

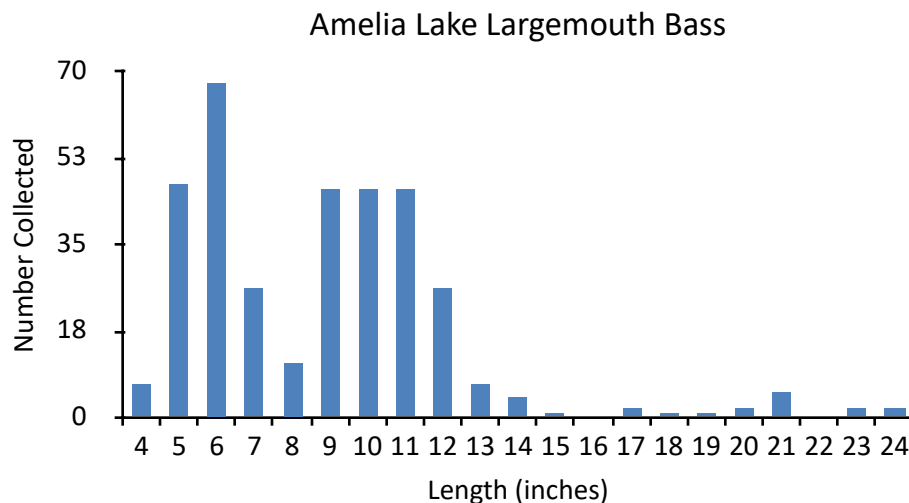


## Amelia Lake Report 2019

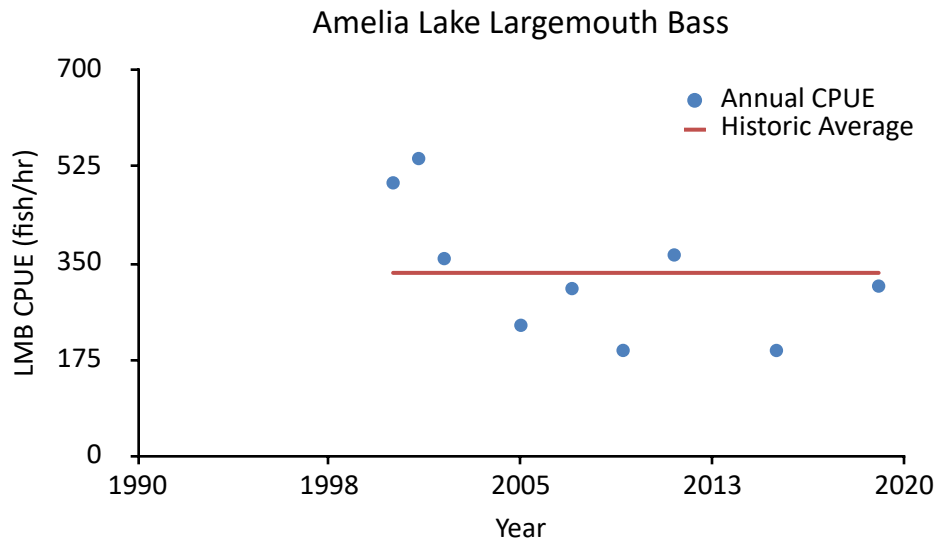
*Hunter Hatcher*  
*Fisheries Biologist*  
*Farmville Field Office*

Amelia Lake is a 100 acre lake located in Amelia County within Amelia Wildlife Management Area. The lake is owned and managed by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The lake provides a warmwater fishery for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, and Channel Catfish. Fishing regulations can be viewed online (<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/waterbody/Amelia-lake/>) or at the kiosk near the boat ramp. Biologists routinely sample the lake using boat electrofishing. Prior to sampling efforts in 2019 the lake had not been sampled since 2016. Below are results from the 2019 survey.

**Largemouth Bass:** Amelia Lake electrofishing efforts in Spring of 2019 yielded high catch rates for Largemouth Bass. Size structure indicated a poor range of sizes present with a vast majority of fish in the system less than 12 inches. Nevertheless, trophy size Largemouth Bass are still present in the system, 9 bass over 20 inches were collected during 2019 sampling. There is no length limit for harvest of bass in Amelia Lake and angler's are encouraged to harvest fish in the 9-12 inch range to reduce competition and allow growth to larger sizes. Target submerged cover including fallen trees and brush piles near depth changes for Largemouth Bass.

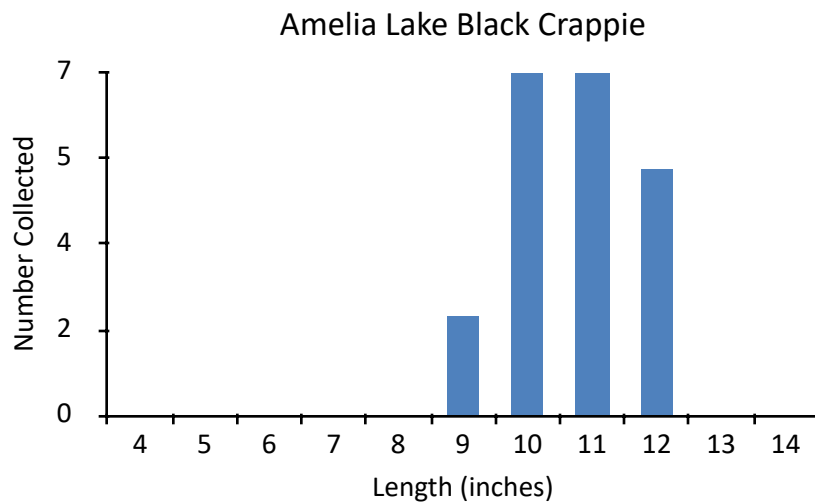


*Largemouth bass size distribution at Amelia Lake from 2019 electrofishing surveys.*



*Catch rate (fish/hour) for Largemouth Bass in Amelia Lake from historic electrofishing samples.*

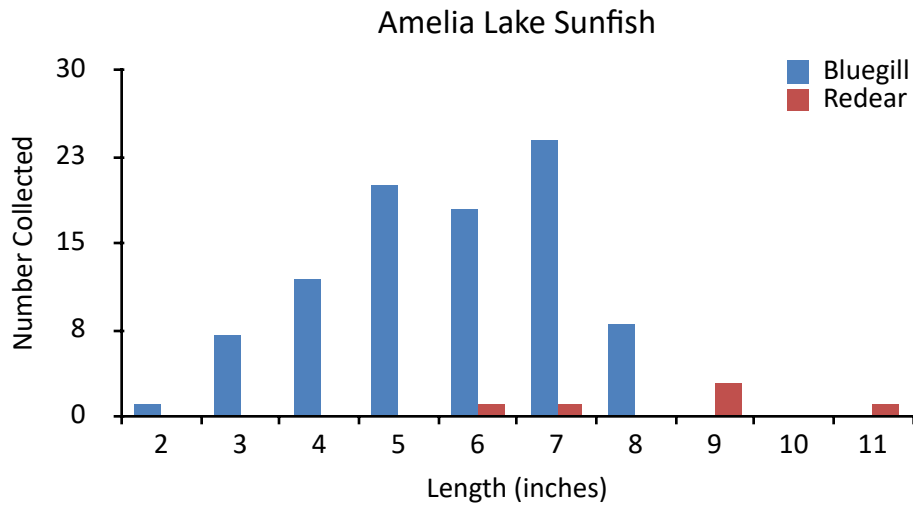
**Crappie:** Amelia Lake has limited numbers of Black Crappie of catchable size. The average length of Black Crappie is around 11 inches. Recently, DGIF has conducted stockings of White Crappie in Amelia Lake in an effort to diversify and improve the crappie fishery. To date, none of these stocked White Crappie have been collected, potentially as a result of high predation from 9-11 inch Largemouth Bass. Crappie tend to occupy brush piles, fallen trees, and beaver lodges during the spring and fall months. In the summer and winter however, they typically move offshore to deeper water and can be tough to find without the help of electronics.



*Black crappie size distribution at Amelia Lake from 2019 electrofishing survey.*

**Sunfish:** Amelia Lake offers modest populations of catchable size Bluegill, with low numbers of catchable size Redear Sunfish as well. Average size is approximately 5.5 inches for Bluegill and

8.5 inches for Redear Sunfish. Any structure along the shoreline is good for sunfish, but try to target fallen trees and beaver lodges.



*Sunfish (Bluegill and Redbreast Sunfish) size distribution at Amelia Lake from 2019 electrofishing surveys.*

**Catfish:** Electrofishing does not target channel catfish well during surveys, but catfish are still very popular among the anglers at Amelia. Channel catfish numbers at Amelia are supplemented annually by stocking. Try cut bait or other natural baits fished on the bottom near creek channels on Amelia for catfish.

**Area Attractions:**

[Lake Chesdin](#)

[Swift Creek Lake](#)

[Powhatan WMA Ponds](#)

[Nottoway Lake](#)

**For more information please contact Hunter Hatcher, Fisheries Biologist, at 434-392-4369**