

## Kincaid Lake Bass Assessment 2023

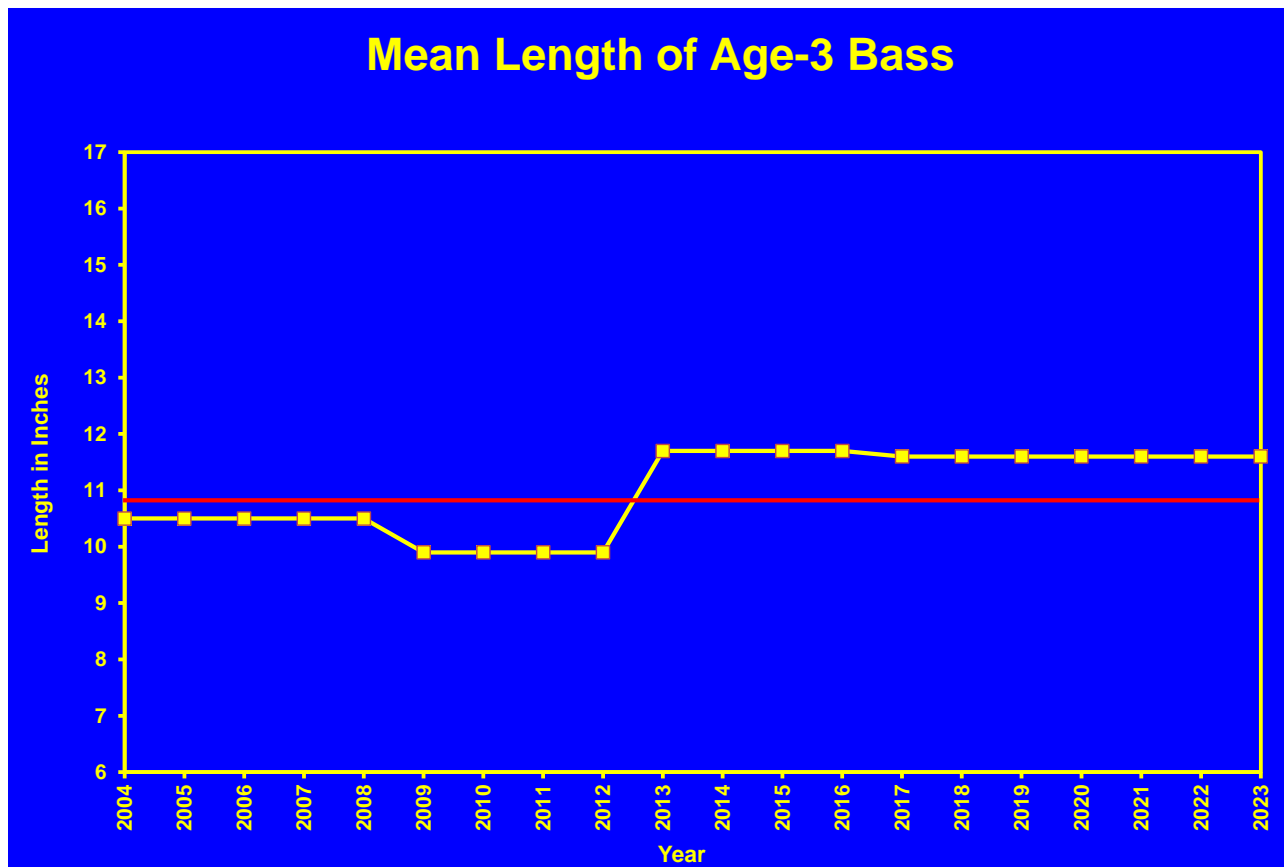
Kincaid Lake is a 183-acre reservoir owned by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and was impounded in the early 1960's. The lake has a very popular bass fishery due to the quality of the fishery and its close proximity to Northern Kentucky. Past creel surveys have shown moderate to heavy fishing pressure for Largemouth Bass at Kincaid Lake. The following graphs show trends and rankings for each of the five population parameters used in the Largemouth Bass assessment.

Please see the [Sportfish Assessments](#) page for an explanation of how the assessment works and for a list of other lakes with largemouth bass assessments.



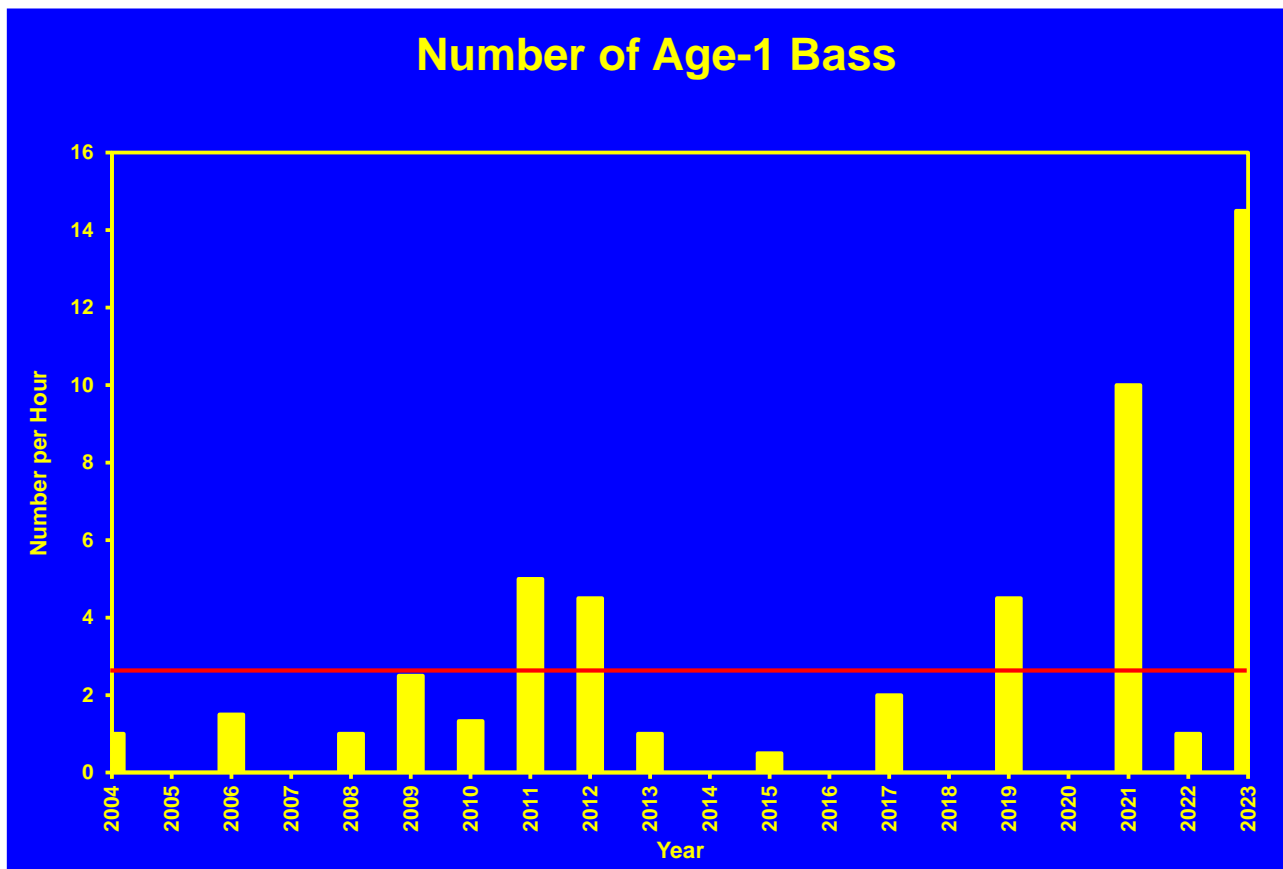
## Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Kincaid Lake, the length of an age-3 Largemouth Bass has averaged 10.8 inches since impoundment and is represented by the red line. Compared to other reservoirs of a similar size, on average, Largemouth Bass generally exhibit fair growth at Kincaid Lake, even though the growth rate in any given year may range from poor to excellent. Growth rate can be variable and is generally related to factors such as population dynamics, food resources, and weather patterns. The last year that KDFWR aged Largemouth Bass at the lake was 2021. Growth during 2021 was ranked as being excellent. KDFWR biologists are planning to re-evaluate the growth rates of Largemouth Bass at Kincaid Lake during 2026 sampling efforts. Sampling was completed in 2016, 2018, and 2020.



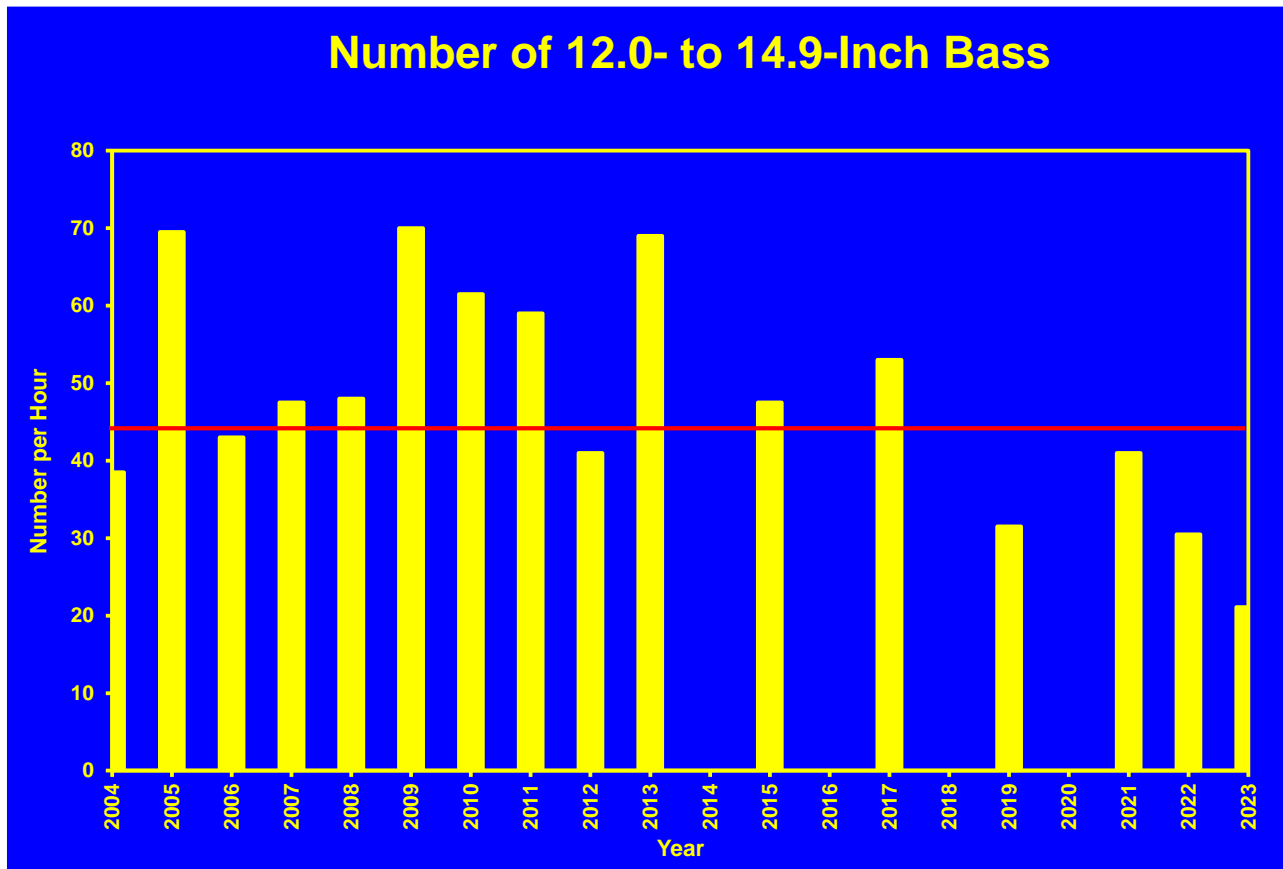
## Parameter 2 – Number of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

KDFWR looks at the catch rates of age-1 Largemouth Bass to assess the success of the spawn which occurred in the prior year. This is an important parameter because the number of age-1 bass produced represents how good the fishing will be once these fish grow large enough for anglers to catch. At Kincaid Lake, age-1 Largemouth Bass catch rates have averaged 2.6 bass/hr of electrofishing as indicated by the red line and overall is ranked as being poor compared to other lakes of similar size. Poor recruitment has been a historic problem at Kincaid Lake, but this recruitment has maintained a high-quality bass fishery for many years. Historically high catch rates of age-1 bass were recorded in 2023.



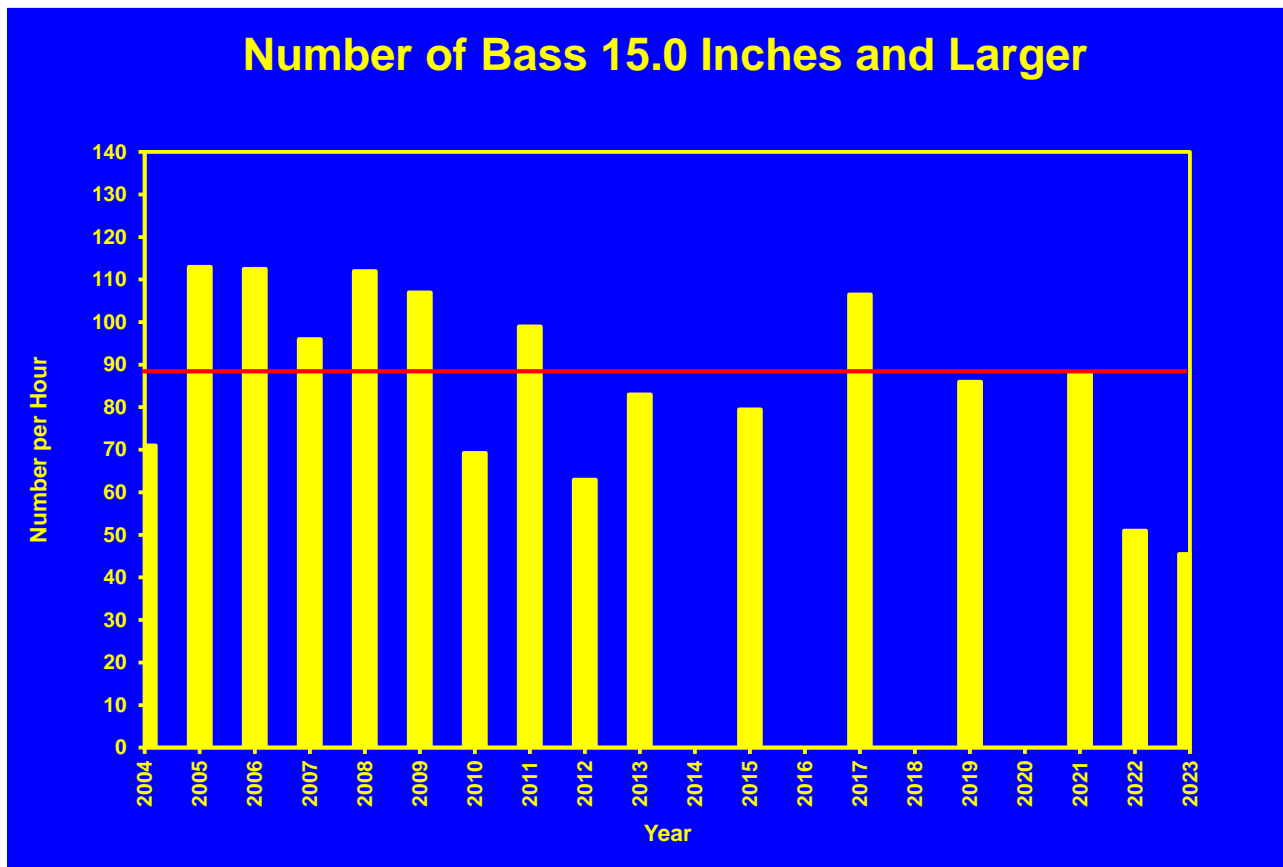
### Parameter 3 – Number of 12.0- to 14.9-inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0- to 14.9-inch Largemouth Bass has averaged 45.6 bass/hr over the years as indicated by the red line. As compared to other lakes, this is an excellent catch rate for this size group of bass. Numbers of 12.0- to 14.9-inch Largemouth Bass have been generally above average; however, they have been below average since 2019. Fishing at the lake is expected to be good over the next several years even with this lower catch rate.



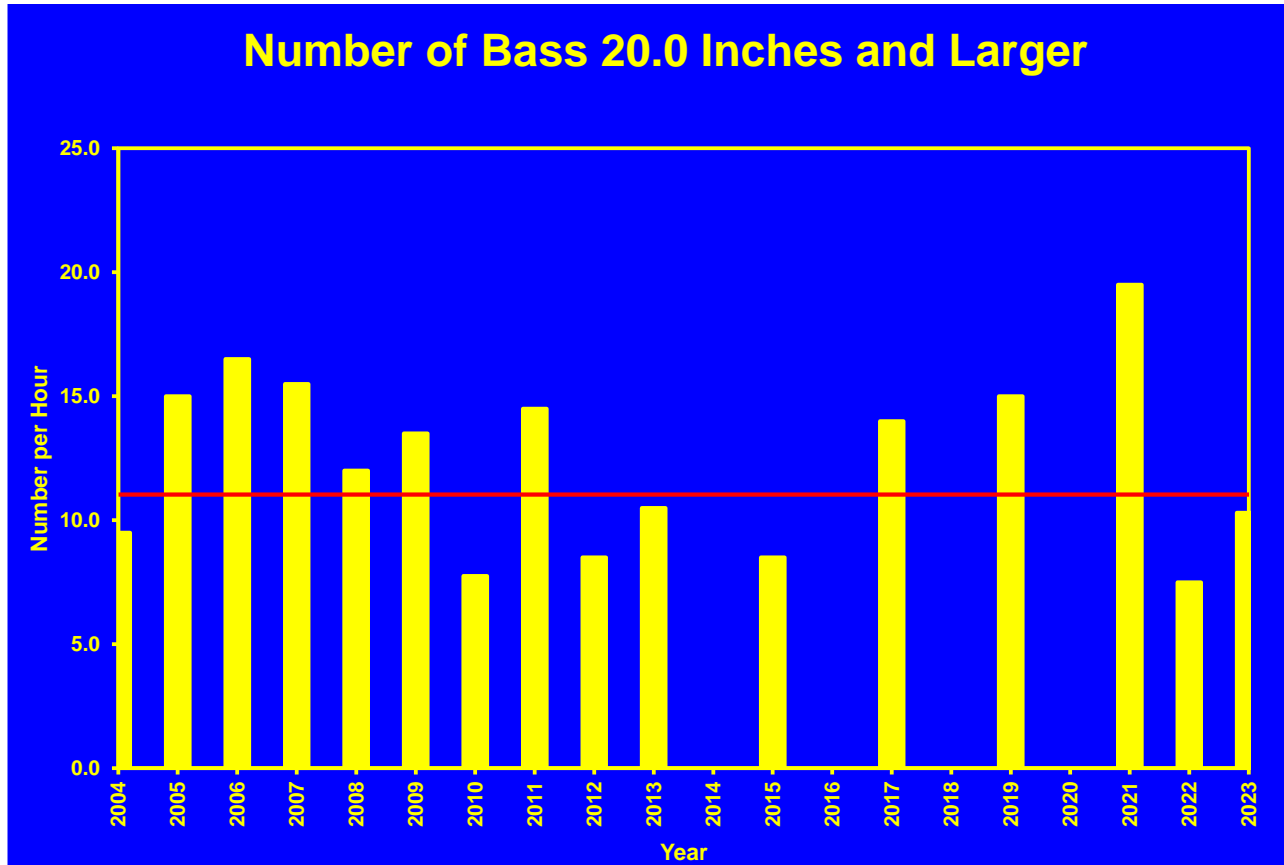
## Parameter 4 – Number of bass 15.0 inches and larger

Electrofishing catch rates of 15.0-inch and larger Largemouth Bass have averaged 88.0 bass/hr as indicated by the red line. Again, as compared to other lakes, this is an excellent catch rate for this size group. Overall, these numbers have been consistent over the past 20 years with some ups and downs due to annual variation due to sampling conditions. In 2022 and 2023, biologist observed a lower-than-average catch rate of Largemouth Bass in this size group. However, these are still very high catch rates for this size group when comparing to other lakes.



## Parameter 5 – Number of bass 20.0 inches and larger

The electrofishing catch of 20.0-inch and larger Largemouth Bass has averaged over 11.3 bass/hr at Kincaid Lake as indicated by the red line. As compared to other lakes, this is an excellent catch rate for this size group. This catch rate of bass greater than 20.0 inches at Kincaid Lake is one of the highest, if not the highest, catch rate for 20.0-inch and larger bass in the state.



### Overall – Total Assessment Score (all five parameters added together)

Overall, the Largemouth Bass fishery at Kincaid Lake has rated “good” over the past 20 years as indicated by the red line. The Largemouth Bass population at Kincaid Lake has been very stable, ranging from good to excellent. In 2023, the overall assessment rating for the Largemouth Bass population at Kincaid Lake was good. Therefore, the future looks very promising for the bass population at Kincaid Lake over the next several years.

