

Tioga Lake

Tioga County

2022 Black Bass Survey



Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Katie Kelsey with a Tioga Lake Largemouth Bass caught June 2022.

[Tioga Lake](#) is a 470-acre US Army Corps of Engineers impoundment in Tioga County. The reservoir was designed to prevent flooding and to improve the downstream water quality of Tioga River. A boat launch is provided by the Corps at Lambs Creek on Tioga Lake Lane in Mansfield. The lake has no horsepower restrictions however there is approximately 1 mile of no-wake area from the boat launch to the main portion of the lake.

The Tioga River upstream of the lake has historically been impacted by [abandoned mine drainage](#) from several of its tributaries. Historical surveys of the Tioga Lake fishery shown severely limited fish populations. The last survey by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission was in 1995. Since that time some improvements in water quality has occurred due to increased treatment efforts and the passage

of time. Impacts are still evident for travelers on Route 15 in the Mansfield Area as they cross over a portion of the lake and notice the aqua color of the lake’s water.

Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a night boat electrofishing survey of Tioga Lake on June 15-16, 2022 to collect [Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass](#). A total of 56 Largemouth Bass and 41 Smallmouth Bass were captured in 1.97 hours of sampling, ranging from 3 to 17 inches in total length (Figure 1). Total night electrofishing catch rate for both black bass species was 49.2/hour (Table 1). The catch rate for bass ≥ 12 inches was 13.2/hour, and the catch rate for bass ≥ 15 inches was 3.5/hour. As reported the bass population has not been sampled by PFBC since 1995, at that time biologists found the bass community to be unsatisfactory. [Mansfield University](#) conducted bass electrofishing surveys on Tioga Lake in 2007 and 2008 with resulting catch rates like our 2022 survey, but with a higher percentage of Smallmouth than Largemouth Bass.

Table 1. Night electrofishing catch rate comparisons of black bass in Tioga Lake 2022.

	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Combined
Total catch/hour	28.4	20.8	49.2
≥ 12 in/hour	11.2	2.0	13.2
≥ 15 in/hour	3.0	0.5	3.5

Tioga Lake does not experience the number of boaters and fisherman as adjacent Hammond Lake and can provide a memorable experience for those willing to explore. Given the relatively low fishing pressure that Tioga Lake receives and the presence of multiple size classes for both black bass species as well as [Chain Pickerel](#), [Yellow Perch](#), [Bluegill](#), [Pumpkinseed](#), and [Common Carp](#), the opportunity exists for a peaceful and successful fishing trip.



Tioga Lake from east side of dam June 2022

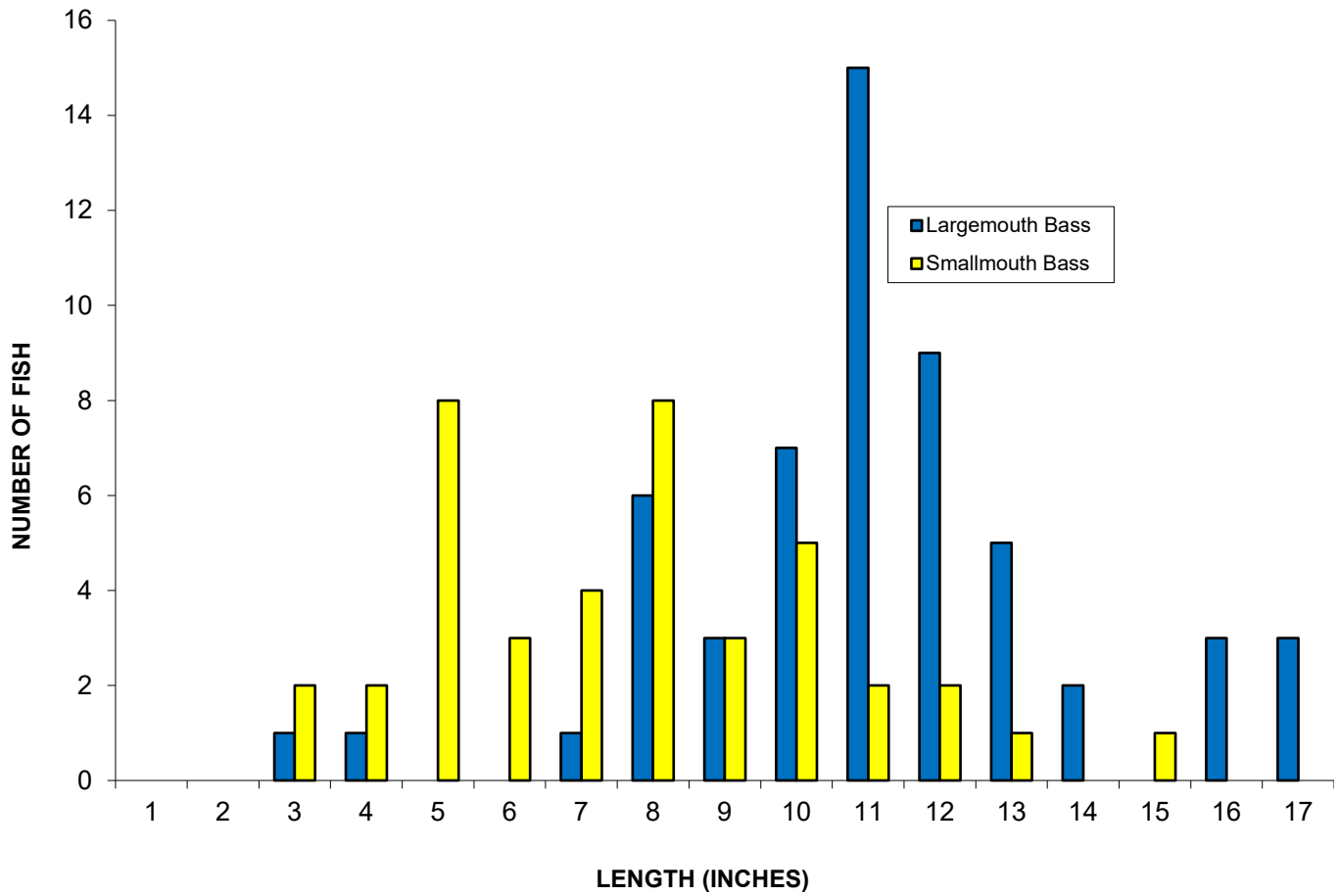


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass caught on June 15-16, 2022 from Tioga Lake.

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