

Clove Lake Bass and Sunfish Survey

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Clove Lake is a 10.22-acre waterbody located between Victory Rd and Clove Rd in Castleton Corners, Staten Island. One of three, interconnected lakes found within Clove Lakes Park, Clove Lake is part of the Lower Hudson Watershed. Fishing access can be limited due to dense vegetation however, cleared areas along Clove Lake’s southeastern shoreline provide anglers with ample room to cast a line. Clove Lake is catch-and-release only for all species in accordance with NYC and New York State special recreational fishing regulations.

DEC Region 2 Fisheries staff performed a boat electrofishing survey of Clove Lake on 28 September 2022 following the Black Bass and Sunfish Sampling Manual for Lakes and Ponds (Brooking et al. 2018). The purpose of this survey was to estimate relative species abundance and document changes in fish species composition since the last survey. Additionally, forty brown bullheads as well as thirty golden shiners were collected for disease testing as part of New York’s Wild Fish Pathology Surveillance. With the exception of the south end of the lake, whereby low water levels prevented sampling, the majority of the shoreline was surveyed over three, fifteen-minute electrofishing runs.

A total of 527 fish of six different species were captured within 0.73 hours of electrofishing. Species such as brown bullhead, golden shiner, goldfish, small sunfish (*Lepomis* sp.), Eastern mosquitofish and pumpkinseed were captured (Table 1), and twelve common carp were observed. No largemouth bass were captured during this survey effort, echoing an ongoing trend of low numbers of this species being present in Clove Lake in recent years. On the other hand, high catch rates of brown bullhead aligned with past survey results, suggesting that brown bullhead are one of the more prevalent species within Clove Lake. Compared to other Staten Island waterbodies such as Ohrback and Willowbrook Lake, Clove Lake is unique in that catch rates for largemouth and panfish are far less than those of non-sport fish such as brown bullhead and golden shiner.

Table 1. Catch rates (fish/hr), with standard error, for fish captured during a 2022 electrofishing survey of Clove Lake

| Species | Total Catch | On Time (hr) | All Fish | YOY | Stock | Quality |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Brown Bullhead | 404 | 0.73 | 539(63) | 343(39) | 196(24) | 4(2) |
| Golden Shiner | 48 | 0.73 | 64(17.4) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Goldfish | 1 | 0.73 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lepomis sp | 6 | 0.73 | 8(4) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern Mosquitofish | 56 | 0.73 | 75 (31) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pumpkinseed | 12 | 0.73 | 16(6.1) | 0 | 14.7 | 0 |



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.