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## Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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Mr. Lipscomb,

I'm writing you regarding our recent electrofishing sample on Indianhead Lake on April 30, 2020. While on the lake we sampled seven total sites for about 10 minutes of electrofishing time each. At three sites we collected all sport fish that we saw and at the other four sites we only collected Largemouth Bass. Six sites were shoreline sites and we sampled one supplementary site in the middle of the lake around the cypress trees to see if we could collect any additional Largemouth Bass.

At the three "sport fish" sites we collected 146 fish in 0.53 hours. The sample was mostly comprised of Bluegill (103), Largemouth Bass (18), and Redear Sunfish (12; Figure 1). The Bluegill that were collected ranged from 1-7 inches with most fish in the 4-5 inch range (Figure 2). The Redear Sunfish were between 5-9 inches in length.

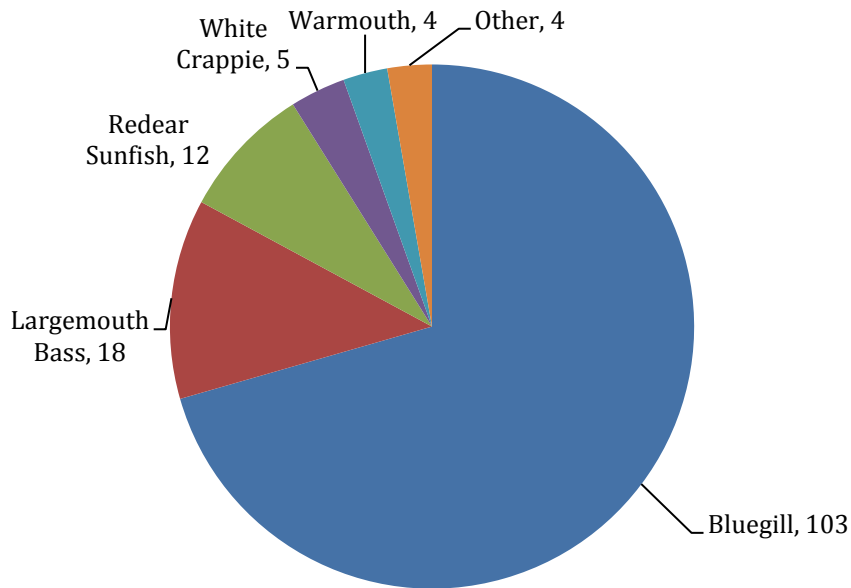


Figure 1. Species collected by number at the three "sport fish" sites on Indianhead Lake, 2020. "Other" category includes two Longear Sunfish, one Black Crappie, and one Spotted Sunfish.

## Bluegill

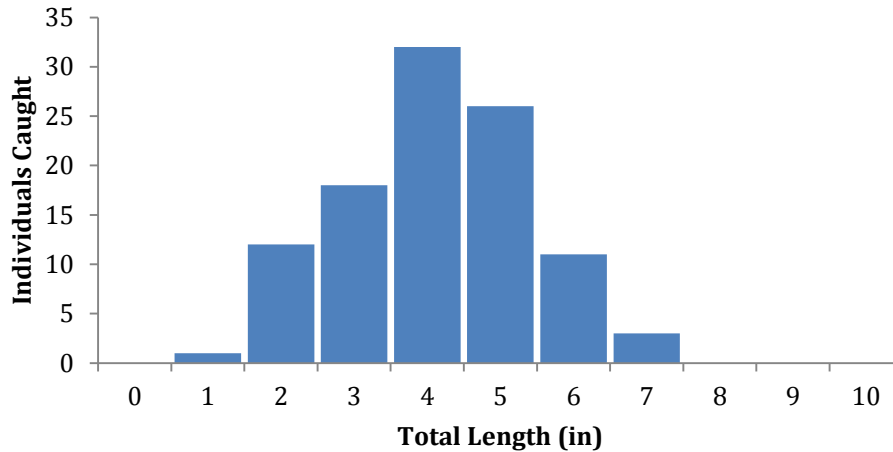


Figure 2. Length distribution of the 103 Bluegill collected at the three “sport fish” sites on Indianhead Lake, 2020.

The Largemouth Bass collected ranged from 3-21 inches (Figure 3) and up to seven pounds (Figure 4). The size range of Largemouth Bass most frequently encountered was between 13-17 inches. Average Largemouth Bass catch per hour of electrofishing at the six shoreline sites was 54 fish per hour, which was below average for this part of the state (74 fish per hour).

## Largemouth Bass

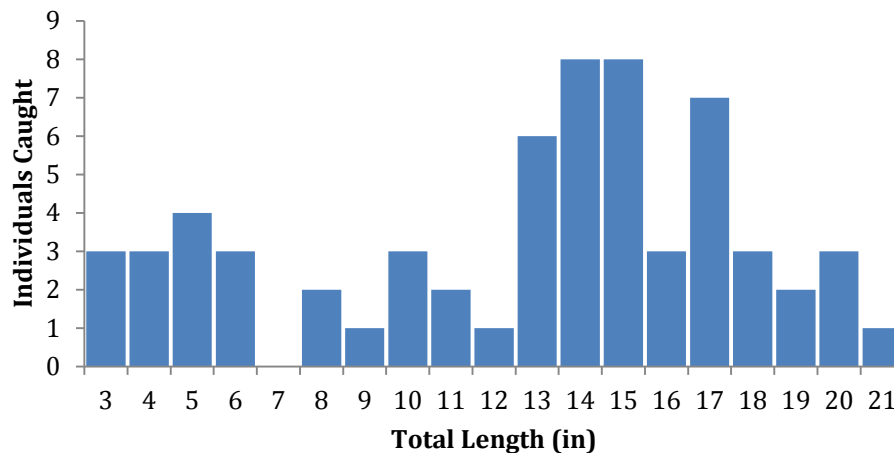


Figure 3. Length distribution of the 63 Largemouth Bass collected at all seven sample sites on Indianhead Lake, 2020.

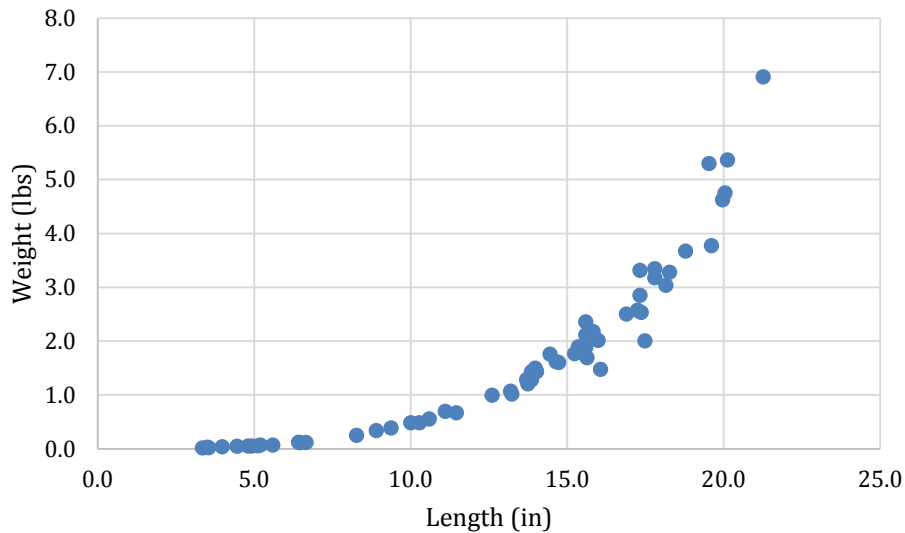


Figure 4. Length-weight relationship of the 63 Largemouth Bass collected at all seven sample sites on Indianhead Lake, 2020.

To determine fish condition we use a factor called “relative weight” (Wr). This factor is a comparison of a fish weight to a “standard” weight for its size. Fish of good condition have Wr values around 100 with lower values indicating poor condition and values over 100 indicating “plump” fish. Average Wr for Bluegill by inch-group ranged from 102-118 (Figure 5) while average Wr for most inch groups of Largemouth Bass was typically 95 or higher (Figure 5). These values indicate that both Bluegill and Largemouth Bass are in good condition in Indianhead Lake. This is especially true as the Largemouth Bass were post-spawn and condition is usually poor after the stress of spawning. We witnessed several balls of young-of-year Largemouth Bass while we were sampling so hopefully these will recruit into the fishery next year. The low Wr value for the 16-inch group of Largemouth Bass was probably due to a low sample size of three fish. One fish had a really low Wr which could have been a result of spawning. The rest of the inch-groups had good Wr values.

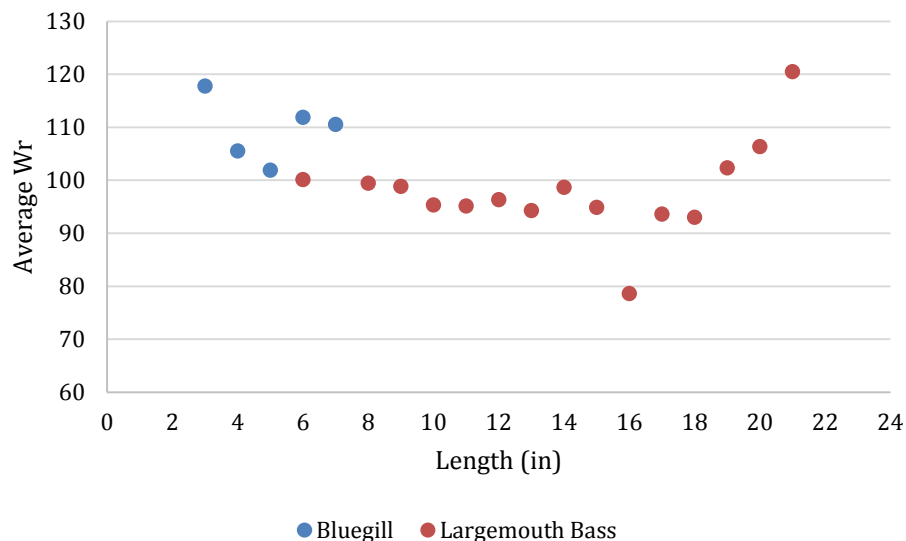
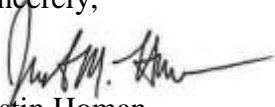


Figure 5. Average Wr by inch-group for Bluegill and Largemouth Bass collected from Indianhead Lake, 2020.

Based on the data we collected, Indianhead Lake is in a “large bass” state. The electrofishing catch of Largemouth Bass was below average but that is not unusual as we were post-spawn sampling. Some of the adults may have moved off shore and were not as available to sample as they would have been earlier in the year. Of the bass we collected, most were above 13 inches. There were lower numbers of 3-12 inch bass which usually prey on small Bluegill. Due to the lack of small bass, small (4-5 inch) Bluegill were more plentiful than desired and the larger ones that people prefer to catch were not as abundant. This “large bass” state is not a bad situation if the majority of the anglers on the lake prefer to bass fish. If you would like to increase the number large Bluegill you may consider supplemental stocking of bass. This will increase your bass numbers and increase your average size of Bluegill, however your average size of Largemouth Bass caught would likely decline.

If you'd like to discuss stocking in detail, feel free to give me a call. I hope you find this information useful, please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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