

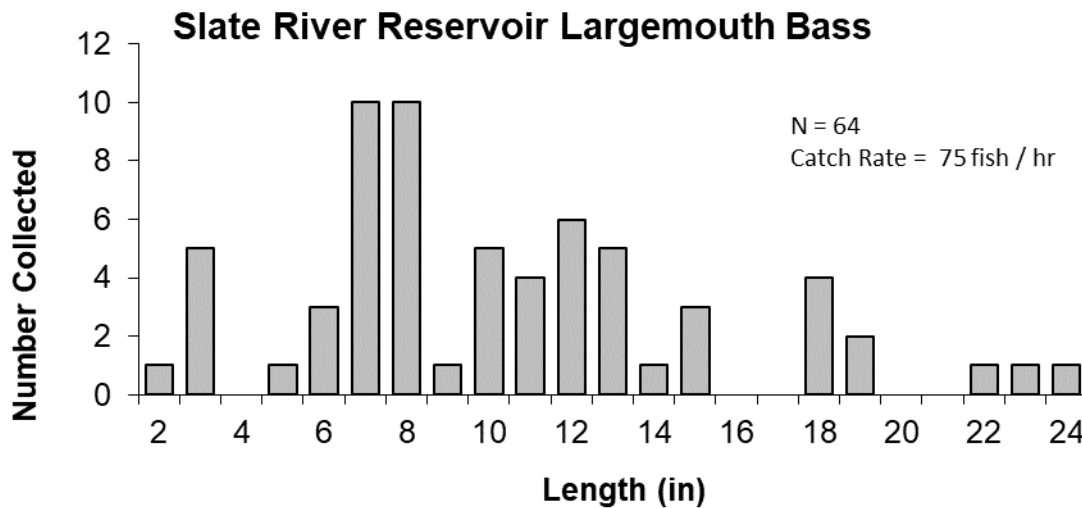


Slate River Reservoir Report 2022

*Hunter Hatcher
Fisheries Biologist
Farmville Field Office*

Slate River Reservoir is a 38 acre lake located in Buckingham County. The lake is owned by the Virginia Department of Forestry and lies within the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. The primary purpose of the reservoir is flood control for the watershed below, this leads to significant annual water level fluctuation. The lake provides a warmwater fishery for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, and Channel Catfish. Fishing regulations can be viewed online (<https://dwr.virginia.gov/waterbody/slate-river-impoundment/>) or at the kiosk near the boat ramp. Biologists routinely sample the lake using boat electrofishing. Below are results from the 2021 survey.

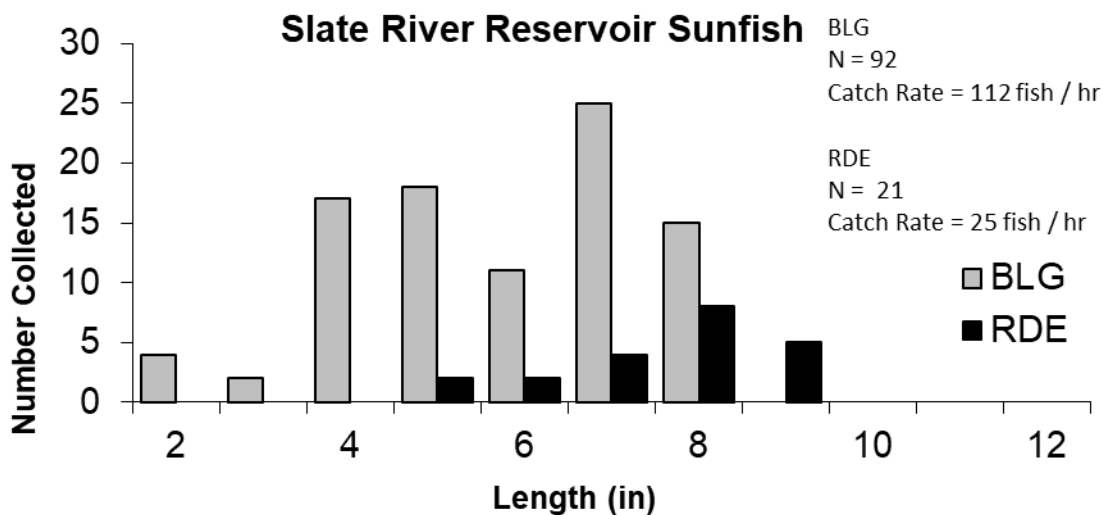
Largemouth Bass: Slate River Reservoir supports a low density largemouth bass population, with some of the lowest catch rates observed in the region. The low densities do create good growth rates and the potential for quality size fish with individual fish up to 24 inches collected in 2021. Target deeper shorelines with woody debris, vegetation edges, and defined creek channels for best success with largemouth bass.



Largemouth bass size distribution, number collected (N), and catch rate (fish/hr) at Slate River Reservoir from 2021 electrofishing surveys.

Crappie: Slate River Reservoir supports a low abundance crappie fishery. Only 6 crappie were collected during 2021 samples. However nearly all of these fish were 7-9 inches indicating that the potential for quality size crappie exists. Target standing timber, creek ledges, and beaver lodges for best success with crappie.

Sunfish: Similar to its other fisheries, Slate River Reservoir supports a low abundance sunfish fishery. Samples from 2021 yielded some of the lowest Bluegill catch rates in the region. However, a number of bluegill in the 7-8 inch range were collected, indicating an excellent opportunity for quality sized fish. Similarly, catch rates for redear sunfish were low but individuals up to 9 inches were collected in fair numbers. For best success with sunfish target beaver lodges and fallen trees. During the spawn sandy points, flats, and shallow vegetation edges can be productive.



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

Catfish: The channel catfish fishery at Slate River Reservoir is maintained through annual stockings with harvestable size fish (>15 inches) present in modest densities.

Area Attractions:

[Horsepen Lake](#)

[Holliday Lake](#)

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