



Deep Run Park Lakes 2010

Deep Run Park Lakes, located near the intersection of Gaskins Road and Ridgefield Parkway, is owned and operated by Henrico County. The park contains two, 2-acre lakes that are managed under the Department's Community Lakes Improvement Program (CLIP) and receive annual stockings of harvestable-sized channel catfish. The lake also has self sustaining populations of largemouth bass and sunfish. No boats are allowed, but all areas of both lakes can be accessed along the shoreline.

On May 28th, 2009, the fish communities of both Deep Run lakes were sampled with boat electrofishing gear. A total of four species of fish were collected in each lake. Bluegill was the most abundant species collected in each lake, followed by largemouth bass, and redear sunfish (Table 1). Bluegill were highly abundant in each lake, but redear sunfish were not. Although the bluegill catch rates were high, their populations were dominated by smaller individuals. More than 94% of the bluegill collected in each lake were less than the quality size of 6 inches. Surprisingly, one memorable-sized bluegill measuring 10 inches was collected in the lower lake. Small numbers of redear sunfish were collected in each lake and they ranged in size from 4 to 8 inches. All but one redear collected was greater than the stock size of 4 inches with many of these redear measuring at least the quality size of 7 inches (75% and 47% in the upper and lower lakes, respectively). Even with the larger redear, there appears to be a stunting problem with the sunfish in each lake, possibly due to low numbers of predator fish.

The overall catch rate for largemouth bass was lower than expected for each lake, indicating that each lake has very limited bass populations. Only 11 (upper) and 14 bass (lower) were captured in the lakes. Both lakes appear to be supported by small adult populations of largemouth bass. In the upper lake, eight bass collected were adult fish (at least 8 inches), with five of those fish measuring quality size (≥ 12 inches) and two measuring memorable sized (≥ 20 inches; Figure 1). In the lower lake, seven bass collected were adults, with all seven fish measuring quality size, and only one measuring memorable size (Figure 1). Largemouth bass reproduction and recruitment appears to be poor in both lakes with a total of only 10 juveniles (< 8 inches) collected in both lakes combined. Fishing pressure at the lakes makes the adult bass tough to catch. To protect the bass, the bass populations in the lakes are regulated under a minimum size limit of 18 inches with a harvest limit of one bass per day.

Only three channel catfish were collected in both lakes combined during this sample. Low catch rates for catfish were likely due to sampling gear effectiveness and low catfish numbers. The lakes were not scheduled to be stocked until later in the summer and many of the catfish stocked in the previous years are generally caught and harvested by anglers. Channel catfish continue to be stocked annually at high rates, so anglers always have a good chance of catching a few after stocking.

To fish Deep Run Lakes, follow I-64 and exit onto Gaskins Road south. Turn right on Ridgefield Parkway, and watch for the park entrance signs on the right. In addition to fishing, the park contains numerous picnic pavilions and shelters available to anglers and waterfowl-watchers, restrooms, a play area and play equipment, exercise trails, nature/hiking trails, soccer/football fields, and basketball courts. There is a large population of resident ducks and geese at the lakes that anglers should avoid while fishing. Anglers need to be stewards of the resource and remove all fishing line, hooks, trash, and do not feed the waterfowl so these animals are not harmed.

For more information on Deep Run Park Lakes, please contact:

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Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Deep Run Park Lakes in 2009.

Species	Upper Lake			Lower Lake		
	Number Collected	CPUE (fish/hour)	Percentage of catch	Number Collected	CPUE (fish/hour)	Percentage of catch
Bluegill	93	429	83.8	114	263	77.6
Channel Catfish	3	14	2.7	None Collected		
Creek Chubsucker	None Collected			1	2	0.7
Largemouth Bass	11	51	9.9	14	32	9.5
Redear Sunfish	4	18	3.6	18	42	12.2

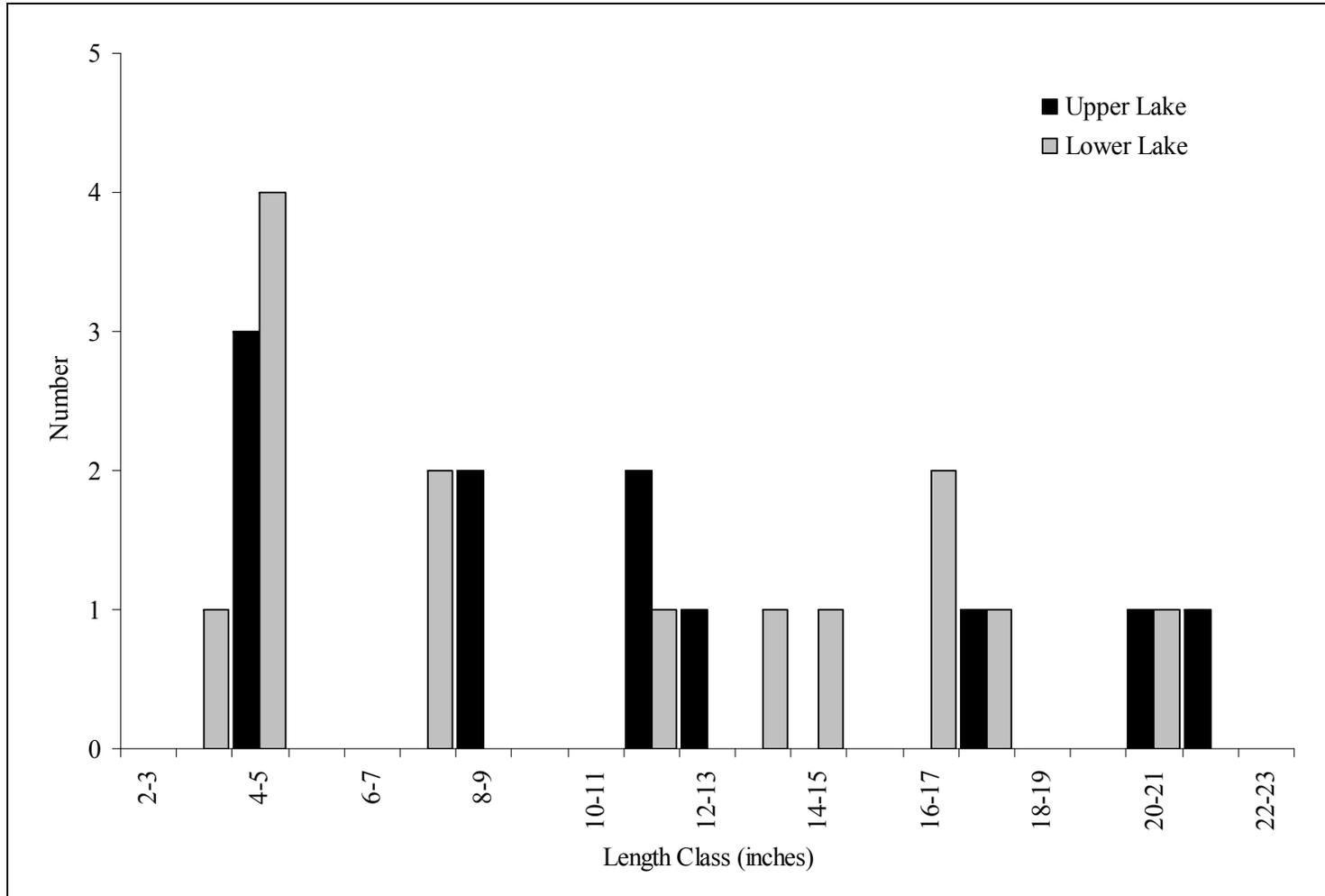


Figure 1. Length distribution of largemouth bass collected with electrofishing gear from Deep Run Park Lakes in 2009.