

Hardy Lake 2022 Status & Trends Survey

Lake Information: 741 acres; 38 feet max depth.

Located: Scottsburg, IN; Scott and Jefferson Counties; **GPS Coordinates:** N 38.79137; W -85.70977.

Lake Map: [Lake Depth Map](#).

Ownership: Division of State Parks; Public; **Access:** Public access ramp; **Fees:** Annual statewide lake permit- \$5 non-motorized, \$25 motorized.

Special Restrictions: N/A; **Outboard Motor Restrictions:** Idle only.

Best Fishing: Largemouth Bass, Crappie, and Redear Sunfish.

Thermocline: 12 feet.

DNR Contact Information: Andrew Bueltmann, Fisheries Biologist. D6Fish@dnr.IN.gov.

Fish Survey Dates: May 31 to June 1, 2022.

Comments: Hardy Lake supports an average Bluegill fishery with a good abundance of 7-to-8-inch fish. Further, it also supports an average Largemouth Bass fishery that is made up of a good number of keepers over 14 inches. The fish that grow best in Hardy are the Redear Sunfish and Crappie. Although not many were collected in this survey Redear Sunfish commonly grow greater than 10 inches and Crappie commonly grow greater than 9 inches offering panfish anglers an opportunity to catch numbers of larger fish. What Hardy is lacking that it once had is submerged aquatic vegetation. Following Grass Carp stockings, submerged aquatic vegetation was no longer present by 2008 and has since struggled to reestablish. The last Grass Carp were stocked in 2008 and they can live up to 20-25 years in a lake environment. As Grass Carp die off the fishery should begin returning to what it once was as the vegetation reestablishes. Results from the vegetation survey showed promise that vegetation may already be starting to reestablish. More submerged aquatic vegetation was found this year than any previous since 2008.

Fish Species Composition

Species	Number	Percent	Min Length	Max Length
Gizzard Shad	344	37.8	7.0	15.8
Bluegill	243	26.7	1.5	7.9
Yellow Bass	193	21.2	4.3	10.0
Largemouth Bass	39	4.3	4.7	17.9
Redear Sunfish	25	2.7	0.0	10.8
Flathead Catfish	15	1.6	6.9	24.7
Longear Sunfish	14	1.5	2.6	6.0
Warmouth	12	1.3	4.6	7.3
Black Crappie	8	0.9	3.5	10.3
Channel Catfish	8	0.9	17.8	27.3
Hybrid Striped Bass	2	0.2	18.8	25.3
Walleye	2	0.2	21.6	25.3
Yellow Bullhead	2	0.2	8.5	11.5
Common Carp	1	0.1	16.2	16.2
Spotfin Shiner	1	0.1	3.9	3.9
White Crappie	1	0.1	8.3	8.3

Fish Stockings (last 5 years)

Year	Species	Number	Average Length
2021	Hybrid Striped Bass	10,000	1.07
2021	Striped Bass	1,000	1.47
2020	Hybrid Striped Bass	7,000	1.6
2019	Hybrid Striped Bass	7,000	1.9
2019	Striped Bass	1,000	1.5
2018	Hybrid Striped Bass	6,994	1.3
2017	Hybrid Striped Bass	7,480	1.6

Catch Rates (by inch class)

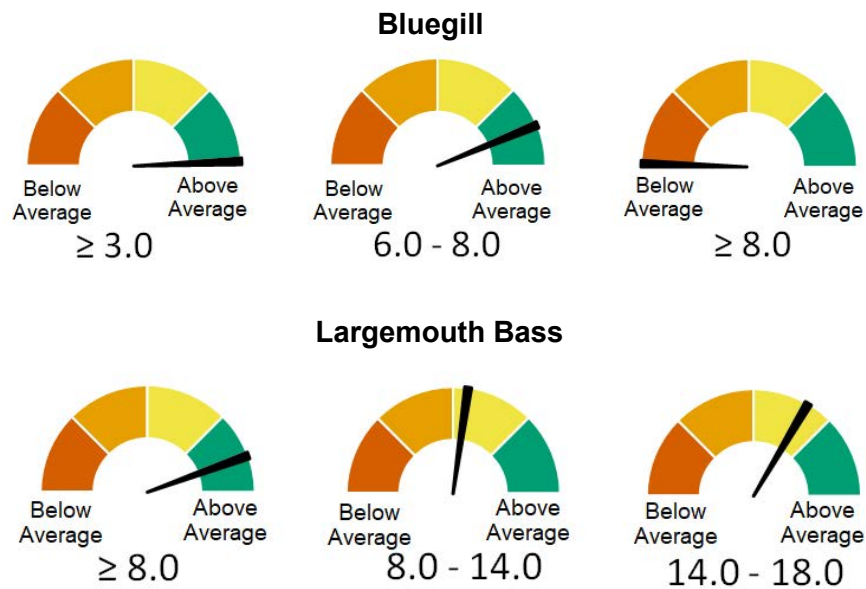


Figure 1. Bluegill catch rates for fish 6 to 8 inches were above average while fish greater than 8 inches were below average and Largemouth Bass catch rates for fish between 8 and 14 inches were average while rates for fish between 14 and 18 inches slightly above average.

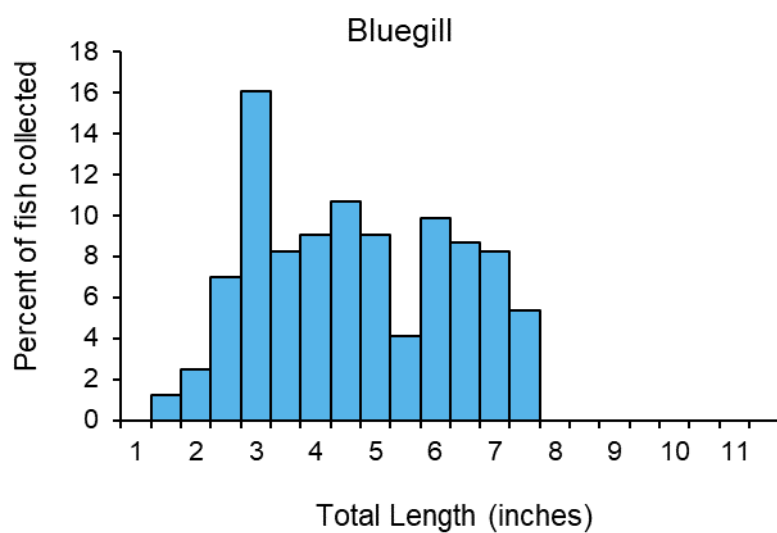


Figure 2. Bluegill length frequency.

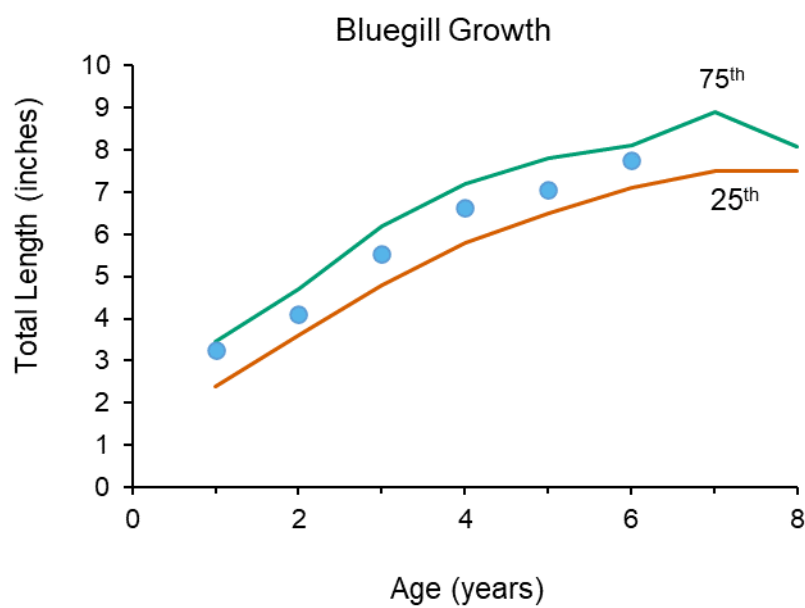


Figure 3. Bluegill average length at age compared to the 25th and 75th growth percentiles. Any age between the 25th and 75th percentiles is considered average growth while any above or below them is considered great or poor growth.

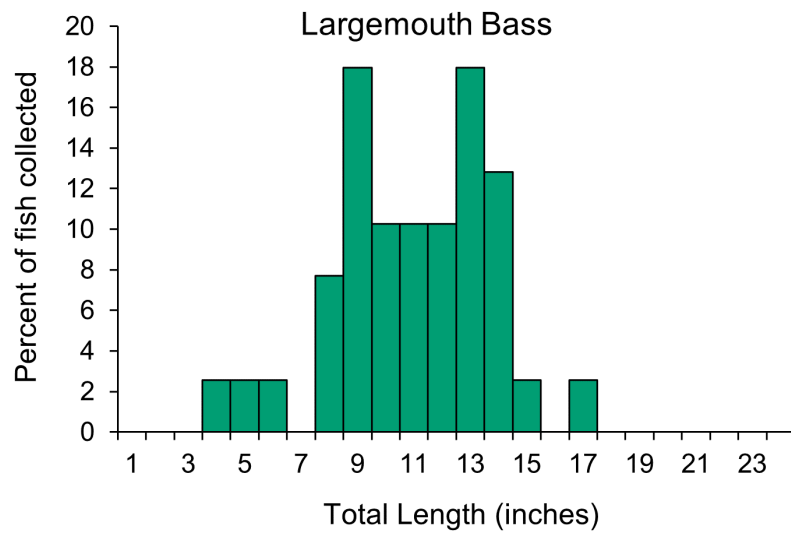


Figure 4. Largemouth Bass length frequency.



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

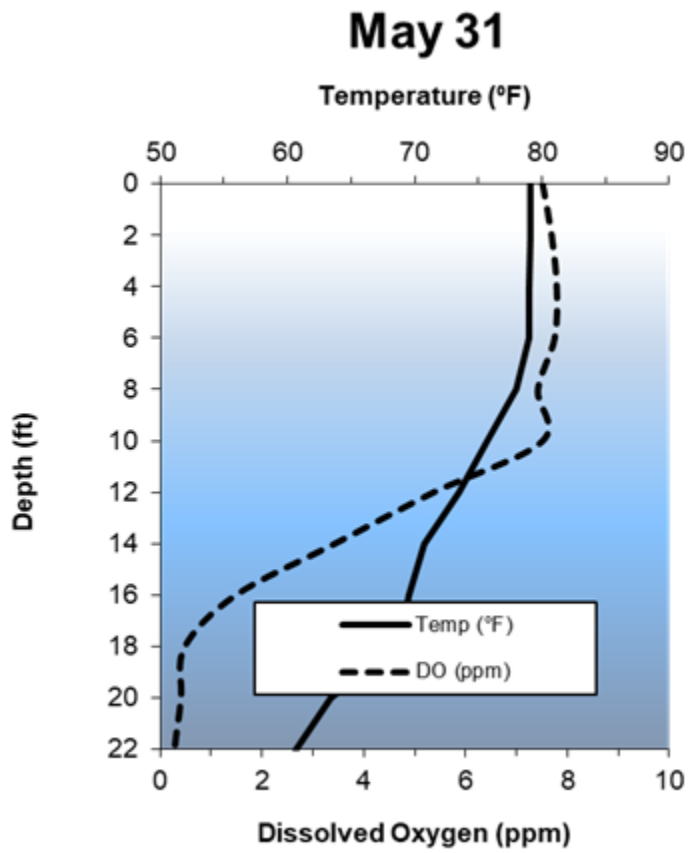


Figure 6. Temperature and oxygen profiles by depth.