Biological Sampling Update

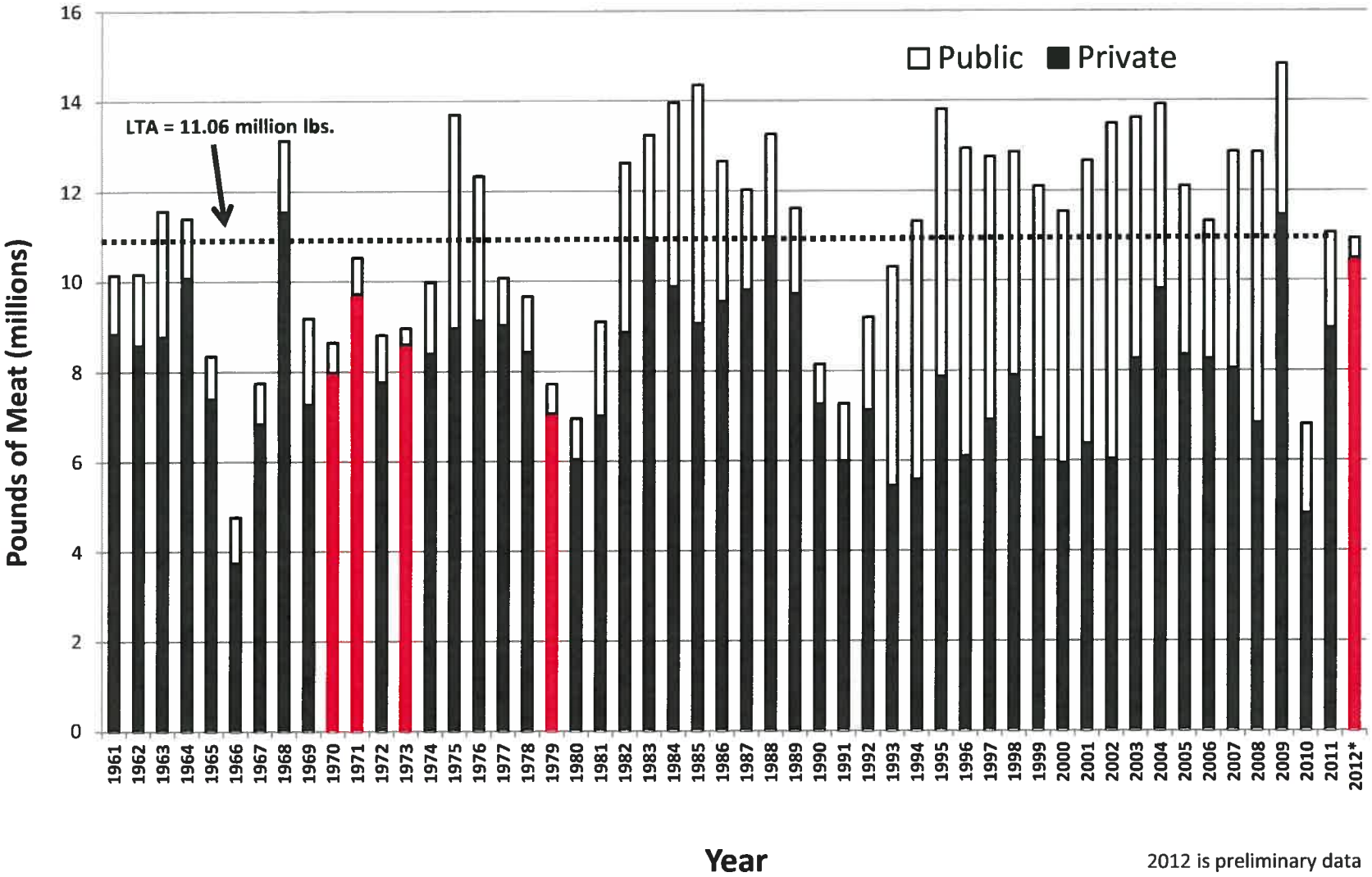
from the

Louisiana Public Oyster Areas

Office of Fisheries – Fisheries Division

Louisiana Oyster Task Force *March 19, 2013*

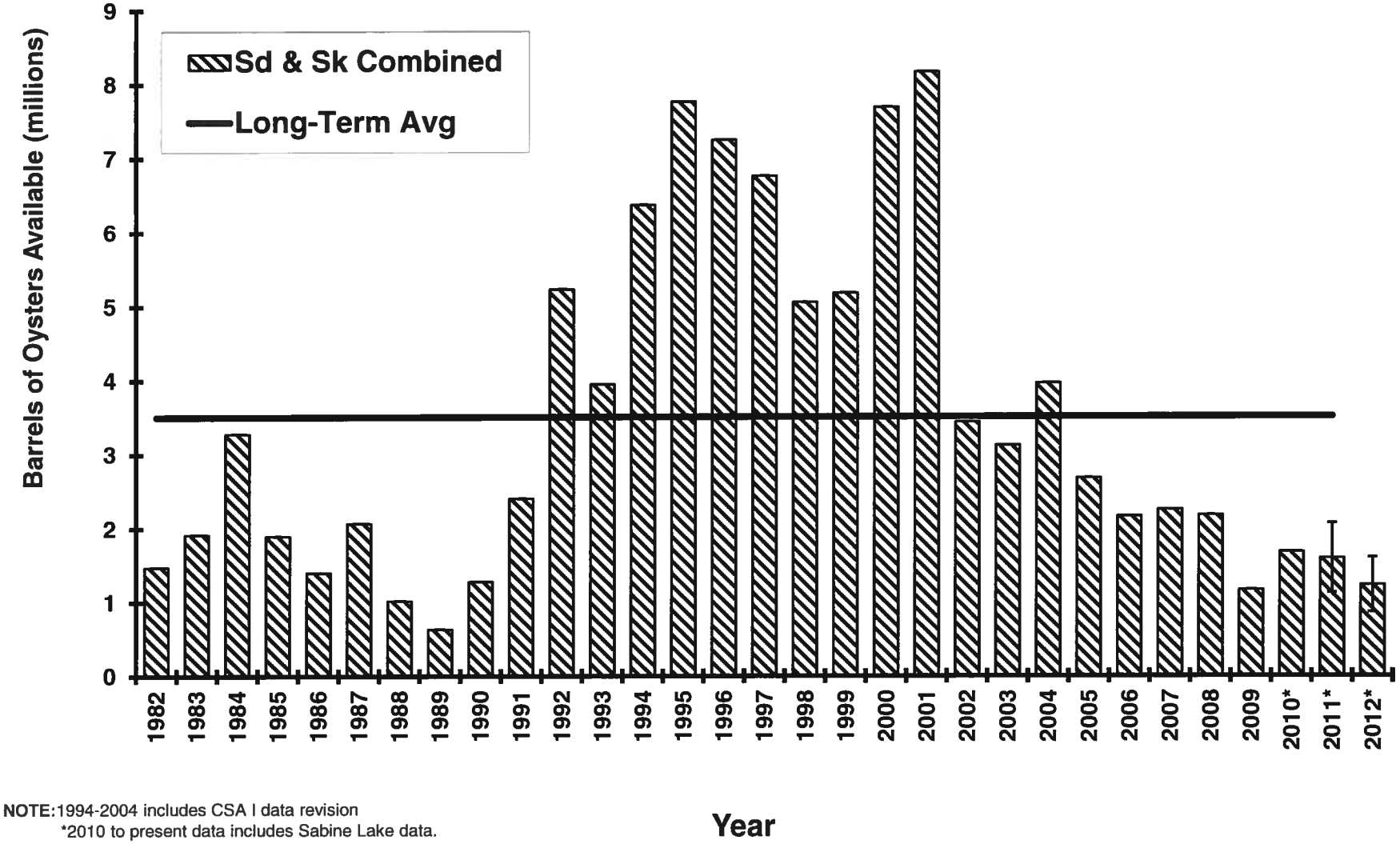
Historical Louisiana Oyster Landings



2012 is preliminary data

Data Preliminary - Subject to Change

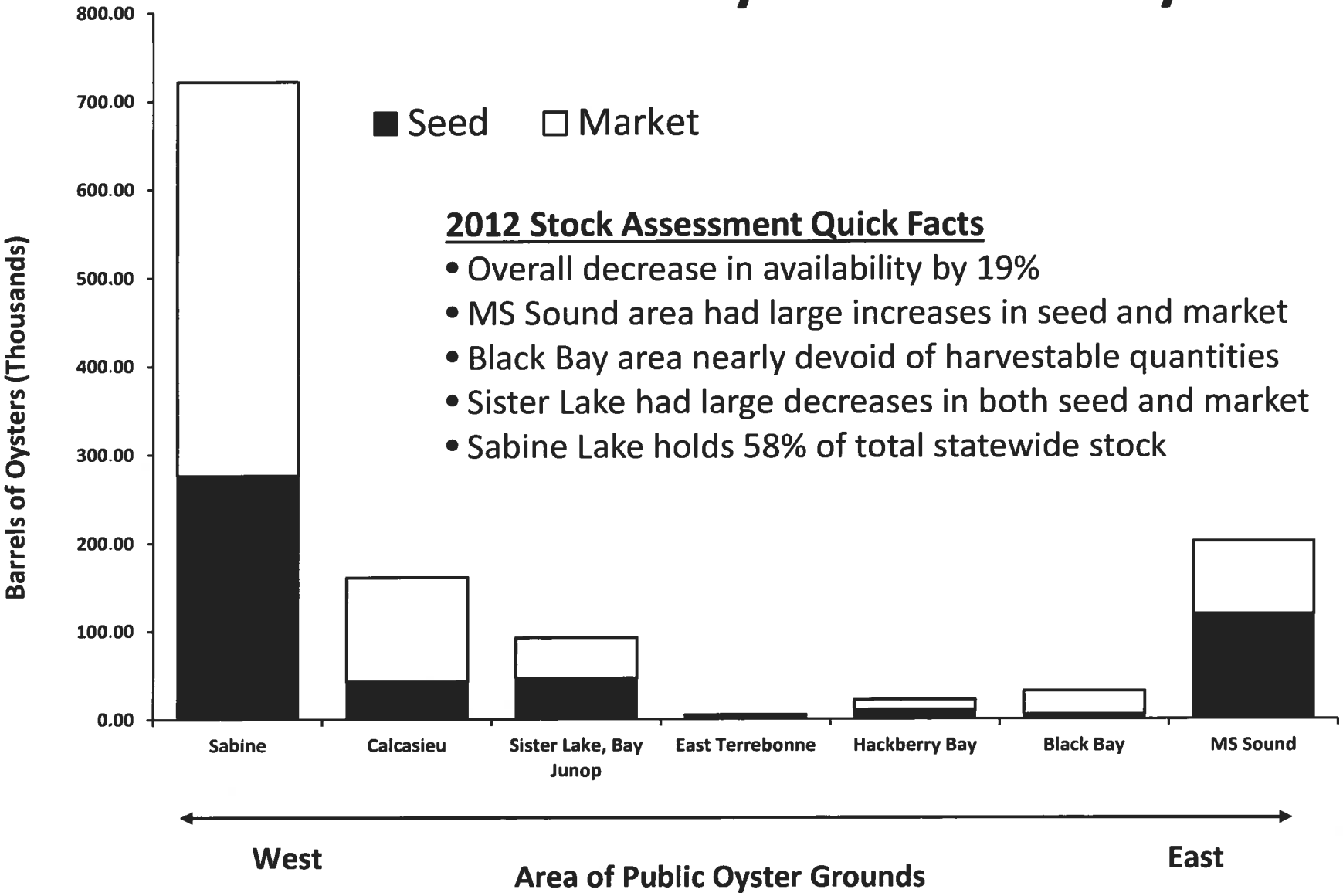
Historical Louisiana Oyster Stock Size



NOTE: 1994-2004 includes CSA I data revision
*2010 to present data includes Sabine Lake data.
Error bars denote standard error

Data Preliminary - Subject to Change

2012 Statewide Oyster Availability



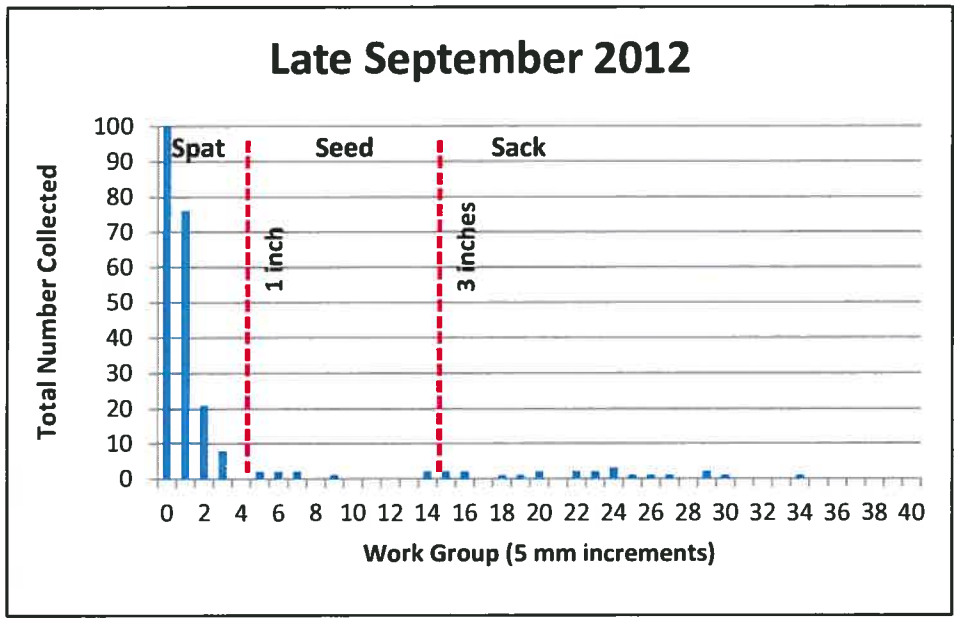
2012 Stock Assessment Quick Facts

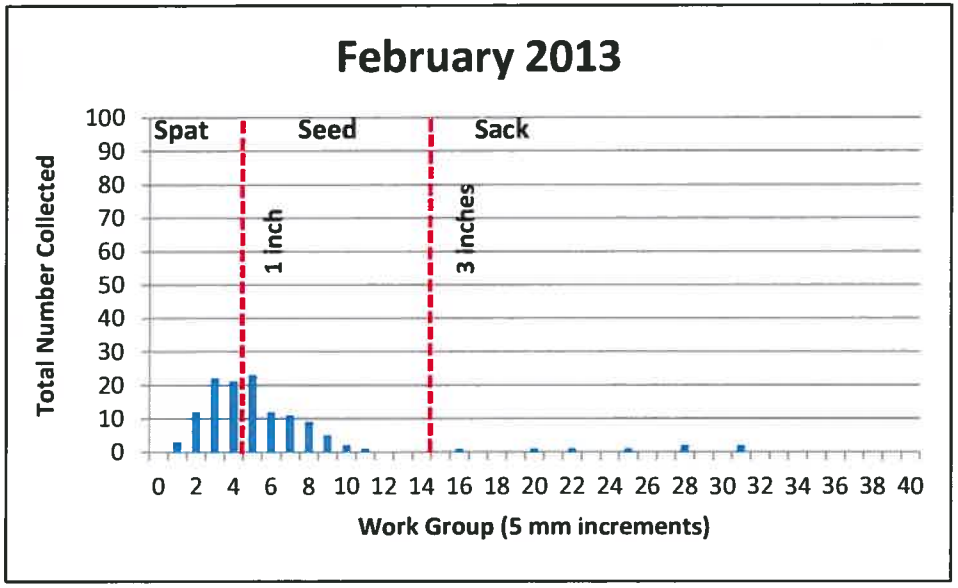
- Overall decrease in availability by 19%
- MS Sound area had large increases in seed and market
- Black Bay area nearly devoid of harvestable quantities
- Sister Lake had large decreases in both seed and market
- Sabine Lake holds 58% of total statewide stock

Data Preliminary - Subject to Change

Coastal Study Area 1-South
(South of MRGO)

- 100% of 2,585 spat collected in late September 2012 were from closure area (6 sample sites)
- 99.6% of 642 spat collected in late October 2012 were from closure area (6 sample sites)
- 52%, 27%, and 36% spat mortality in Dec, Jan, Feb, respectively
- Seed present in February samples, but in low amounts
- Seed mortality also elevated
- Very few market-size oysters





Data Preliminary - Subject to Change

Other Areas

CSA 1-North (MS Sound Area)

- sampling has shown no obvious issues, but low numbers of oysters in samples

CSA 3 (Hackberry Bay)

- sampling has shown some elevated spat mortalities in August and November

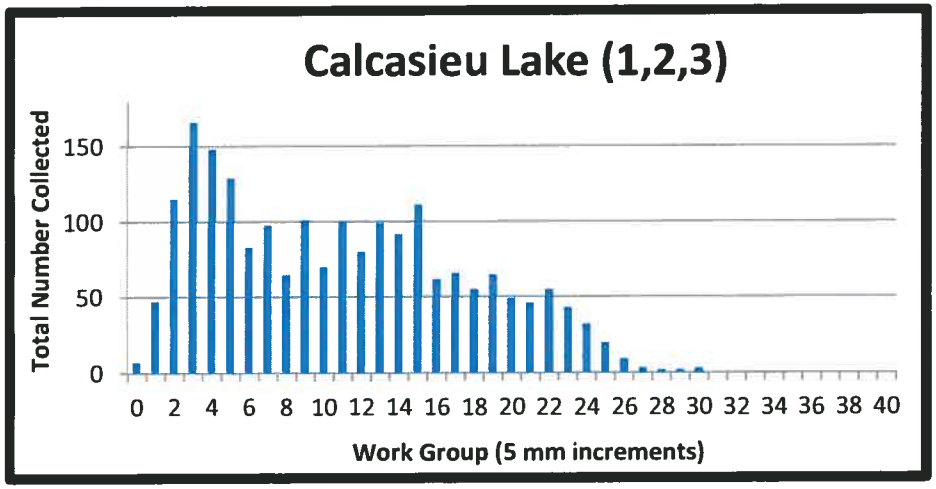
CSA 5 (Sister Lake) and 6 (Vermilion Bay)

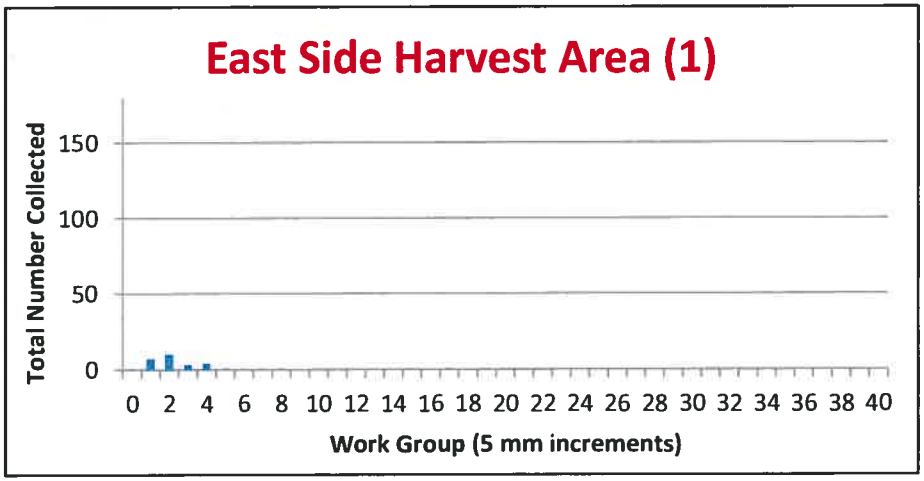
- Sampling has indicated no obvious issues

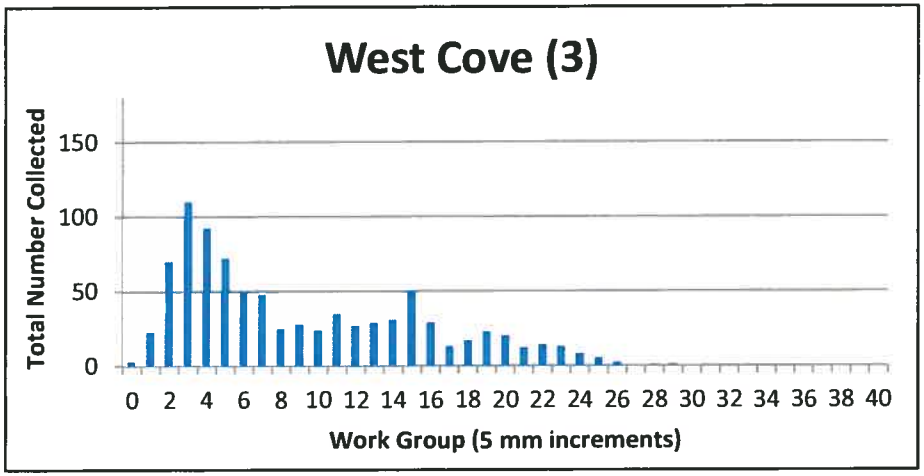
CSA 7 (Calcasieu and Sabine Lakes)

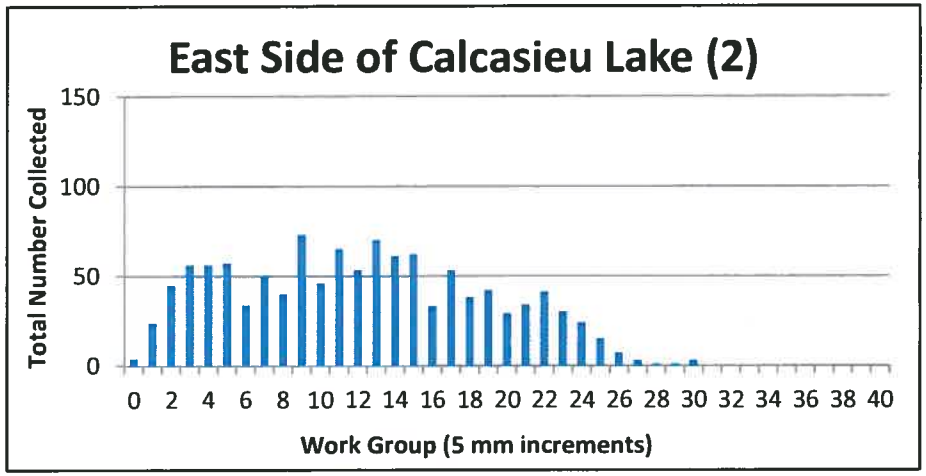
- sampling has indicated continued low oyster numbers in the traditional harvest area on the east side of Calcasieu Lake
- Sabine Lake sampling has indicated healthy oyster population

Calcasieu Lake – February 2013 Sampling









Data Preliminary - Subject to Change

Summary

- Positive signs of rebound observed in September/October 2012 in CSA 1-South now greatly diminished
- Calcasieu Lake east side harvest area continues to show little recruitment
- Although stocks remain low, other areas are showing positive signs of oyster recruitment and oyster survival

QUESTIONS?