

**Lake Information:** 2,060 Acres; Raccoon SRA  
**Located:** Rockville, IN; Parke County  
**GPS Coordinates:** N 39.718476; W -87.070605  
**Ownership:** U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers  
 (765) 344-1570; <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/nrm.cfm>  
**Fees:** Entrance \$7/car in State Recreation Areas. Boats must display the DNR Lake Permit.  
**Amenities:** Campground; beach; boat ramps  
**Outboard Motor Restriction:** None  
**Special Regulations:** 16 in minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass.

**Best Fishing:** Striped Bass, Black Crappie, Channel Catfish  
**Stockings:** 20,600 Striped Bass fingerlings annually  
**DNR Contact Information:**  
 Fish Management District 4  
 2650 State Road 44  
 Martinsville, IN 46151  
 (765) 342-5527 Ext. 104; [D4Fish@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:D4Fish@dnr.IN.gov)  
**Author:** Nicholas Haunert, Assistant Fisheries Biologist  
**Report Approved By:** Daniel P. Carnahan  
**Date Approved:** March 23, 2017

## Methods

A general fisheries survey of Cecil M. Harden Reservoir, which is also known as Raccoon Lake, was conducted from May 12 to 19, 2014. Sampling effort consisted of 2.25 h of pulsed DC night electrofishing with two dippers, eleven standard experimental mesh gill net lifts, eleven large experimental (Striped Bass) mesh gill nets lifts, and eleven standard trap net lifts. Basic water chemistry parameters were also measured at this time near the deepest depth of the lake. Four tandem baited hoop nets were fished from July 14 to 17, 2014.

A Striped Bass evaluation was performed on October 5 to 8, 2015. Sampling effort consisted of 3.75 h of pulsed DC night electrofishing with two dippers and twelve large experimental (Striped Bass) mesh gill nets lifts.

## Summary

- Twenty-six species and one hybrid were sampled in the 2014 general fisheries survey. A total of 2,152 fish that weighed 1,483 lbs was collected.
- A total of 767 Channel Catfish was collected that ranged in length from 5.9 to 27.8 in and averaged 12.3 in.
- A total of 435 Bluegill was sampled that ranged in length from 2.1 to 8.0 in. Six inch and larger Bluegill accounted for over 51% of the sample.

## Relative Abundance

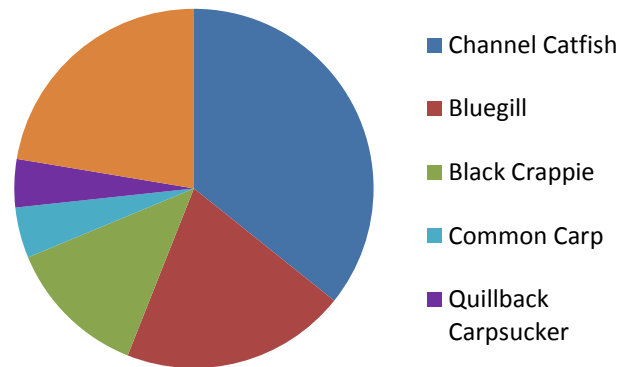


Figure 1. Relative abundance by number.

Species	Size Class (in)	Number	Percent
Bluegill	<3.0	46	10.6
	3.0-5.9	166	38.2
	6.0-6.9	149	34.3
	7.0-7.9	73	16.8
	8.0+	1	0.2
Black Crappie	<5.0	129	47.3
	5.0-7.9	45	16.5
	8.0-9.9	84	30.8
	10.0-11.9	15	5.5
	12.0+	0	0.0
Largemouth Bass	<8.0	11	19.0
	8.0-11.9	5	8.6
	12.0-13.9	13	22.4
	14.0-14.9	9	15.5
	15.0-17.9	18	31.0
	18.0+	2	3.4



- A total of 273 Black Crappie was sampled that ranged in length from 3.2 to 11.7 in and averaged 6.4 in. Over 36% of the Black Crappie collected were at least 8 in.
- Gizzard Shad accounted for only 2% of the fish collected in the general fisheries survey. While this species is often problematic and contributes to lesser quality sport fisheries, the Bluegill and Black Crappie collections suggest this is not the case, as growth is good in Cecil M. Harden Reservoir.
- A total of 58 Largemouth Bass was sampled that ranged in length from 3.1 to 18.6 in. Over 20% of Largemouth Bass were greater than 16.0 in. The electrofishing catch rate was 25.3/h.
- A total of 22 Striped Bass was collected in the 2014 general survey that ranged in length from 11.0 to 38.0 in. Thirty-six percent of the Striped Bass collected were greater than 30 in. Age-1 Striped Bass accounted for over 40% of the collection and they measured 11.0 to 15.1 in.
- Other game species collected included: White Bass, Flathead Catfish, White Crappie, and Walleye.
- A total of 101 Striped Bass was collected that ranged in length from 4.2 to 38.0 in during the 2015 Striped Bass evaluation. Ninety-six Striped Bass collected were age 0 for a catch rate of 25.6/h.

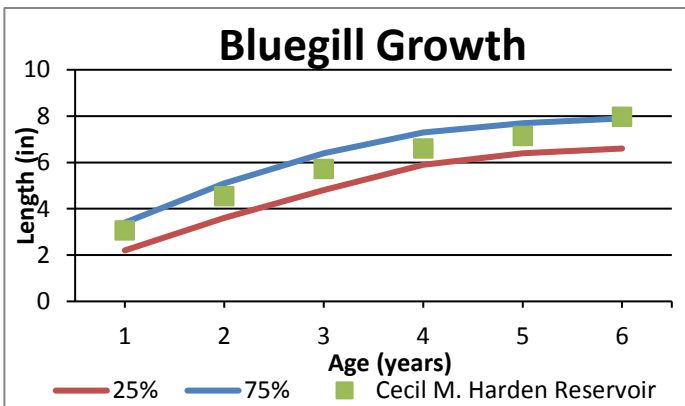


Figure 2. Cecil M. Harden Reservoir Bluegill growth and where it falls between Southern Indiana's 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> growth percentiles.

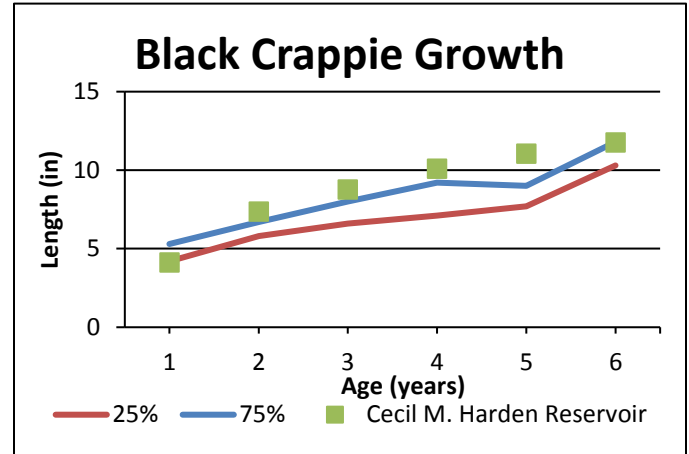


Figure 3. Cecil M. Harden Reservoir Black Crappie growth and where it falls between Southern Indiana's 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> growth percentiles.

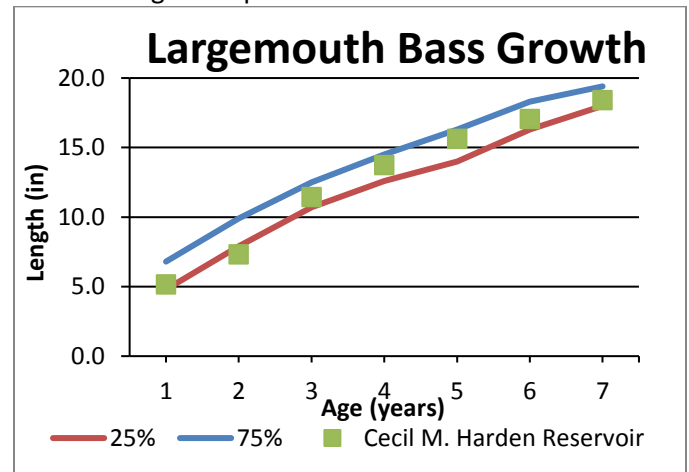


Figure 4. Cecil M. Harden Reservoir Largemouth Bass growth and where it falls between Southern Indiana's 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> growth percentiles.

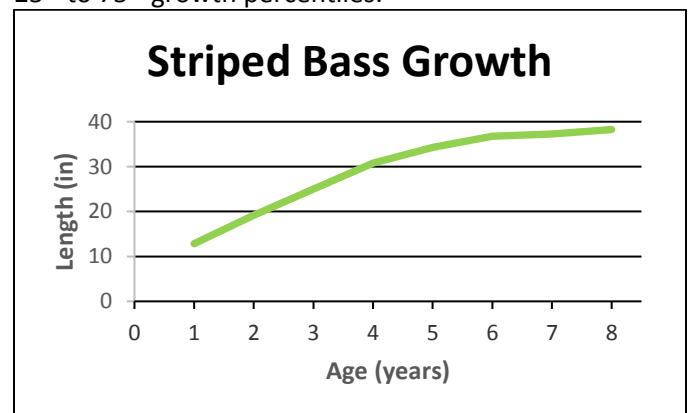


Figure 5. Striped Bass growth at Cecil M. Harden Reservoir.

