

# **Hills Creek Lake**

## **Tioga County**

### **Trap Net Survey – Electrofishing Survey 2015**

Area 4 biologists conducted a general inventory of Hills Creek Lake, Hills Creek State Park, in the spring of 2015. The sampling consisted of nine trap nets fished from May 12 through May 15 and six night electrofishing sites on the evening of May 19. Night electrofishing targeted Largemouth Bass while the trap nets targeted all other species.

Sampling produced 661 fish of 11 different species (Table 1). Bluegill was the most numerous species sampled in trap nets. We caught 337 Bluegill measuring between 4 and 9.9 inches long. Numbers of Black Crappie and Yellow Perch were lower than might be expected but that was because, for the most part, these species had completed spawning for the year. Trap nets are most effective at water temperatures when fish exhibit spawning movement toward and along the shorelines.

Night electrofishing produced 51 Largemouth Bass ranging from 4 to 20.9 inches long (Figure 1). The heaviest Largemouth Bass weighed 4.6 pounds. Night electrofishing catch per unit effort (CPUE) values were: 50.6/hour for total catch; 25.6/hour for Bass  $\geq$  12 inches; and 8.9/hour for Bass  $\geq$  15 inches. CPUE values for Largemouth Bass  $\geq$  12 inches and  $\geq$  15 inches at Hills Creek Lake were well above regional averages.

The 2015 survey captured 12 Walleye and one Muskellunge. These fish came from previous stocking programs. However, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stopped stocking Walleye at Hills Creek Lake in 2012 and Muskellunge in 2006. We stopped stocking both species because of low survival. Some of the stocked fish survived but not enough to meet targeted fishery criteria for continued stocking as described within the statewide [Walleye](#) and [Muskellunge](#) plans.

*Table 1. Fish species captured during the 2015 general inventory of Hills Creek Lake.*

Species	Number Caught	Length Range (Inches)
Largemouth Bass	51	4 – 20.9
Black Crappie	53	5 – 13.9
Bluegill	337	4 – 9.9
Pumpkinseed	107	5 – 8.9
Yellow Perch	19	7 – 11.9
Golden Shiner	41	6 – 11.9
Brown Bullhead	5	11 – 15.9
Yellow Bullhead	34	9 – 14.9
Chain Pickerel	1	16 – 16.9
Walleye	12	17 – 27.9
Muskellunge	1	38.3
<b>Total Fish Caught:</b>	<b>661</b>	
Snapping Turtle	13	Not Measured
Painted Turtle	11	Not Measured

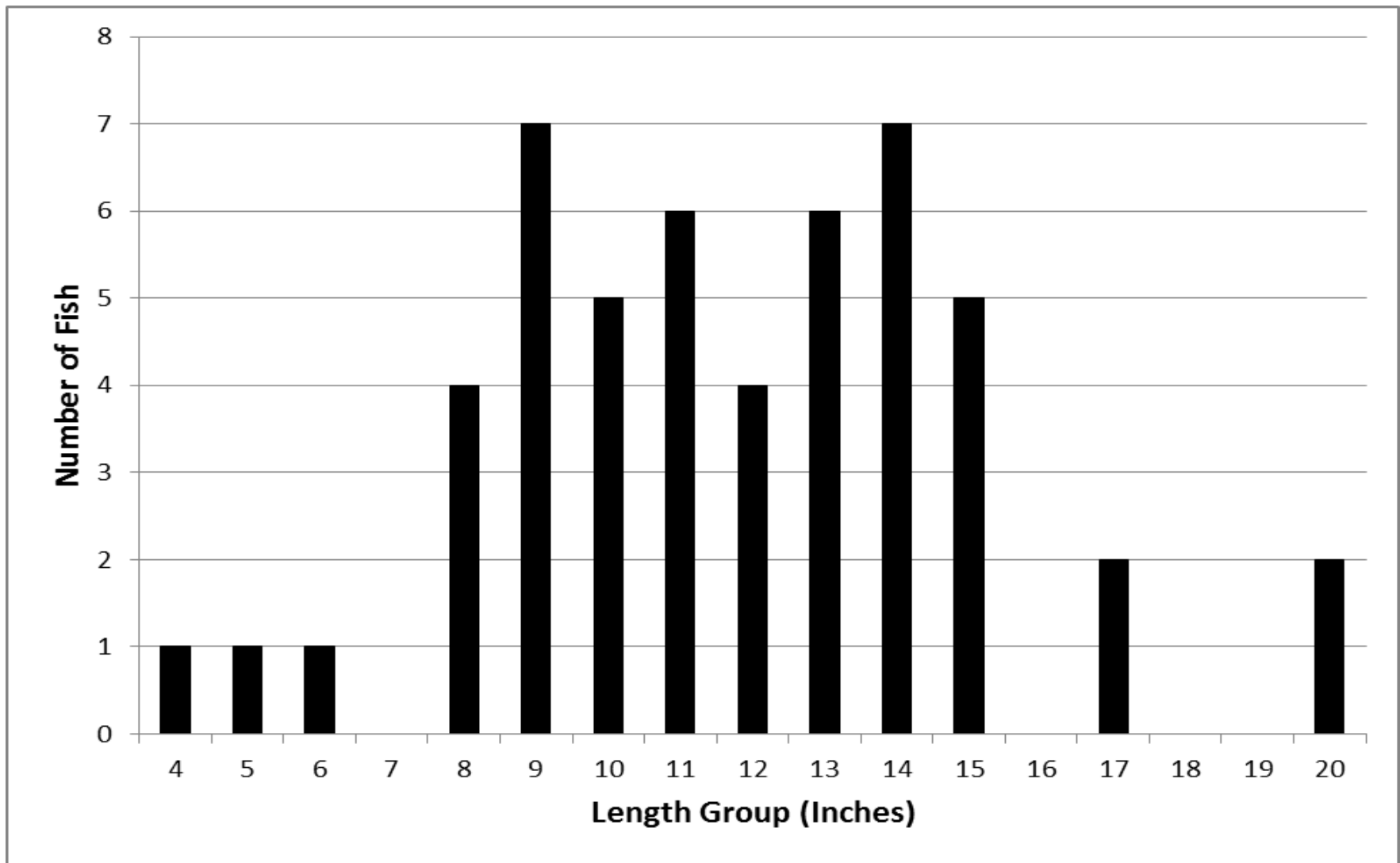


Figure 1. Length-frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass captured at Hills Creek Lake in 2015.

*Typical panfish (Black Crappie, Bluegill and Yellow Perch) from Hills Creek Lake.*



*Fisheries Biologist Aaron Frey with a 38 inch Muskellunge from Hills Creek Lake.*



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