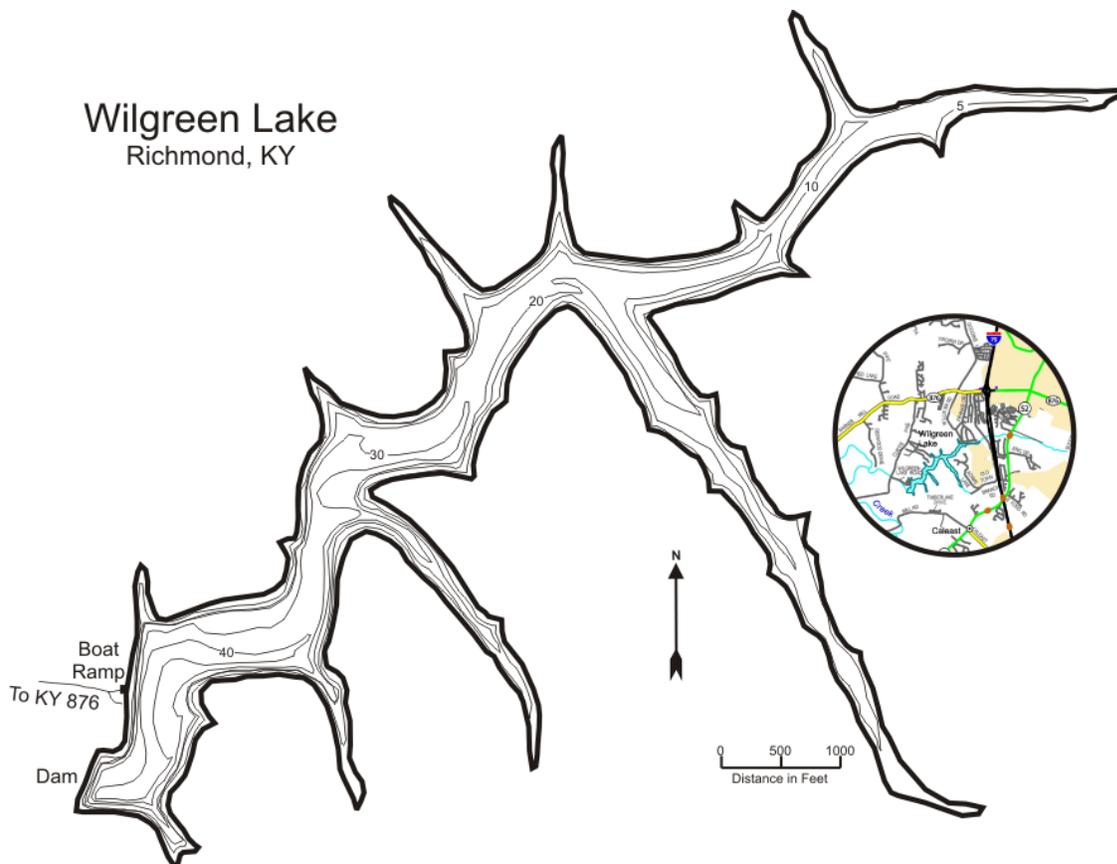


Wilgreen Lake Bass Assessment 2016

Wilgreen Lake (also called Taylor Fork Lake or Taylor Valley Lake) is a 169 acre reservoir located about 2 miles to the west of Richmond in Madison County. It was created in 1966 on Taylor Fork, a tributary to Silver Creek. The primary use of the drainage surrounding the lake is agriculture; however it is being encroached upon by urban development. It is a popular destination for anglers fishing for largemouth bass, channel catfish, sunfish species (namely bluegill and redear sunfish) and crappie.

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.

Please note there are no specific regulations on Wilgreen Lake, it falls under the "Statewide Regulations" category of a minimum size limit of 12.0 inches and 6 fish daily creel limit for largemouth bass.



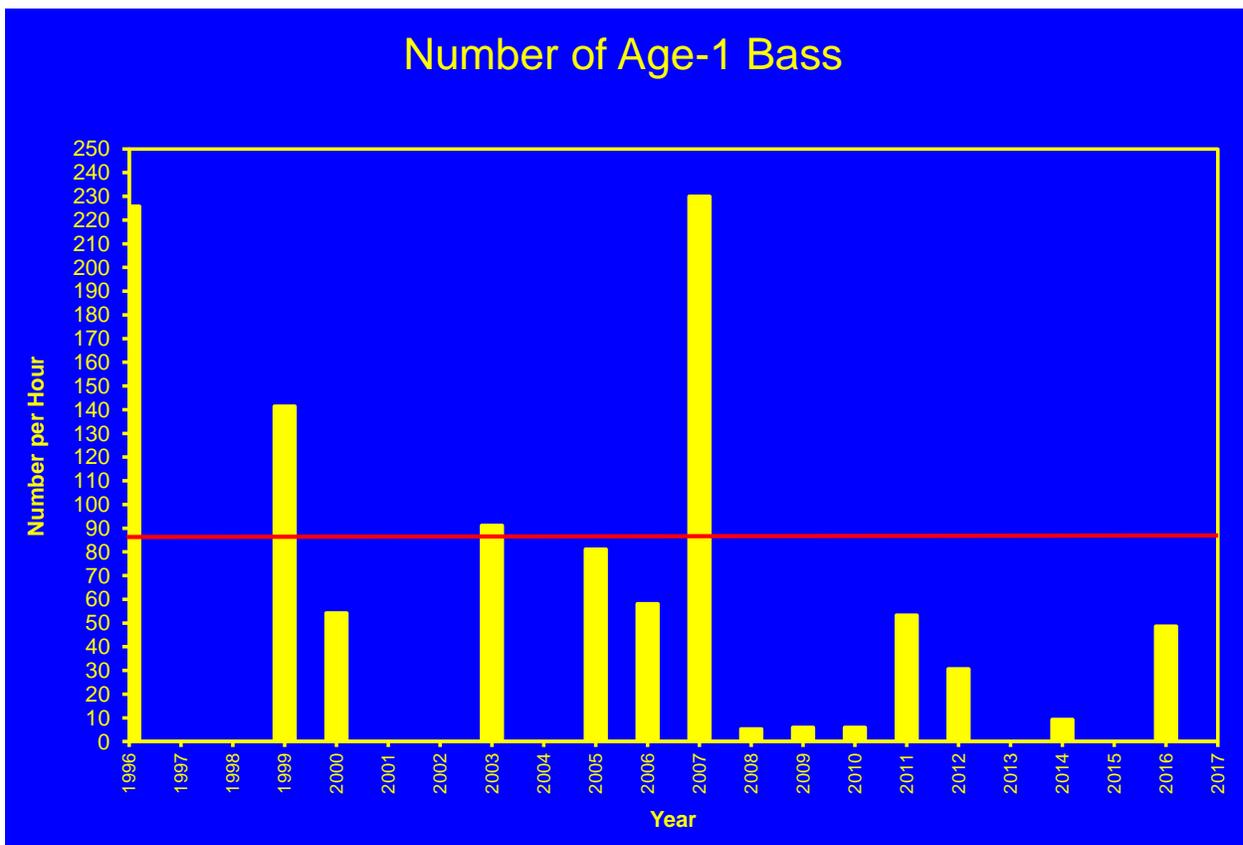
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Wilgreen Lake the length of bass at age 3 has averaged 11.5 inches since 1993, which is considered to be “Good” when compared to other lakes of its size in Kentucky. After hovering around 11.0 inches from 1995 to 2003, the length of age 3 fish jumped to 12.6 inches in 2008 which is considered to be “Excellent”. Growth rates are generally related to factors such as population density, food resources and weather patterns.



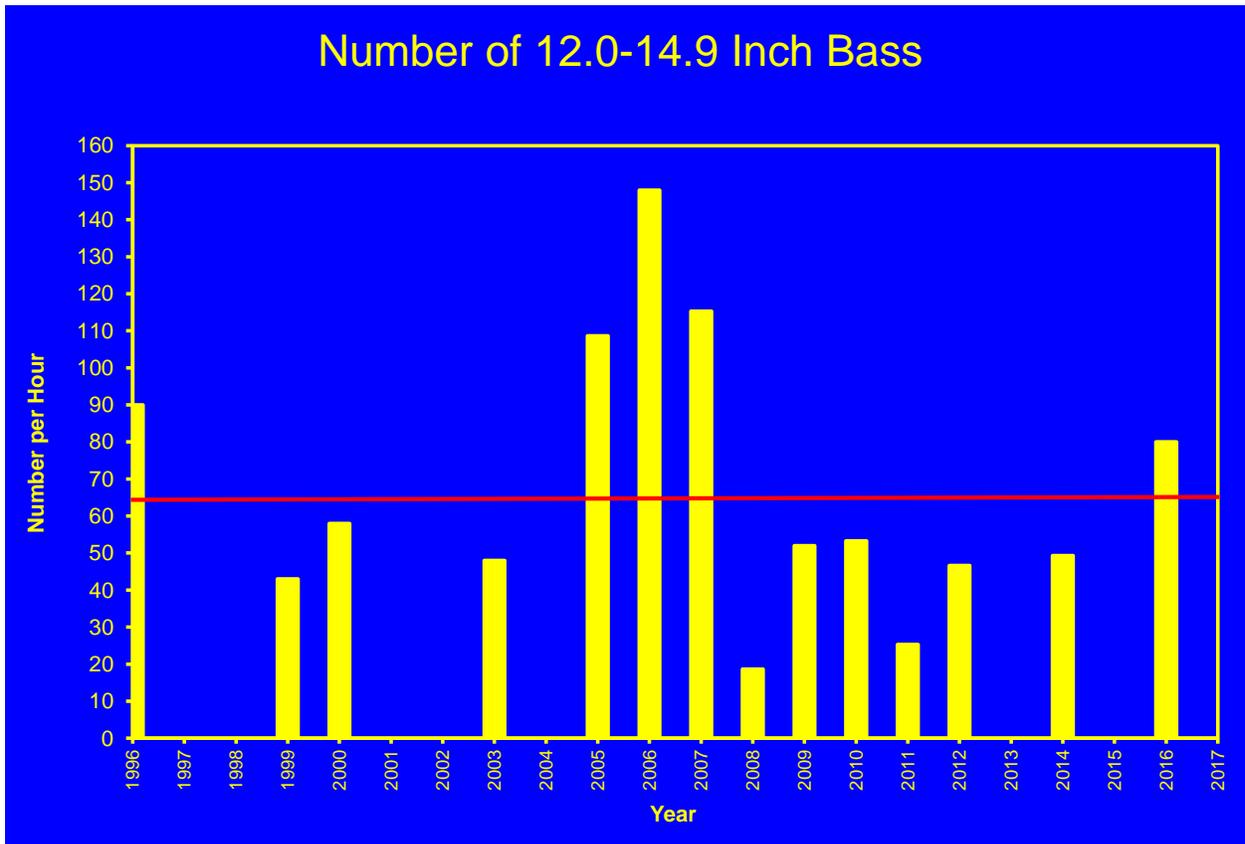
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

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 bass produced represents how good the fishing will be once these fish grow large enough for anglers to catch. In Wilgreen Lake, the catch of age-1 bass has averaged 88.8 fish captured per hour (f/h) since 1991. This is “Excellent” for lakes of this size in Kentucky. Since 2008, these numbers have been well below the 15 year average for the lake but generally has remained in the “Good” range. These low numbers could be related to competition of these young fish with the high numbers of gizzard shad within the lake. Both fish at smaller sizes will eat the same food source, and if the gizzard shad out-compete the largemouth bass, this will result in poor survival of age-1 largemouth bass, lowering these numbers. It should be noted that 2007 was the first year gizzard shad were observed in the lake.



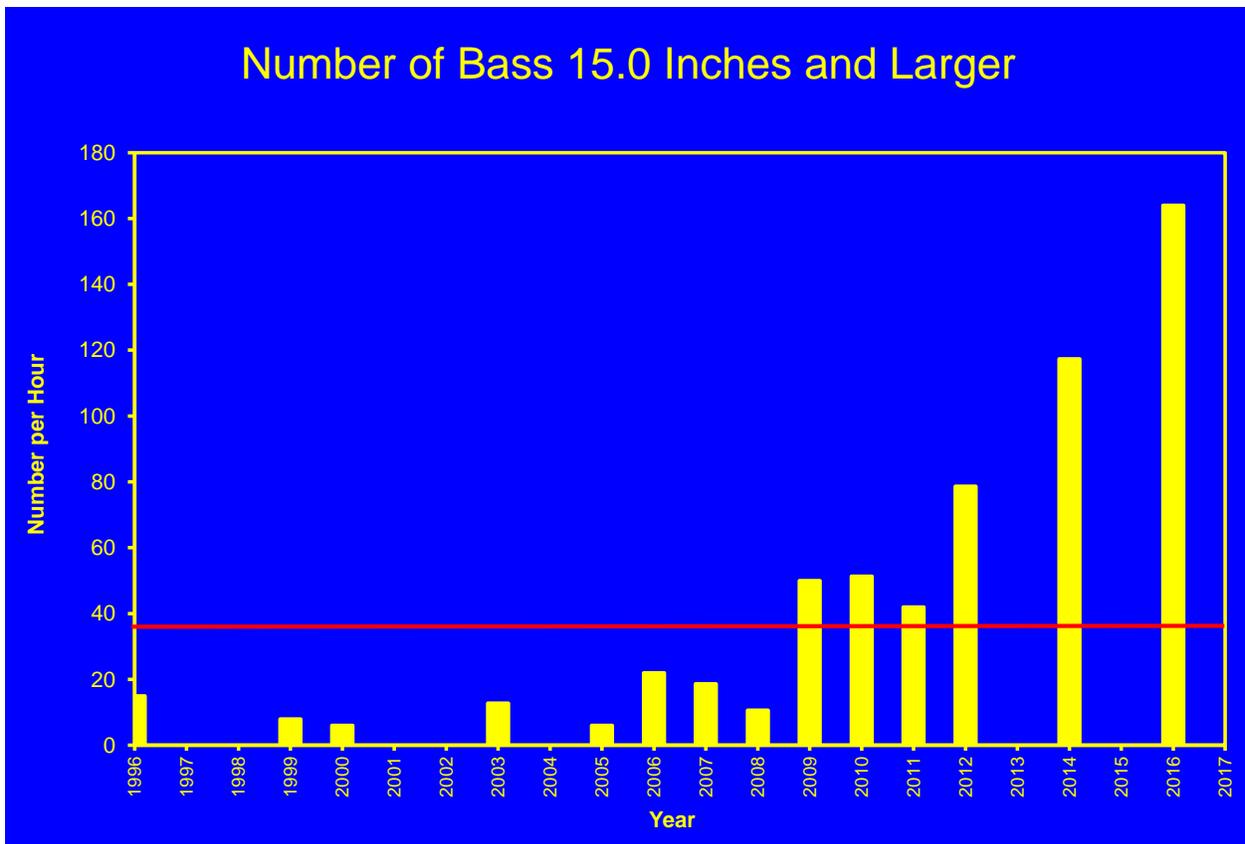
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0 – 14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged 64.1 f/h since 1991; this is considered to be “Excellent” for lakes of this size. In spite of below average catch rates since 2008 the lake the average catch rate is 46.5 f/h which is still considered “Excellent”.



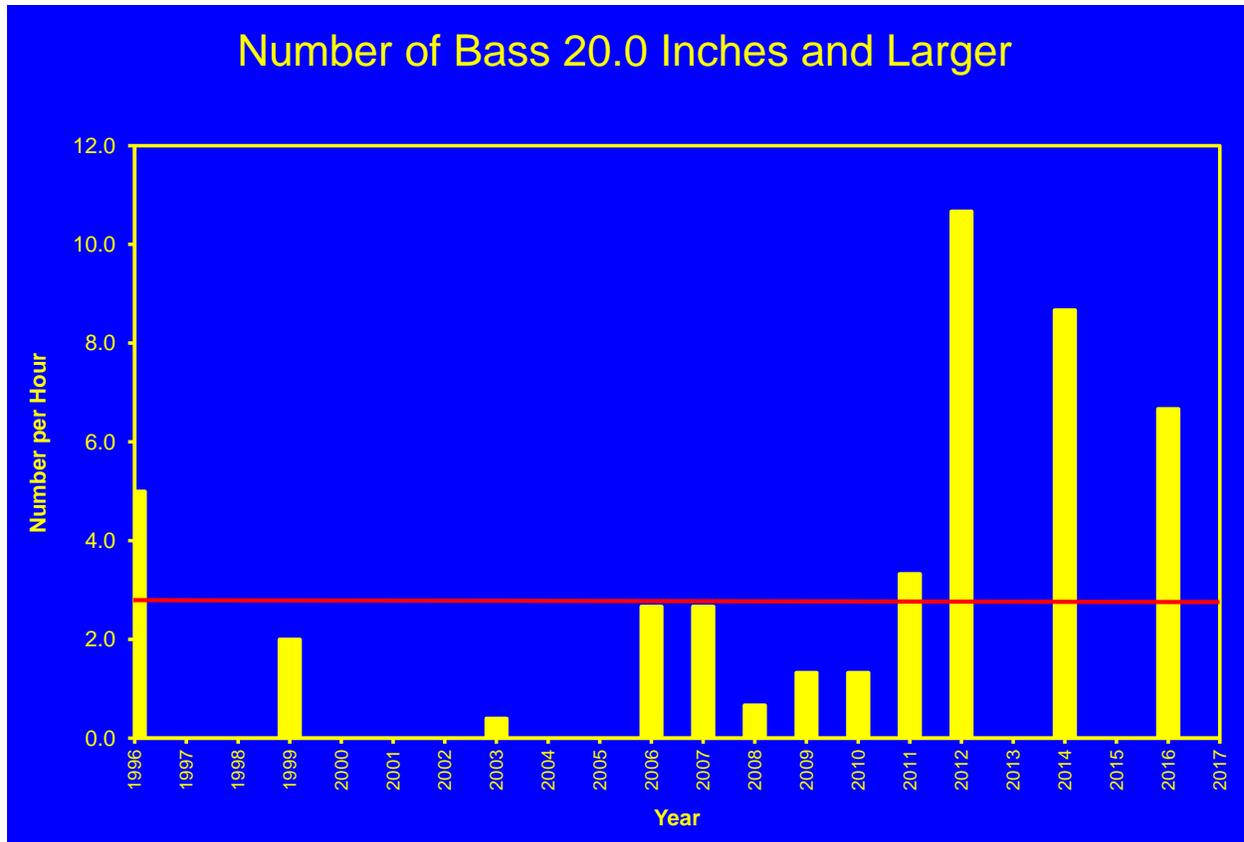
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 36.6 f/h since 1991, which is considered to be “Excellent” for lakes of this size. Since 2009, this number has consistently been higher than the mean, ranging from 42.00 – 164.0 f/h which is excellent. The higher catch rates could be a reflection of the high numbers of 12.0-15.0 inch fish that were present from 2005 to 2007. Or it could reflect increased growth rates due to lack of competition with the higher numbers of 12.0 – 14.9 inch fish observed from 2005 to 2007. Regardless, if a bass can make it to 15.0 inches, a size at which they can feed on the large and abundant gizzard shad in the lake, they have a good chance of survival past this category and into the greater than 20.0 inch range.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 2.8 f/h since 1991, which is “Good” for lakes of this size. Since 2008 this average has almost doubled putting the lake in the “Excellent” range. It appears as though the higher numbers of fish in the greater than 15.0 inch range are surviving through to the greater than 20.0 inch range.



Overall – Total Assessment Score (All five parameters added together)

Overall, when compared to other lakes in Kentucky, the largemouth bass fishery at Wilgreen Lake has averaged a “Good” score. Since 2012, the lake has been routinely in the “Excellent” range. The values of fish in the over 15.0 inch and over 20.0 inch range have been outstanding. The lake has an excellent chance of producing a trophy sized largemouth bass for any bass angler that settles on this lake.

