

Bradys Run Lake

Beaver County

Spring 2017 Lake Survey



Fisheries Management Area 1 conducted trap net (May 9 - 12, 2017) and night electrofishing (May 25, 2017) surveys of Bradys Run Lake in spring 2017. Bradys Run Lake's most popular fishery is derived from adult Trout stocked each spring, plus a winter adult Trout stocking for ice angling. However, the purpose of our survey was to monitor the recovery of self-sustaining warmwater fish populations following the draining, dredging, refilling, and re-stocking of warmwater fish in 2010-11.

Bradys Run Lake has been stocked with fingerling Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie, White Crappie, Bluegill and Channel Catfish from the PFBC hatchery system. It also been stocked with adult fish of the same species salvaged from other lakes that were being drawn down at that time. Further, to hasten population recovery, the Beaver County Parks Department has purchased fish from private hatcheries and stocked them in the lake. All species are managed under Commonwealth Inland regulations, except for Black Bass, which are managed under Big Bass regulations.

Trap Net Sampling

The results of our trap net survey are presented in Table 1. Our trap net assessment catch revealed a 'good news – bad news' situation. The good news is that most of the species we've stocked have become firmly established in Bradys Run Lake and can sustain themselves through natural reproduction. The bad news is that very few quality size individuals were

present. Crappies and Bluegills were highly abundant, but only a very small percentage were over quality size. We caught a low number of Channel Catfish, so the PFBC will continue to stock fingerlings and monitor the development of this fishery during future surveys.

Gizzard Shad, Common Carp, White Suckers and Yellow Bullheads survived the draining of the lake by taking refuge in Bradys Run and recolonized the lake when it was refilled. All are reproducing in the lake. Gizzard Shad were abundant and our attempts to remove and minimize abundance do not appear to have succeeded.

Table 1. Number captured and size ranges for fish captured in trap nets in Bradys Run Lake, 2017.

Species	Number caught	Size Range (Inches)
Black Crappies	605	3 - 9
Bluegills	356	2 - 7
Channel Catfish	16	10 - 15
Common Carp	2	N/A
Gizzard Shad	140	N/A
Golden Shiners	1	N/A
Pumpkinseeds	6	2 - 4
White Crappies	305	3 - 10
White Suckers	127	N/A
Yellow Bullheads	25	7 - 11

Night Electrofishing

Our night electrofishing for Largemouth Bass was the brightest spot of the survey (Table 2). The Bass are reproducing and growing well, apparently utilizing the abundant forage of juvenile Bluegills, White Suckers and Gizzard Shad. The catch rate of 88 Bass per hour is excellent and their size distribution was good. It looks like the 2015 and 2016, year classes are both abundant and will improve the quality of the fishery as they mature in the next few years.

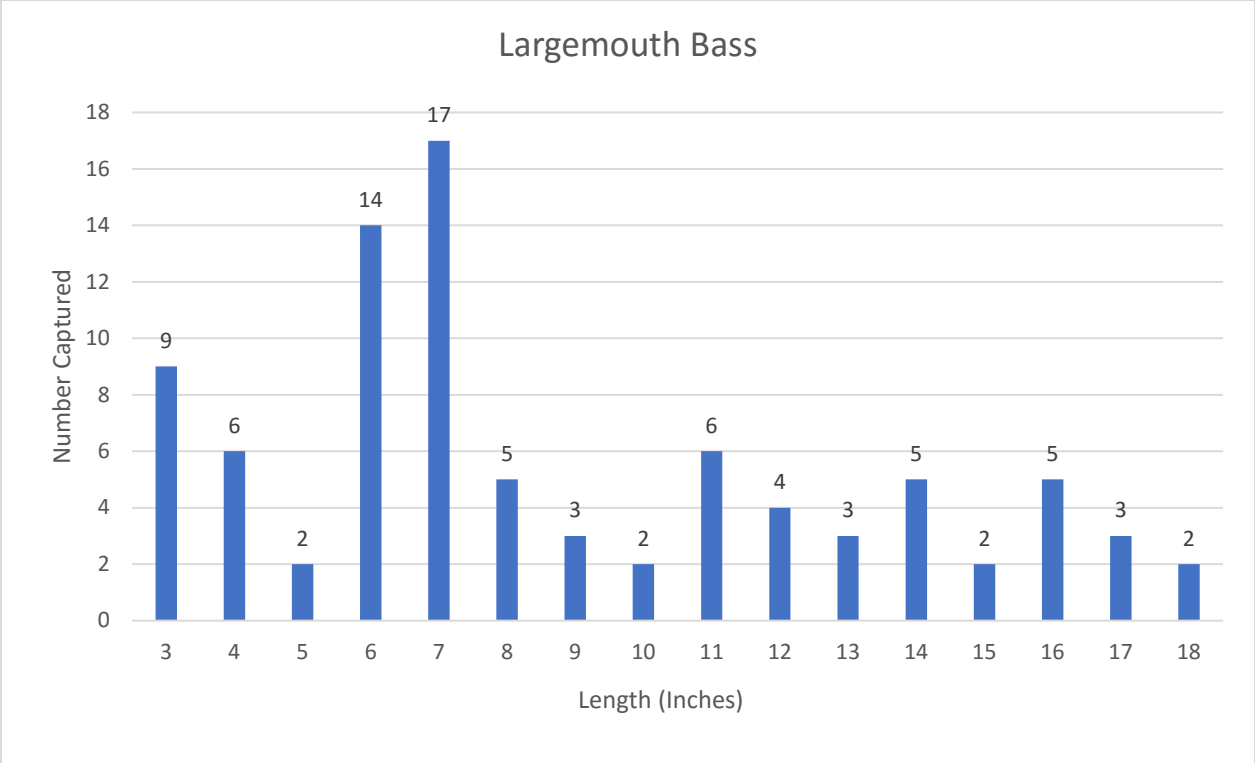


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass captured in Bradys Run Lake, May 25, 2017.

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