

West Fork White River 2020 Survey – Spencer

River Information: West Fork White River
Located: Spencer, IN; Owen County
Station Number: 20WR047; River Mile 157.8
GPS Coordinates: N 39.26096; W -86.798301
Access: Spencer
[Where to Fish Interactive Map](#)
Regulations: Black Bass 12-15 inch slot limit with no more than 2 being over 15 inches.

Amenities: Boat Ramp
Ownership: Indiana DNR
Best Fishing: Spotted Bass, Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Silver Carp, Flathead Catfish, Sauger
DNR Contact Information:
Fish Management District 5
Dave Kittaka, Fisheries Biologist
(812) 287-8300; D5Fish@dnr.IN.gov

Highlights

- Sampled as part of the White River Mainstem Project in conjunction with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and Muncie Sanitary District's Bureau of Water Quality. For more information visit [2020 White River Mainstem Project](#).
- Twenty-three fish species were collected with the most abundant being Gizzard Shad.
- The Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) score was 38 which is in the fair range. The IBI is a scoring metric which represents the overall health of the fish community at that site and can range from 0-60.

Table 1. Fish community species composition (by total number and percent of catch) and size range.

Species	#	%	Length Range (in)	
			Min	Max
Gizzard Shad	63	29.4	4.6	14.3
Smallmouth Buffalo	40	18.7	15.0	24.7
River Carpsucker	21	9.8	13.2	17.2
Freshwater Drum	15	7.0	8.5	17.8
Common Carp	13	6.1	19.9	28.5
Spotted Bass	10	4.7	3.1	9.7
Shorthead Redhorse	9	4.2	4.5	15.6
Silver Carp	9	4.2	23.4	27.4
Blue Sucker	4	1.9	21.6	24.1
Channel Catfish	4	1.9	9.6	23.2
Bullhead Minnow	3	1.4	2.0	2.8
Grass Carp	3	1.4	29.9	31.3
Shortnose Gar	3	1.4	19.5	24.5
Spotfin Shiner	3	1.4	2.1	2.2
Black Buffalo	2	0.9	24.0	25.7
Golden Redhorse	2	0.9	4.5	8.3
Longear Sunfish	2	0.9	3.7	5.6
Longnose Gar	2	0.9	23.5	23.8
Shovelnose Sturgeon	2	0.9	27.0	28.5
Bigmouth Buffalo	1	0.5	20.0	20.0
Dusky Darter	1	0.5	2.4	2.4
Sauger	1	0.5	12.0	12.0
Smallmouth Redhorse	1	0.5	12.7	12.7
214				

Sport Fish

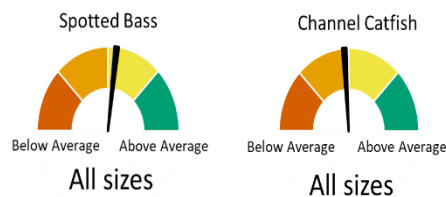


Figure 1. Spotted Bass and Channel Catfish electrofishing catch rates for station 20WR047 compared to other stations.

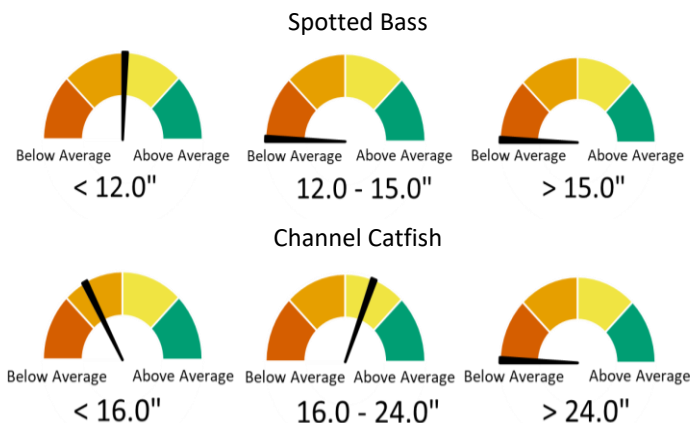


Figure 2. Spotted Bass and Channel Catfish electrofishing catch rates of fish collected for various size categories for station 20WR047 compared to other stations.



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuel supports boating access and Sport Fish Restoration.

Indiana Fishing Regulation Guide:
www.Fishing.IN.gov

West Fork White River 2020 Survey – Spencer

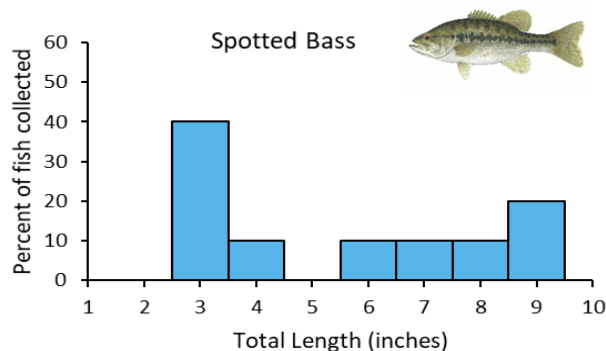


Figure 3. Spotted Bass length frequency for station 20WR047.¹

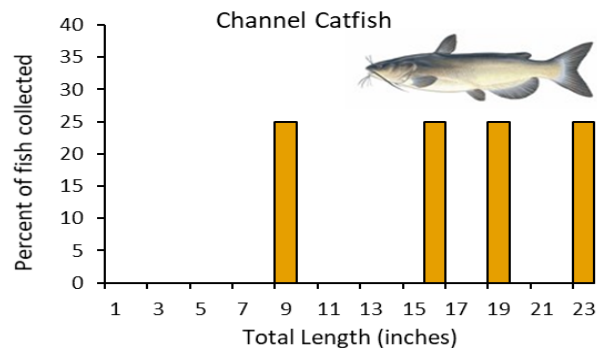


Figure 5. Channel Catfish length frequency for station 20WR047.¹

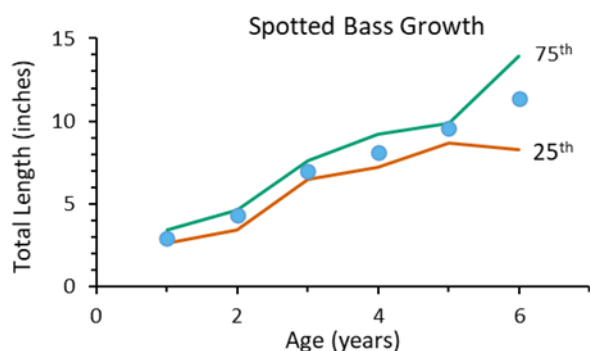


Figure 4. Spotted Bass average length at age for all stations sampled during the 2020 White River survey compared to 25th and 75th growth percentiles.

Habitat

- The Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) score was 74 which is in the good range. The QHEI is used to evaluate a stream's ability to support fish and macroinvertebrate communities based on available habitat and can range from 0-100.

¹Artwork by Rick Hill, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource

Fish Survey Dates: 09/29/2020

Fish Survey Techniques: 1 hour pulsed DC electrofishing boat; 1,640 ft sampled

Water Quality Survey Dates: 09/29/2020

Water Quality Survey Techniques: Water chemistry and oxygen profiles

Report Author: Sandy Clark-Kolaks, Fisheries Research Biologist

Report Approved By: Dan Carnahan, Fisheries Supervisor

Date Approved: 09/08/2021

Technical Report Publication: 2021-OSR ANGLER-53



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuel supports boating access and Sport Fish Restoration.

Indiana Fishing Regulation Guide:
www.Fishing.IN.gov