

Lake James Chain

2018-2024 Spring Targeted Bass Survey

Lake Information: James - 1034 acres; Snow – 422 acres; Big Otter – 69 acres; Little Otter – 34 acres, Jimmerson - 434 acres

Located: Angola, Indiana; Steuben County

GPS Coordinates: N 41.714338; W -85.039528; **Lake Map:** [Contour Map](#)

Ownership: Public; **Access:** Boat ramp; **Fees:** None

Outboard Motor Restrictions: None; **Fishing Restrictions:** [Indiana Fishing Regulations Guide](#)

Best Fishing: Bluegill, Redear, Yellow Perch, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass

DNR Contact Information: Matt Horsley, District 2 Fisheries Biologist D2Fish@dnr.IN.gov

Fish Survey Dates: May 1st -10th, 2018, May 9th – 16th ,2023; May 8th – 16th 2024

Comments: Largemouth Bass were present in every survey conducted and ranged from 2.9 inches (Little Otter) to 22.7 inches (Snow). Smallmouth Bass were only collected in Lake James and Snow Lake, ranging from 6.9 inches (James) to 20.0 inches (James). Only one legal sized Smallmouth Bass was collected during the five surveys.

Table 1. Total catch of Largemouth Bass by inch groups and catch per effort from targeted bass surveys completed at Jimmerson, Snow, James, Big Otter and Little Otter Lakes in 2018, 2023 and 2024.

Year	2018	2023	2023	2024	2024
Inch Range	Jimmerson	James	Snow	Big Otter	Little Otter
2				1	1
3				2	11
4					
5	3	1	2	11	6
6	17	19	15	48	18
7	19	24	37	18	8
8	19	42	31	6	5
9	19	35	51	11	14
10	27	62	69	18	15
11	36	90	118	22	18
12	18	84	129	36	37
13	12	21	78	24	38
14	4	9	19	7	19
15	1	2	3	2	3
16			3	3	6
17		1			1
18			2		1
19			3		1
20		1			
21				1	
22			2		
Total	175	391	562	210	202
Sampling effort	2.0 hours	4.0 hours	4.0 hours	2.0 hours	2.0 hours
catch ≥ 8in / hr	68	87	127	65	79
catch ≥ 12in / hr	18	30	60	37	53
catch ≥ 14in / hr	3	3	8	7	16
catch ≥ 18in / hr	0	0	2	1	1

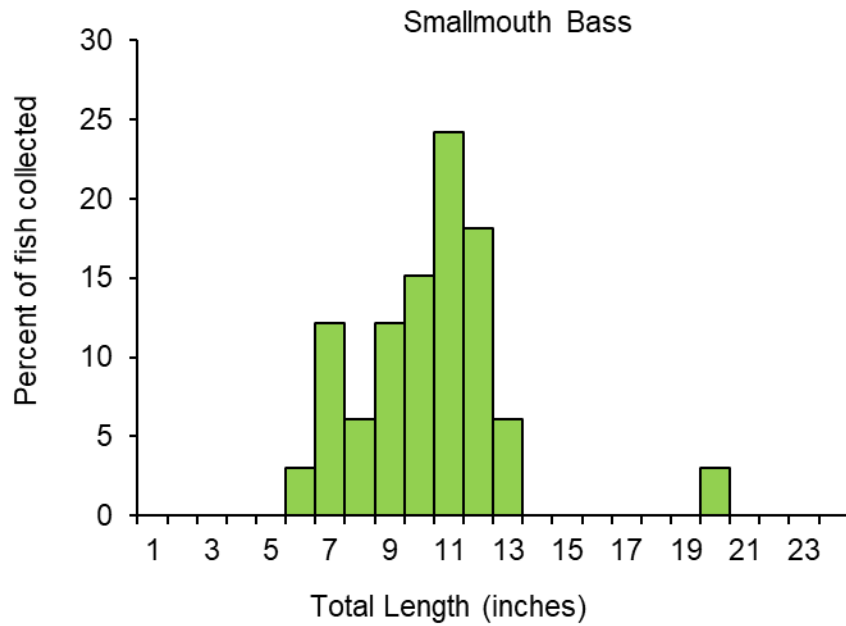


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of Smallmouth Bass collected by half-inch groups from Lake James during 2023 spring sampling.

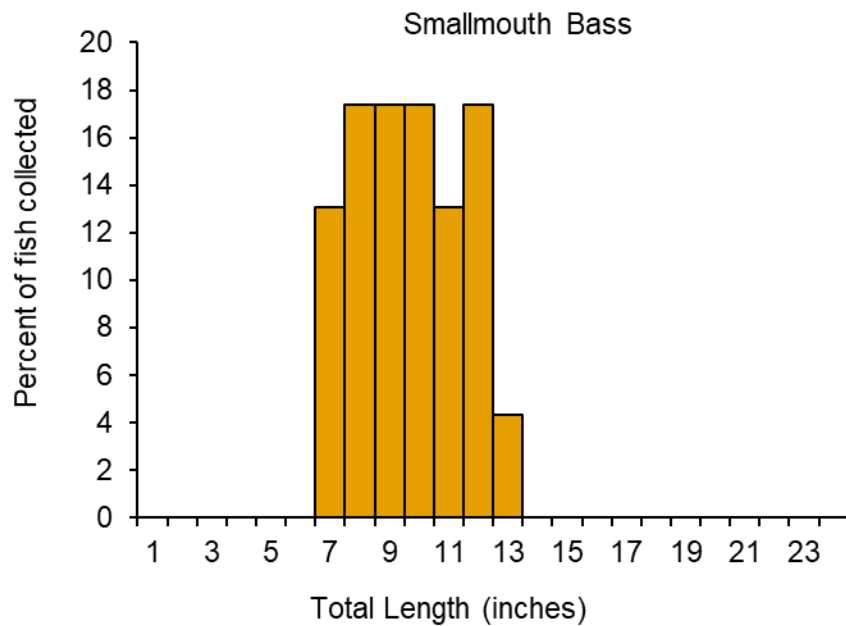


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of Smallmouth Bass collected by half-inch groups from Snow Lake during 2023 spring sampling.



Figure 3. Jimmerson Lake Largemouth Bass average length at age compared to the 25th and 75th growth percentiles of other Indiana glacial lakes. Any age between the 25th and 75th percentiles is considered average growth while any above or below them is considered great or poor growth.

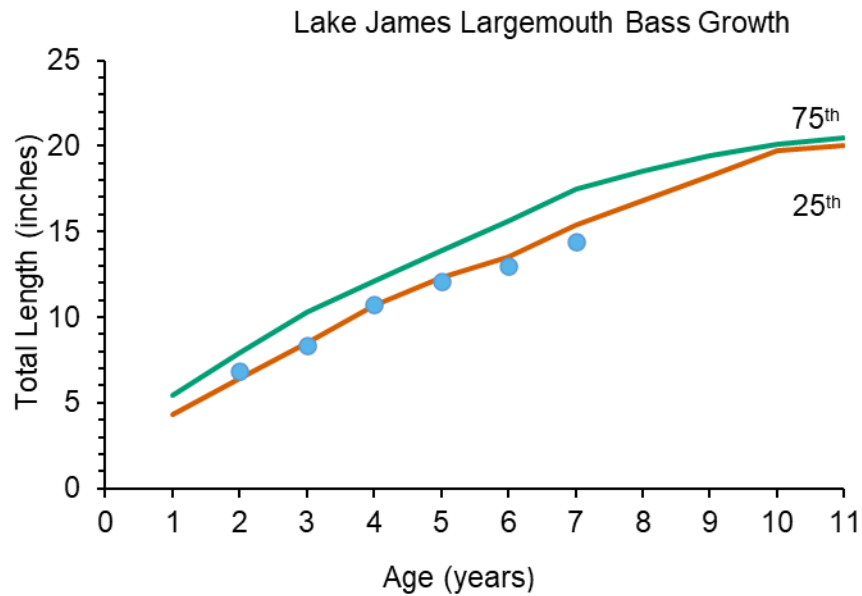


Figure 4. Lake James Largemouth Bass average length at age compared to the 25th and 75th growth percentiles of other Indiana glacial lakes. Any age between the 25th and 75th percentiles is considered average growth while any above or below them is considered great or poor growth.

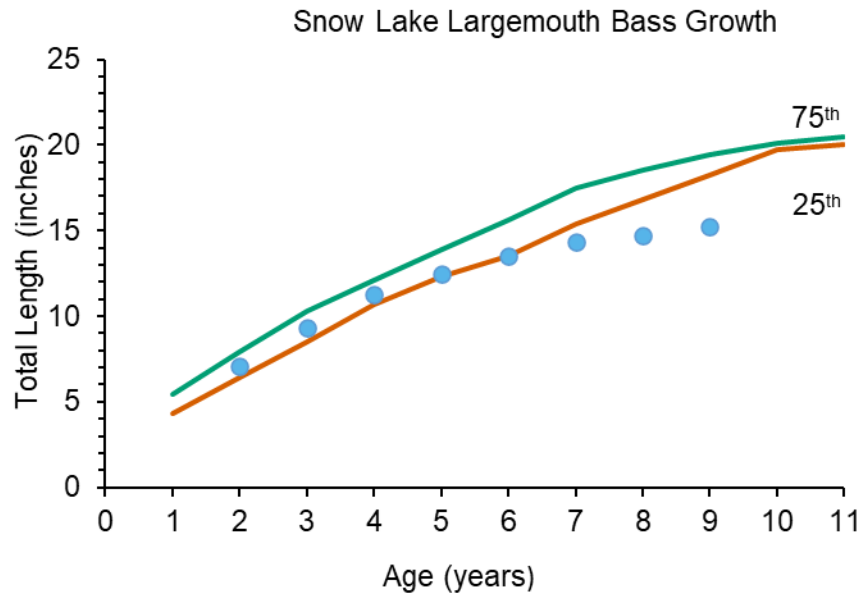


Figure 5. Snow Lake Largemouth Bass average length at age compared to the 25th and 75th growth percentiles of other Indiana glacial lakes. Any age between the 25th and 75th percentiles is considered average growth while any above or below them is considered great or poor growth.

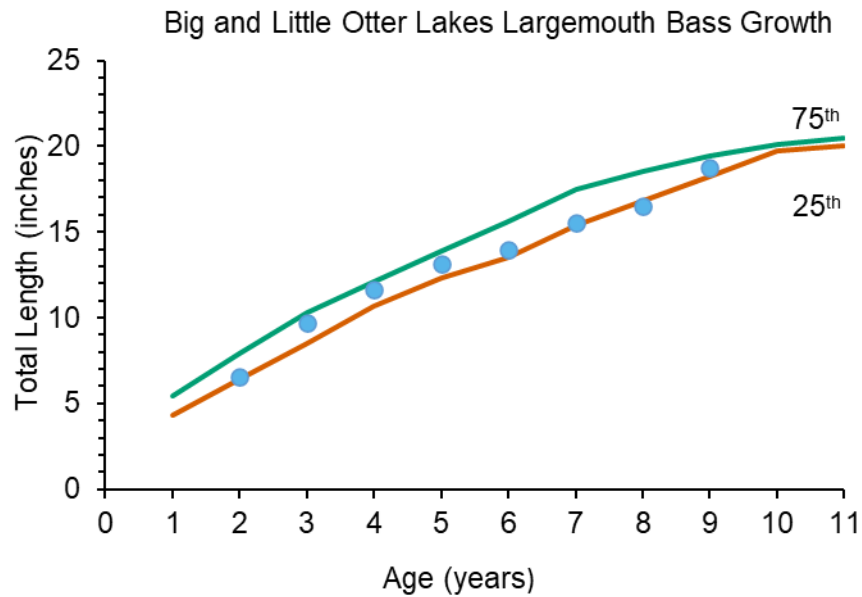


Figure 6. Big and Little Otter Lakes Largemouth Bass average length at age compared to the 25th and 75th growth percentiles of other Indiana glacial lakes. Any age between the 25th and 75th percentiles is considered average growth while any above or below them is considered great or poor growth.