

Sylvan Lake

Luzerne County

2023 Black Bass Survey



Sylvan Lake is an 81-acre lake located in Luzerne County. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission maintains a public boat launch which can accommodate a limited number of vehicles. The remainder of the shoreline is private with numerous boat docks.

Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a night boat electrofishing survey of Sylvan Lake on June 6, 2023 to collect Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass. Total night electrofishing catch rate for Largemouth Bass was 43.5/hour and Smallmouth Bass was 22.7/hour (Tables 1 and 2). The bass ranged from 5 to 16 inches in total length (Figure 1.) The catch rate for bass ≥ 12 inches was Largemouth Bass: 33.2/hour, Smallmouth Bass: 14.5/hour and the catch rate for bass ≥ 15 inches was Largemouth Bass: 13.4/hour, Smallmouth Bass 3.5/hour. A previous bass electrofishing survey conducted on the lake in 1996 produced slightly higher total catch rates however, catch rates for larger individuals was higher in 2023. The data suggests that anglers currently have opportunity to catch some nice bass of both species.

Table 1. Night electrofishing catch rate comparisons of Largemouth Bass in Sylvan Lake.

	1996	2023
Total catch/hour	57.7	43.5
≥ 12"/hour	47.9	33.2
≥ 15"/hour	10.4	13.4

Table 2. Night electrofishing catch rate comparisons of Smallmouth Bass in Sylvan Lake.

	1996	2023
Total catch/hour	24.3	22.7
≥ 12"/hour	5.2	14.5
≥ 15"/hour	0	3.5

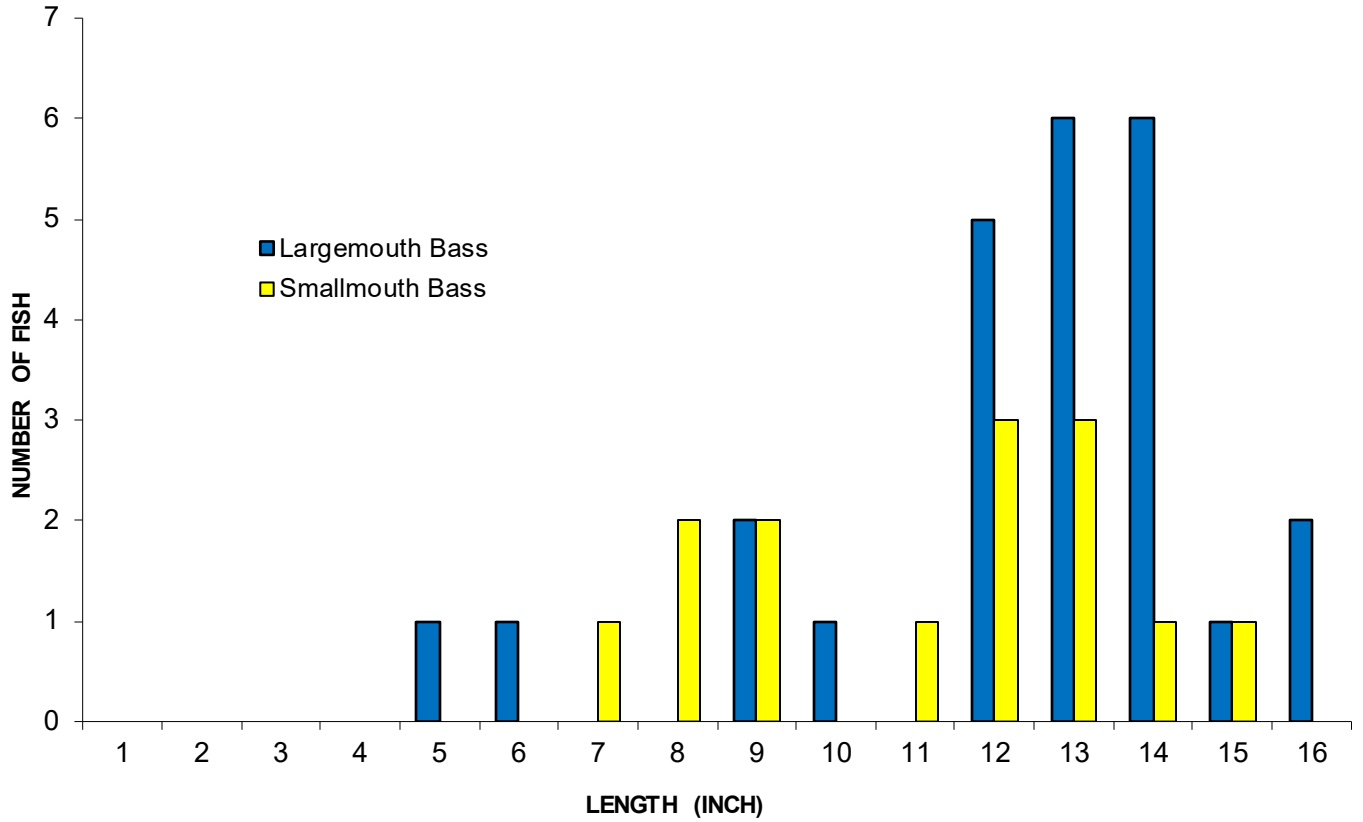


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass collected on June 6, 2023 in Sylvan Lake.

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