



Mountain Run 2011

Mountain Run was impounded in 1959 to form 75-acre Mountain Run Reservoir, which serves as secondary water supply for the town of Culpeper. The lake is located just upstream from Pelham Reservoir – a larger reservoir and primary water supply for the town. Mountain Run was stocked soon after filling, and previous reports documented a fishery composed of largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, redear sunfish, and channel catfish. These species are all naturally sustaining except for channel catfish, which are stocked annually at 10/acre. Tiger muskies were stocked experimentally in the late 1970s and 1980s, but this practice was discontinued due to low tiger musky abundance in population samples and creel surveys (likely due to poor survival). The reservoir's fish populations have been sampled periodically, primarily with spring electrofishing and trap netting, and the last management report was compiled in 2001. A 12-15" slot length limit on largemouth bass has been in effect since 1984.

Electrofishing samples are conducted on a 4-5 year schedule in a similar manner in order to minimize bias. Electrofishing catch rates indicated that overall abundance of largemouth bass has been relatively unchanged over the past decade, but population structure shifted towards smaller individuals. The catch rate (number per hour of electrofishing) of "preferred" bass (those 15" and greater) fell from 21 to 10 between 2005 and 2010, while the catch rate of smaller bass (those between 8" and 12") increased. Mountain Run ranked 11th out of 20 District reservoirs sampled in recent years for catch rate of preferred bass.

The redear sunfish (shellcracker) population in Mountain Run reservoir was excellent – one of the best in the District. Catch rates of 8" and greater redear were 20/hour in 2010 which was very high compared to other waters. The bluegill population was also good, with high densities of 5"-7" fish. The black crappie population was above average for a small impoundment (this species tends to have undesirable population characteristics - e.g., slow growth, few quality size individuals - in small impoundments). Channel catfish were present in the sample (though not targeted by the gear) suggesting that the population is good, and given the stocking schedule, this species should be very abundant.

Anglers need a Town of Culpeper permit (\$10) in addition to a fishing license to fish at Mountain Run.

Permits are available from the Town of Culpeper:

The Office of the Treasurer
400 South Main Street, Suite 109
Culpeper, VA 22701
(540) 829-8220

A boat ramp and courtesy pier are present, and picnic and play areas make this a perfect getaway spot for the family.

Management plans for Mountain Run Reservoir include monitoring the fishery with electrofishing gear in 2015 and compiling a report after that sample. Annual channel catfish stockings will be continued at 10 fish/acre.