



Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries 2015 Crump Park Pond Management Report

Crump Park Pond, located on Courtney Road in Glen Allen, is owned and operated by Henrico County. The 2-acre pond is managed under the Department's Community Lakes Improvement Program (CLIP) and is stocked annually with harvestable-sized channel catfish. The lake also has self-sustaining populations of largemouth bass and various sunfish species. No boats are allowed, but most areas of the lake can be accessed along the shoreline.

On October 21st, 2014, the fish community of Crump Park Pond was sampled by boat electrofishing. A complete shoreline circuit of the pond was conducted with the total electrofishing effort of 510 seconds (0.14 hr). All encountered fish were collected by dip nets and placed in a live well tank. Length and weight measurements were taken on all fish to assess their overall health and the health of the current fishery. A total of five fish species were collected. These fish species in order of overall abundance were bluegill, largemouth bass, redear sunfish, black crappie and channel catfish. The fishery within Crump Park Pond has some potential, but there are severe limitations to the production of larger-sized fish in this shallow impoundment.

Largemouth Bass

The survey collected a total of 27 largemouth bass for a CPUE (Catch Per Unit of Effort) of 190 bass/hr. This catch rate showed a large increase when compared to the 2009 survey (CPUE = 84 bass/hr). The size distribution of the bass ranged from 11 to 36 centimeters (4 to 14 inches) with the majority of the fish less than 9 inches in total length. The overall catch rate for largemouth bass was about average for a small impoundment, but the largemouth bass fishery in Crump Park Pond is limited. Only 11 of the 27 bass collected during the survey were adults (≥ 8 inches). Of these larger fish, there were only 2 fish greater than 12 inches in length. Taking into account the juvenile bass, the average size bass measured 7.67 inches. Largemouth bass reproduction appears to be good with 59% of the bass collected being young fish (< 8 inches). Although reproduction is good, it appears that only a small portion of these young fish are recruiting to the adult population. To protect the adult bass within the pond, the bass regulation has been set at a minimum size limit of 18 inches with a harvest limit of one bass per day. The largest bass measured 14.2 inches and weighed 1.37 pounds.

Weights were taken on largemouth bass to calculate relative weight values. Relative weight values are an indication of body condition. A value from 95 to 100 represents a fish that is in the healthy range and finding a decent amount of food. A higher relative weight value indicates fish with a better body condition. The relative weight data of the largemouth bass revealed the 11 stock-sized bass to have a value of 94. The two quality-sized bass had a relative weight value of 90. These relative weight values reveal that the bass are having some difficulties finding sufficient forage in the size range that they can properly utilize for growth.

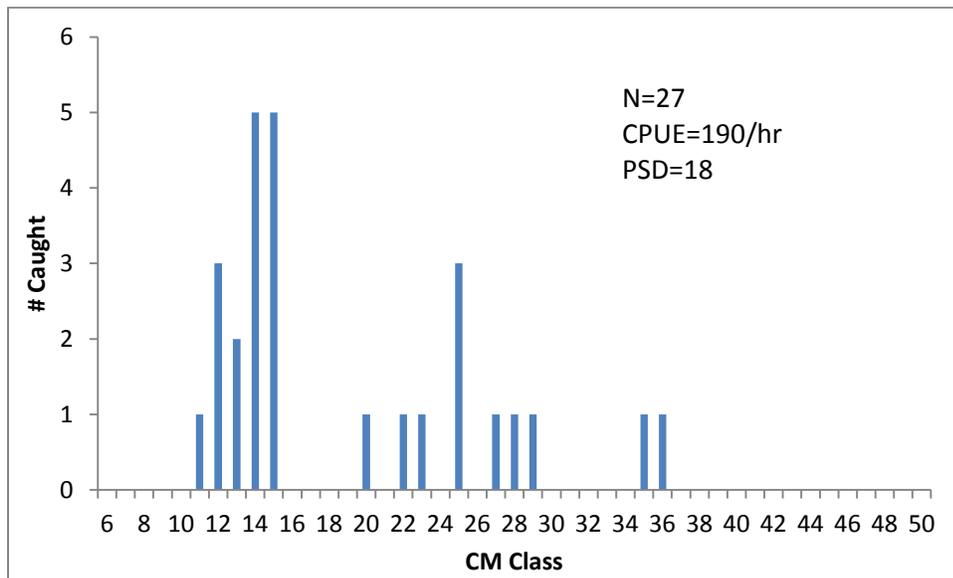


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of largemouth bass collected from Crump Park Pond on October 21, 2014

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish

The survey collected a total of 268 bluegill for a CPUE of 1,891 fish/hr. This catch rate showed a large increase from the 2009 survey (CPUE = 612 fish/hr). The bluegill % of the total number of fish collected was 79.3%. This % showed an increase from the 2009 survey (67.7%). The bluegill distribution ranged from 2 to 14 centimeters (1 to 5 inches) with the majority of the collected fish in the 7 to 10 centimeter range (3 to 4 inches). The average size bluegill measured 3.8 inches with the largest fish measured at 5.6 inches. These 3 to 4 inch bluegill would provide an ideal forage base for the larger bass in the 3 to 5 pound range if any of those fish were present. The collected bluegill were weighed and the relative weight value for the 232 stock-sized bluegill (≥ 8 cm) came back at an extremely favorable value of 117. The bluegill were extremely healthy and finding plenty of available food. Anglers should set their expectations rather low when it comes to catching any large bluegills from Crump Park Pond.

The survey collected only 27 redear sunfish for a CPUE of 190 fish/hr. This catch rate showed an increase from 2009 (CPUE = 164 fish/hr). The redear sunfish size distribution ranged from 13 to 19 centimeters (5 to 7 inches). The average size redear sunfish measured 6.33 inches with the largest fish measured at 7.8 inches. The relative weight values for the redear sunfish were not as impressive as the bluegill. The 27 stock-sized redear sunfish (≥ 10 cm) had a relative weight value of 93, while the 8 quality-sized fish (≥ 18 cm) had a value of 87. The overall health of the redear sunfish showed there are some limitations to finding adequate forage. The lack of juvenile redear sunfish is an area of concern as it appears that poor recruitment has occurred over that last few years. Some of the larger redear sunfish may surprise an angler from time to time.

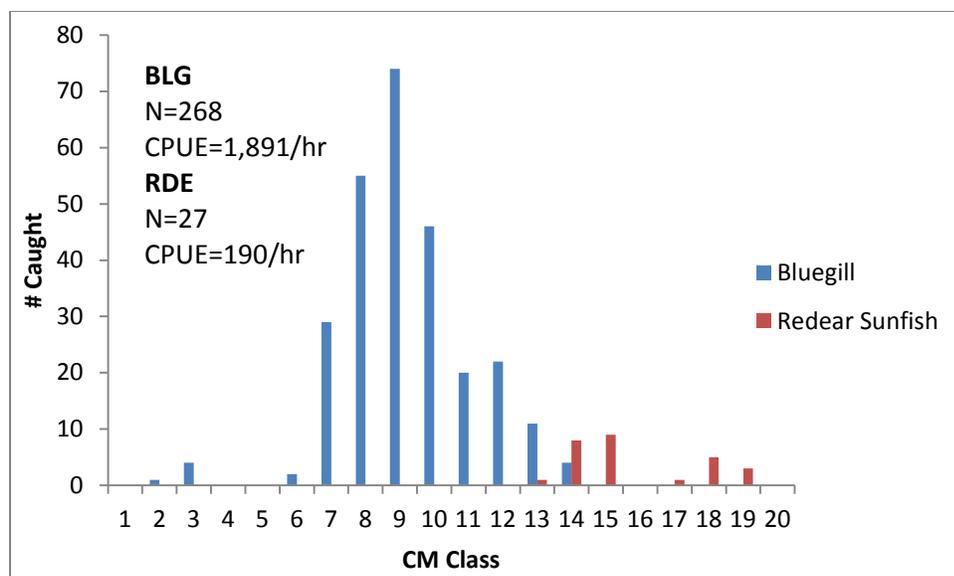


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of bluegill and redear sunfish collected from Crump Park Pond on October 21, 2014

Additional Species

The survey collected a total of 14 black crappie for a CPUE of 98 fish/hr. This catch rate showed an increase from 2009 (CPUE = 16 fish/hr). Collected crappie ranged from 5 to 7 inches in length. The average size crappie measured 6.9 inches and the largest crappie measured 7.9 inches. The crappie fishery appears to be rather limited with their overall abundance most likely kept in check by the largemouth bass population and/or angler harvest. The relative weight value for the collected crappie was 90, which is below the desired range of 95 to 100. The fish were in decent health, but would probably benefit from more small forage fish that they can consume. Crappie, within a small impoundment the size of Crump Park Pond, can create some problems if they are able to fire off a few great year classes of juvenile fish. If this occurs, the crappie population can become extremely crowded with hundreds of slow growing fish. Anglers that frequently visit the pond may catch a few larger crappie, but don't expect to be blown away by massive stringers of large crappie.

The survey collected two quality-sized channel catfish. These fish measured 16.65 and 17.24 inches and weighed 1.63 and 1.67 pounds respectfully. Crump Park Pond is stocked each year with Channel Catfish. The majority of the past stockings have occurred during the summer. The catfish were in good health with a relative weight of 100. Many of the catfish stocked in previous years are generally caught and harvested by anglers, but there is a chance that these fish were holdovers from a past stocking. Channel catfish continue to be stocked annually at high rates, so anglers always have a good chance of catching a few.

To fish Crump Park Pond, follow I-295 and exit onto Route 33 east. Turn left on Mountain Road, and watch for the park entrance signs on the left. The park does not have concessions, but bank fishing and picnicking are available. Anglers are encouraged to follow the posted regulations that are set in place in hopes of providing and maintaining a decent fishery for young anglers and their families.