



POWHATAN WMA – BASS POND 2005



Bass Pond at the Powhatan Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Powhatan County is an aesthetically pleasing and serene place to fish. Powhatan is a rural county, and as such, peace and quiet is the norm. The boat ramp is primitive, but perfectly adequate for most small to medium size boats. No gasoline motors are permitted.

An electrofishing sample was taken during June, 2004 to evaluate the status of the fish populations. Four species of fish were collected: largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, and redear sunfish. All of these fish populations were dominated by relatively small fish. The largest bass collected was only 12 inches long. Only one crappie was collected, and sunfish peaked out at approximately 7.5 inches. In addition to their relatively low abundance, adult bass and sunfish were somewhat skinny on average and growth appeared to be relatively slow. This may be a reflection of low nutrient levels in the pond. Despite this, reproduction was excellent for both bass and sunfish in 2003 (in other words, fish spawned in 2003 were abundant in our samples in June, 2004).

Given the above, most anglers would rather fish elsewhere, but this is a great pond to take the kids fishing. The condition of the bass population warrants management action. To improve the average size of bass, a 12 to 15-inch slot limit should be implemented immediately. If water quality testing confirms that water fertility is low, a fertilization program should be considered.