



Lake Gordonsville 2017



Lake Gordonsville, also known as Bowler's Mill Lake, is a 75-acre lake that was constructed in 1970 as a water supply source for the Town of Gordonsville. The Louisa County Parks and Recreation Department administers the lake, which currently contains self-sustaining populations of Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, and Chain Pickerel. To provide additional angling opportunities, the reservoir is annually stocked with Channel Catfish. In the spring of 2016, the fish community of Lake Gordonsville was sampled by boat electrofishing. This report summarizes the results of this survey and what anglers can expect to catch in Lake Gordonsville.

Lake Gordonsville contains a typical fish community for a small impoundment with a combined total of ten fish species collected (Table 1). Largemouth Bass and Bluegill were the most abundant species collected in the electrofishing survey (Table 1). Lake Gordonsville continues to produce a quality Largemouth Bass fishery based on numbers and sizes of fish collected. The Largemouth Bass electrofishing catch rate was considerably higher than rates from previous surveys on the lake. The increase in catch was mainly attributed to increases in numbers of bass between 8 and 13 inches. The lake contains considerable numbers of bass in the 8 to 13 inch range and decent numbers of fish in the 15 to 18 inch range (Figure 1). The largest bass collected measured 18.5 inches and weighed approximately 4 pounds. Although the overall bass population appears in good shape there is some concern for overcrowding of the small abundant bass. The high catch rate of smaller bass and lack of fish over 19 inches collected indicates that bass are starting to stockpile in Lake Gordonsville and angler harvest of bass below 13 inches is encouraged to prevent future stunting of the population. Anglers fishing for bass should concentrate around the edge of the water shield lily-pads and drop-offs around the main channel.

Electrofishing catch rates for crappie were high with all the crappie catch composed of Black Crappie. Lake Gordonsville supports a decent crappie fishery in terms of numbers but poor based on the size of fish collected. Ninety four percent of crappie collected were smaller than the preferred-size of 10 inches while 70% were less than 8 inches. Lack of larger crappie can indicate overcrowding of smaller fish or overharvest of larger fish by anglers. Due to the high overall catch rate it is likely that the crappie are starting to become overcrowded in the smaller size classes (crappie < 8 inches) and are in need of harvest. Biologists will continue to monitor the crappie population to observe any increase in the harvest and to determine if any regulations changes are needed to benefit the fishery.

Lake Gordonsville offers decent Bluegill and Redear Sunfish fisheries. These panfish are not extremely abundant but there are numerous harvestable-sized fish (> 6 inches) available to anglers. The majority of sunfish collected were between 4 and 9 inches (Figure 4). Anglers searching for panfish should concentrate efforts around the sandy flats and brush piles in the spring and the deeper timber structure during the summer.

Channel Catfish are stocked annually, but none were captured in our surveys. The low capture rate of catfish was due to our sampling gear rather than a lack of fish. Catfish anglers should try night crawlers or chicken livers around channel drop-offs or structure.

Anglers looking for a scenic experience close to the Richmond and Charlottesville areas should visit Lake Gordonsville. There is ample parking and a gravel ramp that accommodates most boats. Lake Gordonsville can be reached by taking Rt. 623 west from Rt. 15, several miles south of the Town of Gordonsville. The reservoir is open 0.5 hour before sunrise till 0.5 hour after sunset, and gas powered motors are prohibited. If you plan to make a day on the lake, be aware that a fishing permit, issued by Louisa County Parks and Recreation, is required to fish the lake. Permits are \$2.50 annually for Louisa residents, \$4 annually for Gordonsville residents and \$5.50 annually for all other anglers. Permits are obtained by contacting the Louisa County Treasurer's office (540.967.3435).

For more information on Lake Gordonsville, please contact:

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Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Lake Gordonsville in 2016.

	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish per hour electrofishing)	Percentage of the Catch
Black Crappie	59	56	19
Bluegill	111	106	37
Golden Shiner	1	1	1
Largemouth Bass	111	106	37
Redear Sunfish	16	15	5
White Sucker	1	1	1

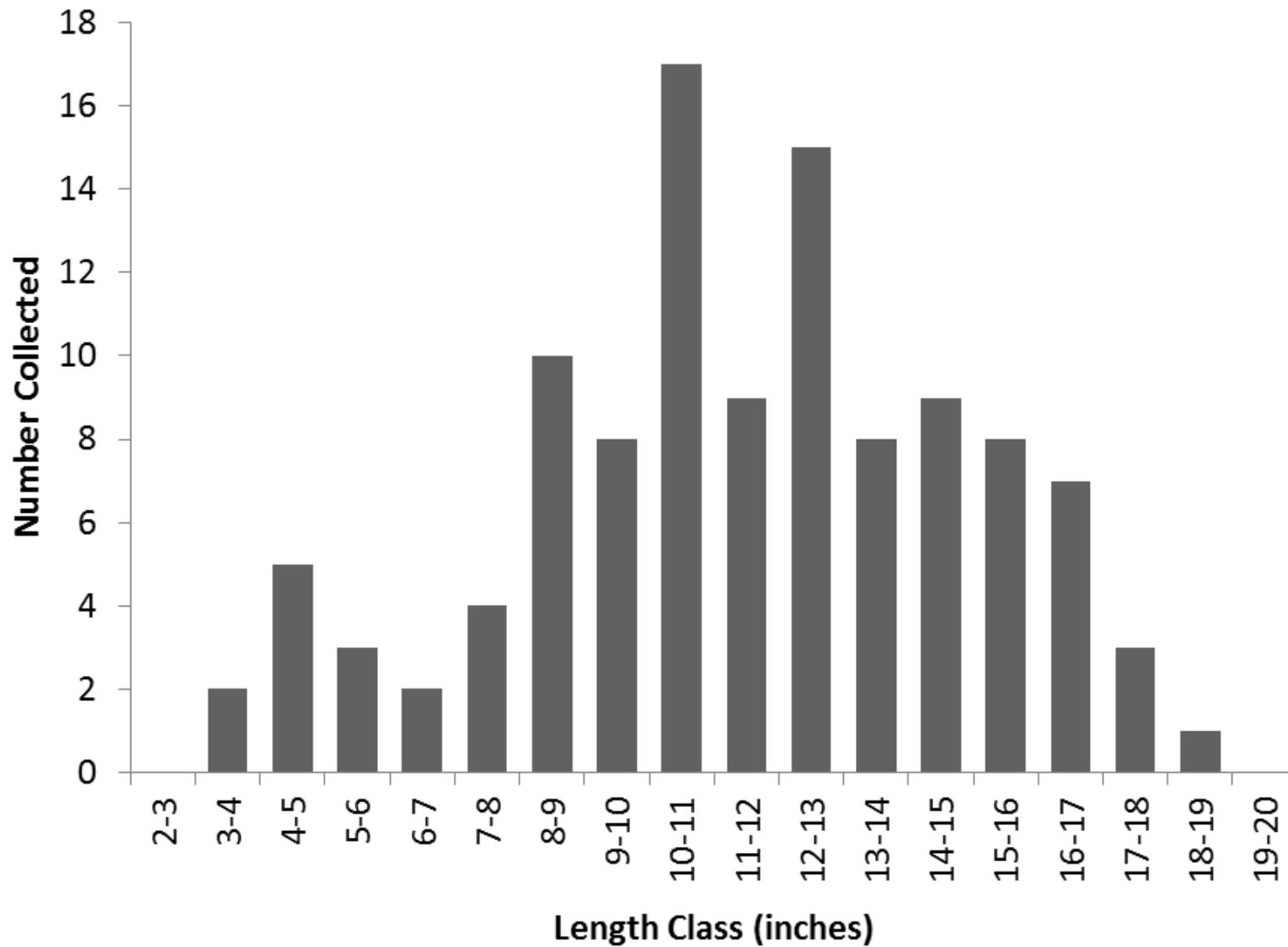


Figure 1. Length distribution of largemouth bass collected throughout Lake Gordonsville Reservoir in 2016.

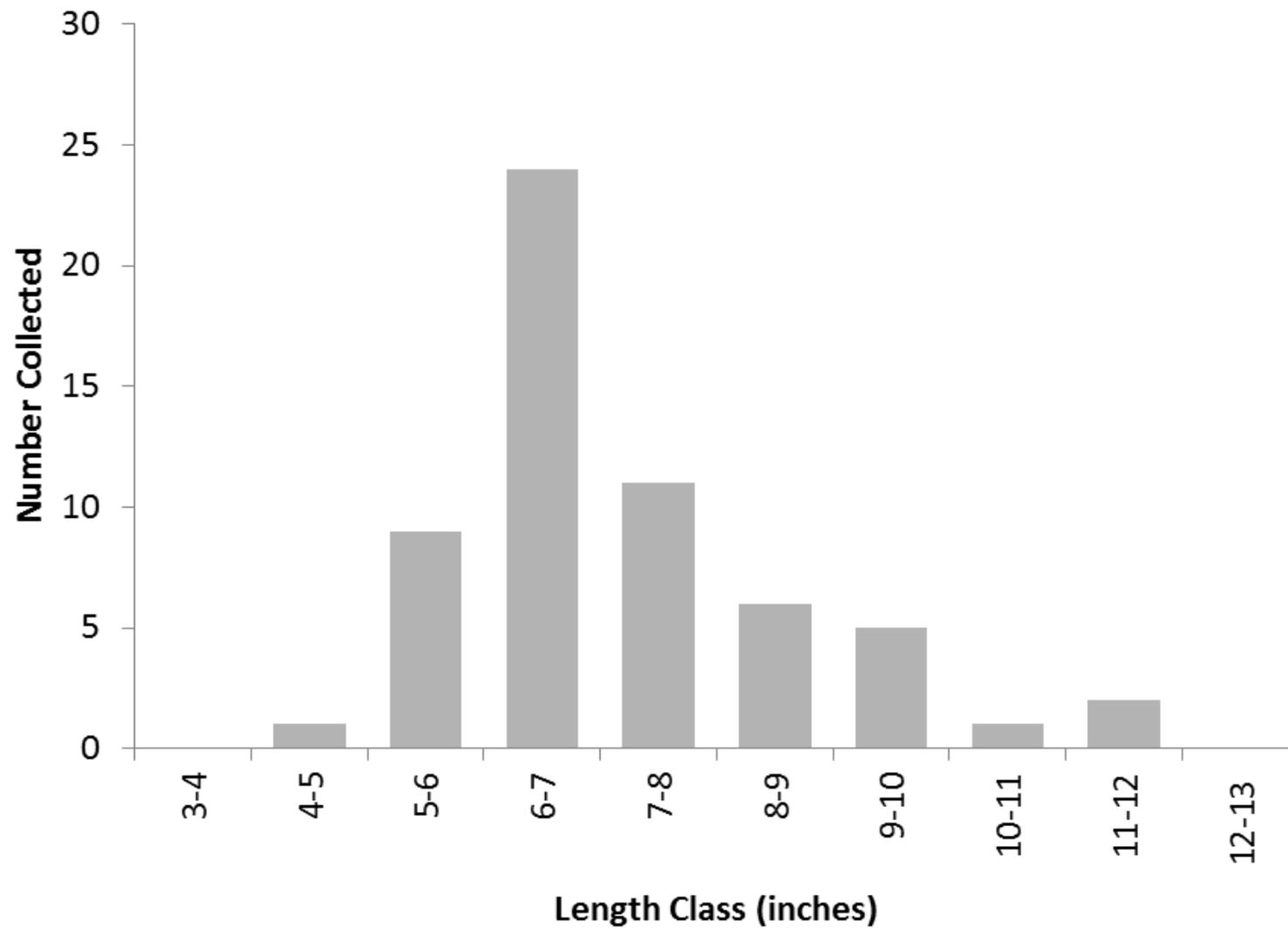


Figure 2. Length distribution of crappie collected with electrofishing gear throughout Lake Gordonsville in 2016.

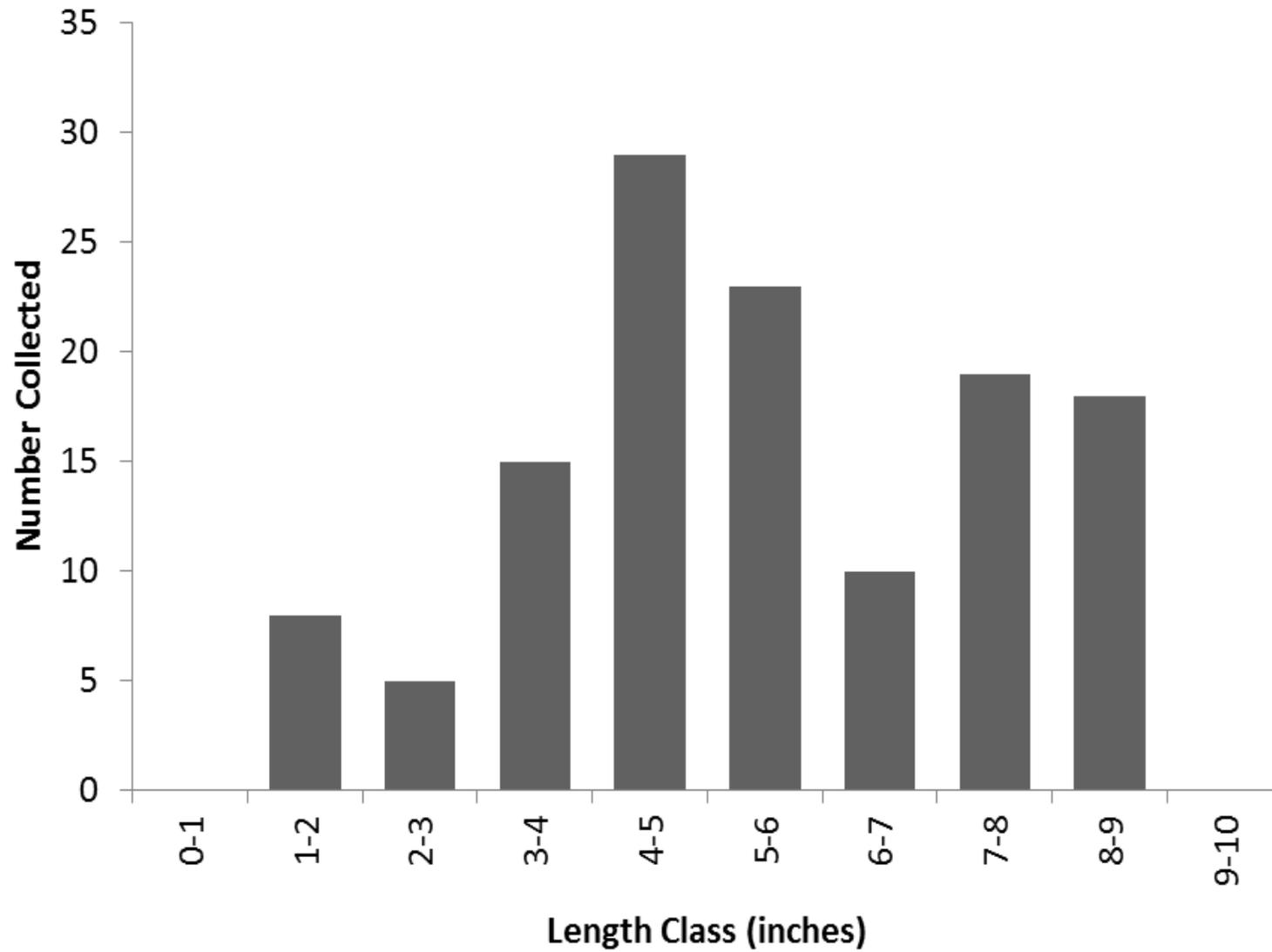


Figure 4. Length distribution of bluegill and redear collected with electrofishing gear throughout Lake Gordonsville in 2016.