

Straight Run Lake (aka Hemlock Lake)

Indiana County

May 2018 Night Bass Electrofishing Survey



Aerial photo of Straight Run Lake, Indiana County.

[Straight Run Lake](#) is a small, 60-acre, infertile lake (17 ppm alkalinity) located about 19 miles southeast of Punxsutawney in Indiana County. The lake is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is managed and maintained by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for public fishing and boating. Boating is restricted to non-powered boats and those using electric motors only. All species at Straight Run Lake are managed under [Statewide Regulations for Commonwealth Inland Waters](#).

During the night of May 10, 2018, Fisheries Management Area 2 personnel conducted a Largemouth Bass survey to assess population size structure and abundance. The lake's entire shoreline was sampled in three electrofishing runs totaling 1.43 hours of effort. Captured

Largemouth Bass were measured for total length, a scale sample removed and released. The relative abundance of Largemouth Bass was determined using catch per hour of electrofishing effort. Scales were removed from fish to estimate age and quantify growth.

A total of 77 Largemouth Bass were collected, ranging from 4 to 20 inches in length (Figure 1). Although the assessment catch rate of all sizes was lower than in previous years (Figure 1) the catch rate of Largemouth Bass ≥ 12 inches was 30.7 fish/hr in 2018, and above the mean catch rate of 24.4 fish/hr computed for previous surveys. The measured catch rate of Largemouth Bass ≥ 15 inches was 10.5 fish/hr in 2018, the highest on record and well above the historical mean catch rate of 6.94 fish/hr for that size group (Figure 1). The majority (48%) of the bass captured in 2018 were between 11-13 inches in length which should provide good bass fishing opportunities in 2019 and beyond.

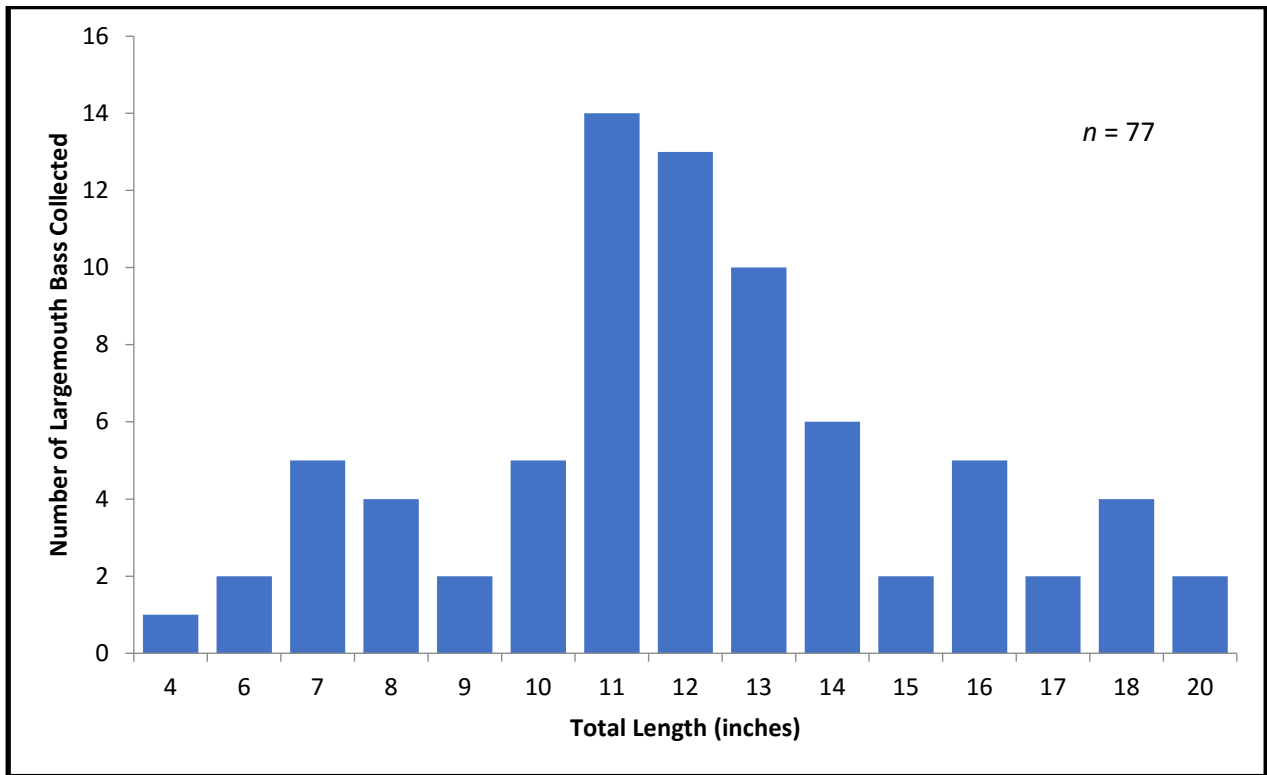


Figure 1: Length frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass collected from Straight Run Lake on May 10, 2018.

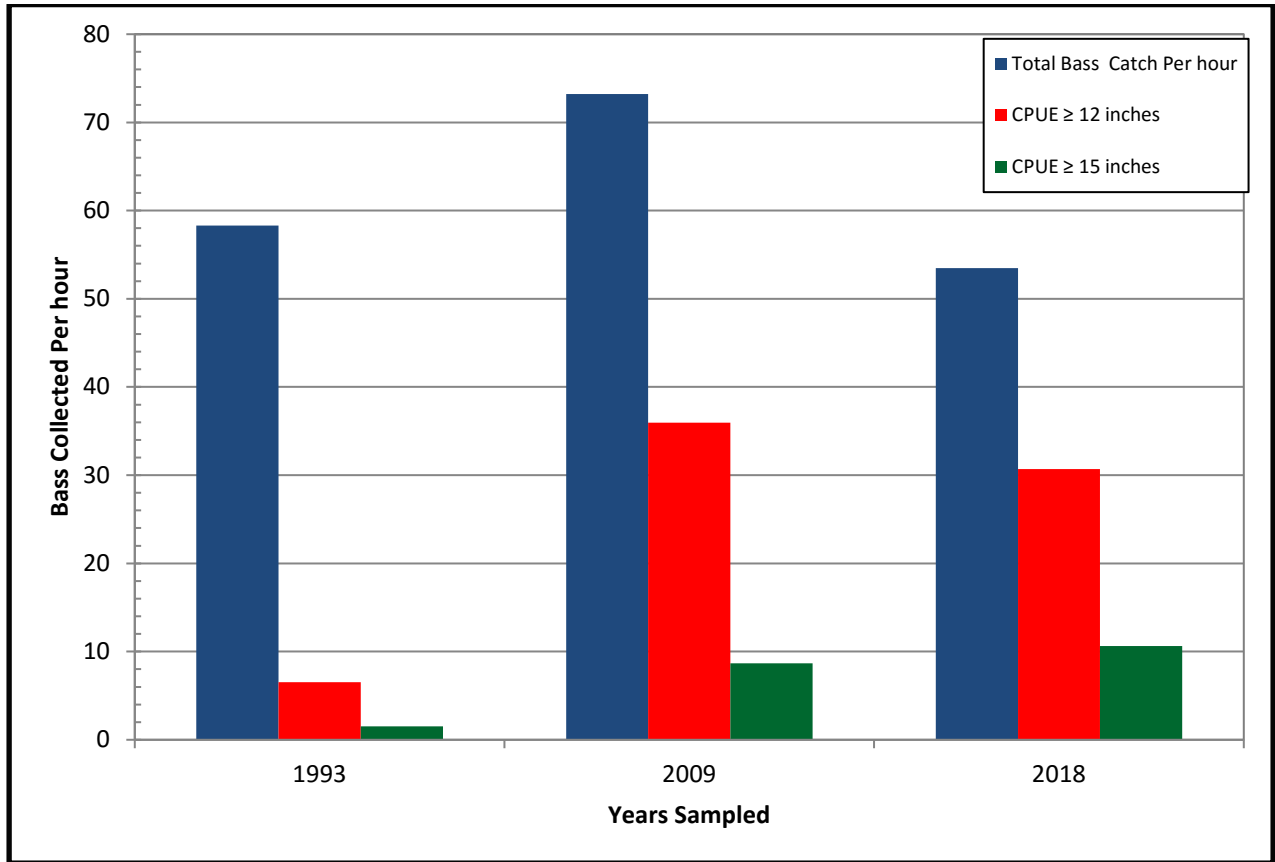


Figure 2. Catch rates of Largemouth Bass collected in Straight Run Lake on May 10, 2018 compared to catch rates in previous years.



Photo 1. Area 2 FBA Nicholas Nelson with the largest Largemouth Bass (20-inches) captured during night electrofishing at Straight Run Lake.



Photo 2. DEP Water Quality Biologist Joseph Cocco and Area 2 FBA Nicholas Nelson with a pair of Largemouth Bass captured during night electrofishing at Straight Run Lake.

In addition to Largemouth bass, Straight Run Lake continues to provide excellent fishing opportunities for quality size panfish consisting primarily of Bluegill and Pumpkinseed.

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