

Geist Reservoir 2017 Fish Management Report

Lake Information: 1,890 Acres
Located: McCordsville, IN; Hamilton/Marion Counties
GPS Coordinates: N 39.949795; W -85.918327
Ownership: Citizens Energy Group
 (317) 924-3311; <https://www.citizensenergygroup.com/>
Fees: Summer boat launch for weekdays is \$20 and weekend/holidays is \$35. Off-season boat launch is \$20.
Amenities: Boat ramps, boat slip rental, boat rental.
Outboard Motor Restriction: None.
Special Regulations: Statewide size and bag limits apply.

Best Fishing: Redear Sunfish, Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish
Stockings: None.
DNR Contact Information:
 Fish Management District 4
 2650 State Road 44
 Martinsville, IN 46151
 (765) 342-5527; D4Fish@dnr.IN.gov
Author: Nicholas W. Haunert, Assistant Fisheries Biologist
Report Approved By: Dan Carnahan, Fisheries Supervisor
Date Approved: May 30, 2019

Methods

A status and trends survey of Geist Reservoir was conducted on May 16 to 23, 2017. Sampling effort consisted of 1.0 h of pulsed DC electrofishing at night with two dippers, four standard mesh gill net lifts, and four standard trap net lifts. Basic water chemistry parameters were also measured at this time near the deepest point in the lake. Submersed vegetation was sampled according to the Tier II protocol from July 18 to 19, 2017.

Summary

- A total of 1,829 fish was sampled including representatives of 18 species. The total weight of all sampled fish was 840 lbs.
- A total of 644 Bluegill was collected that ranged in length from 1.8 to 8.1 in. Almost 32% of the Bluegill sampled were at least 6 in and less than 1% were at least 8 in. Bluegill grew slow at age 3 and 4, but other ages exhibited normal growth rates (Figure 2). Catch rates were 500.0/electrofishing hour, 11.5/gill net lift, and 24.5/trap net lift.
- A total of 409 Gizzard Shad was sampled. Gizzard Shad ranged in length from 3.6 to 15.6 in and averaged 8.1 in. Catch rates were 331.0/electrofishing hour, 13.8/gill net lift, and 5.8/trap net lift.
- A total of 328 Yellow Bass was collected that ranged in length from 3.9 to 12.1 in. Almost 47% of the Yellow Bass sampled were at least 9 in. Yellow Bass offer a great angling opportunity in Geist Reservoir, as fish can reach weights of over a pound.

Relative Abundance

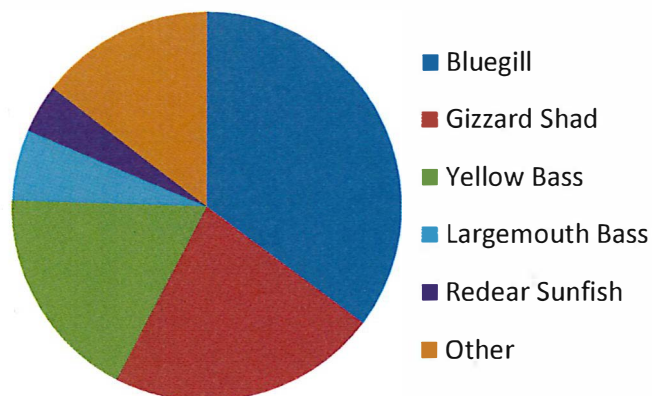


Figure 1. Relative Abundance by number.

Table 1. Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, and Redear Sunfish Catch.

Species	Size Class (in)	Number	Percent
Bluegill	<3.0	134	20.8
	3.0-5.9	305	47.4
	6.0-6.9	108	16.8
	7.0-7.9	96	14.9
	8.0+	1	0.2
Largemouth Bass	<8.0	7	6.5
	8.0-11.9	20	18.5
	12.0-13.9	11	10.2
	14.0-14.9	17	15.7
	15.0-17.9	46	42.6
Redear Sunfish	18.0+	7	6.5
	<4.0	1	1.4
	4.0-6.9	4	5.4
	7.0-8.9	19	25.7
	9.0-10.9	37	50.0
	11.0+	13	17.6



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

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

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- A total of 108 Largemouth Bass was sampled that ranged in length from 3.1 to 20.4 in. Nearly 65% of the Largemouth Bass collected were 14 in or greater. The electrofishing catch rate for Largemouth Bass was 103.0/h. Largemouth Bass grew at normal rates compared to other Indiana reservoirs (Figure 3)
- A total of 74 Redear Sunfish was sampled that ranged in length from 3.9 to 11.5 in. Over 47% of the Redear Sunfish collected were over 10 in. Redear Sunfish growth is good, as fish are reaching 6.8 in by age 3 and 8.1 in by age 4 (Figure 4).
- A total of 56 Yellow Perch was collected that ranged in length from 3.8 to 10.7 in. Almost 18% of the Yellow Perch sampled were at least 8 in. Yellow Perch exhibited normal growth rates compared to other Indiana impoundments. Geist Reservoir provides anglers with a unique opportunity for quality Yellow Perch in Southern Indiana.
- A total of 40 Channel Catfish was sampled that ranged in length from 14.7 to 28.3 in. Exactly 75% of the Channel Catfish collected were greater than 24 in.
- A total of 29 Black Crappie was collected that ranged in length from 6.4 to 15.1 in. Black Crappie growth in Geist Reservoir is great, as fish are reaching 8.1 in by age 2 on average. Additionally, 22 White Crappie were sampled that ranged in length from 4.2 to 14.2 in.
- Ten species of aquatic macrophytes were sampled during the survey. Vegetation was present at 50 of 100 sites and was found at a maximum depth of 9 ft. Eurasian watermilfoil, Coontail, and Small pondweed were the dominate species.

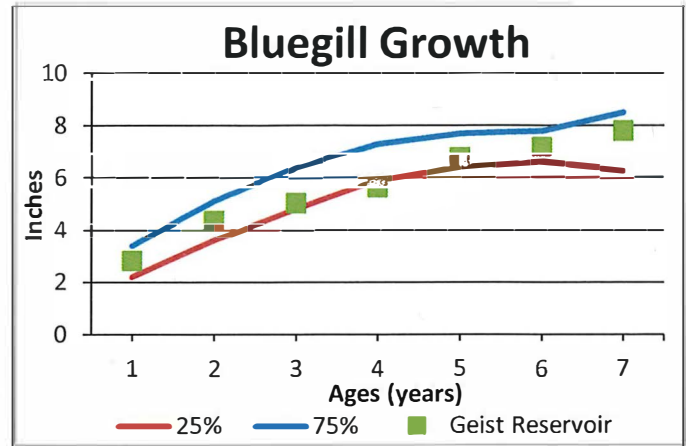


Figure 2. Geist Reservoir Bluegill growth and where it falls between Southern Indiana's 25th to 75th growth percentiles.

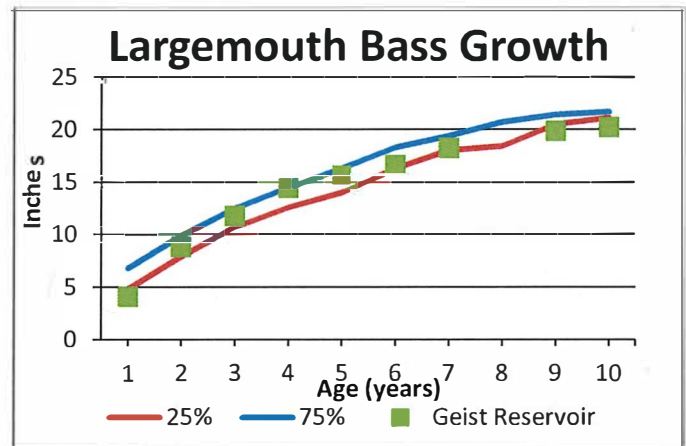


Figure 3. Geist Reservoir Largemouth Bass growth and where it falls between Southern Indiana's 25th to 75th growth percentiles.

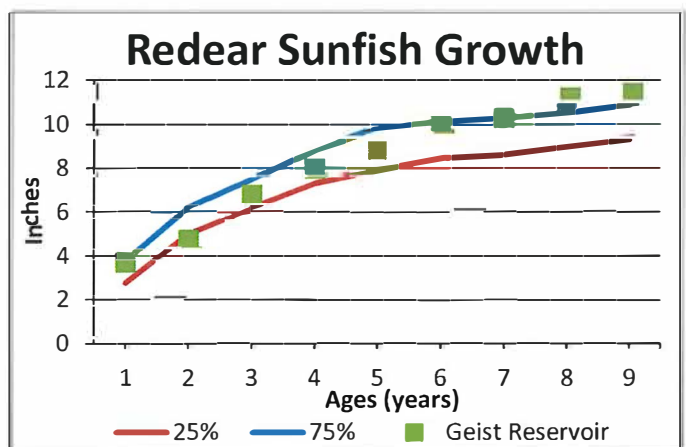


Figure 4. Geist Reservoir Redear Sunfish growth and where it falls between Southern Indiana's 25th to 75th growth percentiles.