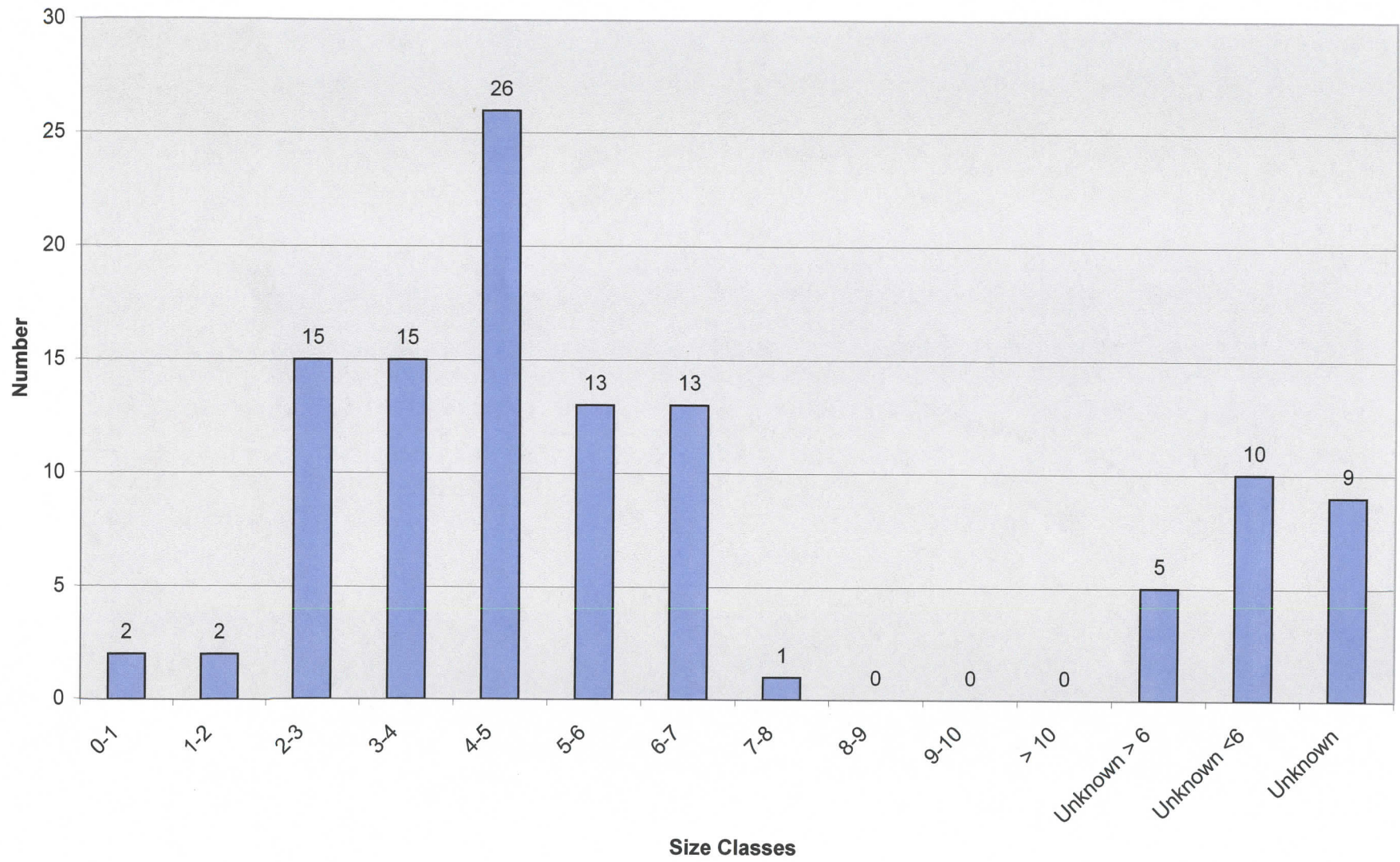


American Alligator (similarity in appearance): We completed the alligator survey on 17 August. Biologist Lewis, Assistant Manager Harris and Volunteer Wayne Harris participated and counted 111 alligators. This is an increase over the last survey completed in 2002 when only 66 alligators were counted. The survey was cancelled last year because we could not afford overtime pay for maintenance staff to operate the airboat during the survey. From this point on we will conduct the survey every other year instead of annually.

Ref. Mgr. TP
Asst. Mgr.
Biologist Red
Off. Asst.
File

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| Alligator Survey 8/17/04 | | | | |
| Weather: Clear and Calm | | | | |
| Participants: Thom Lewis, Monica Harris, Wayne Harris | | | | |
| | Route 1 | Route 2 | Route 3 | Sub Total |
| Estimated Length | St. Vincent Creek, Lake 1-3 | Lake 4 | Oyster Pond | |
| 0-1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 1-2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 2-3 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 15 |
| 3-4 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 15 |
| 4-5 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 26 |
| 5-6 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 13 |
| 6-7 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 13 |
| 7-8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 8-9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9-10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| > 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown > 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Unknown <6 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 10 |
| Unknown | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Total | | | | 111 |

Alligator Survey 8/17/04



INVENTORY PLAN

Refuge: St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge (SVNWR)

Procedure: Number 6

Species: American Alligator (Alligator mississippiensis)

Title: Alligator Survey

I. PURPOSE

This survey will begin in 1986 to establish baseline data from which annual changes and long term trends in the population status of the American alligator can be detected. The raw data will be used to track the population dynamics of refuge alligators. The data will also be converted to a refuge population estimate for RMIS Report purposes.

II. PROCEDURE AND DATA ANALYSIS

A. Procedure

The count should be made during the dark of the moon and should begin about one hour after sunset. The observer should adjust survey speed to be certain that animals are not over-looked. The number of alligators seen will be tabulated by one-foot size classes. The distance from the nose to the eye in inches provides a reliable estimate of total length in feet. One count of the three survey lines will be scheduled each year during the third week in August. The count should be made when the temperature is above 70°F. Equipment needed includes: airboat, Q-beam light, pickup truck, insect repellent and data sheet.

The first survey route will be the channel running from the St. Vincent Creek water control structure to Lake 3, and the edges of Lakes 1, 2, and 3. The survey will start at the St. Vincent Creek water control structure and end at the E-Road water control structure. This will be a dead-end route and alligators will be counted on the first pass only. The second route will be the edges of Lake 4. The route will begin at the E-Road water control structure and run counter-clockwise around Lake 4. These routes will be surveyed from the airboat. A two-person team will be required-boat operator and observer. The observer will record observations on the data sheet provided.

The third route will be the edges of Oyster Pond. The survey will begin at the B-Road water control structure and end at the Outlet Creek water control structure. This route will be surveyed from a pickup truck or airboat if water level permits. A two-person team is required-truck driver and observer. The observer will record observations on the data sheet provided.

B. Data Analysis

Data analysis will be a summarization of data to include size classes and trends in population dynamics. (See Appendix A for data conversion for RMIS Report Purposes).

C. Data Filing

All data will be filed in the refuge files under WILDLIFE-Alligator.

III. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Hearing protection will be worn during airboat operation.

IV. MANPOWER AND COSTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Personnel (16 staff hours) | \$176.00 |
| Other equipment (fuel, batteries) | 50.00 |
| TOTAL | \$226.00 |

Prepared by: Terry Carroll Date: 8/26/86

Reviewed by: Wendell Meyer Date: 10/20/86

Refuge Approval: James L. Halloman Date: 11/17/86

Regional Approval: But A. Gabriel Date: 11/21/86

ALLIGATOR SURVEY FIELD DATA SHEET

Survey Route _____

Observer _____

Date _____

Weather: _____

| | Route 1 (lake 1-3) | Route 2 (lake 4) | Route 3 (OP) |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 0-1 | | | |
| 1-2 | | | |
| 2-3 | | | |
| 3-4 | | | |
| 4-5 | | | |
| 5-6 | | | |
| * Unknown < 6 | | | |
| 6-7 | | | |
| 7-8 | | | |
| 8-9 | | | |
| 9-10 | | | |
| Over 10 | | | |
| * Unknown > 6 | | | |

REMARKS: (include any changes in vegetative cover)

| Lake | Initial Eye count | Ending Eye count. |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 11 | 10 |
| 2 | 5 | 5 |
| 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 | 19 | 16 |
| OP | 36 | 33 |

Canal - 2

(2) uc - lake 1
 (13) lake 1
 (7) lake 2
 (5) lake 2-3 canal
 (6) lake 3
 (22) lake 4
 56 OP

* Observed, but could not approach to identify size. Classify as less or greater than 6.

ALLIGATOR SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET

Observer T. Lewis W. Harris M. Harris Date 2/17/04

| | PONDS 1-3 | POND 4 | OYSTER POND | TOTAL |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| WEATHER: | <u>Clear + calm</u> | | | |
| | ¹ 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 0-1 | ^c 1 | | | 2 |
| 1-2 | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 2-3 | | 1 | 1 | 15 |
| 3-4 | 1 | 1 | | 15 |
| 4-5 | | | | 26 |
| 5-6 | | | ^c 1 | 13 |
| * Unknown < 6 | | ^c 1 | 1 1 | 10 |
| 6-7 | | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| 7-8 | | | 1 | 1 |
| 8-9 | | | | 0 |
| 9-10 | | | | 0 |
| Over 10 | | | | 0 |
| * Unknown > 6 | ^c 1 | ^c | | 5 |

REMARKS: (include any changes in vegetative cover)

9 ~~||||~~ unknown

Lake 3 - one unknown length

Lake 4 - unknown length - ||||

OP - unknown length - ||||

^c = found in canal

Total |||

* Observed, but could not approach to identify size. Classify as less or greater than 6.

