

Briar Creek Lake

Columbia County

2022 Black Bass Survey



Fisheries Biologist Aide Joe Pacholec with a nice Briar Creek Lake Largemouth Bass collected June 2022.

[Briar Creek Lake](#) is a 51-acre public impoundment in Columbia County. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission own the lake and surrounding shoreline. A [county run park](#) is located south of the lake with picnic areas and ball fields. A fishing pier, boat launch and mooring area is located on the north side of the lake. Boating is limited to un-powered and electric motors only. Briar Creek is [stocked](#) with catchable [rainbow and golden rainbow trout](#) once pre-season, twice in-season, and once in the fall and managed as a [Stocked Trout Water Open to Year Around Fishing](#). All other fish species are governed under [statewide regulations](#).

Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a night boat electrofishing survey of Briar Creek Lake on June 6, 2022 to collect [black bass](#) . Largemouth Bass were the only black bass species captured. A total of 22 Largemouth Bass were captured with a night electrofishing catch rate of 28.6/hour. The bass ranged from 9 to 18 inches in total length (Figure 1.) The catch rate for bass ≥ 12 inches was 18.2/hour, and the catch rate for bass ≥ 15 inches was 16.9/hour. A previous black bass electrofishing survey conducted in 2010 produced slightly higher catch rates. Sampling conditions in 2022 were less than optimal due to high turbidity making it more difficult to see fish possibly resulting in the decreased catch rate. The data suggests that anglers currently have the opportunity to catch some nice bass given that the catch rates of the previous survey ([2010](#)) are most similar for fish ≥ 15 inches.

Also observed during sampling were numerous stocked trout as well as good numbers of [crappie](#), [Yellow Perch](#), [catfish](#), and [Common Carp](#).

Table 1. Night electrofishing catch rate comparisons of black bass in Briar Creek Lake.

	2010	2022
Total catch/hour	53.2	28.6
≥ 12 in/hour	28.2	18.2
≥ 15 in/hour	21.2	16.9

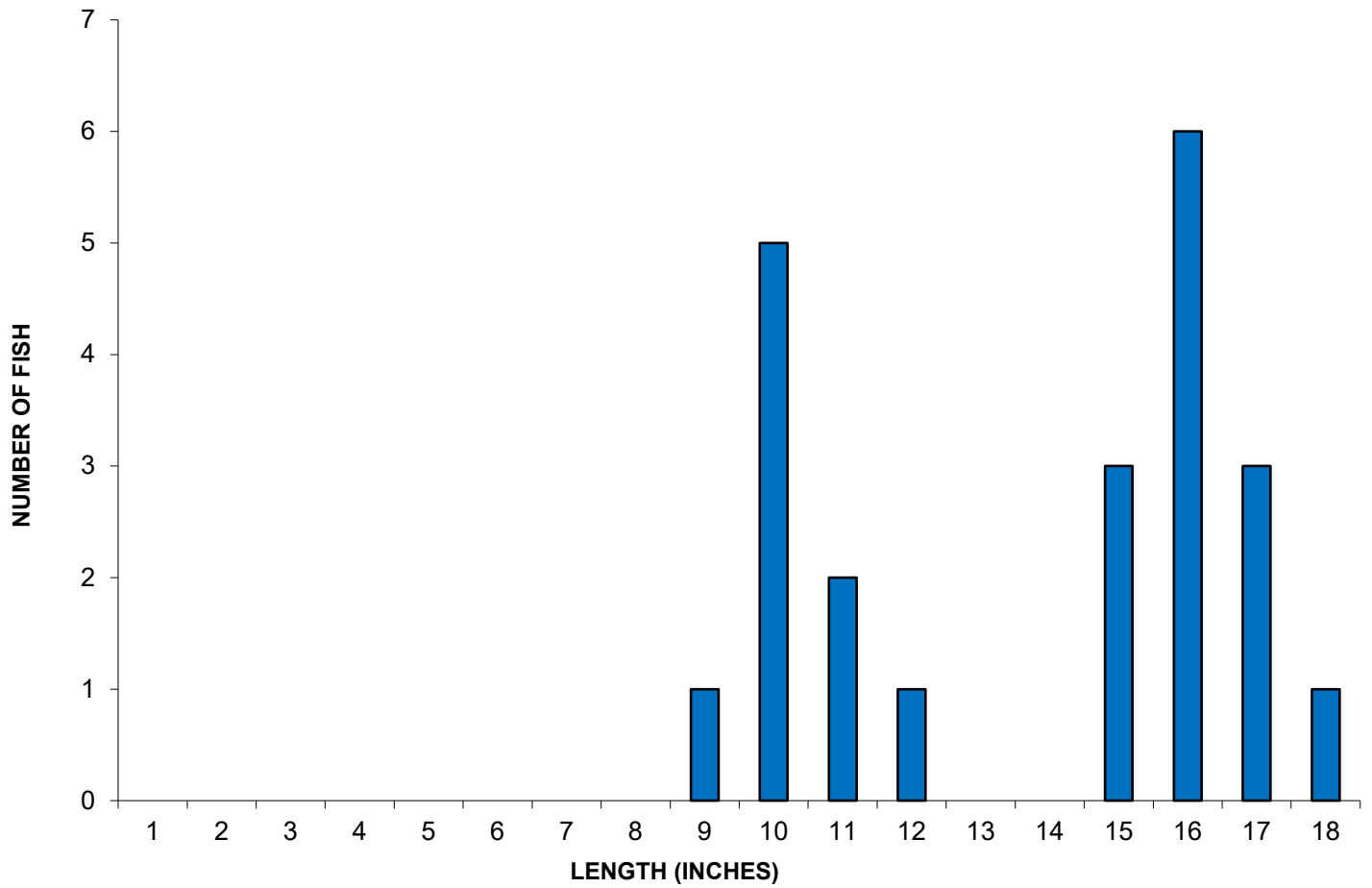


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass collected on June 6, 2022 in Briar Creek Lake.

Dan Drake
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