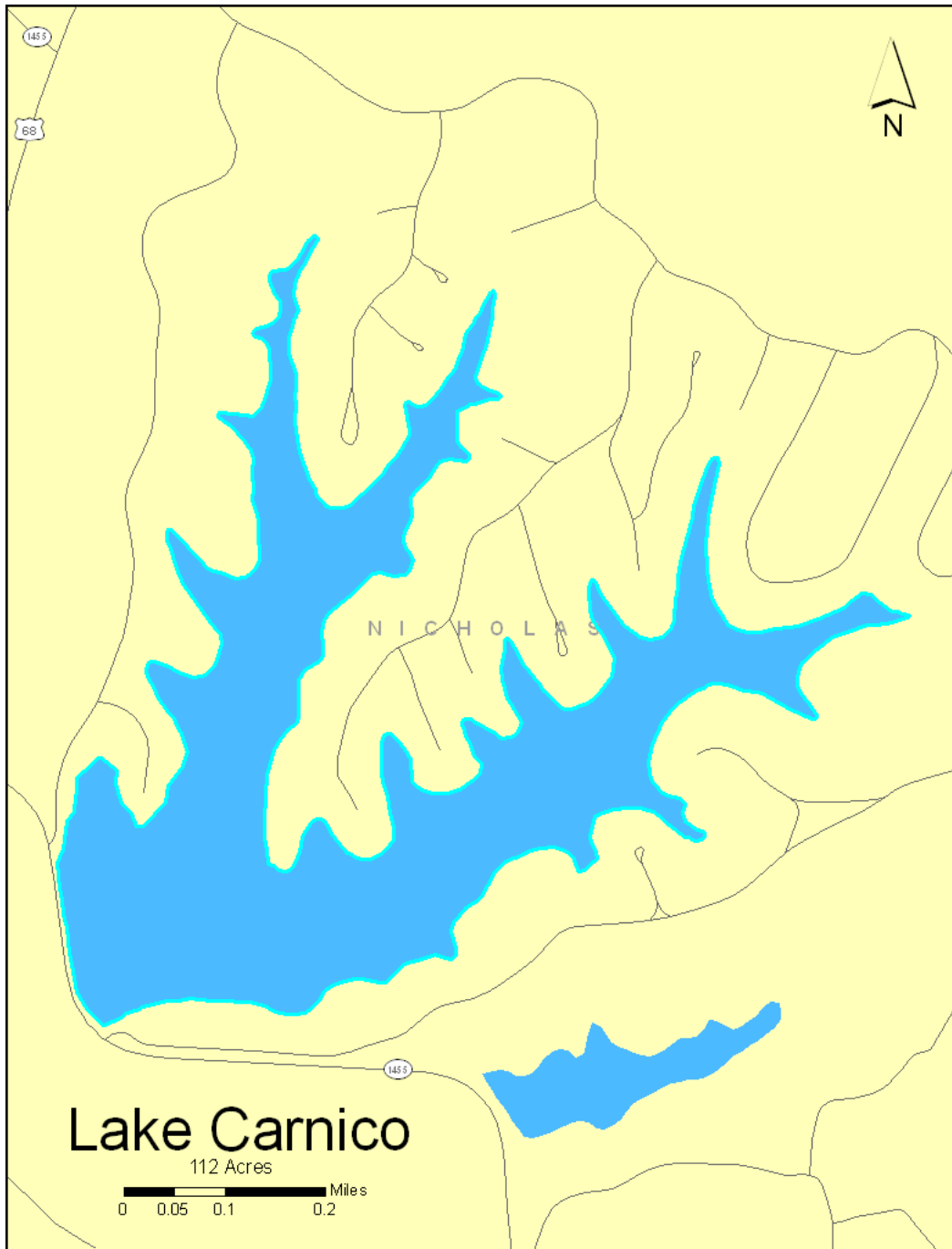


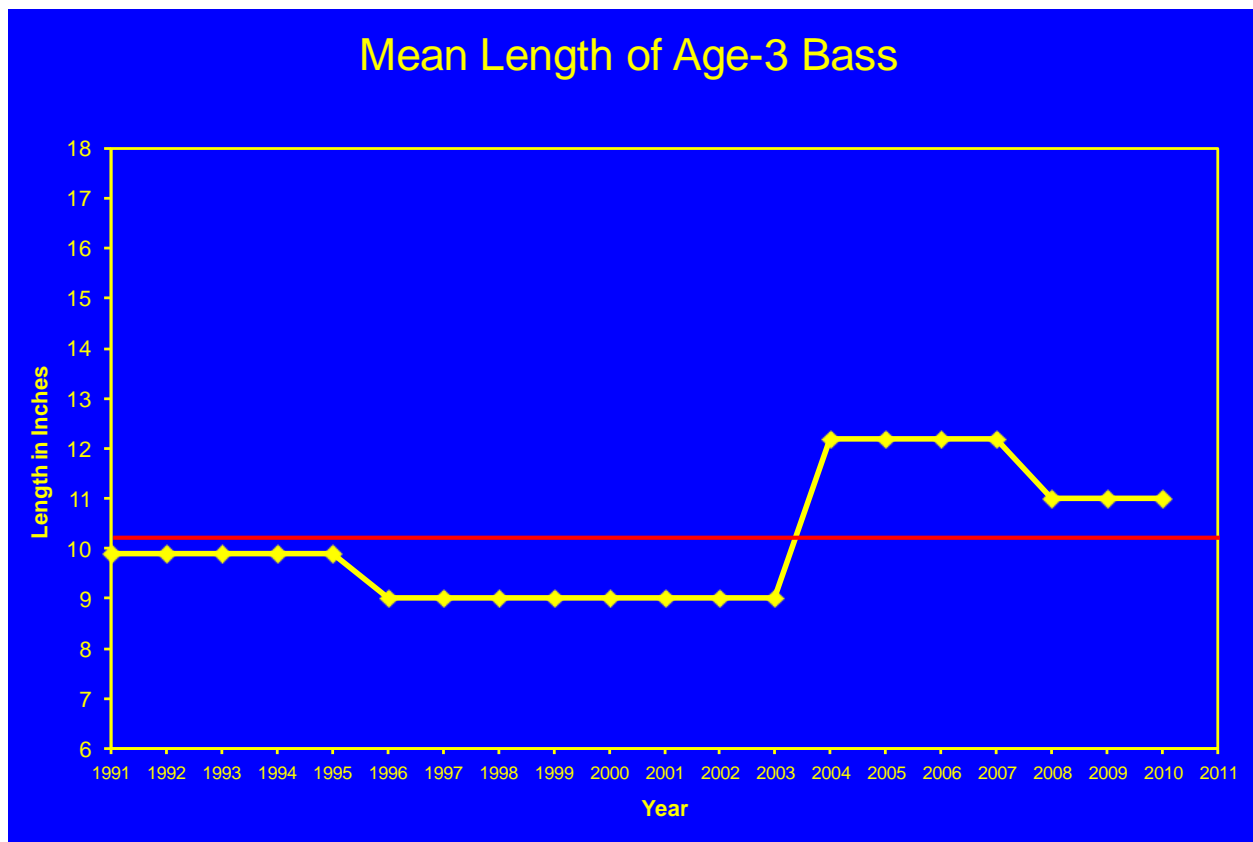
Lake Carnico Bass Assessment 2011

Lake Carnico is a 114 acre multipurpose reservoir created by damming several unnamed tributaries to Brushy Fork Creek (Licking River Drainage) in Nicholas County. Several sport fishes, including largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, flathead catfish and black and white crappie are found in this lake. 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. *Please note that the minimum size limit for largemouth bass on this lake is 15.0 inches.*



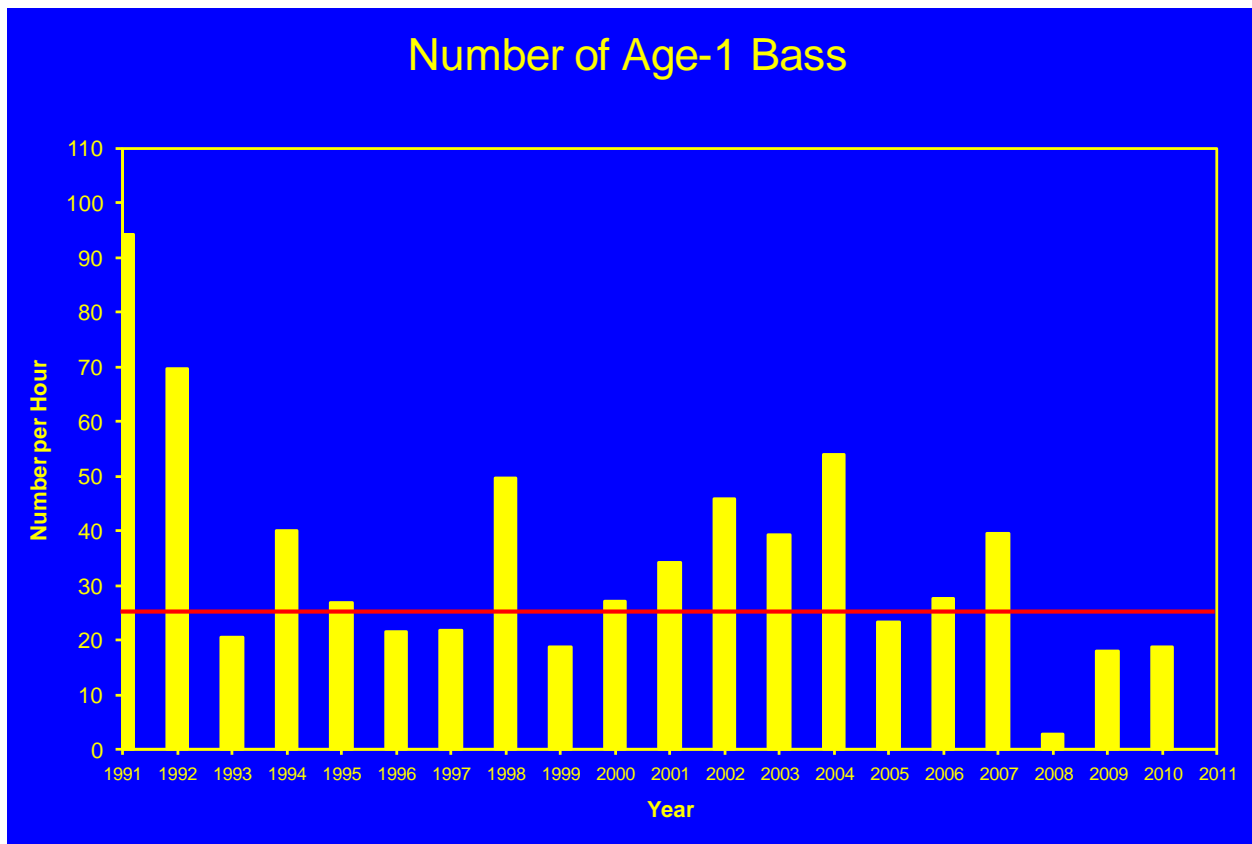
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Lake Carnico, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged just over 10.0 inches at the lake since 1991 (represented by the red line). When compared to other lakes of similar size, the average growth rate for largemouth bass at this lake is fair. Growth rates are generally related to factors such as population density, food resources, and weather patterns. The last year that KDFWR aged largemouth bass at the lake was 2008, and the length of age-3 largemouth bass remained above the 19 year average.



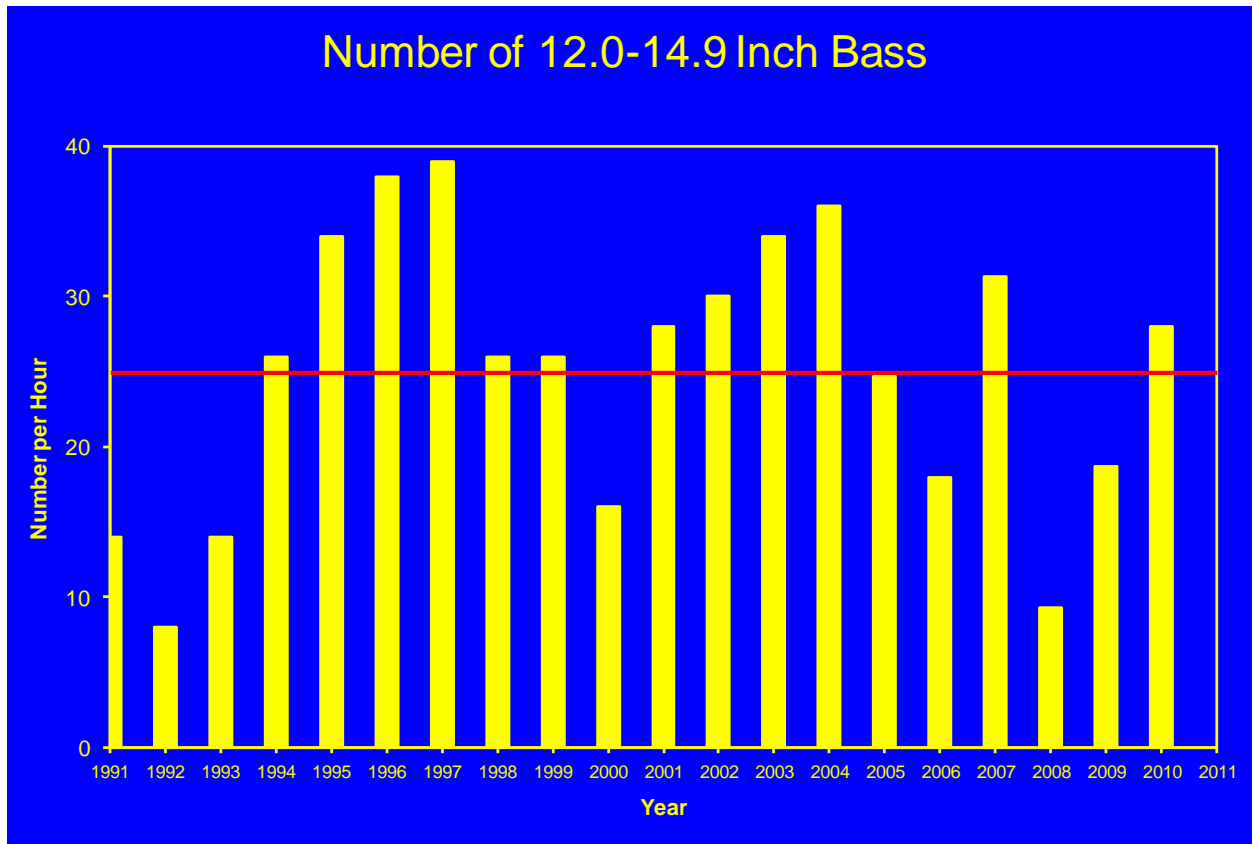
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

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 age-1 bass produced represents how good the fishing will be once these fish grow large enough for anglers to catch. At Lake Carnico, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged just above 35.50 fish/hour of electrofishing. When compared to other lakes of similar size, this is considered to be a fair age-1 catch rate. It must be noted that the low catch rate obtained in 2008 may be attributed to faulty sampling gear. Examination of the data since 1991 shows the catch rates to be somewhat cyclic with periods of high catch followed by periods of low catch. Due to poor spawns experienced during 2009 and 2010, five hundred largemouth bass fingerlings were stocked in each of these years.



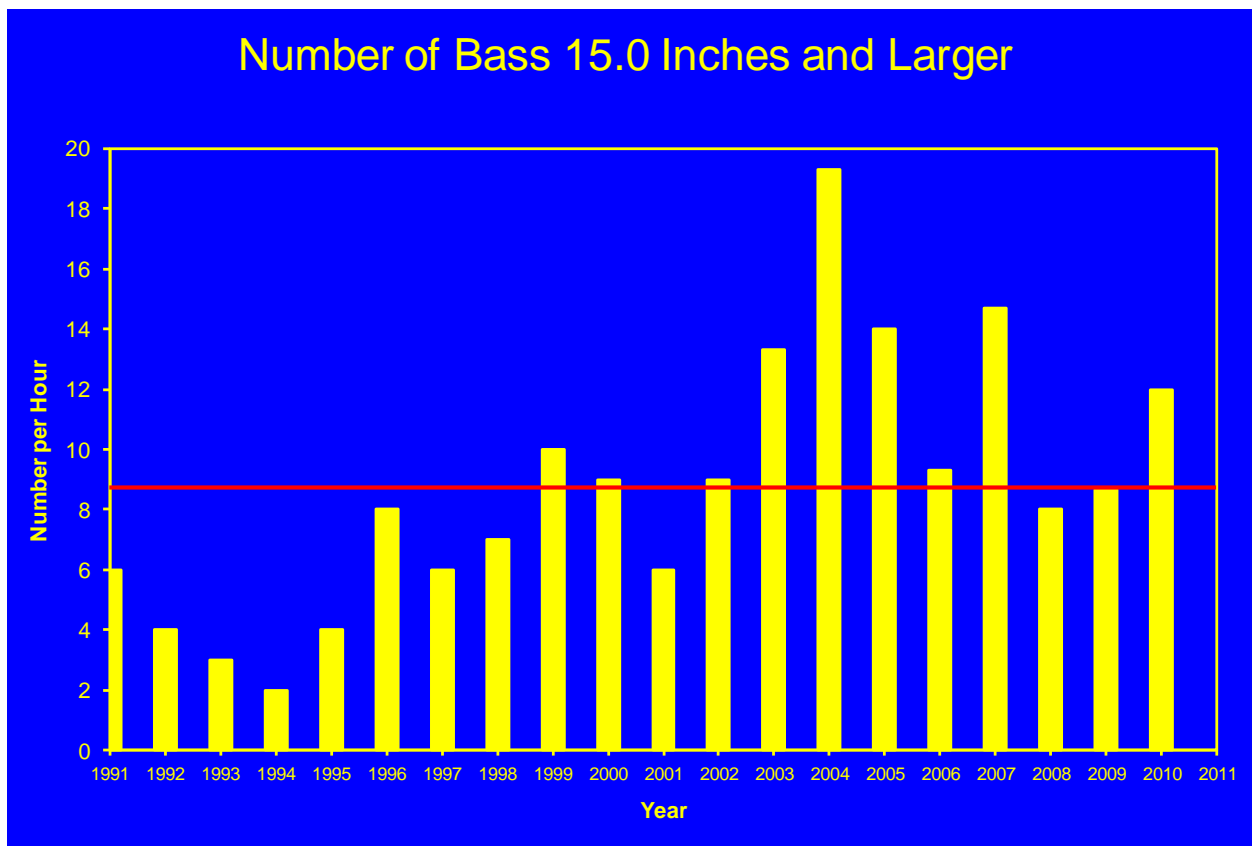
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass since 1991 has averaged 24.90 fish/hour which puts Lake Carnico into the fair rating when compared to other lakes of similar size. However, KDFWR biologists observed somewhat lower catch rates for this size class in 2009 compared to 2007. A possible reason for this decline may be attributed to poor spawns experienced in 2005.



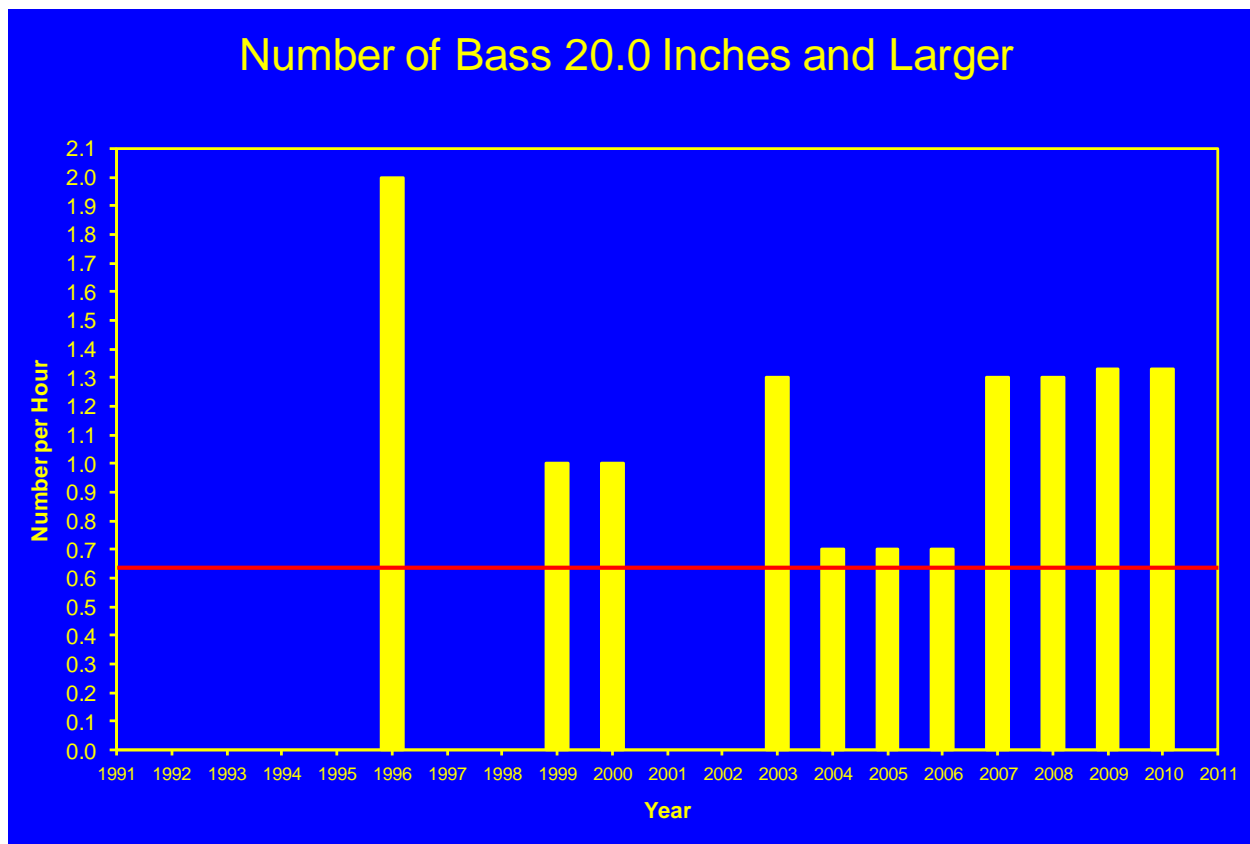
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 8.66 fish/hour over the past 20 years. This is fair in comparison with other lakes of similar size. The encouraging part of this assessment is that these values have generally increased since 1994. With a catch rate of 12.00 fish/hour in 2010, fishing success for this size bass should remain the same for the next couple of years. It appears as though the goal of protecting fish (by means of imposing the 15.0 inch minimum size limit) to increase the numbers of largemouth bass over 15.0 inches is being reached.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 0.63 fish/hour for Lake Carnico since 1991. As compared to other lakes of similar size, this is a poor catch rate for this size group. These catch rates are a result of low forage availability and limited quality habitat. The encouraging news for Lake Carnico is that there are a few fish that exceed 20.0 inches in the lake. This should allow anglers a chance to catch a trophy largemouth bass at Lake Carnico.



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

Overall, when compared to other lakes of similar size in Kentucky, the largemouth bass fishery at Lake Carnico has rated fair over the past 19 years (as indicated by the red line). The largemouth bass population at the lake has not been consistent. From 1991 to 1995, it was considered poor but since then it has generally rated fair. In 2009, the overall assessment rating for the largemouth bass population in Lake Carnico was fair once again. Lake Carnico is rated as a medium fertility lake which probably is the reason why the lake rates as a fair fishery overall. This rating system compares lakes of similar size, but does not account for the vast differences in fertility which could severely limit fisheries within the lake.

