

Lake Rowena

Cambria County

May 2022 Trap Net and Electrofishing Survey

Lake Rowena is a 14-acre impoundment located in Cambria County on Howells Run in Ebensburg, PA. The impoundment is owned and operated by the Borough of Ebensburg as a recreational fishing destination. Boats are restricted to electric motors. Lake Rowena is a small shallow water body with most of the lake easily accessed from the bank. Lake Rowena is managed with [Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations](#). The Fish and Boat Commission currently stocks Lake Rowena with catchable trout once preseason, twice in-season, and once in the fall.

The primary purpose of our 2022 surveys was to measure the size structure and quality of the lake's resident gamefish and panfish populations. These data will be used to update the fishery management plan for the lake. Catch data from our 2022 trap net survey showed the lake should provide quality fishing for crappie and Bluegill (Table 1).

Table 1. Number and size range of fish species captured from three trap nets at Lake Rowena, May 2022.

Fish Species	Number	Size (Inches)	Comments
Black Crappie	32	5 - 10	34% ≥ 9 inches
White Crappie	21	7 - 11	33% ≥ 9 inches
Bluegill	203	3 - 8	33% ≥ 7 inches
Pumpkinseed	25	4 - 8	20% ≥ 7 inches
Rock Bass	1	11	-
Yellow Perch	62	4 - 10	2% ≥ 9 inches
Largemouth Bass	4	7 - 11	-
Brown Bullhead	3	11 - 16	-
Yellow Bullhead	4	5 - 11	-
Hatchery Brook Trout	6	Not Measured	-
Hatchery Rainbow Trout	35	Not Measured	-
White Sucker	26	Not Measured	-
Golden Shiner	43	Not Measured	-
Common Carp	10	Not Measured	-

Since the previous surveys in 2001 and 2012, there has been an improvement in the quality sized sunfish in 2022 (Figure 1).

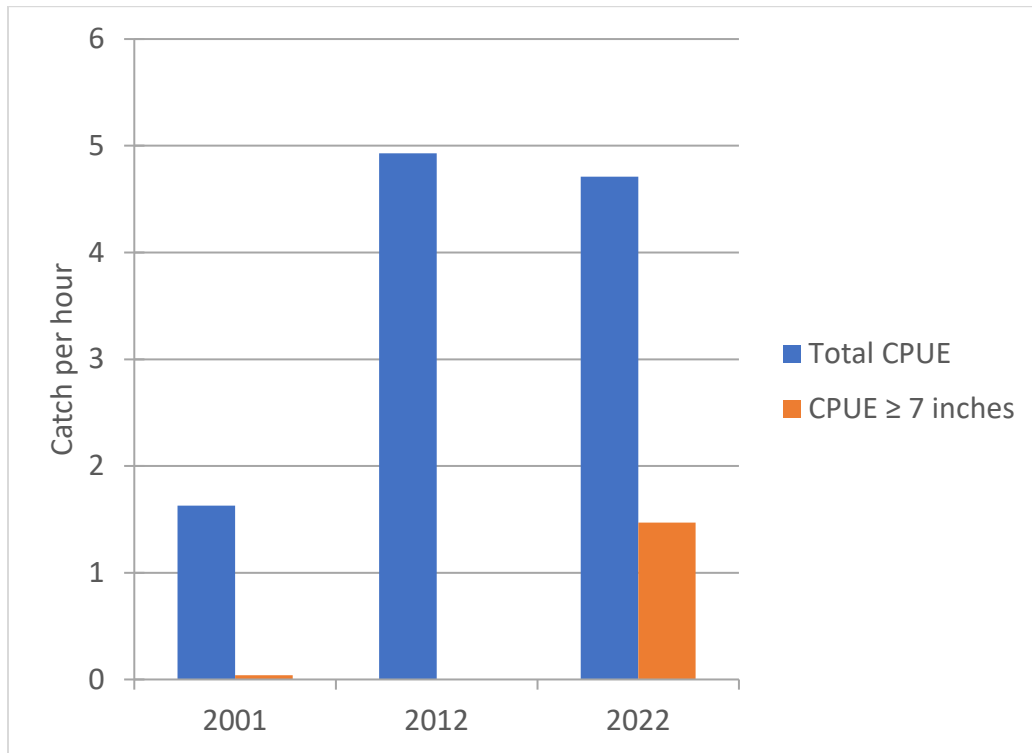


Figure 1. Trap net catch rates of sunfish (Bluegill and Pumpkinseed) from Lake Rowena in 2001, 2012, and 2022.



Fisheries Biologist Aide Lucas Hartman holding a Bluegill and Yellow Perch from Lake Rowena.

The number of quality sized (≥ 9 inches) crappie has been similar from 2001 to 2022. Total catch has decreased since 2001, which is beneficial since the lake has been overpopulated with small crappie (Figure 2). With a decrease in catch, we expect a more balanced population of crappies in the future.

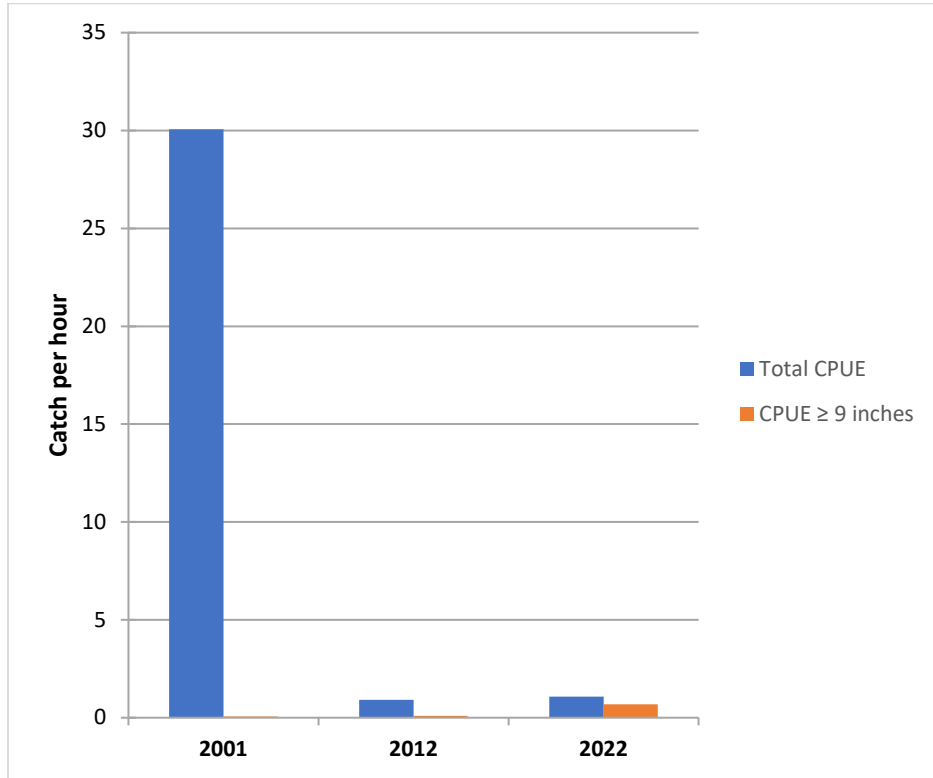


Figure 2. Trap net catch rates of crappies from Lake Rowena in 2001, 2012, and 2022.

Although numbers may be low, there are quality sized bullhead found in Lake Rowena for anglers to target (Figure 3).

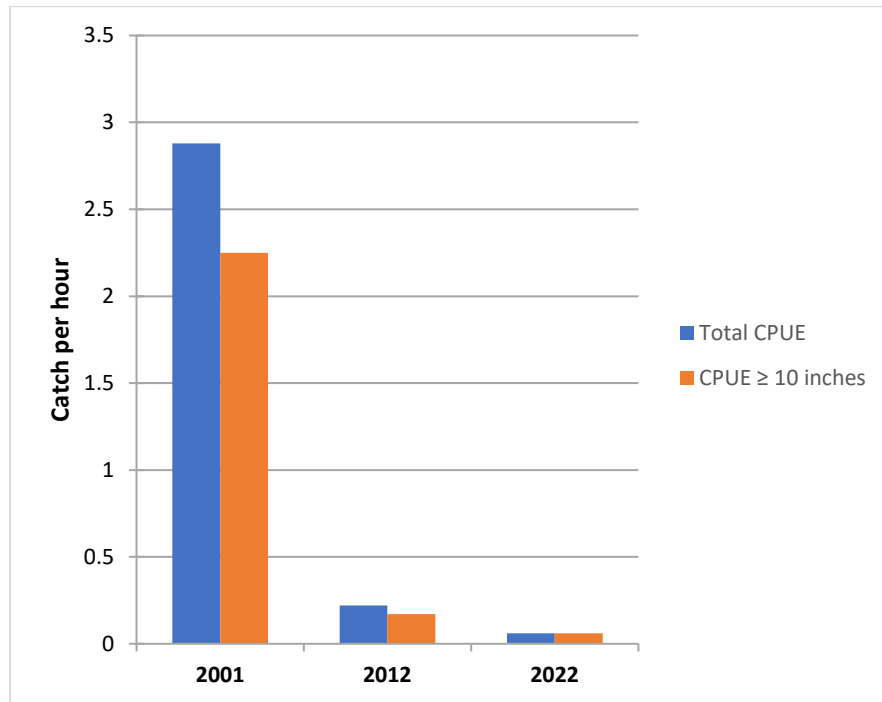


Figure 3. Trap net catch rates of bullheads from Lake Rowena in 2001, 2012, and 2022.

In our nighttime electrofishing survey of Lake Rowena, we captured 92 Largemouth Bass, three of which were 15 inches or greater (Table 2).

Table 2. Number and size range of Largemouth Bass captured during nighttime electrofishing at Lake Rowena in 2022.

Fish Species	Number	Size (Inches)	Comments
Largemouth Bass	92	6 - 18	23% ≥ 12 inches 2% ≥ 15 inches

Total number of Largemouth Bass captured in 2022 was greater than previous years in which Lake Rowena was surveyed. Largemouth Bass ≥ 12 inches and ≥ 15 inches were highest in the 2022 survey compared to the previous years surveyed (Figure 4). Turbidity was higher during the 2012 survey, which could have affected the catch rate.

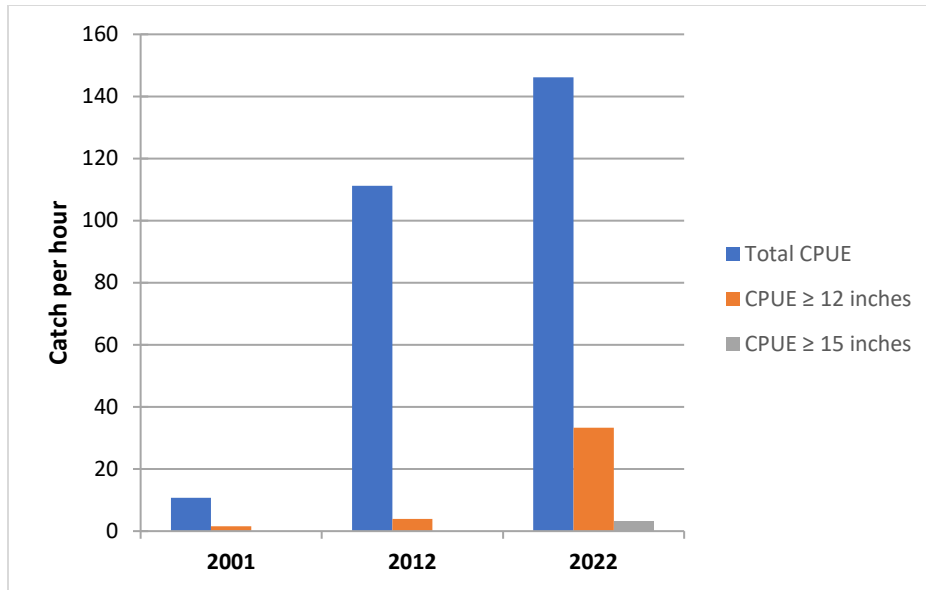


Figure 4. Largemouth Bass collected during nighttime electrofishing at Lake Rowena in 2001, 2012, and 2022.

Overall, Lake Rowena provides quality fishing opportunities for several species. Great fishing for stocked trout exists but the Largemouth Bass population also provides excellent angling opportunities. There are also nice, quality sized sunfish for anglers to target. Total number of crappie may be low, but there are quality sized crappie found in Lake Rowena.

Darby Byington, Fisheries Biologist Aide
 Fisheries Management Area 8
 Somerset, PA