



Scottsville Lake 2020



Located adjacent to the Town of Scottsville in southern Albemarle County, Scottsville Lake is a small (3.5 acre) recreation lakes administered by the Town of Scottsville. The lake is part of the Department's put-and-take trout stocking program, but also contain several warm water species including Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and crappie. Additionally, Channel Catfish are stocked in the lake to create an added fishery. In the spring of 2019, the fish community of Scottsville Lake was sampled by boat electrofishing. This report summarizes the results of this survey and what anglers can expect to catch in the lake.

The fish community of Scottsville Lake is limited by the lake's small waterbody size. The main fishing attraction is the popular put-and-take trout fishery that starts in October and extends through June 15th, at which time a trout license is required to fish the lake. During sampling, numerous trout were observed but were not collected. Excluding trout, a total of six fish species were collected in the 2019 survey (Table 1). Bluegill was the most abundant species collected, followed by Redear Sunfish and Largemouth Bass (Table 1).

The bass fisheries in the lake is very limited by population size, but was maintained by a number of large bass over 15 inches (Figure 1). There were a few very large bass (> 20 inches) collected, with the largest bass collected measuring 22 inches and weighing 8 pounds. Due to the limited population, a 12-22 protective slot limit, with a harvest restriction of only one bass over 22 allowed per angler per day, is planned for the lake. The harvest restrictions will help protect the small adult bass population for all anglers to enjoy.

Like the bass, the panfish population (primarily Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and a few White Crappie) were limited in numbers. Although low in number, a few quality sized Redear and crappie were collected (Figure 2). These fish were between 8 and 11 inches and would be a potential trophy catch for any angler. No Black Crappie were collected in Scottsville Lake.

The trout fisheries within Scottsville Lake is a major fishing attractions but there are ample opportunities to catch other species including stocked Channel Catfish. The lake is contained in the 63-acre Van Clief Nature Area that has many amenities including walking trails, bank fishing access, and picnic areas. Additionally the lake is less than a 5-minute walk to Historic Downtown Scottsville where there are numerous stores, restaurants and even a popular brewery. Scottsville Lake is open during daylight hours, and only hand carried boats without gas motors are permitted on the lake. You can access the lake by parking downtown and taking the trail behind James River Brewery or from the main park access off of Hardware Street (Route 795).

For more information on the Scottsville Lake, please contact:

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Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Scottville Lake in 2019. Trout observed during sampling were not collected and included in this table.

Species Collected	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish per hour electrofishing)	Percentage of the catch (%)
Bluegill	38	140	51
Brown Bullhead	2	7	3
Largemouth Bass	14	52	19
Redear Sunfish	16	59	21
Warmouth	2	7	3
White Crappie	2	7	3

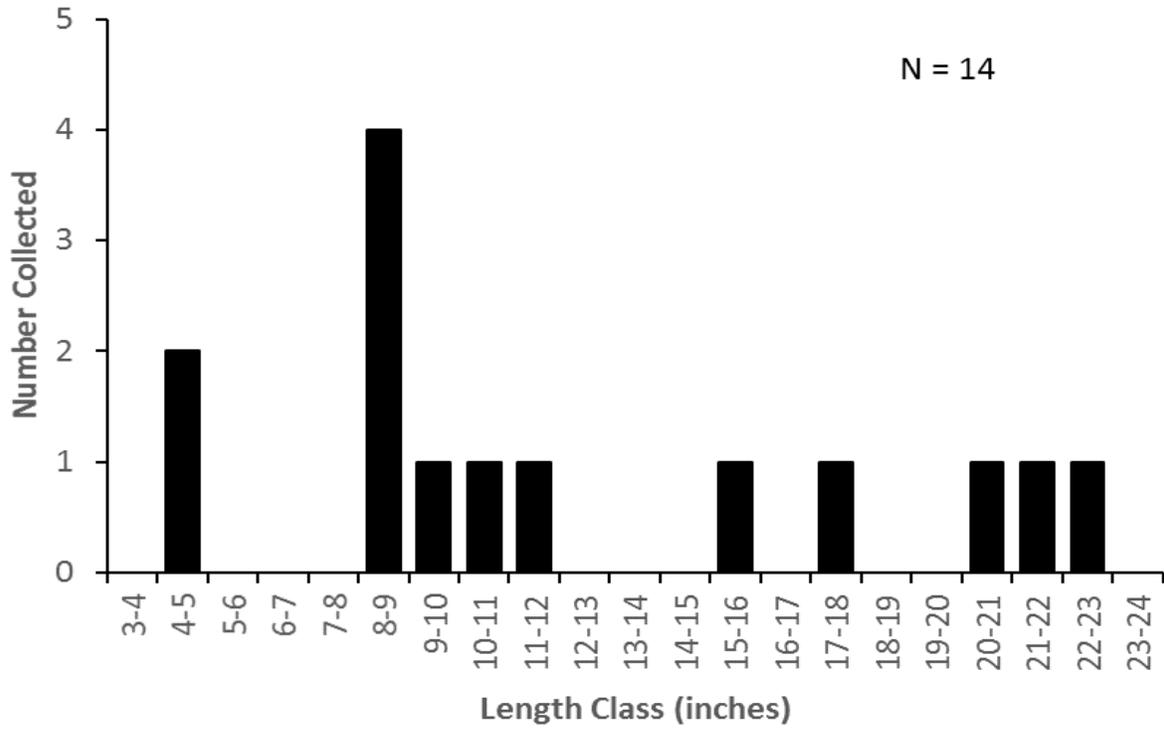


Figure 1. Length distribution of Largemouth Bass collected throughout Scottsville Lake with electrofishing in 2019.

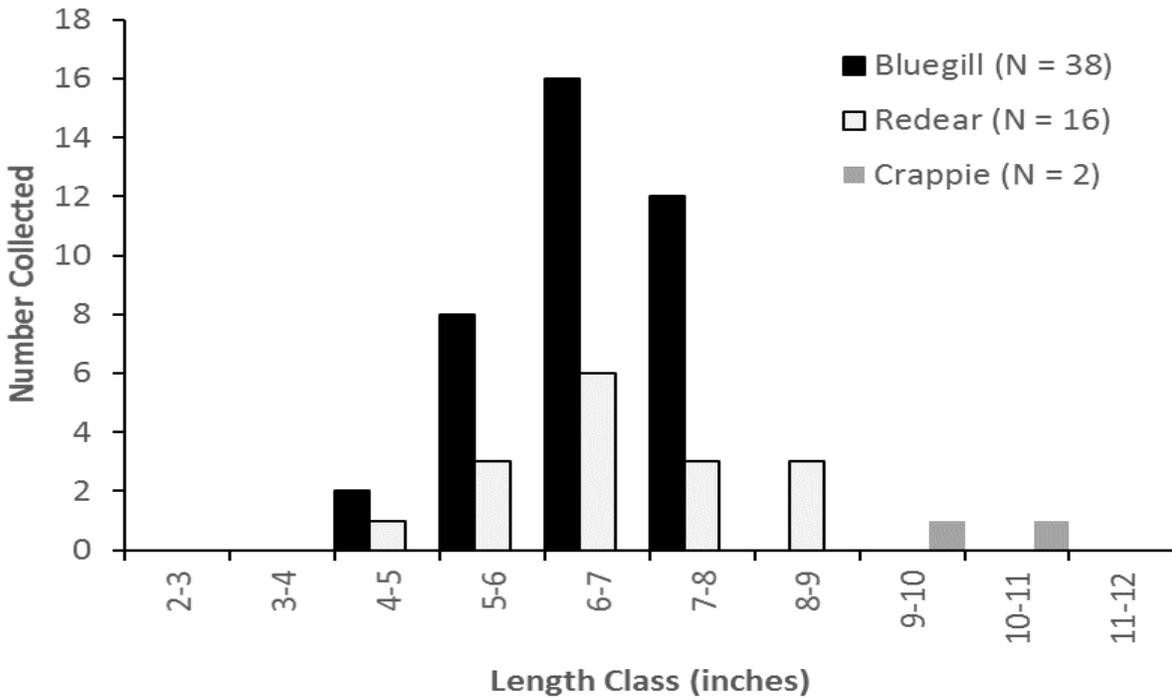


Figure 2. Length distribution of panfish collected throughout Scottsville Lake with electrofishing in 2019.