



## Totier Creek Reservoir 2021

Located in southern Albemarle County near the town of Scottsville, Totier Creek Reservoir is a 66-acre impoundment administered by Albemarle County Parks and Recreation. The reservoir contains self-sustaining populations of Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, and White Crappie. Additionally, the lake is stocked annually with Channel Catfish to maintain a fishery. In the spring of 2020, the fish community of Totier Creek was sampled by boat electrofishing. This report summarizes the results of the survey and what anglers can expect to catch in Totier Creek.

Totier Creek's fish community is very diverse with a total of twelve fish species collected in the 2020 survey (Table 1). Bluegill and Largemouth Bass were the most abundant species collected (Table 1). Totier Creek continues to provide a quality fisheries for Largemouth Bass to anglers in central Virginia. Largemouth Bass catches were up when compared to previous surveys and the size distribution of bass collected was ideal. The reservoir has ample numbers of young fish (primarily bass between 10 to 16 inches) to sustain the population while also providing good numbers of fish in the 16 to 21 inch range (Figure 1). Anglers should not expect extremely high catch rates for Largemouth Bass in Totier Creek, but when they do catch a fish it is likely to be a quality fish. The largest bass collected measured 22 inches and weighed 7.5 lbs. The most productive areas for Largemouth Bass were along the shoreline in the lower, deeper section of the lake. Gizzard Shad are common in the lake and are a major prey species of bass; anglers should use baits that mimic shad colors and movement.

Totier Creek provides fisheries for both Black and White crappie which is unique for the area. Most impoundments in central Virginia are dominated by Black Crappie, whereas Totier Creek has ample numbers of both species. White Crappie are associated with flowing water systems like rivers and the riverine nature of Totier Creek provides the preferred habitat for White Crappie. Low numbers of crappie ( $n = 44$ ) were collected with the electrofishing equipment which was expected due to the gear type. Of the crappie collected, the majority of crappie collect were Black Crappie and measured between 7 and 10 inches (Figure 2). In Totier Creek, anglers should limit their harvest of the large White Crappie to protect the limited population and concentrate harvest efforts on the smaller, slower growing Black Crappie.

Anglers looking for an excellent Largemouth Bass and crappie lake should visit Totier Creek Reservoir. The reservoir also offers fisheries for Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and Channel Catfish. Most Bluegill and Redear collected were small ( $< 8$  inches), but there were a number of larger Redear collected in 2020 and in previous surveys. No Channel Catfish were collected in the 2020 survey but the species is stocked annually. Totier Creek has a concrete boat ramp with a courtesy pier and numerous areas for bank fishing. Gas powered motors are prohibited in the reservoir. Anglers should be aware that the reservoir will become very turbid after rain due to the reservoir's riverine design.

For more information on Totier Creek Reservoir, please contact:

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Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Totier Creek Reservoir in 2020.

Species	Electrofishing		
	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish/hour electrofishing)	Percentage of Catch
American Eel	34	43	9
Black Crappie	37	46	10
Bluegill	145	181	38
Chain Pickerel	1	1	1
Golden Shiner	4	5	< 1
Gizzard Shad	28	35	7
Largemouth Bass	89	111	23
Redear Sunfish	16	20	4
Warmouth	11	14	3
White Crappie	7	9	2
White Sucker	11	14	3
Yellow Bullhead	1	1	< 1

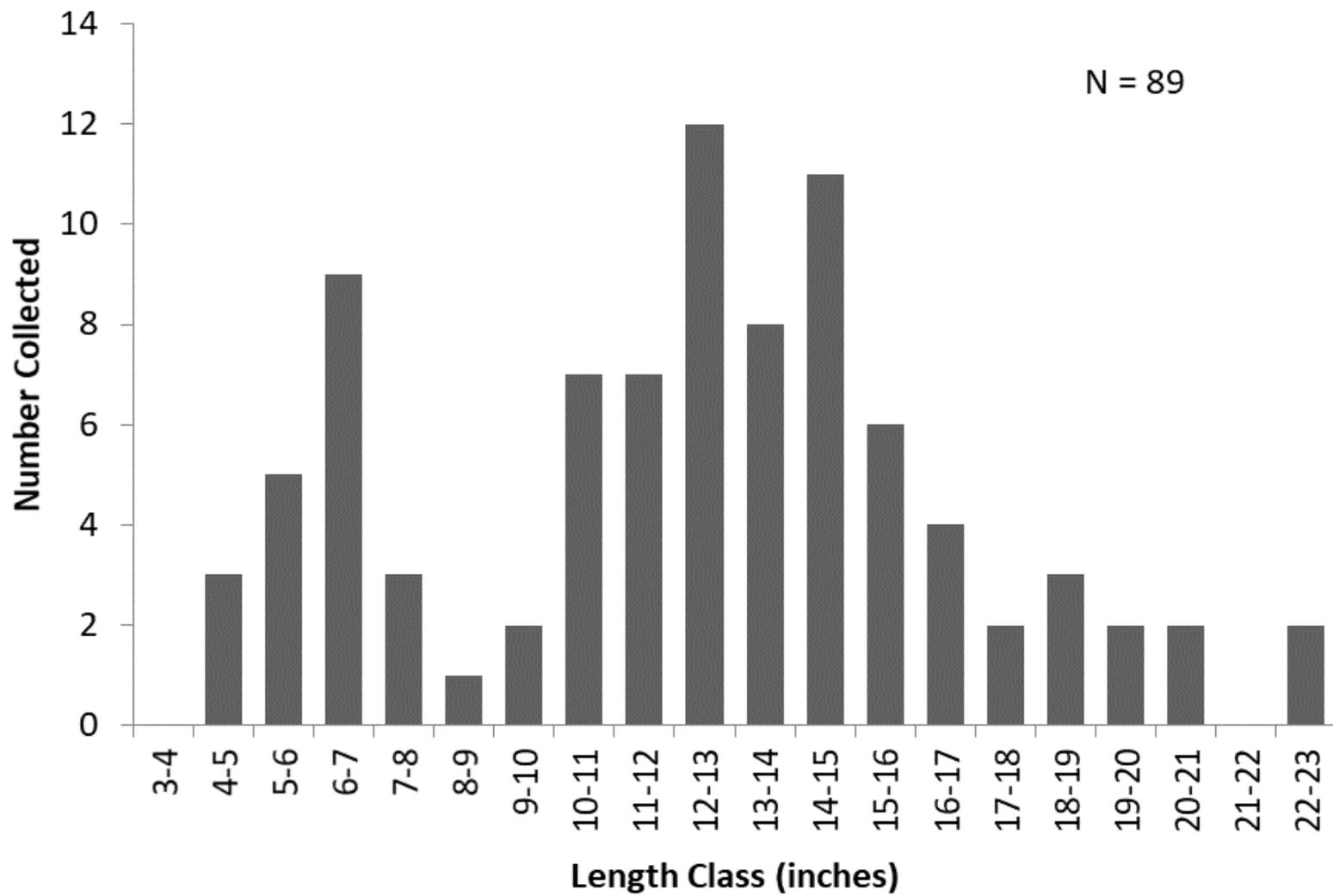


Figure 1. Length distribution of Largemouth Bass collected with electrofishing gear throughout Totier Creek Reservoir in 2020.

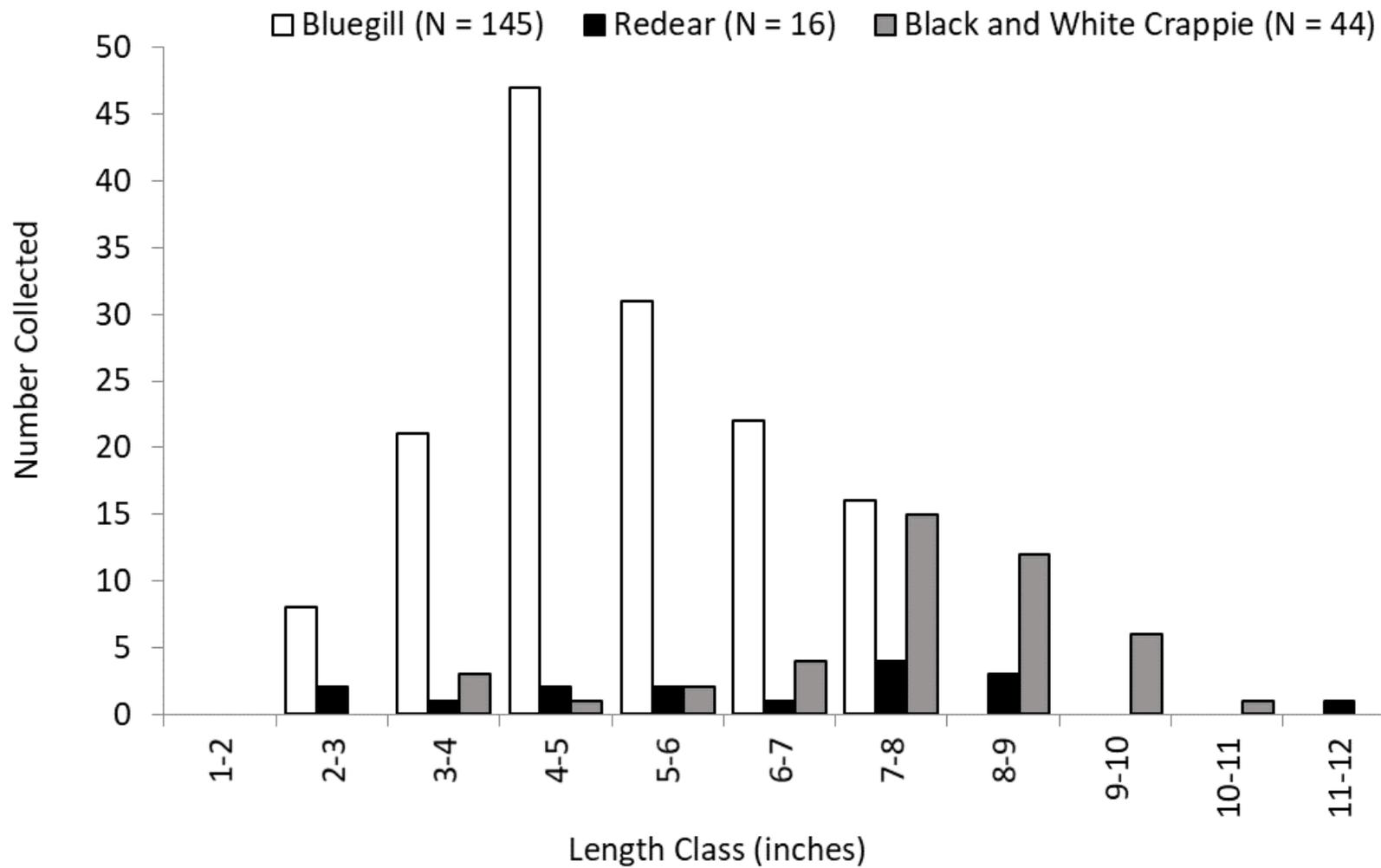


Figure 1. Length distribution of Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and crappie (Black and White combined) collected with electrofishing gear throughout Totier Creek Reservoir in 2020.