

Fishing through the Pandemic in Nebraska

Christopher Chizinski
and Matt Gruntorad

*Pathways:: Recruitment, Retention,
Reactivation*



The image is a COVID-19 social distancing flyer from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. It features a blue background with white and yellow text. At the top left is a white tree icon. In the top right corner is the NJ logo with the text "NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF Fish and Wildlife". The word "SOCIAL DISTANCING" is written in large, bold, white letters across the center. Below this, there are four sections with icons and text: "FISH LOCAL" (location pin icon), "BE SAFE" (key and person icon), "BE ADAPTIVE" (clock icon), and "STAY HOME" (house icon). A blue banner at the bottom reads "6 Feet of Social Distance" with a line drawing of two people separated by a fishing rod's length. At the bottom right is a QR code labeled "TROUT STOCKED LOCATIONS".

COVID-19

SOCIAL DISTANCING

FISH LOCAL
Stay close to home. Keep your fishing trip short.
Avoid high-traffic destinations.

BE SAFE
Avoid crowds and groups. Keep a distance of **6** feet or
more from others, including staff stocking fish.
Advise children not to wander into the personal space of
other anglers.

BE ADAPTIVE
Move quickly through parking lots and paths.
If crowded, choose a different fishing location or time to visit.

STAY HOME
If you're not feeling well, stay home.

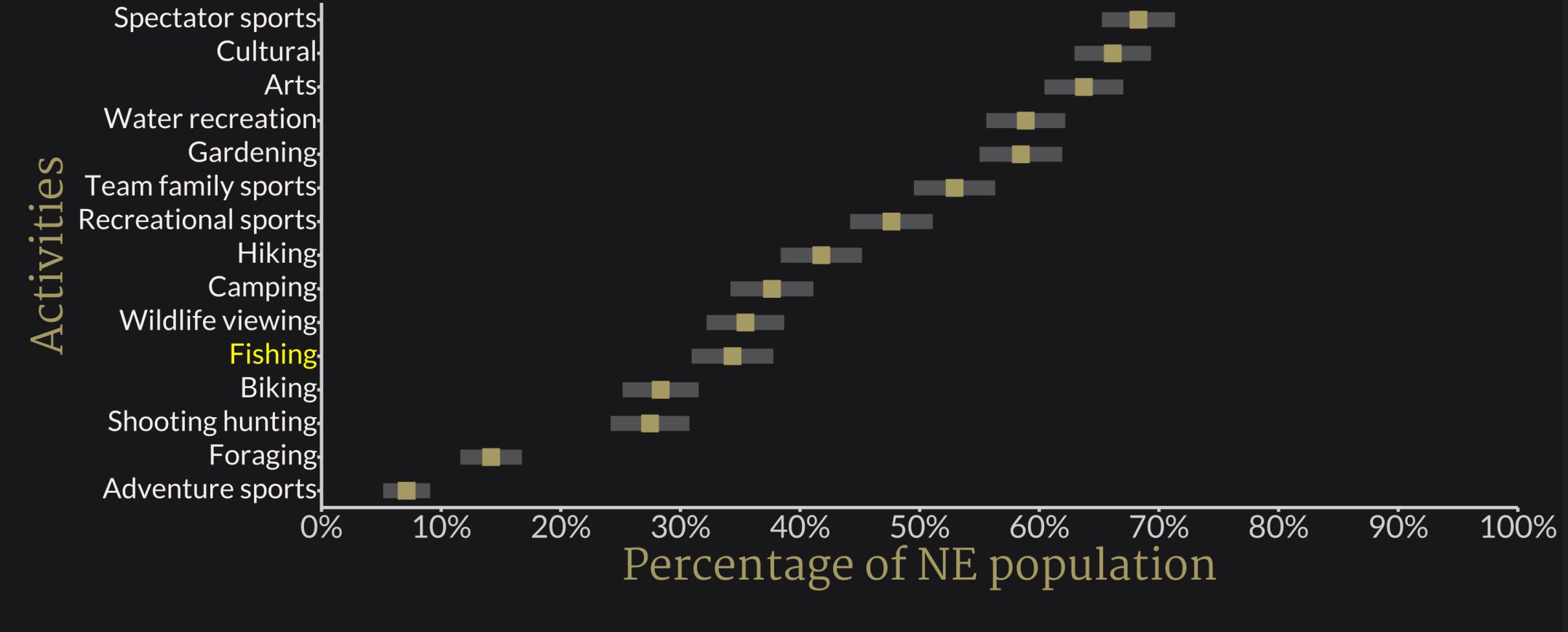
6 Feet of Social Distance

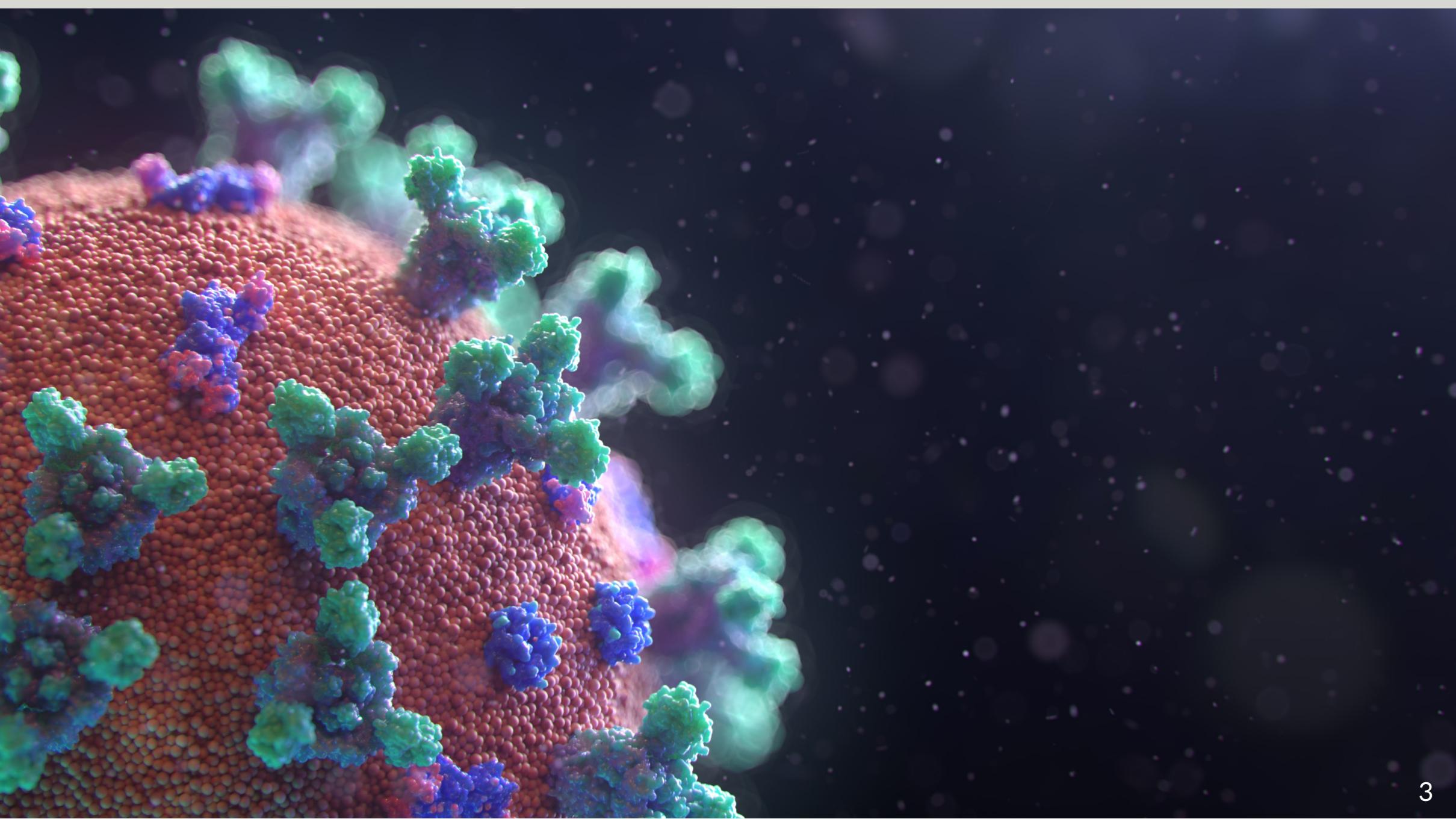
- ONE FISHING ROD LENGTH -

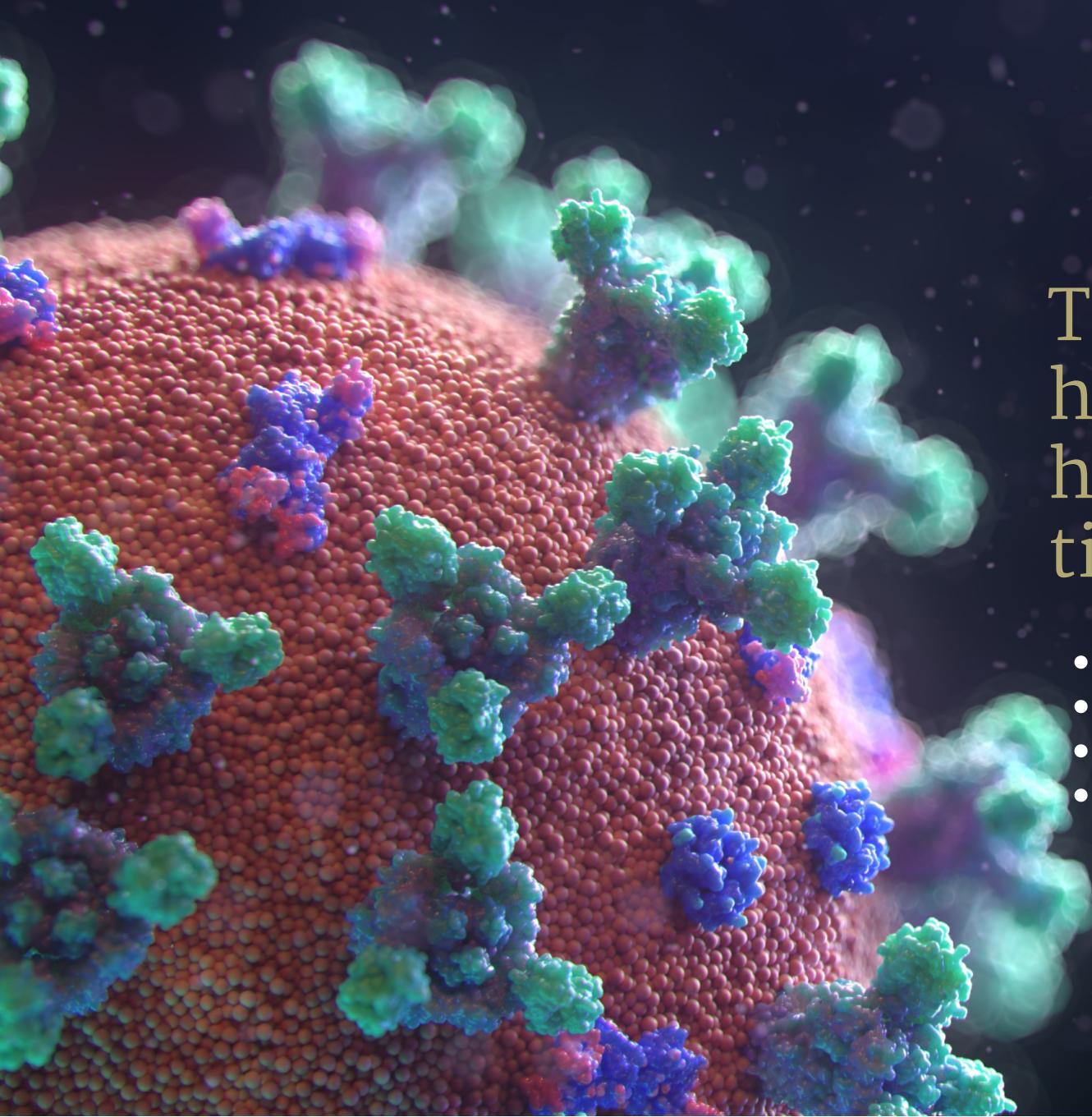
For additional information visit:
www.NJFishandWildlife.com

TROUT STOCKED LOCATIONS

Recreational budget in 2019







The Covid pandemic had profound effects on how we used our spare time

- travel ceased or restricted
- canceled many of our usual activities
- changed our work schedules
- disrupted gathering in groups

How did the pandemic influence
fishing in Nebraska?

Fishing in Nebraska

Everyone 16 and older needs a permit to fish legally in Nebraska.

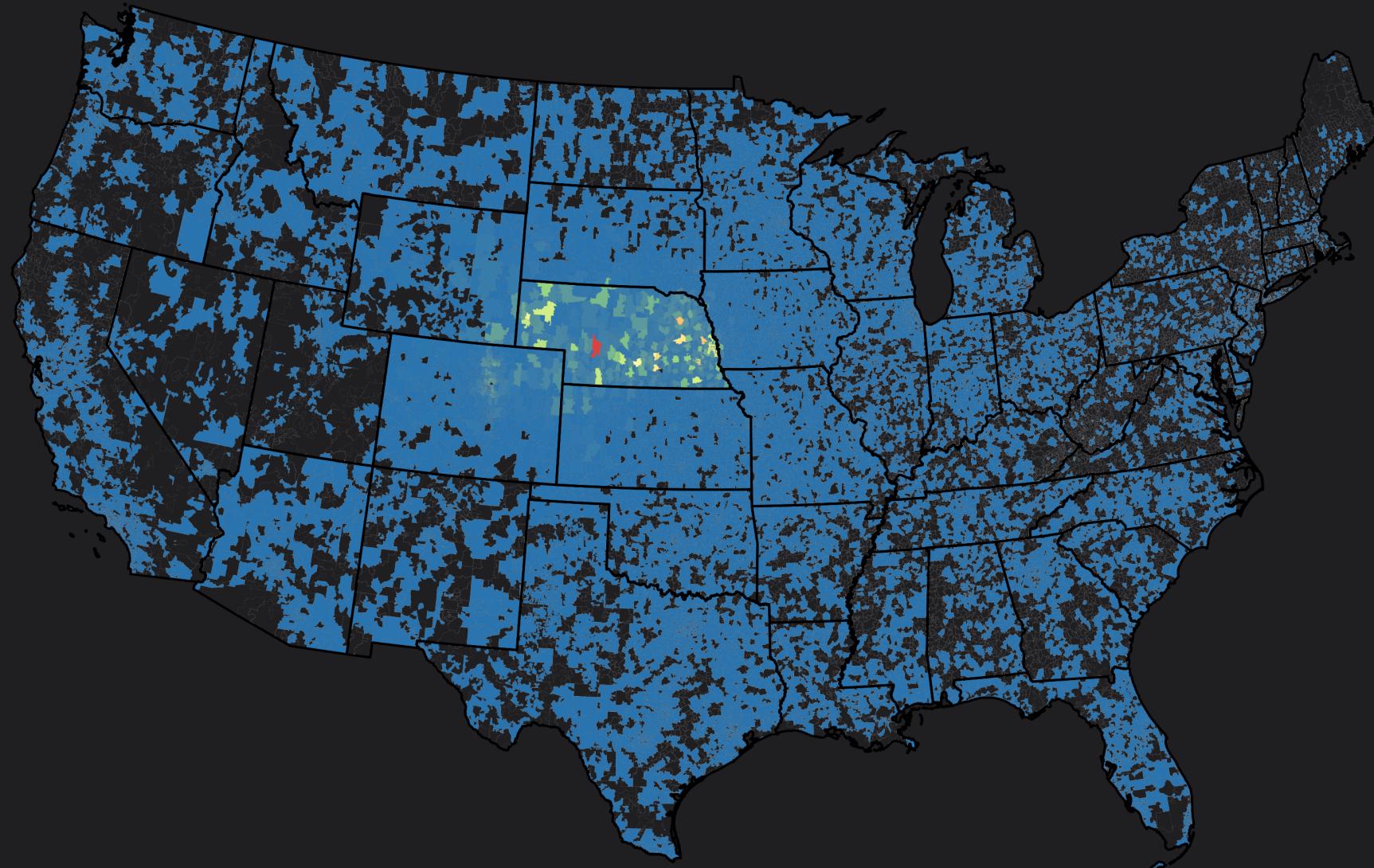
Many options available:

- resident and non-resident
- single-day to lifetime permits
- can be combined with hunting permits

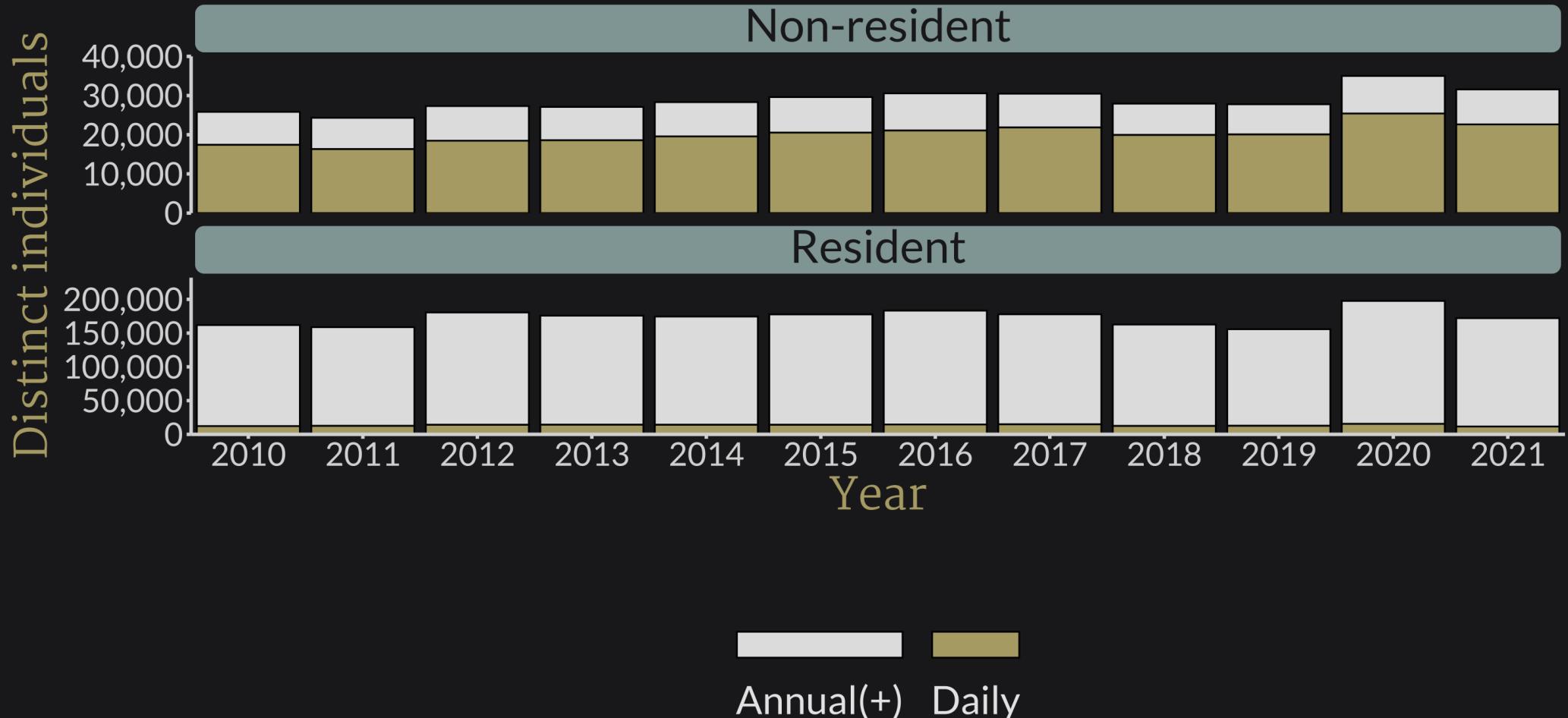
Permit purchases can help inform the *who*, *what*, *when*, and *where* of fishing in Nebraska



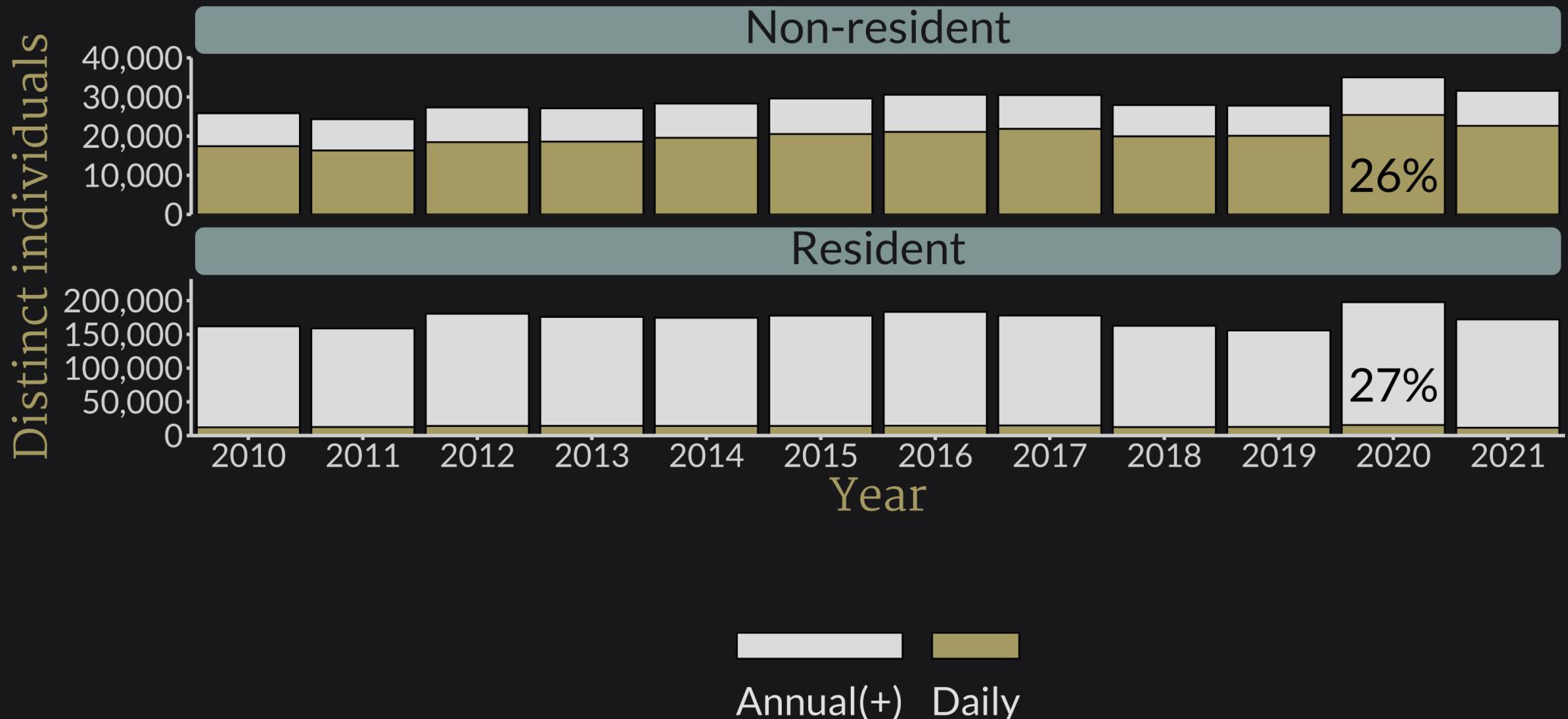
Anglers fish NE from all over



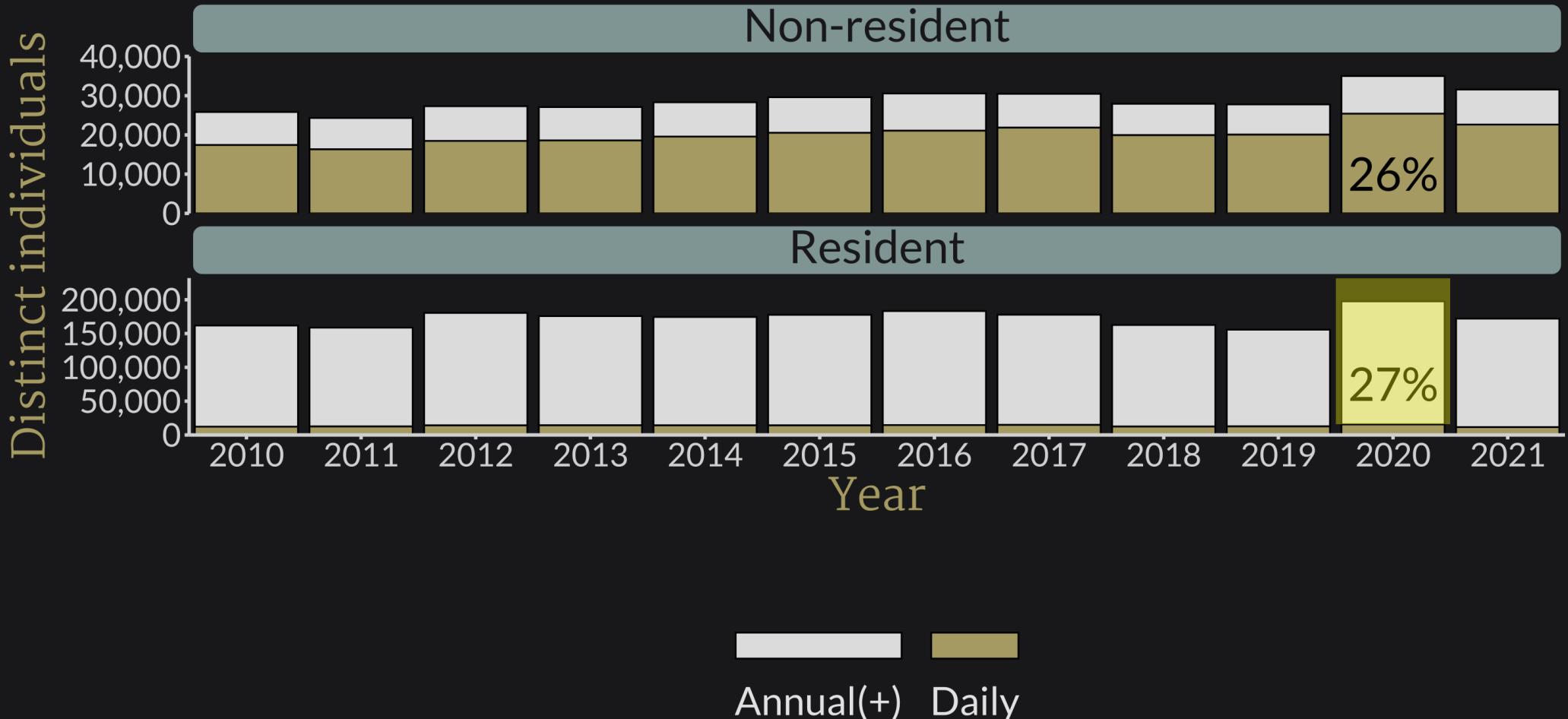
Trends across the years



Trends across the years



Trends across the years





Kearney
SANDHILL CRANE
CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Who were these additional
anglers that showed up in 2020?

Classifying anglers into the 3 R's



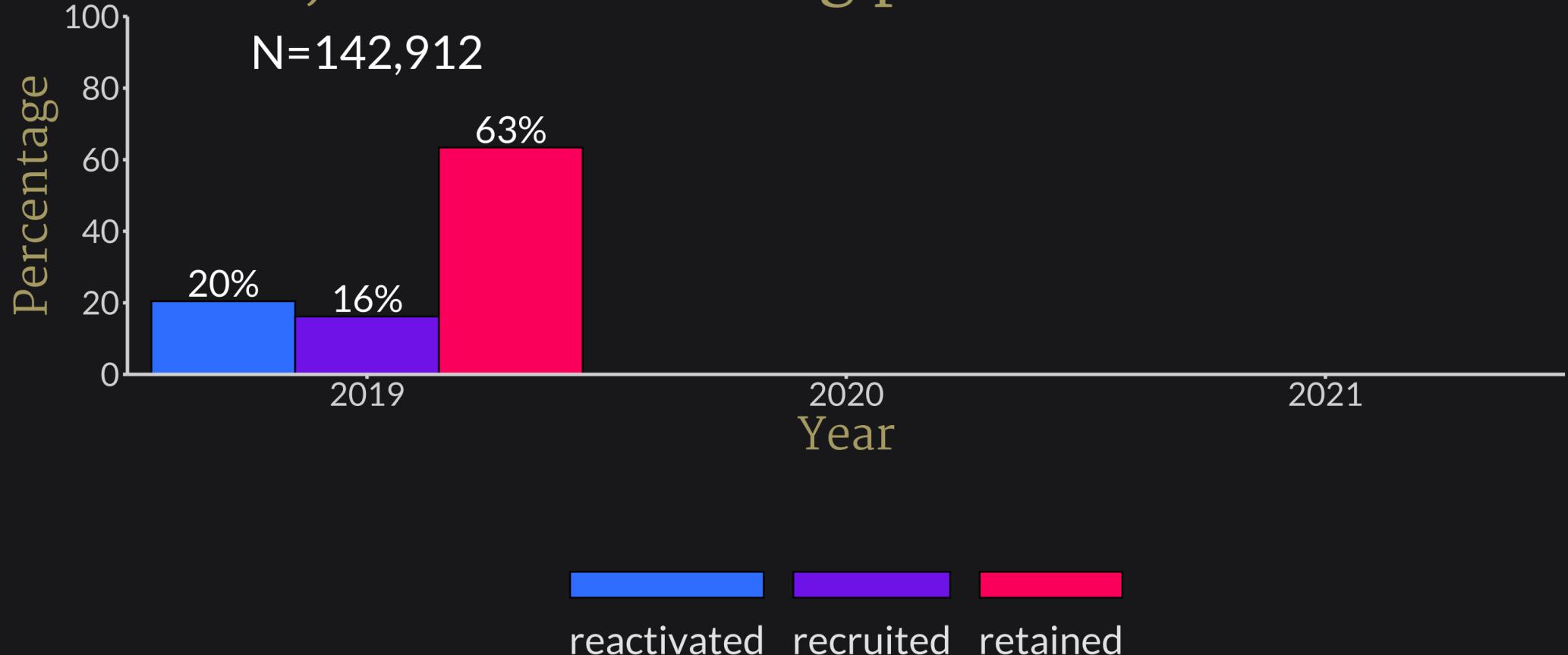
Recruited

Reactivated

Retained

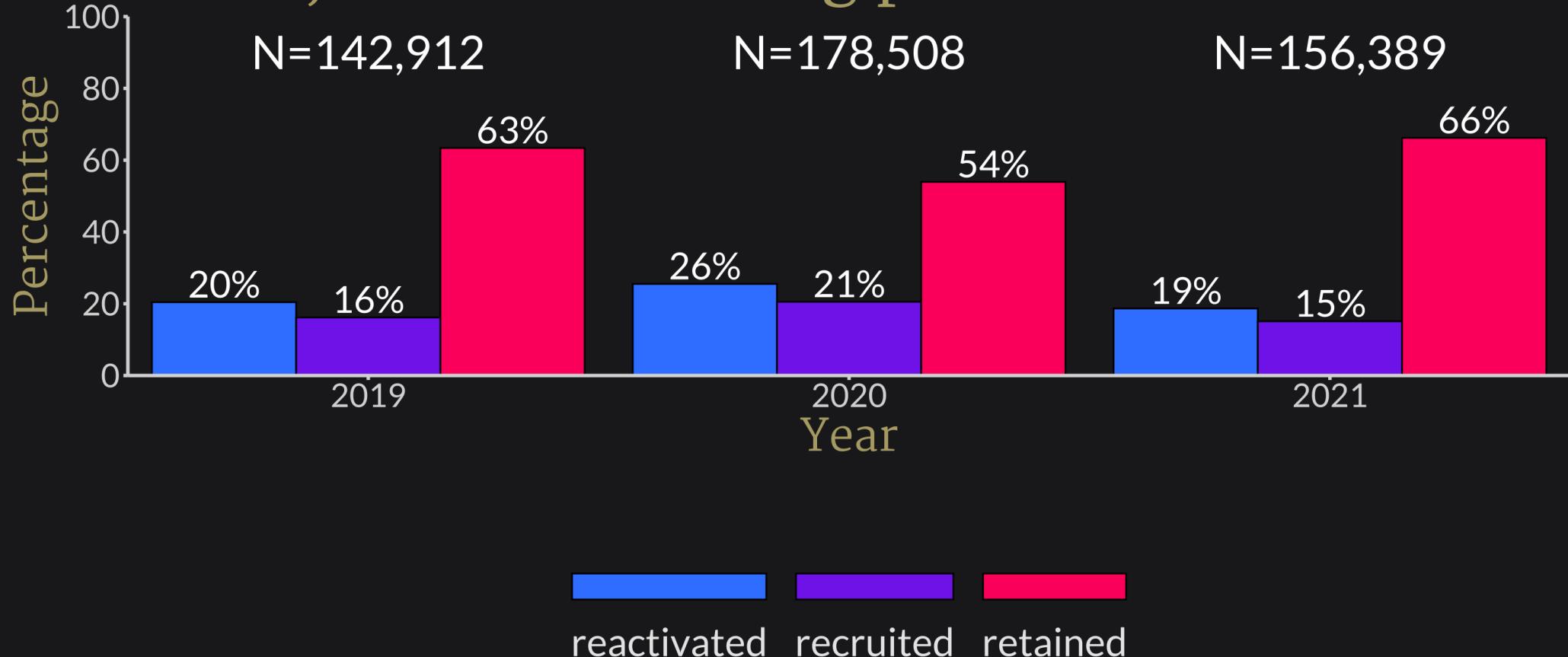
R3 types by year

Resident, annual+ fishing permits

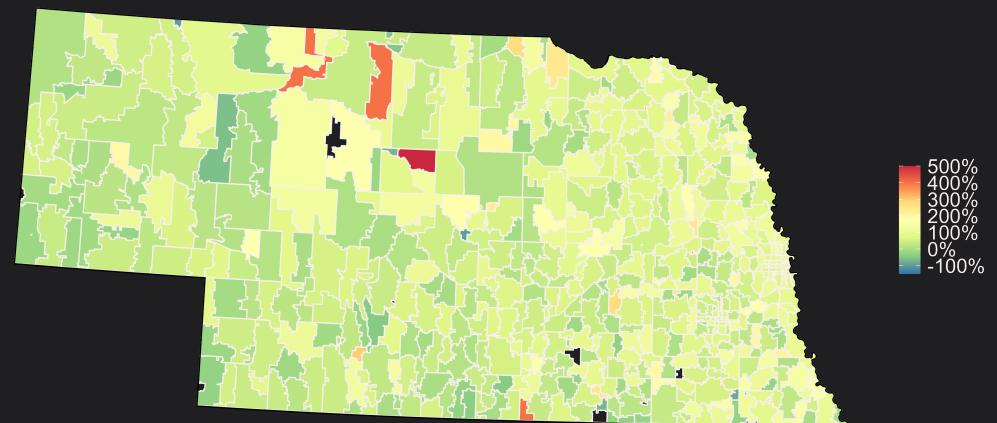
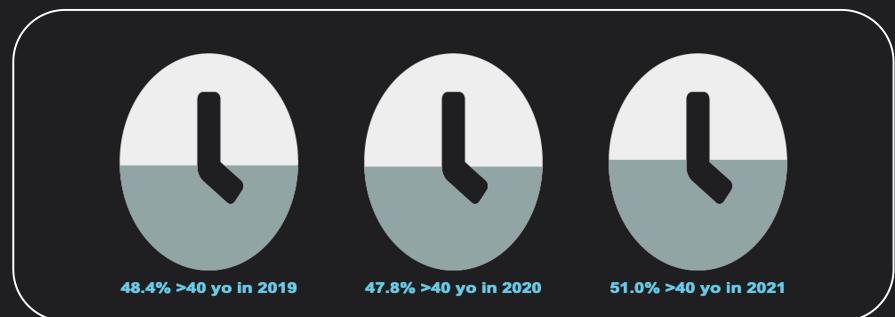


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Angler characteristics



The *whys*

Broadly, there were no large shifts in the characteristics of who was fishing

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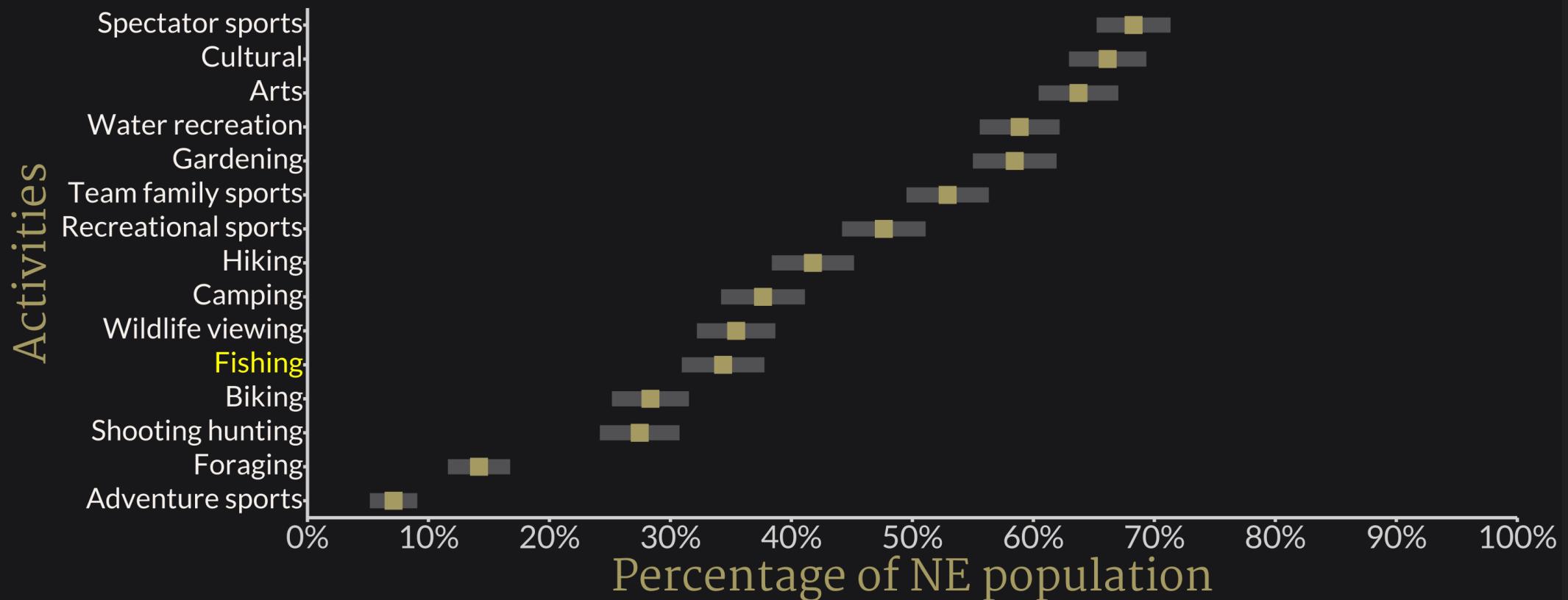


New anglers were sent a survey that sought to get at the *whys*

The most important *whys*



Disruption of the recreational landscape



Take home points

- Covid pandemic brought a record number of new anglers to NE waters
 - Primarily those that had lapsed
 - Many stayed in 2021
- Positive for funding sportfish restoration and aquatic habitat improvements
- Many of the reasons *why* were similar to other outdoor recreational activities: family and friends, outdoors, nature
 - The pandemic decreased the amount of competing activities



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cchizinski2[at]unl.edu | humandimensions.unl.edu