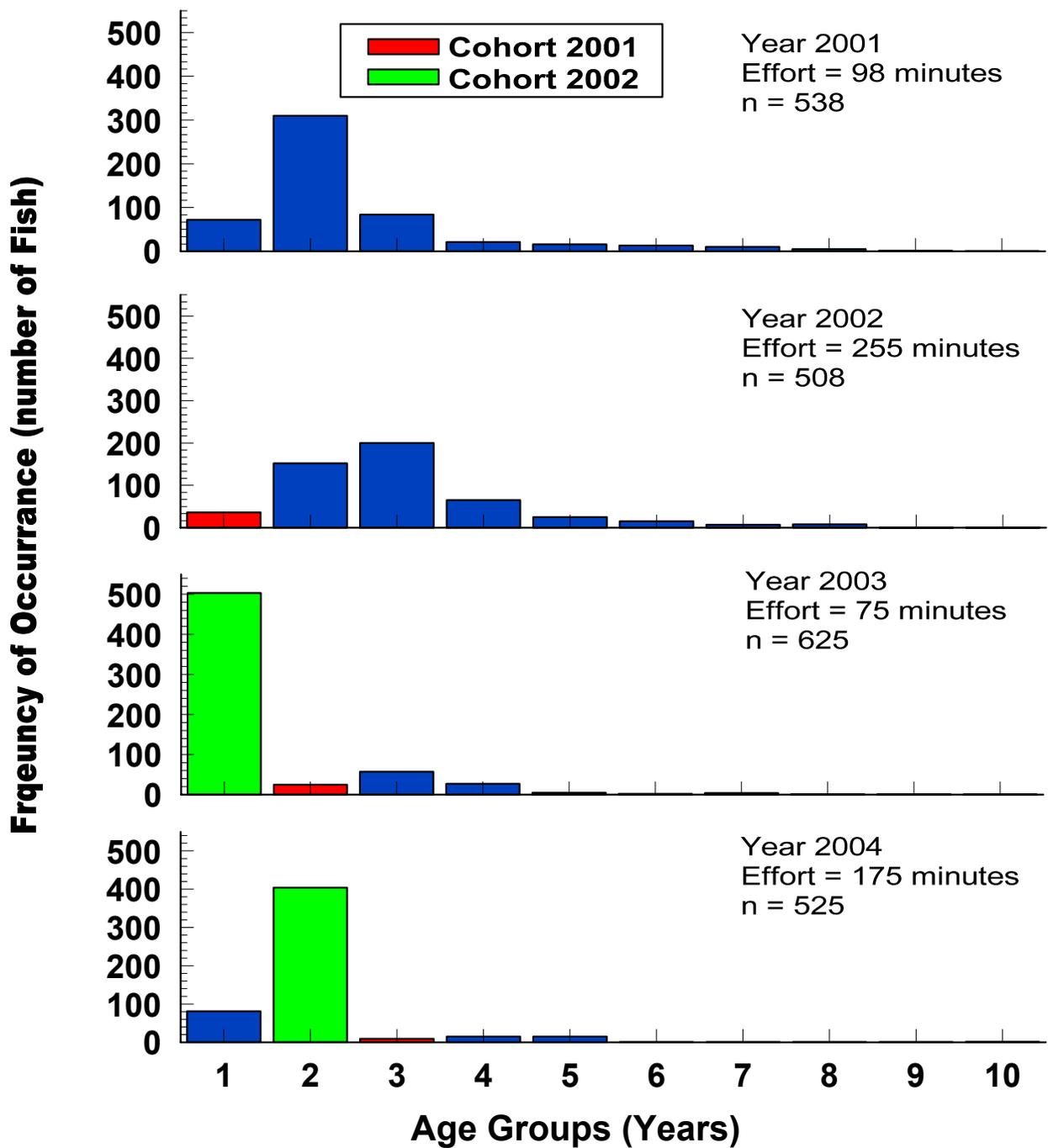


Black Crappie Data

2004

Here is the analysis of the black crappie population for the past 4 years. Note that the 2001 year-class is very weak while the 2002 year-class is very strong. Also note that the number of year-classes represented in the 2004 sample is only 5 different cohorts while prior years consisted of 8 to 9 different year-classes. Another similarity to the largemouth bass population is the weak recruitment of the 2003 spawn (one year old fish). Weak recruitment results in diminished cohort representation, which leads one to question the future of the black crappie population.

Although we cannot statistically prove the relationship of year-class strength to water levels and vegetation biomass at this time, visual examination of the data does lead one to question the effects that these parameters have on cohort strength.



Comparison of cohort contribution to annual catch of black crappie collected via largemesh trawl in Lake Okeechobee, January of each year.