

# **Gouldsboro Lake**

## **Monroe County**

### **Largemouth Bass Evaluations in 2018, 2015 and 2012**

Gouldsboro Lake is a 250-acre public impoundment located in [Gouldsboro State Park](#). The park's entrance is one-half mile south of the village of Gouldsboro on PA Route 507, which can be accessed from Exit 13 off Interstate 380. The lake was almost completely drawn down in 2007 to repair the dam, however a small remnant pool remained which held resident fish species of various ages and sizes. Since its refilling in 2008, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has managed the lake's fishery under [Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations](#) for most all fish species; except for Yellow Perch, Black Crappie, and Bluegill/Pumpkinseed which are managed with [Panfish Enhancement rules](#), and Largemouth Bass which are managed via the [Big Bass](#) special regulation program. These special regulation programs were implemented in addition to Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations in 2009 to enhance rebuilding fish populations which was also assisted through a five-year warm/cool water species stocking program, initiated in 2008.

Biologist from Fisheries Management Area 5 monitored the Largemouth Bass population in Gouldsboro Lake following the survey schedule set for in the [2012 Gouldsboro Lake Trap Netting web report](#). The follow-up surveys noted in the 2012 web report were tentatively listed to occur in 2014 and 2016; but were rescheduled for 2015 and 2018 due to operational priorities. Gouldsboro Lake was surveyed on June 7, 2018, May 27, 2015, and June 5, 2012 via nightboat electrofishing. The lake shoreline was electrofished for 1.25 hours in 2018, 1.31 hours in 2015 and 1.5 hours in 2012; catch data is presented in Table 1.

The size of Largemouth Bass enumerated by 25 mm length group (approximately 1 inch) in 2018, 2015 and 2012 ranged from 6.8 to 16.7 inches, 7.9 to 20.6 inches, and 5.9 to 19.6 inches, respectively. Catch per hour values met nearly all guideline values set for the Big Bass Program; except for total catch in 2018 with a posted value (28.08 bass/hr) slightly less than the 30 or more per hour total catch guideline (Table 1). While the overall abundance of Largemouth Bass remains near the low end of the Big Bass bench mark, the Largemouth Bass population provides anglers with a good opportunity to catch bass in the 15-inch to 16-inch size range, while offering an occasional 18 to 20 inch bass.

Anglers should note that Gouldsboro Lake water color is naturally light tea colored, so anglers may want to keep this in mind when selecting the color of their terminal tackle.

Table 1. Nightboat electrofishing catch-per-unit effort (CPUE), expressed in catch per hour, for Largemouth Bass at Gouldsboro Lake compared to Big Bass Program guidelines.

Gouldsboro Lake					
Largemouth Bass					
Length Group	Post Refill			Big Bass Guidelines	Prior to 2007 Drawdown
	2018	2015	2012		1999
Total Catch	28.08	43.48	37.33	>30	23.39
≥12 inches	20.06	17.54	23.33	8 – 12	14.54
≥15 inches	4.01	2.28	8.66	2 – 5	2.14
≥18 inches	...	...	1.33	NA	0.43
≥20 inches	...	0.76	...	NA	...



Daryl Pierce Fisheries Biologist from Fisheries Management Area 5 holding a typical Gouldsboro Lake Largemouth Bass caught in our spring 2018 trap netting survey.

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