

COMPARISON OF DAY ELECTROFISHING, NIGHT ELECTROFISHING, AND TRAP NETTING FOR SAMPLING INSHORE FISH IN MINNESOTA LAKES¹

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Abstract. -- We compared fish samples collected with pulsed DC boom electrofishing during the day, the same type of electrofishing at night, and trap netting during four sampling periods (spring, early summer, late summer, and fall) in six Minnesota lakes. Night electrofishing captured 30 fish species, day electrofishing captured 27 species, and trap nets captured 20 species in these lakes. Four species were captured most frequently with day electrofishing, 13 species were captured most frequently with night electrofishing, and 10 species were captured most frequently with trap nets. Trap nets usually caught larger golden shiner *Notemigonus crysoleucas*, yellow bullhead *Ameiurus natalis*, sunfish *Lepomis* spp., yellow perch *Perca flavescens*, and walleye *Sander vitreus* than either type of electrofishing. Both types of electrofishing captured similar sized individuals of all species. Based on catch per sample site, trap netting during spawning, also when aquatic macrophyte densities were low, effectively captured all three bullhead species and both crappie species, but this gear was ineffective for capturing largemouth bass *Micropterus salmoides*, smallmouth bass *M. dolomieu*, and all small nongame species during all times of the year. Both types of electrofishing were usually more effective in capturing most species during late summer or fall when submergent aquatic macrophyte densities were highest. However, day electrofishing was ineffective for capturing walleye, and both electrofishing times were ineffective in sampling either crappie species. We were also unable to determine the most effective sampling method because population densities and size structures of each fish species were unknown. However, adding either day or night electrofishing to standard lake surveys and population assessments would provide additional data on some fish taxa, especially sunfish and yellow perch, which could be missed with other gear.

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Introduction

Pulsed DC electrofishing during the day and night, and trap netting have been used for sampling fish in littoral areas in Minnesota lakes during spring, summer, or fall (MNDNR 1993), but data on size-selectivity, relative capture efficiencies, or temporal trends are known for only a few species. Each gear captures many different species, but we know of no study addressing species selectivity of these gears in Minnesota lakes. Furthermore, few or no data on relative size-selectivity, relative catch rates, and temporal trends in catch per unit effort (CPUE) have been collected for many species.

Species- and size-selectivity, as well as CPUE differ between trap netting, day electrofishing, or night electrofishing, but simultaneous comparisons of these gears have not been done. Night electrofishing captured more *Lepomis* spp. and *Micropterus* spp. than gill nets or hoop nets in a Missouri reservoir, but these nets captured more gizzard shad *Dorosoma cepedianum*, white bass *Morone chrysops*, white crappie *Pomoxis annularis*, and freshwater drum *Aplodinotus grunniens* (Witt and Campbell 1959). Night electrofishing in midwestern rivers also captured more fish species than day electrofishing (Sanders 1992). Electrofishing usually selects for intermediate-sized individuals or larger individuals of several species (Reynolds and Simpson 1978; Bayley and Austen 2002; Dolan and Miranda 2003), and trap nets in Michigan lakes selected for larger individuals of several species (Latta 1959; Laarman and Ryckman 1982). Size structure of largemouth bass *Micropterus salmoides* in day and night electrofishing samples in southern reservoirs usually did not differ (Malvestuto and Sonski 1990), but day electrofishing caught larger sauger *Sander canadensis* than night electrofishing (Van Zee et al. 1996). Overall, night electrofishing CPUE of many fish species exceeds day CPUE, but the converse is true for other species, and oftentimes CPUE does not differ (Witt and Campbell 1959; Malvestuto and Sonski 1990; Van Zee et al. 1996; Dumont and Dennis 1997; Pierce et al. 2001).

Relative abundance estimates in trap net and electrofishing samples also vary temporally, but we know of no study that addressed temporal variation in the number of species caught. Temporal variation in trap net CPUE was documented for northern pike *Esox lucius*, bluegill, black crappie *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*, yellow perch *Perca flavescens* and walleye *Sander vitreus* (Bettross and Willis 1988; Guy and Willis 1991), but trends differed among species and water bodies. Night electrofishing CPUE of bluegill and largemouth bass also vary temporally (Bettross and Willis 1988; Malvestuto and Sonski 1990; Van Horn et al. 1991), and trends also differed between species and water bodies. Temporal variation of other species in trap nets or both types of electrofishing have not been documented.

Historically, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) has used double-frame trap nets to sample fish populations in littoral areas of Minnesota lakes. However, net dimensions of MNDNR trap nets usually differed from those of trap nets evaluated in other studies. The MNDNR began using electrofishing in the early 1990s almost exclusively for sampling largemouth and smallmouth bass in spring, and age 0 and 1 walleye in fall. Because other studies showed that electrofishing captures many species, this gear should be evaluated for sampling species in Minnesota lakes other than walleye and largemouth bass. Electrofishing probably captures different inshore fish species at different sizes and rates than trap nets, and electrofishing catches will probably differ diel. Therefore, our objective was to compare species selectivity, size selectivity, and capture efficiencies of inshore fish species sampled with day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap netting during four different times of the year.

Study Area

Sampling took place in Lakes Erie (Meeker County), Stahls (McLeod County), and Granite, French, Cokato, and Mary (Wright County). Each lake is representative of MNDNR Lake Class 24 (MNDNR unpub-

lished data). Surface areas ranged from 58 to 224 ha, mean depths from 4.1 to 6.5 m, Secchi depths from 1.0 to 1.9 m, and specific conductance from 220 to 550 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ among lakes (MNDNR unpublished data; Cross and McInerny 2001). Submergent aquatic macrophytes exist in littoral areas of each lake, and areal densities in early summer, late summer, and fall exceeded densities in spring in each lake (Cross and McInerny 2001). Submergent macrophyte stands in Erie, Stahls, Granite, and Mary lakes were much denser than stands in French and Cokato lakes. French, Stahls, Granite and Mary lakes had some cattail *Typha* spp. fringes along the shoreline, but other emergent species were rare or nonexistent (Cross and McInerny 2001).

Methods

Sample collection

We collected trap net and electrofishing samples from the same five to eight sites during four sample periods (spring, early summer, late summer, and fall) in each lake. Five sites were sampled at Cokato lake, six sites were sampled at Mary Lake, seven sites were sampled at French, Granite, and Erie lakes, and eight sites were sampled at Stahls Lake. We located sample sites with the aid of a global positioning system. We defined spring as late April to mid-May, early summer as late June to early July, late summer as late July and August, and fall as late September to early October. We sampled Lakes Erie and French in 1997, Lakes Stahls and Cokato in 1998, and Lakes Granite and Mary in 1999. Water temperatures at the surface ranged from 9 to 19 °C in spring, 22 to 26 °C in early summer, 19 to 25 °C in late summer, and 17 to 20 °C in fall.

We used three different electrofishing boats in this study. The first boat, used only on Erie and French lakes, was equipped with a Smith-Root GPP 5.0 electrofisher, and an anode consisting of six cables suspended from a single boom. A backup boat, equipped with a Coffelt VVP-15 electroshocker and an anode with four cables suspended from a boom parallel to the bow, was used on these two lakes during the late summer period because of equipment failure on the first boat. The third

boat was also outfitted with a Smith-Root GPP 5.0 electrofisher, but this boat had two anodes each consisting of four cables suspended from single booms. We used this third boat to collect all electrofishing samples in the other four lakes. Hulls served as cathodes on each boat. We applied sufficient power (0.8 to 2.4 KW pulsed DC, 60 Hz, 1 to 6 ms pulse duration on the electrofishers) into the water so that fish exhibited similar electroshock response regardless of which boat was used. All electrofishing runs consisted of a zigzag pattern ranging from 0.5 to 2 m in depth, and each run lasted five min. The same person did all the dip netting (0.95-cm bar mesh net), and this individual attempted to capture all fish that surfaced. All night electrofishing was done within two days after day electrofishing.

Trap nets (two 0.9 x 1.8 m frames, six 0.9-m diameter hoops on codend, a single 12.2 x 0.9 m lead, 1.9-cm bar mesh netting) were set perpendicular to shore (MNDNR 1993). Within each lake and sample period, all nets were set on the same day, and we emptied all fish from each net about 20 to 24 h after setting. Trap netting was done within 1 to 13 d (mean 5 d) of electrofishing.

All fish captured with each method at each site were identified to species and counted, and we measured to the nearest cm total length (TL) of up to 50 randomly selected individuals of all game species and larger nongame species. We counted but did not measure small nongame species in which adults seldom exceed 10 cm TL.

Data analyses

We determined for each method the percent of sample periods when at least one individual of each fish species was captured, and the number of species captured per sample site for each gear within each sample period and lake. We used a full factorial three-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to determine if numbers of species captured differed significantly ($P < 0.05$) between sampling gears in all lakes and sampling periods. The dependent variable was the number of species per site, and the independent variables were sampling gear, sample period, and lake. Sample period was categorized as an ordinal variable and the other two independent variables were catego-

rized as nominal. Detection of significant gear*lake, gear*period, or gear*lake*sample period interactions would indicate that one or more sampling gears captured species inconsistently among sampling periods or lakes. We used Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) tests to identify the gears, sample periods, or lakes where numbers of species captured differed (Snedecor and Cochran 1980; SAS 2002).

To determine relative size-selectivity of each gear for each species, we calculated minimum, median, and maximum lengths, and mean length ranges of each fish species captured in each gear during each sample period within each lake. One-way ANOVAs were used to determine if minimum lengths, median lengths, maximum lengths, and length ranges of each species differed significantly among sampling gears (Snedecor and Cochran 1980). Because size and distribution of populations of all species were expected to change with time within lakes and differ among lakes, we included only those sample periods when individuals of a given species were captured in all three gears. If length parameters differed significantly, we then used Tukey's HSD tests to determine where the difference occurred (Snedecor and Cochran 1980; SAS 2002).

Lastly, we determined if catch per sample site (CPS) differed among sampling gears, sample periods, and lakes. We calculated for each sampling gear the total catch (number/5 min for day and night electrofishing; number/lift for trap netting) per sample site for all captured species. Because electrofishing and trap netting is size-selective for some fish species (Latta 1959; Laarman and Ryckman 1982; Bayley and Austen 2002; Dolan and Miranda 2003; others), we calculated CPS for two length groups of each game and larger nongame species. We used stock-size lengths for separating individuals into these two groups (Anderson and Newmann 1996; Bister et al. 2000), and used the most recent stock-size length for those species listed in both references. Those individuals shorter than stock length were defined as small, and individuals longer than stock length were defined as large. We defined as small all golden shiner *Notemigonus crysoleucas* < 8 cm and

bowfin *Amia calva* < 25 cm because stock-size criteria were not established for these species.

Full factorial ANOVAs were used to determine if CPS of each small nongame species and if CPS of each length group of game and larger nongame species differed between sampling gear, sample period, and lakes (Snedecor and Cochran 1980; SAS 2002). Preliminary analyses on all species failed to detect significant sample site effects on CPS, thus CPS behaved in random fashions. Catch per site was the dependent variable, and all CPS data were transformed into natural logarithms (catch +1). Sampling period was categorized as an ordinal variable, and gear and lake were categorized as nominal variables. We excluded from ANOVA the effects of individual gears and lakes if less than five individuals of a particular species were captured in that gear or lake. Detection of gear*sample period, gear*lake, or gear*lake*sample period interactions would indicate inconsistent trends in CPS among gears. A Tukey's HSD test was done for each significant three-way and two-way interaction and for each significant main effect when no significant interactions were detected with ANOVA in order to identify the gear(s), sample period(s), or lake(s) where CPS differed (Snedecor and Cochran 1980; SAS 2002).

We constructed figures of CPS data to reflect the ANOVA results. For significant three-way interactions, we presented mean CPS for each gear during each sample period within each lake where that species or length group was sampled. Although only one Tukey's HSD test was done for each significant three-way interaction, we expected CPS to differ among lakes. Thus, we partitioned the figures by lake rather than rank in a single figure each mean CPS calculated for each gear*sample period*lake group. Therefore, these figures show only the Tukey's HSD tests for each gear and sample period comparison within lakes, but we chose not to identify the lakes where CPS differed. For figures depicting significant two-way interactions, we calculated mean CPS representing one main effect grouped by the other main effect involved in the interaction. For example, we used all CPS data from each lake where that species was collected to calculate mean CPS for each gear

within each sample period when the ANOVA detected a gear*sample period interaction. If no significant interaction or main effect, or if only main effects were found to be significant, we used all CPS data from those lakes where the species was captured to calculate mean CPS grouped by the appropriate main effect.

Results and Discussion

Species-selectivity

A total of 31 fish species were captured with at least one sampling gear in all lakes combined (Table 1). The most species were collected with night electrofishing (30) followed by day electrofishing (27) and trap netting (20). Trap nets rarely captured the small minnow species, central mudminnow, tadpole madtom, brook silverside, banded killifish, or brook stickleback. Day electrofishing captured fathead minnow, central mudminnow, banded killifish, and Iowa darter most often, and trap nets captured bowfin, golden shiner, silver redhorse, golden redhorse, all three bullhead species, green sunfish, and pumpkinseed more often than either day or night electrofishing. Night electrofishing captured 13 species most frequently, and 6 species were captured with the same frequency in two or all gears.

Species richness varied inconsistently among sampling gears, sample periods, and lakes, suggested by the strong gear*sample period*lake interaction ($F = 2.74$; $df = 30, 479$; $P < 0.0001$) effect on mean number of species captured per site. The most species (mean = 11.7) were captured with night electrofishing during fall at Lake Erie, and the fewest (mean = 1.3) were captured with trap nets during late summer at French Lake (Figure 1). The most species were usually captured with night electrofishing in late summer or fall in all lakes, but trap nets captured the most species during spring in three lakes. More species were captured with night electrofishing than day electrofishing during all sample periods in all lakes except at French Lake in early summer, but mean number of species caught seldom differed significantly between these two gears in most sample periods and lakes. Night electrofishing in two natural lakes in Iowa also captured more fish

species than day electrofishing, and night electrofishing captured similar numbers of species as large beach seines (Pierce et al. 2001). Temporally, we captured fewer species with day and night electrofishing in spring than in fall at Lake Erie and captured fewer species with night electrofishing in spring than in fall at French Lake. Trap nets captured more species in spring than during late summer in French Lake, but no other temporal trends were detected in the other five lakes (Figure 1).

Mesh size differences between the dip net and webbing of trap nets and fish coloration influenced species richness estimates determined with both electrofishing times and trap netting. Most of the small non-game fishes do not reach sizes large enough to be captured and retained in trap nets with 1.9-cm mesh, but they do reach sufficient sizes to be captured in dip nets with 0.95 mesh netting (Eddy and Underhill 1974; Becker 1983). Spottail shiner in an Iowa lake were captured in trap nets with identical dimensions as our nets, but with 1.3-cm mesh webbing (Stang and Hubert 1984). Dippers must see fish in order to capture them, and dark or dull colored fish species are less likely to be captured with electrofishing than brightly colored or shiny fish species. Therefore, dark or dull colored species such as banded killifish, tadpole madtom, all three bullhead species, Iowa darter, and johnny darter will probably be caught less frequently than brightly colored fishes such as bluntnose minnow, spottail shiner, bluegill, and yellow perch if densities are similar.

High densities of aquatic macrophytes may have contributed to improved species richness in the later sample periods in day and night electrofishing. Conversely, higher density of aquatic macrophytes could have impeded capture efficiency in trap netting. Higher species richness occurs in vegetated compared to non-vegetated areas in north temperate waters, and 17 species captured in this study have some or strong affinities towards aquatic vegetation (Becker 1983; Poe et al. 1986; Brazner and Beals 1997; Weaver et al. 1997; Drake and Pereira 2002).

Table 1. List of fish species, the percent of sample periods in up to six Minnesota lakes where these species were captured with day electrofishing (EF), night electrofishing and trap nets, and the percent of study lakes (% Lakes) where each species was collected with at least one sampling gear.

Species	Scientific name	Day EF	Night EF	Trap nets	% Lakes
Bowfin	<i>Amia calva</i>	56	50	69	67
Common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	62	67	46	100
Brassy minnow	<i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i>	0	25	0	17
Golden shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>	60	75	60	83
Spottail shiner	<i>Notropis hudsonius</i>	42	75	0	100
Bluntnose minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>	67	67	0	50
Fathead minnow	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>	17	8	0	50
White sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>	33	38	33	100
Silver redhorse	<i>Moxostoma anisurum</i>	0	25	50	17
Golden redhorse	<i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i>	0	0	25	17
Black bullhead	<i>Ameiurus melas</i>	17	33	58	100
Yellow bullhead	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>	65	75	95	83
Brown bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	42	33	75	50
Channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	0	25	0	17
Tadpole madtom	<i>Noturus gyrinus</i>	20	35	5	83
Northern pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>	46	58	58	100
Central mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i>	42	33	0	50
Banded killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>	75	50	0	17
Brook silverside	<i>Labidesthes sicculus</i>	38	62	0	33
Brook stickleback	<i>Culaea inconstans</i>	25	25	0	17
Green sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	55	60	65	83
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	85	85	90	83
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	92	100	96	100
Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	100	100	100	17
Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	92	96	50	100
White crappie	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>	50	100	100	17
Black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	62	100	96	100
Iowa darter	<i>Etheostoma exile</i>	38	25	0	33
Johnny darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>	25	33	0	50
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	100	100	92	100
Walleye	<i>Sander vitreus</i>	46	58	54	100

Size-selectivity

Similar sized individuals of all fish species were captured with day and night electrofishing, but trap nets sampled different lengths of some fish species than either day or night electrofishing. Minimum lengths, median lengths, maximum lengths, and length ranges of all fish species in day and night electrofishing did not differ significantly (Table 2). However, minimum lengths of golden shiner, green sunfish, pumpkinseed, bluegill, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, and walleye were longer in trap nets than in either day or night electrofishing samples. Median lengths of golden shiner, bluegill, and yellow perch in trap nets exceeded median lengths of the same species in both day and night electrofishing. Median lengths of yellow bullhead were

longer in trap net samples than in day electrofishing samples, and median lengths of black crappie and walleye were longer in trap net samples than in night electrofishing samples. Maximum lengths of yellow bullhead and black crappie were longer in trap net samples than in day electrofishing samples, but maximum lengths of largemouth bass in day and night electrofishing samples exceeded maximum lengths of this species captured in trap nets. Broader length ranges of golden shiners were captured with night electrofishing than with trap nets. Both day and night electrofishing captured wider length ranges of smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and yellow perch than trap nets, but trap nets captured wider length ranges of brown bullhead than either day or night electrofishing.

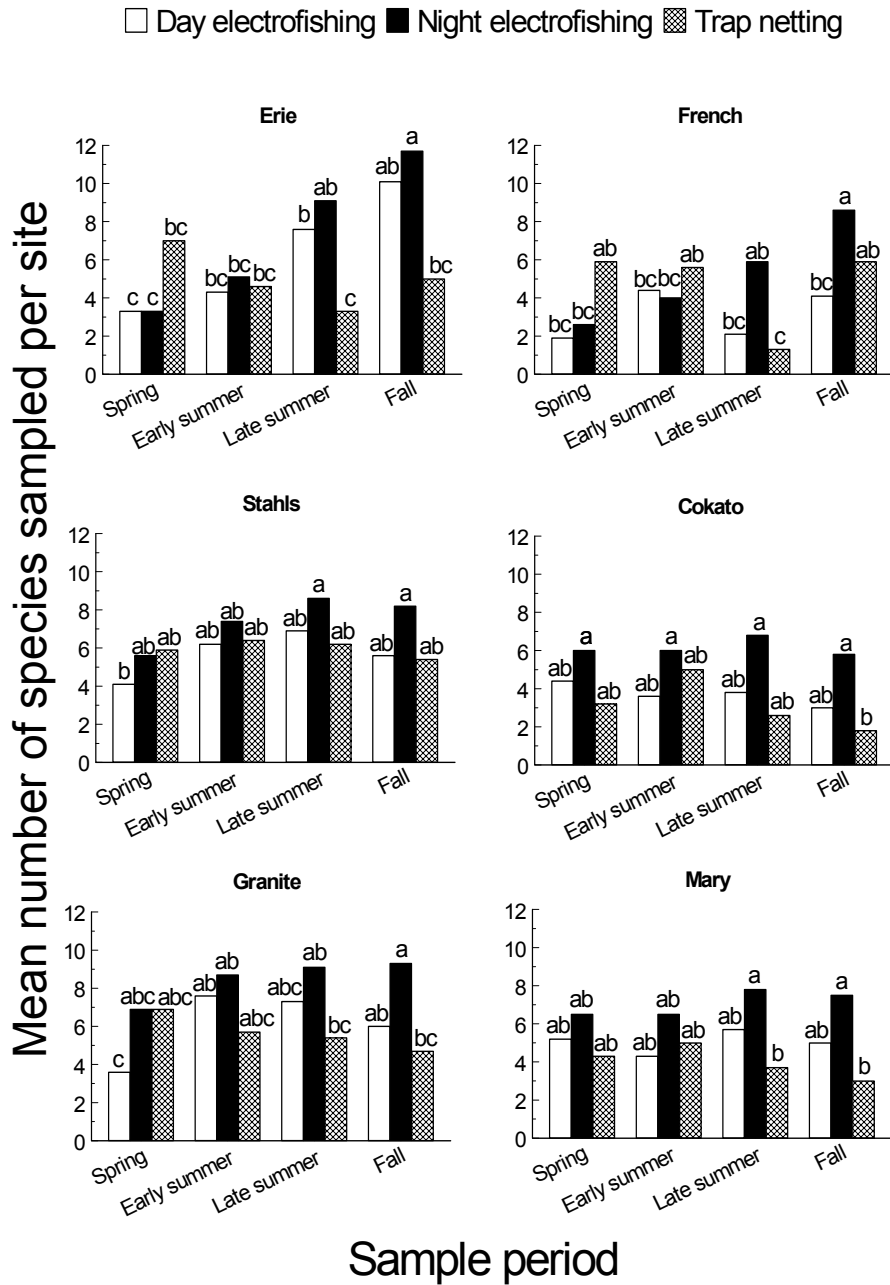


Figure 1. Mean number of fish species per sample site captured with day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets during spring, early summer, late summer, and fall sample periods in six Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters within each graph denote that means did not differ significantly; $P < 0.05$; Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

Table 2. Mean minimum, median, and maximum lengths, and mean length range (cm) (standard errors in parentheses) of fish species captured with day electrofishing (Day EF), night electrofishing (Night EF), and trap netting (Trap nets) during four sample periods in six Minnesota lakes (superscripts with different letters denote that means differed significantly ($P < 0.05$; Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests; number (N) of sampling periods when each species was captured in all three gears in parentheses).

Species (N)	Minimum length			Median length			Maximum length			Length range		
	Day EF (s.e.)	Night EF (s.e.)	Trap nets (s.e.)	Day EF (s.e.)	Night EF (s.e.)	Trap nets (s.e.)	Day EF (s.e.)	Night EF (s.e.)	Trap nets (s.e.)	Day EF (s.e.)	Night EF (s.e.)	Trap nets (s.e.)
Bowfin (7)	49(5) ^a	45(4) ^a	41(4) ^a	56(2) ^a	50(4) ^a	54(2) ^a	61(2) ^a	57(5) ^a	64(2) ^a	12(5) ^a	12(4) ^a	23(6) ^a
Common carp (3)	52(2) ^a	54(5) ^a	57(2) ^a	58(4) ^a	60(2) ^a	60(3) ^a	65(7) ^a	64(3) ^a	63(4) ^a	13(5) ^a	9(3) ^a	6(2) ^a
Golden shiner (8)	6(1) ^a	5(1) ^a	13(1) ^b	7(1) ^a	9(1) ^a	15(1) ^b	11(1) ^a	14(2) ^a	16(1) ^a	6(2) ^{ab}	9(2) ^b	2(1) ^a
White sucker (4)	13(2) ^a	9(3) ^a	26(9) ^a	16(2) ^a	15(2) ^a	29(8) ^a	42(4) ^a	47(2) ^a	50(1) ^a	30(4) ^a	38(2) ^a	24(8) ^a
Black bullhead (3)	20(5) ^a	12(1) ^a	17(6) ^a	23(3) ^a	24(6) ^a	30(1) ^a	27(4) ^a	26(7) ^a	31(1) ^a	7(6) ^a	14(7) ^a	15(6) ^a
Yellow bullhead (12)	18(2) ^a	17(2) ^a	21(2) ^a	23(2) ^a	25(1) ^{ab}	30(1) ^b	27(3) ^a	31(1) ^{ab}	38(2) ^b	9(3) ^a	14(3) ^a	16(3) ^a
Brown bullhead (2)	28(4) ^a	30(2) ^a	20(2) ^a	28(5) ^a	32(0) ^a	31(1) ^a	28(5) ^a	34(0) ^a	34(1) ^a	1(0) ^a	4(2) ^a	14(1) ^b
Northern pike (8)	38(7) ^a	47(6) ^a	44(5) ^a	43(7) ^a	55(3) ^a	50(5) ^a	54(7) ^a	62(4) ^a	54(6) ^a	15(6) ^a	15(7) ^a	10(5) ^a
Green sunfish (6)	6(1) ^a	5(1) ^a	10(1) ^b	7(1) ^a	7(1) ^a	10(1) ^a	12(1) ^a	11(1) ^a	12(1) ^a	6(1) ^a	6(1) ^a	3(1) ^a
Pumpkinseed (16)	6(1) ^a	6(1) ^a	8(1) ^b	10(1) ^a	10(1) ^a	12(1) ^a	13(1) ^a	13(1) ^a	15(1) ^a	7(1) ^a	6(1) ^a	6(1) ^a
Bluegill (21)	3(1) ^a	4(1) ^a	6(1) ^b	9(1) ^a	9(1) ^a	12(1) ^b	16(1) ^a	17(1) ^a	18(1) ^a	13(1) ^a	13(1) ^a	12(1) ^a
Smallmouth bass (4)	8(1) ^a	8(1) ^a	14(1) ^b	10(2) ^a	11(1) ^a	15(1) ^a	27(6) ^a	31(3) ^a	16(1) ^a	19(5) ^a	23(3) ^a	1(1) ^b
Largemouth bass (11)	11(3) ^a	12(3) ^a	16(3) ^a	17(2) ^a	21(3) ^a	19(3) ^a	39(3) ^a	40(2) ^a	22(4) ^b	28(4) ^a	28(4) ^a	6(3) ^b
White crappie (2)	22(2) ^a	10(5) ^a	14(1) ^a	23(1) ^a	16(2) ^a	20(1) ^a	23(1) ^a	24(2) ^a	27(4) ^a	1(1) ^a	9(2) ^a	14(4) ^a
Black crappie (14)	15(2) ^a	11(2) ^a	15(1) ^a	18(2) ^{ab}	15(2) ^a	20(1) ^b	20(1) ^a	21(1) ^{ab}	26(1) ^b	5(2) ^a	10(2) ^a	11(2) ^a
Yellow perch (21)	6(1) ^a	6(1) ^a	13(1) ^b	12(1) ^a	10(1) ^a	14(1) ^b	17(1) ^a	18(1) ^a	18(1) ^a	11(1) ^a	12(1) ^a	5(1) ^b
Walleye (6)	26(5) ^a	18(4) ^a	47(6) ^b	34(5) ^{ab}	25(5) ^a	52(6) ^b	32(6) ^a	43(5) ^a	55(7) ^a	11(9) ^a	25(5) ^a	8(5) ^a

Size selectivity differences in this study were usually similar to that observed in other studies. Size structure estimates of largemouth bass in day and night electrofishing samples in other Minnesota lakes usually did not differ (McInerney and Cross 1996). Trap nets with 1.3-cm mesh captured longer minimum lengths and narrower length ranges of smallmouth bass than night electrofishing in natural South Dakota lakes (Milewski and Willis 1991). Proportional stock density (PSD) of bluegill was higher in modified fyke net samples than in night electrofishing samples (Kruse 1993). In Tennessee reservoirs, larger black crappie and white crappie were captured with day electrofishing than with 1.3-cm mesh trap nets (Sammons et al. 2002), which differed from our results.

Mesh size differences between dip nets and webbing of trap nets and size-related escapement behavior affected species- and size-selectivity between electrofishing and trap netting. For some species, mesh size reduction in trap nets would likely reduce differences in size selectivity between trap netting and electrofishing. Double-frame trap nets with smaller mesh sizes captured smaller bluegill and white crappie than trap nets of the same dimensions, but with larger mesh sizes (Willis et al. 1984; Jackson and Bauer 2000). Smaller individuals of white sucker and pumpkinseed exhibited better escapement from trap nets than larger individuals (Patriarch 1968), which also contributed to greater size-selectivity in trap nets.

Catch per sample site

Catch per sample site differed among species, gears, sample periods and lakes (Figures 2-24), and these differences were due to fish behavior and physical attributes of each species. Each gear captured more individuals of some species, at least during some sampling periods, than the other two gears, and we report below specific details for most of the species captured in this study. In general, CPS in all gears was a function of fish behavior that brought them within 15 m of shore and into water depths < 2 m. Catch per sample site in trap netting is also a function of the likelihood of a fish actively encountering the net, the

likelihood of becoming captured, and the likelihood of being retained in the net until lifted (Hubert 1996). Conversely, electrofishing CPS relies on the gear encountering either active or inactive fish, adequate power transfer from water to fish, reaction of the fish to the boat, and the ability of the dipper to see and net the fish (Reynolds 1996; Miranda and Dolan 2003).

Temporal variation in CPS in all gears was linked to either spawning behavior, changes in macrophyte coverages, recruitment, mortality, or other factors. Spawning brings many fish into shallow water where they become vulnerable to each gear. Furthermore, increased fish activity from prespawning or spawning probably increases encounter probabilities to trap netting, which in turn increases CPS. Changing macrophyte densities in each lake affected trap net and electrofishing catchability of many species because it changed the amount of cover. Electrofishing catchability of largemouth bass is optimal at moderate coverages and is lower when cover is sparse or excessively dense (Reynolds and Simpson 1978; Reynolds 1996). Conversely, Bayley and Austen (2002) reported lower catchability of common carp, green sunfish, bluegill and largemouth bass with day AC electrofishing when aquatic macrophyte coverages were about 50% compared to coverages of near zero. However, many species sampled in this study rely on aquatic macrophytes for foraging and cover (Eddy and Underhill 1974; Becker 1983). Thus, increased encounter rates could offset decreased catchability when macrophyte densities were high. High macrophyte densities could also decrease encounter probabilities towards trap netting by physically impeding movement of fish or by competing as additional cover. Trap nets set in water with little cover may attract cover-seeking fish (Hubert 1996). Mortality can explain decreased CPS from spring to fall, and recruitment can explain increases in CPS during the same time period. Lastly, other factors such as forage, thermal preferences, turbidity, and photoperiod also affect temporal trends in CPS (Hall and Werner 1977; Pope and Willis 1996).

Bowfin

Sampling with any of the gears during early summer captured the most bowfin ≥ 25 cm, but we rarely captured bowfin < 25 cm with any gear at any lake. Catch per sample site of bowfin ≥ 25 cm did not differ among the three sampling gears ($F = 2.43$; $df = 2, 263$; $P = 0.0901$), but differed among sample periods in the three lakes where captured ($F = 5.57$; $df = 3, 263$; $P = 0.0010$). Bowfin CPS was higher in early summer than late summer or fall (Figure 2A). Because catches of bowfin < 25 cm were rare, we did no additional analysis for this length group. Temporal variation in bowfin CPS was linked with spawning, but not with changes in aquatic macrophyte density. Bowfin spawn from late April to early June in north temperate waters (Becker 1983), and the higher CPS occurred in spring and early summer. Hall and Werner (1977) observed more bowfin in littoral areas in spring and early summer than in late summer or fall in a Michigan lake. Bowfin also show strong affinity towards aquatic vegetation (Becker 1983), but CPS decreased in late summer or fall when submergent aquatic macrophyte densities were still high.

Minnows

Catch per sample site of minnow species usually differed among sampling gears, sample periods, or lakes. A total of six minnow species was captured including common carp, brassy minnow, golden shiner, spottail shiner, fathead minnow, and bluntnose minnow. Catches of brassy minnow and fathead minnow were too low to analyze.

Day electrofishing during spawning appears most efficient for capturing common carp ≥ 28 cm, but each gear seldom captured smaller individuals during any sample period so no additional analysis was done for this length group. Although CPS of common carp ≥ 28 cm varied inconsistently among gears, sample periods, and lakes ($F = 1.54$; $df = 30, 479$; $P = 0.0367$ for the gear*sample period*lake interaction), we captured more individuals with day electrofishing during early summer in French, Stahls, and Cokato lakes where CPS was highest among lakes (Figure 3). Catch per sample site was much lower and

did not differ among gears or sample periods in the other three lakes (Figure 3). Pierce et al. (2001) also reported that day catch per hour (CPH) of common carp in two Iowa lakes exceeded night CPH during late June and early July, similar times to our early summer sample period. Some temporal variation in CPS could be due to spawning behavior. Common carp spawn from April to August at latitudes similar to our lakes, but peak spawning occurs in late May and early June when water temperatures reach 18 to 24 °C (Becker 1983). Based on these water temperatures, peak spawning would have begun most likely after the spring sample period and into the early summer sample periods. In a similar sized but deeper lake than the ones we studied, common carp inhabit littoral areas mostly during spring and move offshore and into deeper water during summer (Garcia-Berthou 2001). Stang and Hubert (1984) also found little temporal variation in trap net CPUE of common carp in an Iowa lake between late June and mid August.

The best gear for capturing the most golden shiner ≥ 8 cm was not clearly determined, but either day or night electrofishing in late summer or fall captured the most golden shiner < 8 cm. Catch per sample site of larger golden shiner differed inconsistently among the three sampling gears and sample periods in Erie and Granite Lakes ($F = 4.26$; $df = 6, 167$; $P = 0.0006$). Trap nets in spring captured the most larger golden shiner in Lake Erie, but night electrofishing in spring and late summer captured the most larger golden shiner in Granite Lake (Figure 4). No golden shiner were captured in Cokato Lake, and we rarely captured with any gear larger golden shiners in the other three lakes. Electrofishing CPS of smaller golden shiners in late summer and fall exceeded CPS in spring and early summer, and CPS differed between day and night only in fall ($F = 2.82$; $df = 3, 279$; $P = 0.0397$ for gear*sample period interaction; Figure 4). Trap nets did not capture golden shiner < 8 cm, so effects of this gear were not tested. Catch per sample site of smaller golden shiners also differed among sampling periods in Stahls and Granite lakes, but not in the other three lakes probably because of low catches ($F = 2.83$; $df = 12, 279$; $P = 0.0012$ for sample

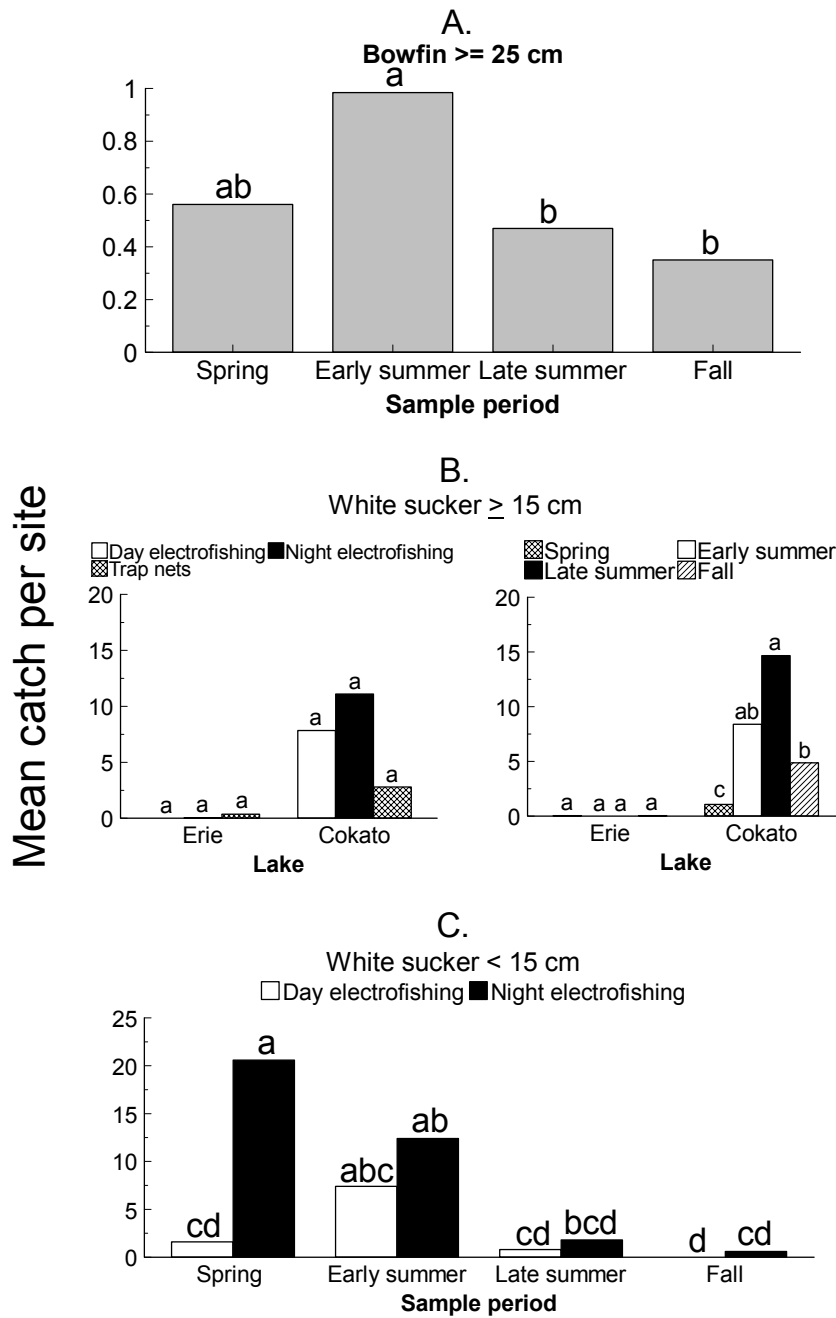


Figure 2. A. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of bowfin ≥ 25 cm among four sample periods in three Minnesota lakes, B. mean CPS of white sucker ≥ 15 cm among three sample gears and among four sample periods in Erie and Cokato lakes, and C. mean CPS of white sucker < 15 cm in day and night electrofishing during four sample periods in Cokato Lake (bars with same letters within lake groups in the upper graph, within each lake group in the middle graph, and within gear and sample period groups in the lower graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

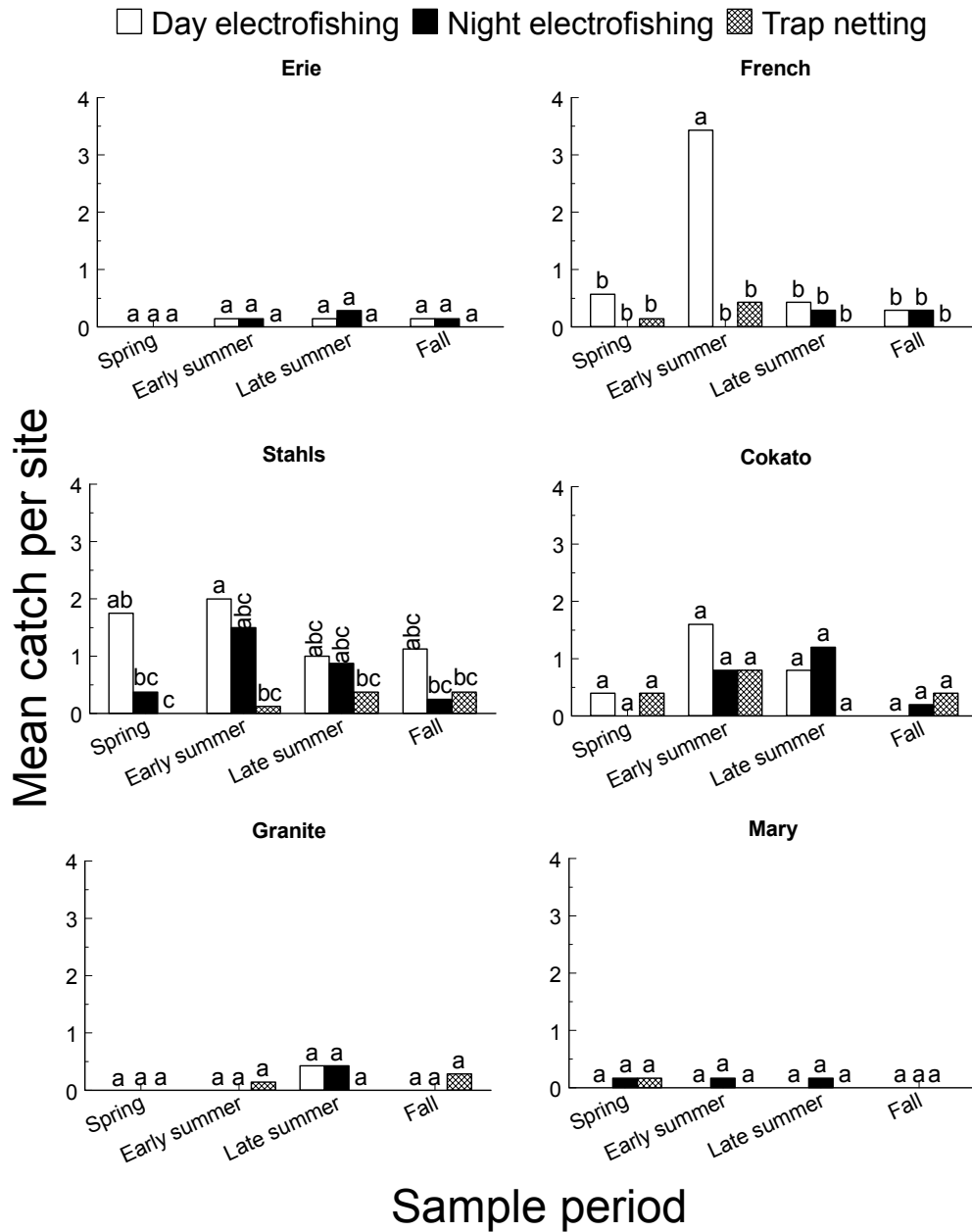


Figure 3. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of common carp ≥ 28 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets during four sampling periods in six Minnesota lakes (bars with same letter within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

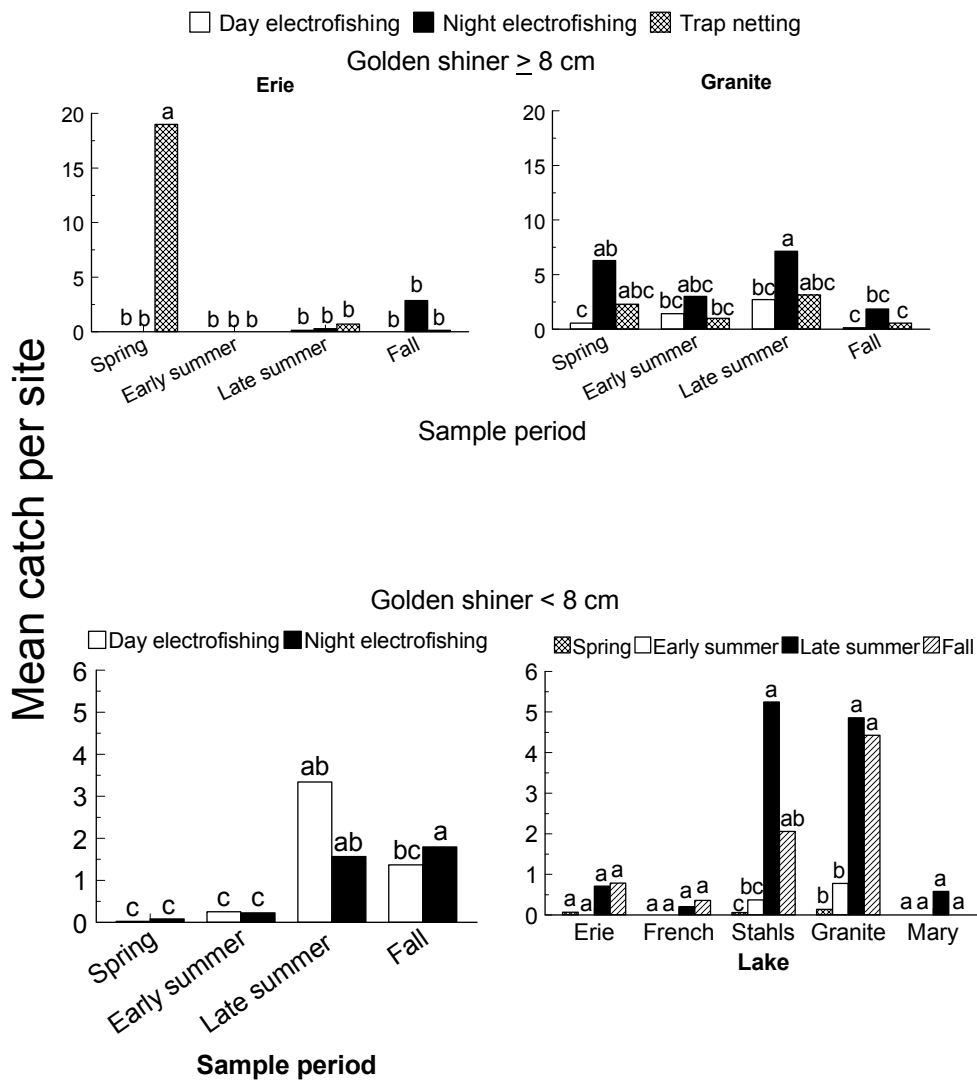


Figure 4. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of golden shiner ≥ 8 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets during four sampling periods in two Minnesota lakes, mean CPS of golden shiner < 8 cm in day and night electrofishing during four sampling periods, and mean CPS of golden shiner < 8 cm among four sampling periods in five lakes (bars with same letters within the two upper and lower left graphs, and within lake groups in the lower right graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

period*lake interaction; Figure 4). Mean CPS of golden shiner < 8 cm was highest during late summer in Stahls Lake, and during late summer and fall in Granite Lake. Larger golden shiners should be vulnerable to capture in trap nets and both types of electrofishing because they inhabit shallow inshore habitats during either the day or night depending on optimal feeding times (Hall et al. 1979; Helfman 1981; Reeb 2002). This species spawns multiple times from June to August after water temperatures reach 20 °C, and spatial distribution is linked with diversity but not density of aquatic macrophytes (Becker 1983; Brazner and Beals 1997). However, because CPS of larger golden shiner did not increase after spring, temporal variation was not strongly related to spawning or with density of submergent aquatic macrophytes. Higher CPS of smaller golden shiner in late summer and fall was likely due to recruitment of age 0 individuals, which can reach 6 cm TL by fall (Becker 1983).

Night electrofishing during late summer or fall appears to capture the most spottail shiner, and trap nets failed to capture any individuals. Night electrofishing CPS usually exceeded day CPS in lakes where overall catches were high, but temporal trends were inconsistent among lakes ($F = 3.54$; $df = 15, 319$; $P < 0.0001$ for gear*sample period*lake interaction; Figure 5). Night CPS was highest during fall at Erie and French lakes, but day or night CPS did not differ among sample periods in the other four lakes (Figure 5). Daytime distributions of spottail shiner are extremely clumped because they form dense schools, but they are more randomly distributed at night because they disperse (Nursall 1973). Therefore, chances appear greater for encountering individual spottail shiner at night. In two Iowa lakes, about 13 times more spottail shiner were captured with night electrofishing than with day electrofishing during early summer (Pierce et al. 2001). Temporal trends in CPS were not associated with spawning or submergent aquatic macrophytes. Most spawning occurs during late May to early June, and distribution of this species in lakes is unrelated to submergent aquatic macrophytes (Becker 1983; Brazner and Beals 1997). However,

recruitment of age 0 individuals, which can reach 7 cm by fall (Becker 1983), could have contributed to higher fall CPS in Erie and French lakes.

Night electrofishing in late summer or fall also captured the most bluntnose minnow. Gear*sample period ($F = 3.23$; $df = 3, 167$, $P = 0.0242$) and sample period*lake ($F = 12.19$; $df = 6, 167$; $P < 0.0001$) interactions on CPS were detected for this species. Night electrofishing CPS exceeded day CPS during late summer but not during the other three sample periods (Figure 6). No bluntnose minnow were captured in trap nets. Catch per sample site was highest during fall in Lake Erie, highest during late summer in Granite Lake, and did not differ among sample periods at French Lake. Bluntnose minnow actively forage during the day but undergo nocturnal torpidity at night in the same local areas (Emery 1973; Moyle 1973; Helfman 1981). The latter behavior could have contributed to higher CPS at night. Few bluntnose minnow were captured with early summer electrofishing at two Iowa lakes, but all captures occurred at night (Pierce et al. 2001). Temporal variation in CPS was probably unrelated to spawning, which occurs from late May through July (Moyle 1973; Becker 1983). However, this species is strongly associated with aquatic macrophytes (Moyle 1973; Brazner and Beals 1997), so low spring CPS could be associated with low macrophyte densities. Lastly, higher CPS in late summer or fall could also be caused by recruitment of age 0 individuals, some of which reach 4 to 5 cm by fall (Becker 1983).

Suckers

A total of three sucker species, including white sucker, golden redbreast, and silver redbreast, were captured in this study. We provide CPS analysis for only white sucker because we captured only one golden redbreast and two silver redbreast.

We are unsure if any of the gears adequately sampled white sucker ≥ 15 cm in this study because CPS was usually low, but night electrofishing in spring captured the most white sucker < 15 cm. Significant gear*lake ($F = 3.81$; $df = 2, 143$; $P = 0.0249$) and lake*period ($F = 20.68$; $df = 3, 143$; $P < 0.0001$)

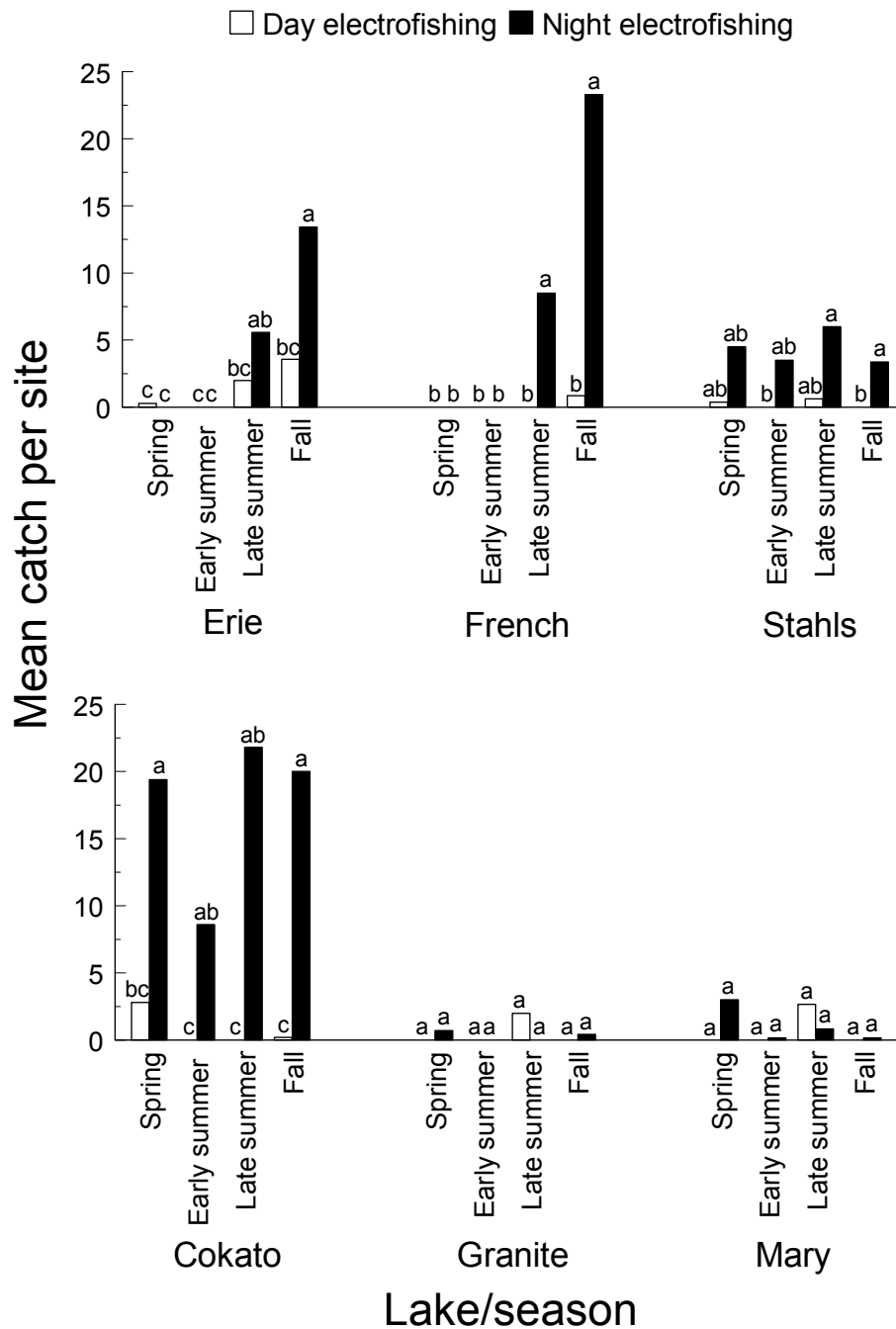


Figure 5. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing; CPS) of spottail shiner in day and night electrofishing during four sampling periods in six Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters within each lake denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

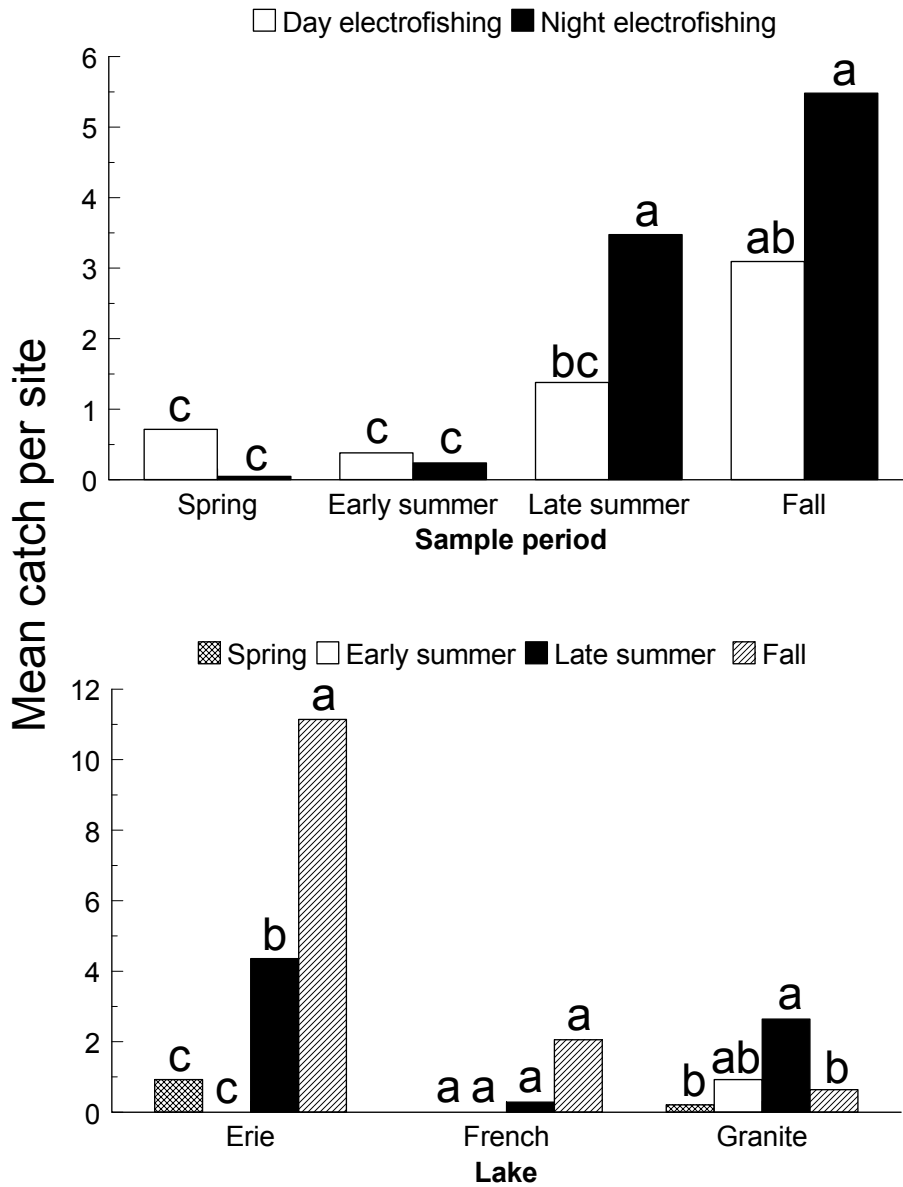


Figure 6. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing; CPS) of blunt-nose minnow in day and night electrofishing among four sampling periods, and mean CPS among four sampling periods in three Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters in the upper graph and within lake groups in the lower graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

interactions were detected for larger white sucker. Trap nets were the only gear that captured larger white sucker in Lake Erie, but all three gears captured this length group in Cokato Lake (Figure 2B). The Tukey's HSD tests did not identify a lake or gear where CPS differed significantly. Catch per sample site of larger white sucker did not differ temporally in Lake Erie, but CPS was also low. Conversely, at Cokato Lake, few larger white sucker were caught in spring, and the most were caught in late summer (Figure 2B). Catch per sample site of smaller white sucker differed inconsistently between day and night electrofishing among the four sample periods at Cokato Lake ($F = 4.83$; $df = 3, 39$; $P < 0.0069$ for gear*sample period interaction), but trap nets failed to capture smaller individuals. Night electrofishing CPS of small white sucker exceeded day CPS during spring, but CPS decreased and did not differ between day and night in the other three sample periods (Figure 2C). White sucker increase activity and move into shallow water at night (Emery 1973; Reynolds and Casterlin 1978), which likely resulted in higher CPS during night than day when catches were high. Day electrofishing during early summer failed to capture white sucker in two Iowa lakes, but they were captured in one-half of the night electrofishing samples (Pierce et al. 2001). Temporal variation was not linked with spawning or changes in density of aquatic macrophytes. They spawn at water temperatures ranging from 12 to 17 °C (Corbett and Powles 1983), which coincides with the spring sample period or earlier, and this species also show no strong affinity towards aquatic vegetation (Brazner and Beals 1997). We suspect that the decrease in CPS of small individuals coupled with the increase in CPS of larger individuals between spring and late summer at Cokato Lake was caused by a single year class (likely age 1; Carlander 1969) that grew out of the small length group and recruited into the larger length group. Trap net CPUE of this species in an Iowa lake did not differ between late June and mid August (Stang and Hubert 1984).

Catfishes

Trap netting, especially in spring or early summer, captured the most individuals of each species of bullhead, but neither day nor night electrofishing appears to effectively sample any species of bullhead. Only one channel catfish was caught (Cokato Lake) so no further analysis was done for this species.

Catch per sample site of black bullhead ≥ 15 cm was usually highest in trap nets, but differences among gears varied inconsistently among sample periods and lakes ($F = 5.00$; $df = 18, 359$; $P < 0.0001$ for gear*sample period*lake interaction). The highest CPS of larger black bullhead occurred during early summer trap netting at Cokato Lake, and spring trap netting yielded the highest CPS at Granite Lake (Figure 7). Catch per sample site of larger black bullhead was low in the other two lakes and did not differ among gear or sample periods. A gear*sample period*lake interaction ($F = 2.74$; $df = 24, 419$; $P < 0.0001$) was also detected for CPS of yellow bullhead ≥ 10 cm. Trap nets set in spring captured the most larger yellow bullhead at Granite and Mary lakes, but CPS was low and did not differ among gears or sample periods in the other three lakes (Figure 8). Catch per sample site of brown bullhead ≥ 13 cm differed among sampling gear ($F = 5.00$; $df = 2, 179$; $P = 0.0079$) and lakes ($F = 5.50$; $df = 1, 179$; $P = 0.0203$), but did not differ among sample periods ($F = 0.85$; $df = 3, 179$; $P = 0.4685$). Trap nets captured the most larger brown bullheads, with the most being captured at Stahls Lake (Figure 9). Although the three bullhead species are closely related, standardized stock-lengths differ (Anderson and Newmann 1996; Bister et al. 2000).

Fewer small bullheads were captured than larger bullhead with all gears. Catch per sample site of black bullhead < 15 cm varied inconsistently among gears and sample periods ($F = 8.39$; $df = 6, 167$; $P < 0.0001$ for gear*sample period interaction), and also differed significantly between French and Granite Lakes ($F = 4.11$; $df = 1, 167$; $P = 0.0444$), the only two lakes where small black bullhead were captured. Catch per sample site was highest in trap nets set in spring and did not differ among gears during the other sampling

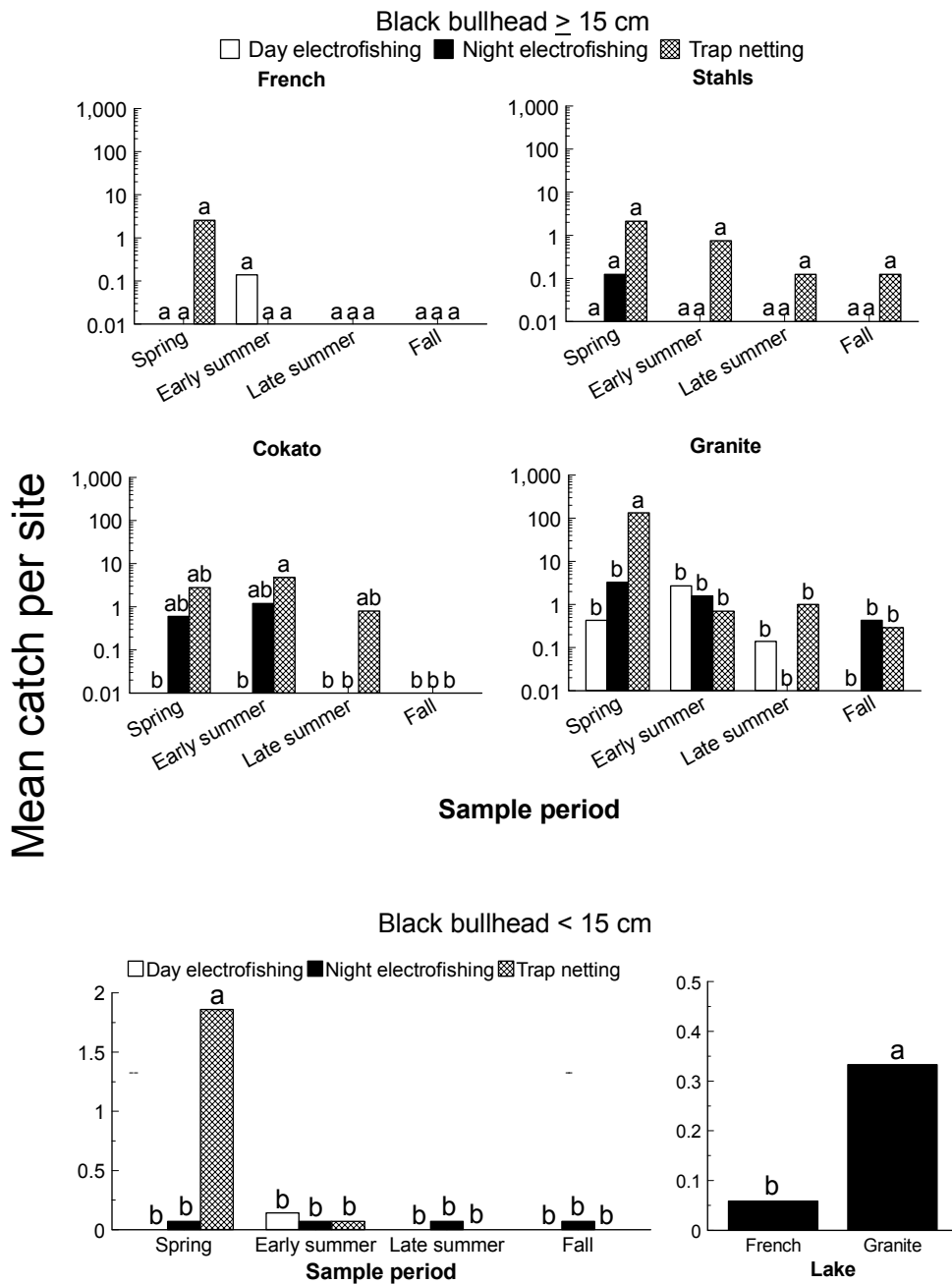


Figure 7. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of black bullhead ≥ 15 cm among three sampling gears, four sample periods, and four Minnesota lakes, and mean CPS of black bullhead < 15 cm among three sample gears and four sample periods and in two Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

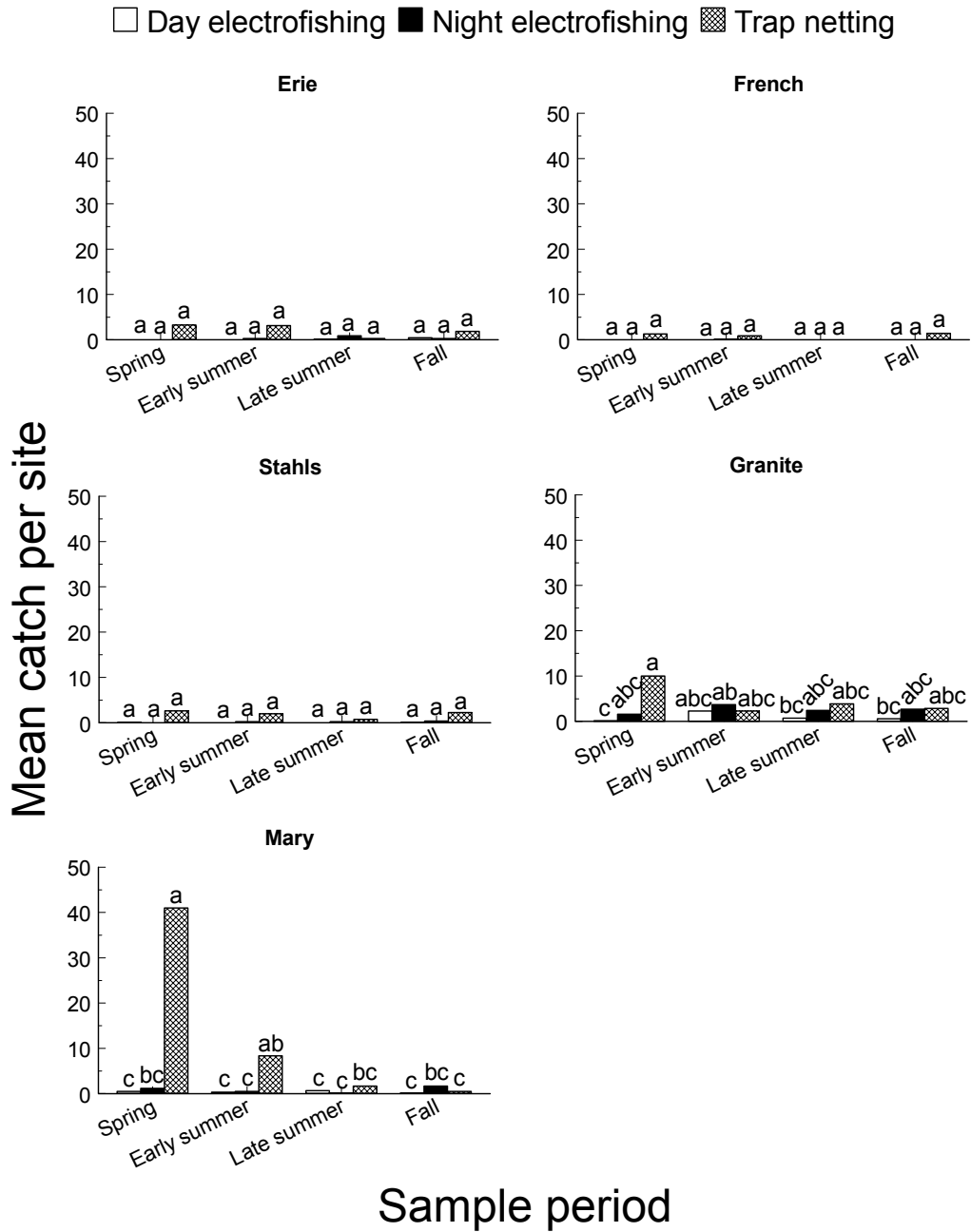


Figure 8. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of yellow bullhead ≥ 10 cm in three sampling gears and four sample periods within five Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

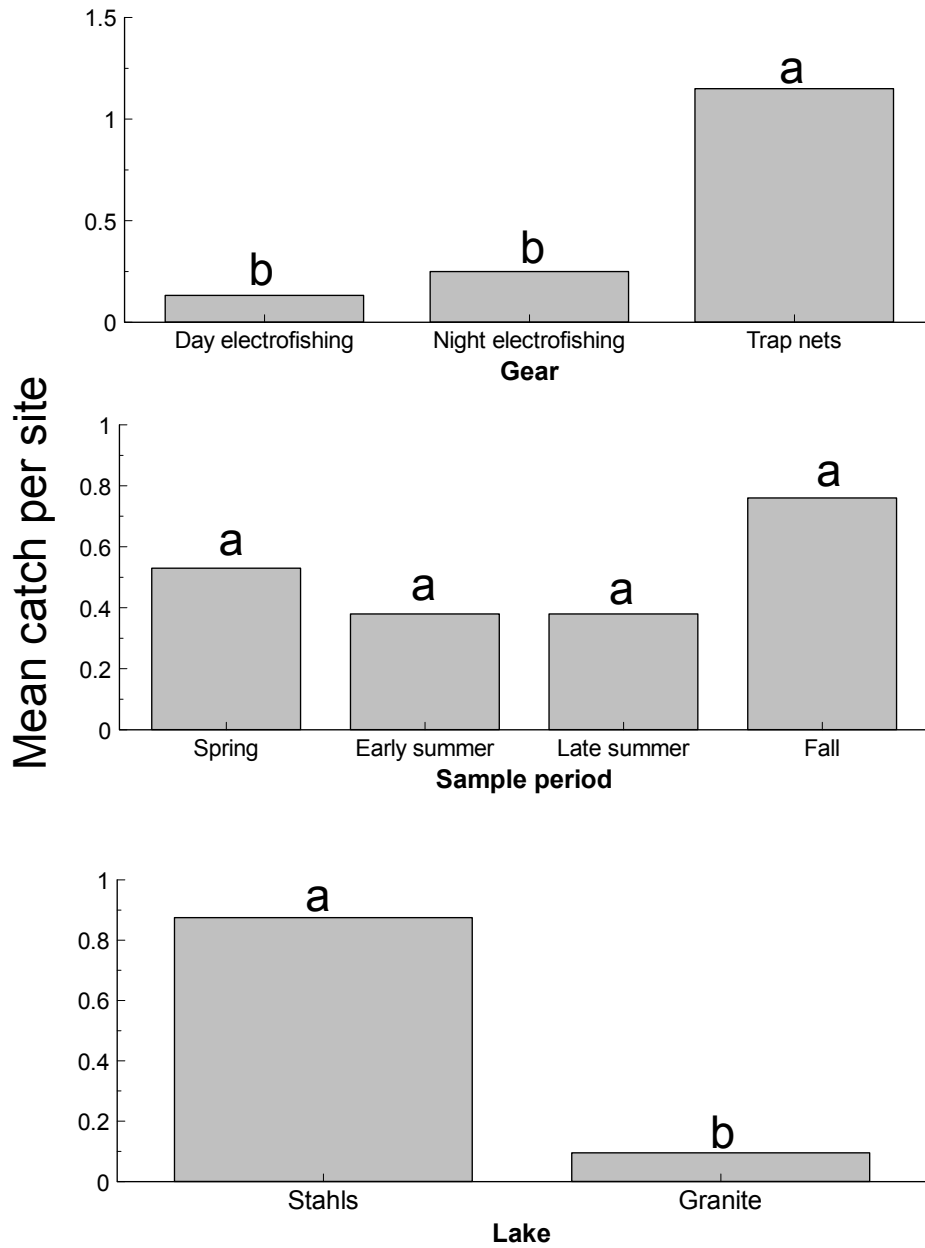


Figure 9. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of brown bullhead ≥ 13 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets (upper graph), among four sample periods (middle graph), and among two Minnesota lakes (lower graph) (bars with same letters within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

periods (Figure 7). Very few yellow bullheads < 10 cm and no brown bullheads < 13 cm were captured with any gear, so no additional analysis was done for these length groups.

Elsewhere, electrofishing appears ineffective for sampling bullheads, and spawning behavior of each species probably affected temporal variation in trap net CPS. In two Iowa lakes, night electrofishing CPH exceeded day CPH of black bullhead, but electrofishing catches were extremely low compared to beach seine hauls (Pierce et al. 2001). Black bullhead associated with aquatic vegetation at night, but not during the day in another Iowa lake (Stang and Hubert 1984), which should make this species more vulnerable to night electrofishing than day electrofishing. Non-nesting brown bullhead rest in vegetation 1-4 m deep during the day and become active at night, sometimes coming to shore (Keast and Harker 1977; Helfman 1981). However, Helfman (1981) also wrote that brown bullhead flee when illuminated with artificial light, which could reduce effectiveness of night electrofishing. All three bullhead species spawn during spring and early summer sample periods (Becker 1983), which coincided with the highest trap net CPS. Similar to our findings, trap net CPUE of black bullhead in an Iowa lake declined from late June to mid August (Stang and Hubert 1984).

Failure to capture small bullheads in all gears was likely a function of density or spatial distribution patterns. Trap nets with 1.9-cm mesh captured many black bullhead 10 to 15 cm, likely age 1, from June to September in South Dakota waters (Hanchin et al. 2002a; 2002b), so our nets should have captured some bullheads of this size if they were present. However, each study lake also has healthy populations of yellow perch, largemouth bass, black crappie, or walleye, species strongly linked with black bullhead populations with relatively low recruitment (McInerney and Cross 1995; Brown et al. 1999). None of the gears will likely capture age-0 bullheads because the mesh size of trap nets is too large, and odds are low that we would encounter them during day or night electrofishing because they swarm into dense, but widely scat-

tered schools after leaving nests (Eddy and Underhill 1974).

Both types of electrofishing captured some tadpole madtom, but trap nets captured only one individual. Catch per sample site did not differ between day and night electrofishing ($F < 0.01$; $df = 1, 279$; $P > 0.9999$) or among lakes ($F < 0.01$; $df = 4, 279$; $P > 0.9999$), but did differ among sample periods ($F = 2.68$; $df = 3, 279$; $P = 0.0476$). However, Tukey's HSD tests did not detect the sample periods when CPS differed (Figure 10A). Tadpole madtom appear to spend daylight hours hiding in cover, and they feed at night on the bottom and in vegetation (Becker 1983). They spawn multiple times in June and July under objects or holes in the bottom (Becker 1983). Increased CPS in late summer and fall was probably caused by recruitment of age-0 individuals, which reach 2 to 5 cm by fall (Becker 1983), or to increased density of aquatic macrophytes because all captures occurred when aquatic macrophyte densities were high in each of the five lakes.

Northern pike

Northern pike were caught in all six lakes; however, CPS differed inconsistently among gears and sample periods. Catch per sample site of northern pike ≥ 35 cm was highest in night electrofishing samples in fall, and lowest in day electrofishing samples in early summer and fall ($F = 4.37$; $df = 6, 479$; $P = 0.0003$ for gear*sample period interaction; Figure 11). Catch per sample site of larger individuals also did not differ among lakes ($F = 1.93$; $df = 5, 479$; $P = 0.0879$). For northern pike < 35 cm, CPS was low and did not differ among gears ($F = 0.19$; $df = 2, 347$; $P = 0.8292$), sample periods ($F = 2.04$; $df = 3, 347$; $P = 0.1085$), or four lakes ($F = 0.20$; $df = 3, 347$; $P = 0.8962$; Figure 11). Limited diel variation in electrofishing CPS and limited temporal variation in CPS in all gears probably reflects behavior of this species. Northern pike usually inhabit water along shorelines less than 4 m deep throughout the year, and are inactive 80% of the time during the day and essentially 100% of the time at night (Diana 1980; Chapman and MacKay 1983; Casselman and Lewis 1996). Our sampling

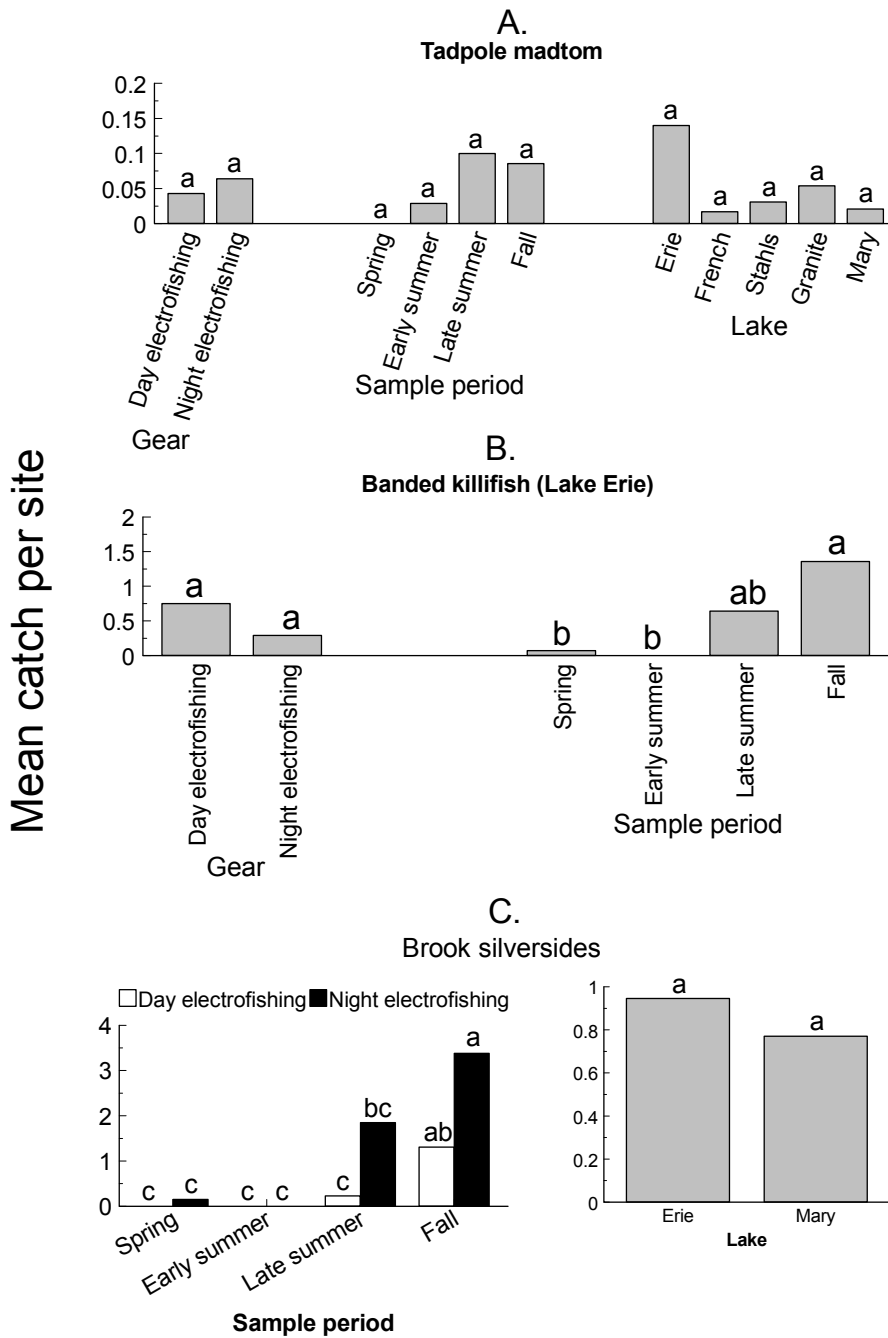


Figure 10. A. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing; CPS) of tadpole madtom in day and night electrofishing among four sample periods and five lakes, B. mean CPS of banded killifish in day and night electrofishing during four sample periods in Lake Erie, and C. mean CPS of brook silverside in day and night electrofishing among four sample periods and in two Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters within gear, sample period or lake groups in tadpole madtom and banded killifish graphs and within each brook silverside graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

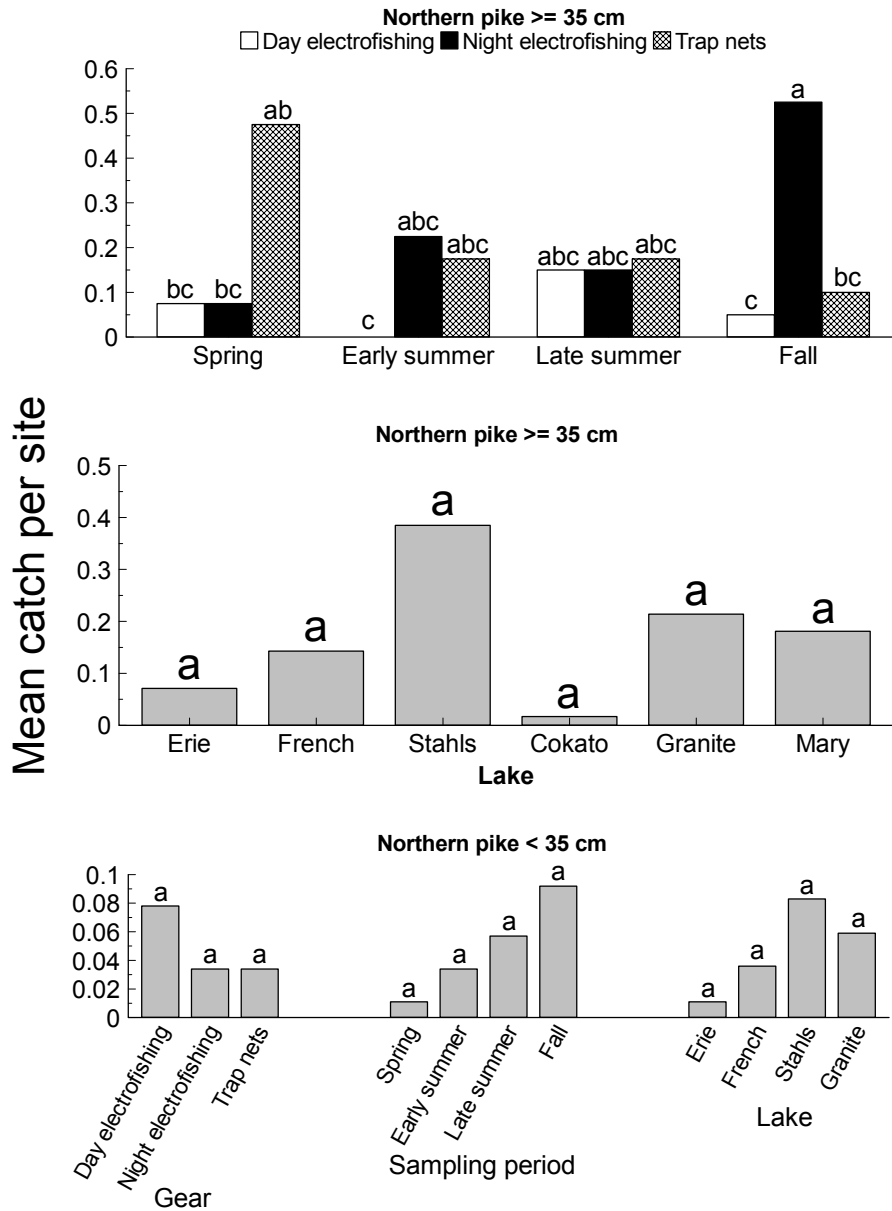


Figure 11. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of northern pike ≥ 35 cm among three sampling gears in four sample periods, and among six Minnesota lakes, and mean CPS of northern pike < 35 cm among sample gear, sampling period, and four Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters within the two upper graphs and within gear, sample period and lake groups in lower graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

began after northern pike spawned at each lake. Guy and Willis (1991) found increased trap net CPUE of northern pike during March and April when they were in pre-spawn or spawning condition in a South Dakota lake, but, as in this study, they found no significant change in CPUE between May and the following October.

Killifishes, silversides, mudminnows, and sticklebacks

Banded killifish, brook silverside, central mudminnow, and brook stickleback were captured with day or night electrofishing, but trap nets failed to capture these species. We did not include trap net data in CPS analysis of these species, and we did not analyze factors affecting CPS of central mudminnow and brook stickleback because catches were too low.

Both day and night electrofishing in late summer or fall captured banded killifish in Lake Erie, the one lake where captured. Electrofishing CPS of banded killifish did not differ diel ($F = 0.21$; $df = 1, 55$; $P = 0.6504$), but CPS was higher in fall than in spring or early summer ($F = 7.95$; $df = 3, 55$; $P = 0.0002$) (Figure 10B). Banded killifish form schools in water 1 to 1.6 m deep during the day, but disperse and move into water < 0.6 m deep at night (Helfman 1981), depths shallower than we usually electrofished. Thus, this species could be more vulnerable to day electrofishing than night electrofishing. Banded killifish spawn in early summer and inhabit stands of submergent aquatic vegetation when available (Becker 1983). However, because temporal catches did not increase between spring and early summer, spawning and changes in macrophyte density probably did not affect CPS. Increased CPS in late summer and fall was probably caused by recruitment of age-0 individuals, which can reach lengths of 4 to 6 cm by fall (Becker 1983).

We captured the most brook silverside with night electrofishing during late summer or fall. Brook silverside CPS differed inconsistently between day and night electrofishing among sampling periods ($F = 5.16$; $df = 3, 95$; $P = 0.0025$), but did not differ between Lakes Erie and Mary, the only two lakes where cap-

tured ($F = 0.41$; $df = 1, 95$; $P = 0.5245$). Day and night CPS in late summer and fall exceeded CPS in spring and early summer, and night CPS exceeded day CPS in late summer and fall but not in spring or early summer (Figure 10C). Brook silverside in late summer and fall actively move in offshore pelagic zones during the day, and come into shore after sunset where they often float motionless (Becker 1983). Thus, this species should be more vulnerable to night rather than day electrofishing. Temporal variation is mostly caused by mortality of adults and recruitment of age-0 individuals. After spawning in June or July, age-1 adults die, so high CPS observed in late summer and fall resulted from recruitment of age-0 individuals, which reach 7 cm by fall (Becker 1983). This species is mostly pelagic so variation in submergent aquatic macrophyte densities did not affect CPS of this species.

Sunfishes

Generally, the lowest catches of small and large individuals of each of the three sunfish species occurred in spring, and trap nets were ineffective in sampling small sunfish. Catch per sample site of green sunfish ≥ 8 cm varied inconsistently among the three sampling gears and sampling periods ($F = 4.54$; $df = 6, 299$; $P = 0.0002$ for the gear*sample period interaction), and did not differ between four lakes ($F = 0.64$; $df = 2, 299$; $P = 0.5269$). Trap netting during early summer captured the most larger green sunfish (Figure 12). Trap nets caught only one green sunfish < 8 cm in all lakes and sample periods combined, but day and night electrofishing CPS did not differ ($F = 0.01$; $df = 1, 199$; $P = 0.9334$). A lake*sample period interaction ($F = 5.48$; $df = 9, 199$; $P < 0.0001$) was also detected for this length group. Catch per sample site of small green sunfish in early summer, late summer, and fall at Granite Lake exceeded spring CPS, but CPS was low and did not differ among sample periods in the other three lakes (Figure 12). For pumpkinseed ≥ 8 cm, CPS did not differ among the three sampling gears ($F = 0.49$; $df = 2, 419$; $P = 0.6122$), were lowest in spring ($F = 13.42$; $df = 3, 419$; $P < 0.0001$), and were higher in Lake Mary than in Erie,

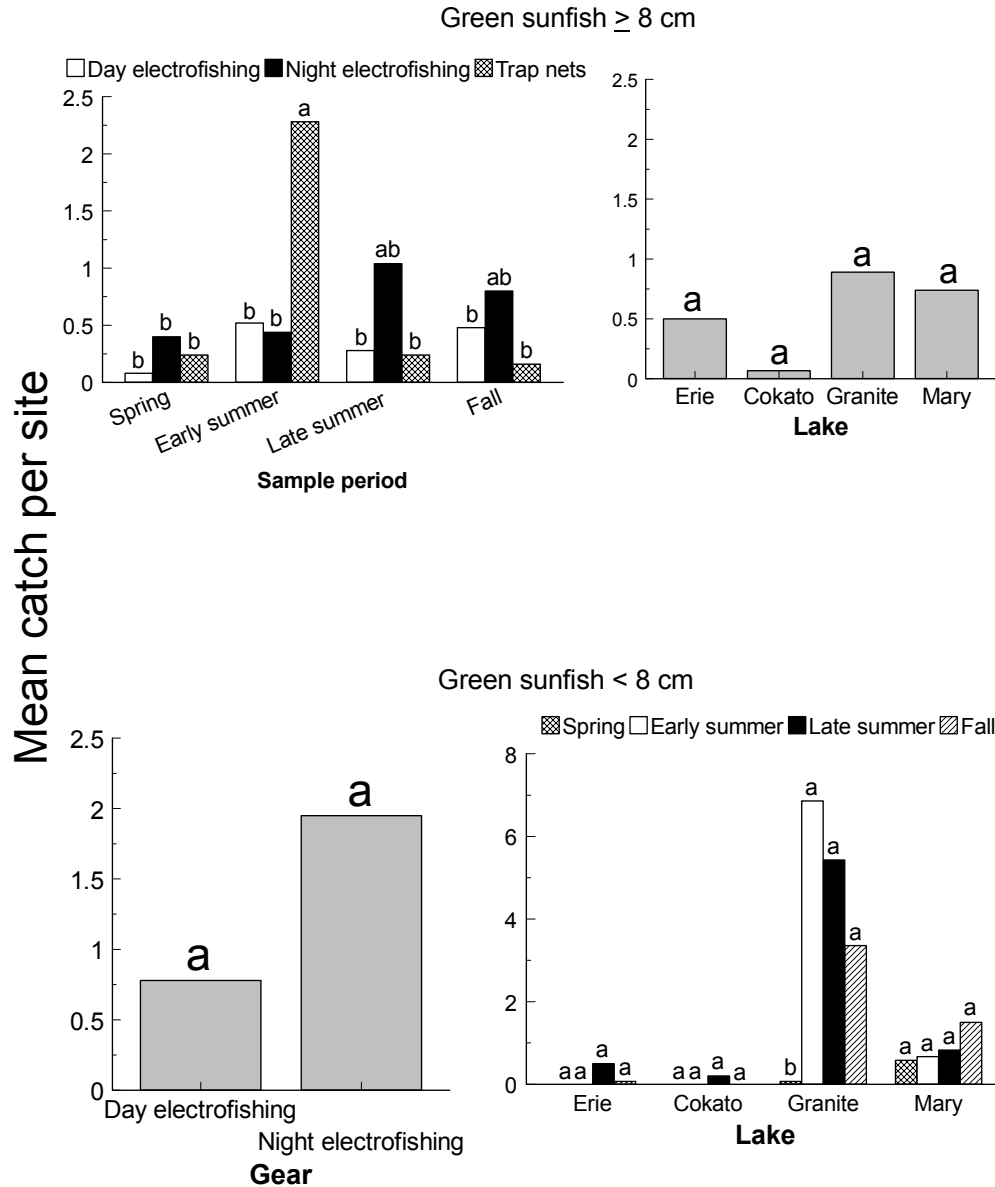


Figure 12. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of green sunfish ≥ 8 cm in three sampling gears among four sampling periods, mean CPS of green sunfish ≥ 8 cm among four Minnesota lakes, mean CPS of green sunfish < 8 cm in day and night electrofishing, and mean CPS of green sunfish < 8 cm among four sampling periods in four Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters within each graph or within each lake group in lower right graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

French and Stahls lakes ($F = 7.36$; $df = 4, 419$; $P < 0.0001$)(Figure 13). Catch per sample site of pumpkinseed < 8 cm also did not differ among the three gears ($F = 0.32$; $df = 2, 419$; $P = 0.7243$), but a sample period*lake interaction occurred ($F = 1,80$; $df = 12, 419$; $P = 0.0453$). Catch per sample site of smaller pumpkinseeds was higher in early summer than in spring at Granite Lake, but CPS did not differ among sample periods in the other four lakes (Figure 13). Catch per sample site of bluegill ≥ 8 cm and < 8 cm differed inconsistently among sampling gears, sample periods, and lakes ($F = 2.21$; $df = 30, 479$; $P = 0.0003$ for bluegill ≥ 8 cm; $F = 3.70$; $df = 30, 479$; $P < 0.0001$ for bluegill < 8 cm). Like green sunfish, trap netting in early summer captured the most bluegill ≥ 8 cm in most lakes, and night electrofishing CPS in fall exceeded day CPS in spring in some lakes (Figure 14). Night electrofishing CPS of larger bluegill exceeded trap net CPS in fall in two lakes (Figure 14). None of the gears effectively captured bluegill < 8 cm in spring, but night electrofishing captured more bluegill than one or both gears in five lakes (Figure 15). Trap nets captured few bluegill < 8 cm during all sample periods in all lakes (Figure 15).

Elsewhere, night electrofishing CPH of bluegill and green sunfish exceeded day CPH of each respective species, but catches of green sunfish were low in each study (Dumont and Dennis 1997; Pierce et al. 2000). Modified fyke nets (13-mm mesh) captured fewer bluegill in two Missouri impoundments than night electrofishing (Kruse 1993).

Pumpkinseed and bluegill exhibit different diel patterns, which can explain the different electrofishing catch patterns between the two species, but diel patterns of green sunfish are unknown. Pumpkinseed feed at most depths in littoral areas during the day, move inshore, offshore, or towards the substrate at night, are unapproachable by divers at all times, and exhibit nocturnal torpidity but are easily aroused (Emery 1973; Helfman 1981). Thus, pumpkinseed appear equally vulnerable to day and night electrofishing, and should also be vulnerable to trap netting, which was observed in the study lakes. Zooplantivorous

bluegill of all sizes move offshore during early daylight to feed and then move inshore by nightfall, but bluegill residing in vegetation move above vegetation to feed during the day (Baumann and Kitchell 1974; Helfman 1981). These behavioral patterns suggest that shoreline densities of bluegill are higher at night than day, which was reflected in electrofishing CPS during sample periods when diel differences occurred. Temporal trends in trap net CPUE of larger bluegill between early and late summer were similar to those observed in other Minnesota lakes (Cross et al. 1995), and they found that peak trap net CPUE coincided with peak gonadal development. However, Kelley (1953) reported that most of the temporal variation in bluegill catches in Mississippi River backwaters was caused by recruitment of young year-classes and mortality of older ones. Decreases in trap net CPUE could be associated with density of aquatic macrophytes. Hall and Werner (1977) observed with SCUBA lower numbers of bluegill, pumpkinseed, and green sunfish in littoral areas in spring than during mid-summer and fall. Bettross and Willis (1988) reported little change in trap net CPUE, but declining night electrofishing CPUE from June to August in a South Dakota cooling pond with few aquatic macrophytes. Increasing electrofishing CPS of small green sunfish, small bluegill, and both length groups of pumpkinseed from spring to early summer, late summer or fall was probably associated with increased density of aquatic macrophytes. Some or most non-larval life stages of these three sunfish species are strongly associated with aquatic macrophytes (Emery 1973; Hall and Werner 1977; Keast 1978a; Helfman 1981; Brown and Colgan 1982).

Black basses

Catch per sample site of smallmouth and largemouth bass varied inconsistently among sample gears and sample periods, and trap nets captured few individuals of either species. A gear*sample period interaction ($F = 3.06$; $df = 3,39$; $P = 0.0420$) was detected for CPS of smallmouth bass ≥ 18 cm in Kokato Lake, the only lake where captured. Trap nets failed to capture smallmouth bass ≥ 18 cm

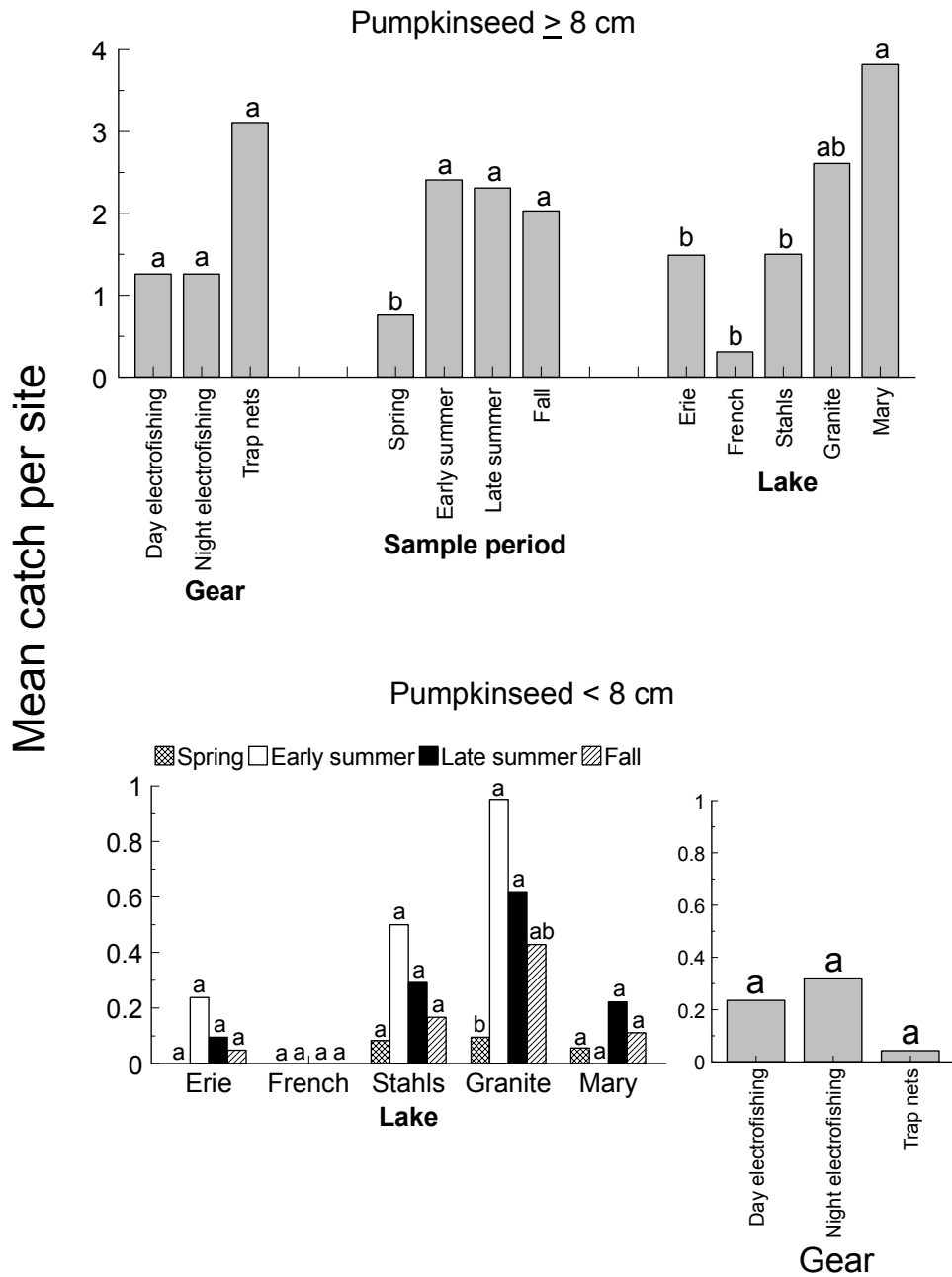


Figure 13. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of pumpkinseed ≥ 8 cm among three sampling gears, four sample periods and five Minnesota lakes, and mean CPS of pumpkinseed < 8 cm among four sampling periods in five lakes and among three sampling gears (bars with same letters within the gear, sample period, and lake groups in the upper graph, within lake groups in the lower left graph, and in the lower right graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

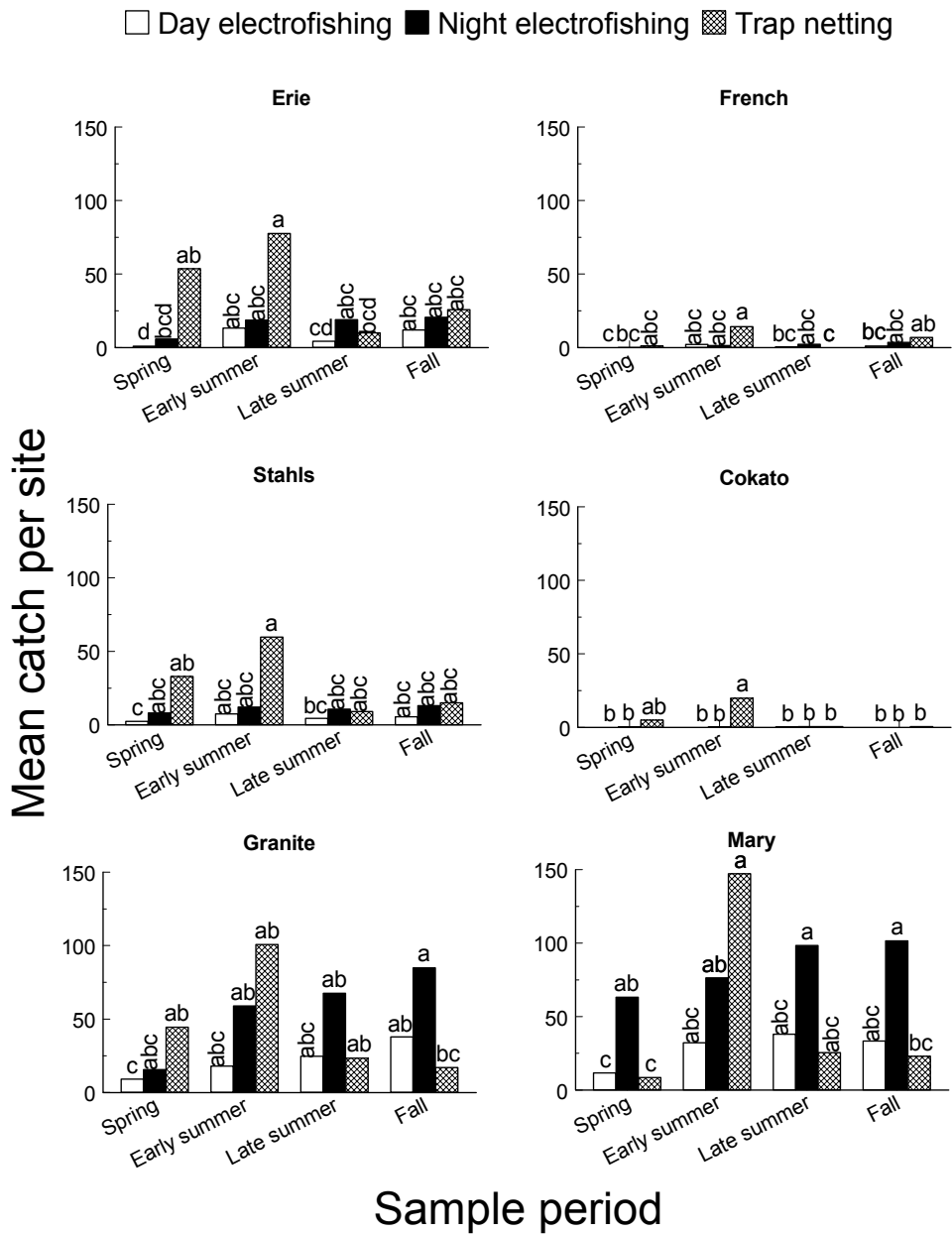


Figure 14. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of bluegill ≥ 8 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets during four sampling periods in six Minnesota lakes (bars with same letter within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

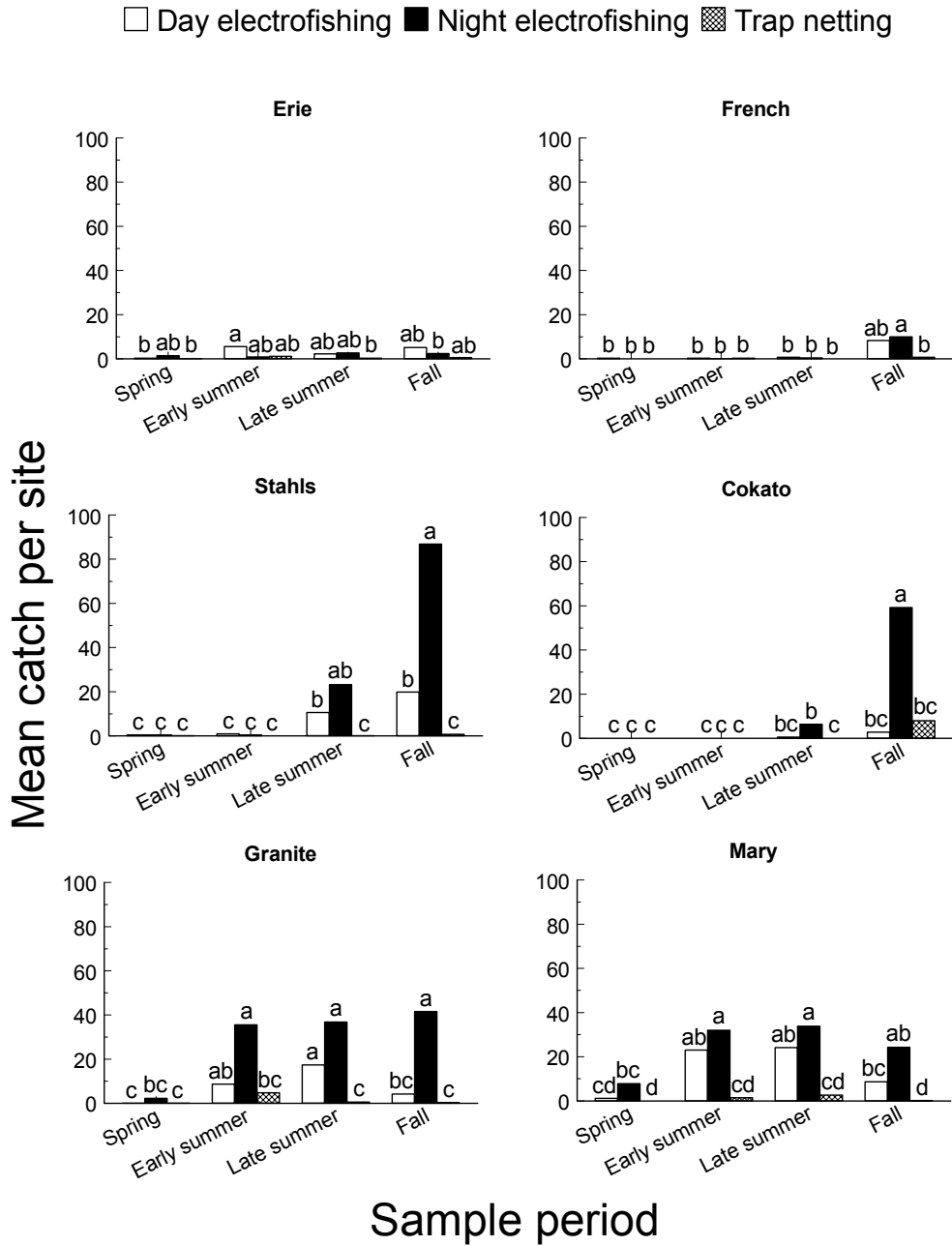


Figure 15. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of bluegill < 8 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets during four sampling periods in six Minnesota lakes (bars with same letter within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

so these data were excluded from analysis. Although pair-wise tests failed to identify where differences occurred, night electrofishing CPS exceeded day CPS in late summer and fall but not in spring or early summer (Figure 16). For smallmouth bass < 18 cm, CPS did not differ among the three sample gears ($F = 1.04$; $df = 2, 39$; $P = 0.3610$) or four sample periods ($F = 0.36$; $df = 3, 39$; $P = 0.7757$) (Figure 16). Based on overall sampling effort, trap nets with 13-mm mesh captured about 18 times fewer smallmouth bass than night electrofishing in South Dakota lakes (Milewski and Willis 1991). These authors also reported that trap nets captured smallmouth bass ≥ 18 cm, and trap net and night electrofishing CPUE among lakes were positively correlated. Smallmouth bass in New York and Ontario lakes feed and move in shallow waters during the day, move into deeper water and exhibit nocturnal torpidity at night, and were more easily approached by divers at night than day (Emery 1973; Helfman 1981). Thus, vulnerability of smallmouth bass to night electrofishing would depend on depths of resting areas, which were likely at or deeper than effective electrofishing depths at Cokato Lake.

Catch per sample site of largemouth bass ≥ 20 cm differed among gears in some but not all lakes ($F = 2.41$; $df = 10, 479$; $P = 0.0086$), but did not differ among sample periods ($F = 1.72$; $df = 3, 479$; $P = 0.1630$). Night electrofishing CPS exceeded trap net CPS of larger individuals in Granite and Mary lakes, and day electrofishing CPS exceeded trap net CPS in Lake Mary (Figure 17). However, CPS was low did not differ among gears in the other four lakes (Figure 17). The ANOVA for CPS of largemouth bass < 20 cm suggested a gear*sample period*lake interaction ($F = 2.63$; $df = 30, 479$; $P < 0.0001$). Day or night electrofishing CPS of small largemouth bass exceeded trap net CPS during late summer and fall in Erie, Stahls, Granite, and Mary lakes, but CPS was low and did not differ among gears in any sample period in the other two lakes (Figure 18). Day or night CPS in late summer or fall in three lakes also exceeded CPS in spring and early summer.

Day and night CPS of largemouth bass did not differ because this species occupies similar shoreline habitats throughout the day, are similarly active during the day and night (Miller 1975; Warden and Lorio 1975; Helfman 1981), and because of moderate water clarity. Ratios of day to night CPH of largemouth bass ≥ 20 cm increases with decreasing Secchi depth, but these ratios for largemouth bass < 20 cm were unrelated to water clarity (Dumont and Dennis 1997; McInerny and Cross 1996; 2000). Night CPH began exceeding day CPH in other Minnesota lakes where Secchi depths exceeded 1.0 m (McInerny and Cross 1996), and summer Secchi depths in the study lakes ranged from 1.2 to 3.0 m (median = 1.7 m) (MNDNR lake survey data base).

Low trap net CPS of largemouth bass was probably linked to relative inactivity. Both small and large largemouth bass have small home ranges (< 100 m) and usually move very little (< 50 m) from centers of home area (Lewis and Flickinger 1967; Winter 1977; Copeland and Noble 1994; Essington and Kitchell 1999).

The lack of temporal variation in electrofishing CPS of larger individuals was probably due to a combination of spawning and changes in aquatic macrophyte density. Electrofishing catchability of larger largemouth bass improves if sampling is done during spawning and when cover is increased (Reynolds and Simpson 1978; McInerny and Cross 2000). Largemouth bass spawned during the spring sample period, so increased catchability from spawning offsets decreased catchability from low density of aquatic macrophytes in spring. Catchability after spring did not decrease because of increased cover caused by increasing density of aquatic macrophytes. Temporal variation in CPS of smaller largemouth bass was probably related to changes in aquatic macrophyte density within lakes, and to recruitment of age-0 individuals. Juvenile largemouth bass show strong affinities towards aquatic macrophytes (Annett et al. 1996), and age-0 largemouth bass are 6 to 12 cm in Minnesota lakes by fall (MNDNR unpublished data).

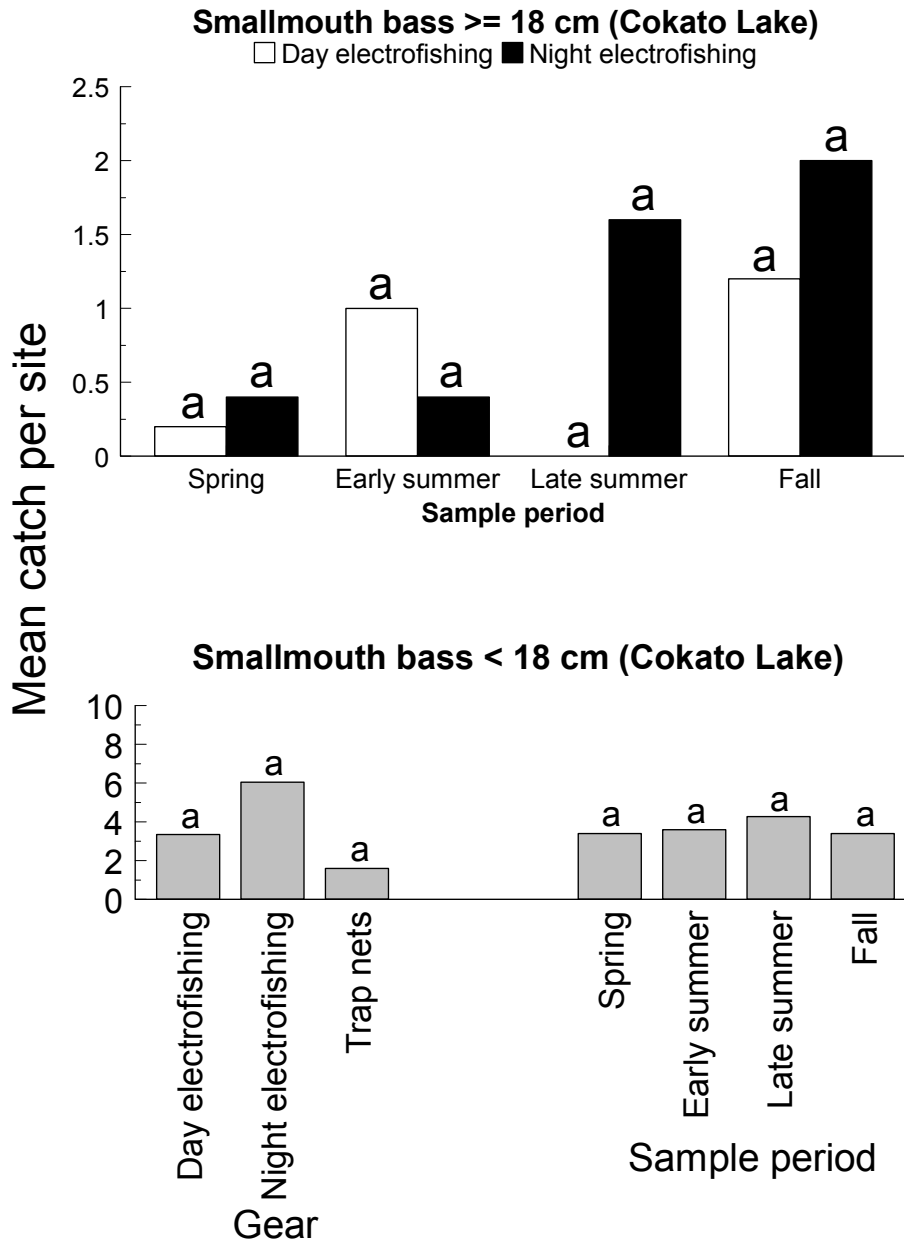


Figure 16. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing; CPS) of smallmouth bass ≥ 18 cm in day and night electrofishing during four sample periods in Cokato Lake, and mean CPS of smallmouth bass < 18 cm among three sample gears and four sample periods in Cokato Lake, Minnesota (bars with same letter within upper graph and within the gear and sample period groups in lower graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

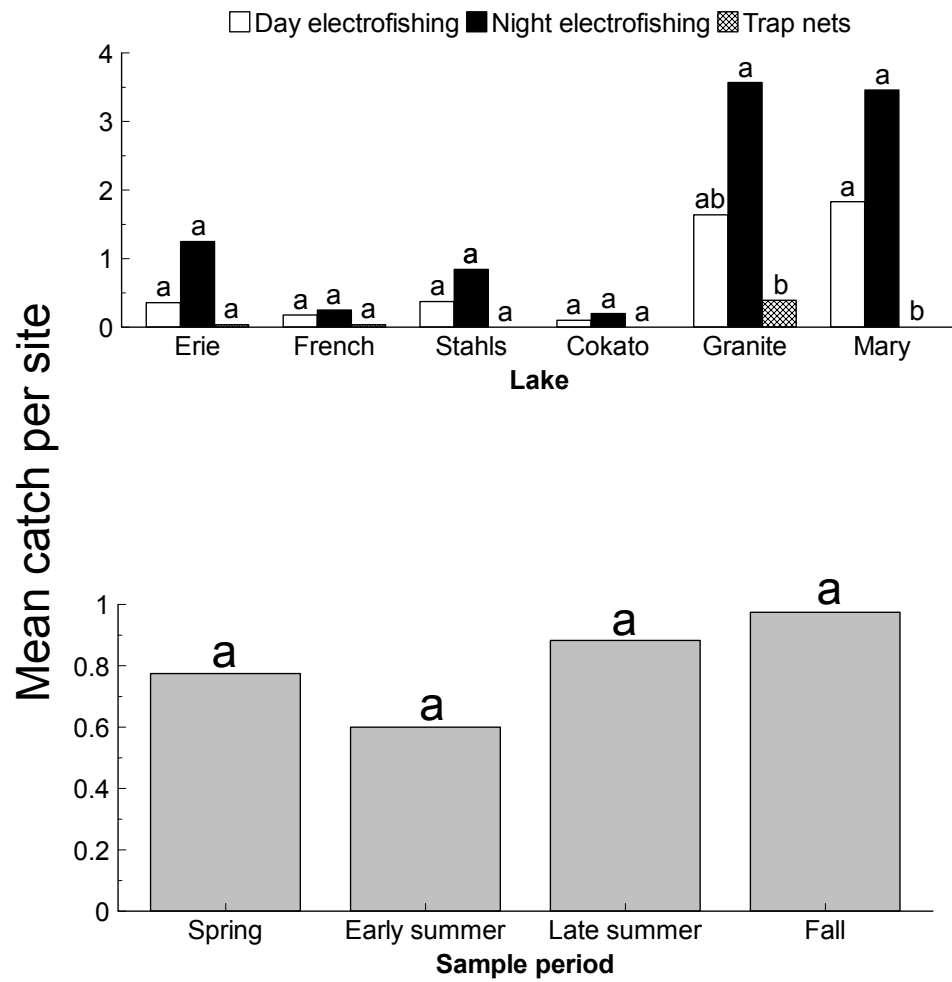


Figure 17. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) per site of largemouth bass ≥ 20 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets in six Minnesota lakes, and mean CPS among four sample periods (bars with same letter within each lake group in upper graph and within lower graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

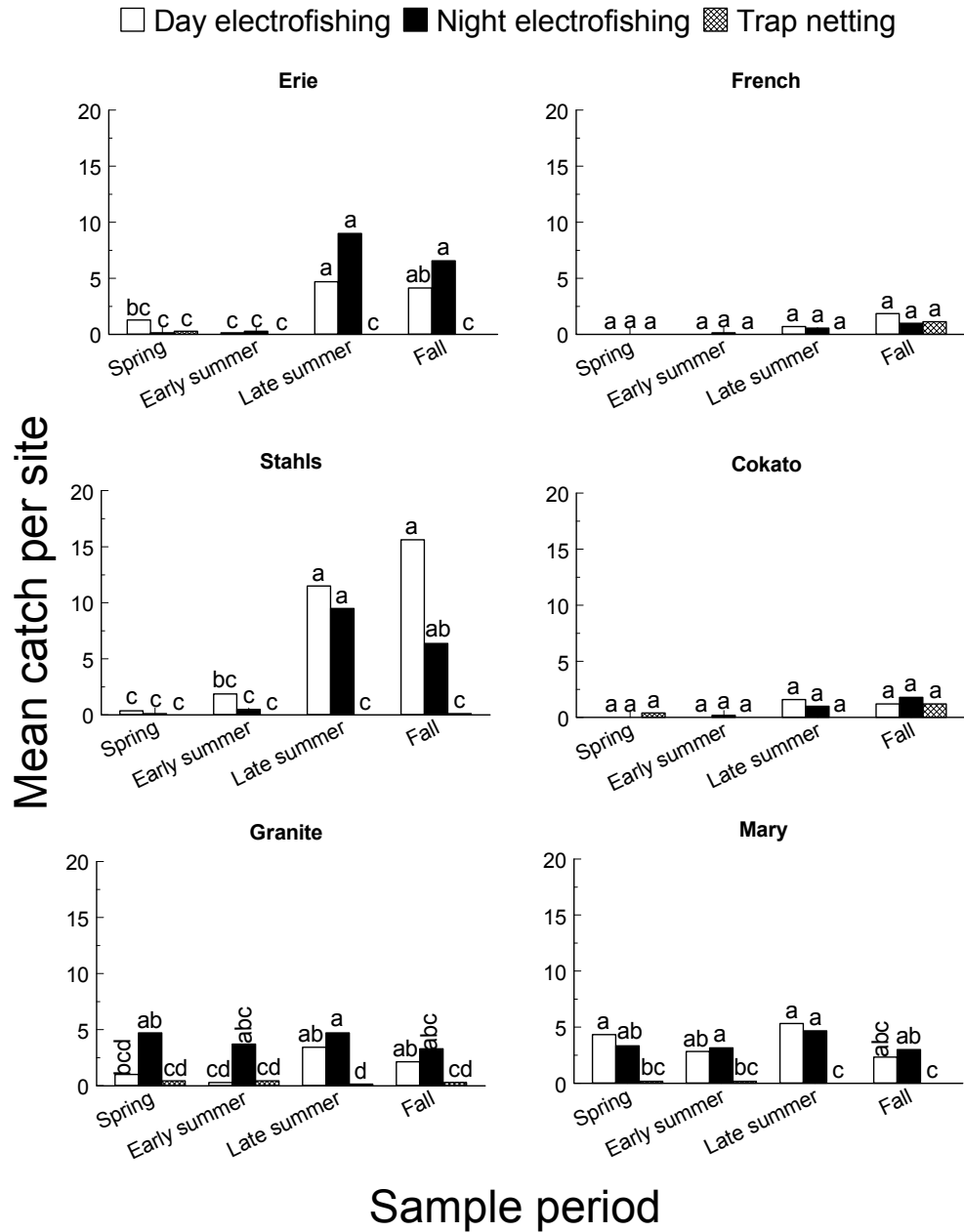


Figure 18. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of largemouth bass < 20 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets during four sampling periods in six Minnesota lakes (bars with same letter within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

Electrofishing at night during spring probably provides the best data on relative abundance of largemouth bass. Night electrofishing CPUE in spring and fall reflected population density of largemouth bass (Hall 1986; Coble 1992; Hill and Willis 1994; Edwards et al. 1997; McInerny and Cross 2000), but day electrofishing CPUE did not reflect population density among Minnesota lakes (McInerny and Cross 2000). Furthermore, different portions of largemouth bass populations are vulnerable to electrofishing in fall than in spring (McInerny and Cross 2000). However, no data are available on vulnerability of largemouth bass populations in early or late summer.

Crappies

Trap nets usually captured individuals ≥ 13 cm of both crappie species better than either day or night electrofishing in most lakes and sampling periods; however, CPS differed inconsistently among sample periods. Conversely, CPS of crappies < 13 cm was low in all gears, and differed inconsistently among gears and sample periods. We seldom captured white crappie or black crappie with day electrofishing during this study.

Substantial catches of white crappie ≥ 13 cm occurred only in trap nets set in early summer in French Lake ($F = 7.87$; $df = 6, 83$; $P < 0.0001$ for the gear*sample period interaction; Figure 19), the only lake where this species was caught in this study. Only two white crappie < 13 cm were captured, both with night electrofishing in late summer and fall, so no additional analysis was done for this length group.

Catch per sample site of black crappie ≥ 13 cm varied inconsistently among gear, sample periods, and lakes ($F = 1.86$; $df = 30, 479$; $P = 0.0044$). Trap netting in spring captured the most black crappie ≥ 13 cm at French, Stahls, and Granite lakes, trap netting in late summer captured the most at Cokato Lake, and CPS did not differ among gear or sample periods in the other two lakes (Figure 20). Catch per sample site of black crappie < 13 cm also differed inconsistently among gears, sample periods, and lakes ($F = 3.42$; $df = 18, 323$; $P < 0.0001$). However, night elec-

trofishing in fall captured the most small black crappie in Stahls Lake, trap netting in early summer captured the most in Cokato Lake, and CPS did not differ among gears and sample periods in Erie or French lakes (Figure 21). Small black crappie were not caught in either Granite or Mary lakes.

Other studies suggest variable effectiveness of electrofishing for sampling either crappie species. Black crappie were not captured with either day or night electrofishing in two Iowa lakes even though they were captured in relatively high numbers in beach seines deployed during the day and night at the same locations during early summer (Pierce 2000). However, pulsed DC electrofishing during the day in Tennessee reservoirs was effective enough to capture at least 100 crappies (both species combined), so that species composition and length and age frequencies could be developed (Sammons et al. 2002). Bayley and Austen (2002) found that catchability of crappies (both species combined) with day AC electrofishing in spring was lower than that found for largemouth bass and common carp in Illinois waters, but exceeded catchability of bluegill and green sunfish. In fall, catchability of all four of these species exceeded catchability of crappies. In laboratory experiments, vulnerability of black crappie to various forms and levels of electric power was similar to vulnerability observed for largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish (Dolan and Miranda 2003). Black crappie exposed to pulsed DC electrofishing exhibit no or weak galvanotaxis (forced swimming towards the anode) than those exposed to continuous DC (Dolan et al. 2002). Essentially all captured black crappie and white crappie were in a state of tetany in this study, thus were not attracted to the anode.

Diel spatial distribution patterns suggest that CPS in all three gears should be variable. Both large and small black crappies tend to rest during the day in relatively deep (~ 2 m) habitats, often on the deep side of weed beds, and feed actively at night in shallow or deep water (Keast and Harker 1977; Helfman 1981).

Temporal variation in trap net CPS of crappies ≥ 13 mm in this study was somewhat

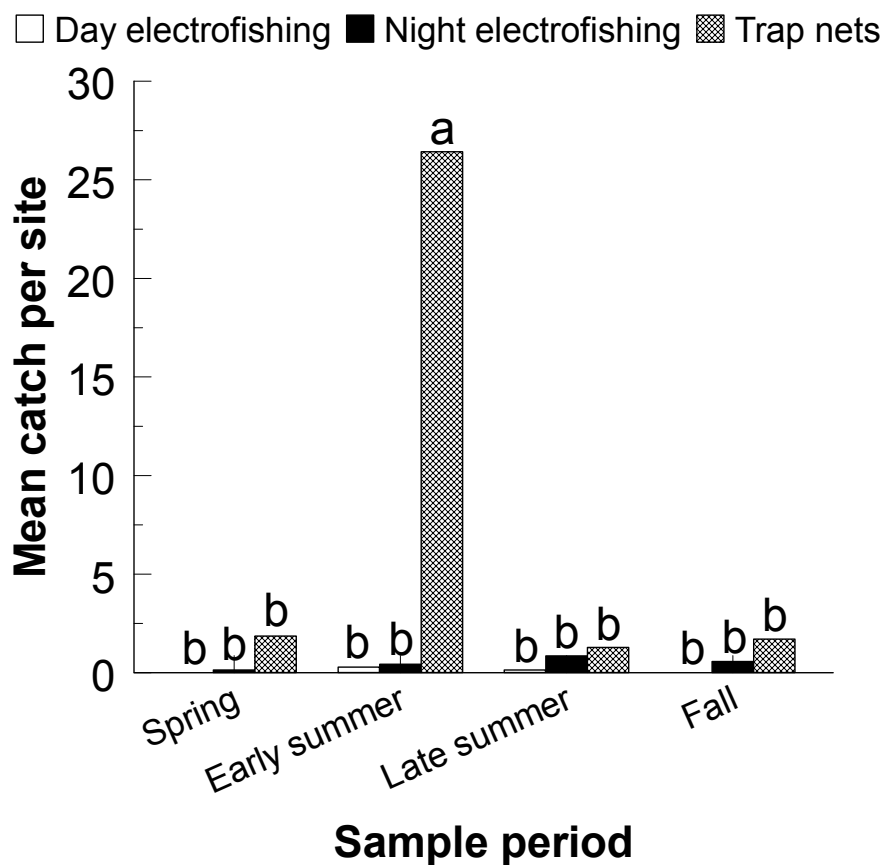


Figure 19. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of white crappie ≥ 13 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets set during four sampling periods in French Lake, Minnesota (bars with same letter denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

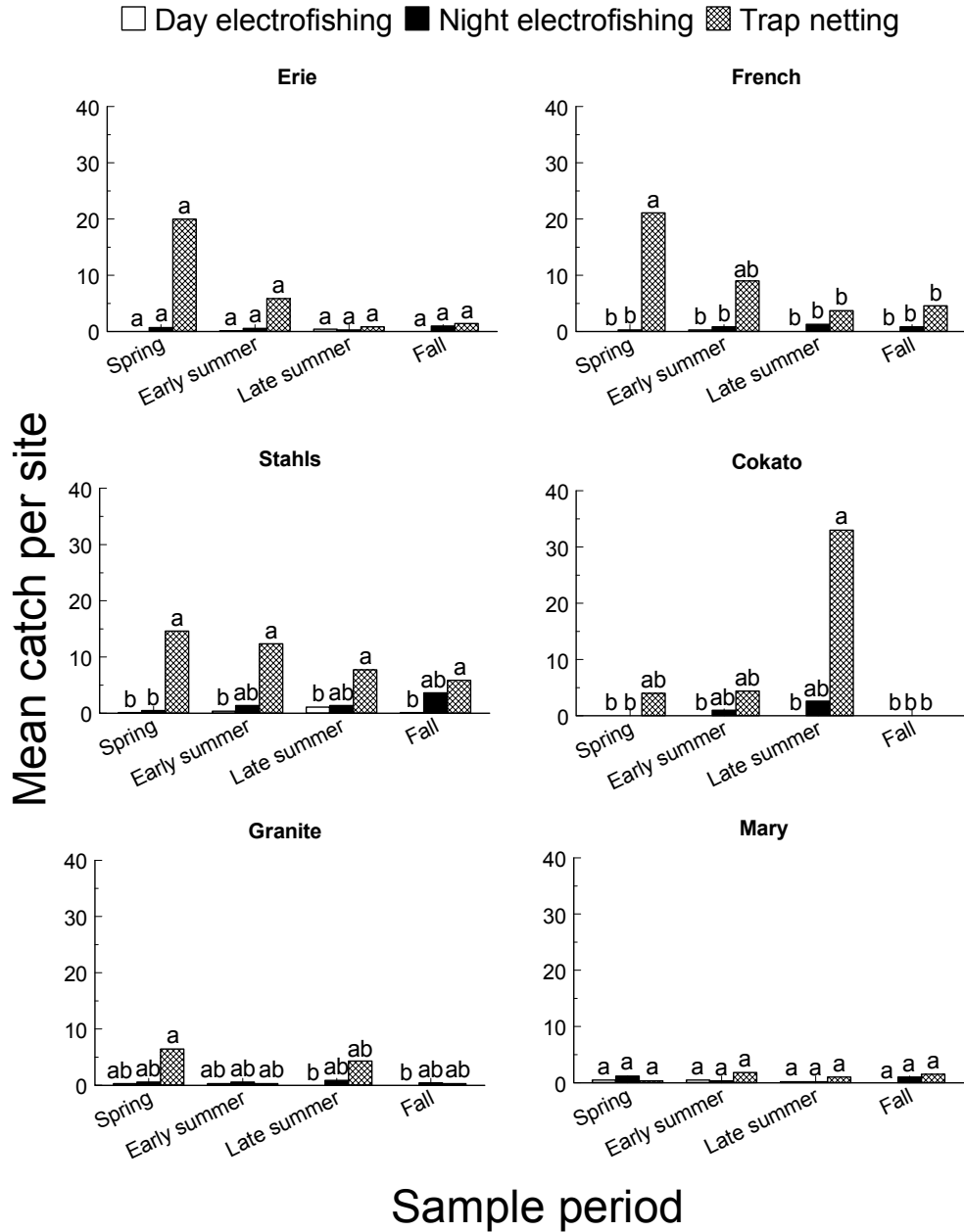


Figure 20. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of black crappie ≥ 13 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets during four sampling periods in six Minnesota lakes (bars with same letter within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

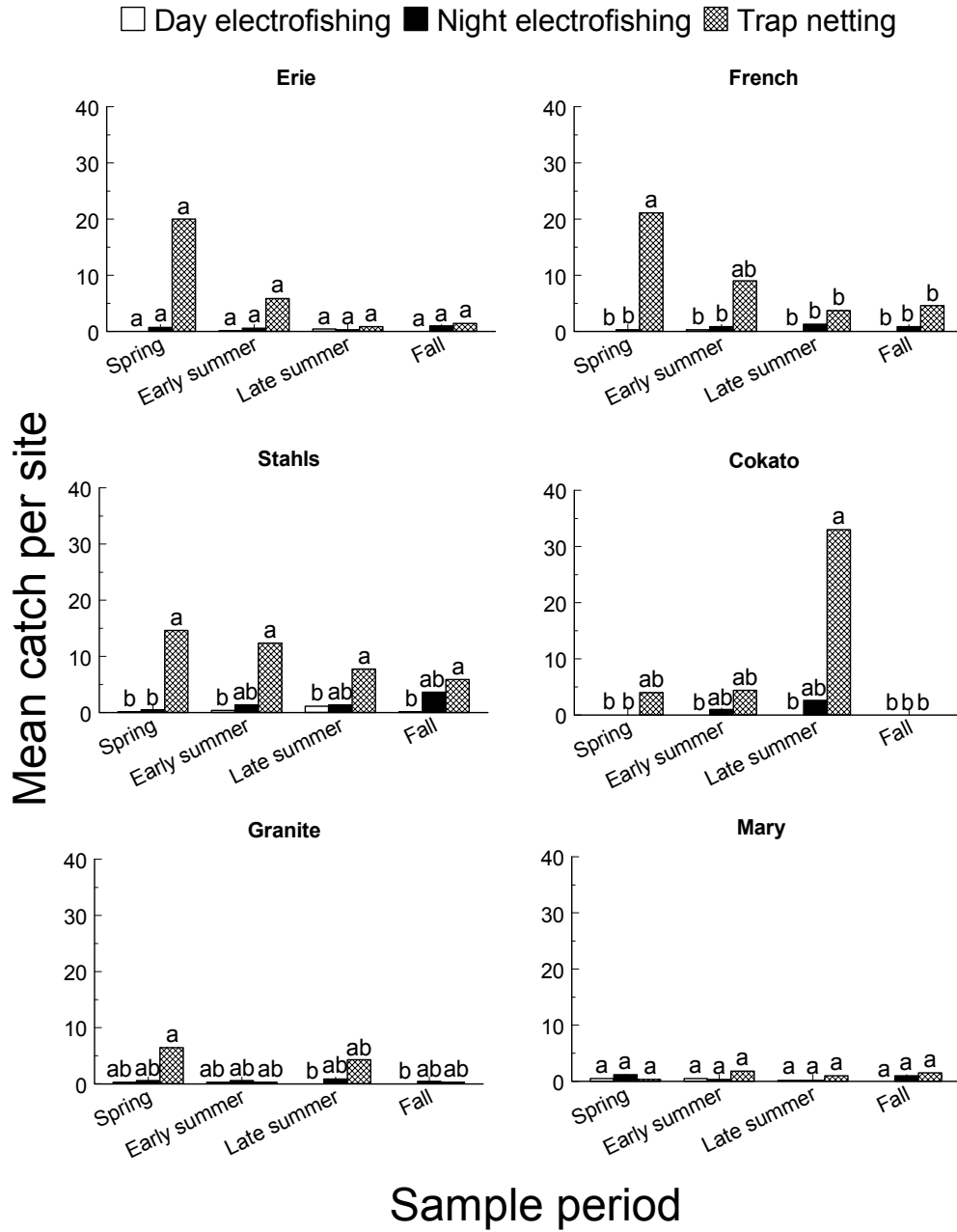


Figure 21. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of black crappie < 13 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets during four sampling periods in four Minnesota lakes (bars with same letter within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

similar to that observed elsewhere, and variation is probably associated with spawning, recruitment, or mortality. Trap net CPUE of black crappie differed inconsistently between summer (June through August) and fall (September and October) in other Minnesota lakes, but summer CPUE of white crappie usually exceeded fall CPUE (McInerney and Cross 1993). Guy and Willis (1991) reported that CPUE of black crappie ≥ 13 cm in a South Dakota lake was highest in fall and lowest in spring, the opposite of what we observed in most lakes in this study. However, CPUE of black crappie did not differ among monthly sample periods from early summer to late summer (June through August) in north temperate lakes (Stang and Hubert 1984; Guy and Willis 1991), similar to what we observed. Both species spawn during spring and early summer sample periods (Siefert 1968; Mitzner 1991; Pope et al. 1996; Pope and Willis 1997), but black crappie often begin spawning before white crappie. The latter could explain why peak trap net CPS of black crappie in French Lake occurred in spring, but peak white crappie CPS occurred in early summer (Figures 19 and 20). Telemetry studies demonstrated that white crappie in a South Dakota lake were shallower and closer to shore in June than any other time of the year (Guy et al. 1994), and black crappie in another South Dakota lake and in a different year inhabited shallow water at night during May and June (Guy et al. 1992). The high trap net CPS of black crappie ≥ 13 cm at Cokato Lake in late summer likely resulted from recruitment of a strong year-class. Kelley (1953) also observed that recruitment of younger year-classes caused high trap net CPUE during late summer and fall in backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River.

Darters

Day electrofishing often resulted in higher CPS of darters than night electrofishing, but temporal patterns differed between species and lakes. Trap nets failed to capture any darters. The ANOVA on Iowa darter CPS detected a gear*sample period interaction ($F = 4.33$; $df = 3, 55$; $P = 0.0088$). Most Iowa darter were captured with day electrofishing in fall in Lake Erie (Figure 22). The ANOVA on

johnny darter CPS suggested gear*lake ($F = 6.66$; $df = 2, 151$; $P = 0.0018$) and sample period*lake ($F = 4.10$; $df = 6, 151$; $P = 0.0008$) interactions. Day CPS exceeded night CPS at Cokato Lake, but CPS was low and did not differ between gears in French and Granite lakes (Figure 22). Johnny darter CPS was also highest in spring at Cokato Lake. Iowa darter are active in water < 1.5 m deep during the day, but hide in rock crevices, holes, and in or under submerged trees at night (Emery 1973), and these diel patterns could have explained diel differences in electrofishing CPS. Conversely, johnny darter tend to inhabit shallow waters at higher densities at night than day (Emery 1973), but this behavior did not result in higher night CPS in our study lakes. Both species spawn in shallow water during spring, which could have influenced the high CPS of johnny darter in Cokato Lake, but increased CPS of Iowa darter in fall was probably due to recruitment of age-0 individuals, which also have a strong affinities for aquatic macrophytes (Becker 1983).

Yellow perch

Trap nets caught fewer yellow perch ≥ 13 cm than either type of electrofishing in all sample periods and lakes, but CPS did not differ between day and night electrofishing ($F = 3.64$; $df = 2, 479$; $P = 0.0272$; Figure 23). Catch per sample site of smaller yellow perch in day and night electrofishing did not differ ($F = 1.11$; $df = 1, 320$; $P = 0.2937$; Figure 23). Trap nets captured few yellow perch < 13 cm; thus these data were excluded from catch analysis for this length group. Catch per sample site of both length groups differed among sample periods in some lakes and not others ($F = 7.12$; $df = 15, 479$; $P < 0.0001$ for sample period*lake interaction for yellow perch ≥ 13 cm; $F = 4.60$; $df = 15, 320$; $P < 0.0001$ for sample period*lake interaction for yellow perch < 13 cm). Fall CPS of larger yellow perch in Erie and French lakes exceeded CPS in late summer, and spring CPS in Granite Lake exceeded CPS in late summer and fall (Figure 23). However, CPS of larger yellow perch did not differ among sample periods in the other three lakes. Spring and fall CPS of smaller yellow perch in French Lake exceeded

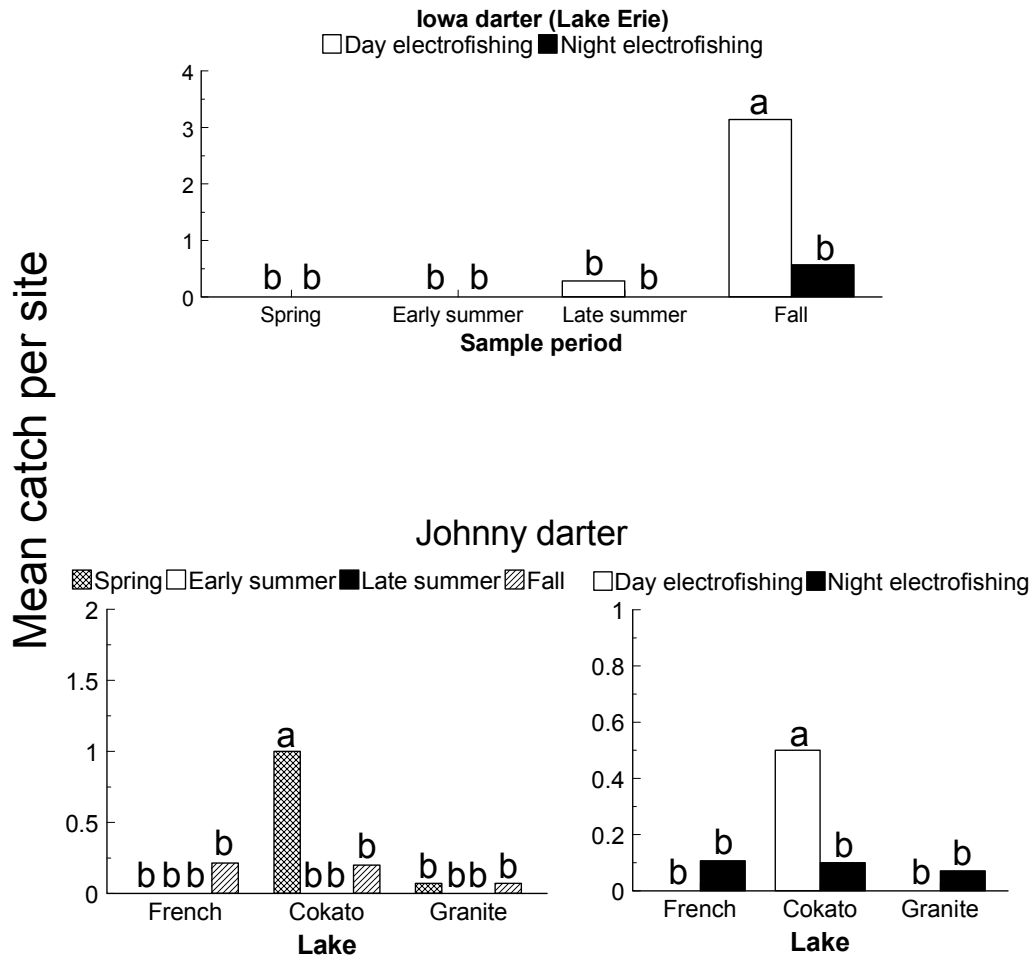


Figure 22. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing; CPS) of Iowa darter among four sample periods in Lake Erie, and mean CPS of johnny darter among four sample periods and between day and night electrofishing in three Minnesota lakes (bars with same letters within the Iowa darter graph and within lake groups in each johnny darter graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

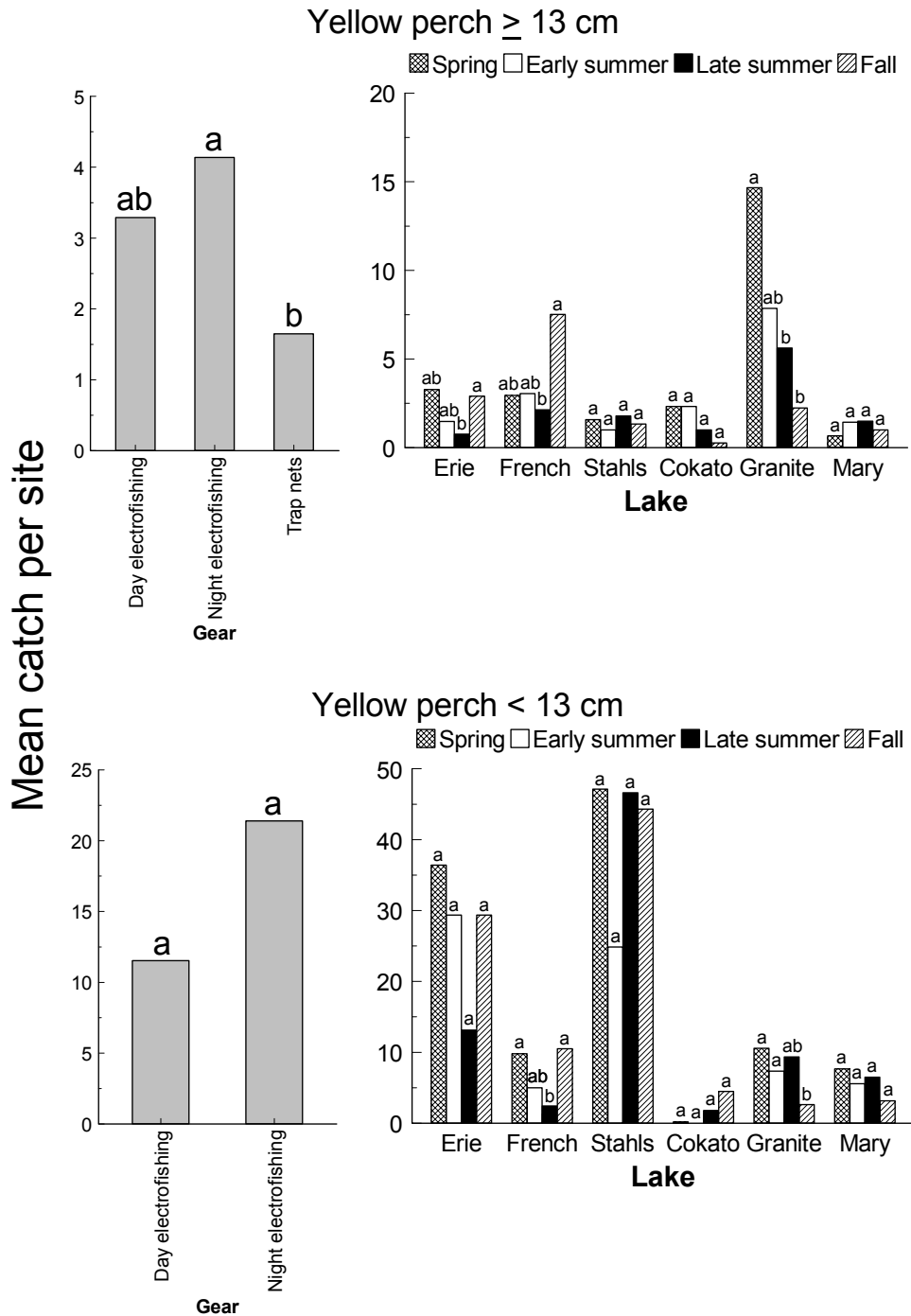


Figure 23. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of yellow perch ≥ 13 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets and four sample periods in six Minnesota lakes, mean CPS of yellow perch < 13 cm in day and night electrofishing and among four sample periods in six Minnesota lakes (bars with same letter within each graph on upper and lower left and within lake groups in each graph on upper and lower right denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

CPS in late summer, but CPS in spring and early summer at Granite Lake exceeded fall CPS (Figure 23).

Diel spatial distribution patterns of yellow perch tend to vary among lakes, which could explain similarities between day and night electrofishing CPS. Shoreline abundance of yellow perch in some Ontario lakes was higher at night than day (Emery 1973). Yellow perch 7 to 20 cm in a New York lake generally stayed in shoreline areas 1 to 7 m deep during day and night, but they actively moved and fed during the day and rested at night (Helfman 1979). McCarty (1990) observed that yellow perch in a Wisconsin lake moved to deeper offshore waters soon after sunrise and moved toward shallower areas by sunset. Pierce et al. (2001) reported that night electrofishing CPH exceeded day CPH by about 1.6 times in two Iowa lakes, but day catches in large beach seines exceeded night catches by about 3.7 times.

Temporal variation in yellow perch CPS in this study appears lake specific and was not strongly linked to effects from spawning or changes in density of aquatic macrophytes. Yellow perch spawn when water temperatures range from 7 to 11 °C (Carlander 1997), before most of our spring sampling began. Most yellow perch in a Michigan lake inhabited shallow water in May, but were offshore in midsummer and fall (Hall and Werner 1977). Distribution of juvenile yellow perch (age-0 individuals ≥ 25 mm) were strongly linked to distribution of their forage but not linked to distribution submergent macrophytes (Fisher et al. 1999). Keast (1978b) observed yellow perch in deep water near aquatic macrophytes but also in inshore open water areas. Elsewhere, temporal variation in trap net catches differed among lakes. Trap net CPUE of yellow perch ≥ 13 cm in a South Dakota lake peaked in late summer (August) and was low in spring, early summer and fall (Guy and Willis 1991), but CPUE in an Iowa lake was higher in early summer than in late summer (Stang and Hubert 1984).

Walleye

Night electrofishing and trap netting sampled walleye, but day electrofishing usu-

ally did not. Larger (≥ 25 cm) walleye were caught in sufficient numbers in four of the six lakes, and CPS differed inconsistently between gears, sample periods, and lakes ($F = 2.26$; $df = 18, 335$; $P = 0.0027$). Catch per sample site of larger walleye was highest in spring trap nets at Lake Mary, but CPS was low and did not differ among sample gears or sample periods in the other three lakes (Figure 24). Sufficient numbers of smaller (< 25 cm) walleye were caught only in French Lake, and only with day and night electrofishing. Electrofishing CPS of smaller walleye was higher in late summer and fall than in spring or early summer, and night CPS exceeded day CPS in late summer and fall but not in the other two periods ($F = 3.31$; $df = 3, 55$; $P = 0.0279$ for gear*sample period interaction; Figure 24).

Elsewhere, day electrofishing was also ineffective for sampling walleye, but night electrofishing and trap netting oftentimes captured high numbers of this species. In two Iowa lakes, no walleye were caught with day electrofishing, but about 8 walleye/hr were captured with night electrofishing (Pierce et al. 2001). In five south central Minnesota lakes, night CPH of walleye < 25 cm always exceeded and was about 7 times greater than day CPH in fall and spring (MNDNR unpublished data). Day electrofishing is probably ineffective because walleye are usually inactive, and usually do not inhabit shallow shoreline habitats during the day probably due to the species sensitivity to light (Ryder 1977; Kelso 1978; Helfman 1981). Helfman (1981) did observe some walleyes 40-60 cm resting in aquatic vegetation during the day, and many day captures of larger walleye in this study occurred in vegetated areas. Trap netting immediately after ice-out and before our spring sample periods can provide sufficient numbers of adult walleye for estimating population size (Rogers et al. 2003).

Spawning or changes in density of aquatic macrophytes did not affect temporal variation in CPS. Our spring sampling occurred after walleye spawned (water temperatures 1-10 °C)(Carlander 1997), and walleye are not strongly associated with submergent aquatic macrophytes. The highest trap net CPUE in a South Dakota lake occurred during

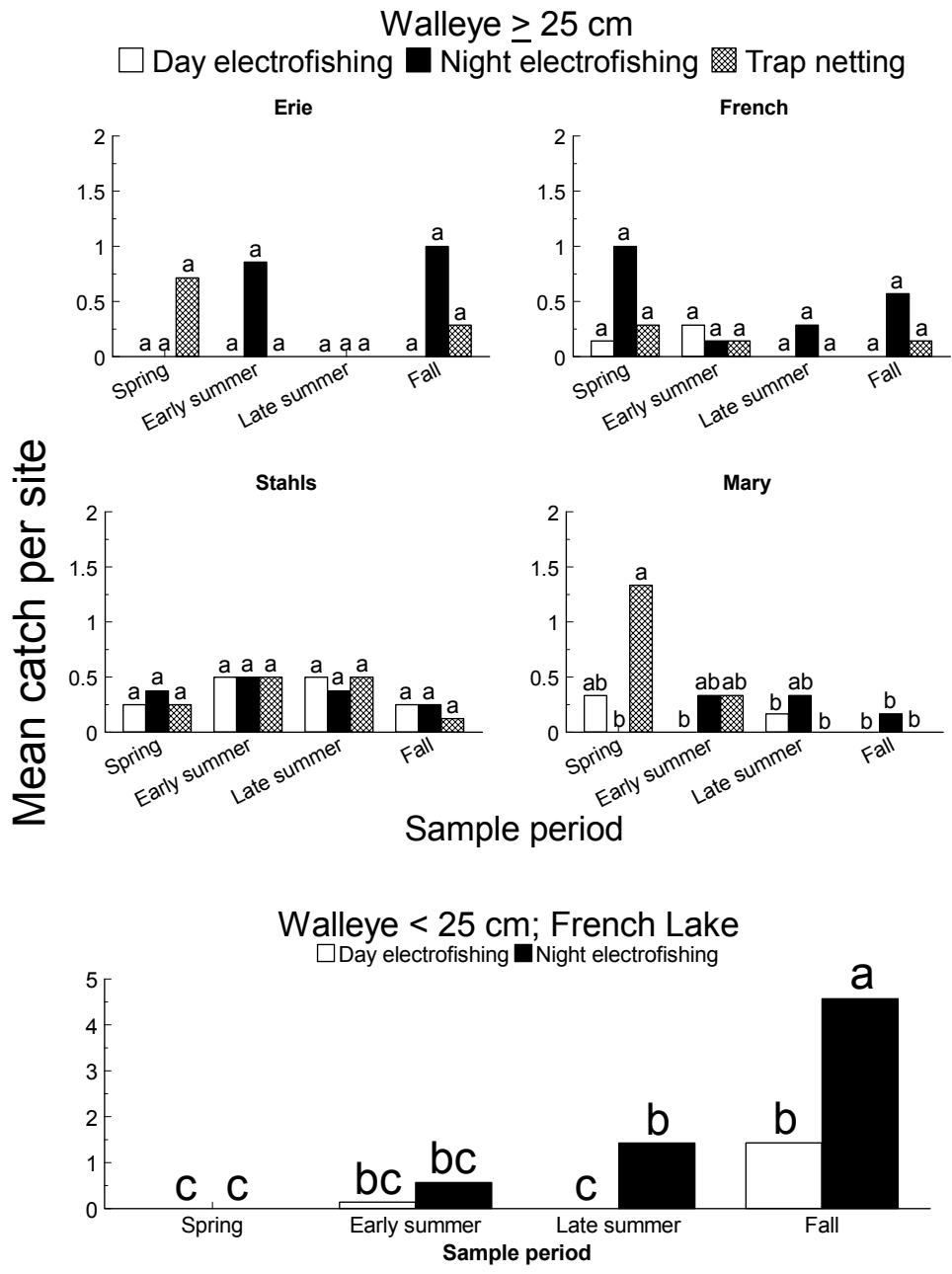


Figure 24. Mean catch per sample site (number per five minutes of electrofishing and number per trap net lift; CPS) of walleye ≥ 25 cm in day electrofishing, night electrofishing, and trap nets and four sample periods in four Minnesota lakes, and mean CPS of walleye < 25 cm in day and night electrofishing among four sample periods in French Lake, Minnesota (bars with same letter within each graph denote that CPS did not differ significantly, $P < 0.05$, Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests).

late October, after our fall sampling, but CPUE did not differ among the other months sampled (March through September)(Guy and Willis 1991). Increased electrofishing CPS of walleye < 25 cm from spring to fall in French Lake was probably caused by recruitment of age-0 individuals stocked as fry during spring.

Elsewhere, trap net and night electrofishing CPUE during some times of the year crudely reflects population density. Both trap net and night electrofishing CPH of adult walleye after ice-out increased nonlinearly with increasing population density among Wisconsin lakes (Rogers et al. 2003), and fall electrofishing CPH of fingerling walleye increased nonlinearly with increasing density among another set of Wisconsin lakes (Hansen et al. 2004). We do not know of any research relating CPUE in trap nets or night electrofishing and population density during other times of the year.

Management Implications

Although each of these gears capture high numbers of some species during certain sample periods, CPS data must be interpreted with caution. The gear*lake and gear*sample period*lake interactions suggest that CPS in one or more gears does not reflect density among lakes for many species. Electrofishing catchability in this study surely decreased with increasing population density because of gear saturation, especially for bluegill and yellow perch where night electrofishing CPH of these two species sometimes exceeded 600/hr. Other studies showed that night electrofishing catchability of both walleye and largemouth bass decreased with increasing density, yet the highest CPH of these two species was around 300/hr (McInerney and Cross 2000; Rogers et al. 2003; Hansen et al. 2004). Density effects on catchability were likely more pronounced because we attempted to capture all fish species rather than select for a few. Trap net catchability can also be affected by density. Rogers et al. (2003) reported decreasing trap net catchability with increasing density of adult walleye immediately after ice-out. Results of this study are probably applicable to most small lakes with some or high densities

of submergent macrophytes. However, in other types of lakes, species-selectivity and diel and temporal variation in CPS of some species would likely differ from that observed in this study.

Day or night electrofishing should be considered as alternatives for sampling littoral fish species during lake surveys and population assessments in Minnesota lakes. More and different species are captured with either type of electrofishing than with trap nets during the early and late summer sample periods, which is when surveys and population assessments are done (MNDNR 1993). Furthermore, smaller fishes in habitats comprised of aquatic macrophytes, soft substrates, and underwater snags are sampled more effectively with electrofishing than with seines, the only other gear frequently used to sample smaller fishes in Minnesota lakes (MNDNR 1993).

Managers interested in sunfish fisheries, evaluating stocking success of sport fish, or developing indices of biotic integrity (IBI) should also consider electrofishing in addition to other gears. Electrofishing is less size-selective than trap netting, which is the gear of choice for monitoring sunfish populations (MNDNR 1993). Thus, more accurate estimates of size and age structure of sunfishes can be obtained with electrofishing than trap netting. Yellow perch < 10 cm are primary forage for walleye in Minnesota lakes, and yellow perch CPUE in experimental gill nets is one of several criteria used in decisions regarding walleye stocking (Davis 1975; Johnson and Osborn 1977; MNDNR 1996). However, median lengths of yellow perch caught in the smallest mesh (1.9 cm bar) of the gill nets used in all Minnesota lakes sampled in 1994 to 1999 was 15 cm, and less than 0.03 percent were less than 10 cm (P.C. Jacobson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, personal communication). Few yellow perch in many lakes actively stocked with walleye reach 15 cm TL, and many of these lakes are also weedy which reduces effectiveness of seining (MNDNR unpublished data). Consequently, incorrect conclusions about yellow perch populations have been made, which resulted in less than optimum management decisions (MNDNR unpublished data). Lastly,

day and night electrofishing captured many of the same fish species as seines and backpack electrofishing used to develop fish-based IBIs for Minnesota lakes (Drake and Pereira 2002). Therefore, with some adjustments, data from shoreline electrofishing could be used to develop meaningful IBIs.

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