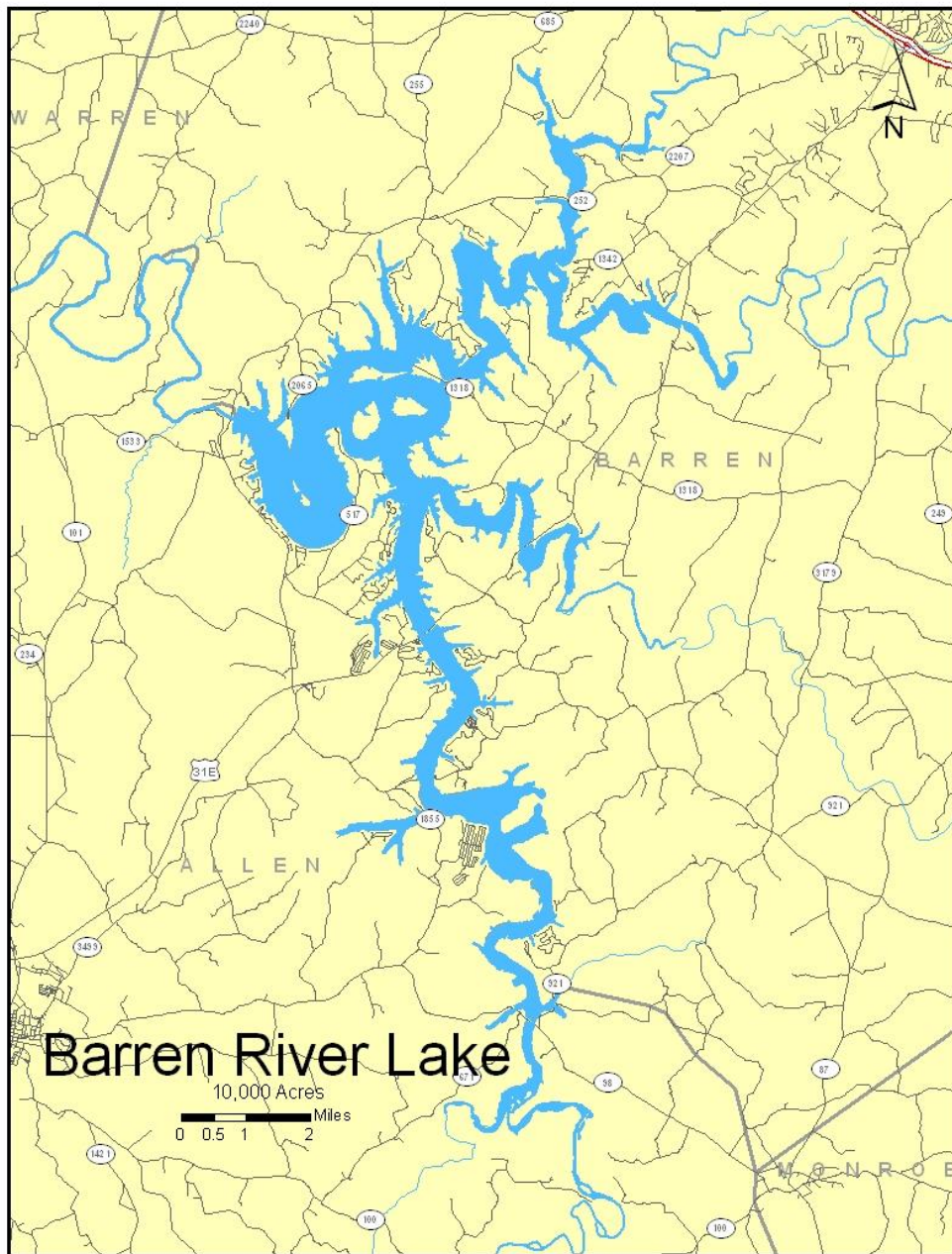


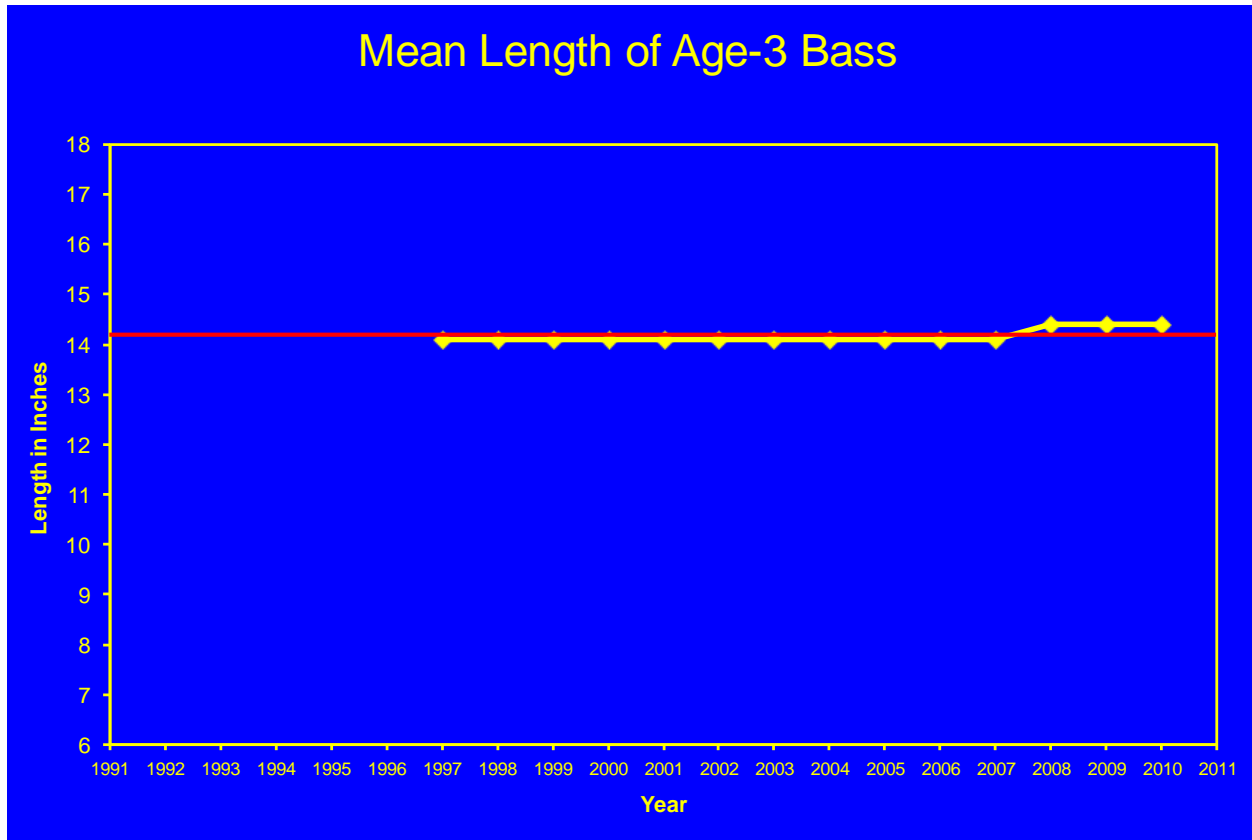
Barren River Lake Bass Assessment 2011

Barren River Lake is a 10,000 acre multipurpose reservoir on Barren River. This lake, located in Barren and Allen Counties has 7 boat ramps and 4 marinas and is a popular fishing destination for largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass and catfish. The following graphs show trends and rankings for each of the five population parameters used in the largemouth bass assessment. Please see "Understanding the Largemouth Bass Assessment" article for an explanation of how the assessment works.



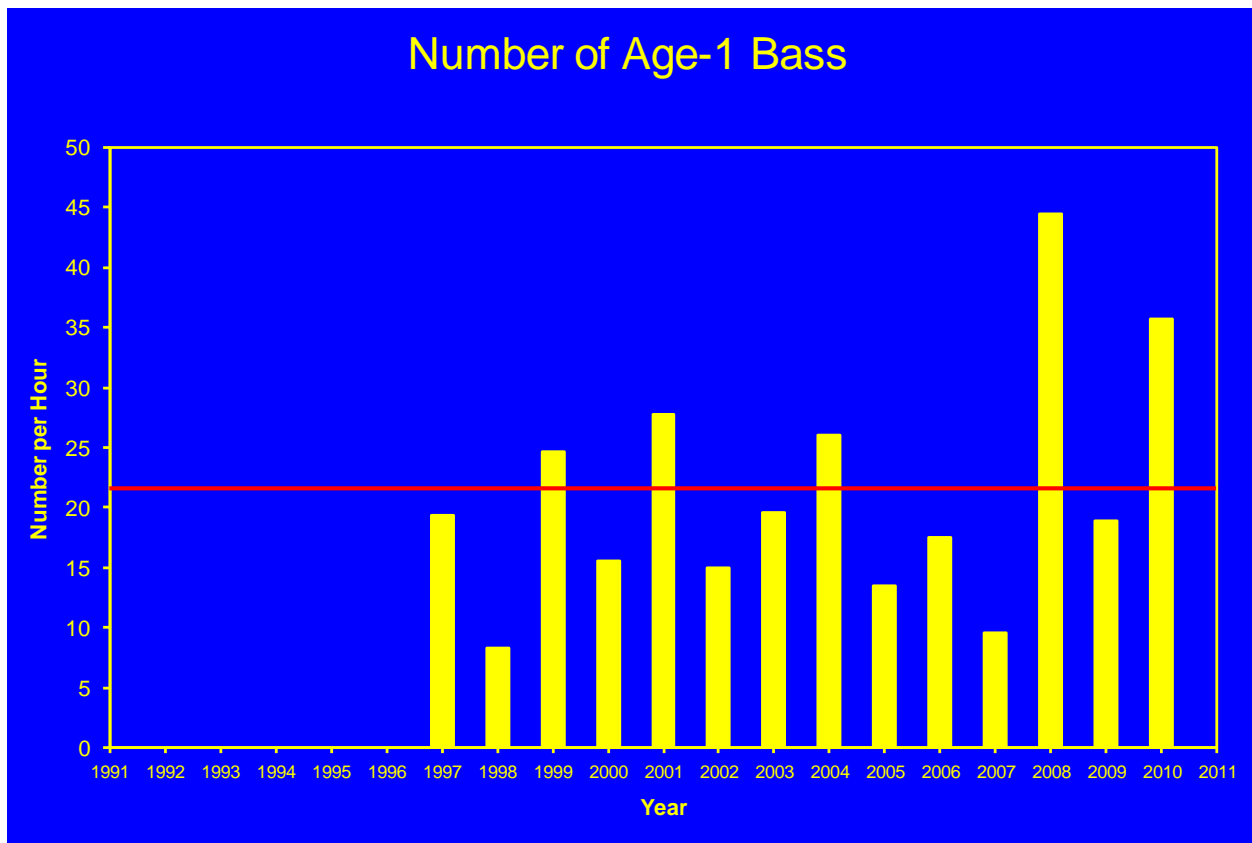
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Barren River Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged 14.1 inches since 1997 (represented by the red line). When compared to other lakes of this size, this is considered very good growth for largemouth bass. Growth rates are generally related to factors such as population density, food resources, and weather patterns. In 2009 and 2010, the mean length of age-3 bass jumped to 14.4 inches.



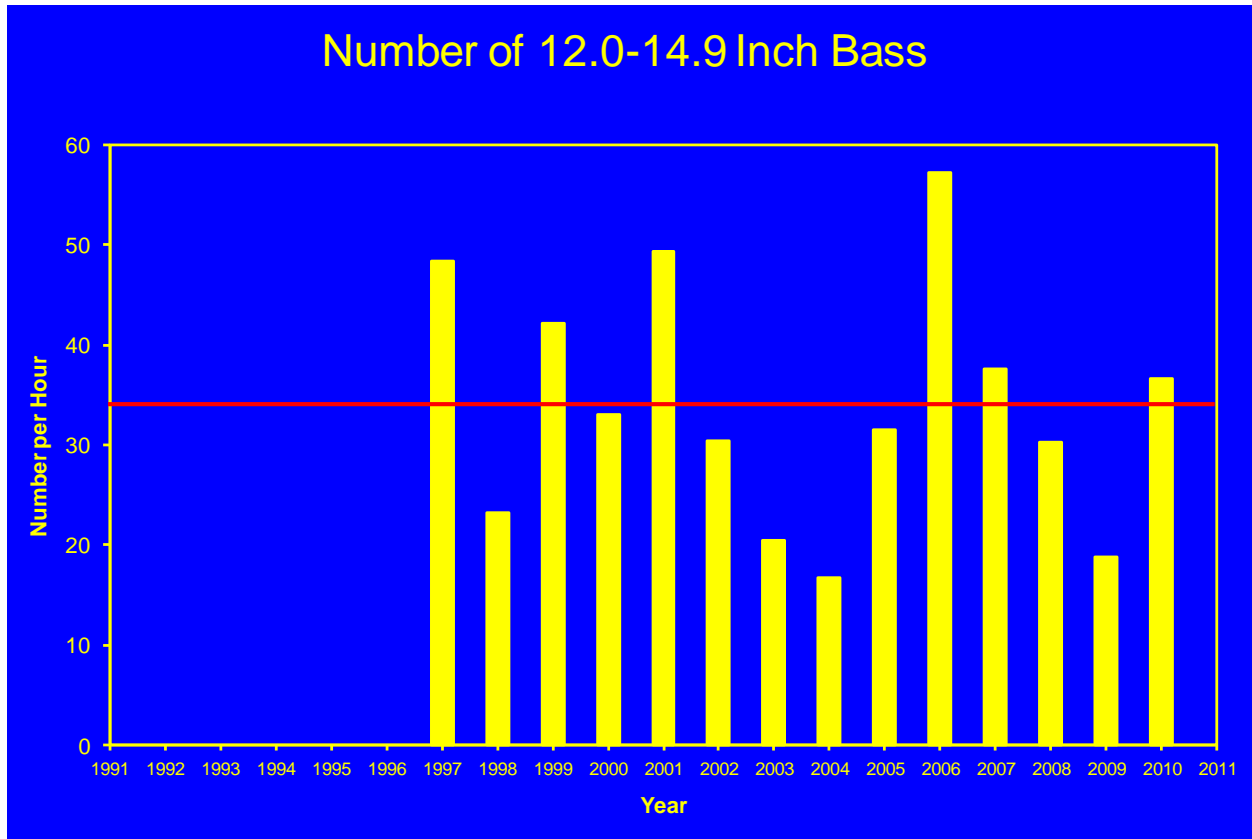
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

KDFWR looks at the electrofishing 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 Barren River Lake, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged just over 20.00 fish per hour of electrofishing. When compared to other lakes in this size range, this is considered to be a fair age-1 catch rate. In 2007, the spring catch of age-1 largemouth bass was well below the average catch rate and this was probably due to the low water (drought) conditions of that year. During 2007, the lake never reached summer pool (maximum pool was 4.5 foot below normal summer pool elevation). Since 2007, age-1 catch rates have returned to normal.



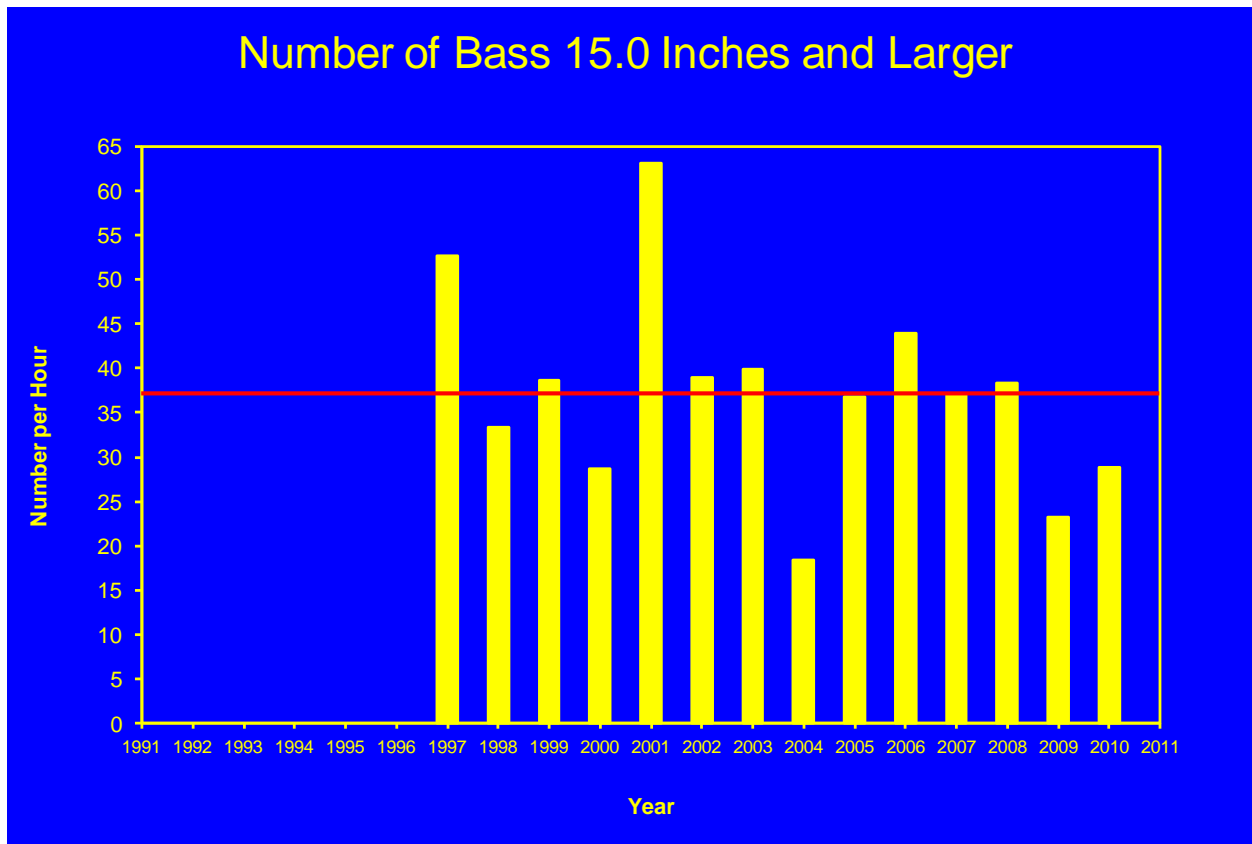
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged just over 34.00 fish/hour over the years, which gives Barren River Lake a good rating when compared to other lakes in its size range. These numbers are important because these fish will soon grow to exceed the 15.0 inch legal size limit at the lake in the next year or two, and result in increased numbers of larger bass available to anglers fishing the lake.



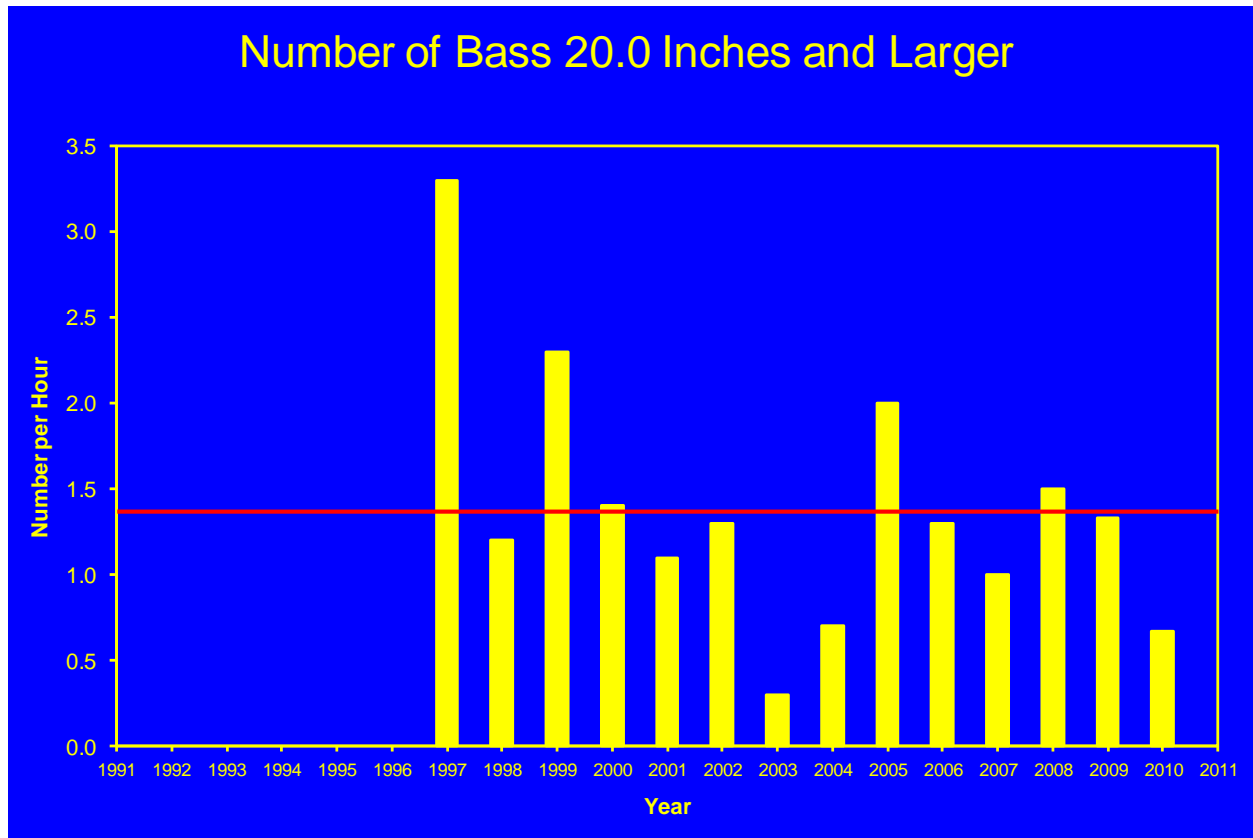
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass at Barren River Lake has averaged just over 37.00 fish/hour of electrofishing. Again, as compared to other lakes, this is an excellent catch rate for this size group. Barren River Lake continues to be one of Kentucky's best largemouth bass lakes as it consistently produces exceptional numbers of 15.0-inch and larger bass. These stable and good numbers of 12.0 – 14.9 inch fish should provide excellent fishing for the future.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged just under 1.50 fish/hour for Barren River Lake since 1997. This catch rate gives the lake a fair rating when it is compared to other lakes in its size range. With Barren River Lake's exceptional quality bass production, catching a trophy largemouth is never out of the question.



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

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Barren River Lake has averaged a good rating (14.6) over the past 14 years. The largemouth bass population at this lake has been consistently good, even in down years. Fishing can be excellent in comparison to other lakes in the state.

