

# Harveys Lake

## Luzerne County

### 2022 Gill Net Survey



*Fisheries Biologist Dan Drake with a healthy male Brown Trout in spawning coloration.*

At 658 acres and just over 100 feet maximum depth, Harveys Lake is the Commonwealth's largest natural lake. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission owns and maintains a boat ramp with parking for 75 trailers at the northwest corner of the lake. Boat motor horsepower is unrestricted. Harveys Lake is designated as a [Stocked Trout Water Open to Year-Round Fishing](#), receiving Brown Trout plantings pre-season and in the fall at an annual rate of 7/acre, and occasionally unallocated fingerling and adult Brown and Rainbow Trout. The lake has been managed as a Special Regulation water since 1998 allowing a daily limit of three trout (combined species) with one exceeding 18 inches from the opening day of trout season until the last day of February. The lake is also stocked annually with Walleye fingerlings at a rate of 20/acre.

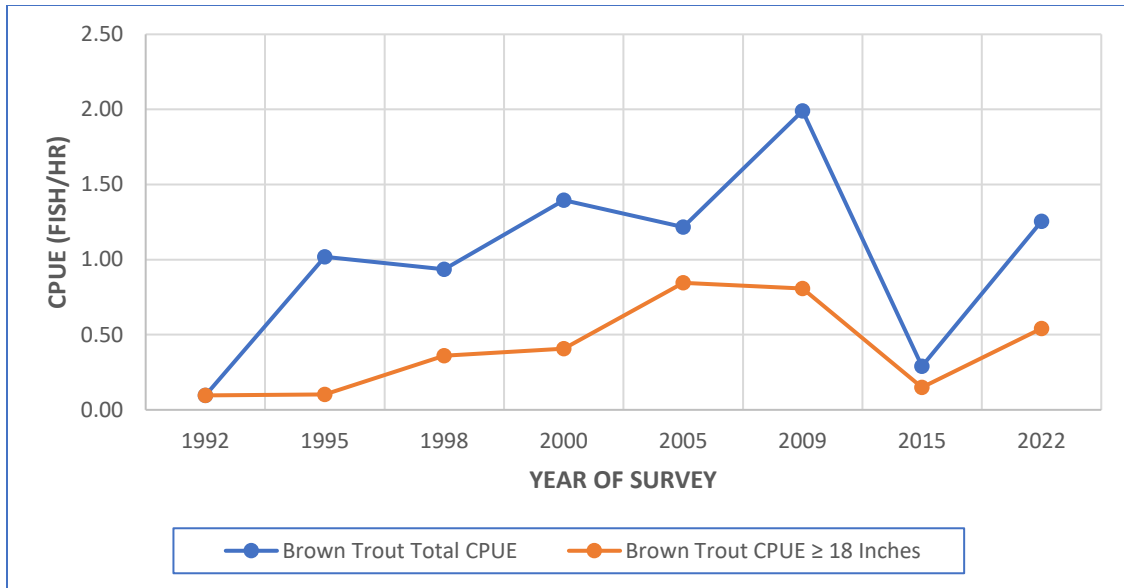
Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a gill net survey of Harveys Lake on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 as a routine evaluation of the Brown Trout stocking program and also to collect information on the status of Walleye and Black Bass populations. A total of 19 gill nets set for an average soak time of 2.5 hours each captured 176 individual fish of nine different species (Table 1).

The catch per unit effort (CPUE) for all Brown Trout was 1.25/hour and the CPUE for Brown Trout  $\geq$  18 inches was 0.54/hour (Table 2). These values are both slightly above the survey average for years 2000 and later. Note the aforementioned regulation change went into effect in 1998, therefore 1998 and prior years survey CPUE values were excluded from this comparison. It is expected it should take around two years to observe a meaningful impact. With multiple individuals caught in the 18-22 inch range (Figure 1) the lake should provide plenty of action in the Spring and Fall when Brown Trout move up into shallow water. It appears that the special regulation is continuing to protect larger individuals from harvest.

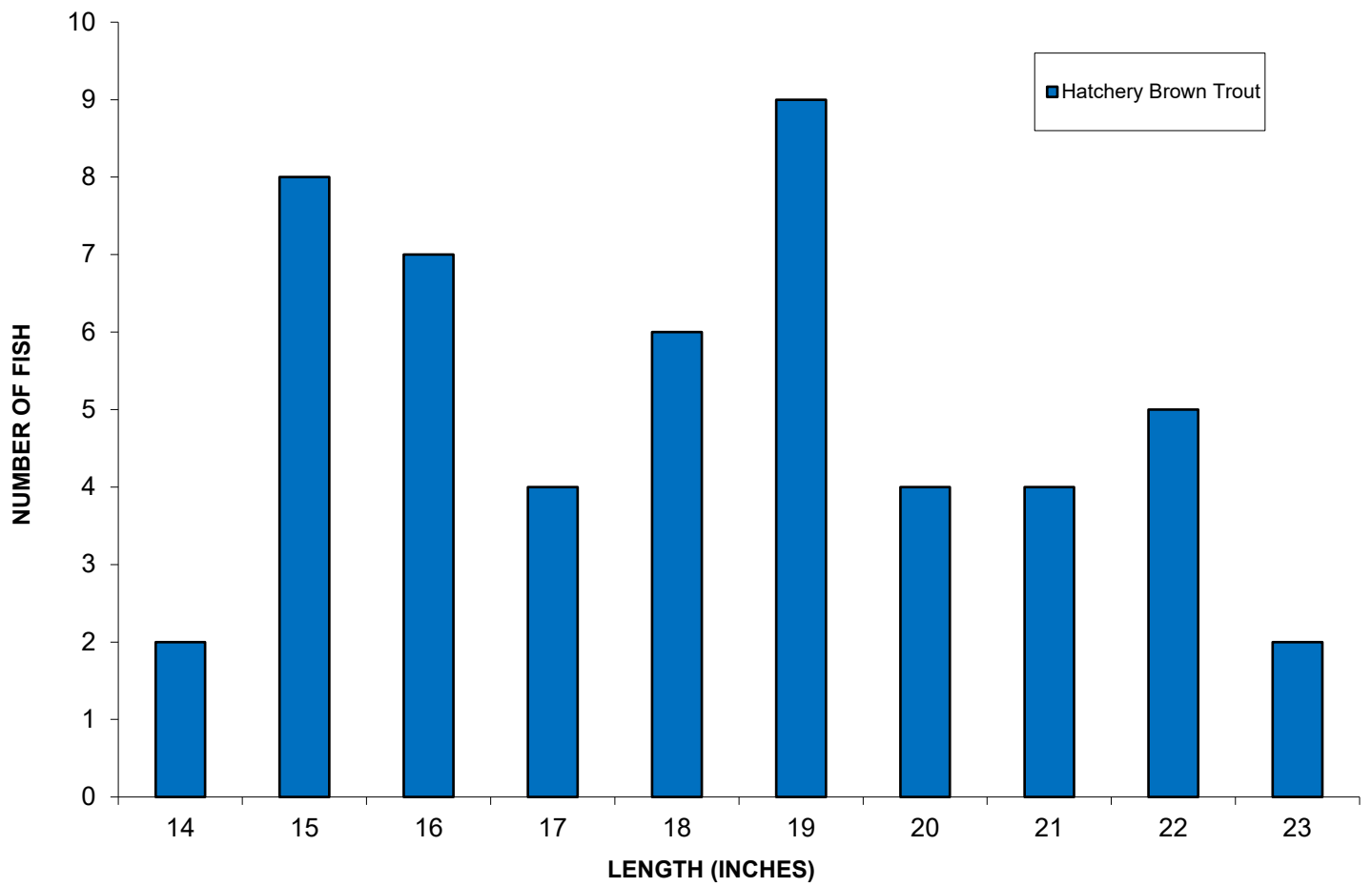
The Smallmouth Bass catch was also impressive from this survey with multiple individuals in the 17-20 inch range (Figure 2).

Species	Number Caught	Average Length (in)	Min Length (in)	Max Length (in)
Bluegill	4	4.5	3.0	5.0
Brown Trout - Hatchery	52	17.6	13.4	22.4
Chain Pickerel	3	18.4	7.0	25.8
Largemouth Bass	5	14.0	11.9	16.4
Pumpkinseed	5	4.6	4.0	5.0
Rainbow Trout - Hatchery	5	12.2	10.2	17.3
Smallmouth Bass	90	15.1	8.4	20.4
Walleye	4	19.3	17.0	23.7
Yellow Perch	8	9.4	7.6	12.8

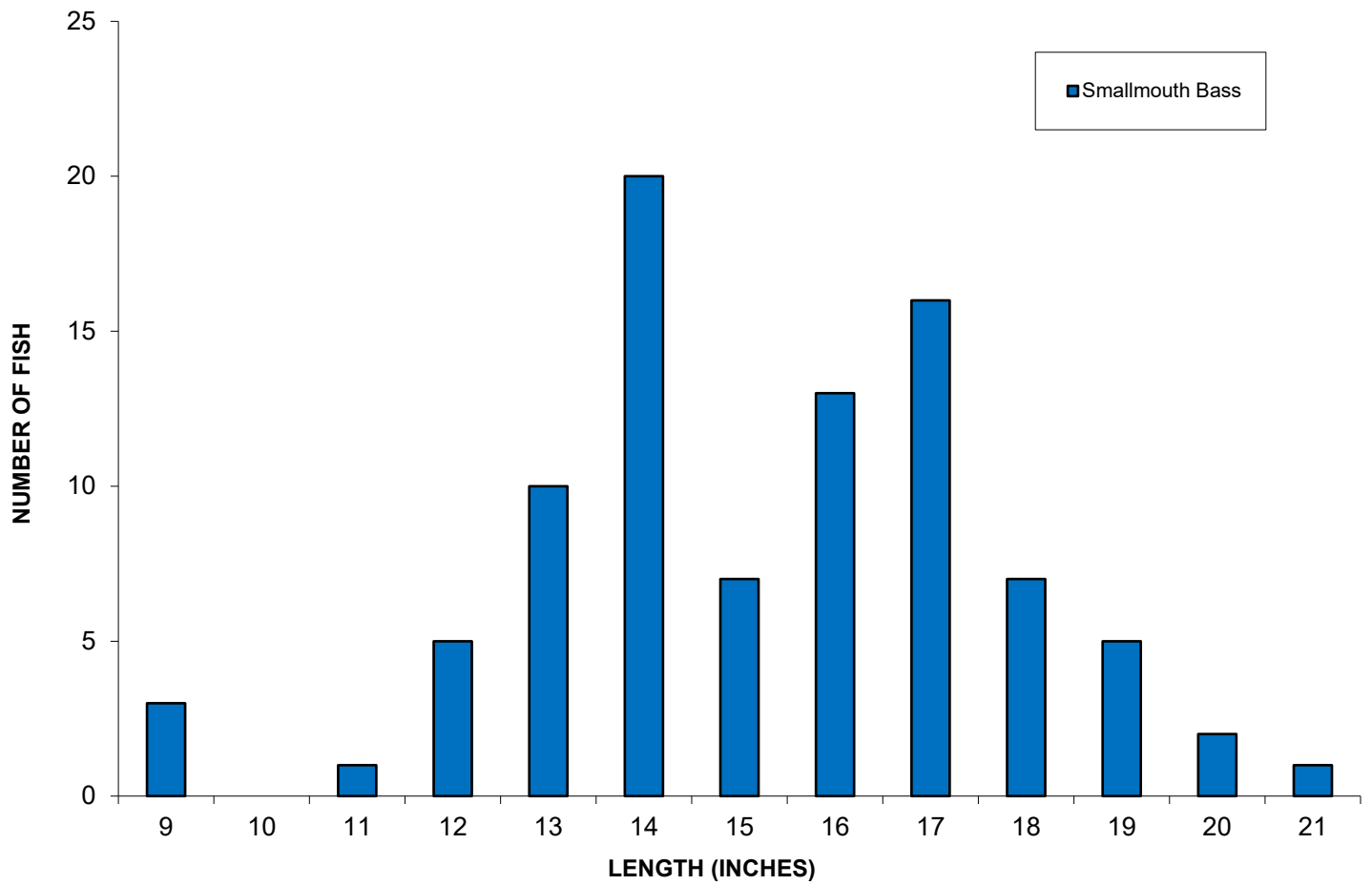
**Table 1:** Catch summaries from Harveys Lake November 2022 gill net survey.



**Figure 1.** Catch per unit effort of Hatchery Brown Trout in Harveys Lake fall gill nets 1992-2022 from Harveys Lake.



**Figure 2.** Length frequency distribution of Hatchery Brown Trout caught in November 2022 from Harveys Lake



**Figure 3.** Length frequency distribution of Smallmouth Bass caught in November 2022 from Harveys Lake.



*Fisheries Biologist Dan Drake with a quality size Harveys Lake Smallmouth Bass.*

**Dan Drake**  
**Area 4 Fisheries Biologist**