



Chris Greene Reservoir 2012



Located in Albemarle County, Chris Greene Reservoir is a 66-acre water supply impoundment for the City of Charlottesville. The reservoir contains self-sustaining populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, and black crappie. Additionally, the lake is stocked annually with channel catfish to maintain a fishery. The lake has traditionally provided average largemouth bass and panfish fisheries. In the spring of 2011, the fish community of Chris Greene was sampled by boat electrofishing and trapnets. This report summarizes the results of these surveys and what anglers can expect to catch in Chris Greene.

Chris Greene Reservoir's fish community is diverse with a total of thirteen fish species collected in the 2011 surveys (Table 1). Largemouth bass and bluegill were by far the most abundant species collected in the electrofishing survey, while bluegill and redear sunfish were the most abundant species collected in the trapnet survey (Table 1). Currently the bass fishery is managed under a 12-15 protective slot limit. The bass size distribution indicates a population that is dominated by small individuals (<12 inches, Figure 1). Bass are stockpiling below 12 inches which limits the effectiveness of the protective slot limit. The reservoir is in dire need of small bass (< 12 inches) harvest. Anglers should harvest every bass caught under 12 inches within the 5 bass per statewide creel limit. Once harvest is increased, bass growth will improve and more bass will grow to protected slot lengths. A handful of bass over 20 inches were collected (Figure 1), but stockpiling is limiting the trophy bass potential of the lake. The largest bass collected measured 21 inches and weighed 5 lbs.

Crappie catch rates were high with all the crappie catch composed of black crappie. Chris Greene supports an average crappie fishery with the majority of crappie collected in the 7 to 10 inch range (Figure 2). Crappie growth is slow and seems to level off around 9 inches (Figure 3). The crappie population experience high annual survival (around 73%), and could benefit from angler harvest. Anglers should harvest all crappie caught < 9 inches within the statewide creel limit. A reduction in the number of the smaller crappie will increase growth of the remaining fish and create a better crappie fishery.

Other populations of fish are fairly average and are probably limited by the overabundant bass and crappie populations. Channel catfish are stocked annually and routinely caught from the fishing pier. Chris Greene is recommended as a decent fishery less than 10 minutes from Charlottesville's city limits. The park has great amenities including an improved boat launch, a fishing pier, plenty of bank fishing areas, and a swimming beach. Gas powered motors are prohibited in the reservoir.

For more information on Chris Greene, please contact:

Johnathan Harris
District Fisheries Biologist
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
4010 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 367-6764

Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2011.

Species	Trapnets			Electrofishing		
	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish/net-night)	Percentage of Catch	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish/hour electrofishing)	Percentage of Catch
Black Crappie	170	5.7	14.0	27	19	4.4
Bluegill	429	14.3	35.4	197	140	32.1
Brown Bullhead	23	0.8	1.9	1	1	0.2
Channel Catfish	1	0.0	0.1	6	4	1.0
Golden Shiner	1	0.0	0.1		None Collected	
Green Sunfish	1	0.0	0.1		None Collected	
Largemouth Bass	110	3.7	9.1	265	188	43.2
Redbreast Sunfish	1	0.0	0.1		None Collected	
Redear Sunfish	258	8.6	21.3	88	63	14.4
Warmouth	63	2.1	5.2	15	11	2.4
White Catfish	1	0.0	0.1		None Collected	
White Sucker	154	5.1	12.7	14	10	2.3
Yellow Bullhead	1	0.0	0.1		None Collected	

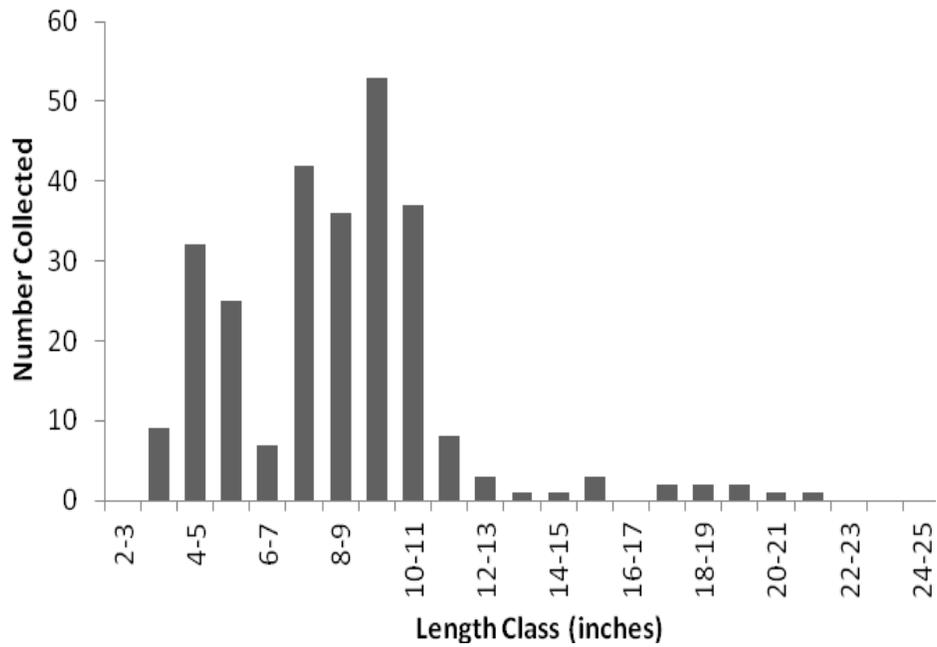


Figure 1. Length distribution of largemouth bass collected with electrofishing gear throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2011.

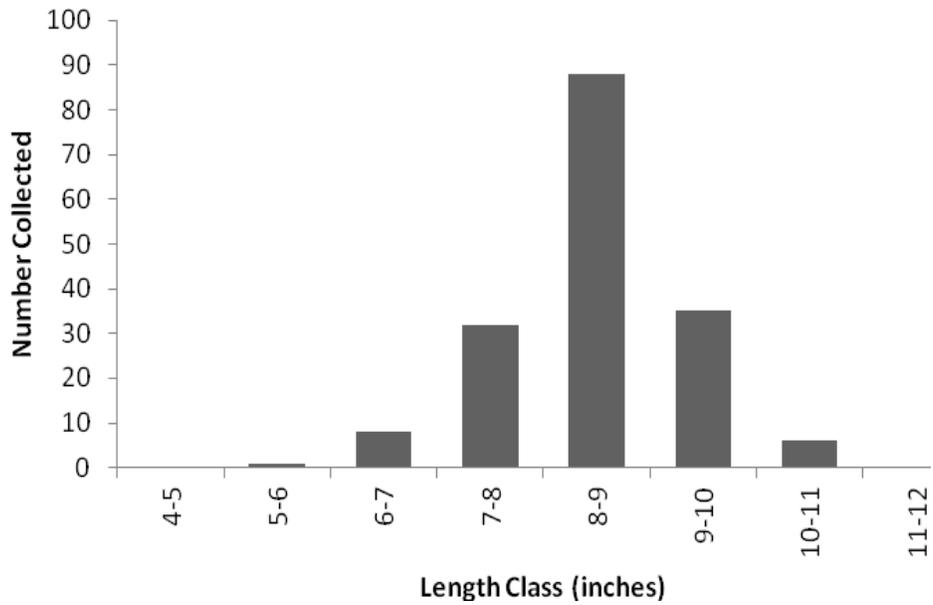


Figure 2. Length distribution of black crappie collected with trapnets throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2011.

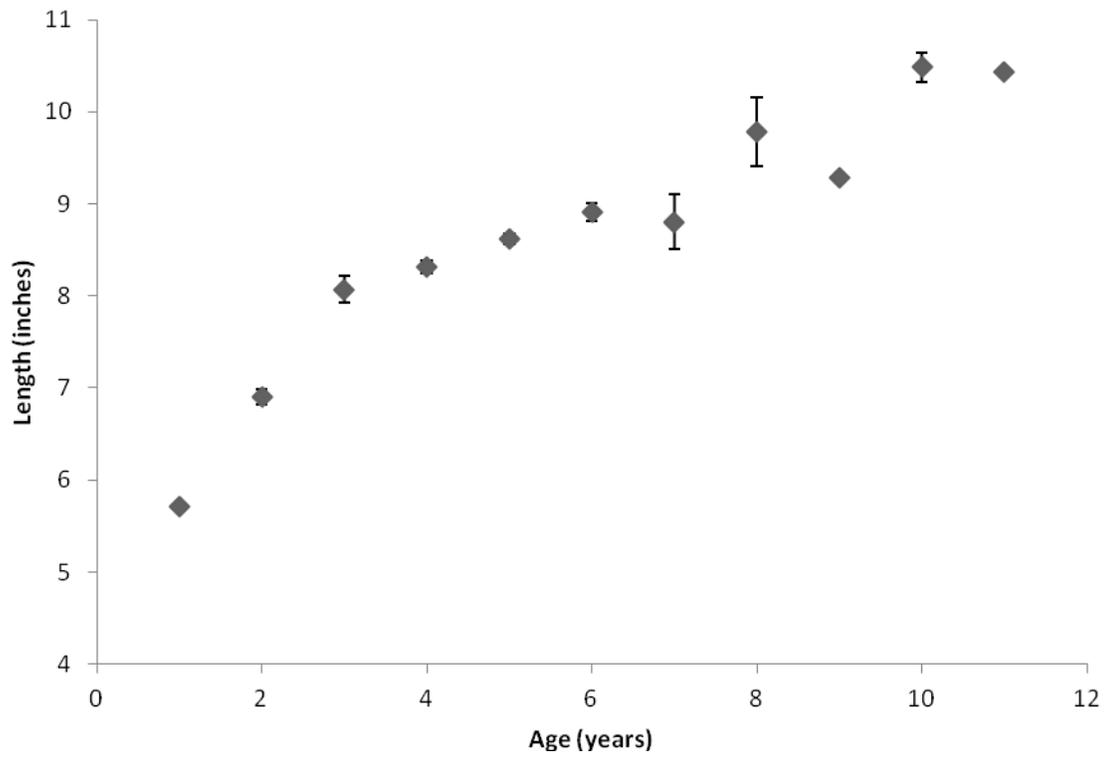


Figure 3. Average length-at-age of crappie collected throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2011. Error bars indicate standard error.