

Monroe Lake 2022 Status and Trends Survey

Lake Information: 10,750 acres; 59 feet max depth.

Located: Bloomington IN; Monroe County; **GPS Coordinates:** N 39.081767; W -86.440915.

Lake Map: No contour map available.

Ownership: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; **Access:** multiple DNR boat ramps and one within the Hoosier National Forest's Hardin Ridge Recreation Area; **Fees:** \$7/vehicle gate fee at the Paynetown and Fairfax State Recreation Areas and \$5/vehicle at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area. Other public boat ramps around the lake have no fee to access.

Special Restrictions: None; **Outboard Motor Restrictions:** None.

Best Fishing: Crappie, black bass, panfish, Channel Catfish, and Hybrid Striped Bass.

Thermocline: 18 feet lower end of the lake.

DNR Contact Information: David Kittaka, Fisheries Biologist, D5Fish@dnr.IN.gov.

Fish Survey Dates: May 31 through June 14, 2022.

Aquatic Vegetation: Aquatic vegetation is generally sparse. Plants collected included Brittle and Southern naiad, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Coontail, and Chara.

Comments: Both White and Black Crappie and Bluegill are abundant. Black bass (Largemouth, Spotted and Smallmouth) are among the most sought-after fish by anglers. Channel Catfish are also abundant and fish up to 25 inches were collected. Walleye and Hybrid Striped Bass are stocked annually and provide additional fishing opportunities.

Fish Species Composition

Species	Number	Percent	Min	Max
Gizzard Shad	721	38.5	5.0	10.4
Bluegill	483	25.8	2.0	7.6
White Crappie	173	9.2	4.7	13.2
Channel Catfish	88	4.7	6.0	25.4
Largemouth Bass	65	3.5	3.9	19.5
Brook Silverside	57	3.0	2.9	4.5
Longear Sunfish	56	3.0	2.2	5.9
Yellow Bass	50	2.7	4.4	9.9
Black Crappie	44	2.4	3.2	9.6
Spotted Bass	35	1.9	3.5	14.3
Spotfin Shiner	24	1.3	2.5	4.3
Green Sunfish	15	0.8	2.8	6.1
Logperch	13	0.7	3.7	5.2
Yellow Perch	13	0.7	4.2	8.5
Warmouth	11	0.6	2.5	7.4
Common Carp	10	0.5	18.0	30.2
Redear Sunfish	4	0.2	5.4	7.6
Flathead Catfish	3	0.2	10.8	22.7
Freshwater Drum	3	0.2	13.4	14.1
Golden Redhorse	1	0.1	11.5	11.5
Golden Shiner	1	0.1	6.8	6.8
Hybrid Striped Bass	1	0.1	8.5	8.5

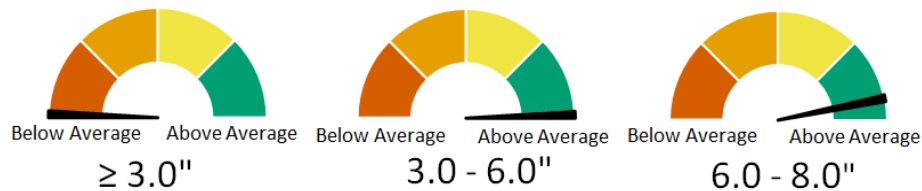
Fish Stocking (last 5 years)

Year	Species	Number	Average Length
2022	Walleye	8,944,100	fry
2022	Hybrid Striped Bass	140,575	1.4
2022	Largemouth Bass*	2,700	7.0
2021	Walleye	2,422,850	fry
2021	Hybrid Striped Bass	53,750	1.2
2020	Hybrid Striped Bass	107,500	1.4
2019	Walleye	8,516,400	fry
2019	Hybrid Striped Bass	44,650	1.4
2019	Largemouth Bass*	3,200	9.0
2018	Walleye	9,864,125	fry
2018	Hybrid Striped Bass	58,771	1.2

* Private promotional stocking

Catch Rates (by inch class)

Bluegill



Largemouth Bass

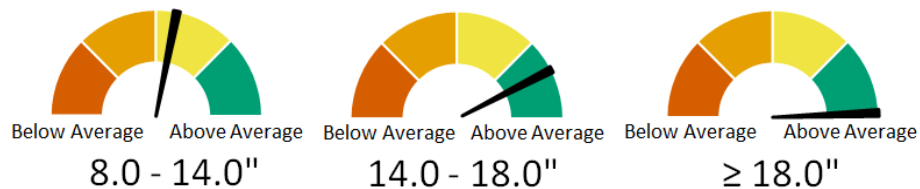


Figure 1. Bluegill catch rates were above average for fish in the 3.0 to 6.0 and 6.0 to 8.0 length groups when compared to other lakes. Largemouth Bass catch rates were average for fish 8.0 to 14.0 inches and above average for fish over 14.0 inches.

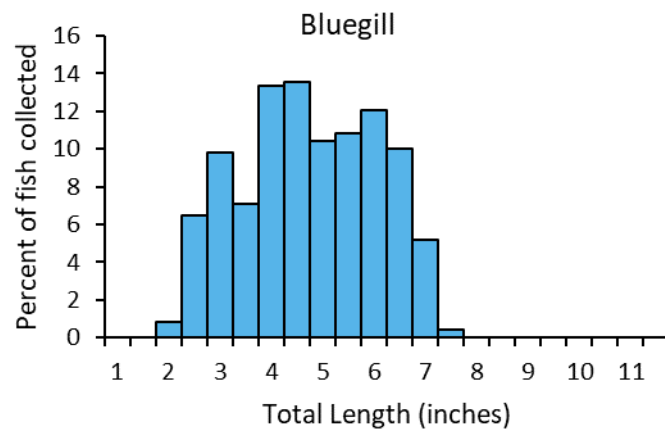


Figure 2. Bluegill length frequency.

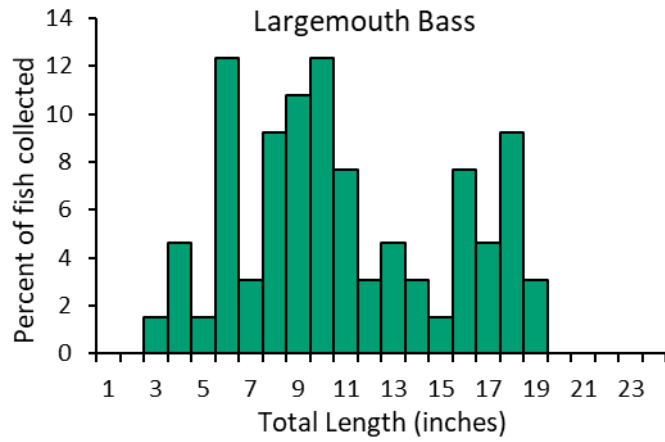


Figure 3. Largemouth Bass length frequency.

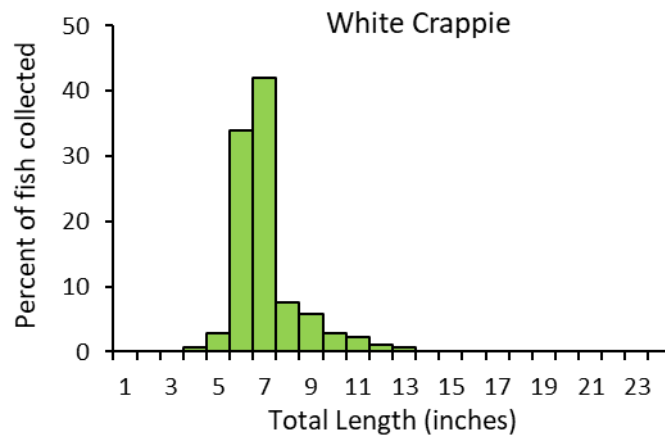


Figure 4. White Crappie length Frequency.