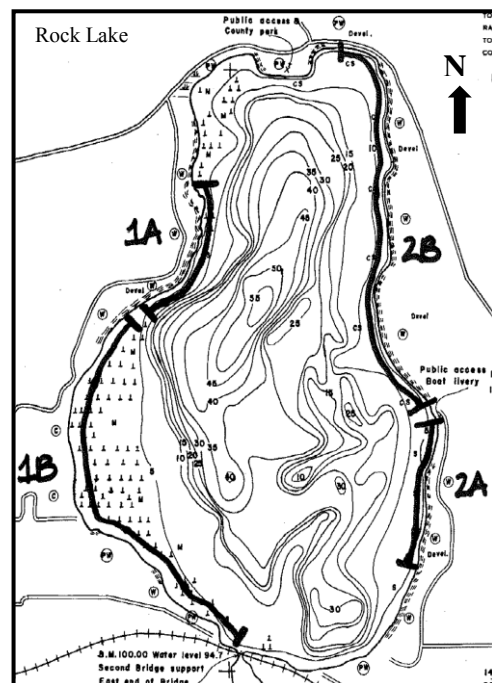


# Rock Lake Fall Electrofishing Summary Report – 2013

## Fall Electrofishing - Defined

Fall electrofishing was conducted on Rock Lake in Jefferson County on October 3, 2013. Fall electrofishing is conducted using a large boomshocker boat allowing for the collection of young-of-the-year (YOY) walleye and adult bass that are often undersampled by other gear types. In order to standardize fisheries data, total effort in the form of time spent shocking and/or miles of shoreline shocked is recorded and presented as catch rates or catch-per-unit effort (CPUE). Fall electrofishing provides an indication of the health of the fishery through estimates of gamefish and panfish relative abundance (catch rate or catch per effort), gamefish population size-structure (size distributions) as an index of growth and gamefish recruitment (young-of-year catch per effort). Sampling on Rock Lake was conducted at two gamefish stations, each 1.5 miles long (3 miles and 1.77 hours total effort) where only gamefish were collected and included stations 1B and 2B (see map). Two additional stations, each .5 miles long (1 mile and .63 hours total effort) were sampled where all fish species were collected and included stations 1A and 2A. Length measurements were taken from a subset of fish and all fish were returned to the lake. Average water temperature for the 2013 survey was 68.5° F and water clarity/visibility was good. This summary report presents fall electrofishing data from 2013 with comparisons to previous fall electrofishing surveys.

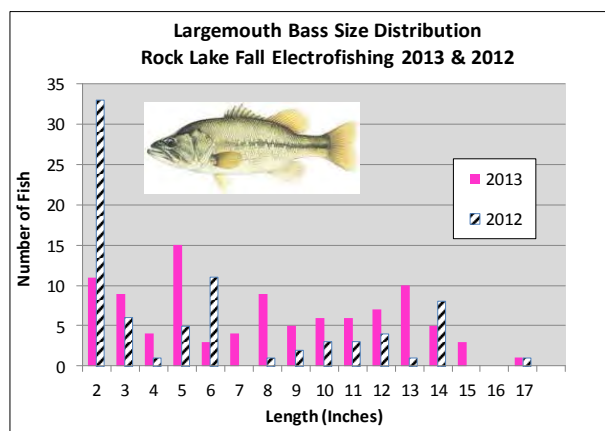


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## Gamefish Summary

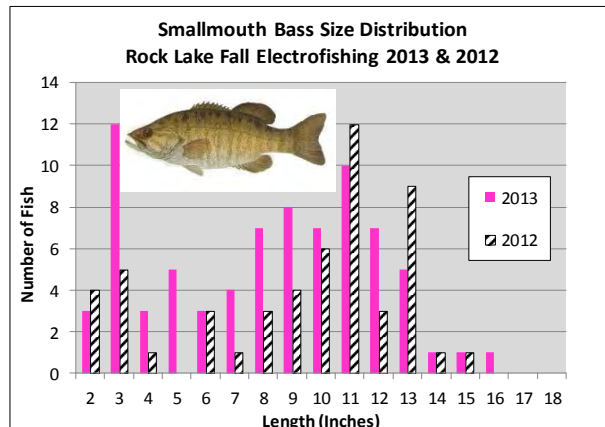
Largemouth bass	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b>Total Catch:</b>	98	79	113	163
<b>Catch Rate (fish per hour):</b>	41	31	50	51
<b>Length Range (inches):</b>	2.1-17.2	2.1-17.0	2.2-16.0	2.3-18.1
<b>Average Length (inches):</b>	8.3	6.3	7.0	9.2

2013 largemouth bass catch rate was 41/hour, compared to 31/hour in 2012, 50/hour in 2011, 51/hour in 2010 and comparable to the 10-year average of 46/hour. The number of largemouth bass over 14-inches (current legal harvestable size) was 9% in 2013, compared to 11% in 2012, 11% in 2011 and 14% in 2010. Young-of-year (YOY) largemouth bass were present in 2013, but in lower numbers than the large year-class produced in 2012. The largemouth bass population in Rock Lake is naturally reproducing and no stocking is currently conducted by WDNR.



Smallmouth bass	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b>Total Catch:</b>	77	53	124	77
<b>Catch Rate (fish per hour):</b>	32	21	55	24
<b>Length Range (inches):</b>	2.8-16.4	2.8-15.1	2.6-15.9	3.7-19.2
<b>Average Length (inches):</b>	8.6	9.6	5.8	8.7

2013 smallmouth bass catch rate was 32/hour, compared to 21/hour in 2012, a high of 55/hour in 2011, 24/hour in 2010 and the 10-year average of 32/hour. The number of smallmouth bass over 14-inches (current legal harvestable size) was 4% in 2013, compared to 4% in 2012, 3% in 2011 and 7% in 2010. The smallmouth bass population in Rock Lake is naturally reproducing and no stocking is currently conducted by WDNR.



Walleye	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b>Total Catch:</b>	2	14	9	8
<b>Catch Rate (fish per hour):</b>	1	6	4	1
<b>Length Range (inches):</b>	14.4-20.0	7.8-20.4	6.7-14.4	12.3-23.5
<b>Average Length (inches):</b>	17.2	15.1	8.2	16.5



2013 walleye catch rate (all sizes) continues to be low at 1/hour, compared to 6/hour in 2012, 4/hour in 2011 and 1/hour in 2010. Walleye recruitment remains low with no young-of-the-year (YOY) walleye (under 10-inches) sampled in 2013. Low YOY catch rates were also found in 2012 (.8/hour), 2011 (4/hour) and 2010 (0/hour). In June 2013, WDNR stocked 47,985 small fingerling walleye (2-inch average length) into Rock Lake. The lake is typically stocked every other year with 35 small fingerling walleye per acre.

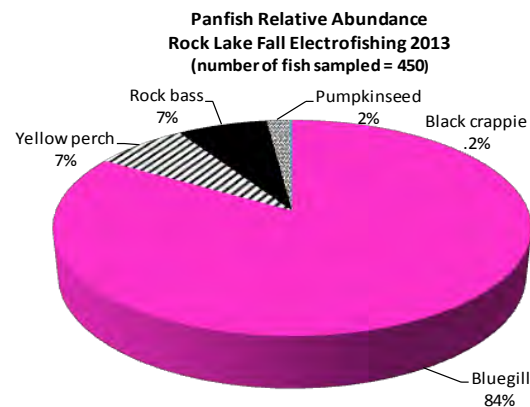
<b>Northern pike</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Total Catch:</b>	13	17	14	21
<b>Catch Rate (fish per hour):</b>	5	7	6	7
<b>Length Range (inches):</b>	7.4-35.2	13.8-26.1	18.3-31.3	9.7-27.5
<b>Average Length (inches):</b>	20.7	21.7	22.5	21.1



The largest northern pike sampled during 2013 fall electrofishing was 35.2 inches in length. Electrofishing is not an effective method for sampling northern pike, as pike population data is best obtained using fyke nets set during spring spawning. Rock Lake was not stocked with northern pike in 2013.

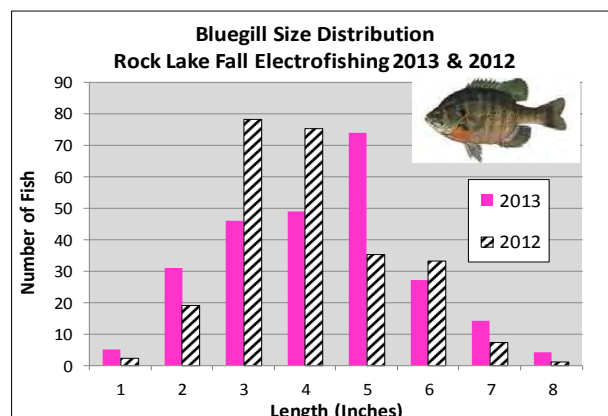
## Panfish Summary

Rock Lake supports a diverse panfish community including: bluegill, yellow perch, rock bass, white bass, pumpkinseed, black crappie and green sunfish. Bluegill were the most abundant panfish species sampled in 2013 fall electrofishing, followed by yellow perch and rock bass. A small number of pumpkinseed (8 fish total, 13/hour) and black crappie (1 fish, 2/hour) were also sampled.



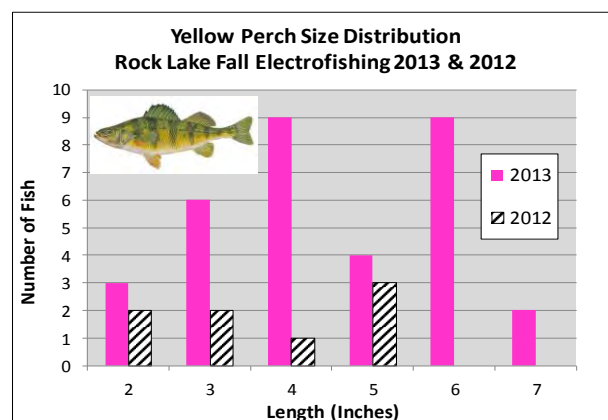
<b>Bluegill</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Total Catch:</b>	376	295	365	1470
<b>Catch Rate (fish per hour):</b>	597	468	664	457
<b>Length Range (inches):</b>	1.3-8.1	1.8-8.7	2.5-7.7	1.6-9.8
<b>Average Length (inches):</b>	4.7	4.5	4.3	5.2

2013 bluegill catch rate was 597/hour, compared to 468/hour in 2012, 664/hour in 2011, 457/hour in 2010 and above the 10-year average of 356/hour. In 2013, 18% of the bluegill sampled were greater than 6-inches in length, compared to 16% in 2012, 6% in 2011 and 33% in 2010. The majority (30%) of the bluegill sampled in 2013 were between 5 and 5.9 inches in length.



<b>Yellow Perch</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Total Catch:</b>	33	8	25	126
<b>Catch Rate (fish per hour):</b>	52	13	46	39
<b>Length Range (inches):</b>	2.3-7.2	2.8-5.9	2.8-8.8	2.7-9.9
<b>Average Length (inches):</b>	4.9	4.1	5.0	5.0

2013 yellow perch catch rate was 52/hour, compared to 13/hour in 2012, 46/hour in 2011, 39/hour in 2010 and the 10-year average of 32/hour.



<b>Rock bass</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Total Catch:</b>	32	33	46	201
<b>Catch Rate (fish per hour):</b>	51	52	84	62
<b>Length Range (inches):</b>	2.6-10.6	2.3-11.1	3.4-8.9	2.6-11.1
<b>Average Length (inches):</b>	6.2	6.7	6.0	7.4

2013 rock bass catch rate was 51/hour, compared to 52/hour in 2012, 84/hour in 2011, 62/hour in 2010 and the 10-year average of 47/hour. Rock Lake supports a sizable, robust population of rock bass with fish up to 11- inches present.

## Non-game Species

Rock Lake supports a diverse non-game fish community including: bowfin, grass pickerel, white sucker, brook silverside, golden, emerald, blacknose and mimic shiners, bluntnose and fathead minnows, yellow, black and brown bullhead, longnose gar, central mudminnow, blackstripe topminnow, banded killifish, Johnny darter, Iowa darter and common carp. In addition, two Special Concern (SC) species (lake chubsucker and least darter), one Threatened (T) species (pugnose shiner) and one special concern (SC) species (banded killifish) inhabit Rock Lake. While fall electrofishing gear is not ideal for sampling most of these species due to their small size, 12 lake chubsuckers (SC) and 2 banded killifish (SC) were sampled during 2013 fall electrofishing. This marks the first time banded killifish have been documented in Rock Lake since 1974. Longnose gar, bowfin, golden shiner, yellow bullhead, common carp and brook silverside were also sampled during 2013 fall electrofishing.