

Overview of the Lake Erie Lake Trout Assessment Program



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Outline

- 
-  **Stocking and Strains**
 -  **Assessment Methods**
 -  **Status of Stocks**
 -  **Sea Lampreys**
 -  **Performance of Klondike Strain**

NEW! Lake Erie Lake Trout Management Plan

**A Strategic Plan for the Rehabilitation of
Lake Trout in Lake Erie, 2008 - 2020**



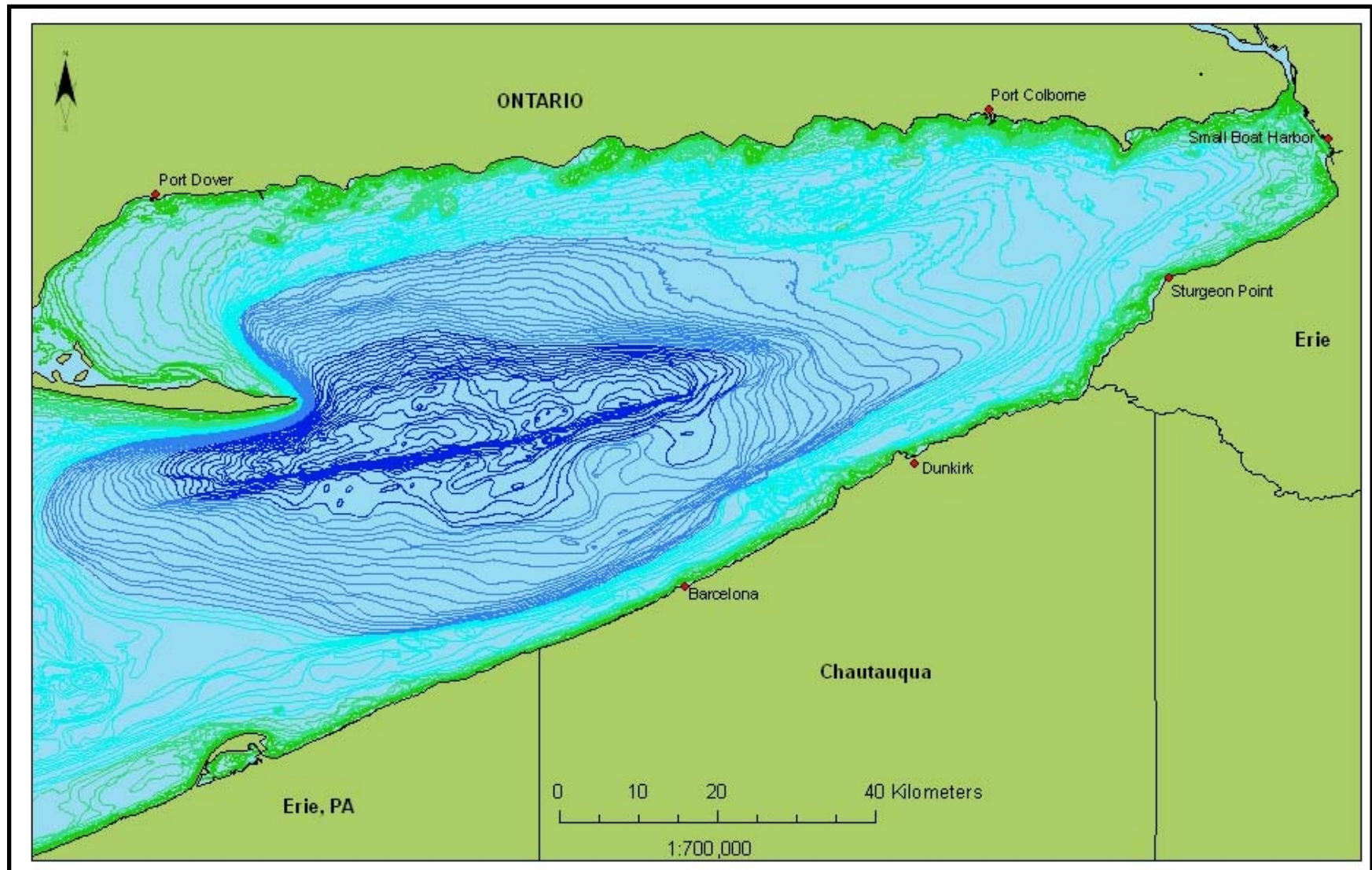
COMPLETE: March 2008

Lake Erie



Eastern Basin – Lake Erie

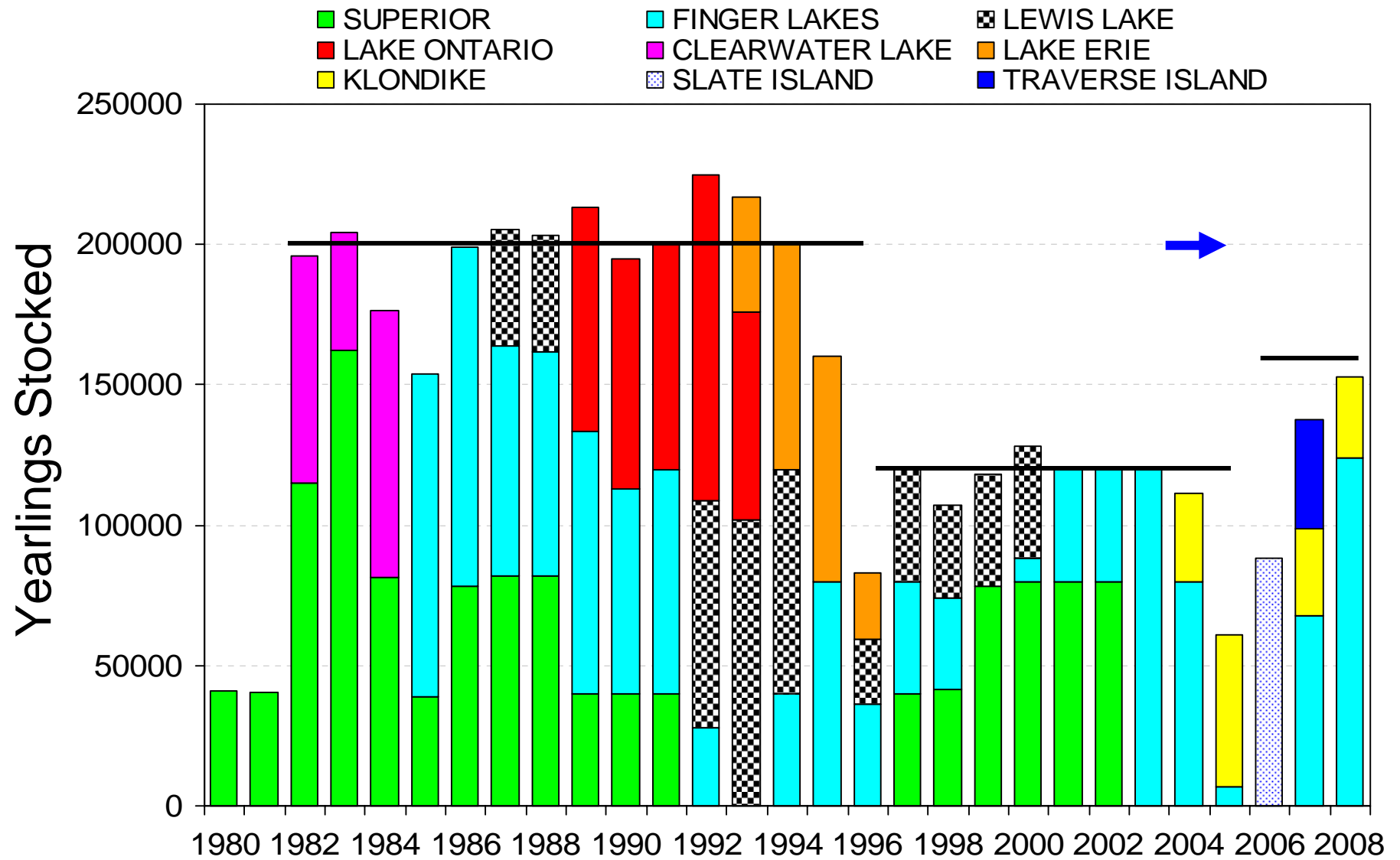
3,200 km² > 20m



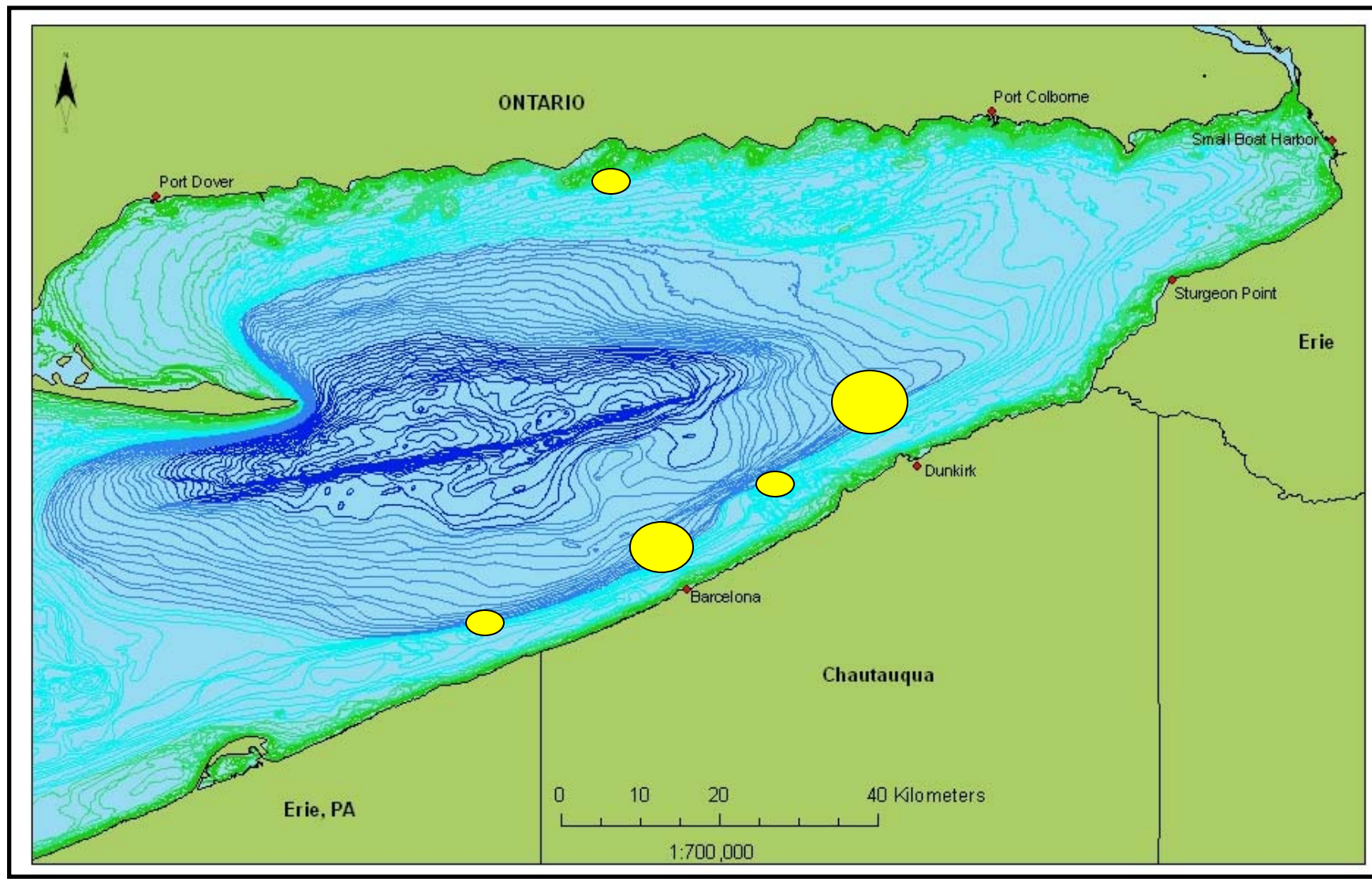
Stocking



Lake Trout Stocking 1980-2008



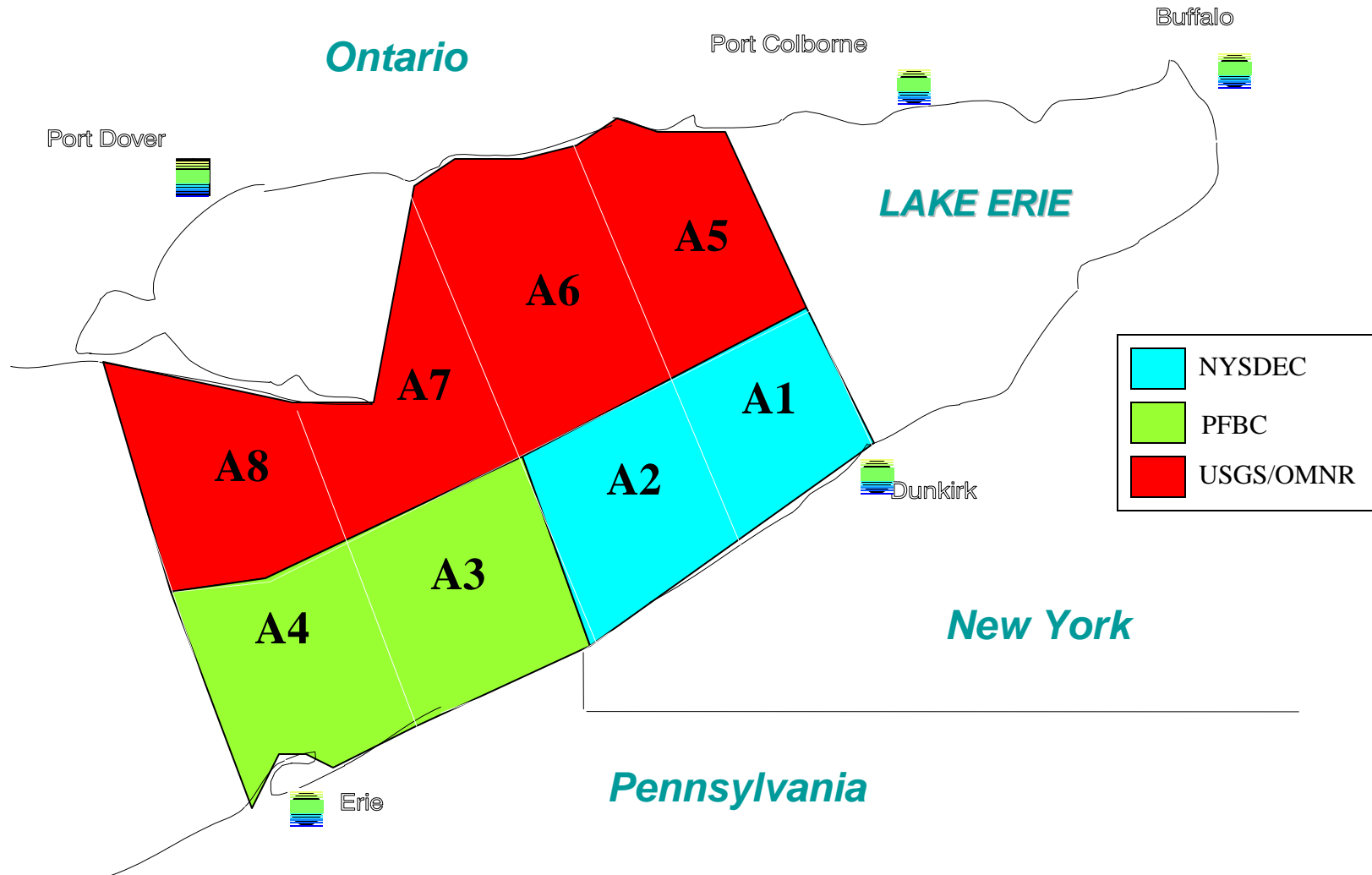
Stocking Locations



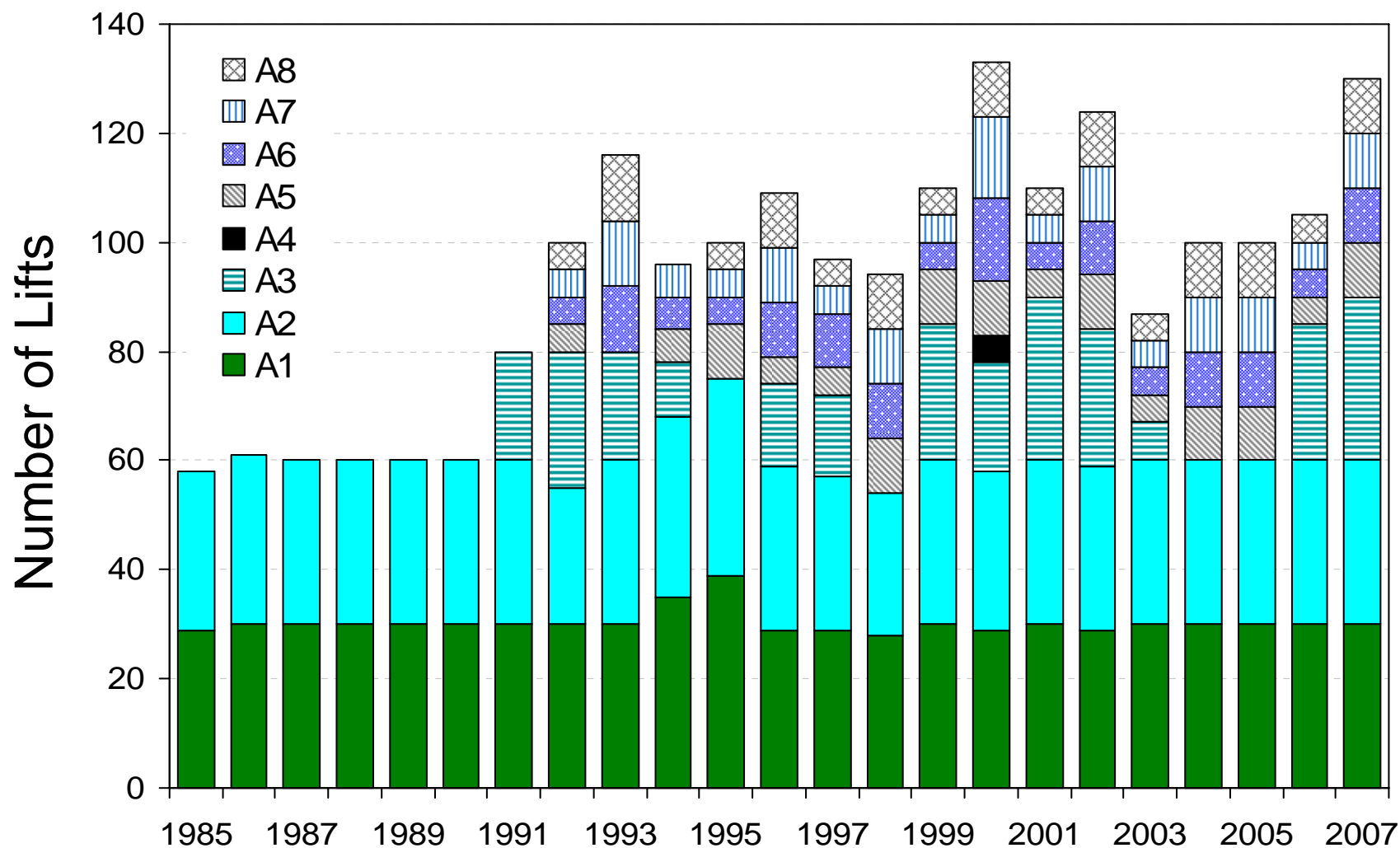
Assessment



Coldwater Assessment Sampling



Coldwater Gill Net Lifts by Area

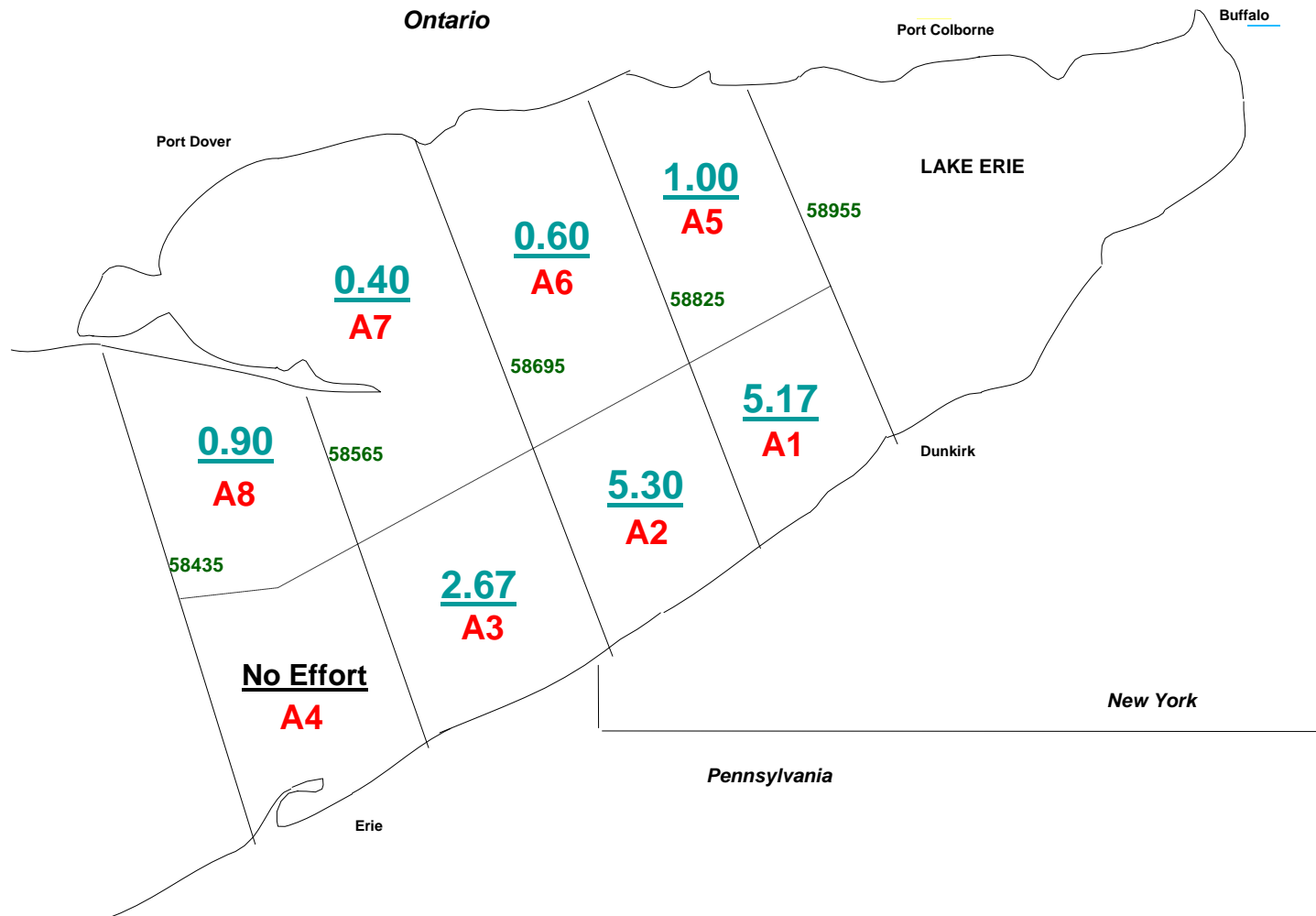




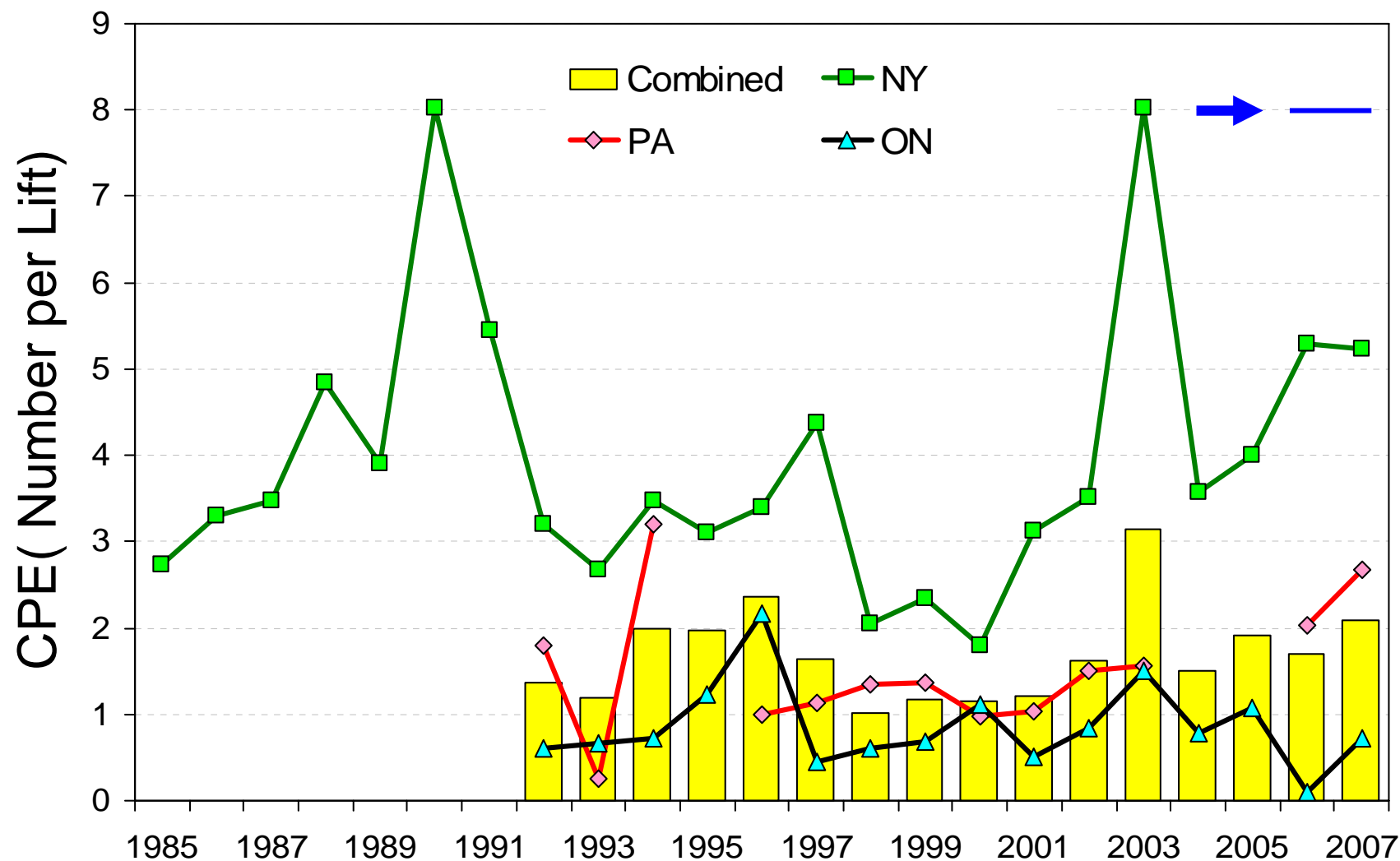
Status of Stocks



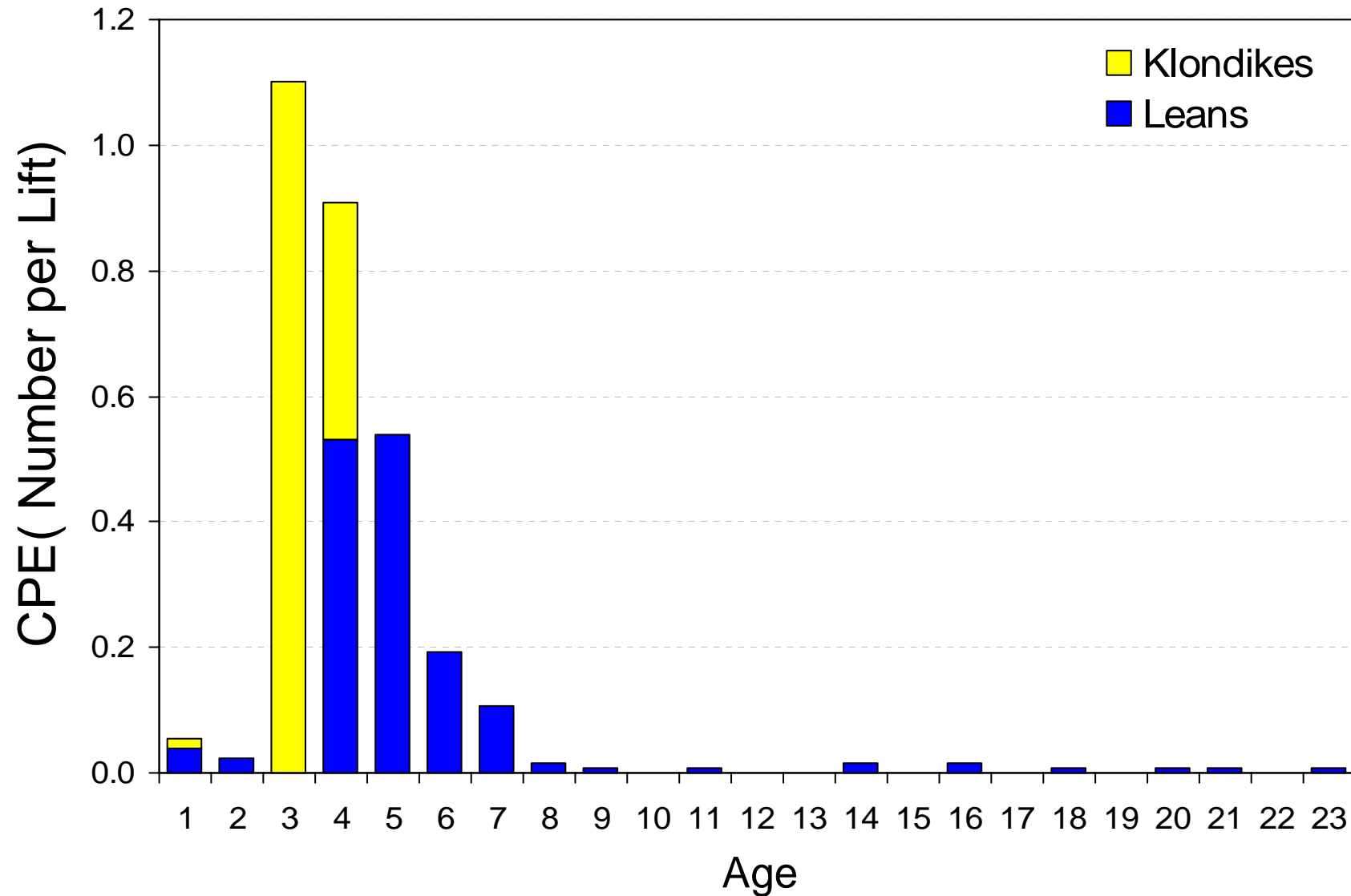
2007 Lake Trout CPE by Area



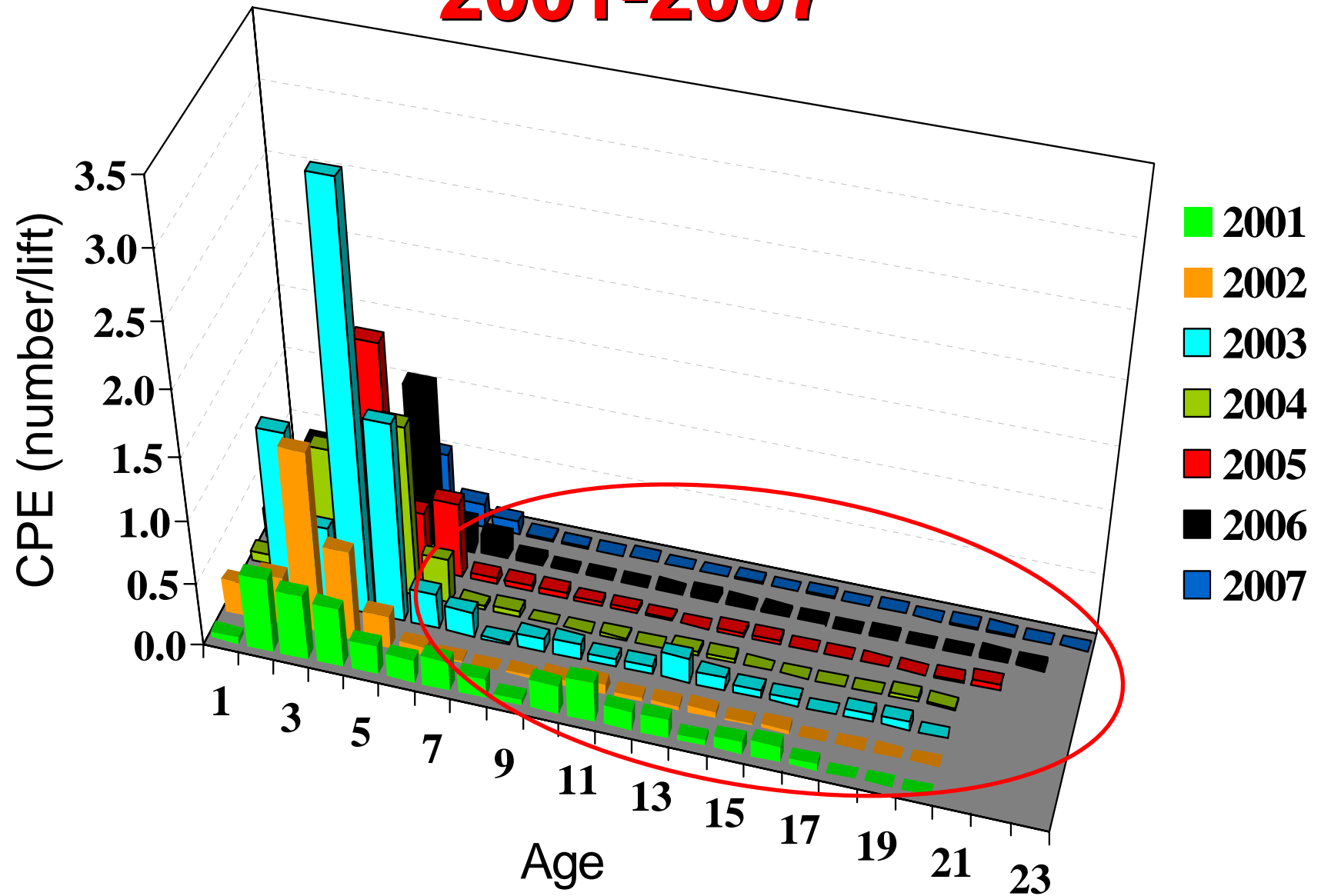
Mean Lake Trout Abundance



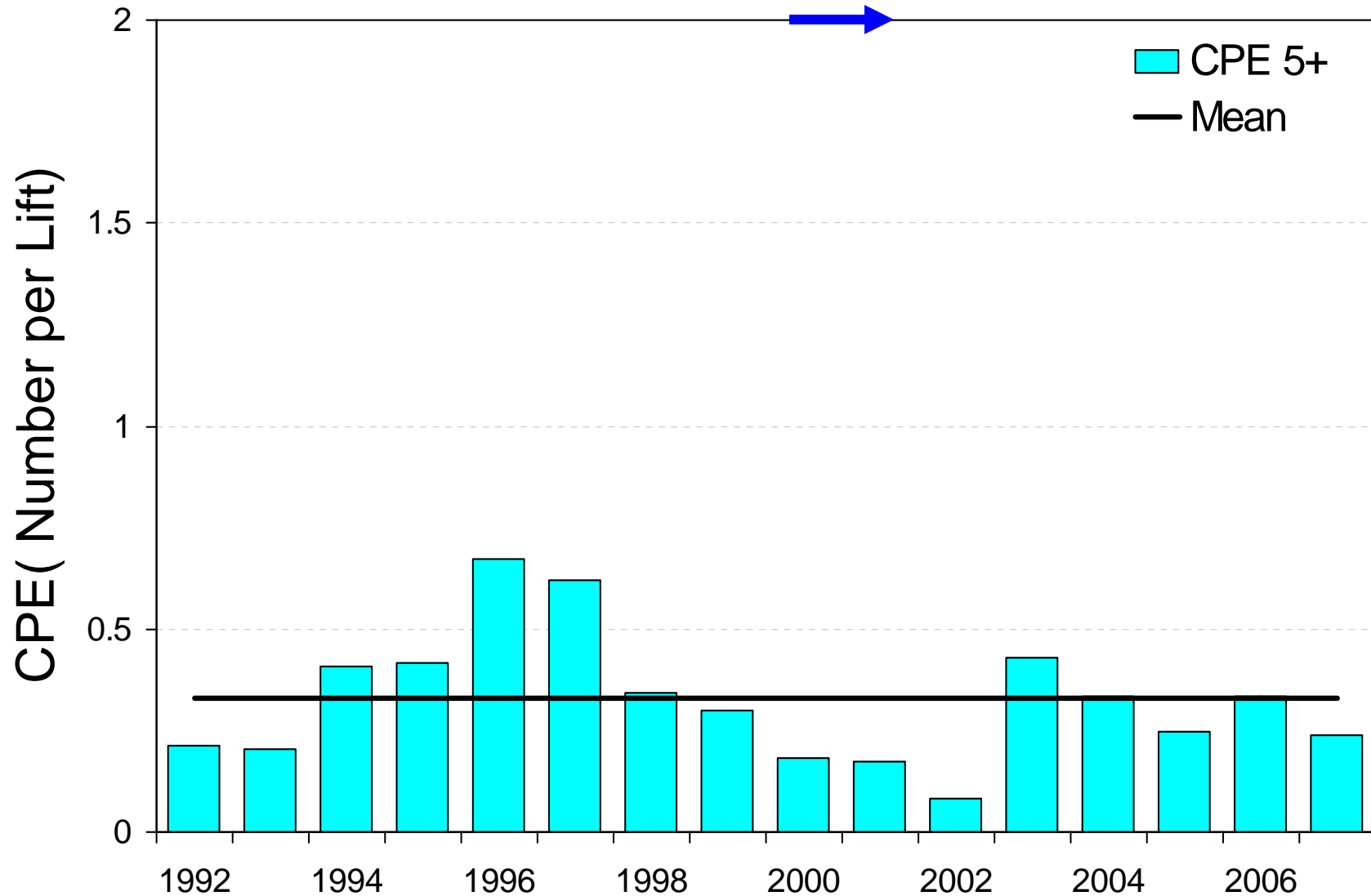
2007 Lake Trout Abundance at Age



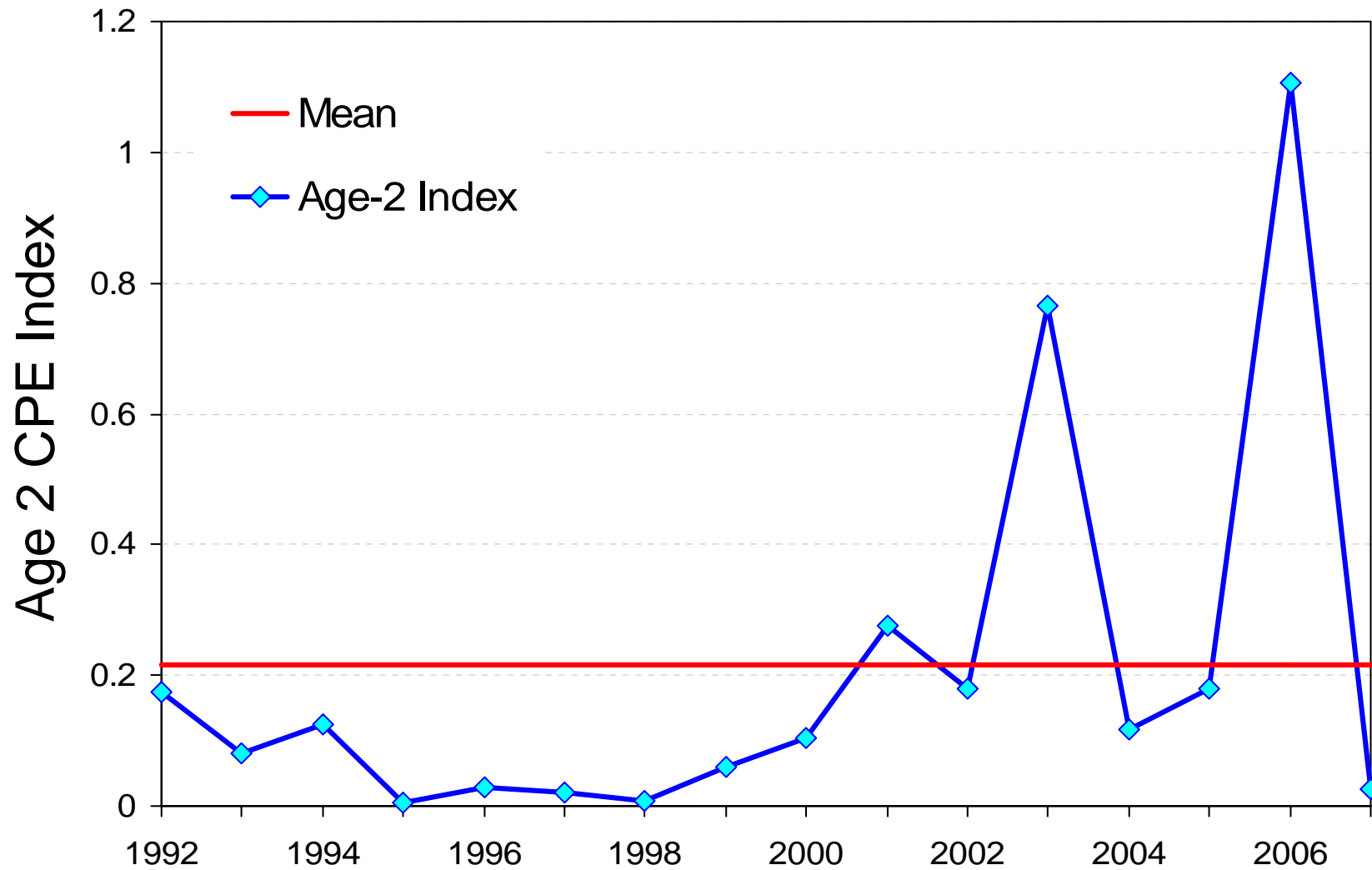
Lake Trout Abundance at Age 2001-2007



Age 5+ Lake Trout Abundance



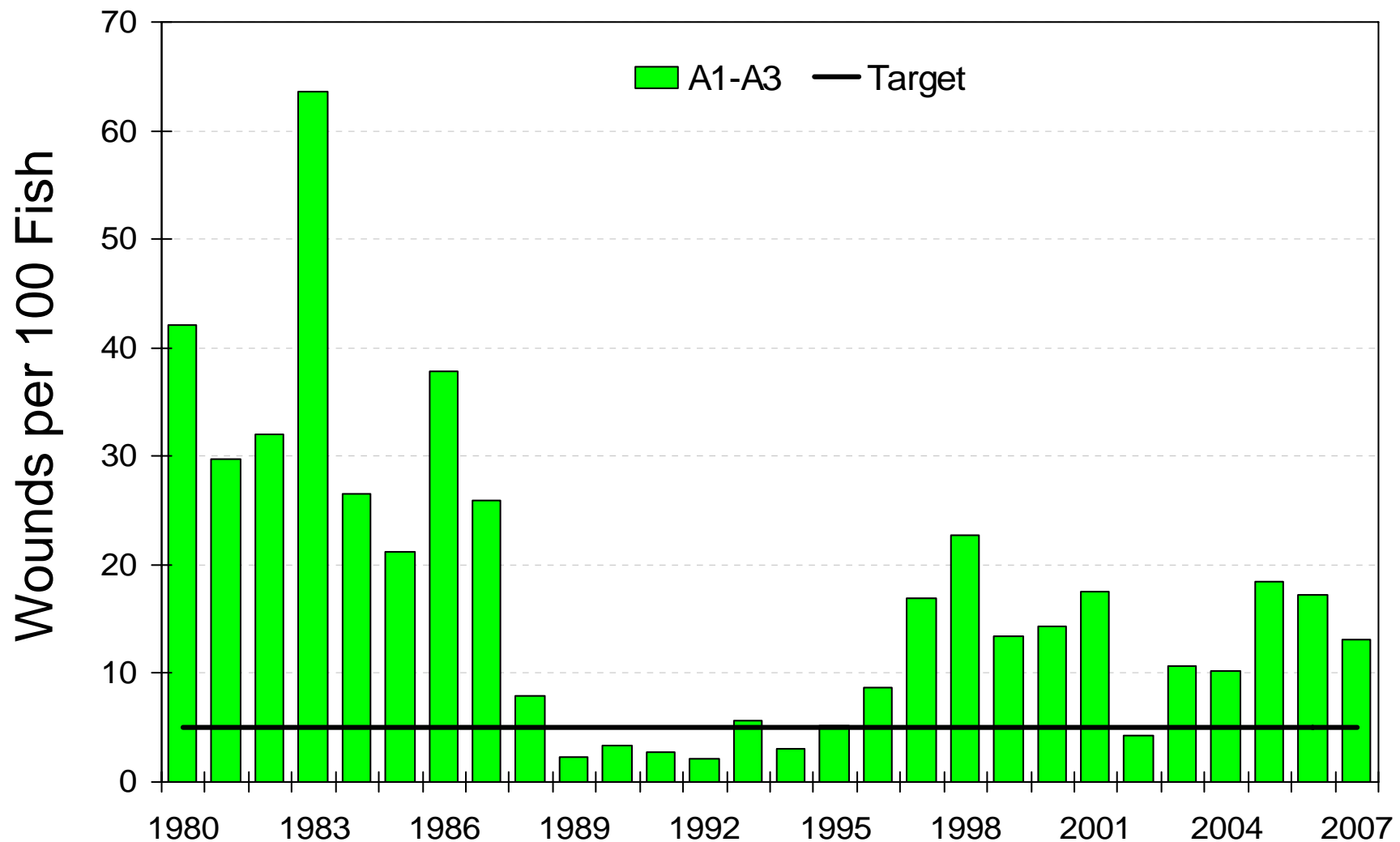
Age 2 Lake Trout Recruitment Index



Sea Lamprey Wounding

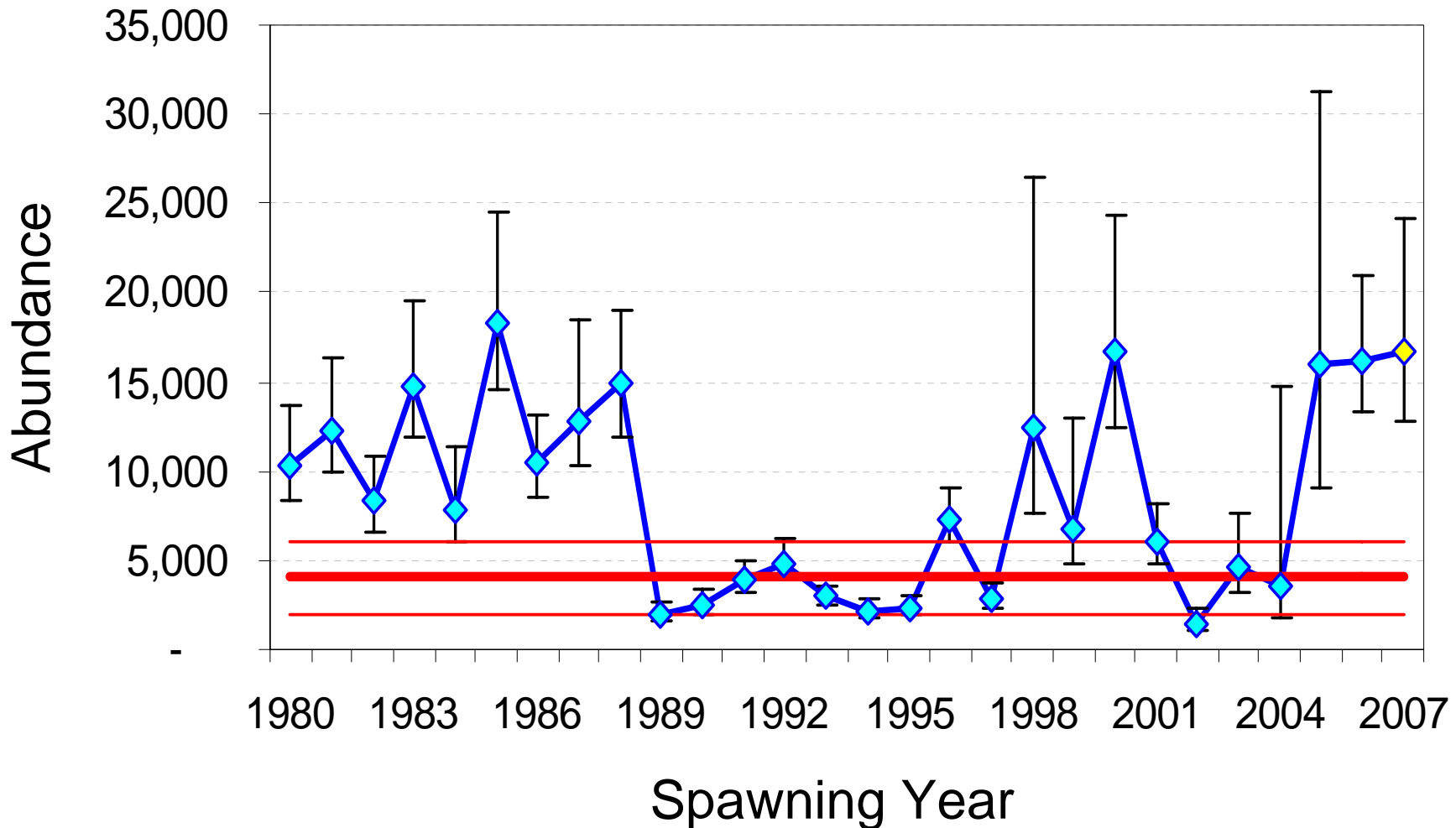


A1-A3 Wounding Rates on Lake Trout >21 inches



Lake Erie

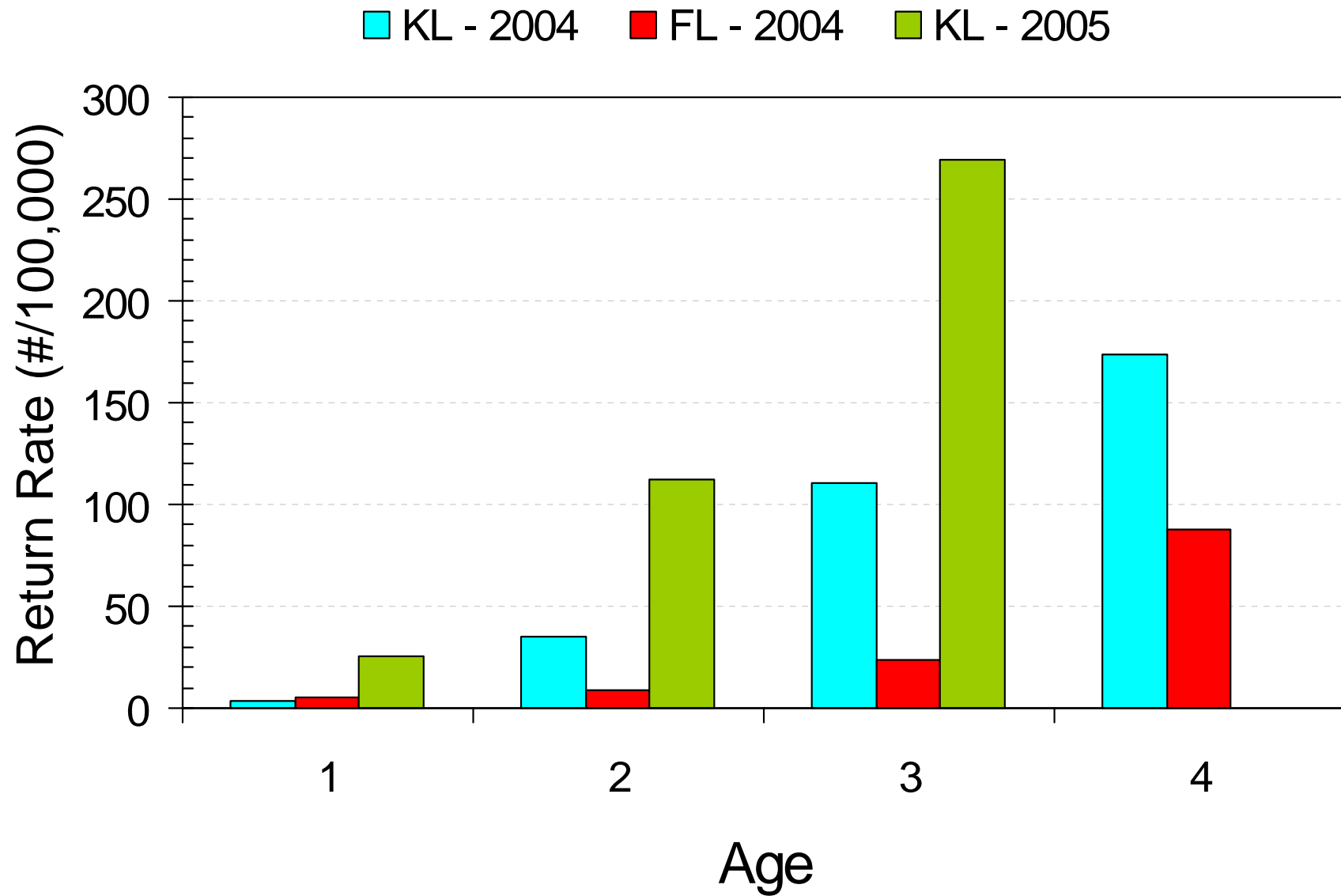
Spawning Sea Lamprey Abundance



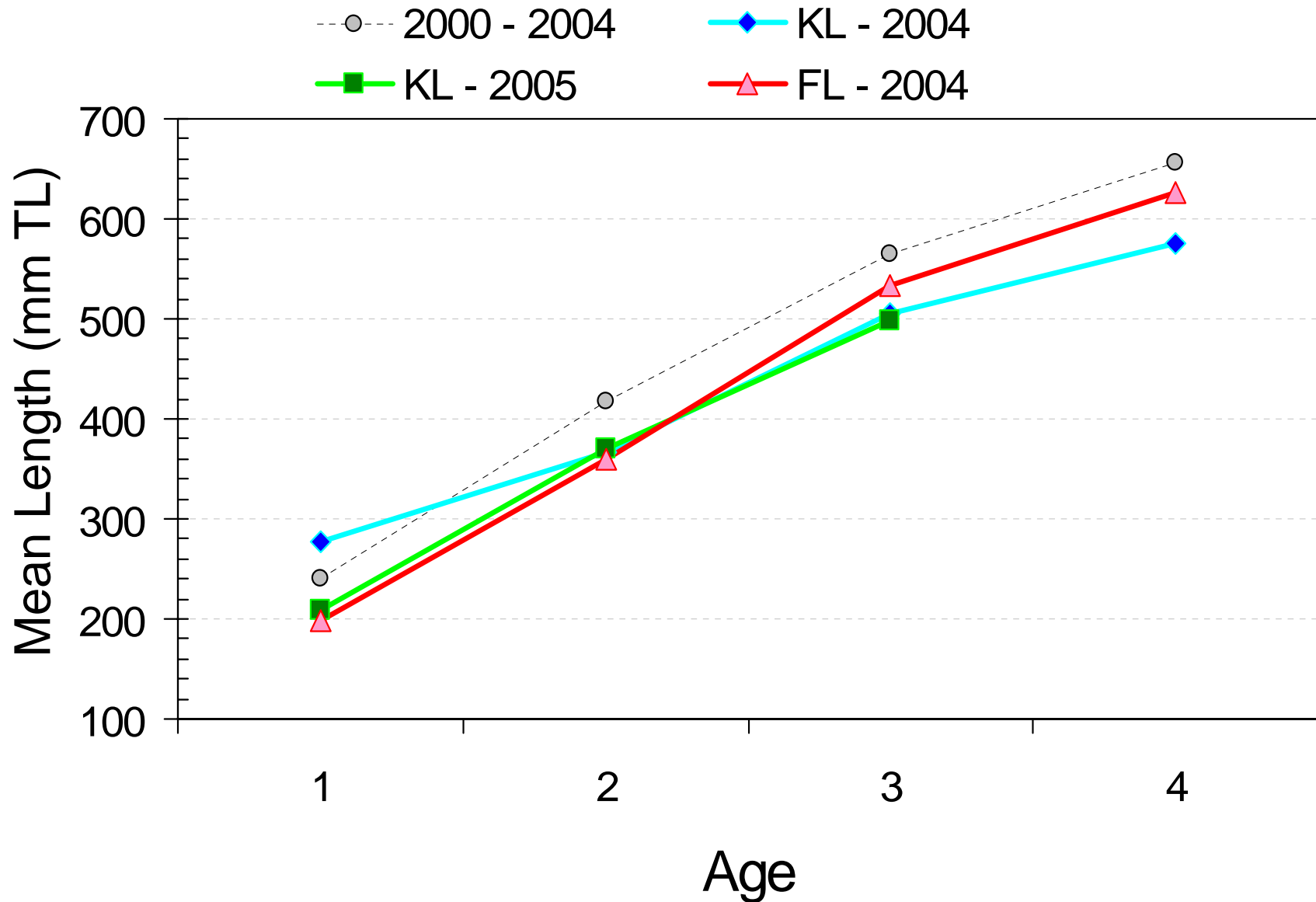
Performance of Klondike Strain Lake Trout



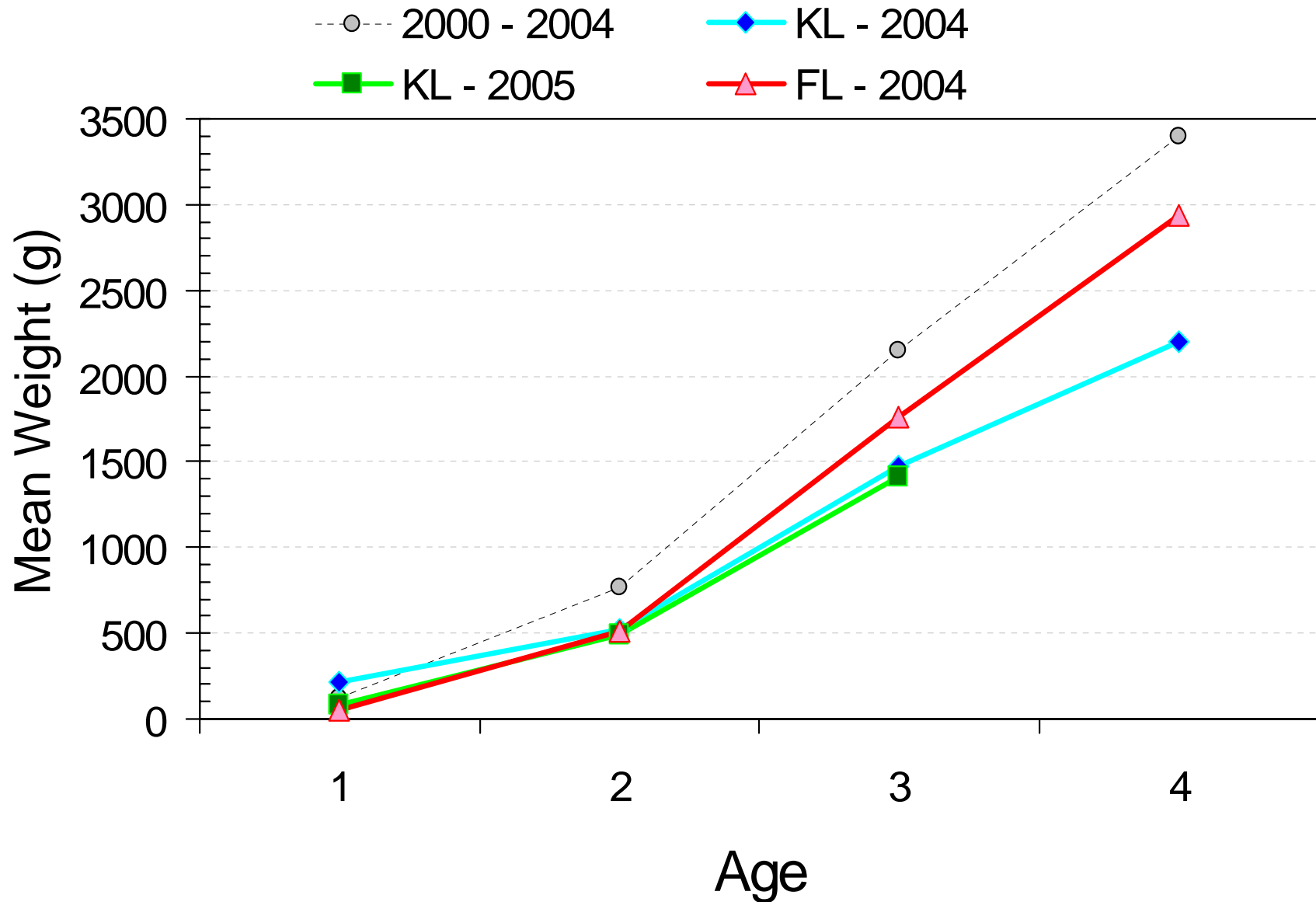
Return Rates by Strain



Mean Length-at-Age by Strain



Mean Weight-at-Age by Strain



Conclusions

- Returns of Klondike strain lake trout have been high post-stocking compared to Lean strains through age-4
- Preference for gobies indicates bottom orientation; May make them more susceptible to bottom gill nets
- Growth of Klondikes is significantly less than Finger Lakes lean strain lake trout at age-3 and age-4
- Movement and depth distribution appears similar at younger ages to lean lake trout strains
- Some Klondikes do have a different appearance compared to lean strains, but generally not possible to separate a KL strain from a Lean strain lake trout



THANK YOU!



25 lb. lake trout
August 2008