

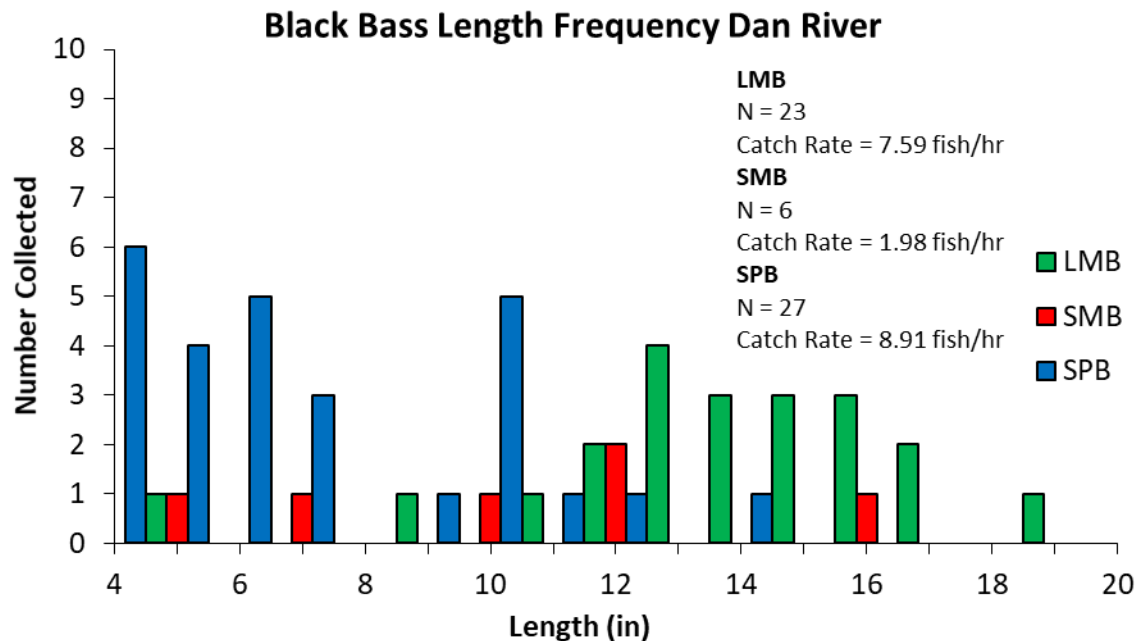


## Lower Dan River Report 2022

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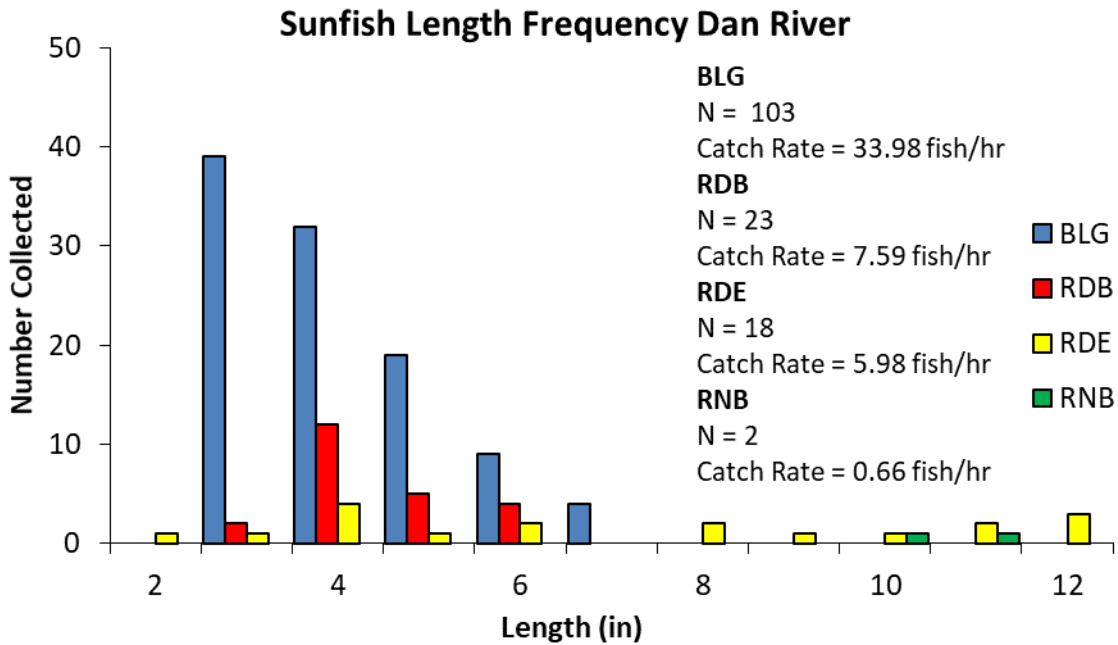
The Dan River is a tributary of the Roanoke River system in Virginia and North Carolina. Lower Dan River Access is limited to a few ramps in Danville, South Boston, and Milton, NC. The river provides poor to modest black bass and sunfish fisheries and a good catfish fishery. Fishing regulations can be viewed online (<https://dwr.virginia.gov/waterbody/dan-river/>). Results from fall 2021 community sample are available below.

**Black Bass:** The Black Bass fishery in the Lower Dan River is modest at best with low black bass abundances relative to most other rivers in the state. Spotted bass represent the most abundant species but have the smallest average size. Largemouth bass are the second most numerous black bass species but offer the best potential for a quality catch with fish up to 18 inches collected in 2021. Smallmouth Bass occur at very low abundances with modest potential for a quality catch. For best success with black bass target woody cover along the shoreline.



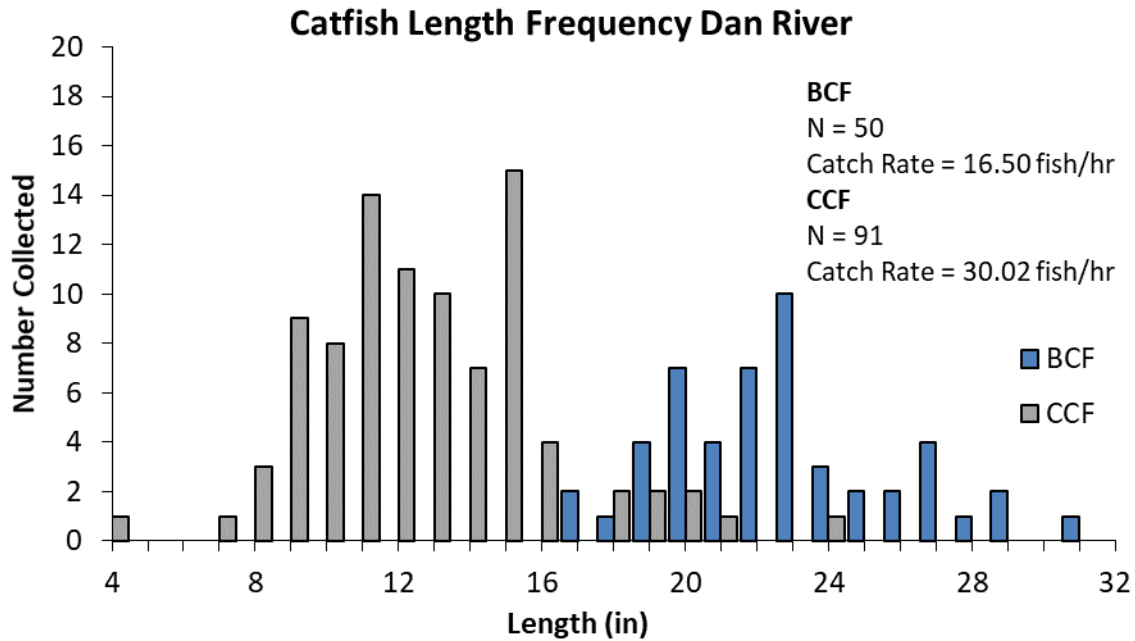
*Black Bass: largemouth bass (LMB), smallmouth bass (SMB), and spotted bass (SPB) size distribution, number collected (N), and catch rate (fish per hour) from 2021 electrofishing samples on the Dan River.*

**Sunfish:** The Dan River sunfish fishery is also modest. Bluegill are far and away the most numerous species but a majority of the fish are in the 4-5 inch range and support a limited fishery. Redbreast sunfish are also present in low numbers with a small average size. Roanoke Bass and Redear Sunfish are present in low numbers and offer limited opportunities for a quality catch. Targeting woody shoreline debris and sandy backwater areas is the best bet for success with sunfish.



*Sunfish: bluegill (BLG), redbreast sunfish (RDB), redear sunfish (RDE), and roanoke bass (RNB) size distribution, number collected (N), and catch rate (fish per hour) from 2021 electrofishing samples on the Dan River.*

**Catfish:** The catfish fishery in the Dan River is the only option that offers anglers a realistic opportunity for quality angling. Channel Catfish are prevalent but most fish are in the 12-16 inch range, with low numbers of fish around or just over 20 inches. Blue Catfish are also fairly abundant with a majority of fish in the 20-24 inch range. For best success target the upper and lower end of outside channel swing holes with live or cut bait.



*Blue catfish (BCF) and channel catfish (CCF) size distribution, number caught (N), and catch rate (fish per hour) from 2021 electrofishing samples on the Dan River.*

**Area Attractions:**

[Lake Conner](#)

[Lake Burton](#)

[Bugg's Island Lake / Kerr Reservoir](#)

[Staunton River](#)

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