



## Powell River 2007



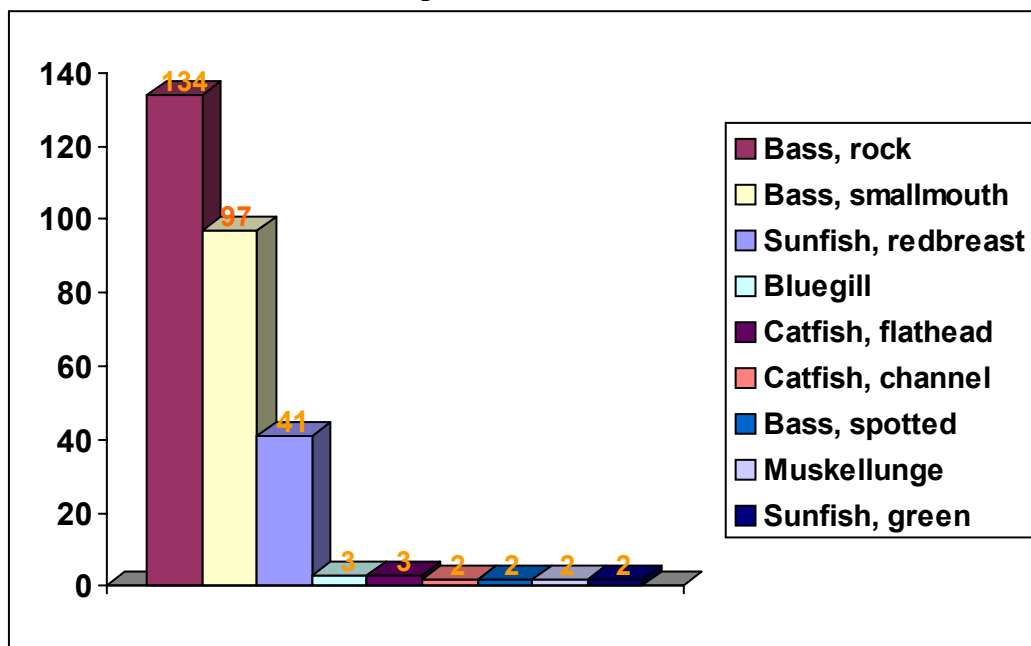
### Introduction:

The headwaters of the Powell River are located in Wise County, Virginia, and the river flows approximately 80 miles through Wise and Lee counties before entering the state of Tennessee. In 2006 the river was sampled in Lee County to evaluate the fishery. Samples were collected using an electrofishing boat at sites between river miles 146 and 167 Virginia. A complete community sample was made.

### General Sport Fishery:

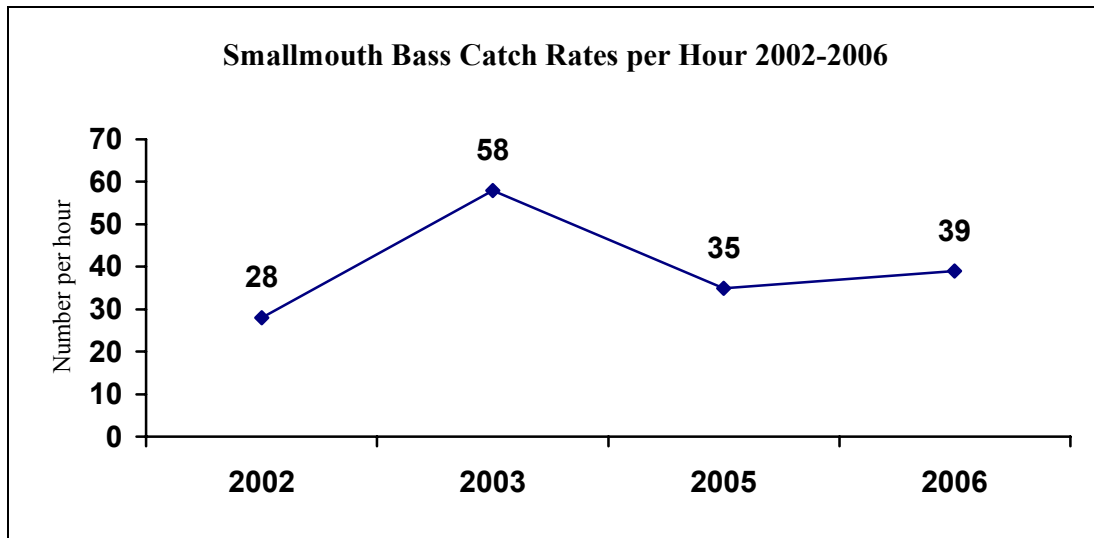
The Powell River supports several sport fish species like smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, spotted bass, rock bass, sunfish, walleye, sauger, musky, channel catfish and freshwater drum. Channel catfish, walleye and muskie are stocked annually, when available, to enhance these fisheries while populations of the other species remain stable. The following report summarizes the 2006 collections of smallmouth bass, rock bass and redbreast sunfish that make up 95% of the total sport fish catch as well as future management activities planned for the Powell River.

**2006 Sport Fish Catch Powell River**



Smallmouth Bass Fishery:

Average catch rates for smallmouth bass were 39 per hour in 2006 (standard deviation 17.0, range 8-56 / hr.) up slightly from 2005. The average size of smallmouth bass within the population remains small at 217 mm or 8.5 inches (n = 97, standard deviation 56.8 mm, range 56-382 mm).



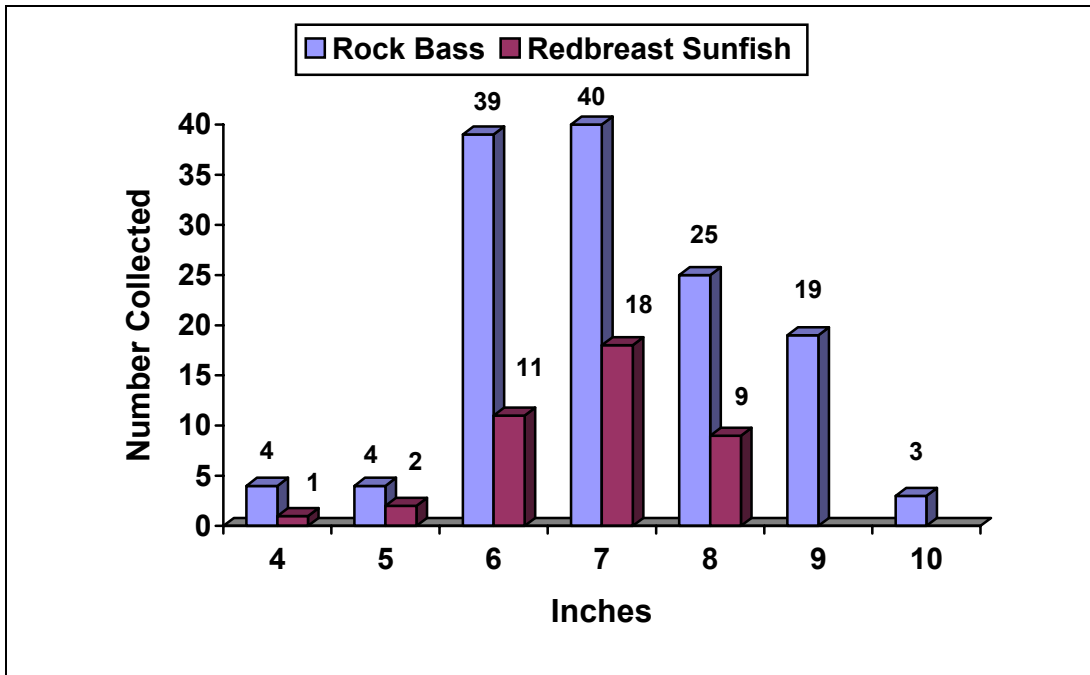
In 2006 the PSD (Proportional Stock Density is an index that measures the percentage of adult fish that are 280 mm (11 inches) or larger in the population) for smallmouth bass did not exceed 14, which means that only 14% of the smallmouth bass in the population sampled are  $\geq 280$  mm (11 inches). Body condition of smallmouth bass is measured by relative weight (Wr). Relative weight is an index of the fatness or plumpness of a fish. When a fish is in a good condition or good health the relative weight is measured close to 100. When relative weights are well below 100 the fish may have trouble feeding, causing the body condition to be less. Smallmouth bass condition has remained similar in 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006. The following tables summarize the condition and relative weight for the sampling years.

Common Name:	Year:	N:	PSD:
Bass, smallmouth	2002	70	22
Bass, smallmouth	2003	187	23
Bass, smallmouth	2005	112	22
Bass, smallmouth	2006	97	14

Common Name	Year	Wr
Bass, smallmouth	2002	94.7
Bass, smallmouth	2003	93.9
Bass, smallmouth	2005	90.2
Bass, smallmouth	2006	88.1

### Rock Bass & Redbreast Sunfish Fishery:

Rock bass were the most abundant species collected in 2006. Average rock bass catch rates for 10 samples collected were 56 fish per hour (standard deviation 24.4/hr, range 20-96/hr.). The average size of rock bass within the population was 168 mm or 6.6 inches (n = 134, standard deviation 30.9 mm, range 85-245 mm). Redbreast sunfish were less abundant with a total of 41 collected in 13 samples. The following graph shows the catch of rock bass and redbreast sunfish in 2006 samples.



In 2006, 21,500 walleye fingerlings were stocked, and this stocking will be evaluated in spring 2007. In addition, channel catfish and muskie were stocked in 2006. In 2007, walleye, muskie and channel catfish have been requested for stocking.

### Fishing the Powell in 2007:

The Powell River will provide a variety of good fishing opportunities in 2007. The river has an abundance of redbreast sunfish, rock bass and smallmouth bass. Anglers may also catch a few spotted bass, channel catfish and muskie. There are no public access points on the Powell River, so anglers are encouraged to obtain landowner permission when accessing the river from private lands.

Prepared by: George Palmer, Fisheries Biologist  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Phone: (276) 783-4860  
[george.palmer@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:george.palmer@dgif.virginia.gov)