



LAKEVIEW RESERVOIR 2007



Lakeview Reservoir is a beautiful 42-acre impoundment located in Lakeview Park, which is in the heart of Colonial Heights. From the north side of Colonial Heights, take Route 1 south to Lake Avenue; turn right and go ¼ mile and take another right and follow to the Park and boat ramp. The lake is operated as a water supply for the cities of Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Hopewell. Boats are allowed, but gasoline-powered outboard motors are not. There is also some bank fishing and a small fishing pier. Other facilities include a picnic shelter, picnic tables, a playground, and tennis courts.

During the 1990's, the reservoir was drawn down several times to facilitate repairs to the dam. This reduced the fish populations to low levels that required a period of recovery. A significant drawdown for spillway repair was conducted again during the spring and summer of 2005, and the reservoir was sampled using electrofishing during fall to determine whether re-stocking was necessary. Given the numbers of fish collected, it was determined that there was no need for supplemental stocking. It was expected that the remaining fish should repopulate the reservoir on their own over the next few years, barring additional significant drawdowns, of course.

The reservoir was sampled again during fall, 2006 to evaluate fish population recovery. A total of 11 species were collected, unchanged from 2005. The catch rate for largemouth bass was unchanged versus 2005, which was disappointing. The size structure of the sample, however, was different than the previous year's. Young-of-the-year represented about 60% of the collection. This is a good sign for the future.

Bluegill was one again, by far, the most abundant fish species, but the overall catch rate actually dropped substantially. The drop occurred for fish in the 4-7-inch range. The number of young in the sample almost doubled versus 2005, which bodes well for the future.

Redear sunfish (shellcrackers), although not abundant, were much more common in 2006. Several in the 9-10-inch range were captured. Hopefully, their population will continue to grow, which would add some spice to the sunfish fishery.

Of additional interest to anglers is the presence of a few crappie, chain pickerel, and channel catfish, which are supplementally stocked. Non-game species, namely common carp, gizzard shad, and shorthead redhorse were also collected in fair numbers. Their presence is detrimental to the game species, and unfortunately, there is no way to remove them. They quickly re-colonize the reservoir from Swift Creek after each drawdown.

Although the numbers of adult bass and bluegill in the 2006 sample were a little disappointing, electrofishing results can be biased by a variety of variables. This is

especially true when only a single sample is taken as in this case. The most important finding was evidence of sufficient reproduction for repopulating the lake. We will continue to monitor this reservoir using electrofishing to evaluate the expected recovery of its fish populations. Future samples will be collected during spring, when results for larger bass and bluegill may be better.