

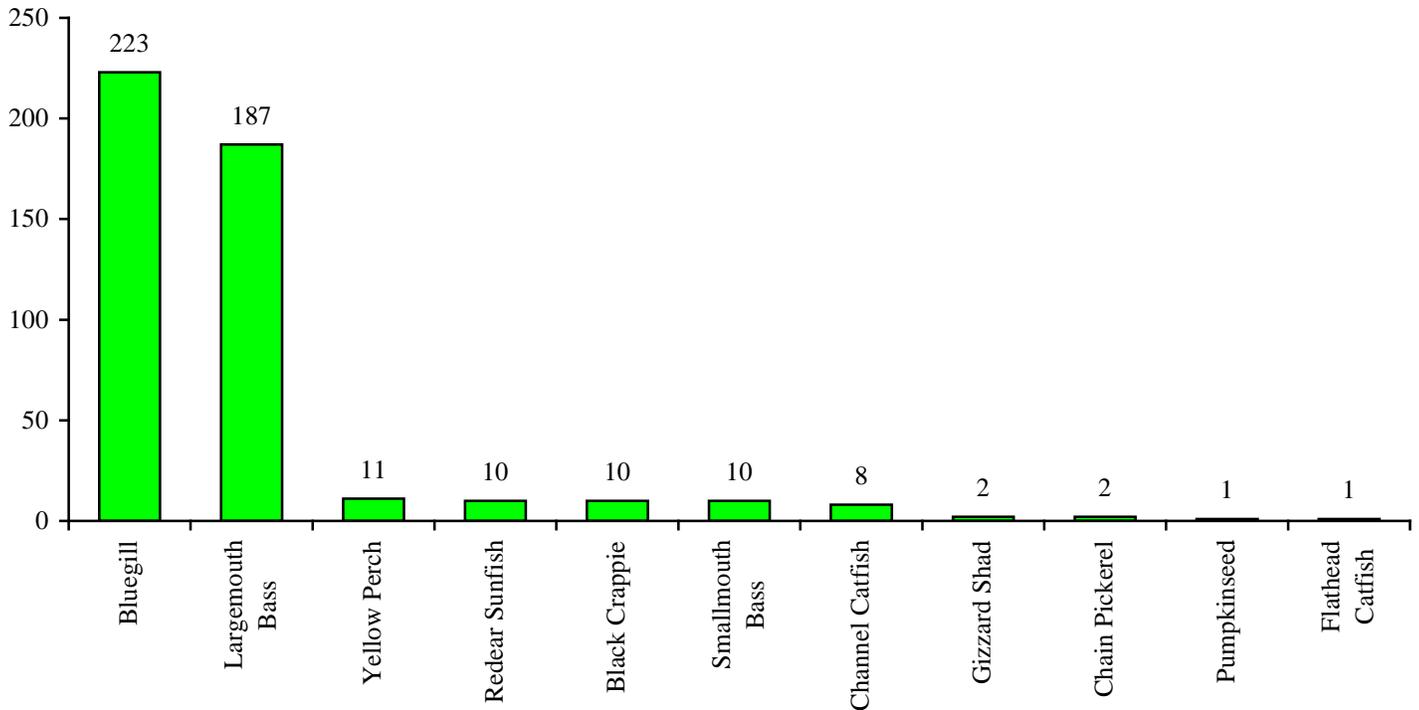


Carvins Cove 2015 Management Report

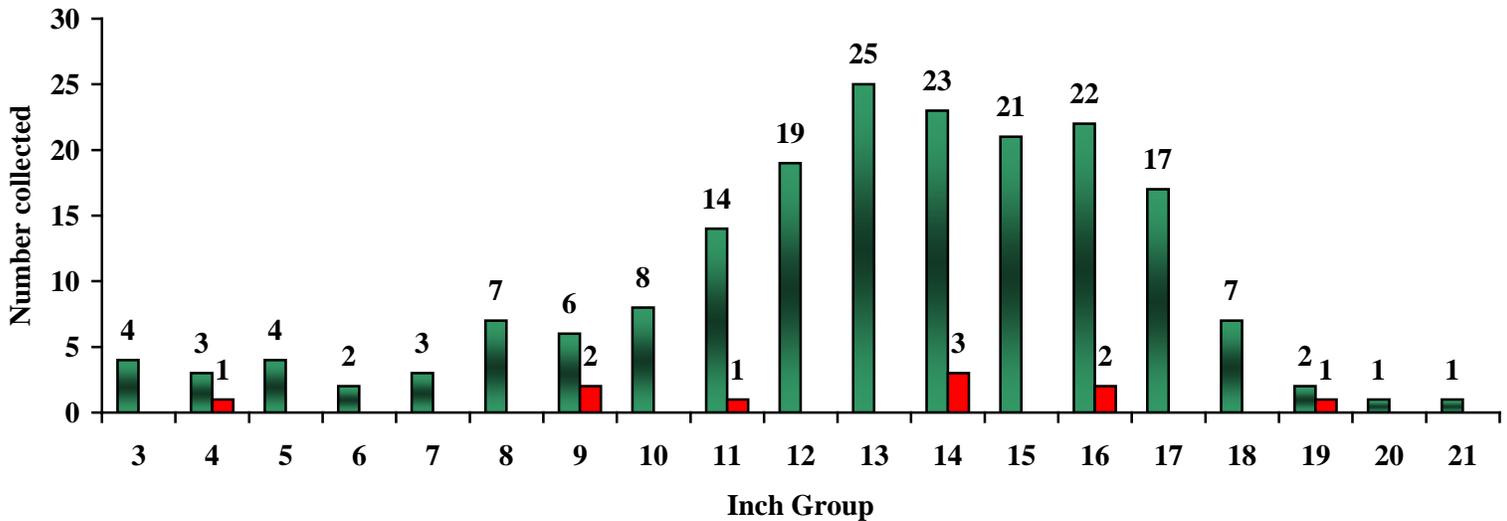


Carvins Cove is an 800-acre impoundment located in Roanoke and Botetourt Counties, Virginia. This reservoir is owned by the Western Virginia Water Authority and is managed primarily for municipal water supply for the City of Roanoke. The reservoir is surrounded by scenic mountain views, offers good fishing opportunities and provides an extensive trail system available to hikers, bikers and horseback riders. Other facilities available at this reservoir include a boat ramp and restrooms. Access to the lake is open all year but the lake is closed at night. Outboard motor use is restricted to 10 hp and electric motors. There is a daily fee for all users and additional fees for boaters.

The reservoir was impounded in 1945 and was stocked with various predator species such as striped bass, walleye, musky and catfish until 1992. Due to invasive species concerns, Carvins Cove had limited boating access and VDGIF was not able to sample fish populations from approximately 1993-2008. Sampling resumed in the spring of 2009 revealing that this reservoir still contains a good fishery. Currently, the most popular sportfish species are largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, and sunfish. With the exception of a 14-inch minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass, all fish species are regulated with statewide regulations. The following chart shows the species and numbers of fish collected by VDGIF in spring 2014.



Largemouth bass are abundant with plenty of fish up to 17 inches and a few reaching 21 inches. Largemouth bass are distributed throughout the reservoir but are typically located in deeper water after the spawn due to high water clarity and limited structure. Smallmouth bass are present but in lower numbers and are typically caught in deeper water than largemouth bass. Anglers should concentrate on natural bottom structures and drop offs to locate bass when they are not frequenting shallow areas during the spawn. The following chart shows the sizes and numbers of largemouth bass (green bars) smallmouth bass (red bars) collected by VDGIF in the spring 2014.



Anglers fishing for sunfish will find some variety including redear, redbreast and pumpkinseed, but bluegills are the dominant sunfish species. Most bluegills are small with sizes ranging from 2-9 inches and a lot of fish in the 3-6 inch range. There are few larger bluegills in the population.

Crappie are not abundant but the average size collected during the spring 2014 sampling was good, averaging 11-12 inches. Most crappie are concentrated in the upper end of the reservoir.

Channel catfish and flathead catfish offer something for those anglers who target catfish. The lake is not known for exceptional catfishing, but some decent channel catfish were collected in 2014 sampling efforts with sizes ranging from 14-23 inches.

Hybrid striped bass were stocked in 2013 and 2014 to enhance fishing opportunities.

Information about boating, times the lake is open, rentals and other regulations and additional information for visitors to Carvins Cove Reservoir can be found at;

<http://www.westernvawater.org/i-am-a-/recreationalist/carvins-cove-natural-reserve>

For more information on the fishery, contact George Palmer by telephone (434) 525-7522 or by e-mail george.palmer@dgif.virginia.gov