

Lake Arrowhead

OVERVIEW

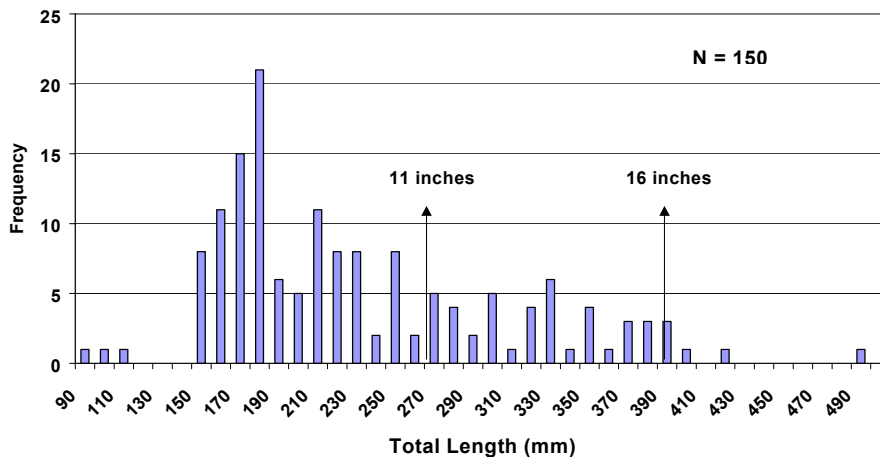
Lake Arrowhead is a 39 acre impoundment located in Page County near Luray, Virginia. The lake was constructed in 1971 by the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a flood control impoundment. The lake is owned by the Town of Luray and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland fisheries manages the fishery. Lake Arrowhead sits at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains offering a magnificent view of the Page Valley. Gradual sloping banks, relatively clear water, and a maximum depth of forty-three feet best describes the physical make up of the lake. The lake basin was cleared of all structure during construction making underwater structure sparse. A local angling club, Page Valley Bass Anglers, has been active in adding brush fish attractors to the lake. In recent years overabundant aquatic vegetation (elodea) had become a problem in the shallow areas of the lake. The Town of Luray has gone to great effort by using herbicides and triploid grass carp to control the vegetation. Anglers have the opportunity to fish for largemouth bass, walleye, northern pike, bluegill, crappie, redear sunfish, and channel catfish at Lake Arrowhead.

FISHING

Largemouth bass

The largemouth bass population has remained consistent for the past several years. Historically Lake Arrowhead had a high density of small bass. Bass densities have been streamlined and the number of fish greater than 12 inches has improved significantly. The current 11-16" slot regulation for bass appears to be acting as a 16" minimum size limit (see graph below). Biologists collected only a few bass greater than 16 inches in recent samples. Largemouth bass are slow growing in Lake Arrowhead with fish not reaching 11-12" until age 4. With these slow growth rates, anglers need to harvest some bass < 11 inches in order for the slot limit to be successful in producing bass > 16 inches. Anglers should concentrate on downed trees, beaver lodges, and weedbed edges when targeting bass. Lake Arrowhead can become quite clear so anglers should use baits/tactics to match the conditions.

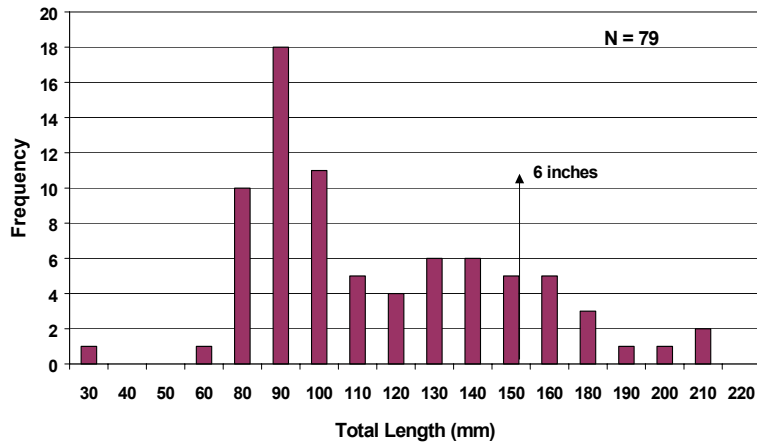
**Lake Arrowhead Electrofishing Spring 2001
Largemouth Bass**



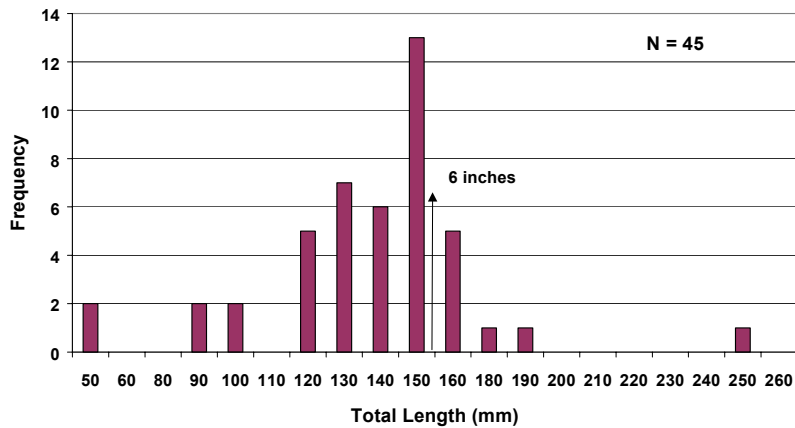
Bluegill / Redear Sunfish

The sunfish population is well proportioned. The bluegill to redear sunfish ratio is about 2:1. Historically the sunfish in Lake Arrowhead were overpopulated and "stunted". In recent years sunfish numbers have been reduced by aggressive predator stocking by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Stocking walleye, channel catfish, and northern pike have helped produce a better quality sunfish population. Spring 2002 electrofishing data for sunfish is listed in the graphs below. Anglers should find anywhere in the lake to be a good place to catch sunfish.

**Lake Arrowhead Spring Electrofishing 2001
Bluegill**



**Lake Arrowhead Electrofishing Spring 2001
Redear Sunfish**



Crappie

Lake Arrowhead exhibits a modest crappie fishery. The crappie population consists mostly of fish 7-9 inches. Anglers should look for woody structure like braver lodges and downed trees when targeting crappie.

Walleye

Walleye do not naturally reproduce in Lake Arrowhead and consequently are stocked annually by the Department. Walleye are stocked to provide angling diversity and as an additional predator to control sunfish numbers. The walleye population is small, but enough fish inhabit the lake to make a respectable fishery.

Northern Pike

There is a limited fishery for northern pike in Lake Arrowhead. Northern Pike do not naturally reproduce in the lake and are stocked by VDGIF annually. Pike are stocked to help keep sunfish from overpopulating and to provide angling diversity.

Channel Catfish

Lake Arrowhead has produced some very large catfish in recent years. A few fish weighing over 20 pounds have been caught in the last few years. Channel catfish spawning is limited in the lake so VDGIF stocks this species annually to maintain the population. To help improve catfish survival, the Department will begin stocking larger fingerling channel catfish in 2002.

REGULATIONS

Largemouth bass

There is a 11-16 inch slot limit on largemouth bass. All bass 11-16 inches must be released. The creel limit is five bass per day.

Bluegill / Redear Sunfish

No minimum size limit. The creel limit is 50 per day in aggregate.

Crappie

No minimum size limit. The creel limit is 25 per day.

Walleye

No minimum size limit. The creel limit is 8 fish per day.

Northern Pike

There is a 20 inch minimum size regulation for northern pike. All northern pike < 20 inches must be released. The creel limit is 2 fish per day.

Channel catfish

No minimum size limit. The creel limit is 20 per day.

General

In addition to a valid Virginia Freshwater Fishing License, a fishing permit issued by the Town of Luray is also required. Permits can be obtained at the town office (540-743-5511). The use of gasoline boat motors is prohibited. Electric trolling motors are welcome.

FACILITIES

Lake Arrowhead is the focal point of the 134 acre Lake Arrowhead Park Recreation Area. The park is owned and operated by the Town of Luray. Boat access includes a concrete boat ramp w/ courtesy dock. Shoreline fishing access is excellent around roughly 70% of the lake. The lake also includes a large swimming area with a beautiful white sand beach. A fee is required to use the swimming area. A food concession stand operates next to the beach during the Summer months. For the hiker, there are over two miles of marked trails throughout the park. Other facilities offered at the park include: Five picnic shelters, playground areas, cook out grills, horseshoe pits, a softball field , and handicapped accessible restrooms.

MORE INFO

For more information about Lake Arrowhead, please contact:

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
127 Lee Highway P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360

For more information about Lake Arrowhead, Lake Arrowhead Park or the Town of Luray:

Town of Luray
45 East Main Street
Luray, VA 22385
(540) 743-5511

Mr. Pat O'Brien
Recreation Director
(540) 743-6475