

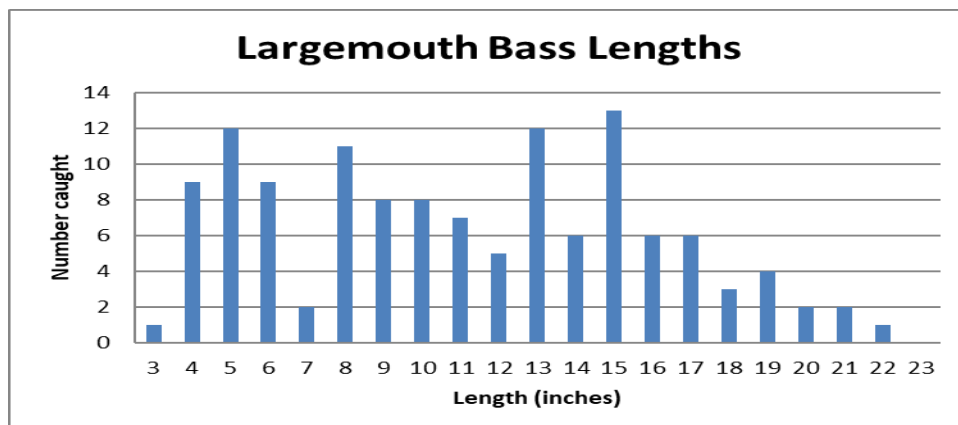


Lake Gordon 2023

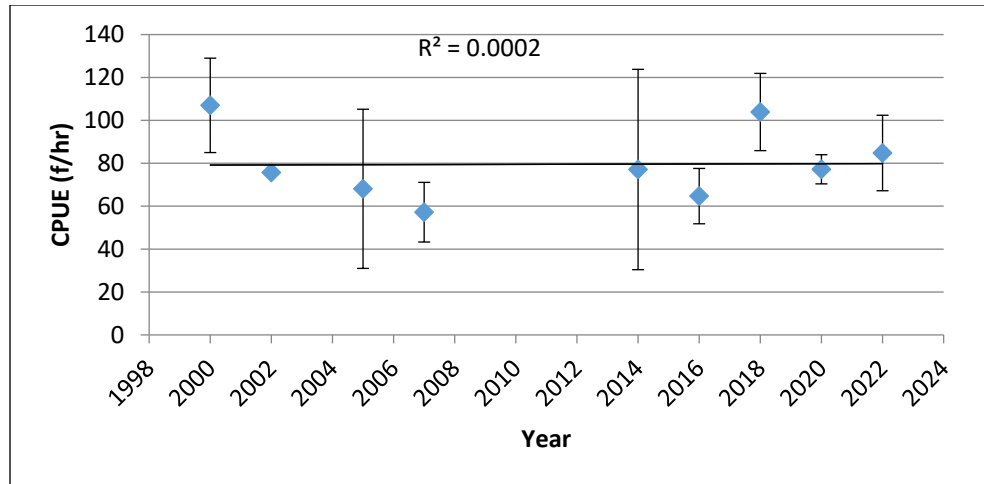
Lake Gordon is a 157-acre impoundment in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. The lake was constructed in 1949 and is owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR). Lake Gordon is located near South Hill, Virginia and offers anglers great fishing opportunities in a picturesque, rural setting. Gasoline engines are not allowed at Lake Gordon but electric motors will get you where you need to go on this small impoundment. Anglers should be aware that numerous stumps were left in the lake for fish habitat so travel carefully. On the upper half of the lake, aquatic vegetation is abundant providing excellent habitat for Largemouth Bass and sunfish. Prohibited activities at Lake Gordon include gasoline motors, camping, trapping without a permit, open-air fires, fishing tournaments involving prizes, swimming, trotlines, alcohol, sailboats, and littering.

Anglers fishing Lake Gordon are likely to catch Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, crappie, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (AKA shellcracker), Chain Pickerel, Yellow Perch, Bowfin and bullhead catfish. Largemouth Bass harvest is regulated with a 14-18 inch slot limit (all bass from 14-18 inches cannot be retained) and a five bass per day bag limit. All other fish species are regulated by statewide limits.

The Largemouth Bass fishery at Lake Gordon has remained consistently good over the years. Based on spring electrofishing samples, largemouth bass are fairly abundant and in good condition. Largemouth Bass size structure is excellent and citation-size bass are caught each year. While sampling in 2022, biologists collected thirteen Largemouth Bass longer than 18 inches with several greater than 5 pounds in just one hour of sampling effort. Abundance of bass sampled over 15 inches in 2022 was good, the third highest density sampled in the last 22 years. Aquatic vegetation is abundant in Lake Gordon and no doubt helps both the bass and the bass anglers.



Biologists track the largemouth population health with an index called catch-per-unit-effort or CPUE. This index is tracked using sampling gear that targets bass and other species while they are close to shore for the spring spawn. Any measure of bass over 100 fish per sample hour (f/hr) is considered good. With total CPUE's normally just below or near mark, the bass fishery is in good shape at Gordon but there is certainly room for improvement. Shoreline rehabilitation would likely result in increased bass abundance at Lake Gordon. Biologists will continue to monitor this population to assure that it remains a healthy fishery.



Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and crappie are common in Lake Gordon with Bluegill being the most abundant of the panfish species. Redear sunfish tend to be larger than Bluegill and shellcracker densities improved greatly in 2022. Anglers can expect to catch bluegill up to 8 inches and redear and crappie up to 11 inches. Beginning in late April, anglers should be able to catch a lot of fish as they begin to move into shallow water to spawn.

Channel Catfish are very popular with anglers at Lake Gordon. The VDWR stocks approximately 2400, 10-inch channel catfish every year because natural reproduction in our small lakes is generally insufficient to support a viable population. Fishing is generally better for catfish during the summer and at night. The catfish fishery is regulated with a 15-inch minimum length limit and 8 fish/day creel limit to protect stocked fish to grow to quality size.

Bowfin inhabit Lake Gordon and biologists have collected some up to 10 pounds. Bass anglers may incidentally catch these fish as they tend to be in the same habitats at Lake Gordon.

Lake Gordon is located approximately 6 miles southwest of South Hill, Virginia. From South Hill, take U.S. 1 South and Route 58 West and turn right on Route 664. Then turn right on Lake Road.