



Chris Greene Reservoir 2024



Located in Albemarle County, Chris Greene Reservoir is a 66-acre water supply impoundment for the City of Charlottesville. The reservoir contains self-sustaining populations of Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and Black Crappie. Additionally, the lake is stocked annually with Channel Catfish to maintain a fishery. The lake has traditionally provided average Largemouth Bass and panfish fisheries. In the spring of 2023, the fish community of Chris Greene was sampled by boat electrofishing. This report summarizes the results of this survey and what anglers can expect to catch in Chris Greene.

Chris Greene Reservoir's fish community is diverse with a total of nine fish species collected in the 2023 survey (Table 1). Bluegill and Largemouth Bass were by far the most abundant species collected in the electrofishing survey (Table 1). Currently the Largemouth Bass fishery is managed under a 12-15 protective slot limit. The bass size distribution indicates a population that is dominated by small individuals (<13 inches, Figure 1). Bass are stockpiling below 12 inches which limits the effectiveness of the protective slot limit. The reservoir needs small Largemouth Bass (< 12 inches) harvest. Anglers should harvest every Largemouth Bass caught under 12 inches within the 5 bass per statewide creel limit. Once harvest is increased, bass growth will improve, and more bass will grow to protected slot lengths. A handful of Largemouth Bass over 20 inches were collected (Figure 1), but stockpiling is limiting the trophy bass potential of the lake. The largest bass collected measured nearly 23 inches and weighed almost 7 lbs.

Panfish (Black and White crappie, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish) catch rates were moderate to low, and low numbers are likely the result of the abundance of bass. Crappie populations are likely larger than indicated by the electrofishing surveys, because electrofishing is not the most effective gear to collect the species. Previous surveys indicate that the crappie population in Chris Greene is robust. Chris Greene supports an average panfish fishery with the majority of sunfish collected in the 3-to-8-inch range (Figure 2). There are some larger Redear Sunfish and crappie (9 to 12 inches) available to anglers. Anglers targeting sunfish should concentrate efforts on main lake points and woody structure in the lake.

Other populations of fish are average and are probably limited by the overabundant Largemouth Bass and Black Crappie populations. Channel Catfish are stocked annually and routinely caught from the fishing pier. Only one catfish (measuring 19 inches) was collected in the survey; low collection numbers are expected for catfish with electrofishing gear. Chris Greene is recommended as a decent fishery less than 10 minutes from Charlottesville's city limits. The park has great amenities including an improved boat launch, a fishing pier, plenty of bank fishing areas, and a swimming beach. Gas powered motors are prohibited in the reservoir.

For more information on Chris Greene, please contact:

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Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2023.

	Electrofishing		
Species	Number Collected	Catch Rate (fish/hour electrofishing)	Percentage of Catch
Black Crappie	29	27	11
Bluegill	91	94	37
Channel Catfish	1	1	<1
Fallfish	1	1	<1
Largemouth Bass	89	92	36
Redear	28	29	11
Warmouth	3	3	1
White Crappie	1	1	<1
White Sucker	6	6	2

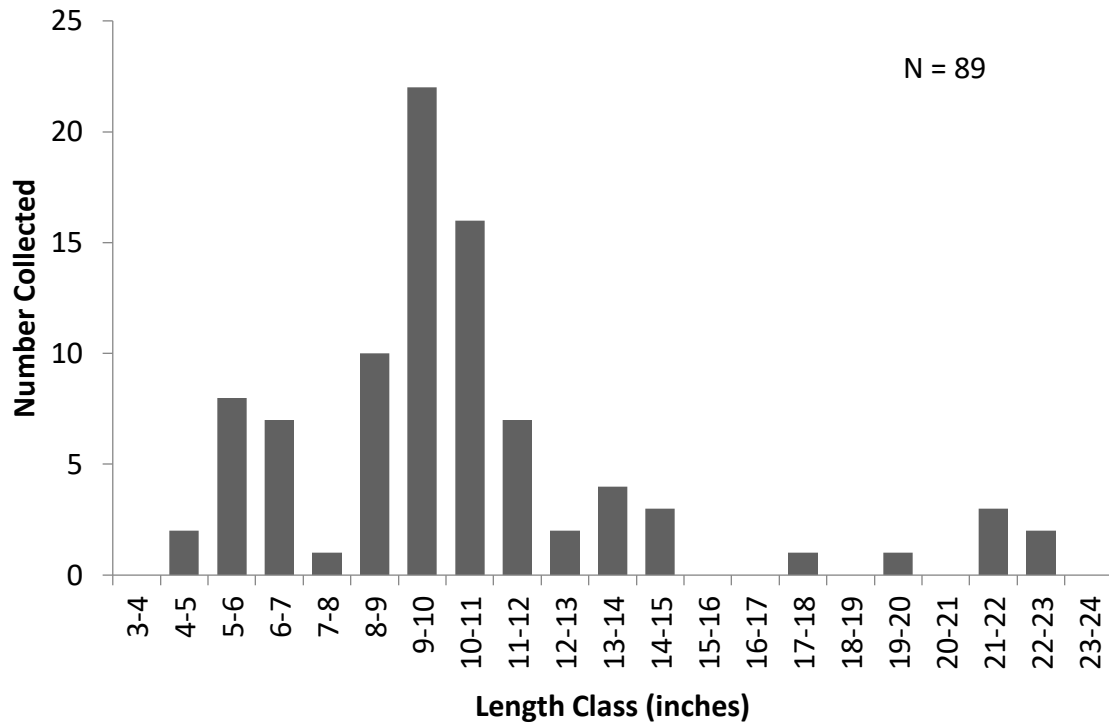


Figure 1. Length distribution of largemouth bass collected with electrofishing gear throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2023.

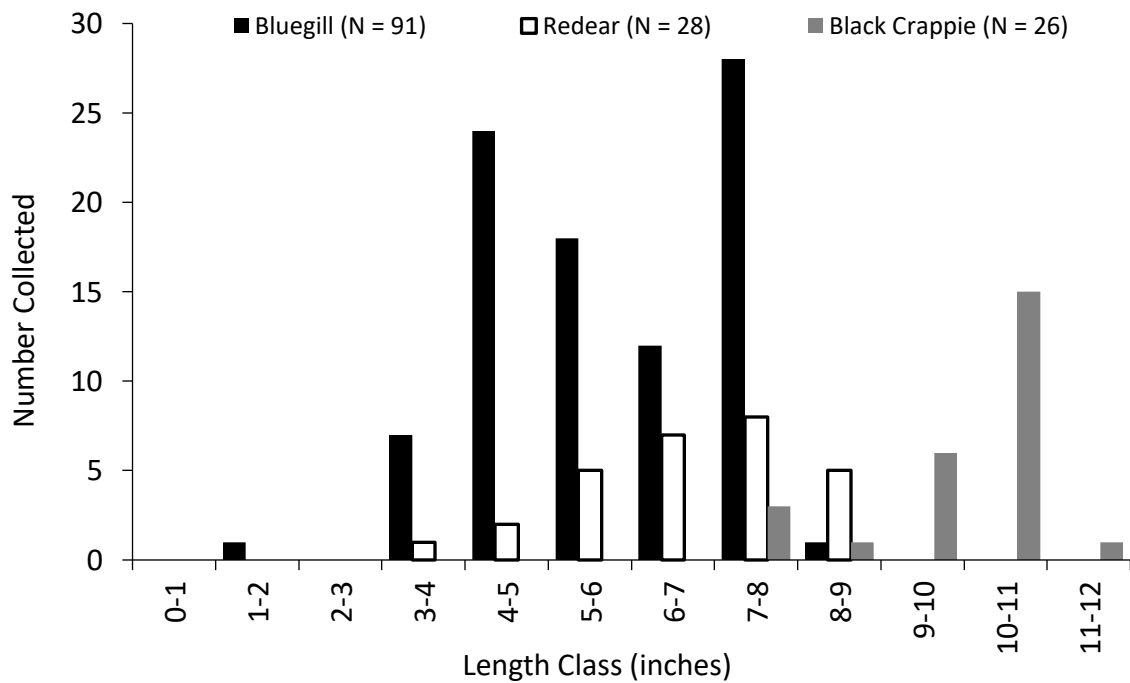


Figure 2. Length distribution of panfish collected with electrofishing gear throughout Chris Greene Reservoir in 2023.