

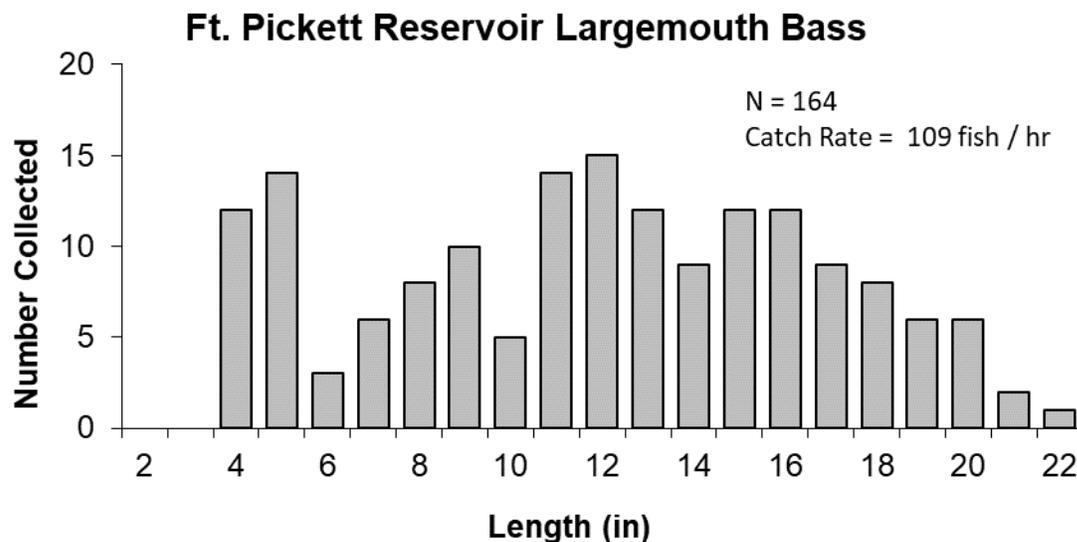


## Fort Pickett Reservoir Report 2022

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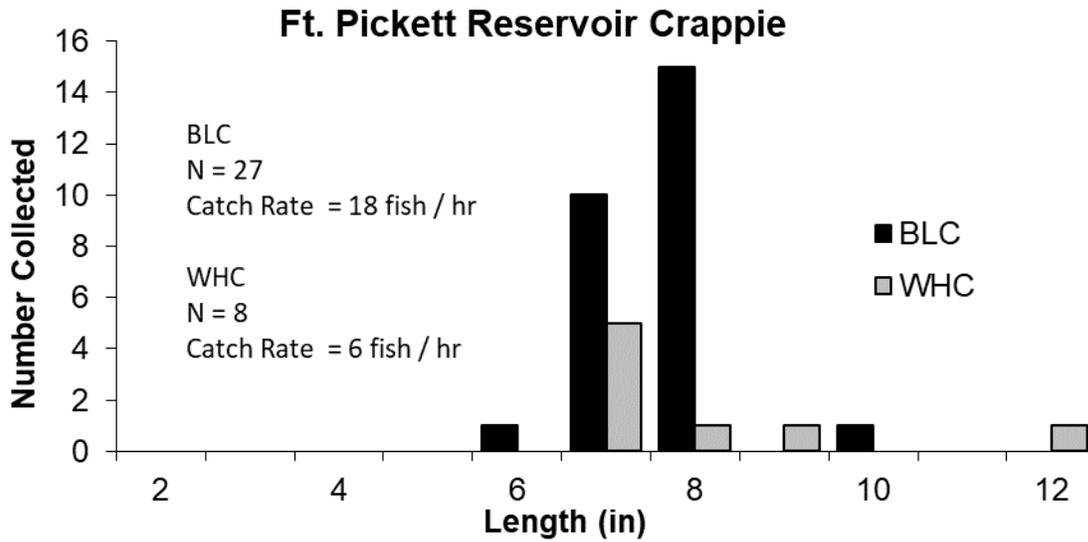
Fort Pickett Reservoir is a 384 acre impoundment of the Mainstem Nottoway River located in Nottoway and Brunswick Counties. The lake is owned by Fort Pickett Military Reservation and lies within the base. The lake serves as water supply for Fort Pickett as well as the town of Blackstone. The lake provides a warmwater fishery for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, and Channel Catfish. Biologists routinely sample the lake using boat electrofishing. Below are results from the 2021 survey.

**Largemouth Bass:** Fort Pickett Reservoir largemouth bass catch rates in 2021 were just below the average for most lakes in southside Virginia. However, the opportunity for a quality catch is above average, with high numbers of fish in the 15-20 inch range. Anglers will find their best success with largemouth around fallen trees and aquatic vegetation. Be sure to take note of forage fish activity. Areas with active gizzard shad or spawning sunfish are sure to hold hungry bass.



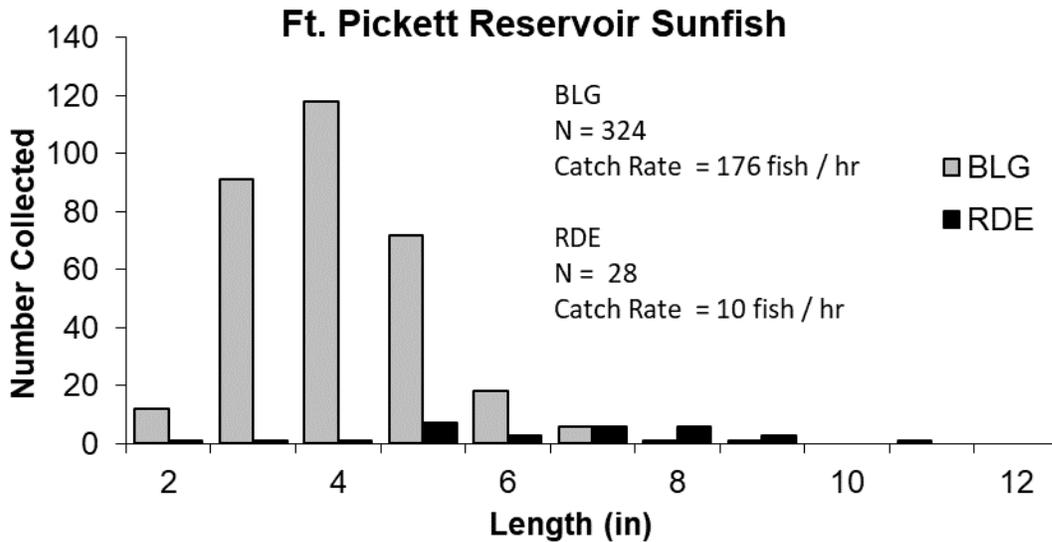
*Largemouth bass size distribution, number collected (N), and catch rate (fish/hr) at Fort Pickett Reservoir Lake from 2021 electrofishing surveys.*

**Crappie:** Fort Pickett Reservoir has fair populations of both black and white crappie. Though catch rates are somewhat low a majority of the fish present are of quality size, with fish up to 12 inches present. For best success with crappie target aquatic vegetation around the spawn (late March-April) and deeper banks with woody cover through the summer months. Live shiners are generally the most productive bait but small jigs and crankbaits can also yield success.



*Black Crappie (BLC) and White Crappie (WHC) size distribution, number collected (N), and catch rate (fish/hr) at Fort Pickett Reservoir from 2021 electrofishing survey.*

**Sunfish:** Fort Pickett Reservoir offers modest populations of catchable size sunfish. Bluegill in particular are present in good numbers, though the average size is relatively low. Redear sunfish are present in much lower densities but with a much higher trophy potential with fish up to 11 inches collected. Any structure along the shoreline should hold sunfish, but try to target fallen trees and beaver lodges.



*Sunfish (Bluegill and Redbreast Sunfish) size distribution, number collected (N), and catch rate (fish/hr) at Fort Pickett Reservoir from 2021 electrofishing surveys.*

**Catfish:** Electrofishing surveys are poor indicators of Channel Catfish populations. Channel catfish numbers at Fort Pickett Reservoir are supplemented annually by stocking. When targeting catfish try cut bait or other natural baits fished on the bottom near creek channels.

**Area Attractions:**

[Nottoway Lake](#)

[Brunswick Lake](#)

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