



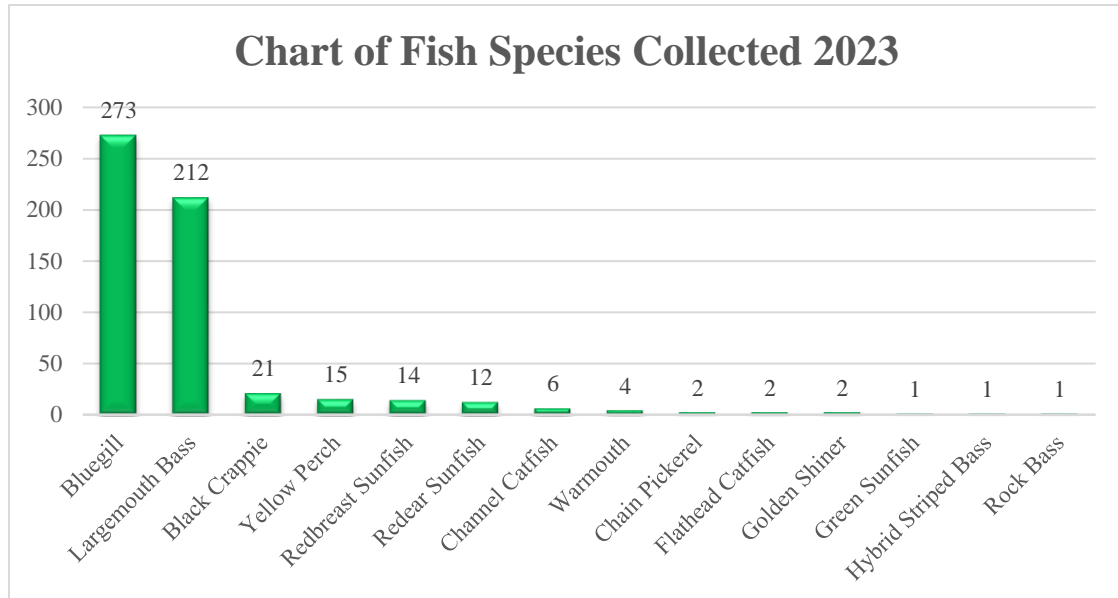
Carvins Cove 2024 Fisheries Report



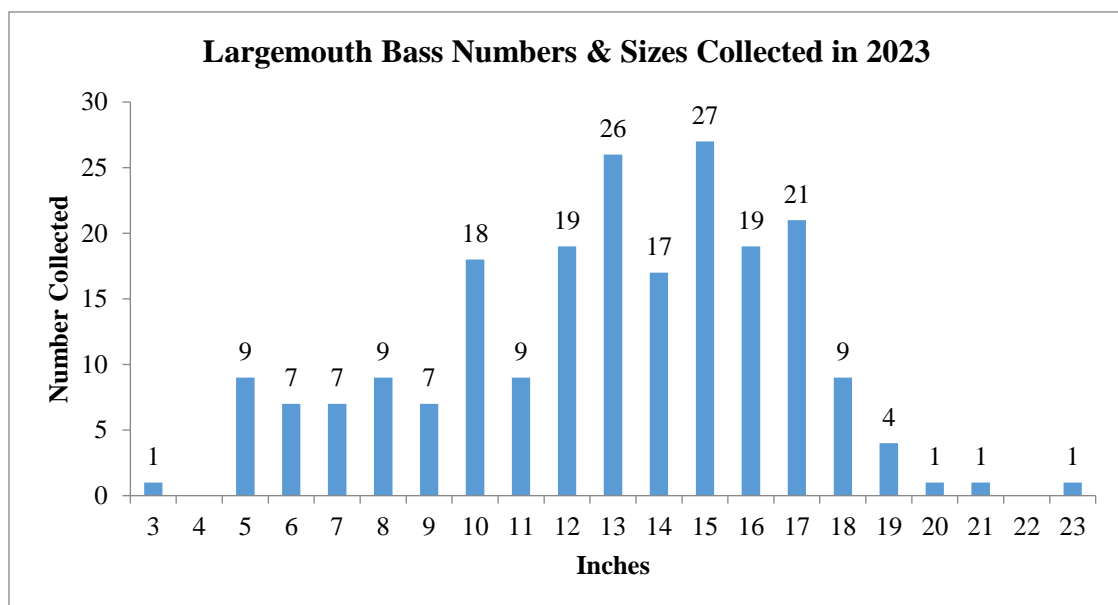
Carvins Cove is a 630-acre impoundment located in Roanoke and Botetourt Counties, Virginia. This reservoir is owned by the Western Virginia Water Authority and is managed primarily for municipal water supply for the City of Roanoke. The reservoir is surrounded by scenic mountain views, offers good fishing opportunities, and provides an extensive trail system available to hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. Other facilities available at this reservoir include a boat ramp and restrooms. Access to the lake is open all year but the lake is closed at night. Outboard motor use is restricted to 10 hp and electric motors. There is a daily fee for all users and additional fees for boaters.

The reservoir was impounded in 1945 and was stocked with various predator species such as striped bass, walleye, muskie, and catfish until 1992. Due to invasive species concerns, Carvins Cove had limited boating access and VDWR was not able to sample fish populations from approximately 1993-2008. Sampling resumed in the spring of 2009 revealing that this reservoir still contains a good fishery. Currently, the most popular sportfish species are largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, hybrid striped

bass, black crappie, catfish, and sunfish. With the exception of a 14-inch minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, all fish species are regulated with statewide regulations. The following chart shows the species and numbers of fish collected by VDWR in 2023.

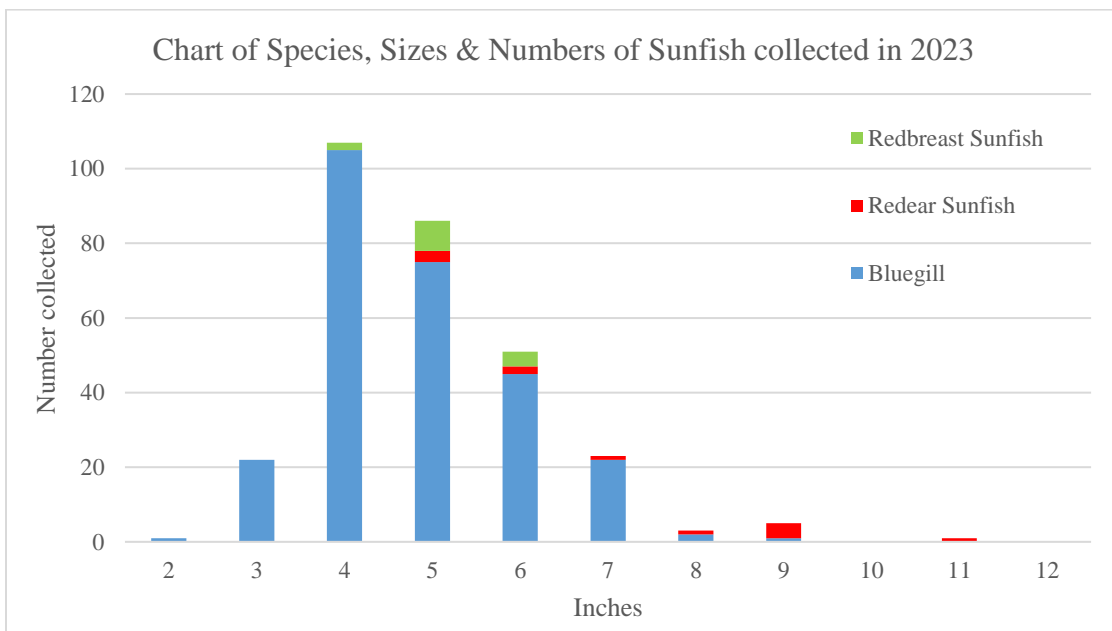


Largemouth bass are abundant with good numbers of fish up to 18 inches and a few over. Largemouth bass are distributed throughout the reservoir but are typically located in deeper water after the spawn, due to high water clarity and limited structure. Smallmouth bass are present, but in lower numbers, and are typically caught in deeper water than largemouth bass. Anglers should concentrate on natural bottom structures and drop offs to locate bass when they are not frequenting shallow areas during the spawn. The following chart shows the sizes and numbers of largemouth bass collected by VDWR in spring 2023.



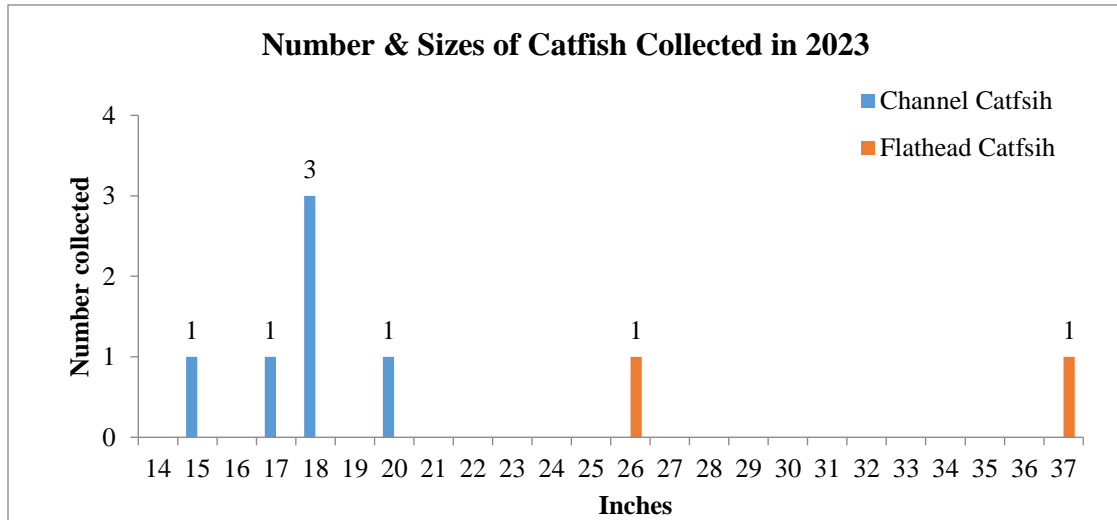


Anglers fishing for sunfish can find a variety of smaller sunfish including redear, redbreast, and green sunfish, but bluegills are the dominant sunfish species. Most bluegills are small with sizes ranging from 3-7 inches and a lot of bluegills in the 4-6 inches range. There are also a few larger redear sunfish in the 7-9-inch range and some redbreast sunfish in the 4-6-inch size. The following chart shows the sizes and numbers of sunfish VDWR collected in 2023.



Black crappie are not abundant, but the average size collected during the 2023 sampling was good, averaging 11 inches with sizes ranging from 5-14 inches. Most black crappie concentrate in the upper end of the reservoir in the spring.

Channel and flathead catfish offer something for those anglers who target catfish. The lake is not known for exceptional catfishing, but some large sized catfish are collected every year in sampling efforts with sizes ranging from 15-37 inches in 2023. The largest flathead catfish collected in 2023 measured 37.5 inches. The chart below demonstrates some of the sizes that are available.



Hybrid striped bass were stocked in 2013-2015 & 2017-2023 and striped bass were stocked in 2017 to diversify fishing opportunities. Hybrid striped bass collected in 2022 ranged in size from 15-22 inches and striped bass ranged in size from 26-29 inches. The fishing regulations for hybrid striped bass and striped bass are; (4 per day creel limit with no fish less than 20 inches).

Anglers may see some fish attractor structures in several locations near the fishing piers. These structures have been placed in areas near where bank anglers' fish to attract fish closer to angler fishing locations. The following pictures show the design and location of some of these structures. The idea with these structure are to create cover for fish and places for them to hide while allowing anglers to easily make casts to the structures from the bank or pier.

Information about boating, times the lake is open, rentals and other regulations or for additional information for visitors to Carvins Cove Reservoir can be found at; <https://www.westernvawater.org/i-am-a/recreationalist/recreationalist> or call Carvins Cove Natural Reserve (540) 563-9170. For more information on the fishery, contact George Palmer @ george.palmer@dwr.virginia.gov

