

Rose Valley Lake

Lycoming County

May 2011 Trapnetting Survey



[Rose Valley Lake](#) is a 389 acre lake about 15 miles north of Williamsport, Lycoming County. The lake is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is managed and maintained by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for public fishing and boating. Boating is restricted to manually propelled, wind propelled boats or those using electric motors only. Largemouth and smallmouth bass at Rose Valley Lake are managed under [Big Bass program special regulations](#) while all other species are managed under [statewide regulations](#). Walleye and muskellunge fingerlings are stocked annually.

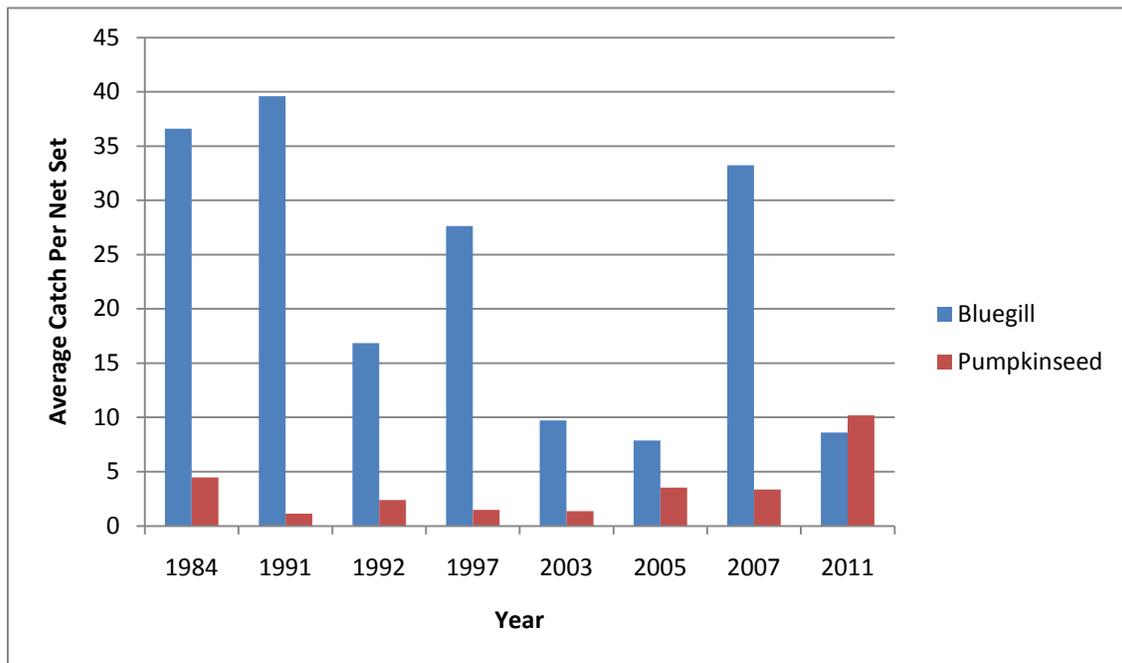
During the week of May 22, 2011, personnel from Fisheries Management Area 3 staff conducted a survey of panfish and walleye populations using 15 trapnet sets. Each net was fished for approximately 24 hours for a total effort of 336 hours. Eleven fish species were captured including; pumpkinseeds, bluegills, yellow perch, black crappies, rock bass, brown and yellow bullheads, walleye, chain pickerels, largemouth bass, and golden shiners.

Table 1: Length frequency distribution of fish captured at Rose Valley Lake during the week of May 22, 2011.

Species	Number Caught	Size Range (inches)
Pumpkinseed	177	5 - 9
Bluegill	140	3 - 10
Yellow Perch	39	6 - 14
Black Crappie	19	10
Rock Bass	14	6 - 10
Brown Bullhead	118	8 - 18
Yellow Bullhead	5	7 - 12
Walleye	28	15 - 27
Chain Pickerel	9	12 - 23
Largemouth bass	2	9 - 13

Rose Valley Lake has long been a favorite destination for anglers seeking quality sunfish (bluegills and pumpkinseeds) and sunfish were the most numerous fish captured in trapnets. The majority (89%) of sunfish captured ranged in size from 7 to 9 inches. Many of these fish were gravid and preparing to spawn. While overall abundance of sunfish is lower than when the lake was last surveyed, pumpkinseed catches were the highest ever recorded at the lake.

Figure 1: The average catch of sunfish (bluegills and pumpkinseeds) per trapnet at Rose Valley Lake from 1984 to the present.





A robust, pre-spawn female pumpkinseed captured at Rose Valley Lake during the week of May 22, 2011.



A 10-inch male bluegill captured during trapnetting at Rose Valley Lake.

The 2011 survey also yielded good catches of walleye (28) and yellow perch (39) which was surprising considering the late spring sampling. Walleye and yellow perch are much more vulnerable to trap netting earlier in the spring, shortly after ice out when they tend to congregate near shore for spawning. The yellow perch captured ranged in size from 6 to 14 inches with most being between 9 and 12 inches. The walleye captured during the survey ranged in size from 15 to 27 inches.



A large yellow perch captured during trapnetting at Rose Valley Lake during the 2011 survey.

In addition to the above catch, 89 golden shiners, 5 yellow bullheads, 14 rock bass, 9 chain pickerel, and two largemouth bass were also captured during trap net operations. Largemouth bass are abundant at the lake, but not vulnerable to trap net gear. Sampling to assess largemouth bass abundance will take place using other techniques.

--Andy Leakey, Area 3 Fisheries Biologist Aide