

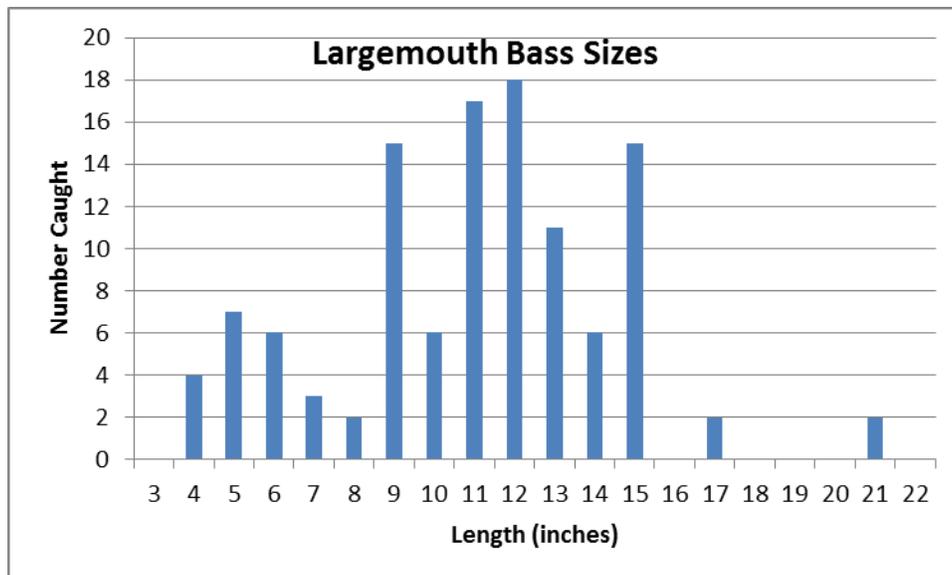


Bannister Lake 2016

Bannister Lake is a 400-acre impoundment in Halifax County, Virginia. The lake is a mainstream impoundment of the Bannister River and serves as a drinking water supply for the Town of Halifax. Fisheries management is provided by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). Bannister offers anglers fishing opportunities close to the towns of Halifax and South Boston. Habitat in the lake consists of natural woody debris and some aquatic vegetation.

Anglers fishing Bannister Lake are likely to catch Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (AKA shellcracker), Chain Pickerel, and crappie. Largemouth Bass harvest is regulated with a 12 inch minimum length limit and a five bass per day bag limit. All other fish species are regulated by statewide limits.

The Largemouth Bass fishery at Bannister Lake has remained average over the years. Based on spring electrofishing samples, Largemouth Bass exhibit average abundance for a Southside impoundment. Largemouth Bass size structure is average but big bass are available. While sampling in 2015, biologists collected two Largemouth Bass longer than 21 inches but most catchable bass are in the 11-15 inch range. Bass abundance and growth is limited by the high flow-through of water in this riverine impoundment and high turbidity of the water. Both of these natural phenomena limit the productivity of the system.



Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and crappie are common in Bannister Lake with Bluegill being the most abundant of the panfish species. Anglers can expect to catch Bluegill up to 8 inches, redear up to 9 inches and crappie up to 14 inches. Crappie are not numerous but several fish over 10 inches were sampled in the 2015 DGIF electrofishing survey. Beginning in late April, anglers should be able to catch a lot of fish as they begin to move into shallow water to spawn.

Bannister Lake is located on Route 501 near the town of Halifax.