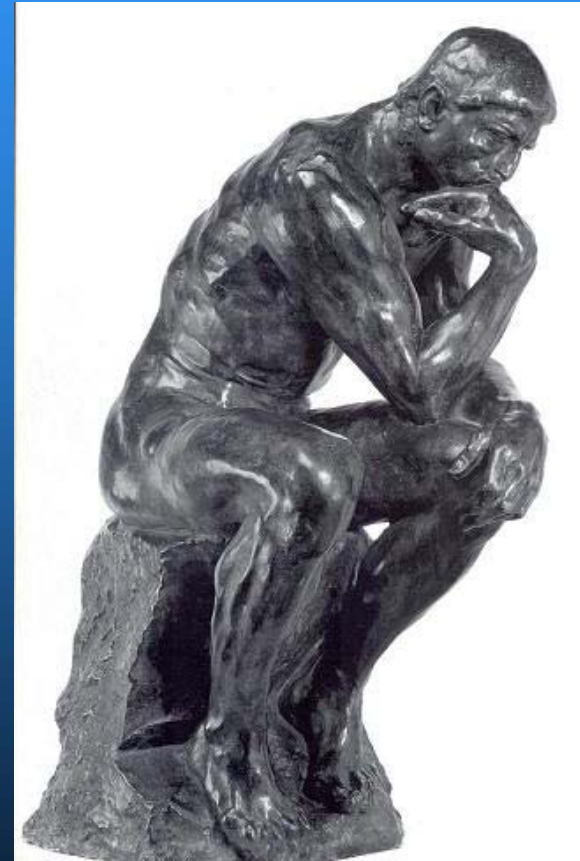


# Angler Surveys

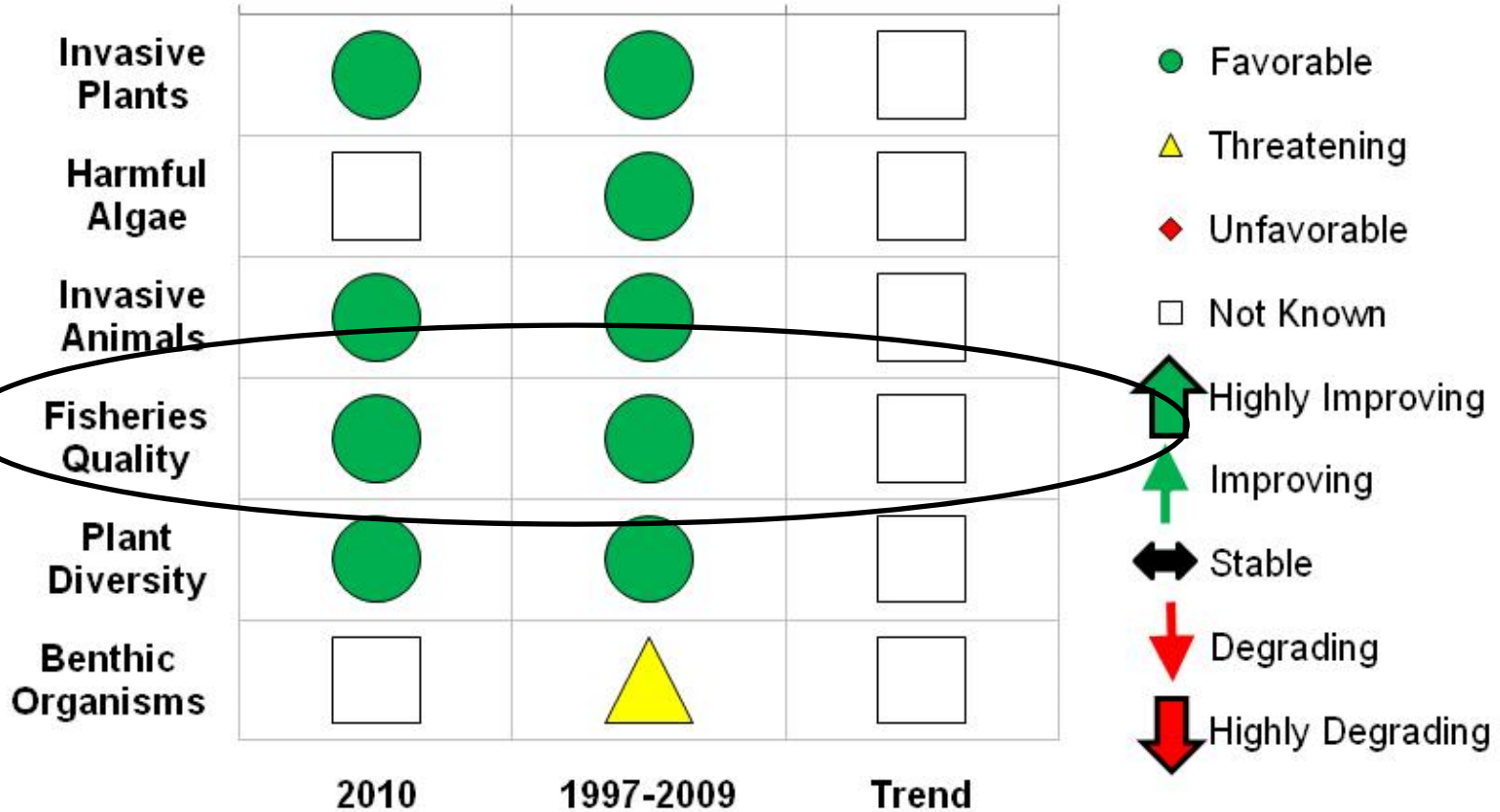


# Why Conduct An Angler Survey?

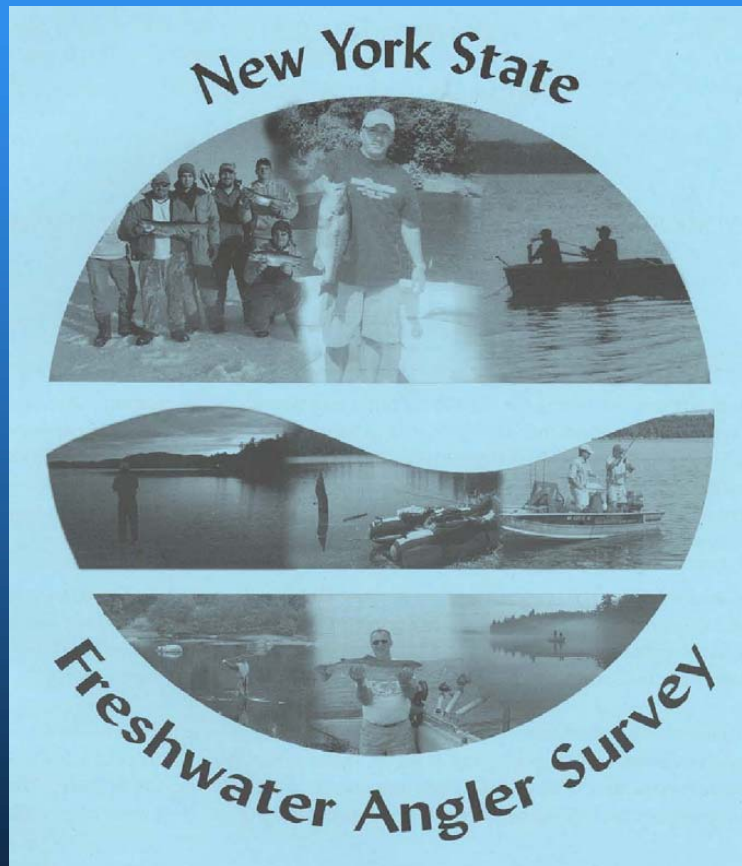
- “to collect information about the fishery from an angler’s perspective” (Diet for a Small Lake, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
- Should include three components:
  - *Angler census*- counts of how many anglers are fishing the lake, the type of fishing (shore, trolling, still), boat size, angler age....
  - *Creel census*- examining daily fish catch (creel or bucket) for fin clips and disease, scale examination for age, and surveying anglers for time spent fishing and equipment used
  - *Angler interviews*- origin of anglers, species caught, evaluation of fisheries and management techniques



## Biological Health



# Model for CSLAP Angler Surveys



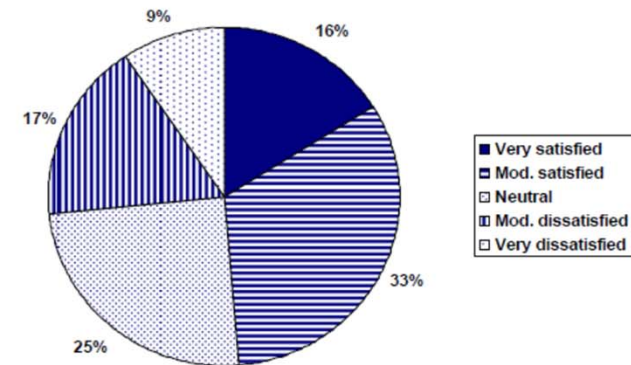
- 2007 New York State Freshwater Angler Survey designed by Cornell
- 20,000 anglers participated (40-50% response rate)
- Conducted by mail solicitation drawn from random draw of state angler license list
- Results available at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/nyswarptsum.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/nyswarptsum.pdf)



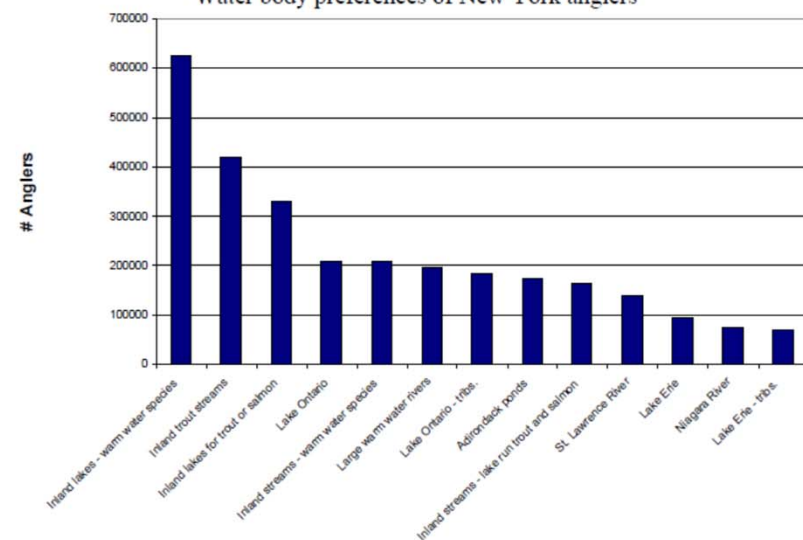
# CSLAP Angler Surveys

- Proposed CSLAP Angler Survey focuses on *Angler Interview* component of comprehensive angler survey
- Seeking information on:
  - Fishing patterns- Where, What, How Often?
  - Satisfaction with experience
  - Factors influencing experience
  - Invasives

Angler satisfaction with the number of fish caught



Water body preferences of New York anglers



CSLAP Anglers Survey

1. Name of Lake: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Location: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you live on the lake? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Please indicate the type of waters you prefer to fish in New York State (circle one):
  - a. This lake
  - b. Nearby small lakes
  - c. Nearby large lakes
  - d. Nearby streams or rivers
  - e. One or more of the large NYS lakes- Great Lakes, Finger Lakes, etc.
  - f. Ocean/saltwater
  - g. Other (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
5. What are your favorite species to fish in this lake (choose up to three)?
  - a. Black bass (largemouth or smallmouth)
  - b. Bullhead/catfish
  - c. Carp
  - d. Muskie or Tiger muskie
  - e. Northern pike
  - f. Pickerel
  - g. Salmon
  - h. Sucker
  - i. Sunfish (blunthead, pumpkinseed,...)
  - j. Trout (brook, brown, lake, rainbow)
  - k. Walleye
  - l. White or yellow perch
  - m. Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - n. No favored fish species
6. What fish species do you most frequently catch in this lake (choose up to three)?
  - a. Black bass (largemouth or smallmouth)
  - b. Bullhead/catfish
  - c. Carp
  - d. Muskie or Tiger muskie
  - e. Northern pike
  - f. Pickerel
  - g. Salmon
  - h. Sucker
  - i. Sunfish (blunthead, pumpkinseed,...)
  - j. Trout (brook, brown, lake, rainbow)
  - k. Walleye
  - l. White or yellow perch
  - m. Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - n. None- not usually successful
7. How frequently do you fish on this lake (circle one)?
  - a. Daily (or nearly every day)
  - b. Several times per week
  - c. About once per week
  - d. Several times per month
  - e. About once per month
  - f. Several times per year
  - g. About once per year
8. Where do you do your fishing on this lake (circle all that apply)?
  - a. Boat
  - b. Dock
  - c. Shoreline
  - d. Ice
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_
9. How do you most frequently access this lake to go fishing (circle one)?
  - a. My own dock or shoreline
  - b. Neighbor or friends dock or shoreline
  - c. Public access site
  - d. Marina or private access site
  - e. Walk onto the ice
  - f. Other \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you frequently take your boat from other lakes to this lake?
  - a. Yes \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. No- boat never leaves lake \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. No- I don't boat on this lake \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Not applicable- no boat \_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you wash or inspect your boat before entering this lake?
  - a. Yes \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. No \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Not applicable \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you wash or inspect your boat after leaving this lake?
  - d. Yes \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. No \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Not applicable \_\_\_\_\_

CSLAP Anglers Survey

13. Have you seen any invasive plants in this lake? If yes, specify \_\_\_\_\_
14. Have you seen any invasive animals (fish, zebra mussel, spiny water flea) in this lake? If yes, specify \_\_\_\_\_
15. How satisfied were you with the size of fish you caught on this lake in 2011 (circle one)?
  1. Very satisfied
  2. Satisfied
  3. No opinion or neutral
  4. Unsatisfied
  5. Very unsatisfied
16. How satisfied were you with the number of fish you caught on this lake in 2011 (circle one)?
  1. Very satisfied
  2. Satisfied
  3. No opinion or neutral
  4. Unsatisfied
  5. Very unsatisfied
17. What do you do with the fish you catch on this lake?
  1. Catch and release
  2. Eat
  3. Catch and keep for other purposes
  4. Other \_\_\_\_\_
18. What factors negatively affected your fishing experience on this lake in 2011 (circle any that apply)?
  1. Poor access to the lake
  2. Few fish/fish not biting
  3. Undesirable fish in lake
  4. Excessive weeds
  5. Poor water quality (foam, algal blooms, etc.)
  6. Too many anglers
  7. Too many other lake users (boaters, swimmers)
  8. Other: specify \_\_\_\_\_
19. Which of the following factors would improve the fishing experience on this lake (circle any that apply)?
  1. No improvements needed
  2. Increase the number of boat ramps
  3. Add amenities to existing ramps (wash stations, information kiosks, trash receptacles, etc.)
  4. Increase the number of shoreline fishing access points or piers
  5. Decrease (or eliminate) existing boat ramps
  6. Decrease (or eliminate) shoreline fishing access points
  7. Implement speed or horsepower limits
  8. Stock additional coldwater fish (specify fish species: \_\_\_\_\_)
  9. Stock additional warmwater fish (specify fish species: \_\_\_\_\_)
  10. Remove trash fish
  11. Require catch and release policy
  12. Control excessive weeds
  13. Increase weed coverage or beds
  14. Improve water quality conditions
  15. Other (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
20. Where did you get this survey form (circle one)?
  1. Lake association meeting
  2. Fishing club
  3. Other (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

Thank you for participating in this survey!

Surveys should be returned to the lake association or sent to:

NYS Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program  
 c/o Scott Kishbaugh  
 NYSDEC Division of Water  
 625 Broadway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Albany, NY 12233-3502

# Opportunities for Angler Surveys on Your Lake

- Annual lake association meeting
  - Handout to all attendees
  - Focus on frequent or “representative” anglers
- Partner with local fishing club
- Place copies at public launch sites

