



Lakeview Reservoir 2009

Located in the City of Colonial Heights, Lakeview Reservoir is a 42-acre impoundment of Swift Creek. The reservoir was originally constructed as a water supply impoundment but is currently managed by the City of Colonial Heights for recreation and hydropower generation. The reservoir has been drawn down several times by the City to facilitate dam repairs, with the most recent drawdown occurring in 2006. The past draw downs have had considerable effects on the many of the fish populations within the reservoir. On May 14th, 2008 the fish community of Lakeview Reservoir was sampled by boat electrofishing gear. This report summarizes the results of these surveys and what anglers can expect to catch in the reservoir.

Due to the flow-thru nature of the reservoir, Lakeview contains a diverse fish community with both riverine and reservoir species present. A total of eleven different fish species were collected in the electrofishing survey with bluegill and gizzard shad being the most abundant species (Table 1). Numerous carnivorous fish species were collected, but largemouth bass was by far the most abundant predator collected throughout the reservoir. Largemouth bass numbers were drastically reduced after the latest drawdown in 2006, and in an attempt to rebound the population, a small number largemouth bass fingerlings (Florida and Northern hybrids) were stocked in 2007. The 2008 catch rate for largemouth bass was low for a Central Virginia impoundment but the low catch is typical for Lakeview Reservoir. The bass population in Lakeview has always been limited in numbers due to the flow-thru nature of the reservoir restricting the amount of suitable spawning habitat for bass. Even though Lakeview has a low abundance of bass the population has good portions of adult fish. A good percentage of bass collected were between 9 to 16 inches and bass up to 21 inches are available to anglers (Figure 1). The largest bass collected measuring 20.3 inches and weighing 5 pounds. All bass collected were very plump and in ideal condition.

Bass anglers should concentrate efforts on the lower section of the reservoir (area adjacent to the park and boat landing). The lower section of the lake has the largest amount of preferred habitat for largemouth bass as compared to the riverine upper section of the lake. Electrofishing sampling indicated that bass catch rates in the lower reservoir sections were nearly double the catch rates in the upper reservoir.

Lakeview Reservoir offers a decent panfish fishery in terms of numbers and the size of fish available to anglers. Catch rates for bluegill and redear sunfish were high especially in the lower sections of the lake. A good number of bluegill and redear collected were harvestable size (≥ 6 inches, Figure 2). Additionally, redear larger than 9 inches were collected in the Reservoir. The catch rate for crappie was very low but electrofishing is generally not an effective method for collecting crappie. Anglers searching for panfish should concentrate efforts in the lower sections of the lake especially around the small private docks and piers. It is not uncommon for

private landowners to congregate and grow big sunfish by feeding them from their private docks and piers. Numerous big sunfish were collected around these private structures.

Small numbers of channel and white catfish, chain pickerel, and yellow perch were collected and the presence of these species offer anglers a different variety of fishing experience. Little is know about the populations of these species due to the low numbers collected. Future surveys will hopefully incorporate sampling that will help evaluate the status of these species.

If you are looking for a place to fish near Colonial Heights, please come to visit Lakeview Reservoir. To access the park at Lakeview Reservoir take Route 1 south from Chesterfield; turn right onto Lake Avenue in Colonial Heights; after a ¼ mile take another right and follow to the Park and boat ramp. Boats are allowed, but gasoline-powered outboard motors are not. There is some bank fishing and a small fishing pier. Other facilities include a picnic shelter, picnic tables, a playground, and tennis courts.

Species	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish/hour electrofishing)	Percentage of Catch
Black Crappie	17	12	4.3
Bluegill	153	108	38.3
Chain Pickerel	3	2	0.8
Channel Catfish	5	4	1.3
Gizzard Shad	93	66	23.3
Largemouth Bass	69	49	17.3
Redear Sunfish	44	31	11.0
Shorthead Redhorse	5	4	1.3
Warmouth	7	5	1.8
White Catfish	1	1	0.3
Yellow Perch	3	2	0.8

Chart 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Lakeview Reservoir in 2008.

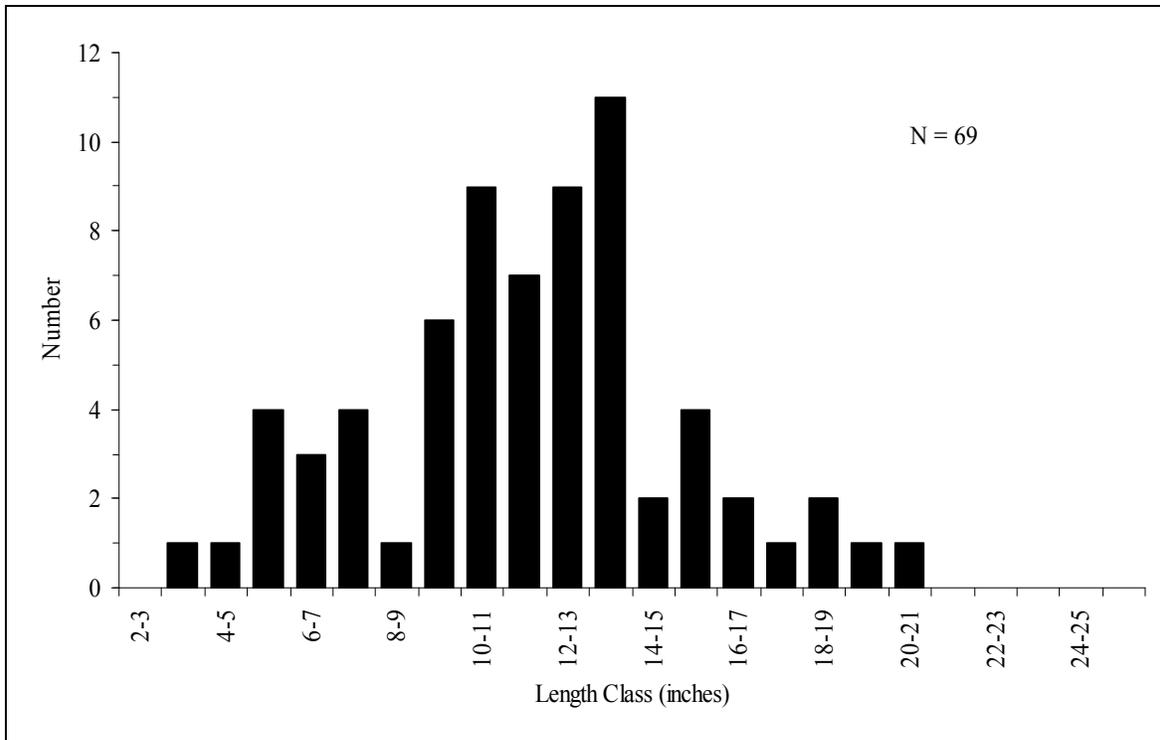


Figure 1. Length distribution of largemouth bass collected throughout Lakeview Reservoir in 2008.

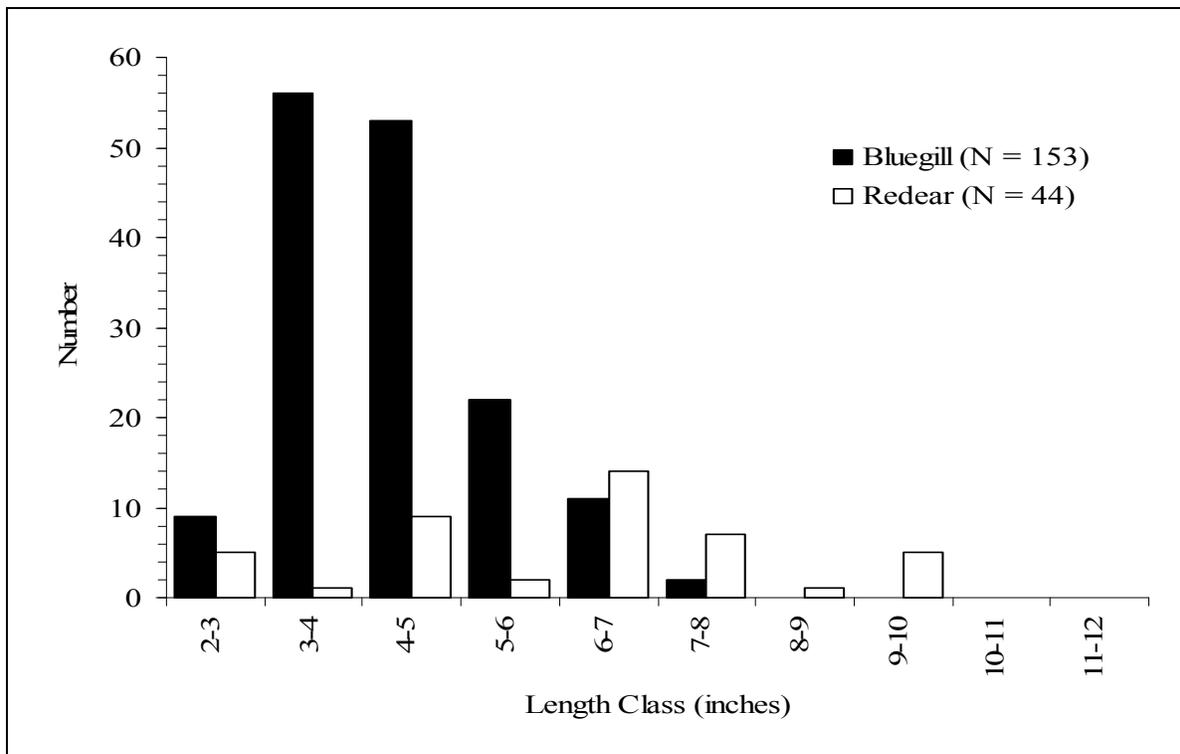


Figure 2. Length distribution of sunfish collected throughout Lakeview Reservoir in 2008.