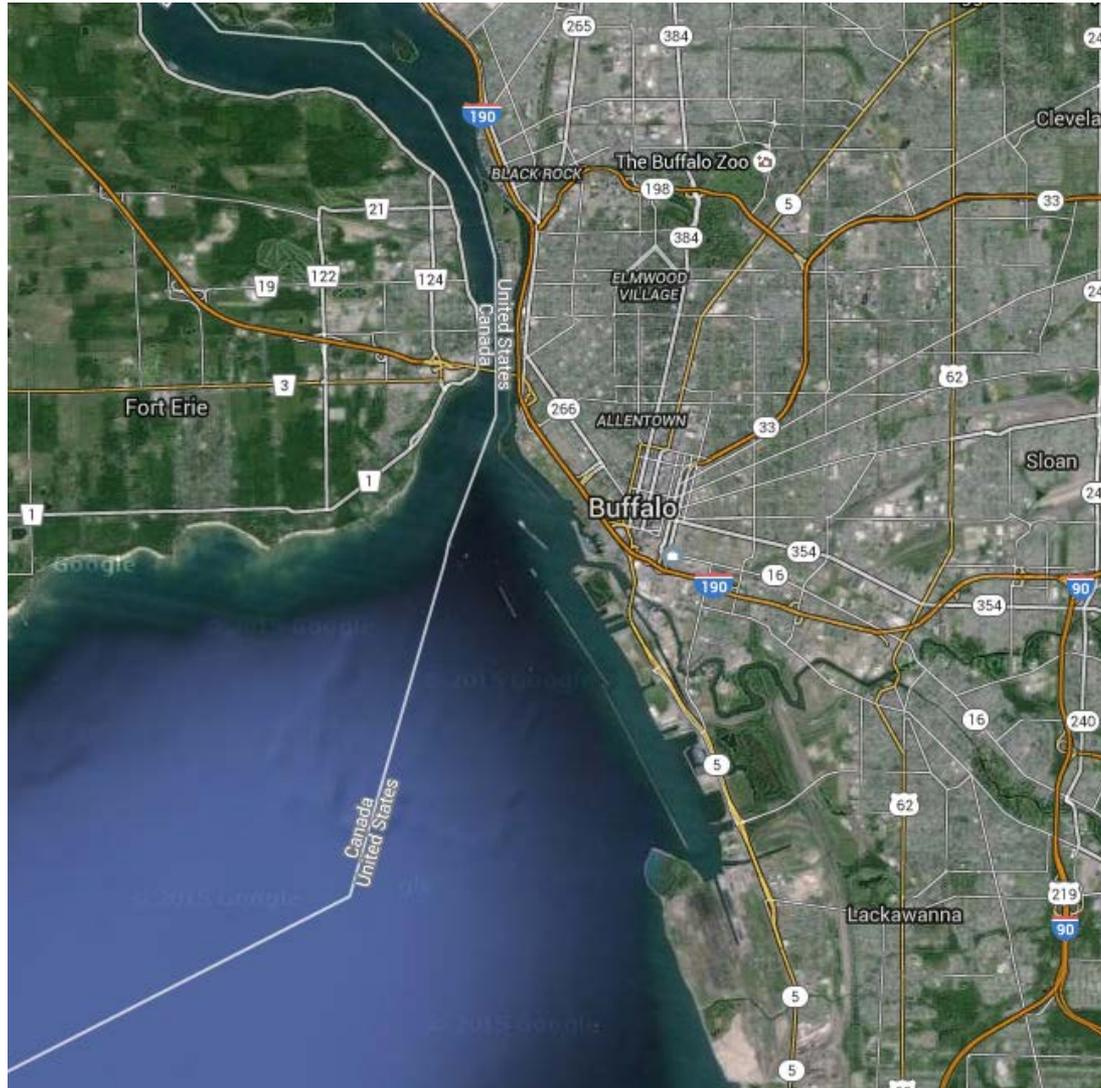


# Buffalo Harbor Lake Sturgeon Monitoring 2011 - 2015



# Buffalo Harbor



# 2011

- Pilot study
- 2 sturgeon collected in 2 hours of gill netting



# 2012 - 2015

- Start when water temperature reached 50 degrees
- Two – three weeks
- Gill nets
  - 10", 12" and 14" mesh
- Set lines – 25 hooks per line (2012-2014)
- Egg mats (2015)

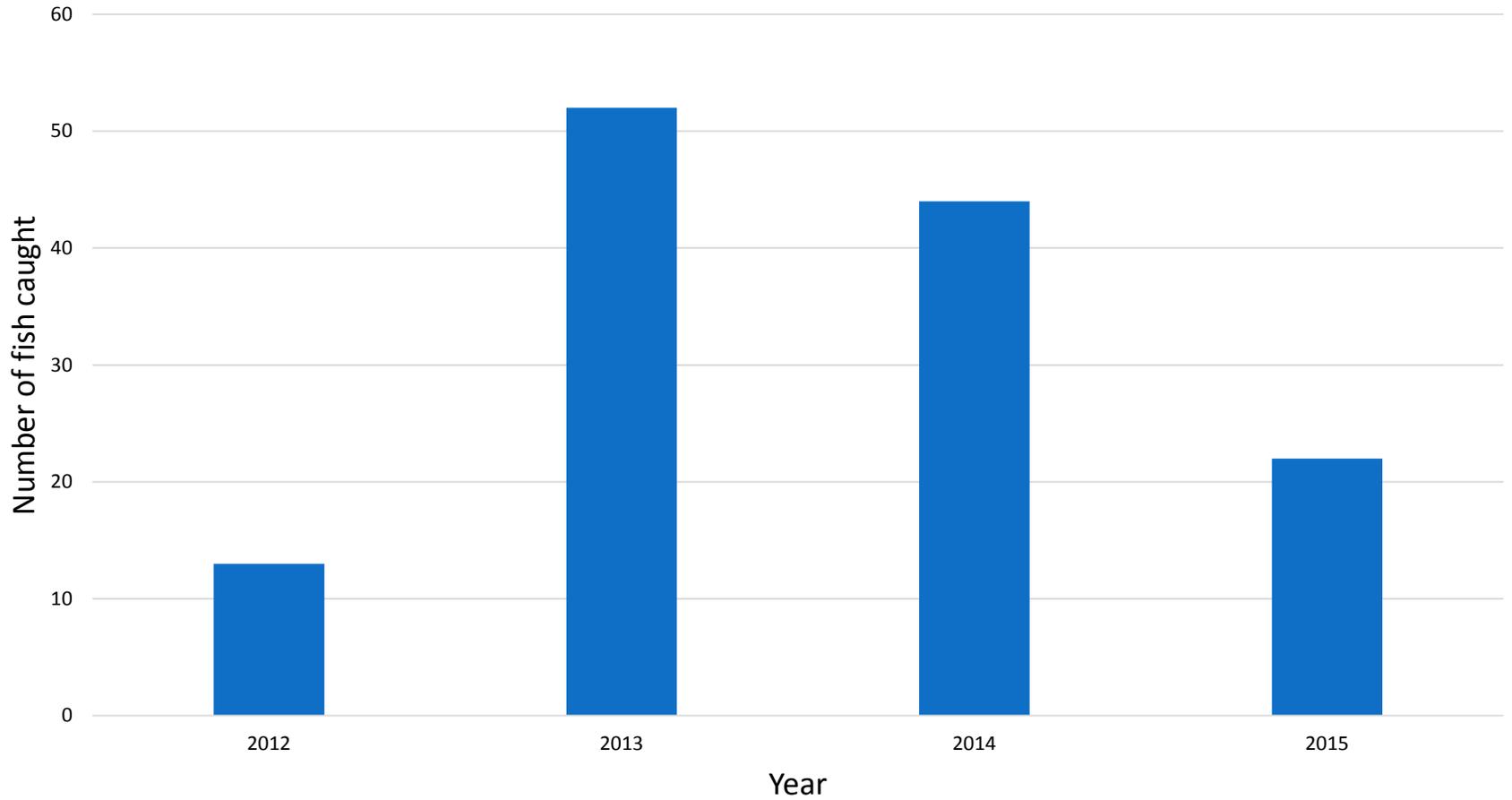


# Data Collection

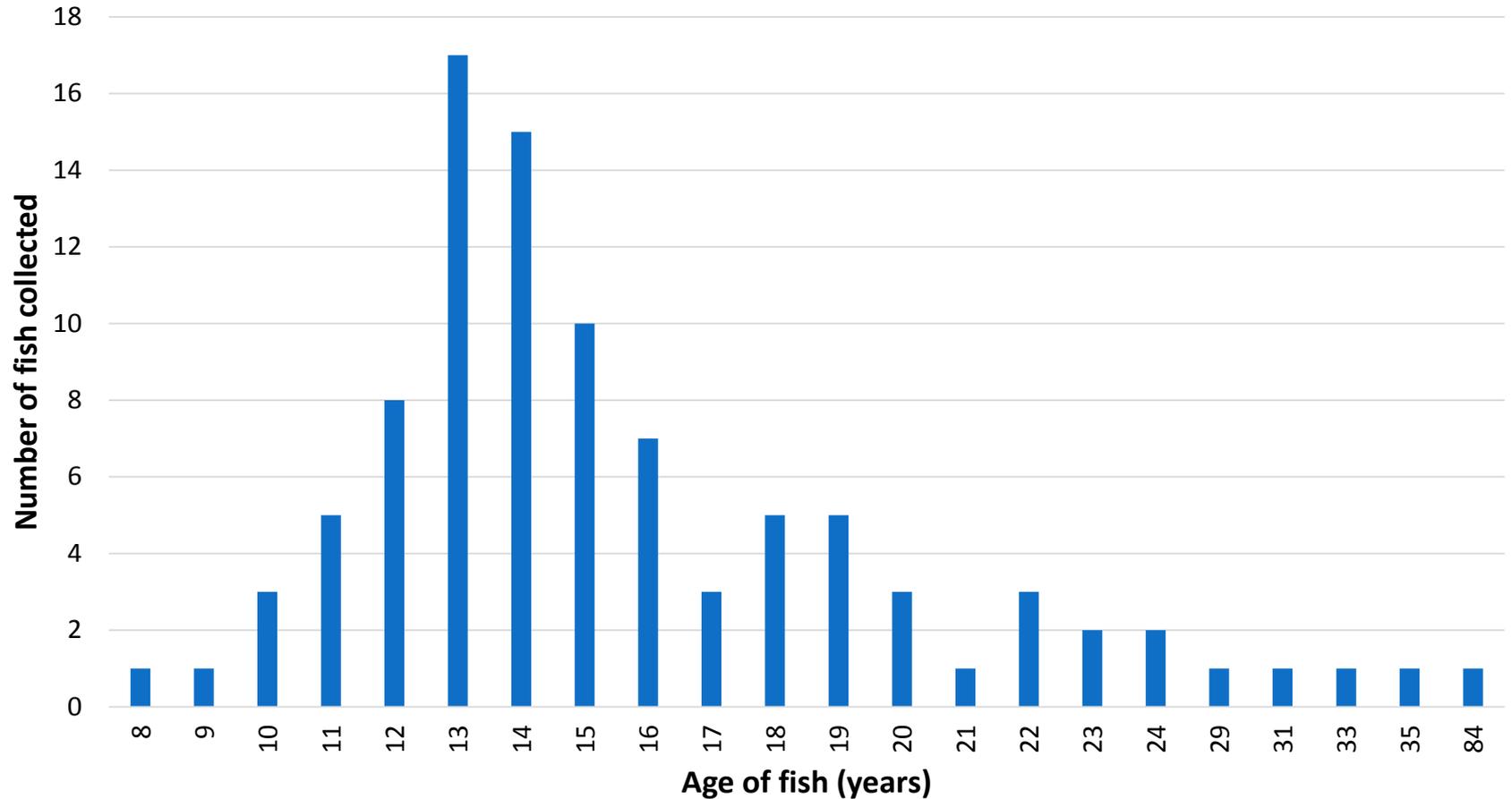
- Total length, fork length, girth, weight, fin ray and tissue
- FLOY tag
- PIT tag
- Satellite tag
- Telemetry tag



# Total Lake Sturgeon Catch 2012 - 2015



# Age Data (2012 – 2014)



# Research planning

- Eastern Lake Erie Lake Sturgeon working group
  - NYSDEC Buffalo, NY
  - NYSDEC Dunkirk, NY
  - USFWS Basom, NY
  - USFWS Lamar, PA
  - USACE Buffalo, NY

# Goals and objectives

***“Determine the population status, and factors limiting the recovery, of Lake Sturgeon in New York waters of Lake Erie and the upper Niagara River”***

# Goals and Objectives

- Identify current spawning areas
- Estimate the population size and age structure of the fish using each spawning area
- Assess the spawning habitat availability and quality in Buffalo Harbor, upper Niagara River, Lake Erie and tributaries
- Determine adult Lake Sturgeon movements within upper Niagara River, Lake Erie and tributaries
- Identify juvenile Lake Sturgeon rearing areas and habitat requirements

# Questions?

