

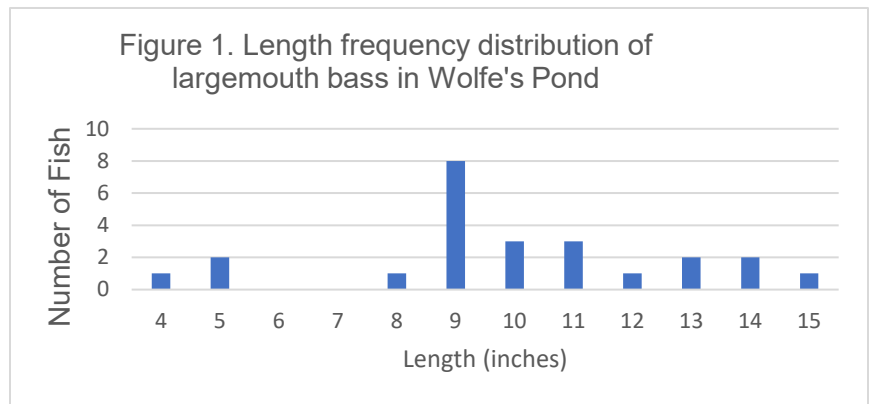
Wolfe's Pond Centrarchid Assessment (Survey #: 221007)

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Wolfe's Pond is a 16-acre waterbody located within Wolfe's Pond Park in Prince's Bay (Staten Island), part of the Lower Hudson Watershed. Fishing access is most prevalent along the pond's eastern shoreline, adjacent to the public parking lot. Additional shoreline access is available along the western park boundary where it parallels Holton Avenue. Catch and release is required in compliance with New York State/City regulations.

In 2011, storm surge from Hurricane Irene breached the berm that separates Wolfe's Pond from Raritan Bay. This opened the pond to saltwater infiltration until the berm was repaired as part of a restoration effort by NYC Parks in 2020. As part of the 2020 restoration initiative, Wolfe's Pond was stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, and fathead minnows.



Staff performed a boat electrofishing survey of Wolfe's Pond on the evening of September 28th, 2021 in accordance with the Black Bass and Sunfish Electrofishing Protocol (Brooking et al. 2018). Four, ten-minute electrofishing runs were completed which covered 60% of the total shoreline. These runs were not enough to cover the entire shoreline as survey time was cut short to avoid mosquito spraying. This was the first survey of Wolfe's Pond since it was stocked in 2020. Visibility was low and aquatic vegetation coverage was relatively high during the survey period.

A total of 422 fish from eight species were collected. One American eel and four carp were also observed during this survey. Twenty-four largemouth bass were collected, ranging from 4.3 - 14.7 inches (the average length was 9.9 inches). The average relative weight of largemouth bass at the quality length category (110.3) exceeds the ideal range of 94-104 and falls within the upper third percentile for quality sized largemouth in New York State.

Table 1. Number collected and length category catch rates for fish species captured during a boat electrofishing survey of Wolfe's Pond in September 2021.

Species	Total Catch	Time (h)	CPUE(fish/hr, standard error)				
			All Sizes	Age-1	≥Stock	≥Quality	≥Preferred
Largemouth Bass	24	0.68	35 (9)	4 (4)	31(8)	9(3)	0
Bluegill	69	0.68	101 (31)	25(11)	65(45)	3(2)	0
Pumpkinseed	205	0.68	301(44)	13(8)	284(36)	2(2)	0
Black Crappie	25	0.68	37(13)	3(3)	31(14)	4(4)	0
White Perch	12	0.68	18(7)	0	10(4)	7(4)	2(2)
Gizzard Shad	76	0.68	112(43)	88(38)	24(6)	13(3)	13(3)
Brown Bullhead	3	0.68	4(0)	0	4	4	0
Golden Shiner	8	0.68	12(6)	*	*	*	*



Surveyors observed that largemouth bass had full and/or distended stomachs, attributed to the consumption of baitfish. Gizzard shad were the second most abundant species collected (76), accounting for 18% of the total catches. High abundance of large prey baitfish such as gizzard shad could suggest a trend toward a robust largemouth bass population in Wolfe's Pond in the near future.

Survey data suggests that Wolfe's Pond supports a diverse and resilient fishery. Although pumpkinseed were not included in the 2020 stocking, they represented the most abundant species collected (205), accounting for 49% of the catch total. The presence of additional panfish species, such as bluegill and black crappie, alongside white perch and brown bullhead present anglers with an array of fishing opportunities at Wolfe's Pond. While it is unclear if/how the NYC Parks restoration response has improved the state of this fishery, it is evident that Wolfe's Pond serves as a respectable option for any angler looking to pursue a variety of fish species.

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.