

Davis R.

January 28, 1998

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For Your Files: 1997 Lake Davis Creel Census

During 1997 the California Department of Water Resources, Northern District, conducted an angler survey at Lake Davis, Plumas County. Surveys were made on 28 days between April 26 and October 5 (inclusive). Anglers were interviewed to determine hours fished, terminal gear, whether they fished from boat or shore, where they were from, and the species, number, and size of fish caught (if any). The only other time we conducted a comparable study at Lake Davis was in 1994.

Last year we contacted 344 Lake Davis anglers, who reported they fished 1,086 hours, with an observed total catch of 121 rainbow trout (84 measured and included in Figure 1), 19 brown bullheads, and 1 bass. In addition, 25 rainbow trout, 11 northern pike, 3 bass, 2 brown bullheads and one redear sunfish were reported caught and released.

The mean length of rainbow trout caught by all anglers was 41.3 cm (16.3 in) fork length, among fish measuring from 19.5 to 51.0 cm (7.7 to 20.1 in). Rainbow trout catch rate was 0.11 fish/hour. The average length of brown bullheads caught was 29.6 cm (11.7 in) total length.

Shore anglers were represented by 169 anglers fishing 469.5 hours and taking 29 rainbows (0.06 fish/hour). Shore anglers also creeled 18 brown bullheads. They reported 5 rainbow trout and 5 pike caught and released.

Boat anglers (175, including 23 in float tubes) reported a catch of 92 rainbow trout and 2 bass in 616.75 hours of fishing (0.15 fish/hour). They also reported 20 rainbows, 3 bullheads, 3 bass, and 6 pike caught and released.

The results indicate substantially lower angler success at Lake Davis during 1997 compared to 1994. A general comparison of our two surveys, and also creel census information collected by the California Department of Fish and Game, is presented in Table 1. However, the comparability of DWR and DFG results is limited because the DFG surveys cover only 2 to 6 days each year and represent predominantly boat anglers.

CREELED RAINBOW TROUT  
LAKE DAVIS 1997

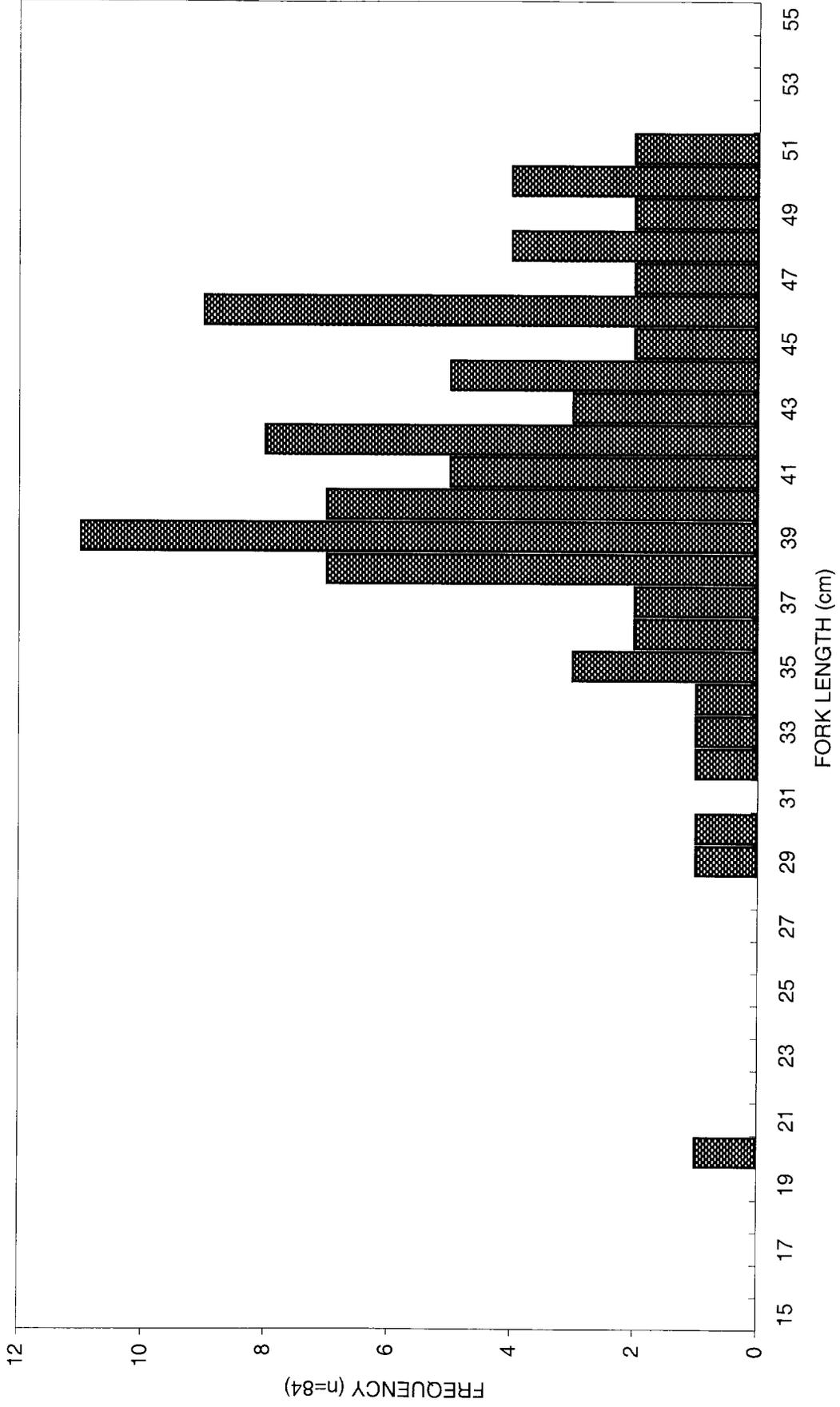


Table 1. Lake Davis Creel Census Comparison (RT = Rainbow Trout, BBH = Brown Bullhead, LMB = Largemouth Bass)

| Agency/Year | Days Surveyed | Censused Anglers | Hours Recorded | RT Kept | RT Catch/Hr | BBH Caught | LMB Caught |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|------------|------------|
| DFG (1990)  | 3             | 122              | 338.25         | 88      | 0.26        | 43         | 18         |
| DFG (1992)  | 2             | 105              | 333.75         | 63      | 0.19        | 40         | 8          |
| DFG (1993)  | 2             | 76               | 222.5          | 22      | 0.10        | 3          | 2          |
| DWR (1994)  | 27            | 789              | 2,706.0        | 460     | 0.17        | 97         | 2          |
| DFG (1994)  | 5             | 194              | 573.25         | 117     | 0.20        | 0          | 0          |
| DFG (1995)  | 6             | 121              | 327.5          | 89      | 0.27        | 2          | 1          |
| DFG (1996)  | 6             | 228              | 733.5          | 153     | 0.21        | 0          | 0          |
| DWR (1997)  | 28            | 344              | 1,086          | 121     | 0.11        | 19         | 1          |

Lake Davis angler origin (Figure 2) was predominantly from Nevada (48 percent, mainly Reno/Sparks); followed by the San Francisco Bay Area (17 percent) and Northeastern California counties (15 percent). This is a remarkable change from 1994 when we observed 35 percent origin from NE counties and 10 percent from the SF Bay counties.

Information on boating use of Lake Davis, and also boater origin, was also collected on the 28 survey days. We surveyed all boat ramps on the eastern shore of the lake (Mallard, Grizzly, Honker Cove, Lightning Tree) three times per day; the Old Camp Five boat ramp on the west shore was not regularly surveyed (except for creel census), but did not appear to contribute significantly to boating use. We estimate that 34,000 boat-hours of boating occurred during the study period. We calculated an unweighted average of 2.47 persons per boat, indicating that about 84,000 recreation hours of boating occurred on Lake Davis during the study period (opening of stream fishing season until the closure for northern pike eradication). These estimates are about two-thirds of the totals we estimated in 1994. We did not record what activities boaters were engaged in, but it was apparent that most boaters were fishing. Approximately 59 percent of the boaters were from California, while about 41 percent were from Nevada.

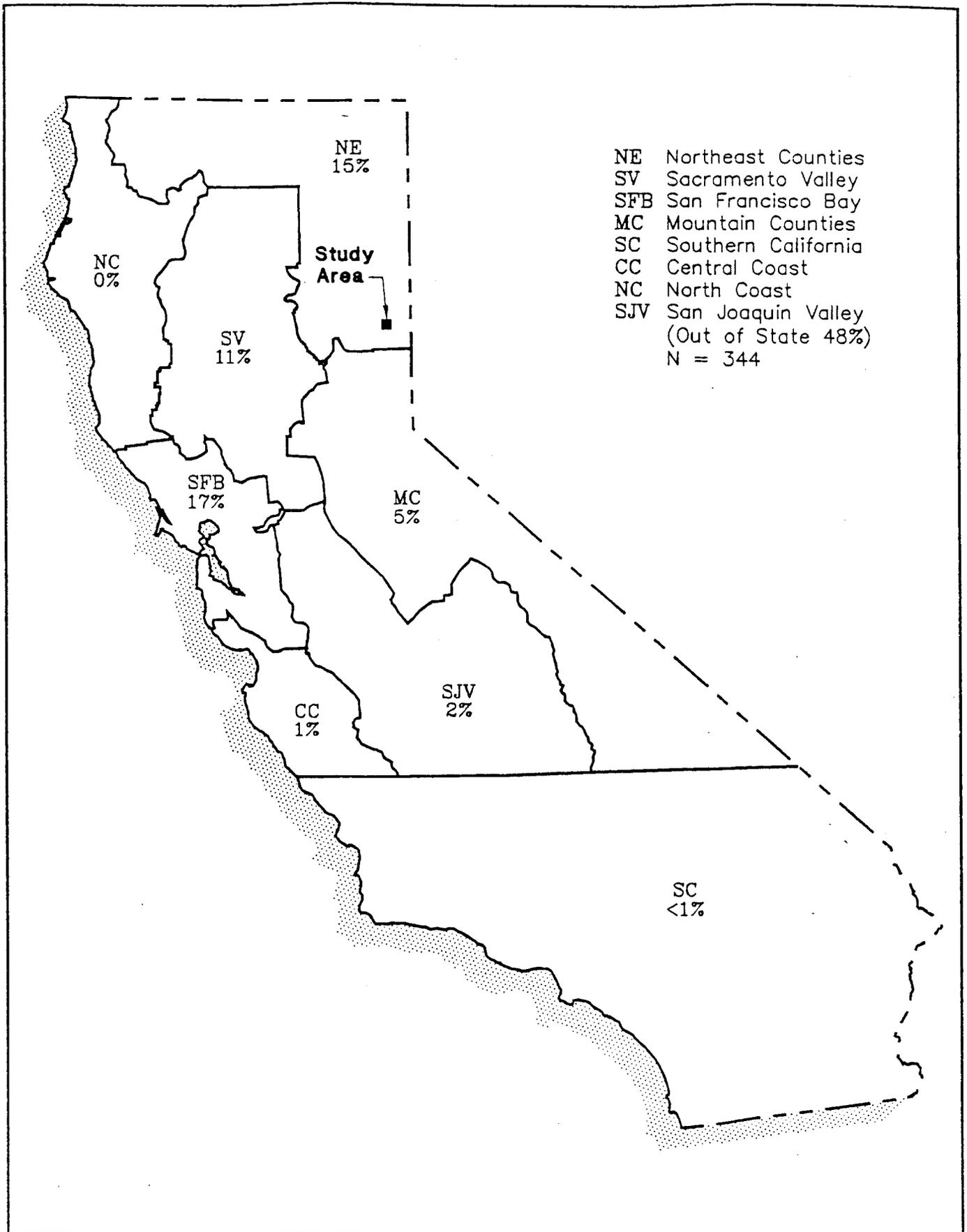


Figure 2 - Lake Davis Angler Origin  
 1997

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If you require any additional information regarding this or other related DWR data collection efforts, please contact me at (530) 529-7357.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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Attachment

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spell check: January 28, 1998