

# Lake Wausau

## Proposed Panfish Regulations

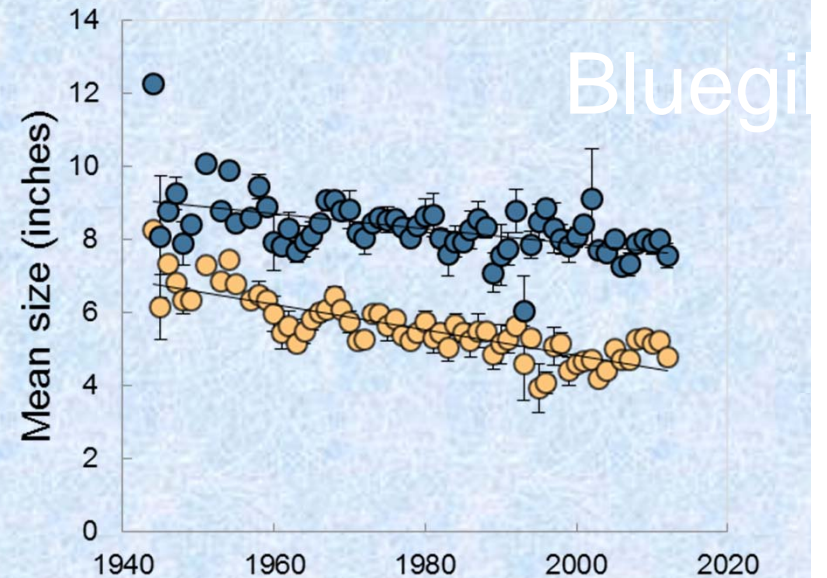
- The Department of Natural Resources held statewide meeting to discuss this work
- One meeting was in Waupaca
- The public also had the chance to comment online
- The initiative will cover about 100 lakes statewide.

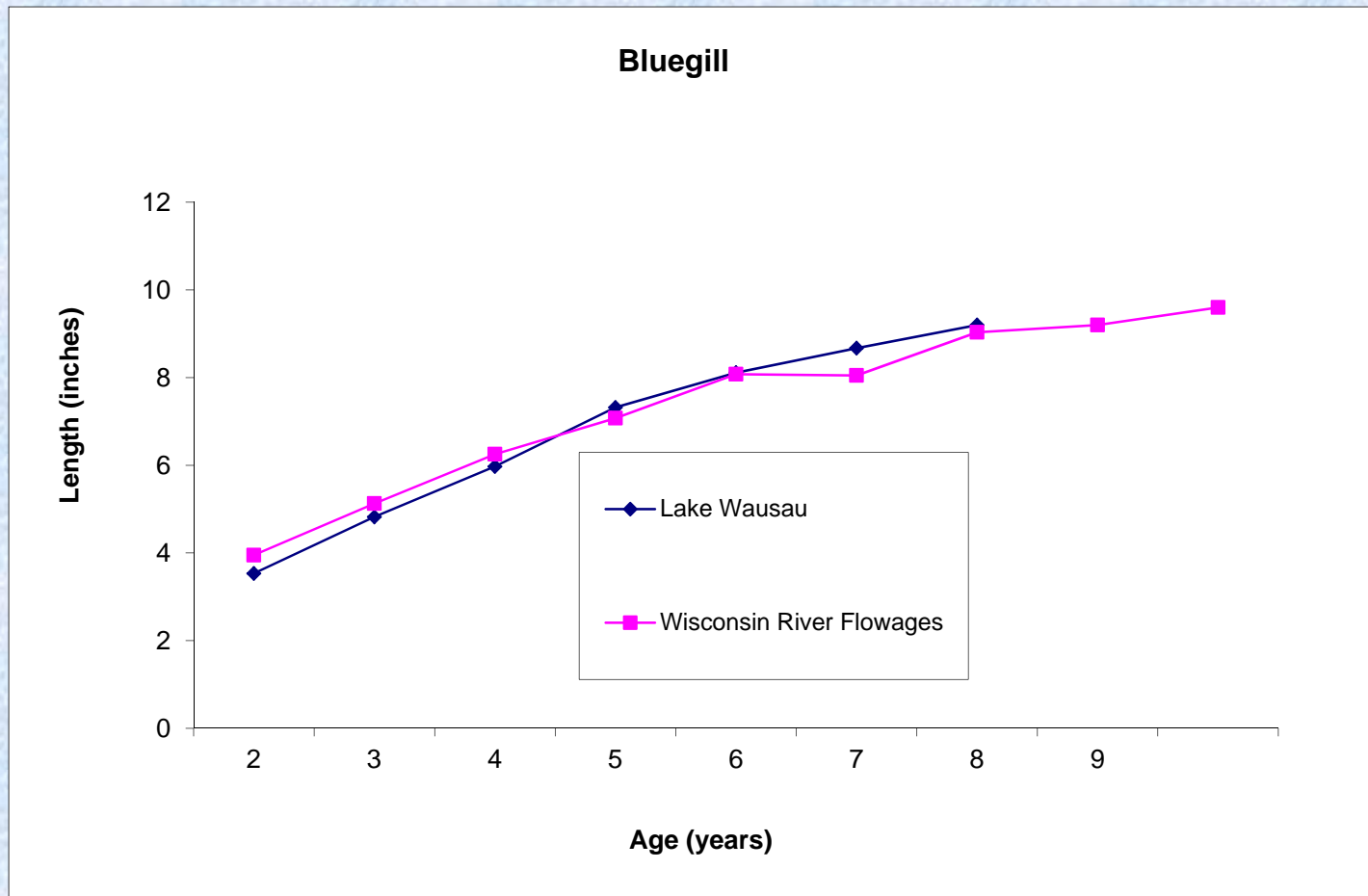
# Choosing Lakes

- Fisheries Biologists chose lakes based on panfish growth rate.
- A consideration was size structure in relation to fishing pressure and potential.
- We did not want stunted lakes, but instead good growth lakes with potential
- Lake Wausau falls within this category

# What we know

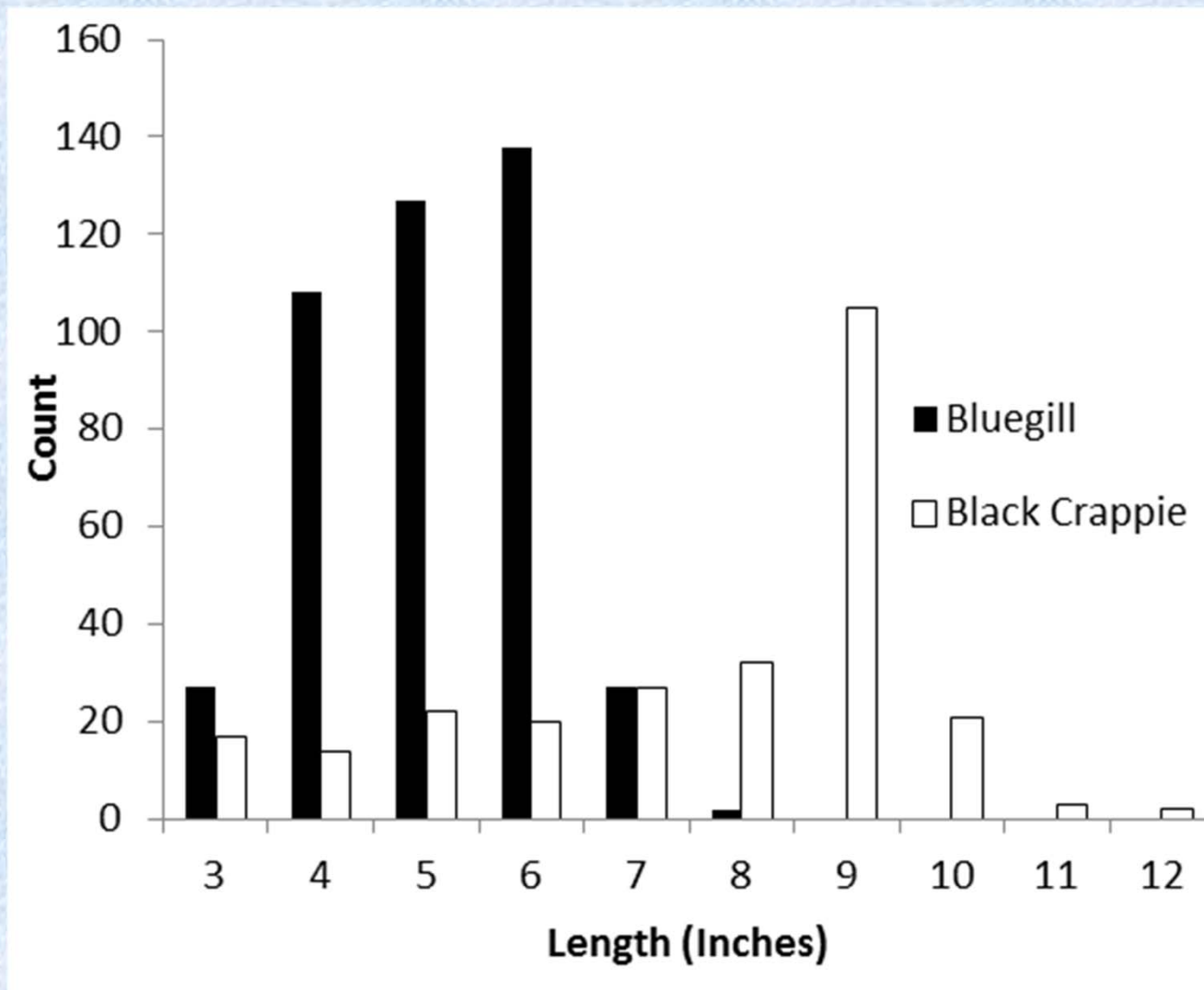
- Trends in decreasing size
- Cause: “stunting” vs. harvest
  - “stunting” = slow growth
  - harvest = growth OK
- Restrictive regulations can improve size
  - Regulation must affect harvest
  - Reduced bags show potential increases in mean length of 1”





Lake Wausau meets statewide average for growth and panfish Criteria ( Bluegill length at age-3 = 4.5 inches)





Lake Wausau has potential for larger bluegill and other panfish, currently the density of fish greater than 8 inches is only 0.5%, this should be closer to 20%.

# Potential Panfish Regulation Options

- **10 bag:** A total of 25 panfish but no more than 10 of any one species
  - Option chosen for Lake Wausau
  - Research has shown this could improve average size by 1 inch.
- **5 bag:** A total of 15 panfish but no more than 5 of any one species
  - Not chosen for Lake Wausau through consultation with Warden staff



# Questions?

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