

# Chenango Lake Centrarchid Survey (Survey #718012)

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Chenango Lake (SR-146-19-6-1-P213) is a 133-acre waterbody located in the Town of New Berlin, Chenango County. It is a steep sided waterbody with a maximum depth of 30 feet. Chenango Lake is a natural lake that serves as a reserve water supply for the City of Norwich. There are numerous year-round homes and seasonal camps located on the shoreline. There is an informal gravel launch on City property at the south end on County Route 31. Parking is limited to the road side. The lake is a popular fishing destination for both shore and boat anglers.

A nighttime boat electrofishing survey was conducted on Chenango Lake on May 30, 2018. The lake was chosen because there had been no previous fishery surveys completed on the lake. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the age, growth, and abundance of the lake's sportfish community. Overall, 400 fish were caught, representing nine species. Smallmouth bass were most numerous with 117 caught (29% of catch) followed by rock bass (n=80, 20% of catch) and yellow perch (n=74, 19% of catch). The smallmouth bass growth rate was slightly below the statewide average. However, the catch rate for stock sized fish (70/hr.) was more than twice the statewide average (27/hr.). The peak in the smallmouth size distribution was 12 to 13 inches (Figure 1).

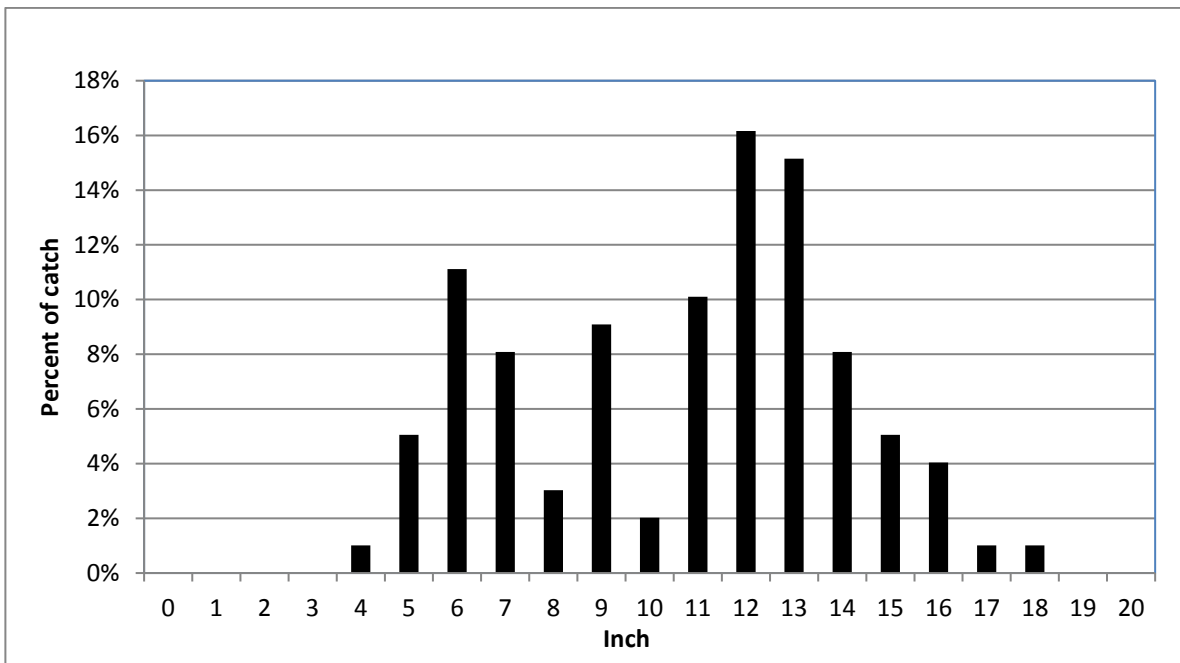


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of smallmouth bass from Chenango Lake May 30, 2018.



Pumpkinseed had growth at or above the statewide average, while bluegill was slightly below. Both had good condition factors however. Yellow perch had the highest catch rate among the species captured, with numerous preferred sized fish present. The catch rate of quality sized rock bass was 29/hr. and their growth rate was just below the statewide average.

The population size structures of the lake's sportfish indicate that fishing harvest is not having a negative impact. The current statewide angling regulations appear to be appropriate to maintain the fishery in Chenango Lake.

Table 1. Spring night-time boat electrofishing catch from Chenango Lake on May 30, 2018.

Species	Scientific Name	Total Catch	CPUE (fish/h; Standard Error)			
			All	≥Stock	≥Quality	≥Preferred
Yellow Perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	74	109 (12)	81 (12)	44 (17)	31 (17)
Golden shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>	9	13 (6.8)			
Rock bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	80	118 (25)	115 (27)	29 (6)	0 (0)
Chain pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>	3	2.2 (1.2)	1.5 (1.0)	0.7 (0.3)	0 (0)
Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameirus nebulosis</i>	44	65 (22)	65 (22)	63 (22)	62 (23)
Pumpkinseed*	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	39	57 (16)	53 (16)	32 (14)	27 (12)
Bluegill*	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	29	43 (11)	29 (6.4)	4.4 (2.8)	1.5 (1.5)
Largemouth Bass*	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	5	3.7 (3.8)	3.7 (3.8)	3.7 (3.8)	3.0 (2.9)
Smallmouth bass*	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	117	87 (26)	70 (20)	47 (11)	17 (6)
<b>Total</b>		<b>400</b>				

\* = Scale samples collected