

Invasive Catfish Symposium

VCU Rice Rivers Center

November 6-7, 2017

Aaron Bunch, Tidal Rivers Project Leader

Objectives/goals – VDGIF Tidal Rivers Catfish Monitoring

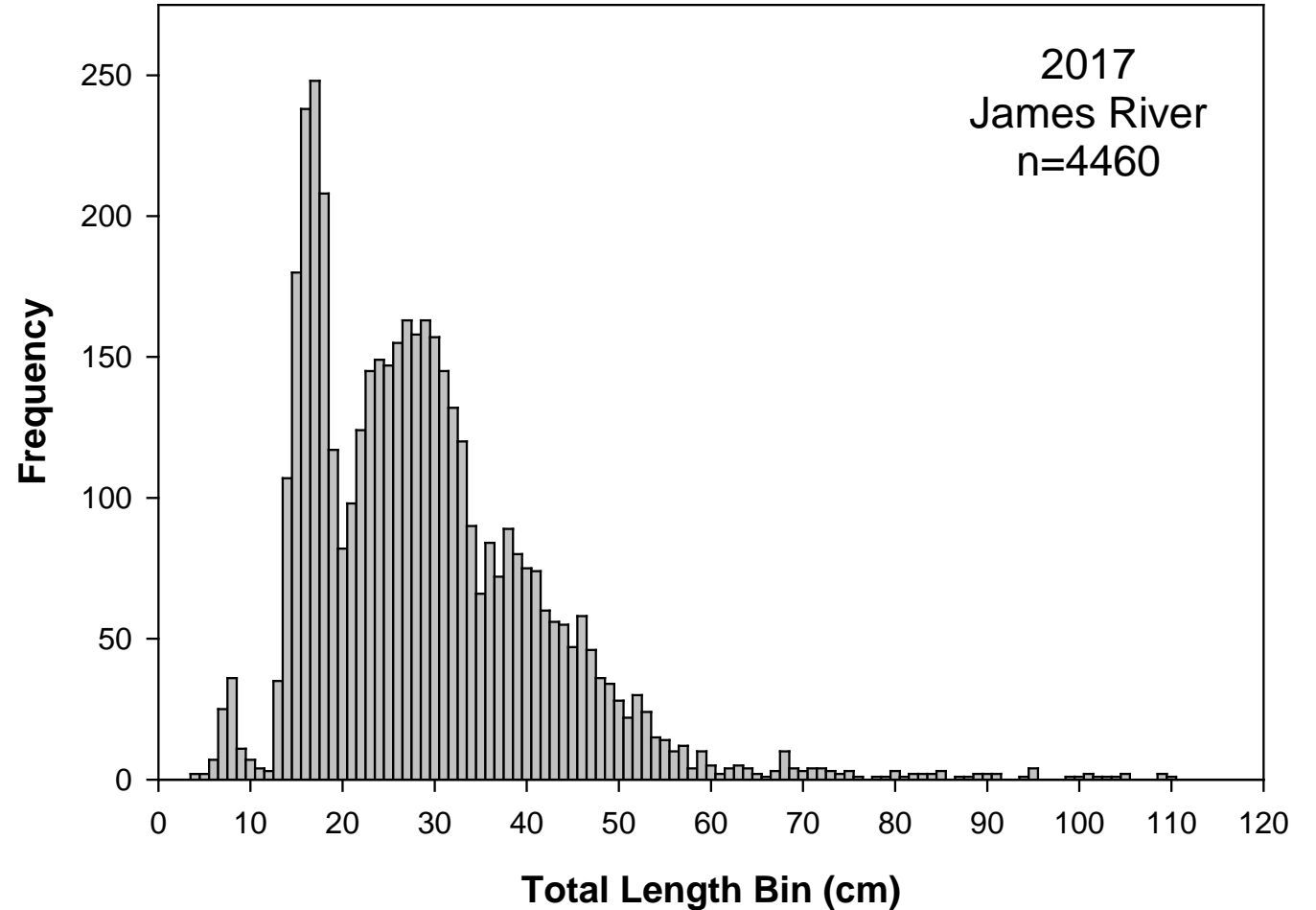
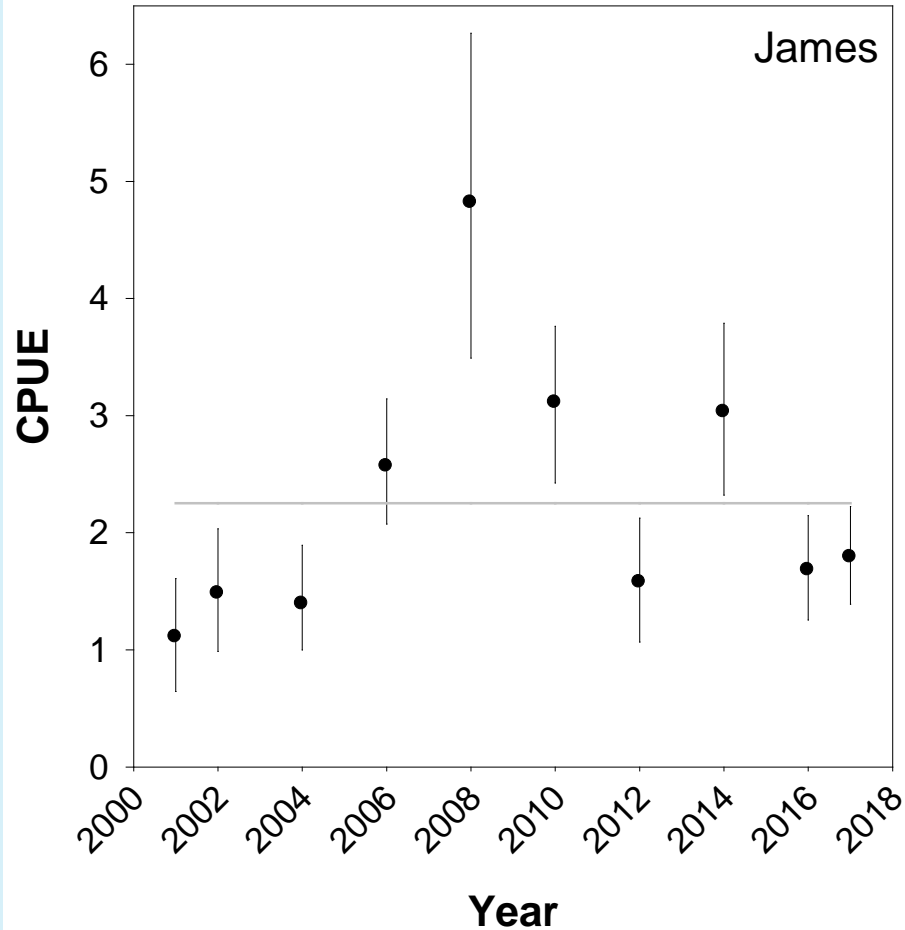
- To monitor long-term status and trends of Blue Catfish relative abundance, size distribution, and growth.

Standardized Low-Frequency – Catfish Targeted

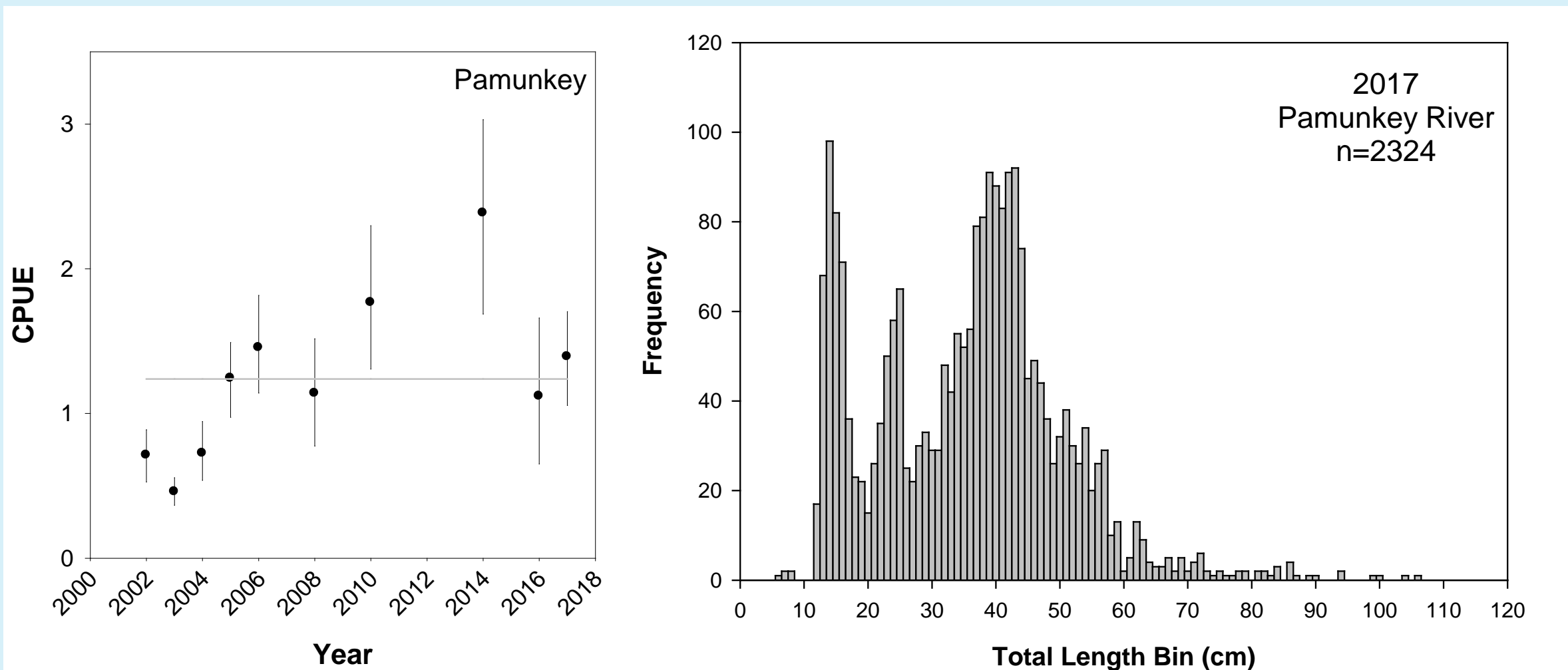


CPUE, Age & Growth, Size Structure

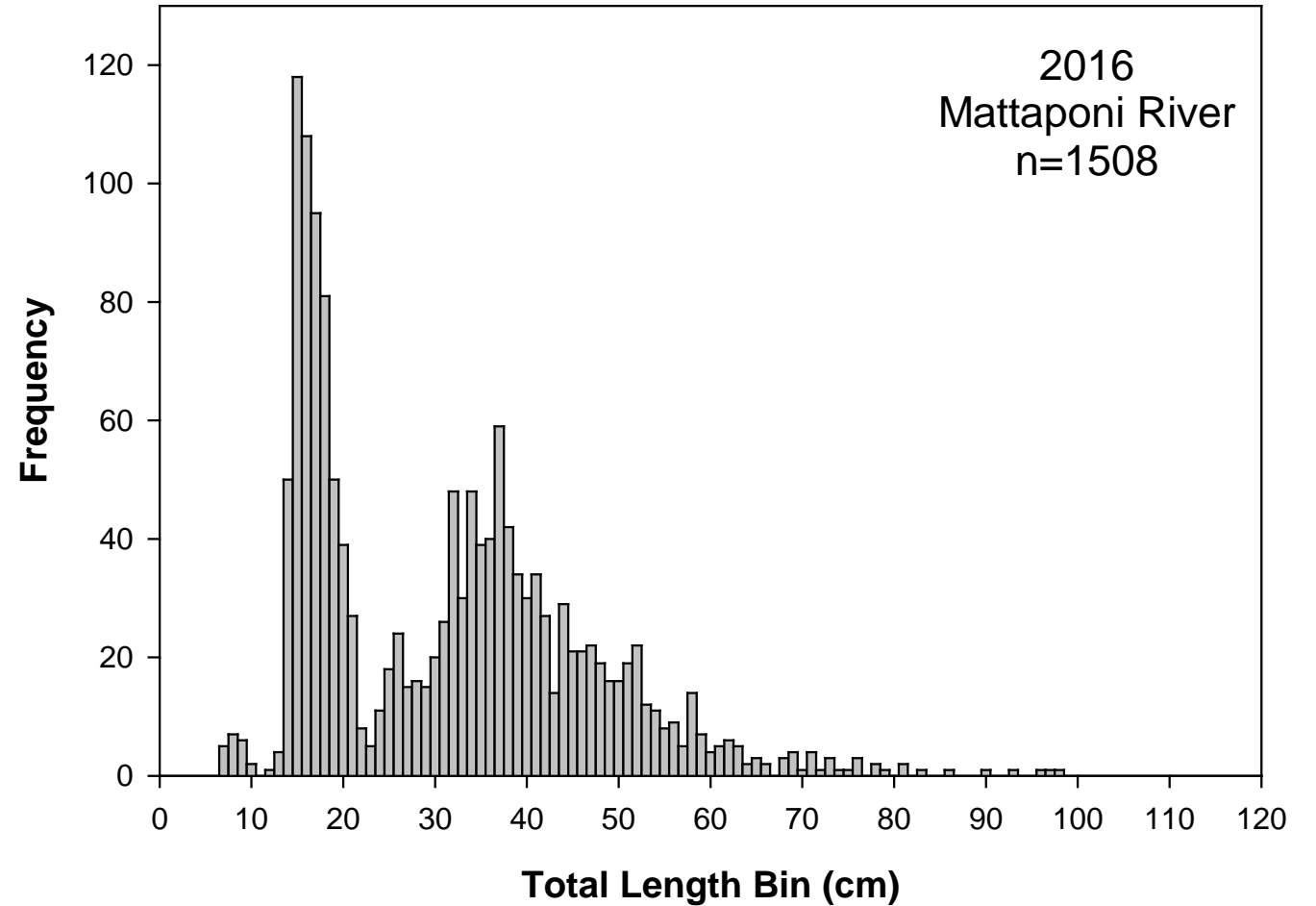
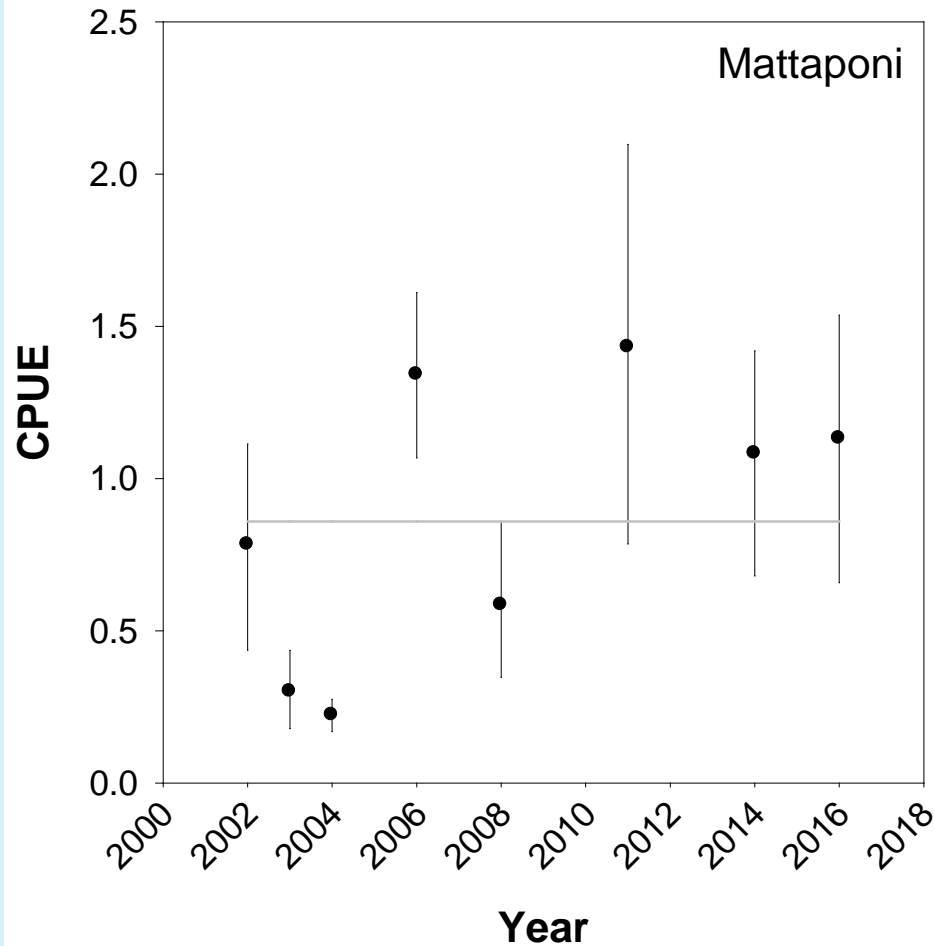
Results/Findings – James River 2017



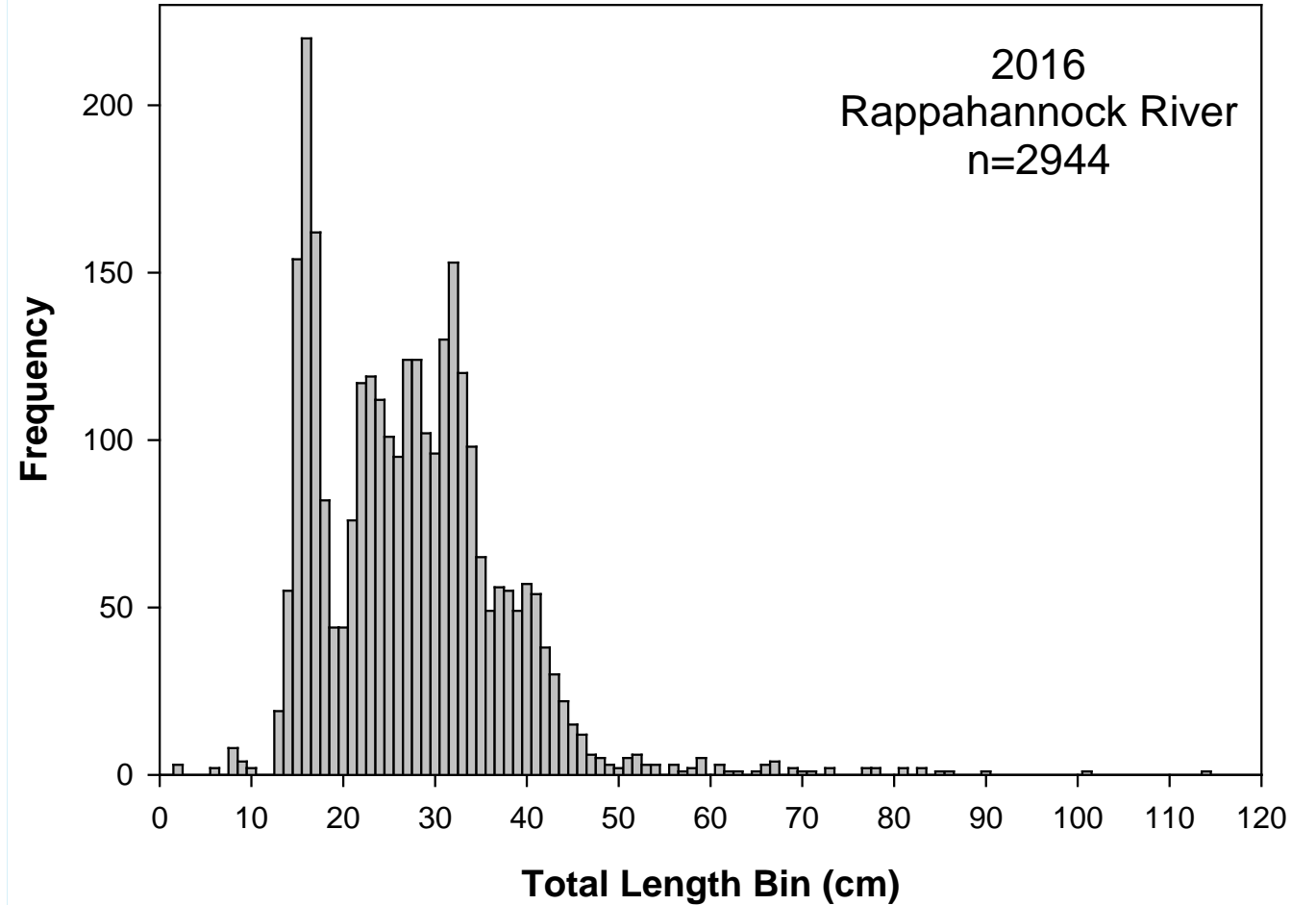
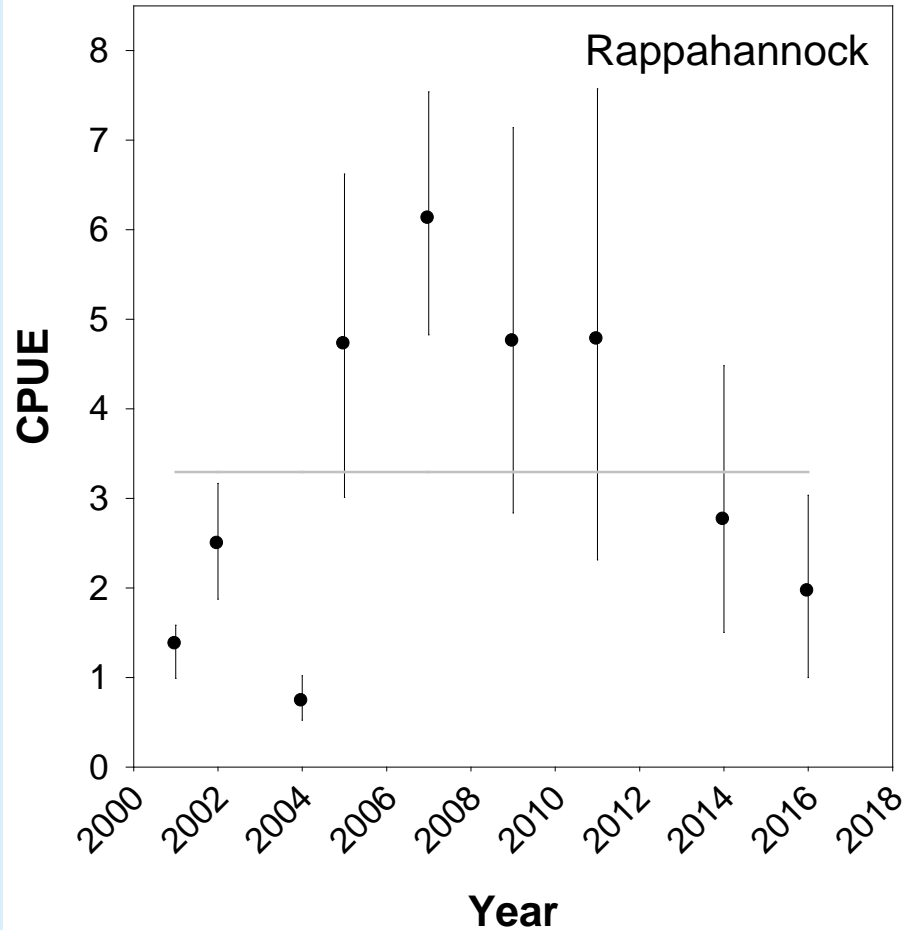
Results/Findings – Pamunkey River 2017



Results/Findings – Mattaponi River 2016



Results/Findings – Rappahannock River 2016



Discussion Questions

- What is the value of this research to fishery managers?
 - Key to understanding population dynamics of BCF populations in Virginia.
 - Main source of age and growth data in Virginia, and longest catfish-targeted long-term monitoring dataset available in Chesapeake Bay.
- How do you foresee the results being used?
 - See Virginia Tech study results – growth, mortality, impacts to other species, key to understanding abundance trends.

Discussion Questions

- What modifications should we make to current management strategies?
 - Increase harvest of small individuals in the populations.
- Where are there still data gaps?
 - Understanding of impacts of species displacement due to competition for prime spawning, feeding, and rearing habitats.
- What should be the next steps?
 - Continued targeted studies to answer key questions.
 - Increase harvest through traditional commercial methods.