



## Thrasher Lake 2006



Thrasher Lake is a 36-acre impoundment located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Amherst County. This is one of three public reservoirs owned by the County and offers a scenic view of the mountains while providing opportunities for fishing and family outings. The various facilities include picnic tables, restroom, play area, boat ramp, and associated parking. The lake is open year round but nighttime activities are prohibited except for fishing. Anglers are required to obtain a permit from the county to fish at night. Boats propelled by oar or electric motor are welcome but outboard motor use is prohibited.

Sampling prior to 1990 indicated the bass population had never reached its potential. In 1991, less than two years after the protective slot was initiated, largemouth bass in the smaller and larger size groups increased. The 2000 sample showed this reservoir had a very good bass population with good numbers of bass in and above the protective slot limit. In 2003, the bass population was again starting to show signs of being bass crowded with a large increase in the number of small bass and a reduction of large bass. Management in 2004 attempted to reduce the number of bass to improve growth and the number of larger fish in the population. Sampling in 2005 showed immediate improvements in the bass population with more fish in the protected slot limit and improved growth. Efforts will continue to focus on maintaining a balanced bass population.

**Largemouth bass collected during the 2000-2005 electrofishing surveys. The top row is the inch group and the bottom rows are the number of fish collected in each size group.**

Size (Inches)	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
# in 2005	18	31	17	4	17	22	56	34	15	3	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	1
# in 2004	5	3	67	104	48	52	20	4	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
# in 2003	28	28	3	20	56	27	20	6	1	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
# in 2000	10	0	6	10	3	5	3	3	4	1	2	3	1	0	0	2	1	0

The panfish population is primarily bluegill with only a few redear sunfish and black crappie available. The bluegill population is in good condition but is starting to decline in numbers from excessive largemouth bass predation. However, the lower number of sunfish has improved the sizes of bluegill and Thrasher Lake currently has the best sunfish fishery of any of the three Amherst County lakes.

Black crappie were collected for first time in 2000 but all of those crappie were 7-12 inches in length. Crappie reproduction in recent years has been poor resulting in few fish available to anglers. Reproduction is not expected to get much better due to limited crappie habitat in the lake. Crappie anglers should not expect good crappie fishing at Thrasher Lake.

Channel catfish were stocked in 1978-1999 but only one catfish has been ever been collected. The channel catfish stocking program at Thrasher Lake was discontinued since stocked catfish contributed very little to the fishery.

The current regulations had been effective in maintaining a balanced fish population until 2003. If a reduction in the bass population is not successful in the next couple of years, fishing regulations may need to be modified.

To access this reservoir, turn northeast on Rt. 610 from Rt. 60 (approximately 9 miles west of Amherst), then turn left on Rt. 617, and the lake access road will be the first road on the left. Permits for night fishing are available through Amherst County at 434-946-9371.