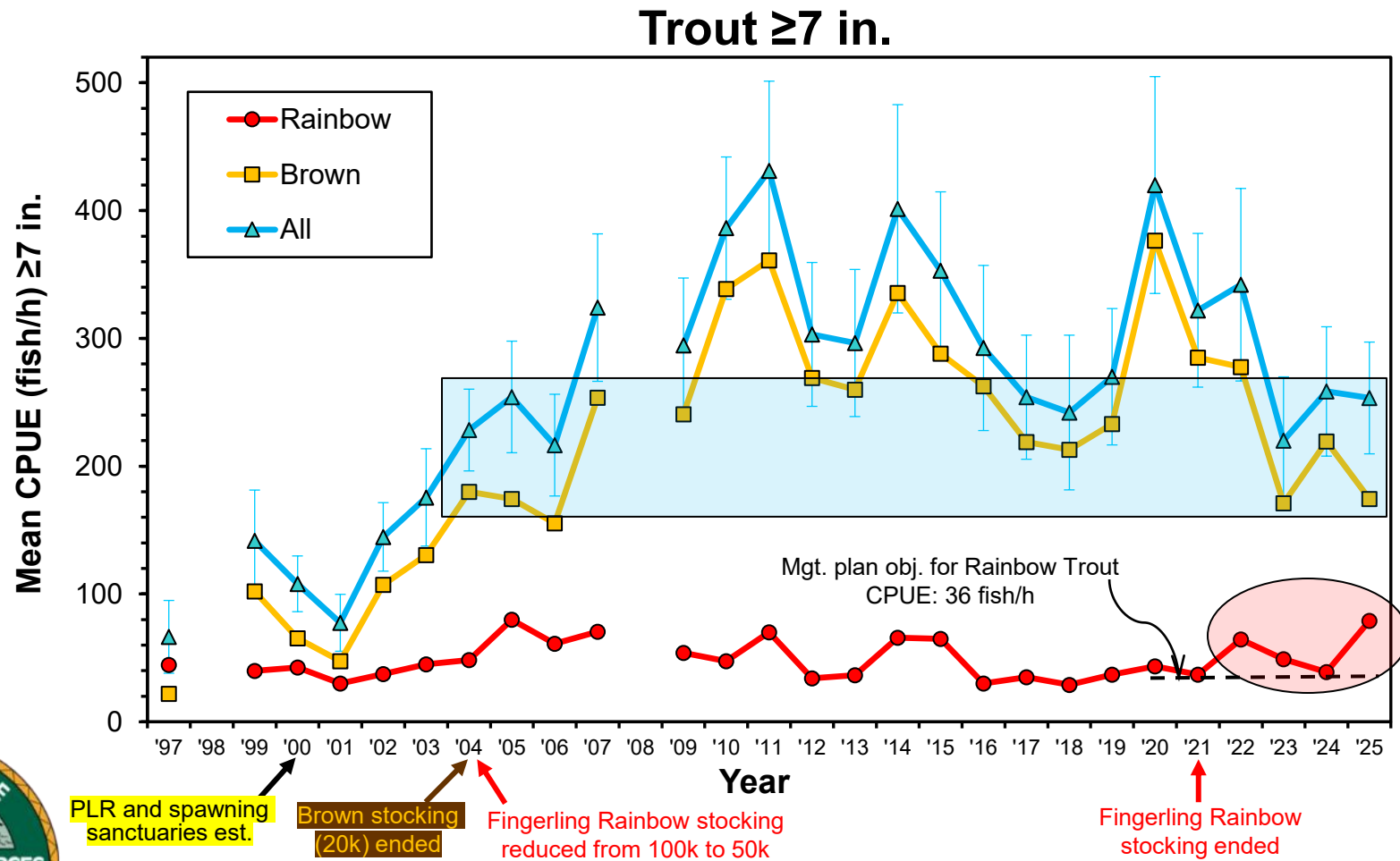
South Holston Tailwater 2025



South Holston Tailwater 2025



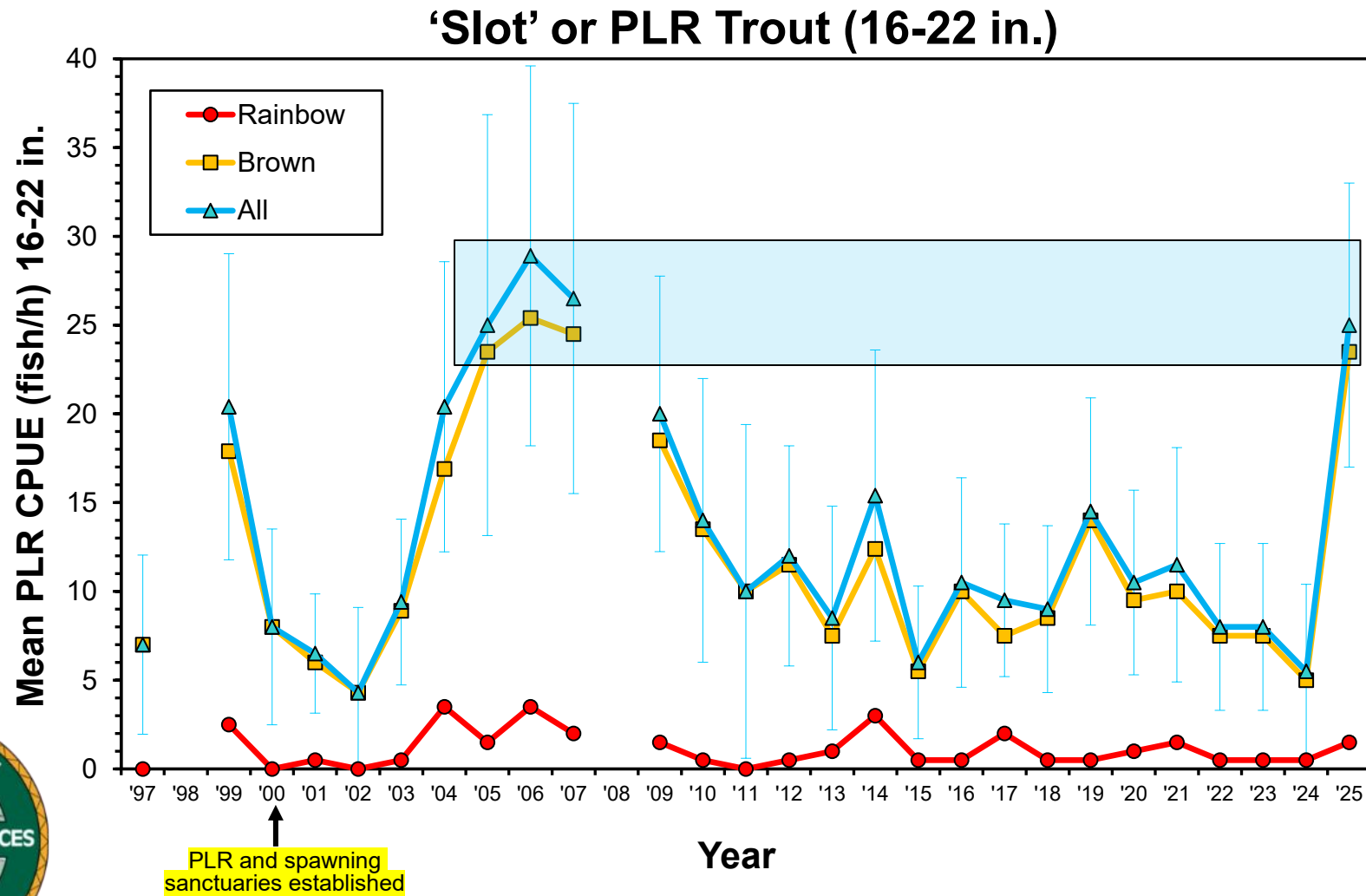
South Holston Tailwater—Electrofishing CPUE



Bars = 90% confidence intervals for 'All Trout' CPUE means



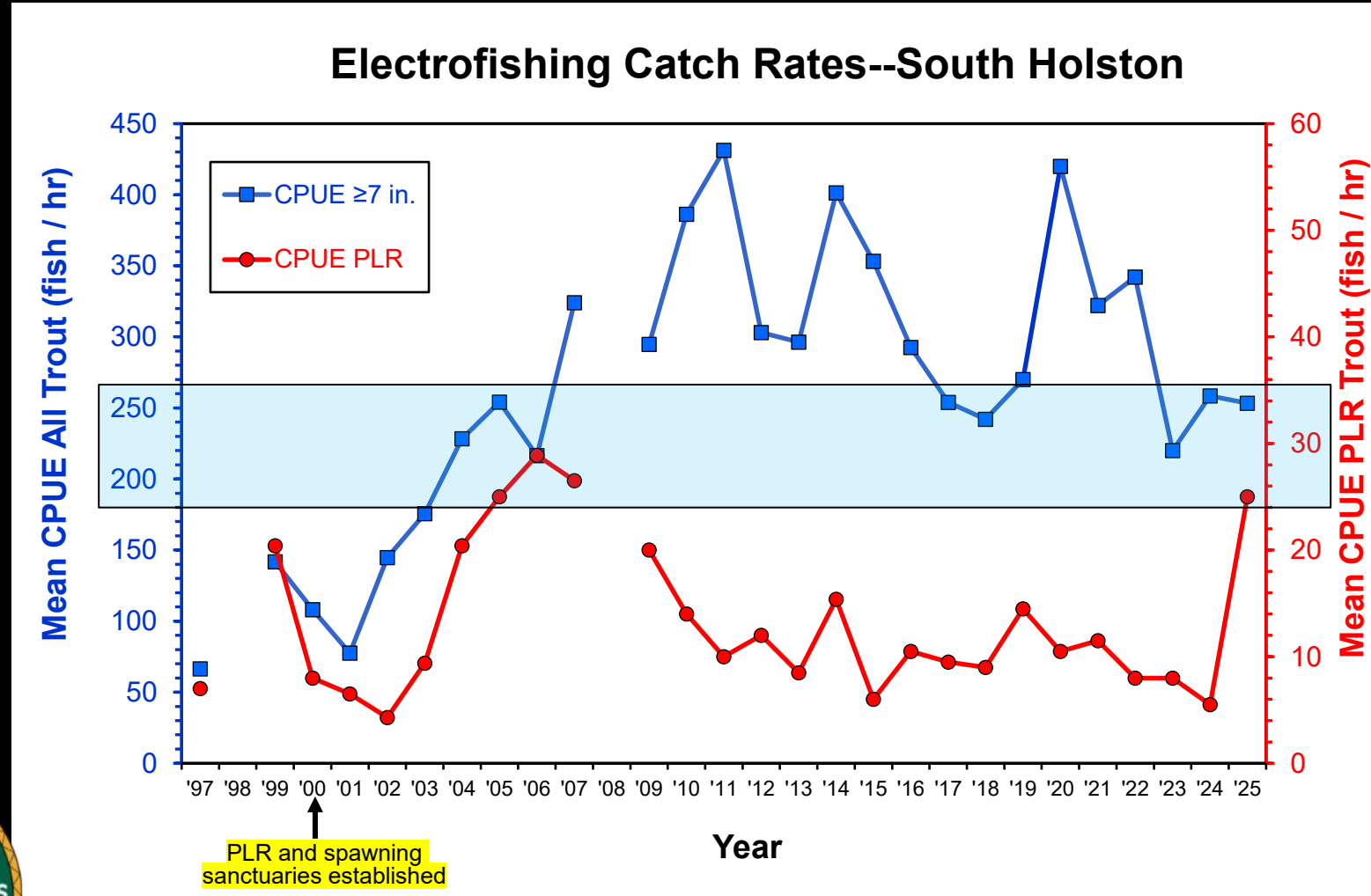
South Holston Tailwater—Electrofishing CPUE



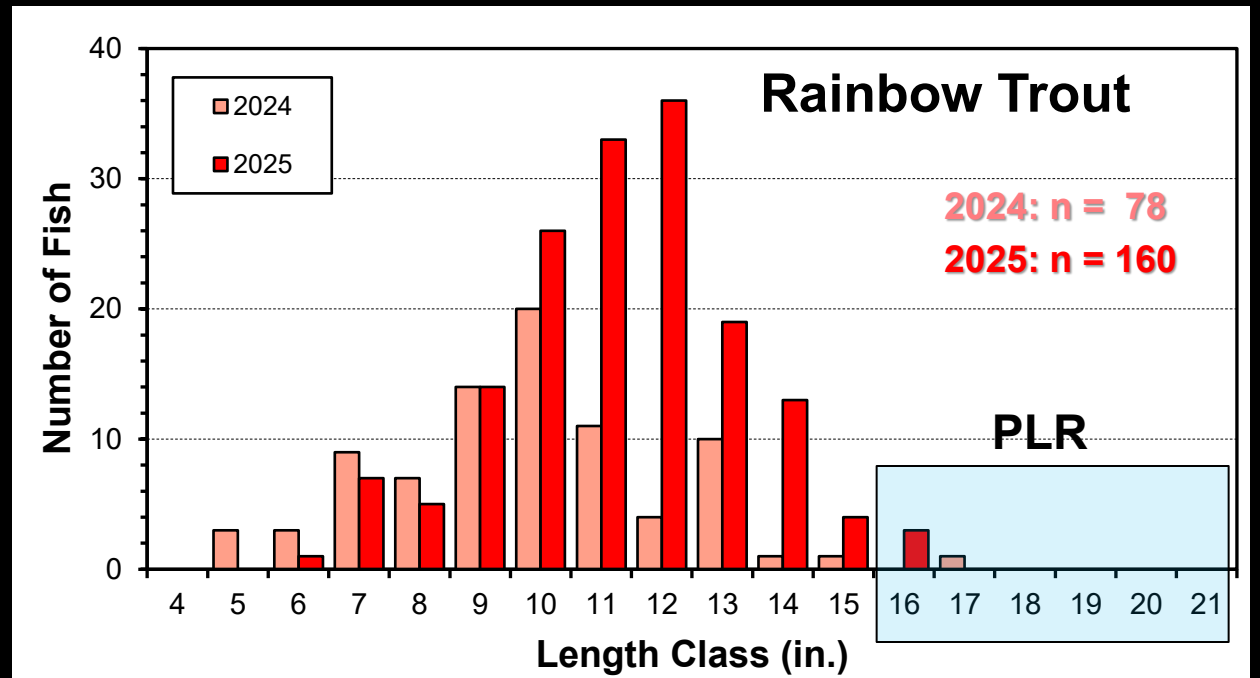
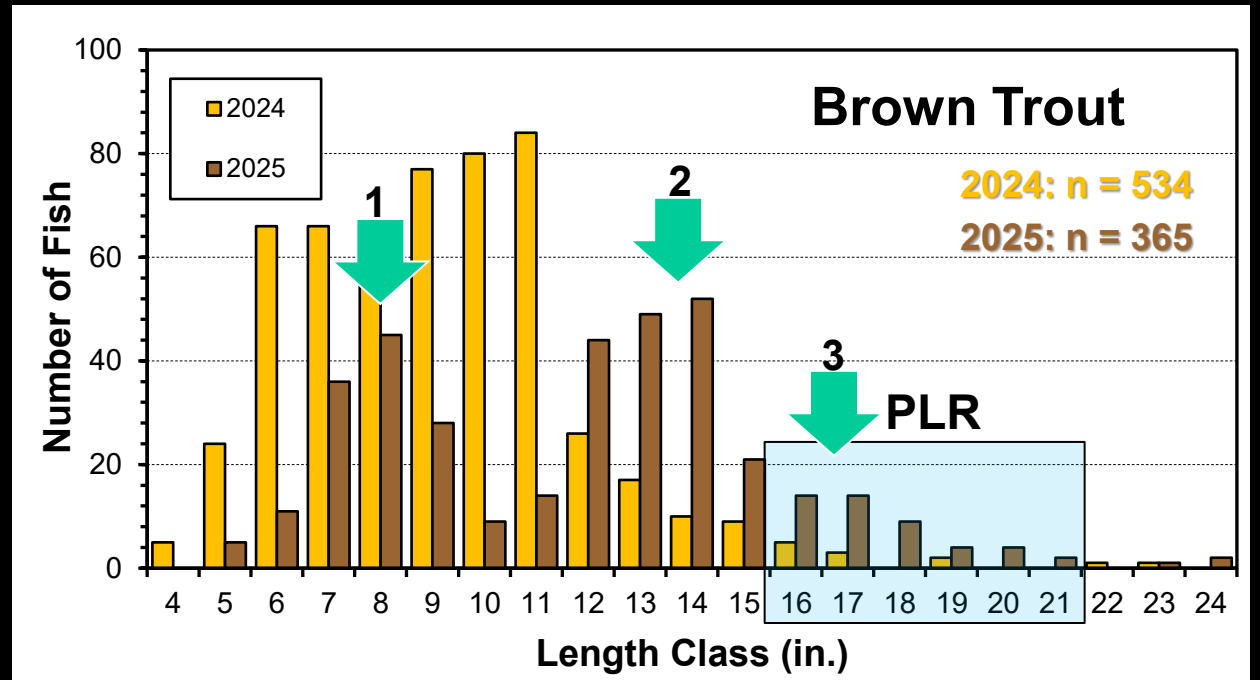
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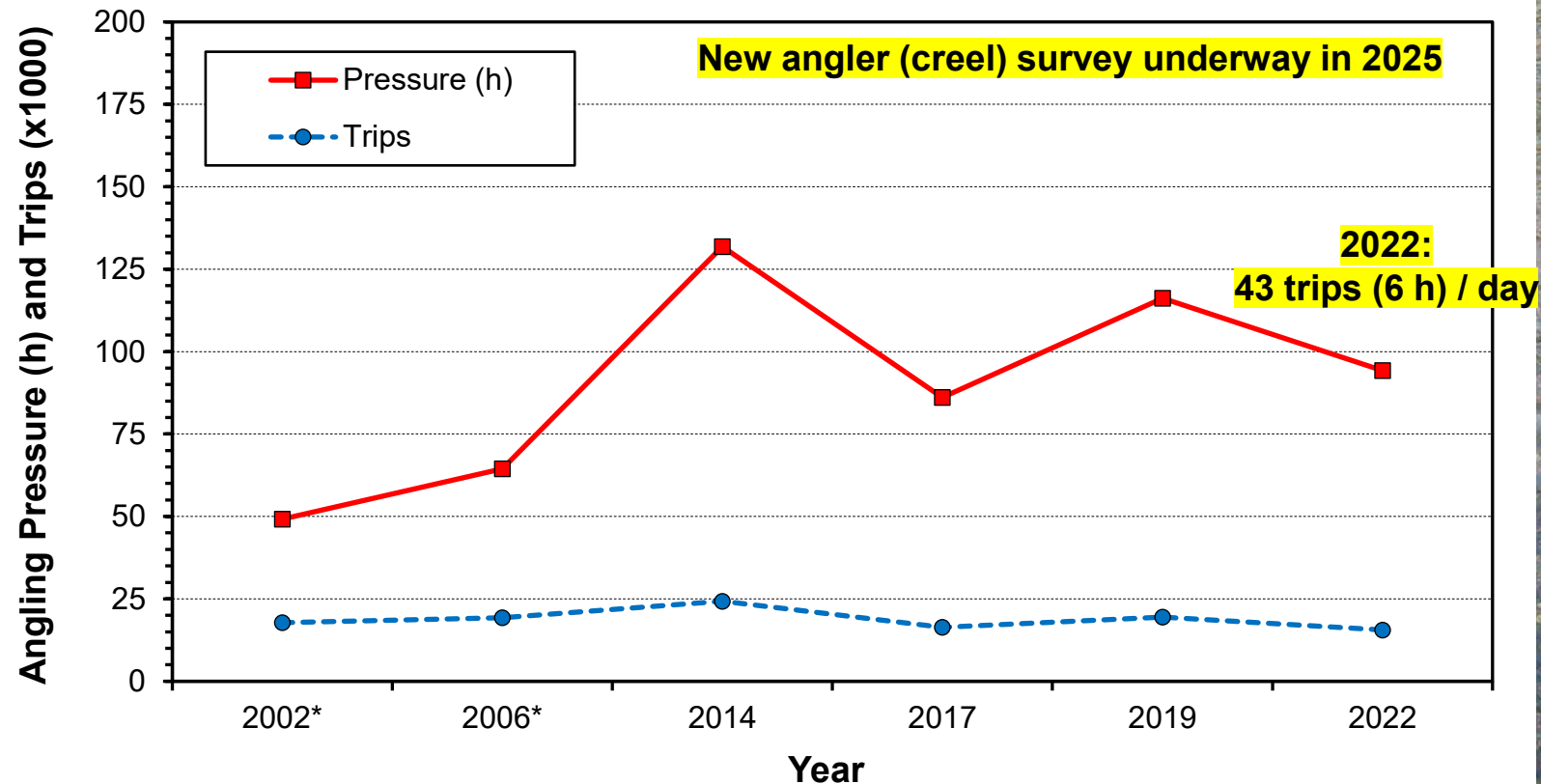
South Holston Tailwater—Electrofishing CPUE



South Holston Tailwater Length Frequencies



South Holston Tailwater Angler Surveys

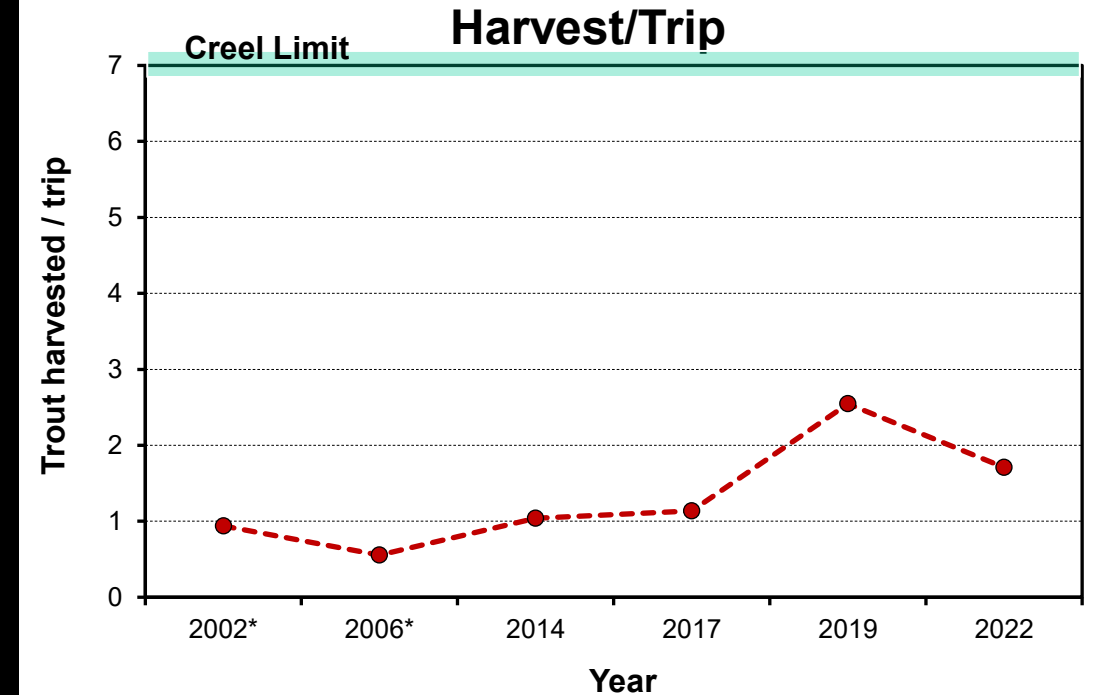
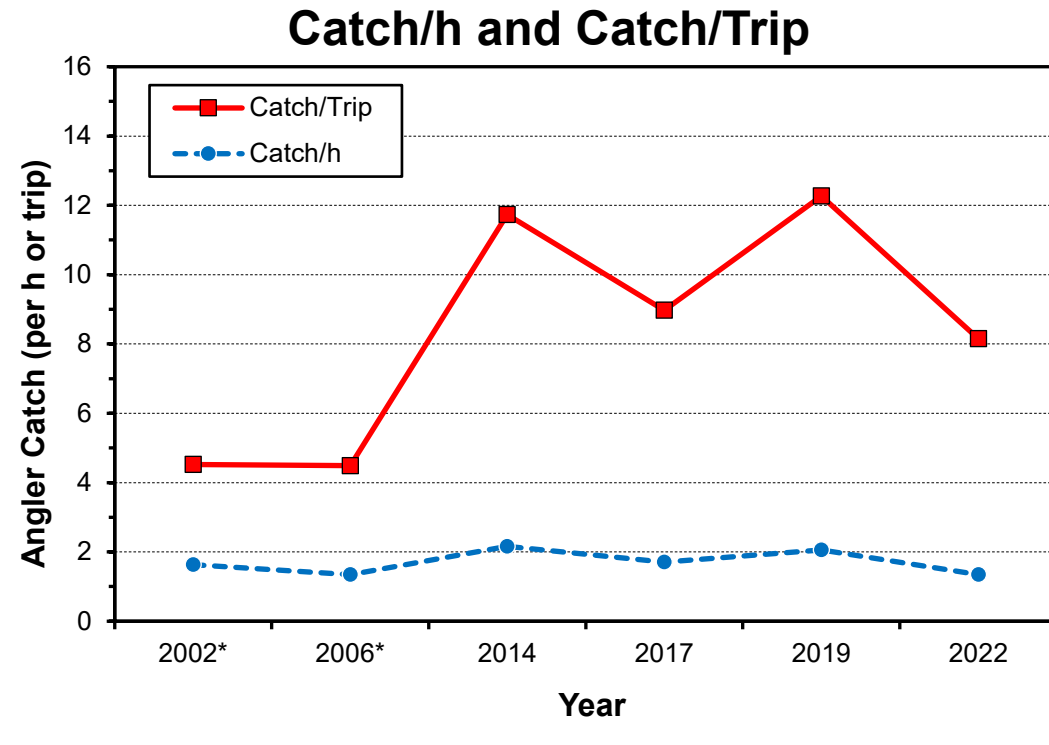


*The 2002 and 2006 surveys covered Mar.-Oct.



Stock photo—S. Holston TW angler

South Holston Tailwater Angler Surveys



*The 2002 and 2006 surveys covered Mar.-Oct.

2022 harvest rates: 21% all trout
36% Rainbow Trout
8% Brown Trout

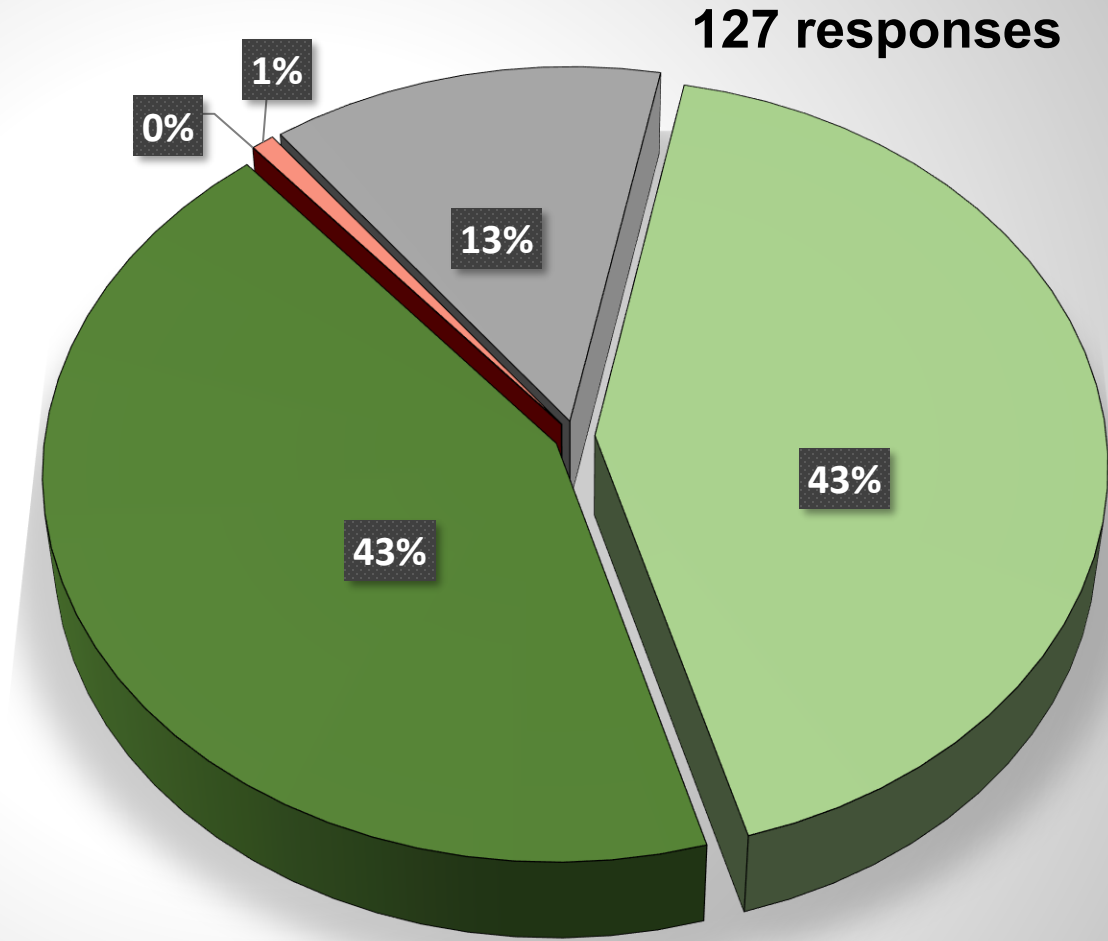
Stock photo—S. Holston TW anglers



South Holston Tailwater 2025 Angler Survey

2025 S. Holston TW Angler Opinion--Quality of Fishing

- Extremely Dissatisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Extremely Satisfied

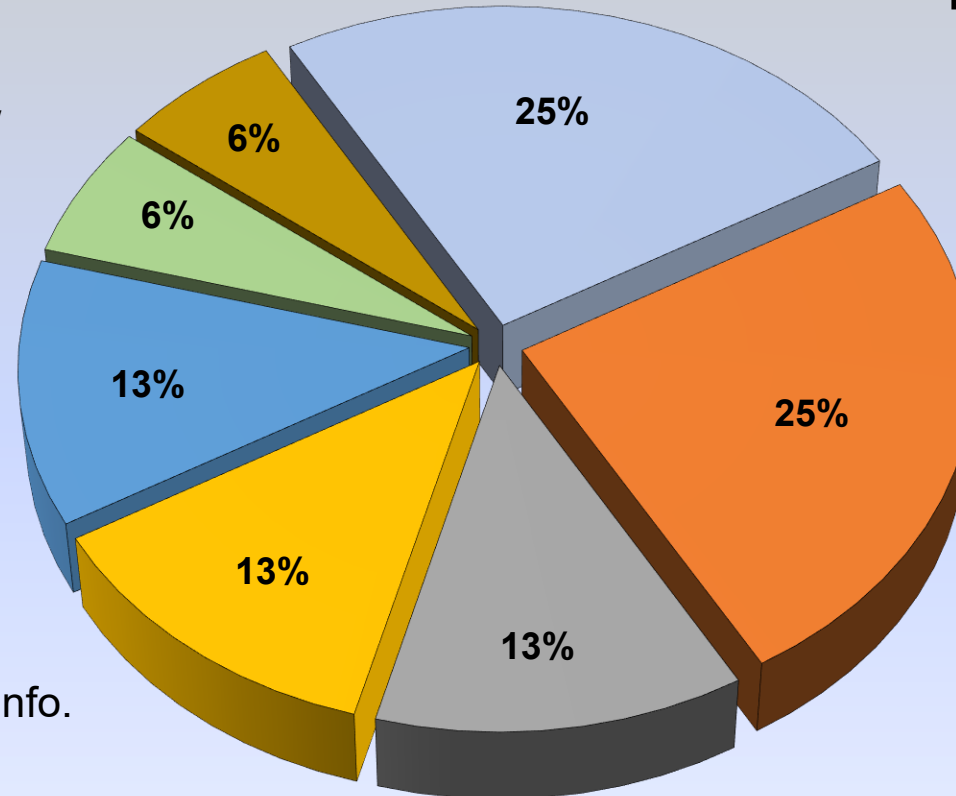


South Holston Tailwater 2025 Angler Survey

**2025 S. Holston Tailwater Angler Comments
(January--July)**

16 responses

- ☐ More/more consistent flow
- ☐ Stock more
- ☐ License too expensive
- ☐ Good management
- ☐ More LE
- ☐ More access
- ☐ More accessible stocking info.

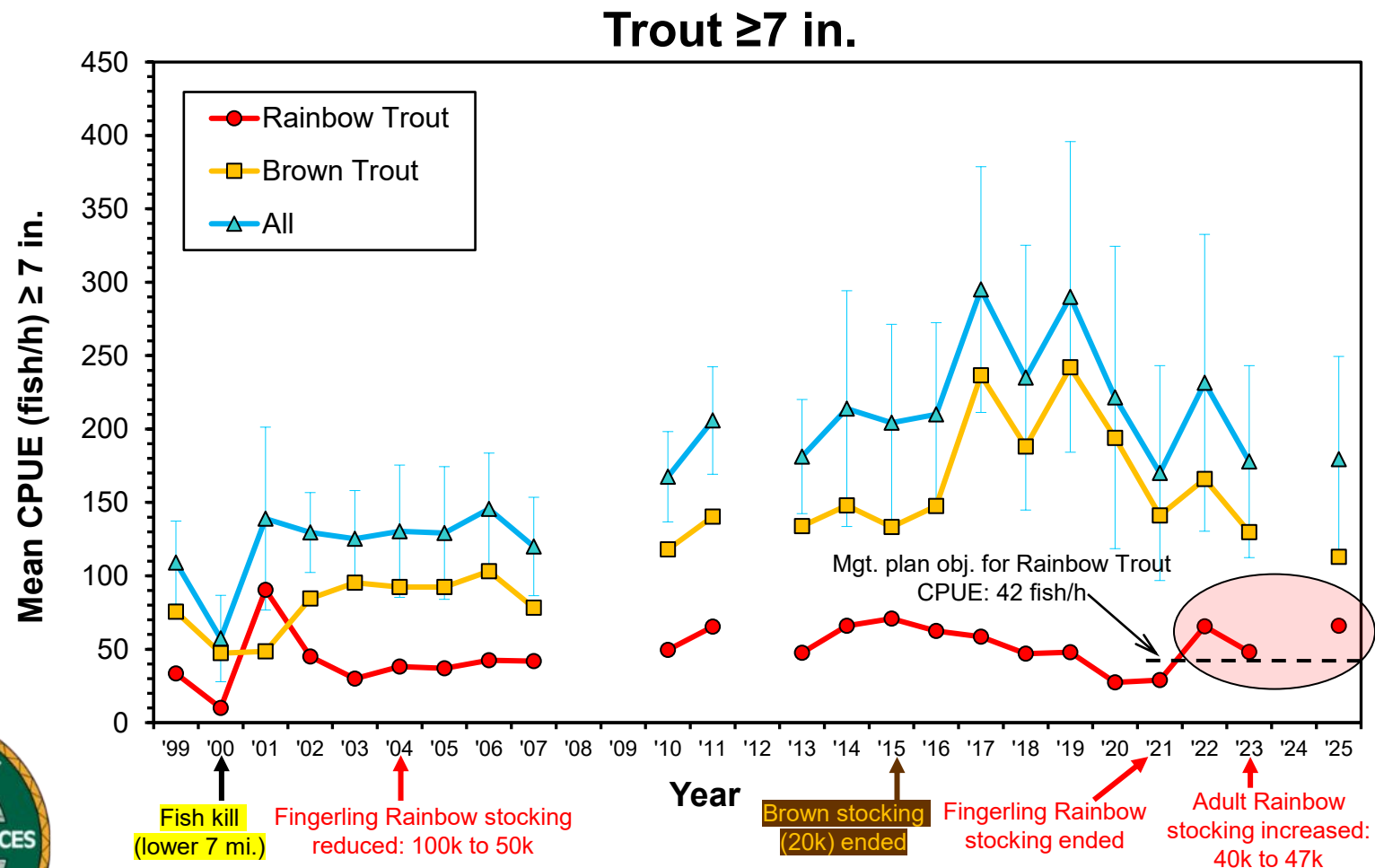


Wilbur Tailwater

12 monitoring sites (10 min./site; 2 h total effort)



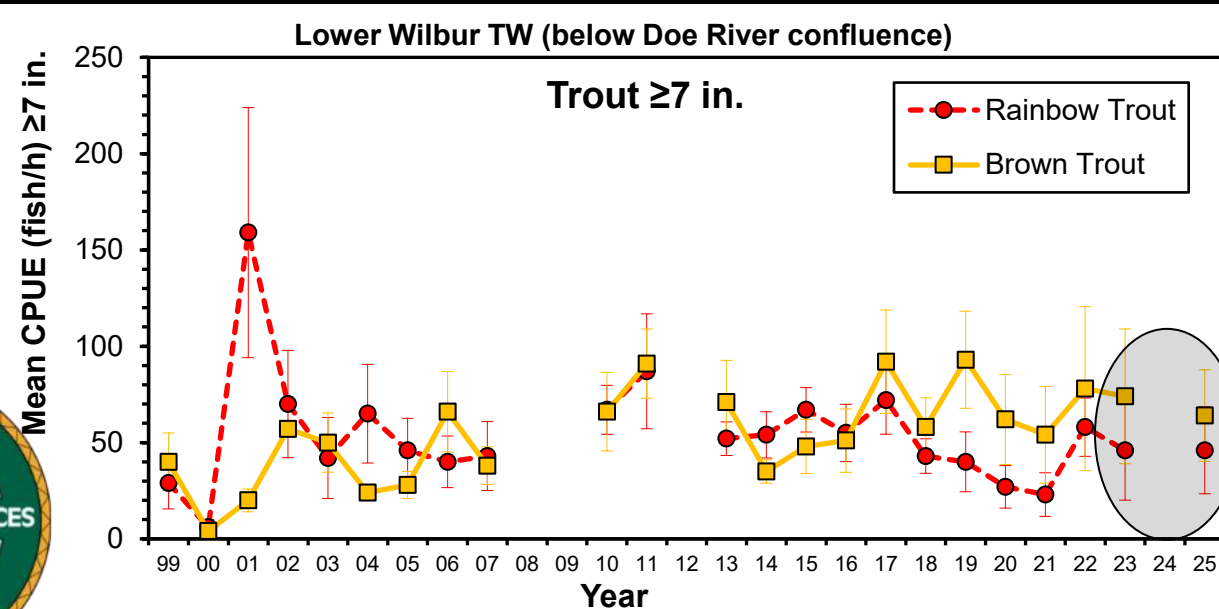
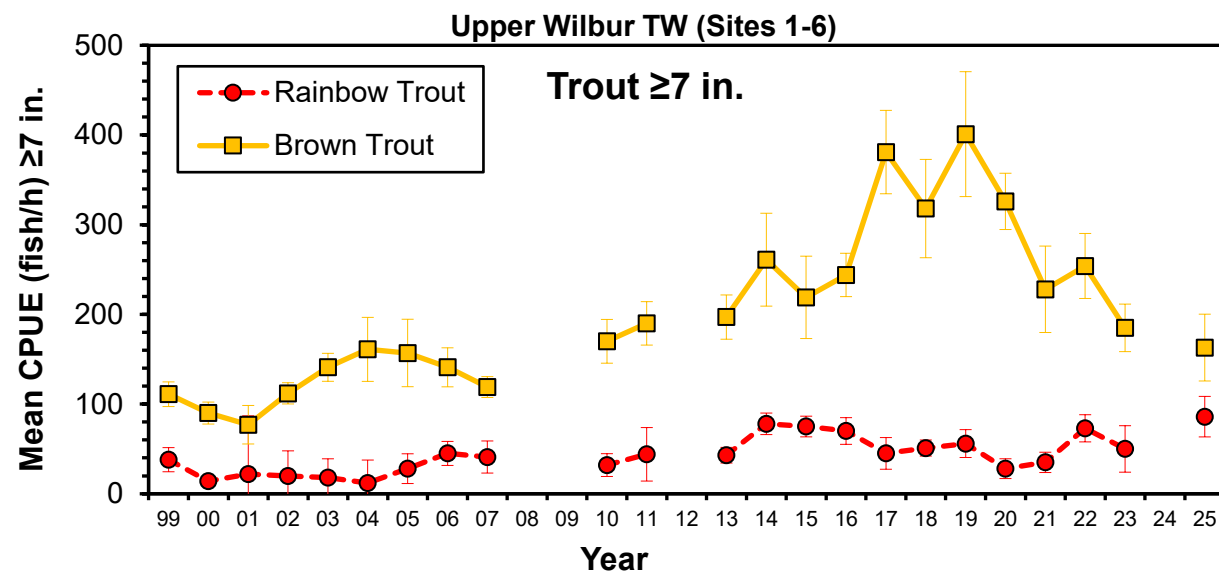
Wilbur Tailwater—Electrofishing CPUE



Bars = 90% confidence intervals for 'All Trout' CPUE means



Wilbur Tailwater—Electrofishing CPUE



Bars = 90% confidence intervals

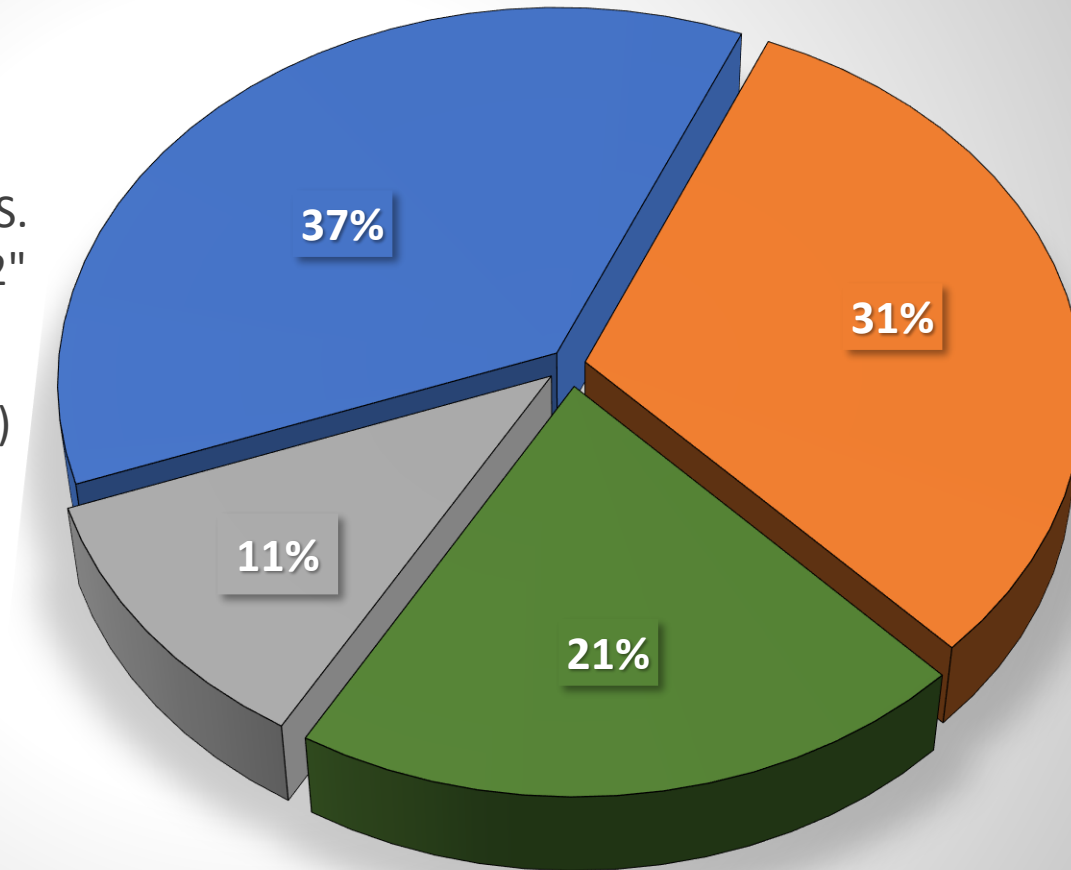


Wilbur Tailwater—Angler Surveys

2024 Wilbur TW Angler Opinion (Trout Regs.)

297 responses

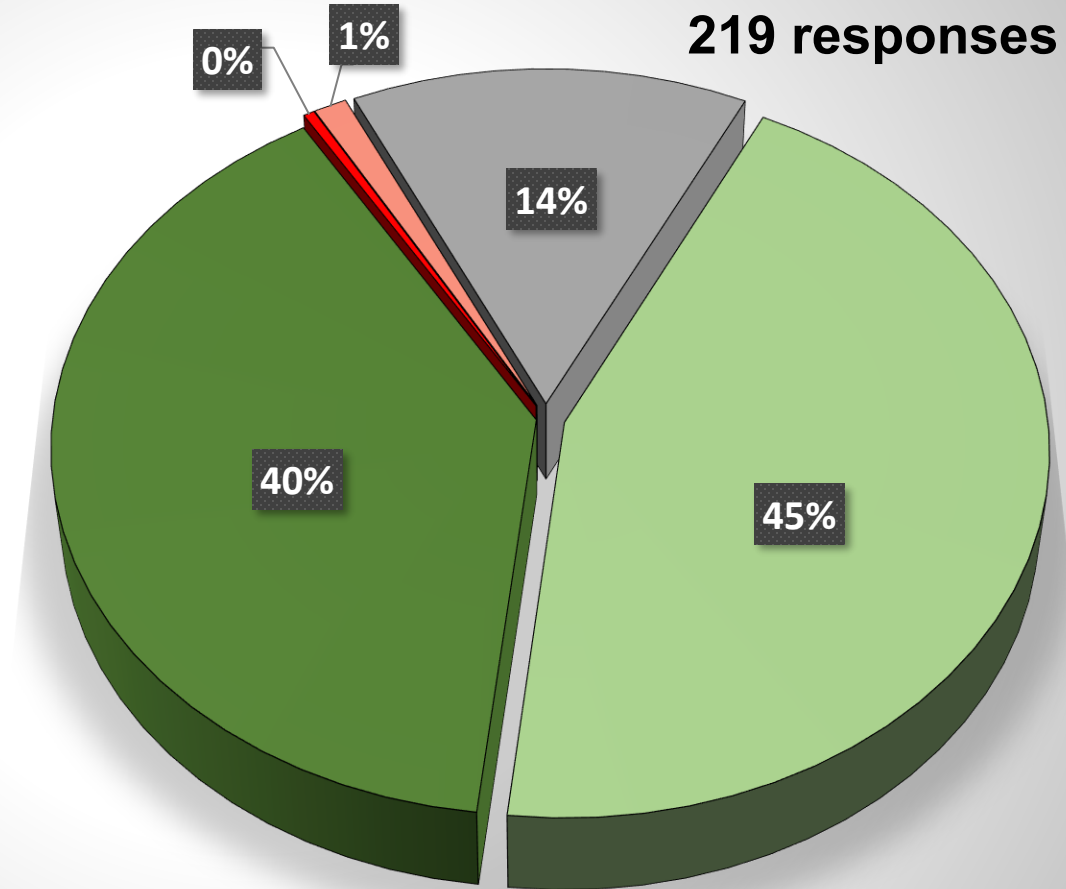
- Keep current regs.
- Add Wilbur TW to existing S. Holston/ Boone regs. 16-22" PLR w/one over 22"
- Est. a 14-22" (one over 22") PLR on all 3 locations
- No opinion



Wilbur Tailwater—Angler Surveys

2024 Wilbur TW Angler Opinion--Quality of Fishing

- Extremely Dissatisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Extremely Satisfied

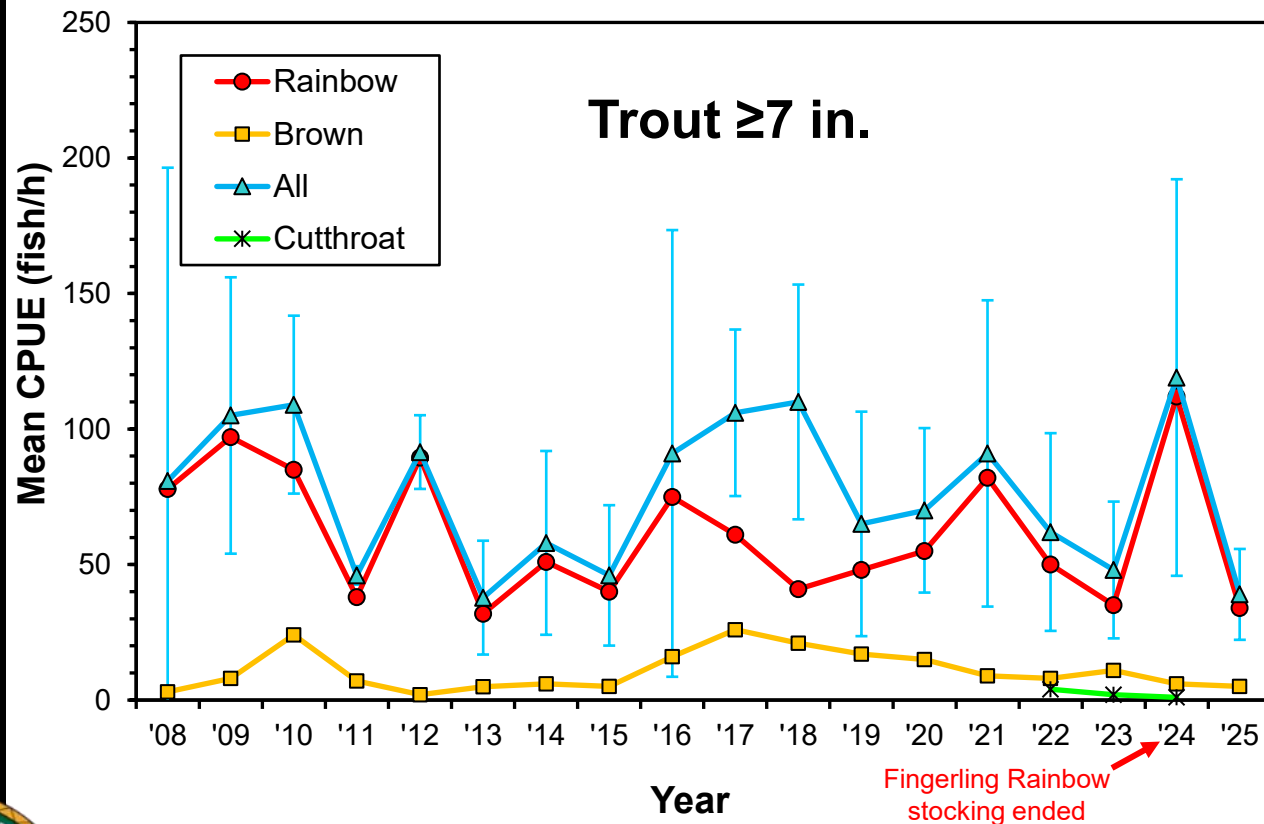


Boone Tailwater 2025

4 monitoring sites
(15 min./site; 1 h total effort)



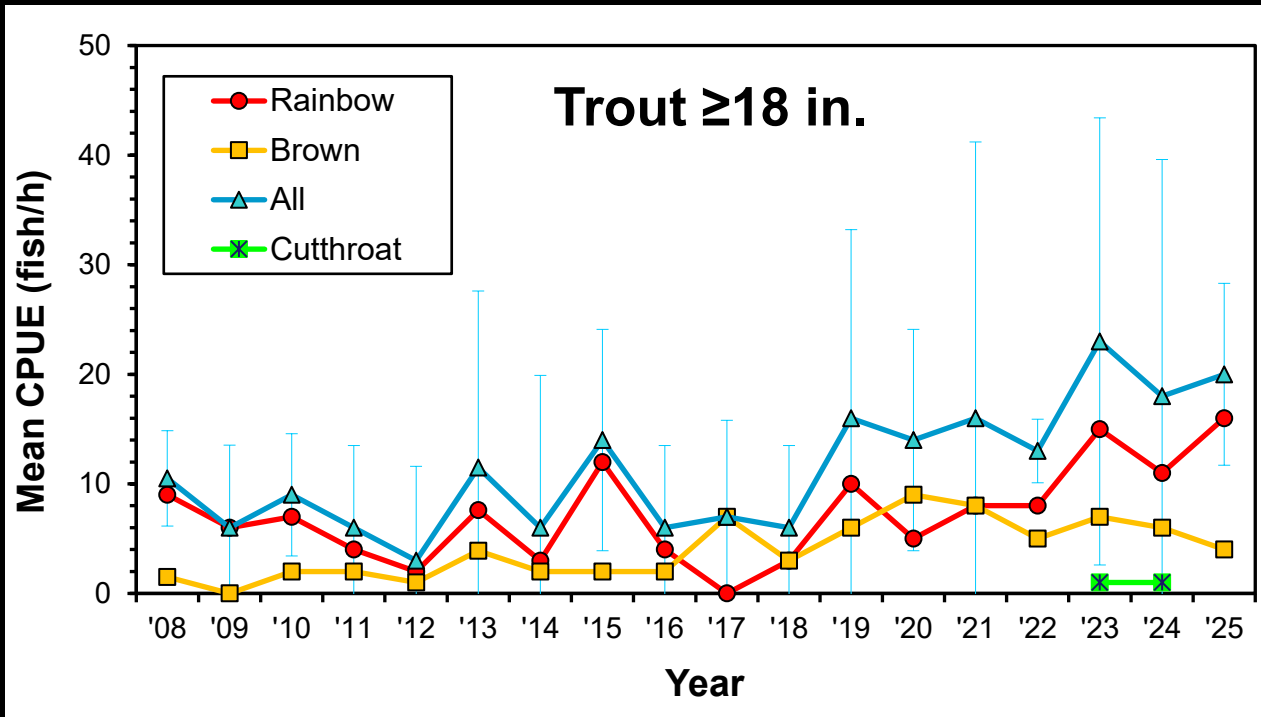
Boone Tailwater Electrofishing CPUE



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Boone Tailwater Electrofishing CPUE



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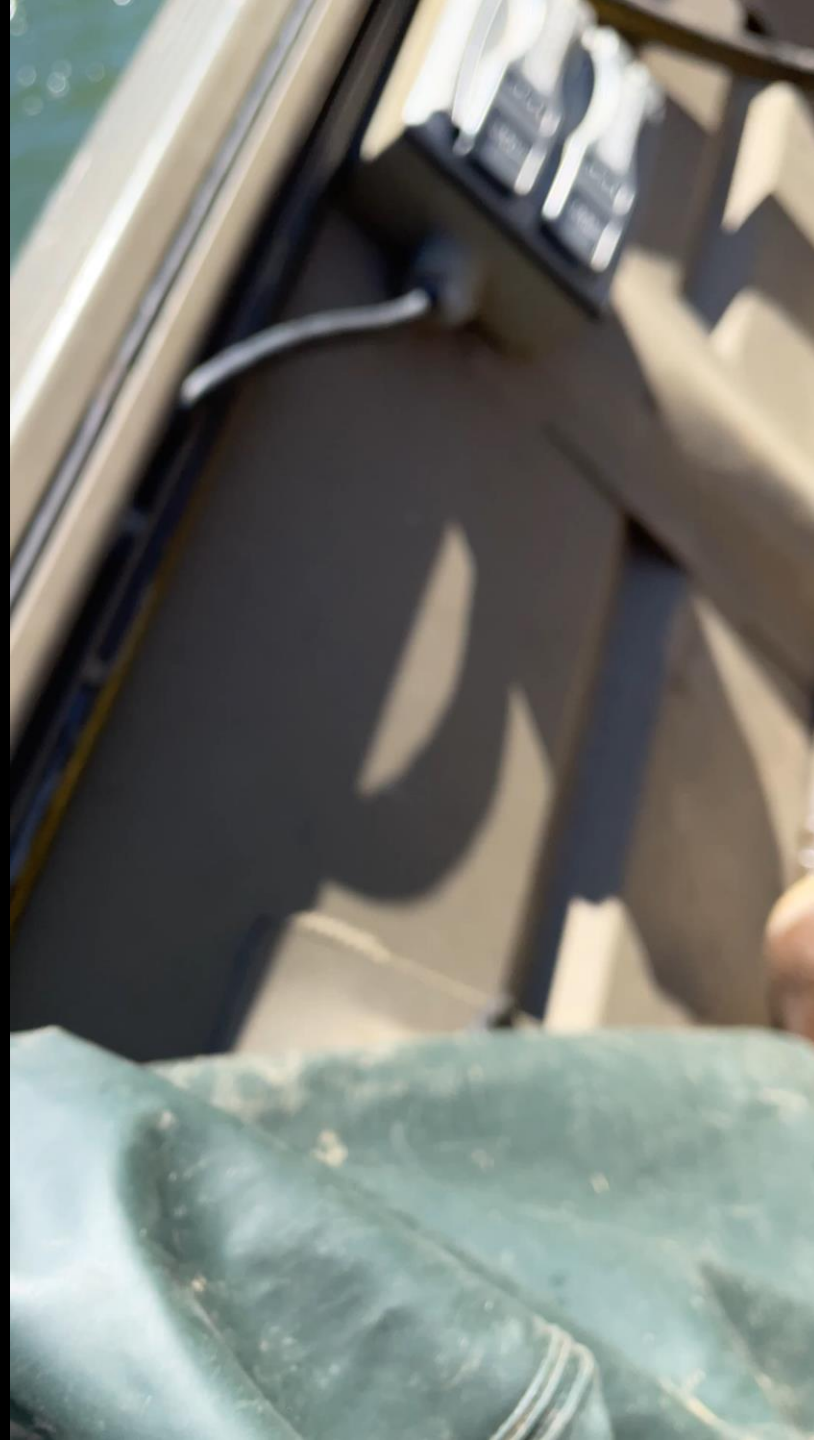


Ft. Patrick Henry Tailwater 2025

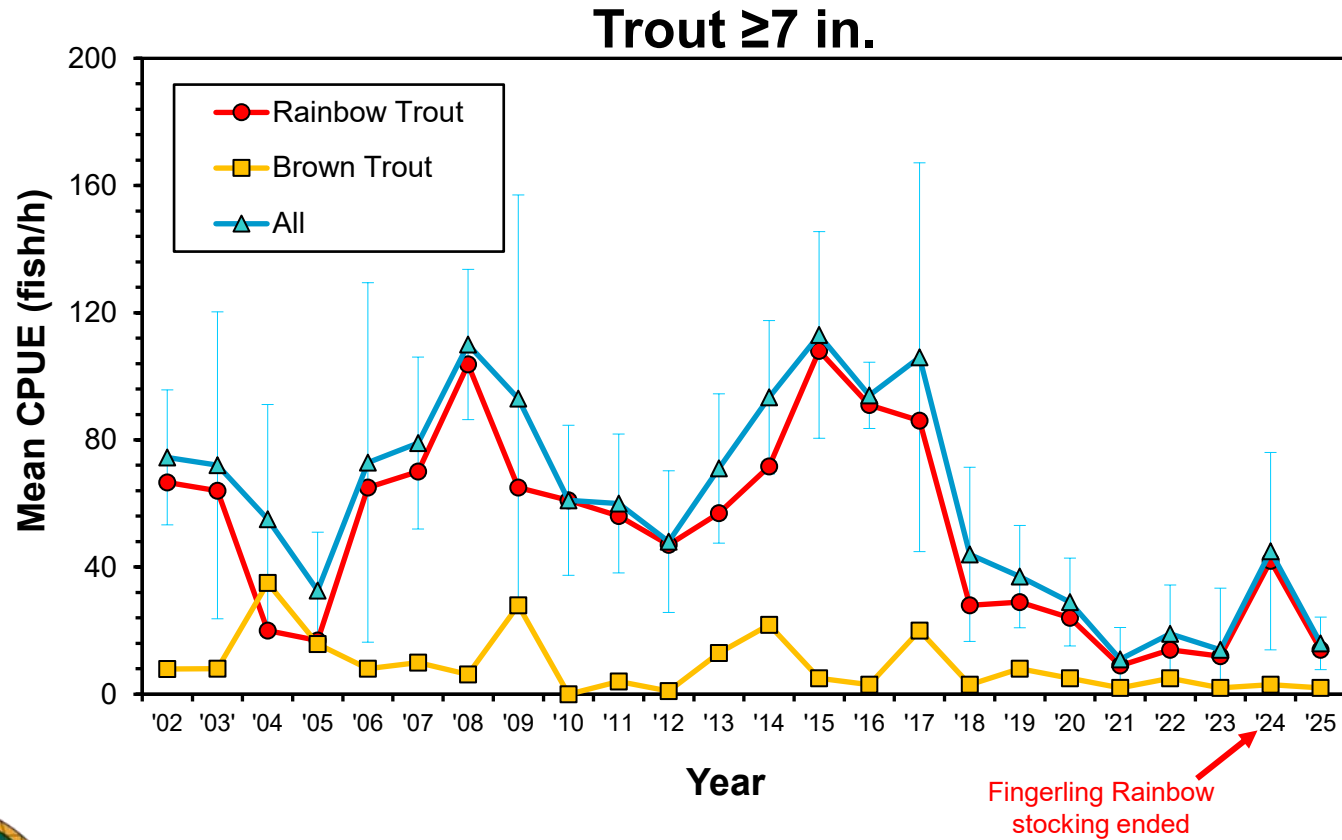
4 monitoring sites
(15 min./site; 1 h total effort)



Ft. Patrick Henry Tailwater 2025



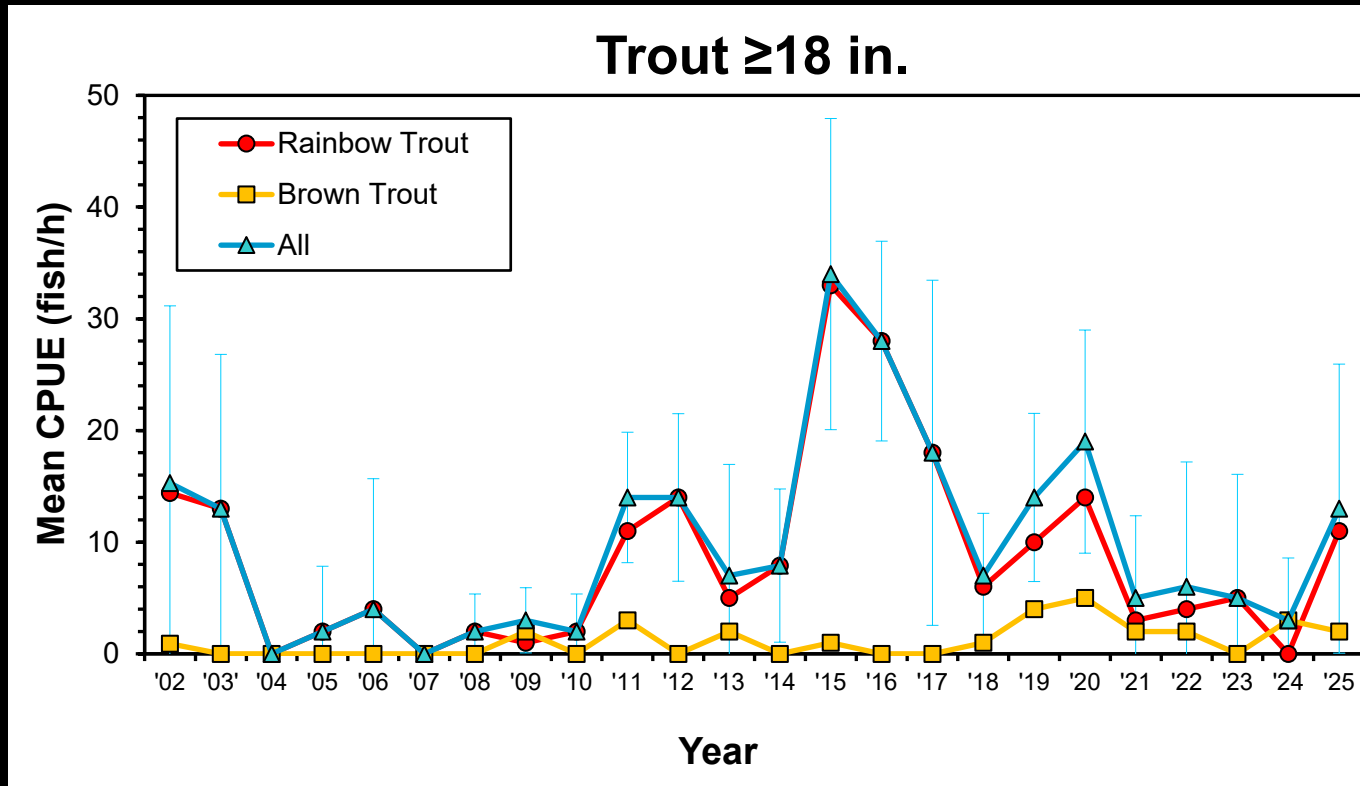
Ft. Patrick Henry Tailwater



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Ft. Patrick Henry Tailwater



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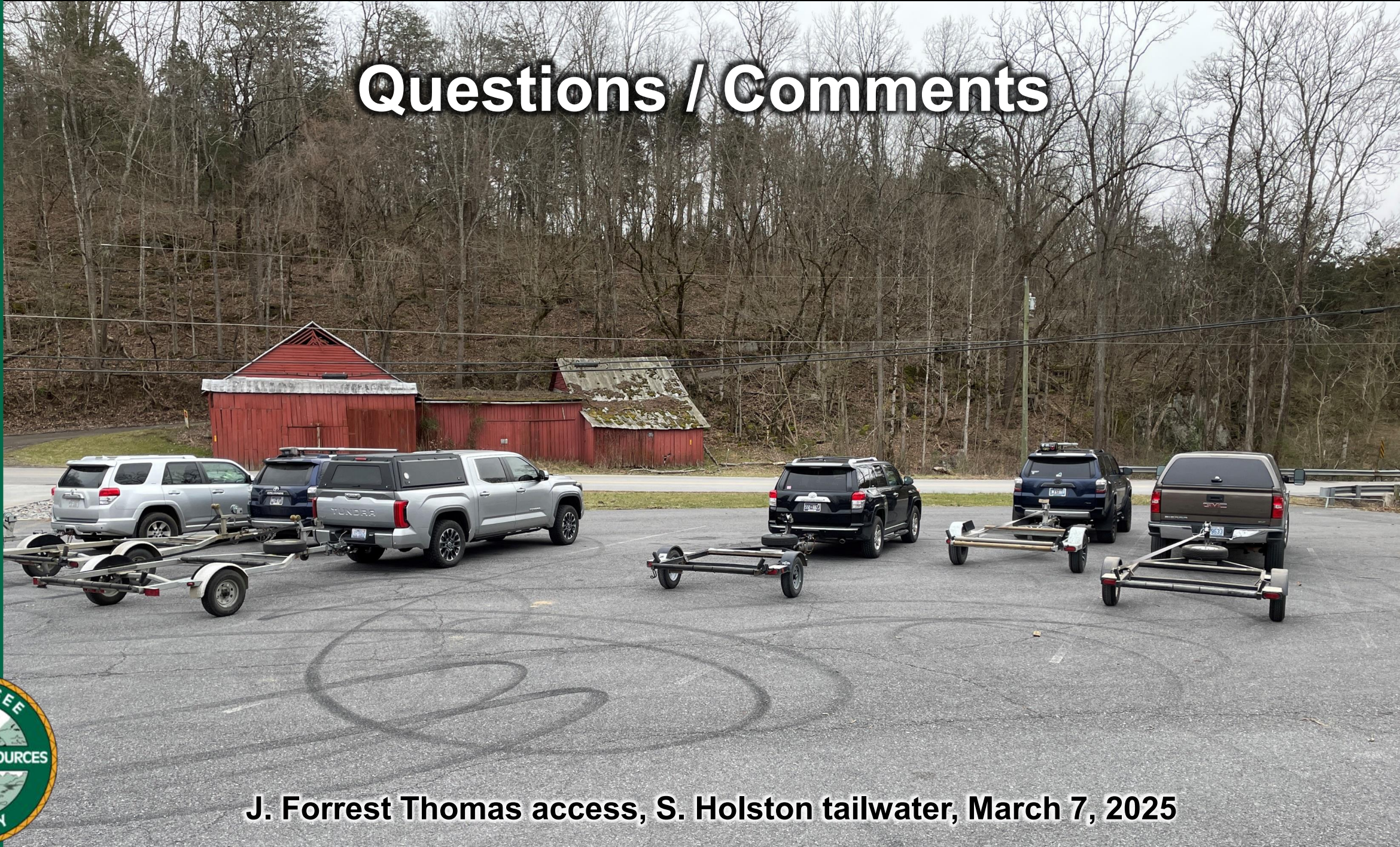
2025 Trout Abundance--All Tailwaters

Tailwater	2025 Mean CPUE (All)	% Change (from 2024)	2025 Large Trout Mean CPUE	% Change (from 2024)
South Holston	253	-2	25 (16-22 in.)	+350
Wilbur*	180	+1	21(≥14 in.)	-3
Norris	133	-23	65 (14-20 in.)	+39
Boone	39	-67	20 (≥18 in.)	+11
Ft. Patrick Henry	16	-64	13 (≥18 in.)	+333
Cherokee	To be sampled Fall 2025			

*Wilbur % Change is 2025 vs. 2023 (no 2024 data).



Questions / Comments



J. Forrest Thomas access, S. Holston tailwater, March 7, 2025



South Holston Tailwater

Trout Fishery Management Plan (2022-27)

MANAGEMENT GOAL: *Continue providing a high-quality, largely self-sustaining trout fishery which provides a variety of angling opportunities.*

STRATEGIES:

- *Feature the exceptional wild Brown Trout and developing wild Rainbow Trout fisheries*
- *Provide a supplemental hatchery-supported fishery for adult Rainbow Trout*
- *Maintain 16-22-inch protected length range (PLR) or “slot limit” regulation*

OBJECTIVES:

1. *Determine the contribution of wild Rainbow Trout to the fishery by suspending fingerling Rainbow Trout stocking beginning in 2021. A mean CPUE of ≥ 36 fish/h by 2024 would indicate adequate natural reproduction.*
2. *Continue stocking 47,000 adult (9-10 inch) Rainbow Trout annually.*
3. *Ensure that S. Holston Dam operations do not impact the tailwater trout fishery.*



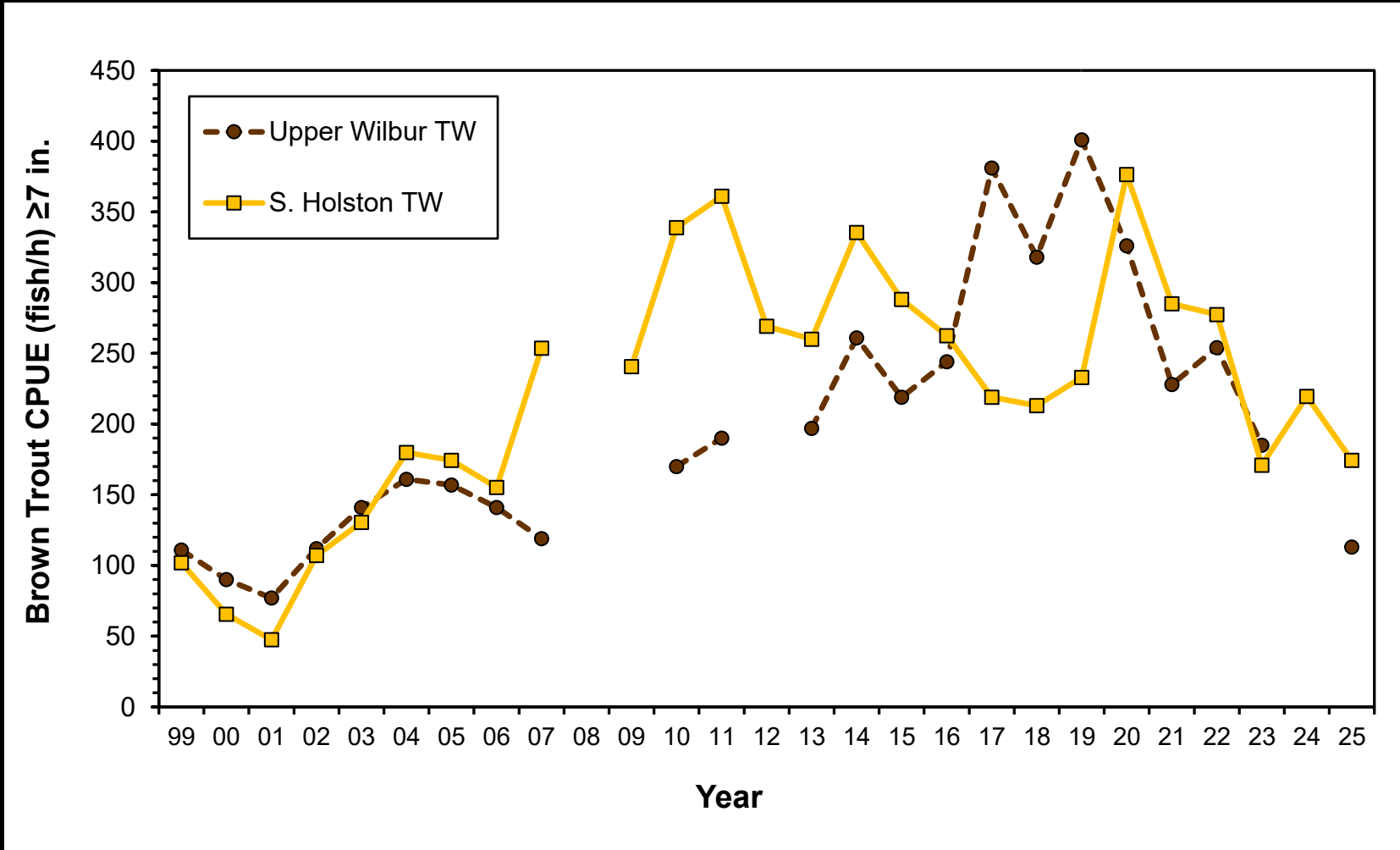
South Holston Tailwater
Trout Fishery
Management Plan
2022-2027



Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
February 2022



South Holston vs. Upper Wilbur Brown Trout CPUE



Wilbur Tailwater—Electrofishing CPUE

