



Mountain Run Reservoir Fisheries Management Report

Federal Aid Project - F111R

March 2017

Mike Isel, Fisheries Biologist

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

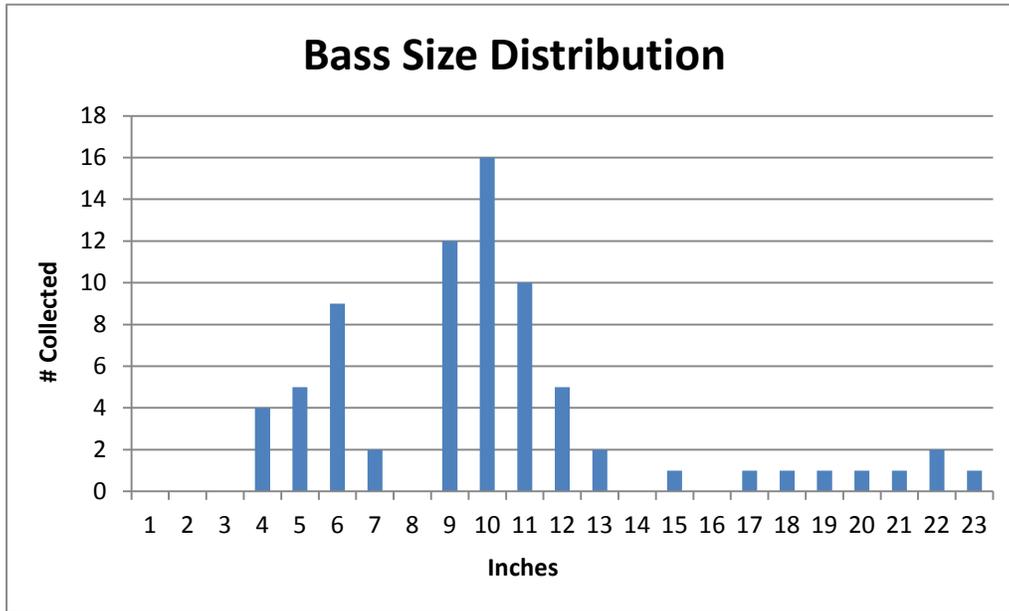
1320 Belman Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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 shortly 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. The reservoir's fish populations have been sampled periodically with spring electrofishing, and the last management report was completed in 2011.

DGIF fisheries biologists sample the fishery approximately every four to five years. Most recently, an electrofishing sample was conducted in May of 2016. Biologists use numerical descriptors of length-frequency data such as Proportional Stock Density (PSD) and Relative Stock Density (RSD) when evaluating fish populations. Proportional Stock Density is calculated by dividing the number of fish \geq minimum quality length by the number of fish \geq minimum stock length x 100. Quality length is defined as the minimum size of fish most anglers like to catch (12"). Stock length is the minimum length at which a fish provides recreational value (8"). Relative Stock Density is simply the percentage of any designated length group found within a population. RSD is calculated by dividing the number of fish \geq specified length by the number of fish \geq minimum stock length x 100.

Electrofishing catch rates indicated that overall abundance of Largemouth Bass has decreased since the last survey (n = 74 in 2016, n = 309 in 2010), likely a result of multiple strong year classes moving out of the population combined with very abnormal weather patterns (catch rates were abnormally low for all impoundments surveyed in spring 2016). The catch rate (number per hour of electrofishing) of "preferred" bass (those 15" and greater) decreased from 15 in 2010 to 9 in 2016. Although bass in the 9-12" range were most abundant, overall size structure of the bass population in 2016 (PSD 30, RSD-P 17) improved from that of 2010 (PSD 12, RSD-P 7) with bass available up to 23" and 7 lbs. Mountain Run currently ranks 15th out of 21 impoundments managed in the district for catch rate of preferred bass.



The Redear Sunfish (shellcracker) population in Mountain Run Reservoir remains excellent – one of the best in the district. Catch rates of 8” and greater Redear Sunfish were 20/hour in 2016 which was very high compared to other waters. The Bluegill population is good with fish up to 8”. The Black Crappie population was above average for a small impoundment and harvest is recommended as this species tends to have undesirable population characteristics (potential to overpopulate and stunt in growth). Channel Catfish up to 21” were present in the sample (though not targeted by the gear) suggesting that the population is good, and with annual stockings 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. To access the lake, take Route 29 south from Culpeper, turn right on Route 718 and the lake will be on your left.

NOTE: Mountain Run and Pelham Reservoirs will experience a prolonged drawdown of approximately 2-3 ft. during the 2017/18 seasons to bring the dams and spillways into compliance with DCR dam safety regulations.

Future management plans for Mountain Run Reservoir include monitoring the fishery with electrofishing gear soon after completion of construction. Annual Channel Catfish stockings will also be continued at 10 fish/acre.

For more information about Mountain Run Reservoir please visit the DGIF website

www.dgif.virginia.gov or contact:

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
1320 Belman Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-899-4169