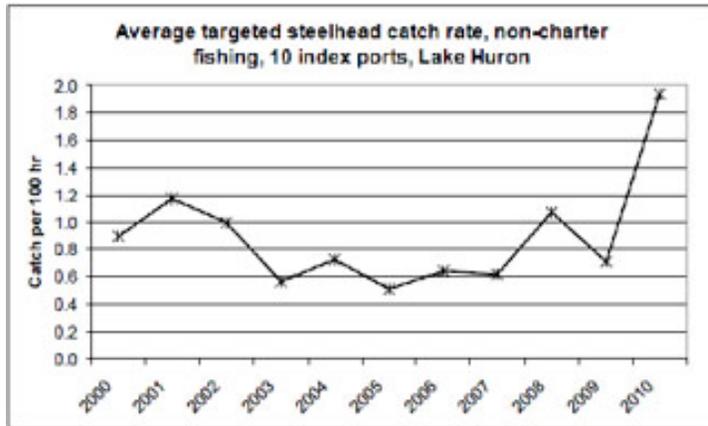
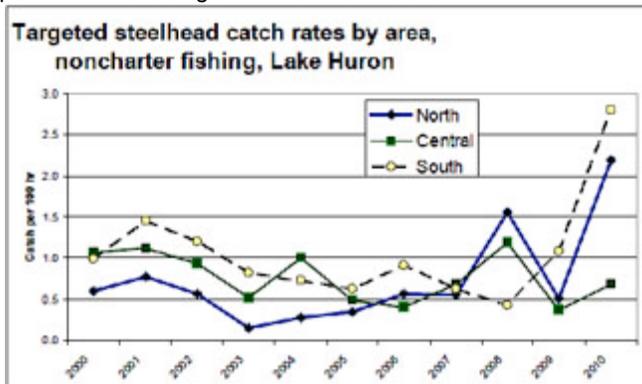


### 2010 Lake Huron Targeted salmon id catch rates

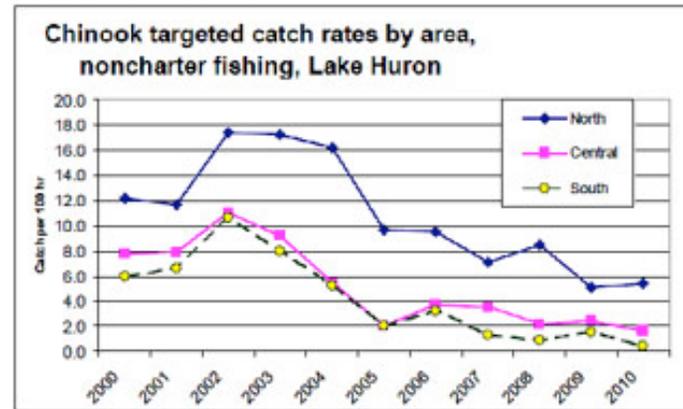
The following information was presented to the Lake Huron Advisory Committee by Michigan Fisheries Supervisor Jim Johnson on January 12, 2011. The recreational catch rates were based upon all anglers interviewed and all hours fished.



Anglers fishing for walleyes were combined with those fishing for trout and salmon Targeted means the catch rates for trout and salmon would be based ONLY upon those anglers who told the creel survey attendant that they were fishing for trout and salmon. The walleye, perch and bass anglers have been weeded out.



Rather than declining slightly in recent years, lake trout catch rates remained quite high through 2010. Lake trout fishing is improving steadily in the north and declining at the central ports. This analysis improves Chinook catch rates, but unfortunately they do not improve enough to be noticeable in these graphics. South of Alpena there was an average of 142 hours of targeted trout/salmon fishing per salmon landed in 2010 - and over 80% of those salmon were wild.



The rise in steelhead harvest rates could be a flash in the pan, so to speak. Do not put a great deal of faith in a one-year phenomenon. The magnitude of the rise, and the fact that it was measured at both the northern ports and southern ports of Lake Huron, is encouraging. If the rise is sustained in 2011, we can start to take this very seriously. The CWT-marked fish being released in 2011 should be useful in helping us to understand why this rise – if it's for real – is occurring. Scale analysis of the fish sampled by creel staff in 2010 will also potentially identify whether natural reproduction contributed to the rise.

Notice that rather than recovering to pre-alewife collapse days targeted steelhead catch rates in 2010 were actually much higher than the pre-alewife years. They were in fact 93% higher than the highest catch rate seen from 2000-2009. But to put things in perspective, Chinook used to produce an average catch rate of 12 fish per 100 hours, and the 2010 steelhead catch rate, though on the rise, was still less than 2 fish per 100 hours lakewide.

