



Totier Creek Reservoir 2015



Located in southern Albemarle County near the town of Scottsville, Totier Creek Reservoir is a 66-acre impoundment administered by Albemarle Parks and Recreation. The reservoir contains self-sustaining populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, and white crappie. Additionally, the lake is stocked annually with channel catfish to maintain a fishery. In the spring of 2014, the fish community of Totier Creek was sampled by boat electrofishing and trapnets. This report summarizes the results of these surveys and what anglers can expect to catch in Totier Creek.

Totier Creek's fish community is very diverse with a total of fourteen fish species collected in the 2011 surveys (Table 1). Bluegill and largemouth bass were by far the most abundant species collected in the electrofishing survey, while white crappie and bluegill were the most abundant species collected in the trapnet survey (Table 1). Totier Creek provides an exceptional fishery to anglers in central Virginia. The bass population is in excellent shape for the area based on numbers collected and the size distribution of bass collected. The reservoir has ample numbers of young fish to sustain the population while also providing good numbers of fish in the 16 to 21 inch range (Figure 1). The largest bass collected measured 23 inches and weighed 7 lbs. The most productive areas for bass were along the shoreline in the lower, deeper section of the lake. Gizzard shad are common in the lake and are a major prey species of bass; anglers should use baits that mimic shad colors and movement.

Totier Creek provides a quality white crappie fishery which is unique for the area. Most impoundments in central Virginia are dominated by black crappie, whereas Totier Creek has ample numbers of both white and black crappie. White crappie associate with flowing water systems like rivers and the riverine nature of Totier Creek provides the preferred habitat for white crappie. Totier Creek's white crappie are extremely fast growing reaching 11 inches by age-6, and 6 to 11 inch white crappie are the most common within the population (Figure 2). Black crappie grow much slower in Totier Creek only reaching 8 inches by age-4. Additionally, average growth of black crappie tends to level off at around 9 inches, much lower than that of white crappie (Figure 3). Anglers should limit their harvest of the large white crappie to protect the quality population and concentrate harvest efforts on the slower growing black crappie. The harvest of 8 to 9 inch black crappie will reduce their numbers and improve growth of the remaining individuals.

Anglers looking for an excellent bass and crappie lake should visit Totier Creek Reservoir. The reservoir also offers fisheries for bluegill, redear, and channel catfish. Bluegill and redear were generally small (< 8 inches) with the occasional collection of 9-plus inch redear. The lake has well designed concrete boat ramp and numerous areas for bank fishing. Gas powered motors are prohibited in the reservoir. Anglers should be aware that the reservoir will become very turbid after rain due to the reservoir's riverine design.

For more information on Totier Creek Reservoir, please contact:

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Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Totier Creek Reservoir in 2014.

Species	Trapnet			Electrofishing		
	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish/net-night)	Percentage of Catch	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish/hour electrofishing)	Percentage of Catch
Black Crappie	41	2.1	20.2	17	14	6.0
Bluegill	46	2.3	22.7	120	99	42.6
Brown Bullhead	5	0.3	2.5	None Collected		
Channel Catfish	1	0.1	0.5	2	2	0.7
Creek Chubsucker	5	0.3	2.5	1	1	0.4
Chain Pickerel	1	0.1	0.5	3	2	1.1
Golden Shiner	1	0.1	0.5	3	2	1.1
Gizzard Shad	7	0.4	3.4	9	7	3.2
Largemouth Bass	2	0.1	1.0	58	48	20.6
Redear	29	1.5	14.3	40	33	14.2
Warmouth	3	0.2	1.5	1	1	0.4
White Crappie	53	2.7	26.1	3	2	1.1
White Sucker	2	0.1	1.0	25	21	8.9
Yellow Bullhead	7	0.4	3.4	None Collected		



Figure 1. Length distribution of largemouth bass collected with electrofishing gear throughout Totier Creek Reservoir in 2014.

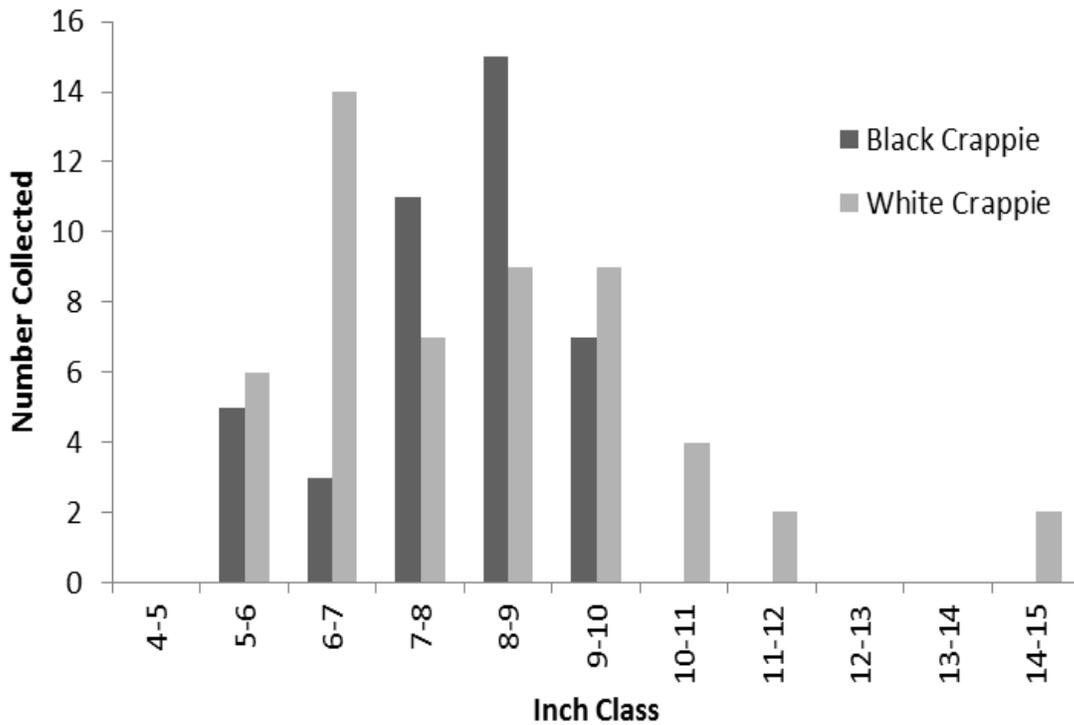


Figure 2. Length distribution of crappie collected with trapnets throughout Totier Creek Reservoir in 2014.

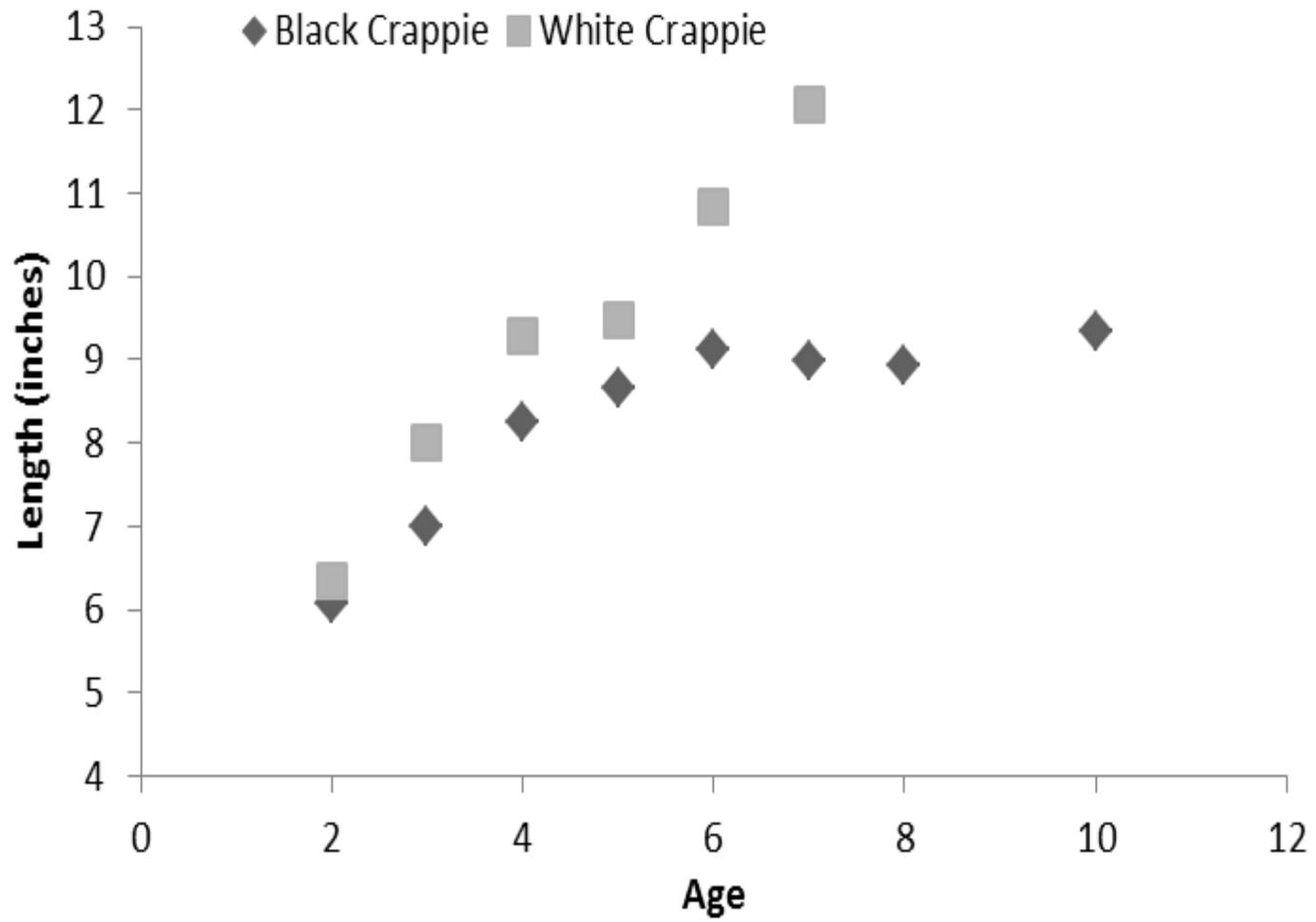


Figure 3. Average length-at-age of crappie collected throughout Totier Creek Reservoir in 2014.