

Lake Nessmuk

Tioga County

Night Electrofishing Survey October 2018

Located in Tioga County, Lake Nessmuk is a 60-acre impoundment owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is managed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) for public fishing and boating. The lake is conveniently located adjacent to State Route 287 approximately 2 miles south of downtown Wellsboro. Lake Nessmuk was drawn down in 2014 to fix structural components of the dam and then re-filled. While the lake was drained, numerous habitat improvements were made to the lake including addition of felled shoreline trees, PA Style Rubble Humps, post clusters, and other fish habitat structures. Stocking of minnows, shiners, bass, catfish, perch, and sunfish began in 2016 by the PFBC to re-establish forage and sportfish populations. In addition, Lake Nessmuk has been placed under the PFBC's Catch and Release Lakes Program while fish populations begin to develop.

On the nights of October 19, 2017 and October 16, 2018 PFBC staff conducted night boat electrofishing surveys on the lake to monitor success of the re-stocking program. Two sample sites were surveyed for a total of 20 minutes electrofishing time. All fish species captured were tabulated by 1-inch length groups (Table 1).

Table 1: Length frequency distribution of fish captured from Lake Nessmuk on October 19, 2017 and October 16, 2018.

Species	2017		2018	
	Number Caught	Size Range (Inches)	Number Caught	Size Range (Inches)
Black Crappie	1	9	44	2-10
Bluegill	2	2-4	36	1-7
Fathead Minnow	53	Not Measured	0	NA
Golden Shiner	23	Not Measured	5	Not Measured
Largemouth Bass	44	4 - 15	84	2-16
Pumpkinseed	101	2 - 7	262	2-8
White Crappie	13	2 - 9	2	9-10
Yellow Perch	4	8 - 10	1	3

Following dam repairs, habitat improvements, re-filling, and re-stocking; Lake Nessmuk is once again providing angling opportunities for bass, and panfish. The lake will be monitored periodically in the future to further evaluate the success of stocking and angling regulations. Once fish populations have fully recovered and are self-sustaining, angling regulations will be adjusted to again allow harvest. For now, catch and release regulations remain in effect.



Post cluster habitat structures at Lake Nessmuk.



Bluegill from Lake Nessmuk.

Area 3 Staff