LDWF INLAND FISHERIES SAMPLING

Office of Fisheries, Fisheries Management Division, Inland Fisheries Section

Why Sample?

To ensure a sustainable and healthy aquatic environment, Inland Fisheries biologists must understand:

- A waterbody's physical characteristics
- The status of the fish and mussel communities within the waterbody
- The impact of human activities on both the habitat and aquatic communities

Data sets collected over time using standardized methods allow biologists to:

- Notice and document changes
- Apply different management models that predict changes in populations as a result of proposed actions
- Recommend regulatory action to correct problems
- Take action such as stocking fish, reporting pollution violations, or improving habitat conditions

Sampling Methods and Information Collected

		INFORMATION COLLECTED													
		CPUE	Relative Weights	Stock Density	Length Frequency	Age and Growth	Community/ Forage	Relative Abundance	Species Diversity	Reproductive Success	Angler Catch and Harvest	Fishing Pressure	Identification of Thermoclines	Water Quality Problems	Integration Rate
METHODS	Electrofishing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	Biomass Sampling (Blockoff net with Rotenone)	X				X	X	X	X						
	Gill Nets	X			X			X							
	Lead Nets	X		X	X	X		X							
	Seine	X			X		X	X	X	X					
	Hoop Nets	X			X	X		X							
	Recreational Angler Surveys (Creel Survey)										X	X			
	Water Quality												X	X	
	Genetic Analysis														X
	Grubbing/ Diving	X						X	X					X	

What Does Sampling Cost?

- $2.6 million Federal Sportfish Restoration
- $800,000 State Conservation

Fun Facts

- Waterbodies with management plans: **77**
- Number of sampling sites statewide: **Over 3,000**
- Acres of water managed: **Approximately 1,455,433 acres**
- Miles of streams managed: **Approximately 4,000 miles**
- Number of LDWF Inland Fisheries employees conducting fisheries sampling: **Approximately 30**
- Number of Basic Fishing Licenses sold in 2022: **542,820**
- Number of fish sampled in 2022: **120 species; 57,524 individuals**
- Number of mussel sampled in 2022: **34 species; 6,716 individuals**