

# Hills Creek Lake

Tioga County

## 2023 Largemouth Bass Survey

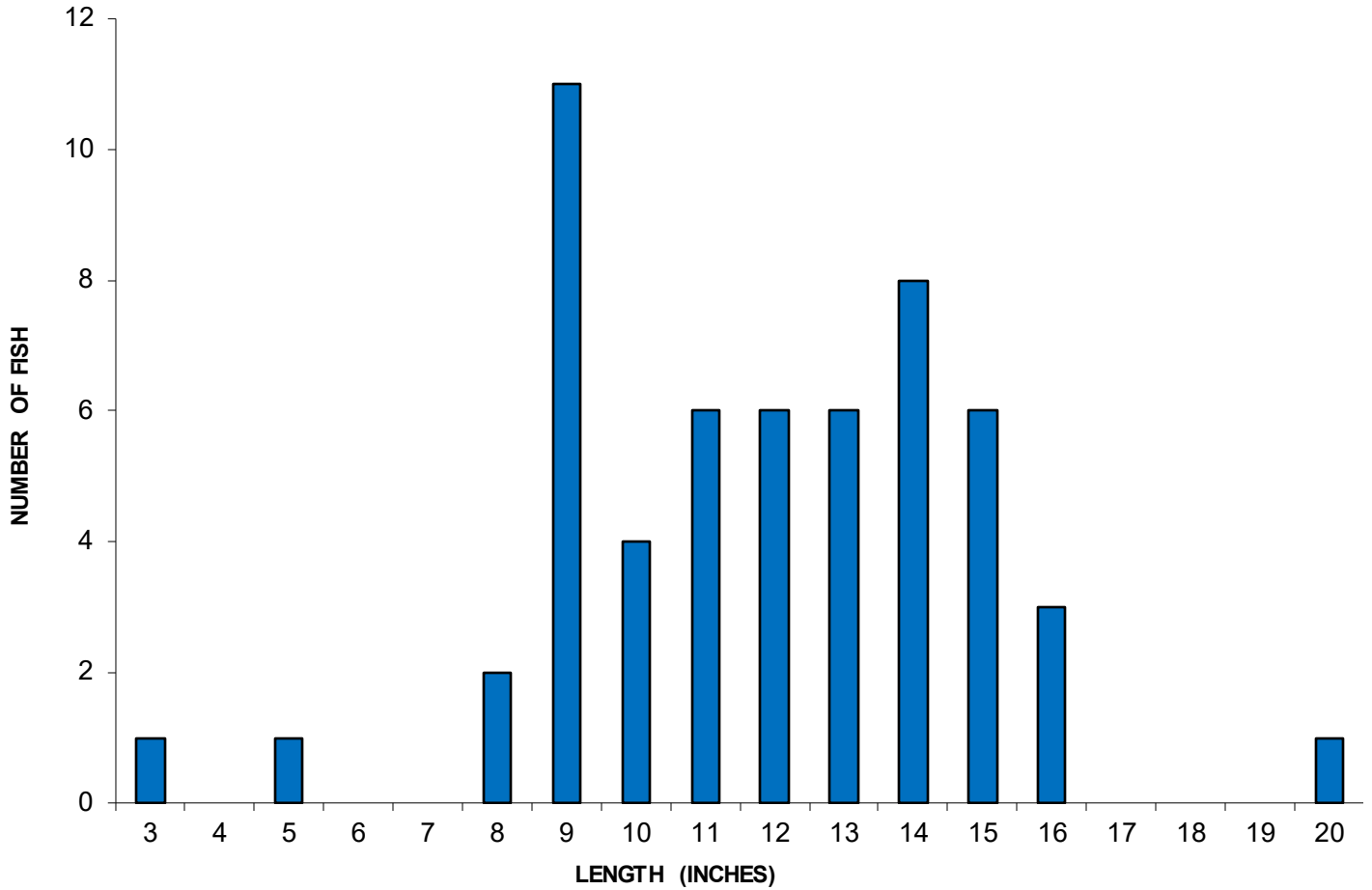


***Fisheries Biologist Aide Elliot Hoogerland with a 20 inch Largemouth Bass collected from Hills Creek Lake in June 2023.***

[Hills Creek Lake](#) is a 137-acre impoundment located in [Hills Creek State Park](#) in Tioga County. Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a night boat electrofishing survey of Hills Creek Lake on June 7, 2023, to collect Largemouth Bass. Total night electrofishing catch rate for Largemouth Bass was 43.9 fish/hour. The bass ranged from 3 to 20 inches in total length (Figure 1.) The catch rate for bass  $\geq 12$  inches was 23.7/hour, and the catch rate for bass  $\geq 15$  inches was 7.9/hour (Table 1). A previous bass electrofishing survey conducted on the lake in 2015 produced slightly higher catch rates though sampling conditions in 2023 were less than optimal due to thick near shore vegetation. The data indicate that anglers currently have the opportunity to catch some nice bass with trophy potential given the good catch rates of fish  $\geq 15$  inches and the capture of a 20 inch individual.

**Table 1. Night electrofishing catch rate comparisons of Largemouth Bass in Hills Creek Lake.**

	2015	2023
Total catch/hour	50.6	43.9
≥ 12"/hour	25.6	23.7
≥ 15"/hour	8.9	7.9



**Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass collected on June 7, 2023 in Hills Creek Lake.**



***Elliot Hoogerland with a 27 inch Walleye captured on June 6, 2023. Walleye were last stocked in Hills Creek Lake in 2011 making this fish at least 12 years old.***

***Aaron Frey  
Area 4 Fisheries Biologist***