

Stillwater Lake

Susquehanna County

2022 Black Bass Survey



Fisheries Biologist Aide Joe Pacholec with two nice Stillwater Lake Largemouth Bass caught June 2022.

[Stillwater Lake](#) is an 83 acre US Army Corps of Engineers impoundment located in Uniondale, Susquehanna County. The lake is open to public fishing and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) maintains a boat launch off Route 171 on the eastern shore. Swimming and gasoline motors are prohibited. Stillwater Lake was created for flood prevention and water levels can fluctuate. Checking the current water level of the lake can be useful when planning a trip: US Geological Survey [website](#).

Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a night boat electrofishing survey of Stillwater Lake on June 8, 2022 to collect [Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass](#). A total of 37 Largemouth Bass and 11 Smallmouth Bass were captured in 1.16 hours of sampling. Total night electrofishing catch rate for both black bass species was 41.4/hour, ranging from 3 inches to 18 inches in total length (Figure 1). The catch rate for

bass ≥ 12 inches was 24.1/hour, and the catch rate for bass ≥ 15 inches was 11.2/hour. The catch rates for Largemouth Bass from this 2022 survey can be compared to results from the last bass electrofishing survey which was conducted in 2012 (Table 1). Smallmouth Bass specific catch rates were not calculated in 2012 due to low sample size therefore are omitted. Despite our 2022 survey collecting lower numbers of larger individuals compared to the 2012 survey, there appears to be a sufficient population of bass to provide the opportunity for a successful trip.

Also observed during the survey were several quality bluegills, pumpkinseed and crappies.

Table 1. Night electrofishing catch rate comparisons of Largemouth Bass in Stillwater Lake.

	Year	
	2012	2022
Total catch/hour	32.9	31.9
≥ 12 in/hour	31.1	23.3
≥ 15 in/hour	23.7	11.2



Fisheries Biologist Dan Drake with a Stillwater Lake Largemouth Bass caught June 2022.

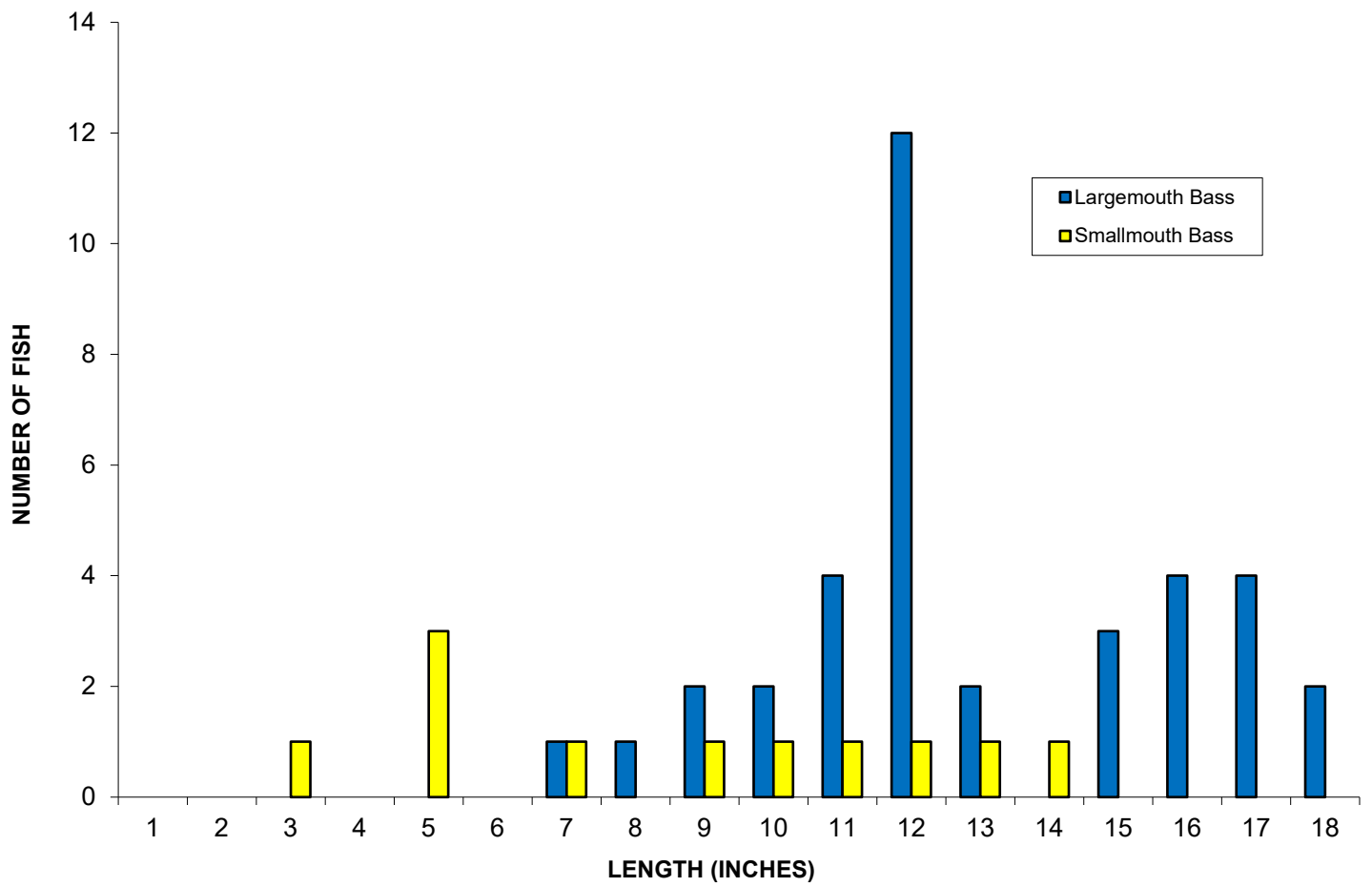


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass caught on June 8, 2022 from Stillwater Lake.

Dan Drake
Area 4 Fisheries Biologist