

Decisions, Decisions

Biologists will examine all the data from the **survey**. This **data** will help the Commission make important decisions about managing fish species and the waterways.

Healthy Fish

The length and weight tells us many things about a fish—how well it's growing, if it gets enough food and if it has good habitat (place to live).

Biologists will also count the rings on **scales** and **otoliths**. New rings are added as a fish grows. From the inside, they provide useful information about the fish's age, growth rate and life history.

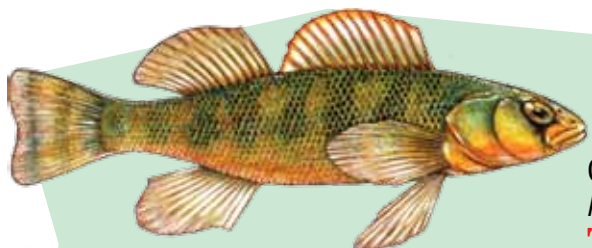
Biologists compare length, weight, growth rate and age to determine the fish's overall health.

Catching big, healthy fish is a good thing for anglers.

Healthy Diversity

The **diversity** of fish caught during a **survey** tells us if the habitat and water quality are good enough to support a variety of fish.

Catching different fish is more interesting to anglers than catching only one type of fish.



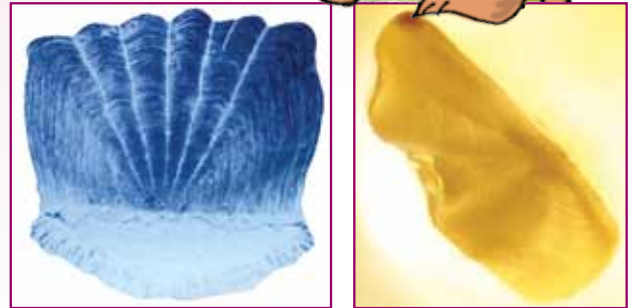
Gilt Darter
Percina evides
THREATENED



Atlantic Sturgeon
Acipenser oxyrinchus
ENDANGERED



Round Goby
Neogobius melanostomus
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



Magnified photographs of a **scale** (left) and an **otolith** from a walleye.

Healthy Populations

The number of fish (or sample) caught during the **survey** helps biologists estimate the total **population** in a waterway. **Data** is entered into special formulas that estimate the **population** size.

After all, it's fun catching more fish, right?



The End Result

All of this information is used to manage fish and create fishing regulations. Seasons, sizes, creel limits and fish stockings are guided by **surveys**.

Surveys can also tell us if a fish is threatened, endangered or even an **aquatic invasive species**.

All of this hard work ensures fun fishing for all anglers.