

100th Street Pool Bass and Sunfish Survey (#222003)

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The 100th Street Pool (“the Pool”) is an approximately 1.6-acre Central Park water body on the west side of Manhattan, Lower Hudson Watershed. The Pool is one of the lesser-fished waters of Central Park despite offering fishing access along most of its shoreline. Central Park Lake and the Harlem Meer receive most of the Park’s fishing pressure. Both NYC and NYS angling regulations require catch and release, only. Despite its relatively small surface area and shallow depth, the Pool is home to a diverse fish community as determined during a 2015 electrofishing survey and confirmed after the survey described in this brief.

DEC Fisheries staff performed an evening boat electrofishing survey of the Pool on 5 May 2022 following the DEC Black bass and sunfish electrofishing protocol for lakes and ponds (Brooking et al. 2018). The survey objective was to determine relative abundance of fish species and compare with results from the previous, 2015, survey. Three, six-minute runs were completed, covering most of the shoreline except for areas prohibitively shallow for boat access. Visibility was relatively good (Secchi depth = 3.5 ft), water temperature was 66.2° F, dissolved oxygen was 7.6 mg/l, and conductivity 257 µS/m³.

A total of 165 fish of six different species were captured in the three electrofishing runs. No common carp or American eels were observed or netted. Scales for later aging were taken from largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish. Largemouth bass had the highest catch rate of this survey, with pumpkinseed and black crappie the next two highest (Table 1). All fish measured, except largemouth bass, were stock size or greater.

Table 1. Number collected and length category catch rates for fish species captured during a boat electrofishing survey of the 100th St. Pool in 2022.

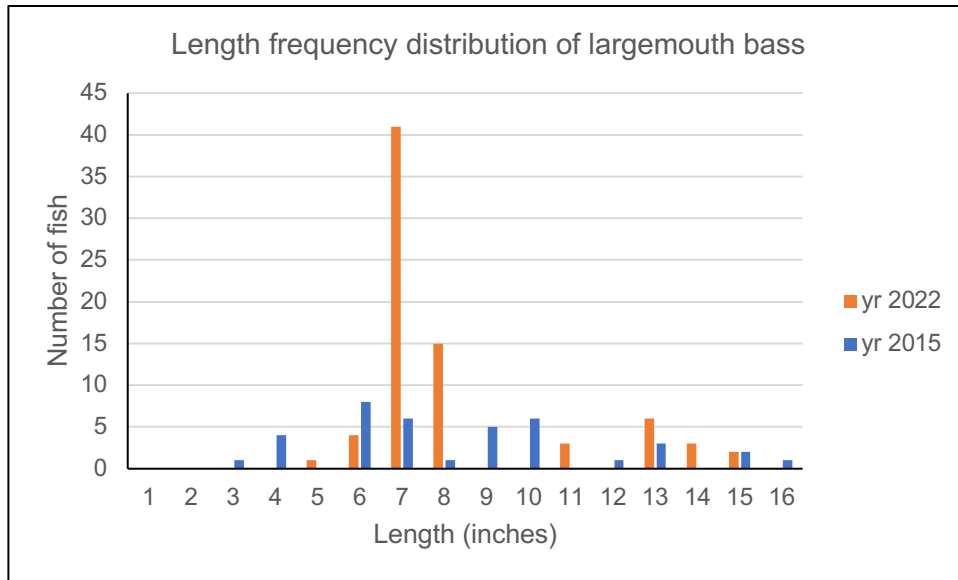
| Species | Catch rate (fish/hour; standard error) for 2022 survey | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| | Total catch | Time (h) | All sizes | YOY | ≥ Stock | ≥ Quality | ≥ Preferred | ≥ Memorable |
| Largemouth bass | 75 | 0.3 | 250 (55) | 113 (50) | 50 (6) | 37 (15) | 0 | 0 |
| Bluegill | 9 | 0.3 | 30 (21) | 0 | 30 (21) | 30 (21) | 20 (15) | 0 |
| Pumpkinseed | 37 | 0.3 | 123 (12) | 0 | 123 (12) | 97 (7) | 0 | 0 |
| Black crappie | 34 | 0.3 | 113 (58) | 0 | 113 (58) | 23 (19) | 3 (3) | 3 (3) |
| Brown bullhead | 1 | 0.3 | 3 (3) | 0 | 3 (3) | 3 (3) | 3 (3) | 0 |
| Golden shiner | 9 | 0.3 | 30 (22) | * | * | * | * | * |

Largemouth bass mean relative weight was 114, PSD was 73 and RSD_p was 0; length ranged from 105 mm to 362 mm. Black crappie mean relative weight was 120, PSD was 20.6 and RSD_p was 2.9; length ranged from 150 mm to 302 mm. Relative weights of bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish and brown bullhead were all over 100.

Black crappie, golden shiner and brown bullhead were found in this survey but none of these species were captured in 2015. Alternatively, in 2015, yellow perch were found in relatively high numbers and sizes, with many over eleven inches in length. Relative weights greater than 100 indicate fish of the Pool are in good condition. The current fish population has potential to offer good fishing opportunities for quality-size largemouth bass as well as pumpkinseed and black crappie. Largemouth bass fishing may further improve in two – three years, after those short of stock size increase towards quality size (Figure 1).



Figure 1. 100th St. Pool length frequency distribution of largemouth bass for 2015 and 2022 surveys.



Literature Cited

Brooking, T., Loukmas, J., Jackson, R., VanDeValk, T. 2018. Black bass and sunfish electrofishing protocol for lakes and ponds. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration, F-63-R, Study 2, Job 2-2.3, Albany, New York.