

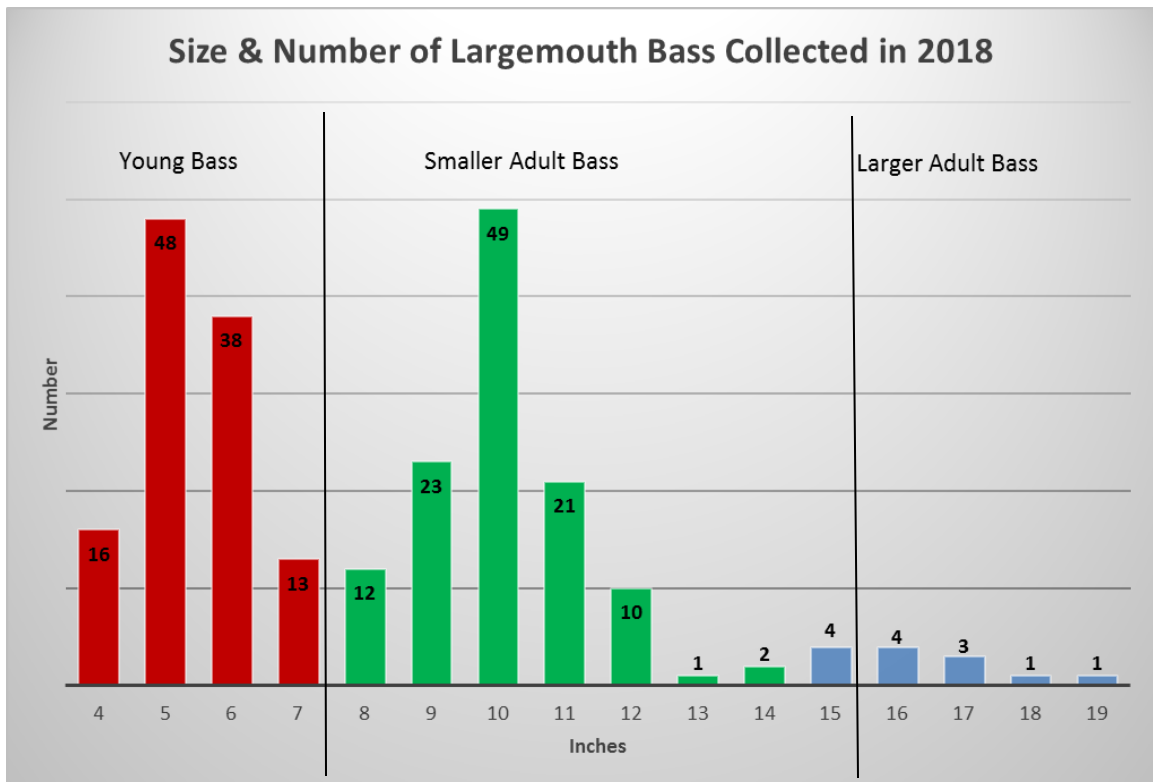


## **Martinsville Reservoir (Beaver Creek Reservoir) 2019 Management Report**

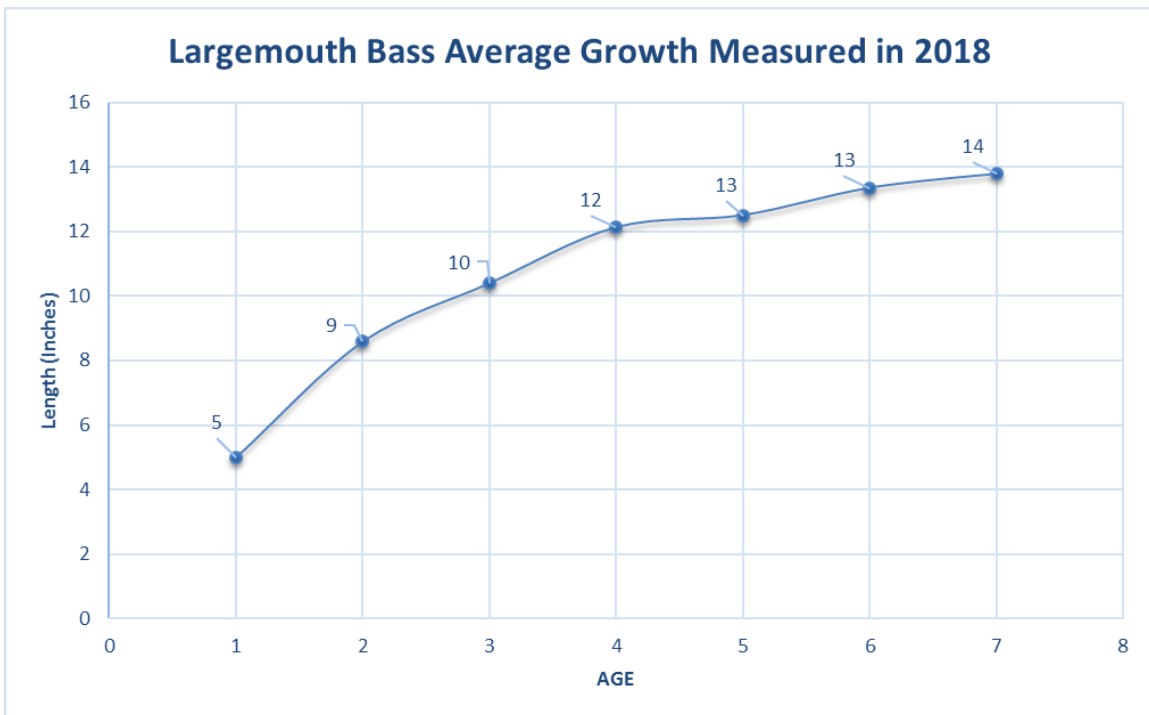
Martinsville Reservoir is a 175-acre impoundment located just north of the city of Martinsville, Virginia. The impoundment is owned and controlled by the city of Martinsville for water supply, while the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries manages the fishery. The most popular sportfish species are largemouth bass, bluegill, redear and redbreast sunfish, black crappie, channel catfish and yellow perch. Fish surveys conducted during 2018 showed that the fishery in Martinsville Reservoir was in fair condition and considered to be a good place to go and catch small to average-sized fish in decent numbers. The table below shows the species and number of sport fish collected in spring 2018.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Largemouth Bass	246
Bluegill	176
Black Crappie	107
Redear Sunfish	38
Redbreast Sunfish	34
Channel Catfish	18
Yellow Perch	13
Warmouth	6
Brown Bullhead	1
Spotted Bass	1

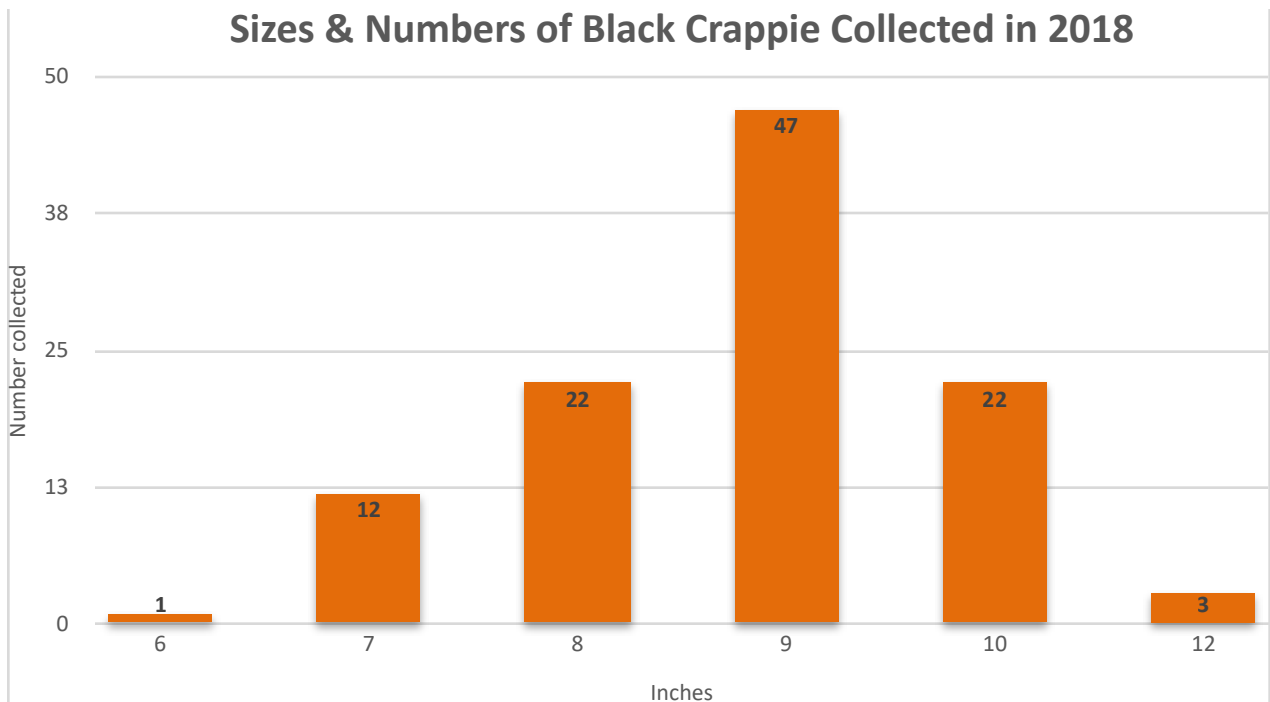
A total of 246 largemouth bass were collected in the 2018 sampling efforts, with sizes ranging from 3-19 inches. The sample consisted of 51% young fish (< 8 inches), 44% small sized adult fish (8-14 inches), and 5% larger adults (> 14 inches). Adult bass grow very slowly in Martinsville Reservoir. They reach 9 inches at age 2 and they generally do not grow past 13 inches by age 6. This results in a stockpile of bass in the 8 to 13 inch size range (as seen in the chart below). The young bass entering the population do not compete well with the large numbers of small adults, and are likely to be eaten before they reach adult size.



In an attempt to correct this slow growth condition, the previous 14 inch minimum size limit was discarded and replaced with a new 15 inch maximum length limit in 2014. This new limit allows largemouth bass below 15 inches to be taken and protects bass over 15 inches. This should reduce the densities of the 8-13 inch bass, and allow some to grow into the larger size classes, where they are protected from harvest. The following chart shows the current largemouth bass growth rates as measured in 2018. Time will tell if the new regulation will cause a shift in the average size of adult largemouth bass.



The Crappie population is comprised primarily of black crappie. One hundred seven black crappies were collected during the 2018 sampling. Sizes ranged from 6-12 inches. The abundance of crappie in the reservoir can vary due to cyclical reproductive success and heavy harvest rates. Anglers can expect to catch good numbers of crappies in the next several years. Most crappie can be found around structure, like beaver lodges and fallen trees, and anglers should concentrate their efforts in these areas for best results. However, crappie may concentrate in deeper water, away from shoreline cover during the summer. The chart below shows the catch and size distribution of crappie collected from spring electro-fishing in 2018.



Bluegill, redbreast, and redear are members of the sunfish family and can be caught in Martinsville Reservoir. Samples collected in 2018 included all of these species, making up 39% of all the fish collected. Anglers can expect good numbers of these species in their catch in 2018 as efforts to increase fish habitat have been underway to enhance the sunfish population.

Channel catfish are another commonly sought after fish species in Martinsville Reservoir. Channel catfish were traditionally stocked as fingerling fish (3-4 inches) and provided very limited fishing opportunities. Channel catfish are now stocked at around 8-10 inches in length, which has improved their survival and the fishery. Channel catfish were stocked in November 2018. The best fishing occurs several months after stocking, but survival is adequate enough to provide good catfishing opportunities throughout the year.

Yellow perch were first collected in 1987 and the population has been expanding since that time. The population is small and provides a limited fishery with few numbers of fish available in the 8-10 inch range. The highest densities of yellow perch are in the lower half of the reservoir. Thirteen yellow perch were collected in 2018 sampling with sizes ranging from 5-10 inches.

Since this reservoir has motor restrictions, most fishing pressure occurs in the lower lake areas and areas near the boat ramp and parking lot. Anglers that have the time and battery power to travel to 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 a 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; which includes picnic facilities and a boat ramp. Use of the park and reservoir are restricted to the hours of sunrise to sunset and a boat permit is required to launch boats. The permit is \$3 per day or \$15 per calendar year. Permits can be acquired from the reservoir office or by calling 276-251-7766. 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.

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