



Chris Greene Reservoir 2021



Located in Albemarle County, Chris Greene Reservoir is a 66-acre water supply impoundment for the City of Charlottesville. The reservoir contains self-sustaining populations of Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and Black Crappie. Additionally, the lake is stocked annually with Channel Catfish to maintain a fishery. The lake has traditionally provided average Largemouth Bass and panfish fisheries. In the spring of 2020, the fish community of Chris Greene was sampled by boat electrofishing. This report summarizes the results of this survey and what anglers can expect to catch in Chris Greene.

Chris Greene Reservoir's fish community is diverse with a total of ten fish species collected in the 2020 survey (Table 1). Bluegill and Largemouth Bass were by far the most abundant species collected in the electrofishing survey (Table 1). Currently the Largemouth Bass fishery is managed under a 12-15 protective slot limit. The Bass size distribution indicates a population that is dominated by small individuals (<12 inches, Figure 1). Bass are stockpiling below 12 inches which limits the effectiveness of the protective slot limit. The reservoir is in dire need of small Largemouth Bass (< 12 inches) harvest. Anglers should harvest every Largemouth Bass caught under 12 inches within the 5 bass per statewide creel limit. Once harvest is increased, bass growth will improve and more bass will grow to protected slot lengths. A handful of Largemouth Bass over 20 inches were collected (Figure 1), but stockpiling is limiting the trophy bass potential of the lake. The largest bass collected measured nearly 23 inches and weighed almost 7 lbs.

Panfish (Black and White crappie, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish) catch rates were moderate to low, and low numbers are likely the result of the abundance of bass. Crappie populations are likely larger than indicated by the electrofishing surveys, because electrofishing is not the most effective gear to collect the species. Previous surveys indicate that the crappie population in Chris Greene is fairly robust. Chris Greene supports an average panfish fishery with the majority of sunfish collected in the 3 to 8 inch range (Figure 2). There are some larger Redear Sunfish and crappie (8 to 11 inches) available to anglers. Anglers targeting sunfish should concentrate efforts on main lake points and woody structure in the lake.

Other populations of fish are fairly average and are probably limited by the overabundant Largemouth Bass and Black Crappie populations. Channel Catfish are stocked annually and routinely caught from the fishing pier. Only three catfish (measuring up to 22 inches) were collected in the survey; low collection numbers are expected for catfish with electrofishing gear. Chris Greene is recommended as a decent fishery less than 10 minutes from Charlottesville's city limits. The park has great amenities including an improved boat launch, a fishing pier, plenty of bank fishing areas, and a swimming beach. Gas powered motors are prohibited in the reservoir.

For more information on Chris Greene, please contact:

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Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2020.

Species	Electrofishing		
	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish/hour electrofishing)	Percentage of Catch
Black Crappie	20	17	7
Bluegill	102	90	35
Channel Catfish	7	6	2
Golden Shiner	3	3	1
Green Sunfish	5	4	2
Largemouth Bass	86	76	30
Redear	48	42	16
Warmouth	12	11	4
White Crappie	7	6	2
White Sucker	2	2	1

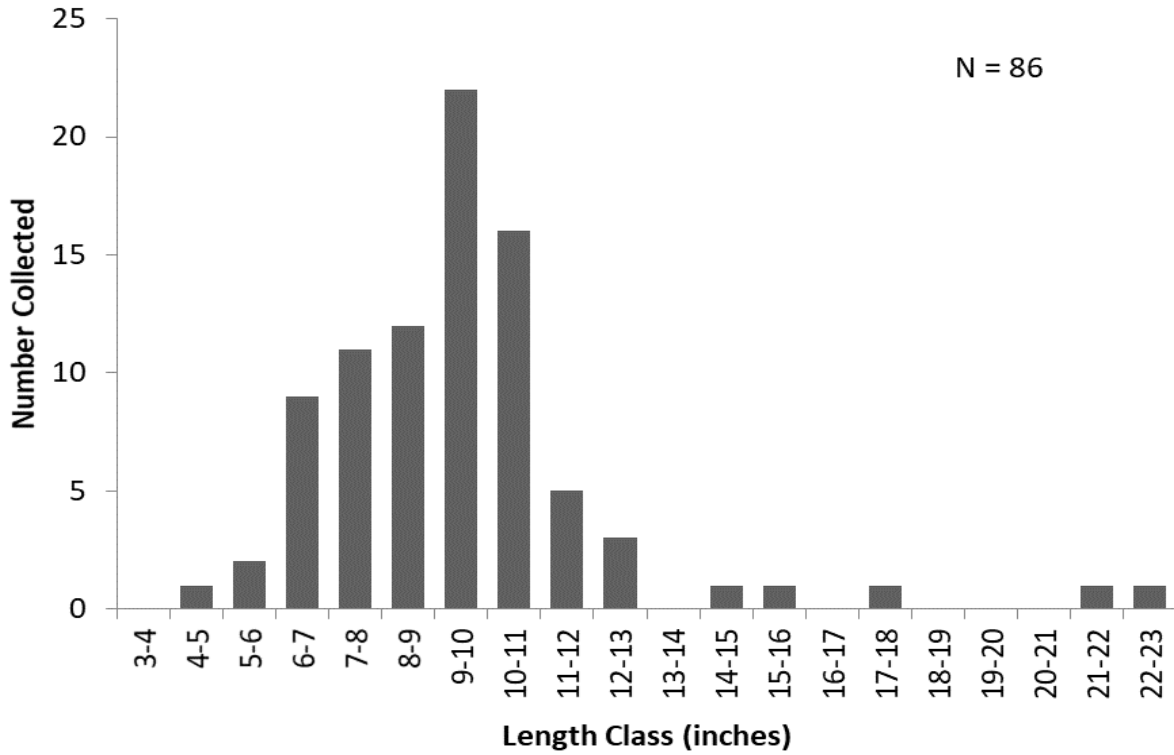


Figure 1. Length distribution of largemouth bass collected with electrofishing gear throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2020.

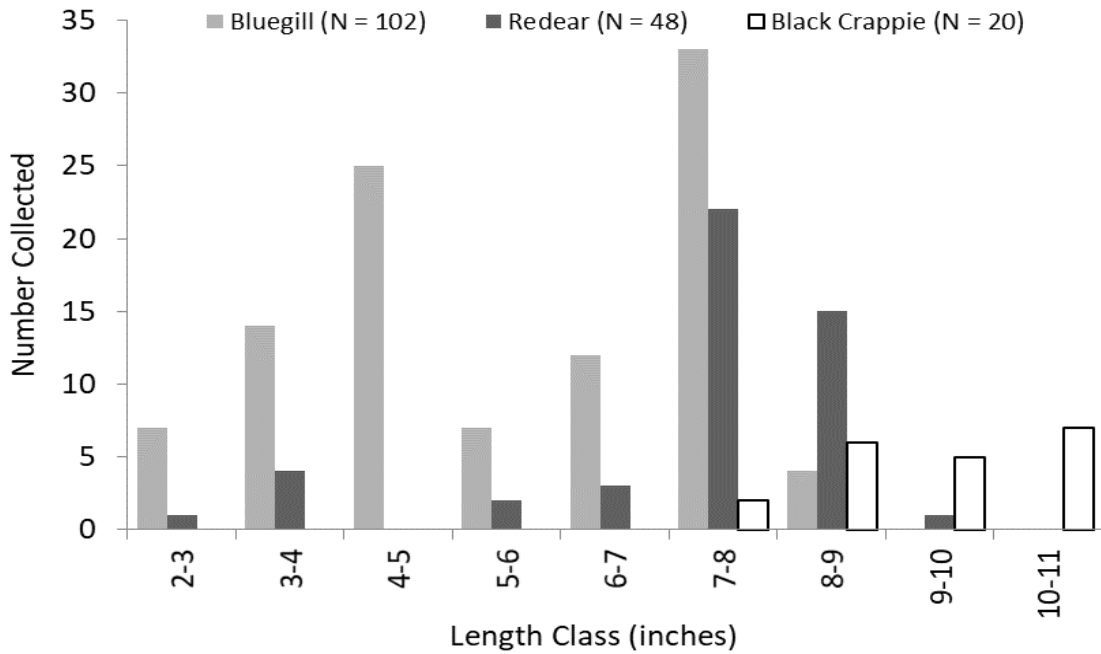


Figure 2. Length distribution of panfish collected with electrofishing gear throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2020.