

Cranberry Glade Lake

Somerset County

April 2018 Trap Net and May 2019 Night Electrofishing Survey

Cranberry Glade Lake is a 72-acre lake located within Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) State Game Lands 82 in western Somerset County. The lake has limited productivity (alkalinity < 10mg/l) but contains an abundance of standing timber, stumps, and aquatic vegetation that provides habitat for a variety of gamefish and panfish species. Biologists from the Area 8 Fisheries Management office in Somerset conducted a routine reinventory of the lake in April 2018 using trap nets and in May 2019 using night electrofishing to assess the gamefish and panfish populations.

Eight trap net sets over two days captured nine different species of fish at Cranberry Glade Lake in 2018 (Table 1). The two most abundant species were Black Crappie and Bluegill. Black Crappie numbers were good with over 250 fish captured and roughly a quarter of them greater than 9 inches in length. Crappie numbers and sizes in 2018 were better than in the two most recent surveys in 2009 and 1997 (Figure 1).

Table 1. Length and frequency distribution of sampled fish from trap nets.

Species	Number caught	Size range (inches)	Notes
Black Crappie	254	3 – 11 inches	24% over 9 inches
Yellow Perch	35	5 – 9 inches	6% over 9 inches
Bluegill	87	2 – 9 inches	67% over 7 inches
Pumpkinseed	3	6 – 7 inches	67% over 7 inches
Northern Pike	8	19 – 30 inches	13% over 24 inches
Largemouth Bass	5	15 – 20 inches	
Brown Bullhead	13	11 – 14 inches	
Common Carp	2	Not Measured	
Golden Shiner	6	Not Measured	



A pair of nice Black Crappie at Cranberry Glade Lake

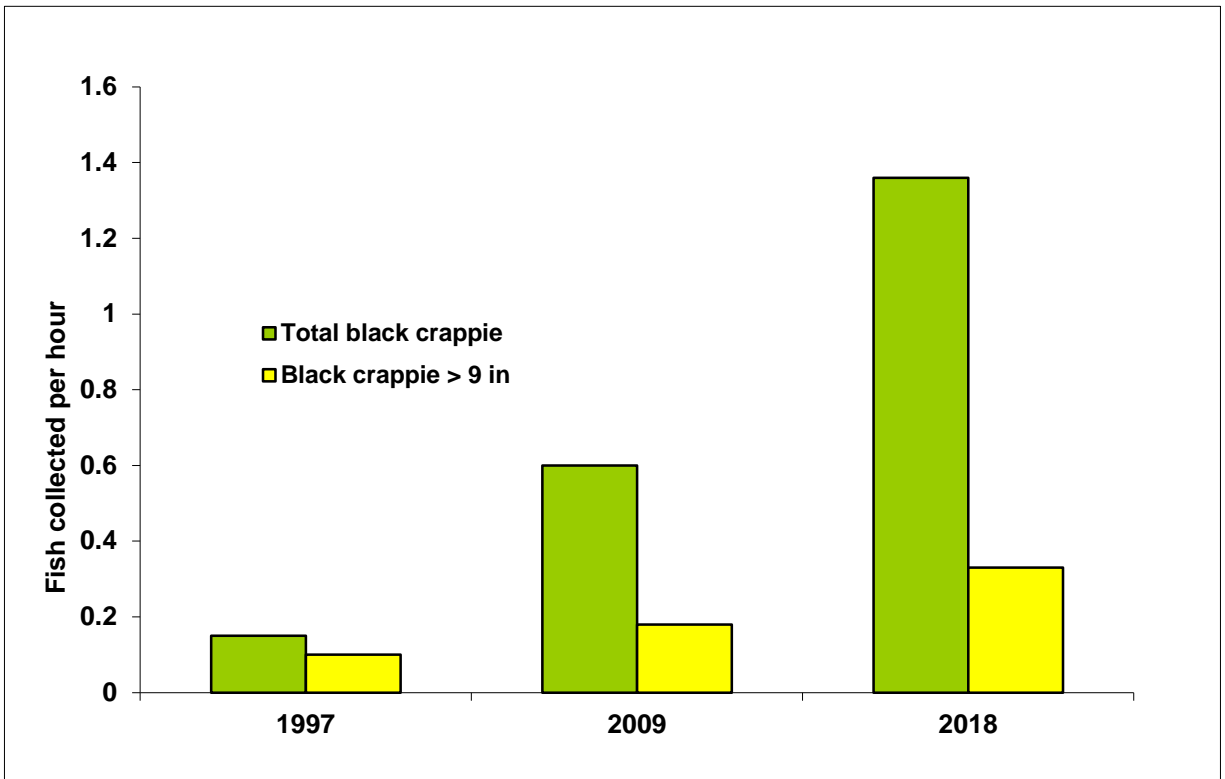


Figure 1. Black Crappie captured in trap nets at Cranberry Glade Lake.

Total catch of Bluegill was lower than in the previous two surveys, but a greater abundance of quality size fish was evident in 2018 (Figure 2). Of the 87 Bluegills captured, two-thirds were over seven inches in length with a few very nice fish in the nine-inch size class. Bluegill fishing opportunities should get better at Cranberry Glade Lake as Bluegill increase in size.

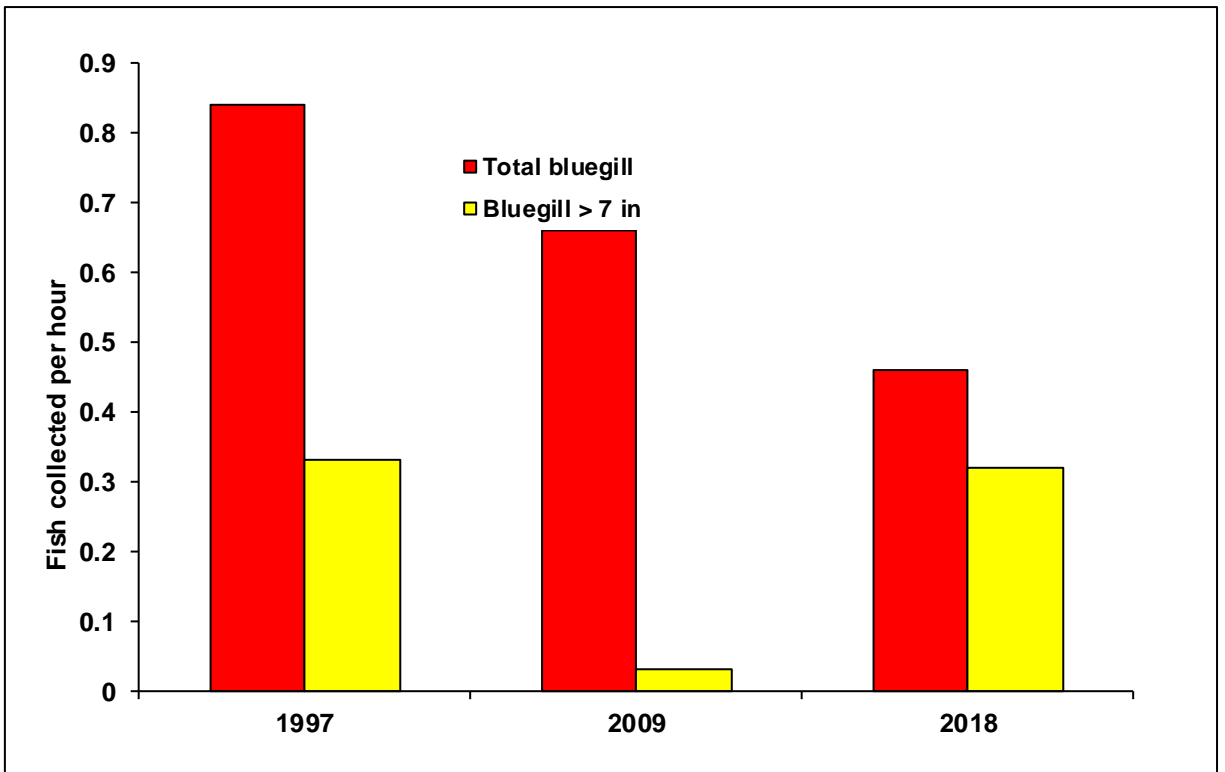
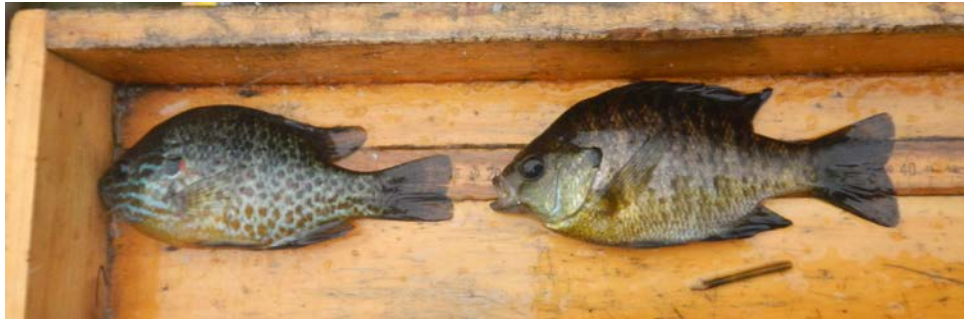


Figure 2. Bluegill captured in trap nets at Cranberry Glade Lake.



A 7-inch Pumpkinseed (left) and an 8 inch Bluegill (right) from a trap net sample at Cranberry Glade Lake

Eight Northern Pike were captured during trap netting in 2018 and one Northern Pike was captured during night electrofishing in 2019. Captured pike ranged from 19 – 30 inches with most fish under the legal size of 24 inches.



A pair of pike captured trap netting at Cranberry Glade Lake in 2018

Largemouth Bass were the primary species targeted during night electrofishing in May 2019. A total of 10 Largemouth Bass ranging from 3 to 18 inches in length were captured during night electrofishing (Table 2). Catch rates of Largemouth Bass were 11.27 fish/hr total, 4.79 fish/hr over 12 inches, and 2.13 fish/hr over 15 inches (Figure 3). Catch rates of Largemouth Bass were lower compared to catch rates in 2009 and 1997. Catch rates at Cranberry Glade Lake did not exceed the Big Bass Guidelines of 35 total fish/hr and 7 fish/hr over 12 inches but exceeded the guideline of 2 fish/hr over 15 inches. Excessive aquatic vegetation hampered Largemouth Bass electrofishing collections at Cranberry Glade Lake.

Table 2. Length and frequency distribution of sampled fish from night electrofishing.

Species	Number caught	Size range (inches)	Notes
Largemouth Bass	10	3 – 18 inches	40% over 12 inches 20% over 15 inches
Northern Pike	1	21 inches	

Figure 1. Largemouth bass captured from night electrofishing at Cranberry Glade Lake

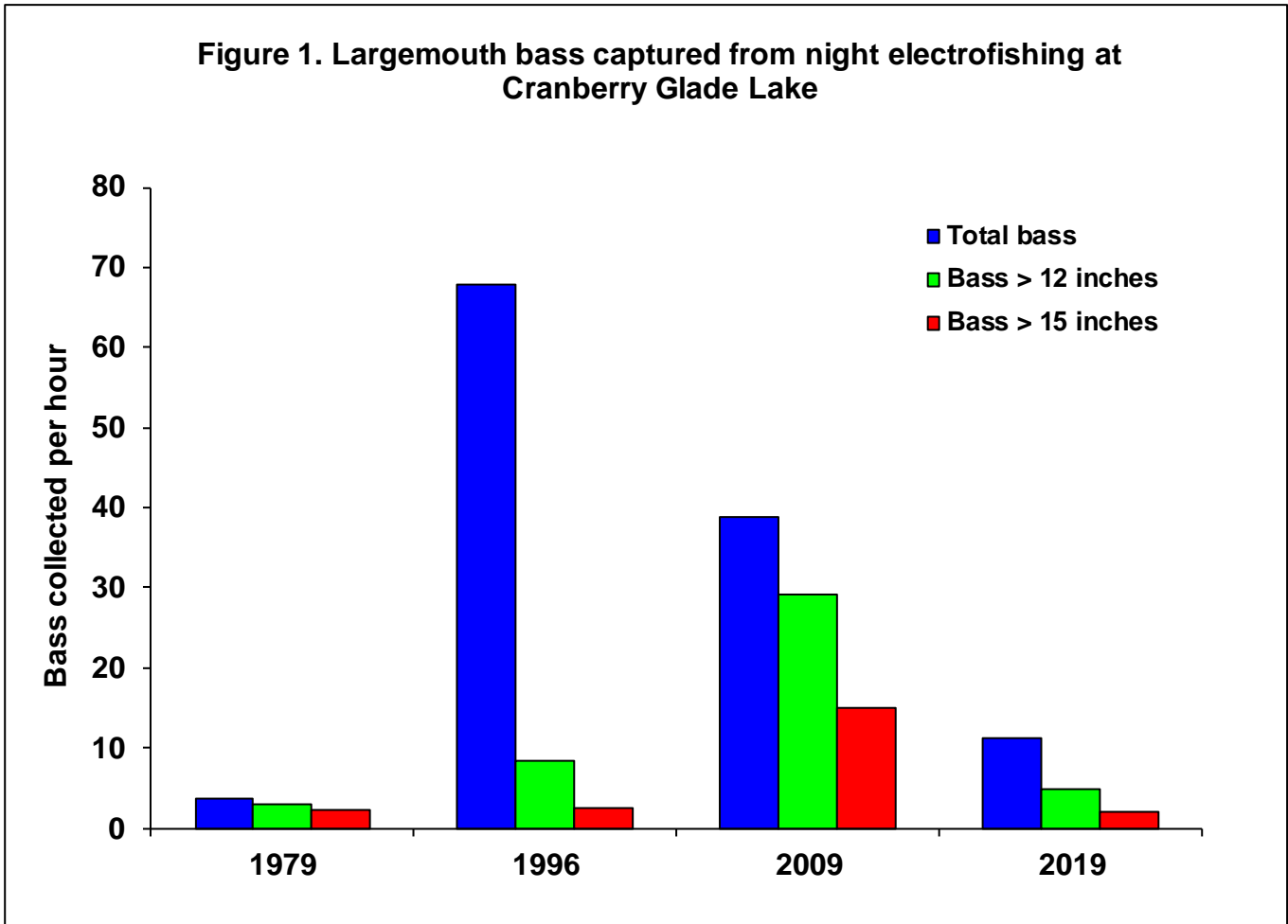


Figure 3. Catch rates of Largemouth Bass captured night electrofishing at Cranberry Glade Lake.



Twenty-inch Largemouth Bass captured while trap netting in 2018



It never fails to snow during a spring trap net survey at Cranberry Glade Lake!

*Mike Depew
Area 8 Fisheries Biologist*