



Nottoway Lake Report 2021

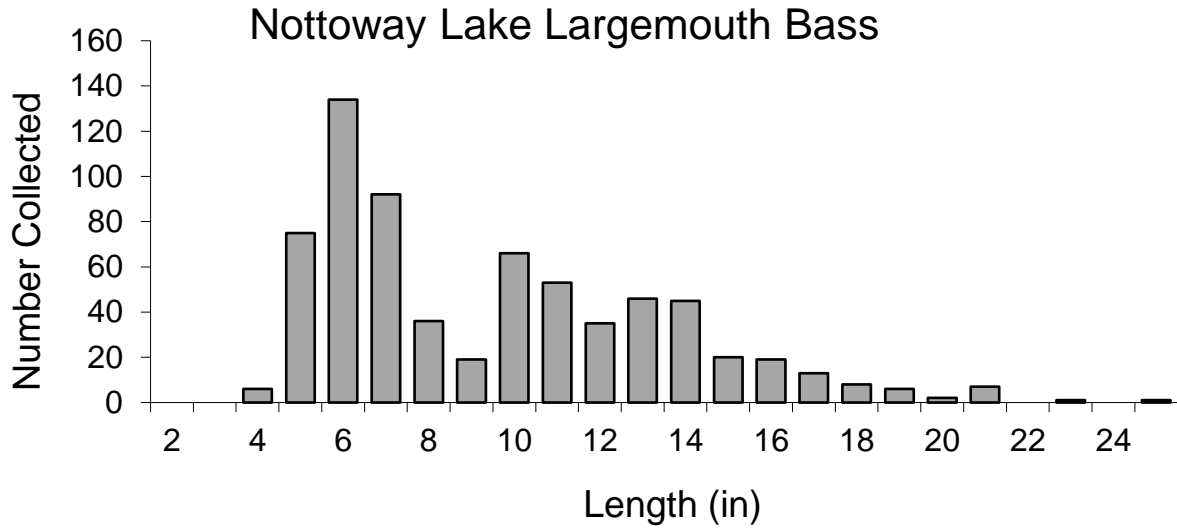
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Nottoway Lake, also known as Lee Lake, is a 188 acre department owned lake located in Nottoway County. Nottoway Lake was created in 1978 by the impoundment of Lee Creek, a tributary of the Appomattox River. The lake provides a warmwater fishery for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, and Channel Catfish. Fishing regulations can be viewed online (<https://www.dwr.virginia.gov/waterbody/nottoway-lake/>) or at the kiosk near the boat ramp. Biologists routinely sample the lake using boat electrofishing. Below are results from the 2020 electrofishing survey.

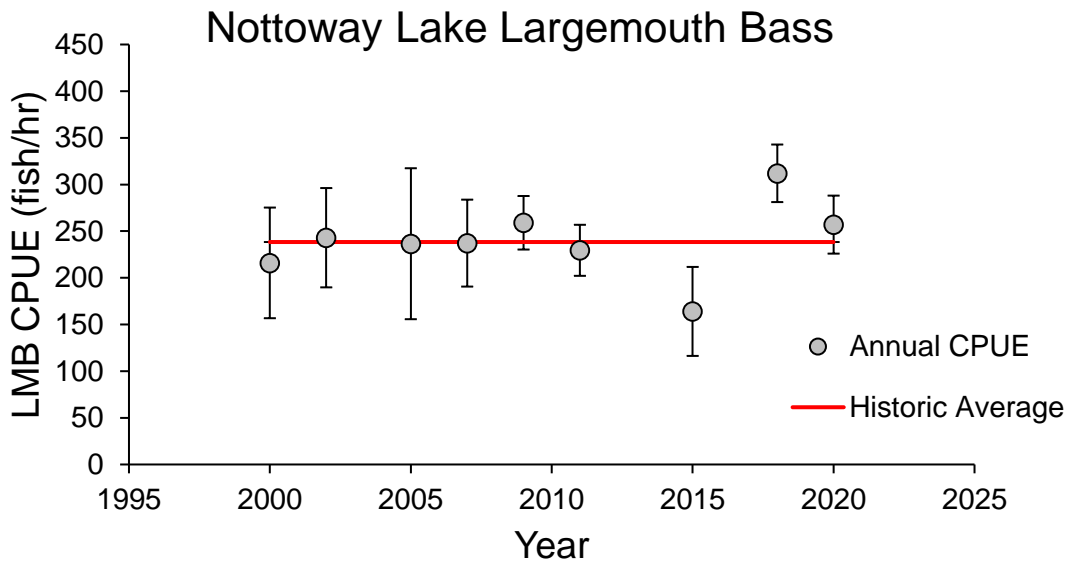
Largemouth Bass: Nottoway Lake electrofishing efforts in Spring of 2020 yielded high catch rates for Largemouth Bass, which were in line with the historic average. Size structure indicated a poor range of sizes present with a vast majority of fish in the system less than 12 inches. A estimate of the total number of Largemouth Bass in Nottoway Lake was also conducted in 2020. Estimates suggest that approximately 8,000 bass currently inhabit the lake or nearly 43 bass per acre, of these only around 3,700 or 20 fish per acre are over 8 inches and of catchable size. Nevertheless, trophy size Largemouth Bass are still present in the system, 11 bass over 20 inches collected during 2020 sampling with one 25 inch individual collected. Nottoway Lake is managed with a 14-18 inch protected slot limit, meaning all fish in this range must be released. Angler's are encouraged to harvest fish in the 8-14 inch range to reduce competition and allow growth to larger sizes. A targeted removal of Largemouth Bass under 12 inches was conducted in 2020 with a total of 1,243 fish removed from the lake. The thinning of bass in this size range should improve growth and increase the number of quality size fish in the lake. Target submerged cover including fallen trees and brush piles near depth changes for Largemouth Bass.



A trophy Largemouth Bass collected from Nottoway Lake during 2020 Electrofishing samples.

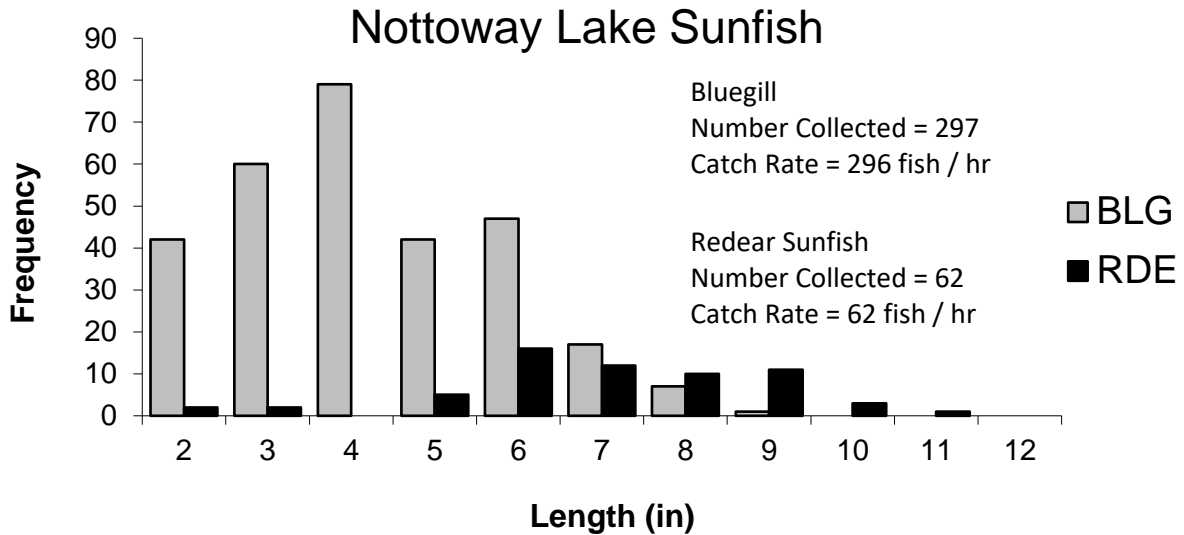


Largemouth bass size distribution at Nottoway Lake from 2020 electrofishing surveys.



Catch rate (fish/hour) for Largemouth Bass in Nottoway Lake from historic electrofishing samples.

Sunfish: Nottoway Lake offers modest populations of catchable size Bluegill and Redear Sunfish. Average size is approximately 5.5 inches for Bluegill and 8 inches for Redear Sunfish. Any structure along the shoreline is good for sunfish, but try to target fallen trees and beaver lodges.



Sunfish (Bluegill and Redbreast Sunfish) size distribution at Nottoway Lake from 2019 electrofishing surveys.

Crappie: Nottoway Lake has limited numbers of Black Crappie of catchable size. During 2020 electrofishing effort only 5 Crappie were collected from Nottoway Lake. It should be noted that electrofishing samples are not designed to target Black Crappie so these samples may not be representative of the fishery.

Catfish: Electrofishing surveys are poor indicators of Channel Catfish populations. However, catfish are still numerous and very popular among the anglers at Nottoway. Channel catfish numbers at Nottoway are supplemented annually by stocking, with almost 2800 fish added to the lake each year. When targeting catfish try cut bait or other natural baits fished on the bottom near creek channels on Nottoway for catfish.

Area Attractions:

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[Swift Creek Lake](#)

[Powhatan WMA Ponds](#)

[Amelia Lake](#)

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