



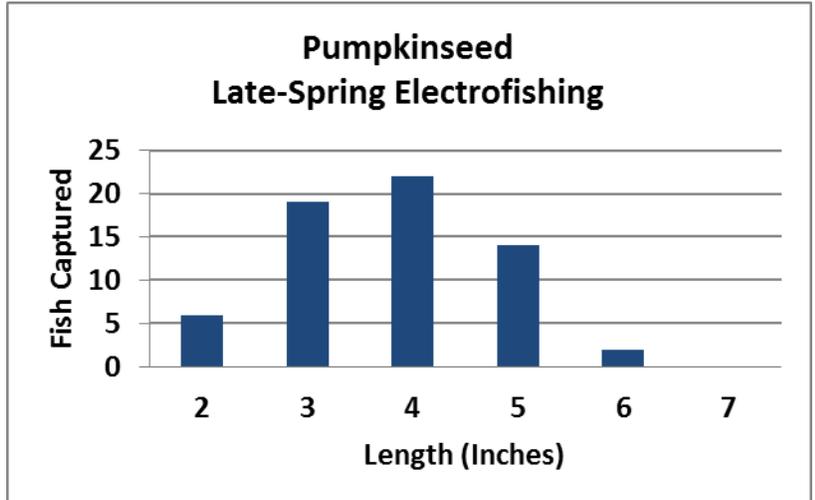
Late-Spring Electrofishing Survey Summary Saxon Falls Flowage, Iron County, 2012

The Mercer DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a late-spring electrofishing survey at Saxon Falls Flowage on May 14, 2012, as part of our baseline monitoring program. The lake was surveyed for purposes of obtaining representative samples of the bass and panfish populations. Due to difficulties with shallow water, only 1.0 mile of shoreline was sampled effectively. 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.

Pumpkinseed



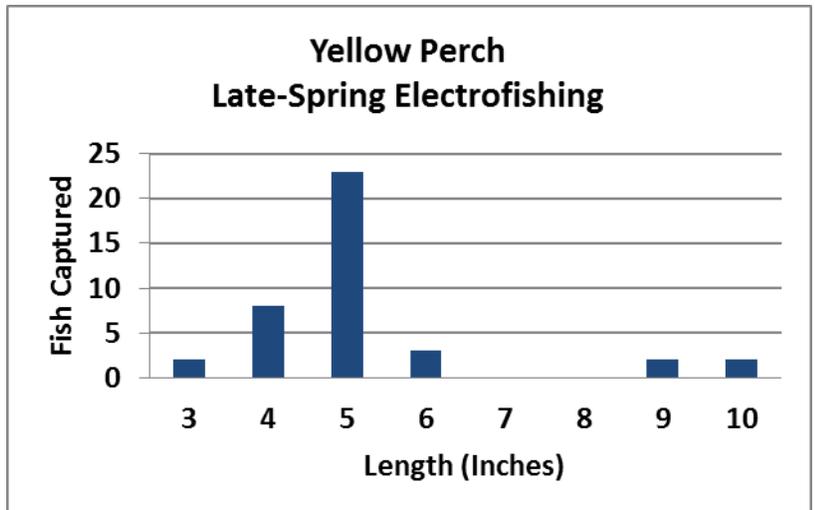
Captured 61 per mile $\geq 3''$	
Quality Size $\geq 6''$	4%
Preferred Size $\geq 8''$	0%



Yellow Perch



Captured 29 per mile $\geq 5''$	
Quality Size $\geq 8''$	13%
Preferred Size $\geq 10''$	7%



Summary of Results

Water temperatures during the survey were in the upper 60s. Weather conditions were calm, and therefore our sampling efficiency was good. Neither bass (largemouth or smallmouth) nor bluegill were captured or observed during this survey, indicating absence or very low abundance. Of the species most readily captured (pumpkinseed and yellow perch), few individuals were of quality size. The relatively small (41 acres) and shallow (max depth = 12 feet) nature of this waterbody may create unsuitable habitat (extremely shallow water) and/or low dissolved oxygen conditions (especially outside of the river channel) that limit the winter survival and seasonal growth of these species.

Pumpkinseed & Yellow Perch

Pumpkinseed ≥ 3 inches were captured at a moderate rate of 61 per mile; however, size structure of the population sample was poor, with no fish measuring 7 inches or longer.

Yellow perch ≥ 5 inches were captured at a moderate rate of 29 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 Saxon Falls Flowage of an acceptable size to anglers.

Other Species

Several northern pike (up to 19 inches) and one musky (32 inches) were captured, along with black crappie, rock bass, black bullhead, white sucker, and golden and common shiners. Data for these species are not reported here due to low abundance and/or sampling bias. Two walleyes were observed but not captured.

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