

# Dunlap Creek Lake

## Fayette County

### April 2015 TN Survey, May 2016 Electrofishing Survey

Dunlap Creek Lake is a 50 acre Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) impoundment near Uniontown, PA. The lake has one boat launch (electric motors only), adequate parking, picnic tables, and fishing piers. These facilities are provided and maintained by Fayette County government.

The PFBC manages Dunlap Creek Lake under statewide regulations for all warmwater/coolwater species. Previous surveys of Dunlap Creek Lake have documented good populations of Largemouth Bass and fair fishing opportunities for crappie (Black Crappie and white Crappie) and Bluegill. Walleye fingerling are also stocked in the lake to provide an additional component to the fishery. Dunlap Creek Lake is also stocked with catchable trout and is an Approved Trout Water Open to Year Round Fishing.

Dunlap Creek Lake was surveyed in April 2015 with trap nets and May 2016 by night flatbottom boat electrofishing. The purpose of the surveys was to monitor the status of the lake's fish populations and water quality parameters and adjust fish management strategies where needed.

Overall trap net catch was low at Dunlap Creek Lake in 2015 (Table 1). Bluegill were the most abundant species captured with 39 individuals ranging from 3 to 8 inches. The majority of Bluegill were in the 7 and 8 inch size classes. Total crappie catch was low with less than a dozen individuals captured. A few crappie over 10 inches were captured. The yellow perch catch did improve from previous surveys when only a few individuals were encountered. Some quality size Yellow Perch in the 10 inch range were captured in 2015.

**Table 1. Length and frequency distribution of sampled fish from trap nets in April 2015.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number caught</b>	<b>Size range (inches)</b>
Bluegill	39	3 – 8"
Black Crappie	8	9 – 11"
White Crappie	2	8 – 12"
Yellow Perch	26	4 – 10"
Pumpkinseed	2	6"
Walleye	1	20"
Hatchery Brown Trout	3	11 – 18"
Hatchery Rainbow Trout	7	12 – 16"
Common Carp	8	Not measured
Flathead Catfish	1	31"
Green Sunfish	1	5"
White Sucker	5	Not measured
Northern Hog Sucker	1	Not measured
Largemouth bass	1	9"



*-Area Fisheries Manager Rick Lorson with a nice White Crappie*

Saugeye stocking was discontinued at Dunlap Creek Lake in favor of Walleye management, as Saugeye fingerlings became impossible to acquire due to disease issues. Unfortunately, there appears to be poor survival of walleye fingerlings at Dunlap Creek Lake and a directed fishery has not developed. Only one walleye was captured in trap nets in 2015. Thus Walleye fingerling stocking will be discontinued at Dunlap Creek Lake.



*-The only Walleye captured during the 2015 survey was a 20" fish.*

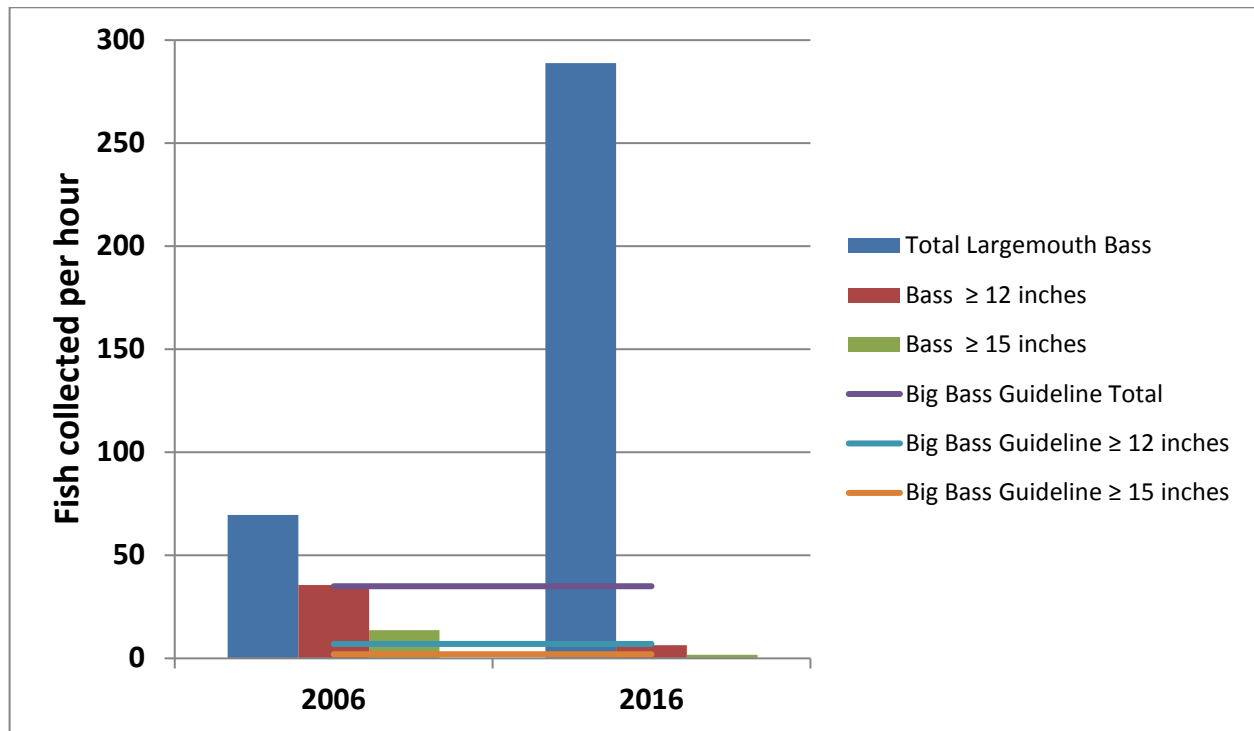
The Largemouth Bass population was sampled by night flatbottom boat electrofishing in May 2016. Table 2 below shows the total catch and size distribution of bass in 2016. Mean total Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) was 289 fish/hr, which was over four times higher than the mean total CPUE during the previous survey in 2006. However, the quality components of the bass fishery, including CPUE  $\geq$  12 inches and CPUE  $\geq$  15 inches, were much lower than in 2006 and did not exceed Big Bass Guidelines (Figure 1). Only eight bass captured in 2016 exceeded 12 inches in length and only two fish exceeded 15 inches in length out of the 335 total bass captured. The majority of the bass were in the 8-11" size range, which is often seen in high density populations with stunted growth. Age and growth analysis of Largemouth Bass lateral scales indicated the majority of fish (98%) were in the 1 to 4 year old range and that growth of fish declined as fish aged. Additional sampling of the Largemouth Bass population will occur in 2017 to determine if the age 4 component of the fish population is reaching legal

size at age 5 or if management strategies need to be adjusted at Dunlap Creek Lake to improve the bass population.

**Table 2. Total catch of fish from night electrofishing in May 2016.**

Species	Number caught	Size range (inches)	Comments
Largemouth Bass	335	3 – 23"	2% > 12 inches
Saugeye	1	19"	

**Figure 1. Largemouth Bass collected per hour during night electrofishing runs at Dunlap Creek Lake.**



*Mike Depew  
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