

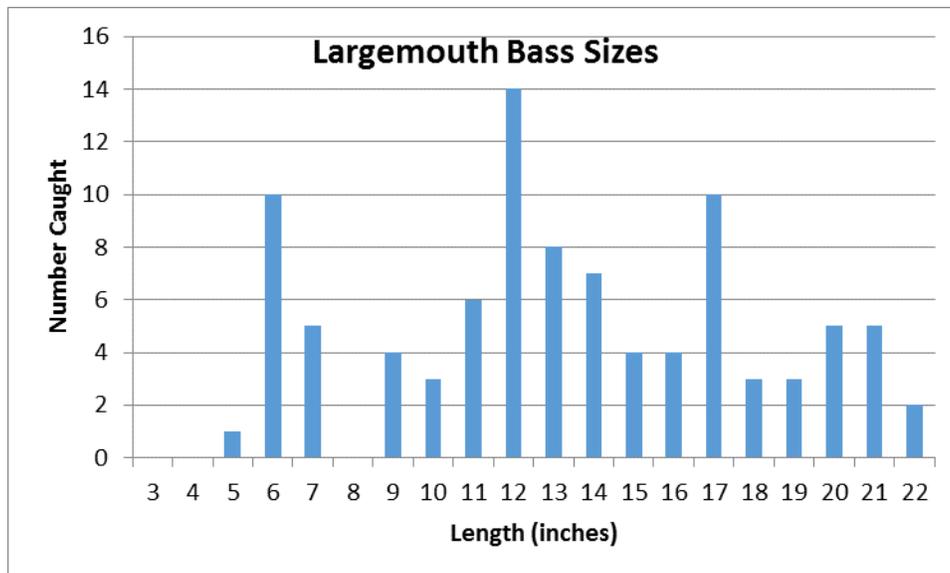


Banister Lake 2021

Banister Lake is a 400-acre impoundment in Halifax County, Virginia. The lake is a mainstream impoundment of the Banister River and serves as a drinking water supply for the Town of Halifax. Fisheries management is provided by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR). Banister offers anglers fishing opportunities close to the towns of Halifax and South Boston. Habitat in the lake consists of natural woody debris and some aquatic vegetation.

Anglers fishing Banister Lake are likely to catch Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (aka shellcracker), Chain Pickerel, and crappie. Largemouth Bass harvest is regulated with a 12 inch minimum length limit and a five bass per day bag limit. All other fish species are regulated by statewide limits.

The Largemouth Bass fishery at Banister Lake has remained average to good over the years. Based on spring electrofishing samples, Largemouth Bass exhibit average abundance for a Southside impoundment. Largemouth Bass size structure is average but big bass are available. While sampling in 2020, biologists collected 13 Largemouth Bass longer than 20 inches with most catchable bass in the 11-17 inch range. Bass abundance and growth is limited by the high flow-through of water in this riverine impoundment and high turbidity of the water. Both of these natural phenomena limit the productivity of the system.



Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and crappie are common in Banister Lake, with Bluegill being the most abundant of the panfish species. Anglers can expect to catch Bluegill up to 8 inches, redear up to 9 inches and crappie up to 14 inches! Crappie are not numerous but several fish over 10 inches were sampled in the 2020 VDWR electrofishing survey. Beginning in late April, anglers should be able to catch quality fish as they begin to move into shallow water to spawn.

Banister Lake is located on Route 501 near the town of Halifax.