



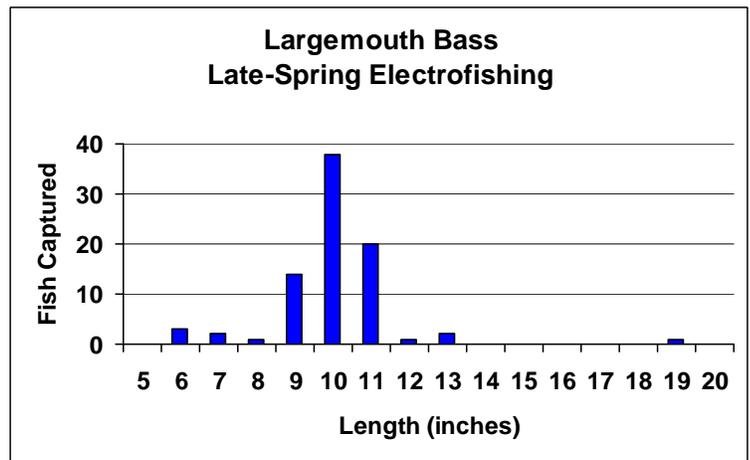
Late-Spring Electrofishing Survey Summary Upson Lake, Iron County, 2011

The Mercer DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a late-spring electrofishing survey at Upson Lake on June 1, 2011, as part of our baseline monitoring program. The entire 1.2-mile shoreline of the lake was surveyed for purposes of obtaining representative samples of the bass and panfish populations. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Largemouth Bass



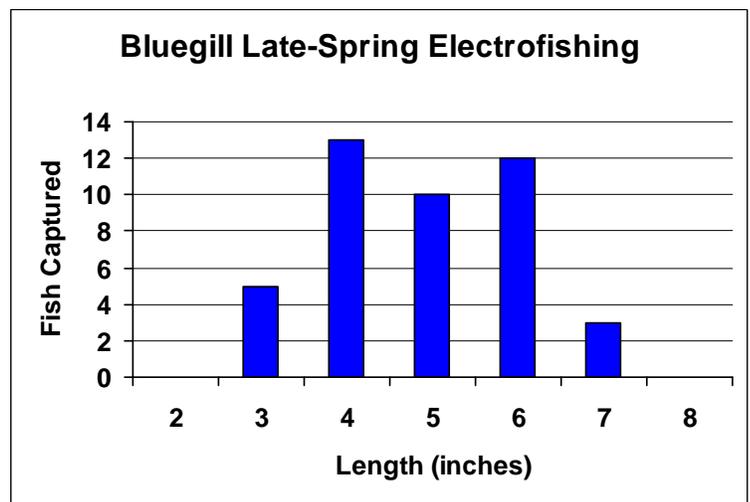
Captured 64 per mile $\geq 8''$	
Quality Size $\geq 12''$	5%
Preferred Size $\geq 15''$	1%



Bluegill



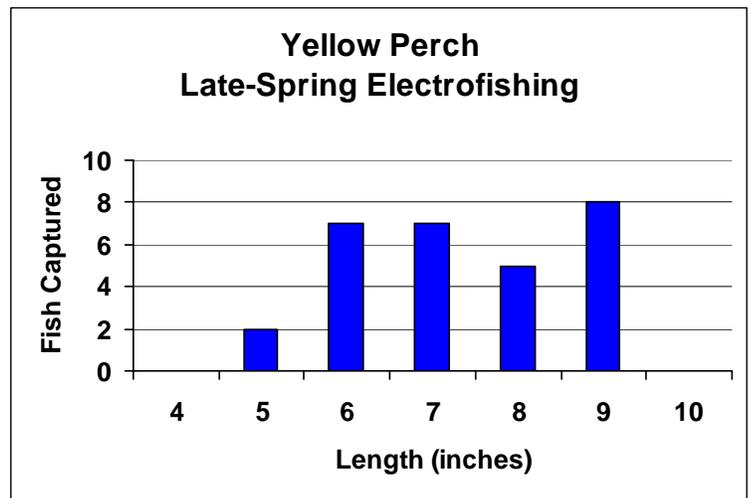
Captured 36 per mile $\geq 3''$	
Quality Size $\geq 6''$	47%
Preferred Size $\geq 8''$	0%



Yellow Perch



Captured 24 per mile $\geq 5''$	
Quality Size $\geq 8''$	45%
Preferred Size $\geq 10''$	0%



Summary of Results

Water temperatures during the survey were in the low 60s. Weather conditions were clear and calm, and therefore our sampling efficiency was very good.

Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass ≥ 8 inches were captured at a relatively high rate of 64 per mile. However, most bass were small, with very few approaching or exceeding legal size (14 inches and longer). Poor largemouth bass size structure might be explained by the relatively high number of bass competing for food and space, which in turn may be limiting their rate of growth. In addition, high mortality (from natural means and/or angler harvest of legal and sub-legal fish) could also explain the poor size structure. Age and growth analyses would need to be completed in order to confirm the reason(s) for poor size structure.

Bluegill & Yellow Perch

Bluegill ≥ 3 inches were captured at a low to moderate rate of 36 per mile, perhaps reflecting heavy predation on young bluegills by abundant largemouth bass. Often this can lead to fast growth (through reduced competition among bluegills for food) and good size structure; however, we observed a rather poor size structure of bluegills in our sample. Therefore, as with bass, age and growth analyses would need to be completed in order to confirm the reason(s) for poor size structure.

Yellow perch ≥ 5 inches were captured at a moderate rate of 24 per mile. Electrofishing is not the best way to document the relative abundance of perch, but our sample does reveal there are some perch in Upson Lake of acceptable size to anglers.

Lawrence Eslinger, Jim Cox, and Jim Zarzycki
December 13, 2011

Reviewed/Approved by Dave Neuswanger
December 14, 2011