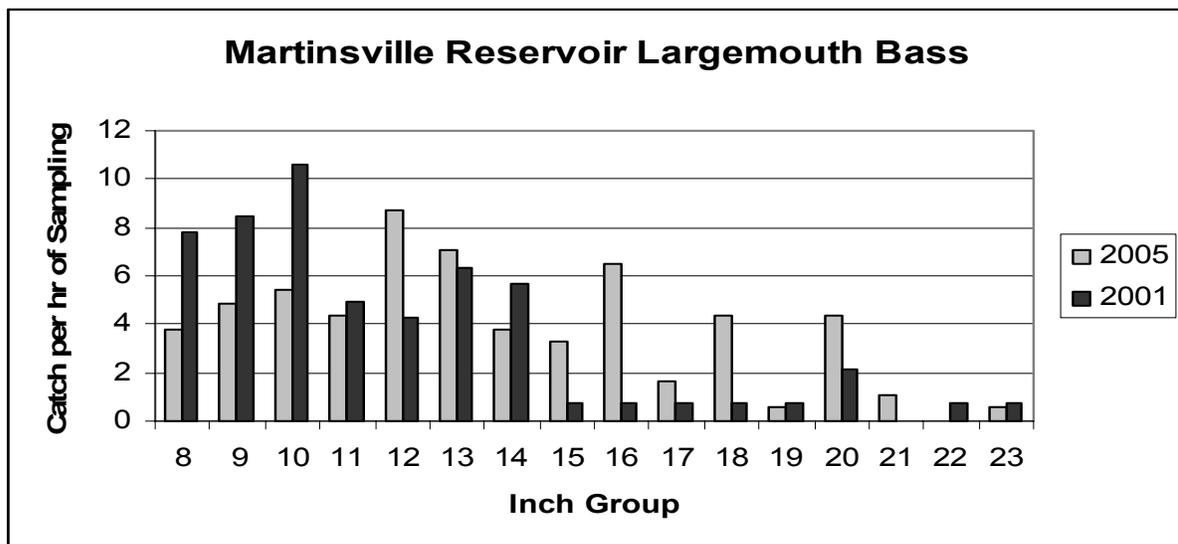




## Martinsville Reservoir 2006

Martinsville Reservoir is a 175-acre impoundment located just north of the city of Martinsville, Virginia. The impoundment is owned and controlled by the city of Martinsville for water supply while the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries manages the fishery. The most popular sportfish species of interest are largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, and yellow perch. Northern pike have been periodically stocked but have recently been discontinued due to poor stocking success and low angler returns. Fish surveys conducted during 2005 showed that the fishery in Martinsville Reservoir was in good condition.

The largemouth bass population at Martinsville Reservoir had a limited number of adult size fish. One and two year old fish dominated the main body of the reservoir, which is an indication of over harvest. There were however, some nice bass (up to 23 inches) collected in the upper reaches of the reservoir. Since this reservoir has motor restrictions, the largemouth bass appear to be exploited at a higher rate in the lower and more accessible areas near the boat ramp. Growth for these fish appeared to be sufficient to add additional fish in the larger size groups so the 12 inch minimum size limit on bass was increased to a 14 inch minimum in 2002. As a result, the number of bass over 12 inches collected in 2005 electrofishing surveys had nearly doubled from the 2001 survey.



Bluegill are a member of the sunfish family and are the most abundant species of sunfish in Martinsville Reservoir. Redbreast sunfish and redear sunfish are also present but do not constitute a significant portion of the sunfish population. Gizzard shad are present in this reservoir and sunfish rarely grow to good sizes when shad are present and Martinsville Reservoir is no exception.

The Crappie population is comprised primarily of black crappie. Numerous black crappie were collected in 2001 and 2005. White crappie are present but in very low numbers and are concentrated in the extreme upper end of the reservoir. Most crappie collected in 2001 were 5-7 inches in length (1999 year class), but there was a fair number of 8-9 inch fish collected as well. The dominant size group of crappie in 2005 was 7"-10" in length. This crappie fishery can vary due to cyclical reproductive success. Anglers can expect good fishing for crappie for at least another year due to the good year class in 1999. Most crappie are found around structure, such as beaver lodges and fallen trees. Crappie anglers should concentrate their efforts in these areas for best results. However, crappie may occasionally be found in deeper water away from shoreline cover.

Catch of crappie per hour of sampling in 2001 and 2005 at Martinsville Reservoir.

<b>Inch Group</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
Catch per hr 2005	2	2	11	16	10	2	0	1	0
Catch per hr 2001	1	60	9	14	17	3	0	1	1

Channel catfish were traditionally stocked as fingerling fish around 3-4 inches and provided very limited fishing opportunities. Channel catfish are now stocked at larger sizes averaging around 8 inches, which appears to have improved their survival and the fishery. Catfish are stocked every other year so the best fishing occurs within several months after stocking but some fish survive until the next stocking.

Anglers that have the time and battery power to get the upper end of the reservoir will be rewarded with more opportunities to catch quality fish. Since the water in this reservoir is usually very clear, most fish will be easily spooked. Anglers may want to use light line and keep as much distance possible between their boat and the structure they are fishing.

The city of Martinsville maintains a park at Martinsville Reservoir; this park contains picnic facilities and a boat ramp. Use of the park and reservoir are restricted to the hours of sunrise to sunset. A boat permit is required to launch boats. The permit is \$2 per day or \$10 per calendar year. Permits can be acquired from the reservoir office or by calling Darrell Hammock at 276-656-5179. Boaters are restricted to electric motor use only. The reservoir can be accessed by taking Rt. 108 from Rt. 174 out of Collinsville or Martinsville.