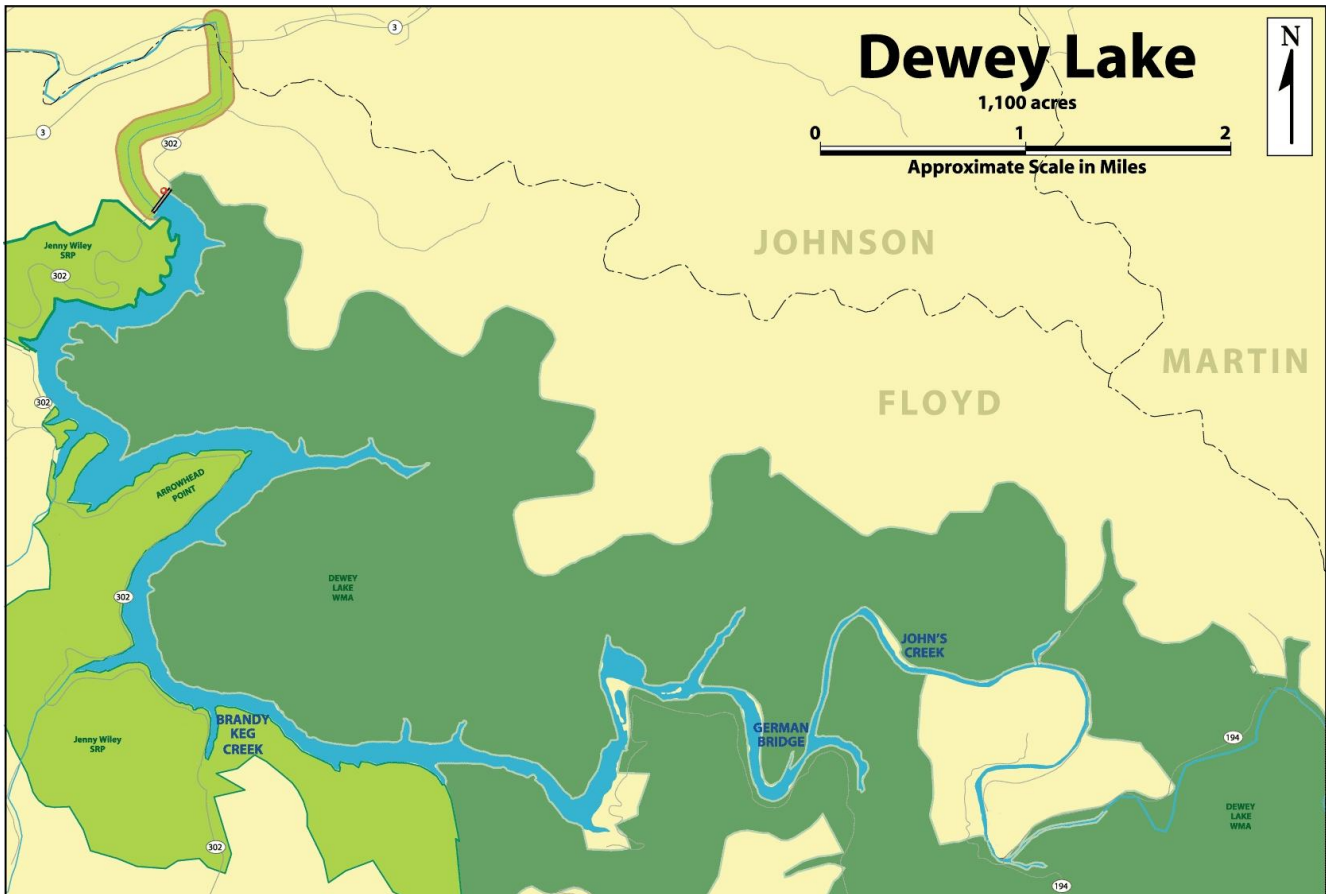


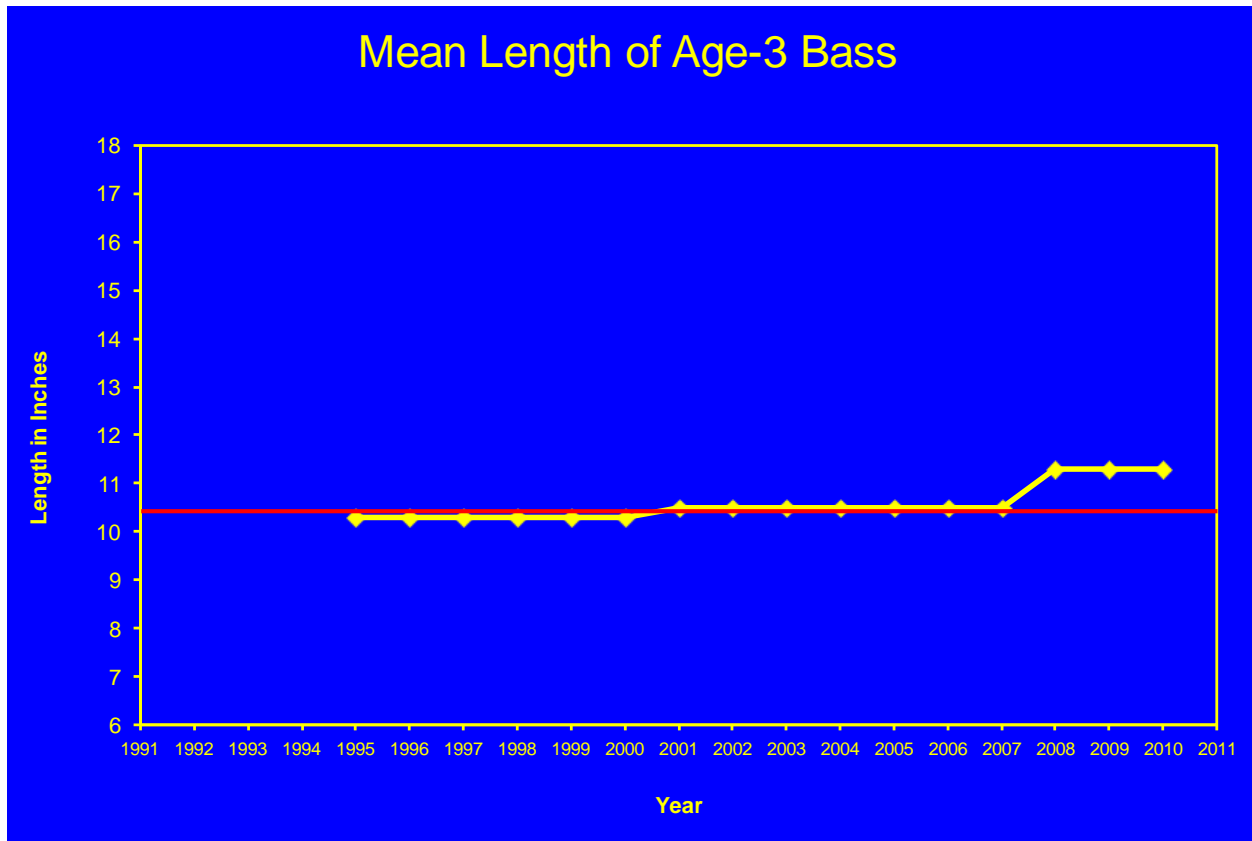
Dewey Lake Bass Assessment 2011

Dewey Lake is a 1,100 acre multipurpose reservoir on Johns Creek. This lake, located primarily in Floyd County, has quietly become a popular fishing destination for largemouth bass, bluegill 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. *Please note that the minimum size limit for largemouth bass on this lake is 15.0 inches.*



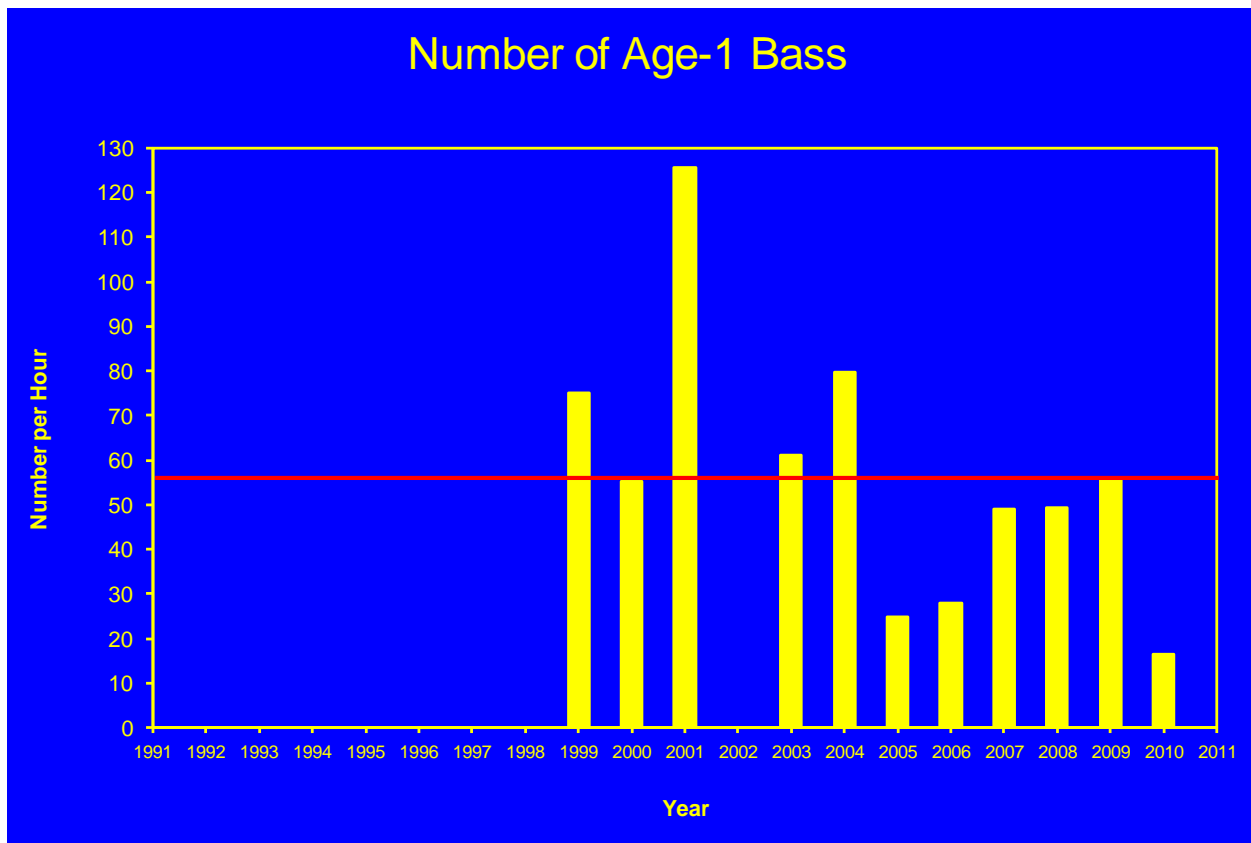
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Dewey Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged 10.6 inches at the lake since 1995 (represented by the red line). When compared to other lakes of this size, this is considered to be “poor” growth for largemouth bass. The most recent age data (2008), however, shows a slight increase at 11.3 inches. Growth rates are generally related to factors such as population density, food resources, and weather patterns.



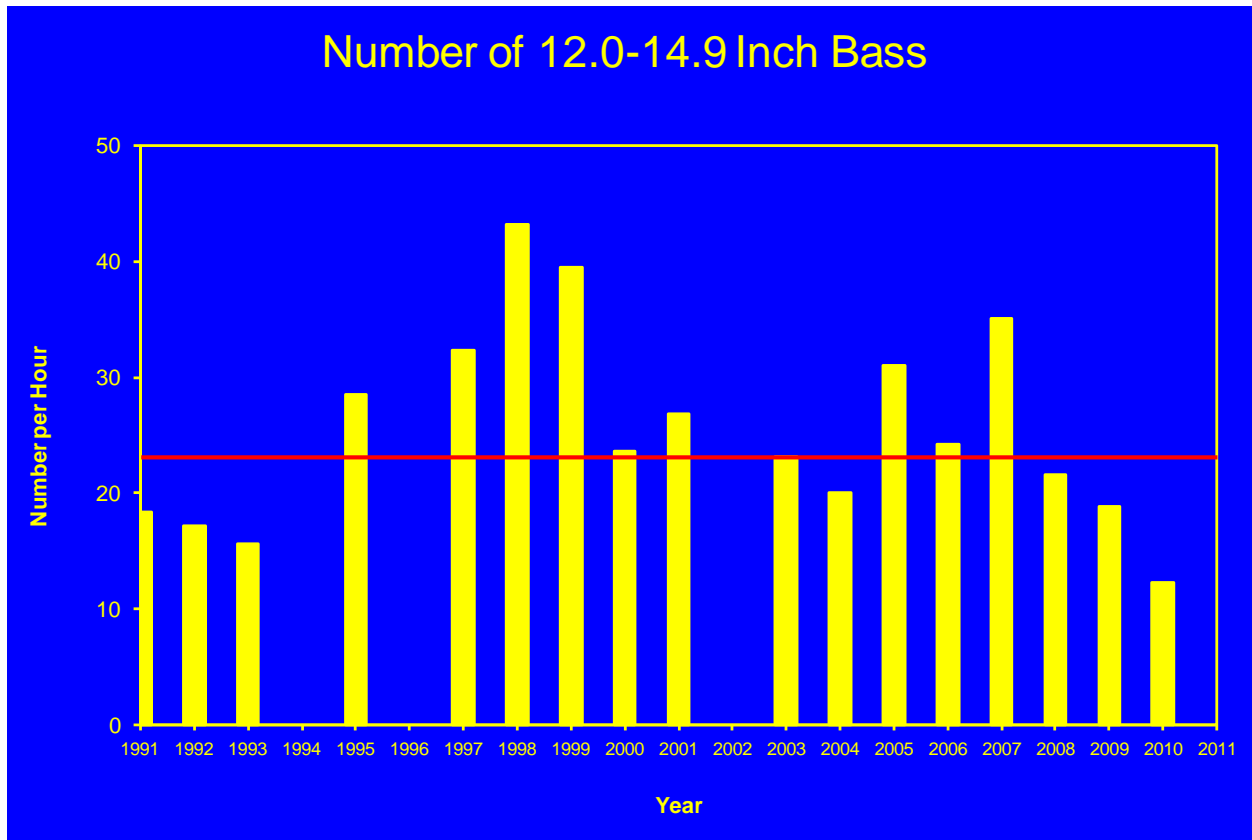
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

KDFWR looks at the 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 Dewey Lake, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged 56.37 fish per hour of electrofishing (see red line). When compared to other lakes in this size range, this is considered to be an “excellent” age-1 catch rate. In 2010, the spring catch of age-1 largemouth bass reached a low point, well below the 11-year average at 16.36 fish per hour, which is considered “poor” when compared to other lakes in this size range. This is representative of a poor 2009 year class. However, the spring 2010 largemouth bass sampling found poor numbers of bass from all size classes, and was likely a poor sample due to timing. Biologists do not believe that low numbers seen in 2010 are cause for alarm, although below average numbers of age-1 largemouth bass from 2005-2010 (averaging 37.18 fish per hour and considered “good”) may indicate reduced numbers of harvestable fish over the next few years. High numbers of age-0 largemouth bass found in the fall of 2010 suggest that there is a strong 2010 year class and the age-1 catch rate should improve in 2011.



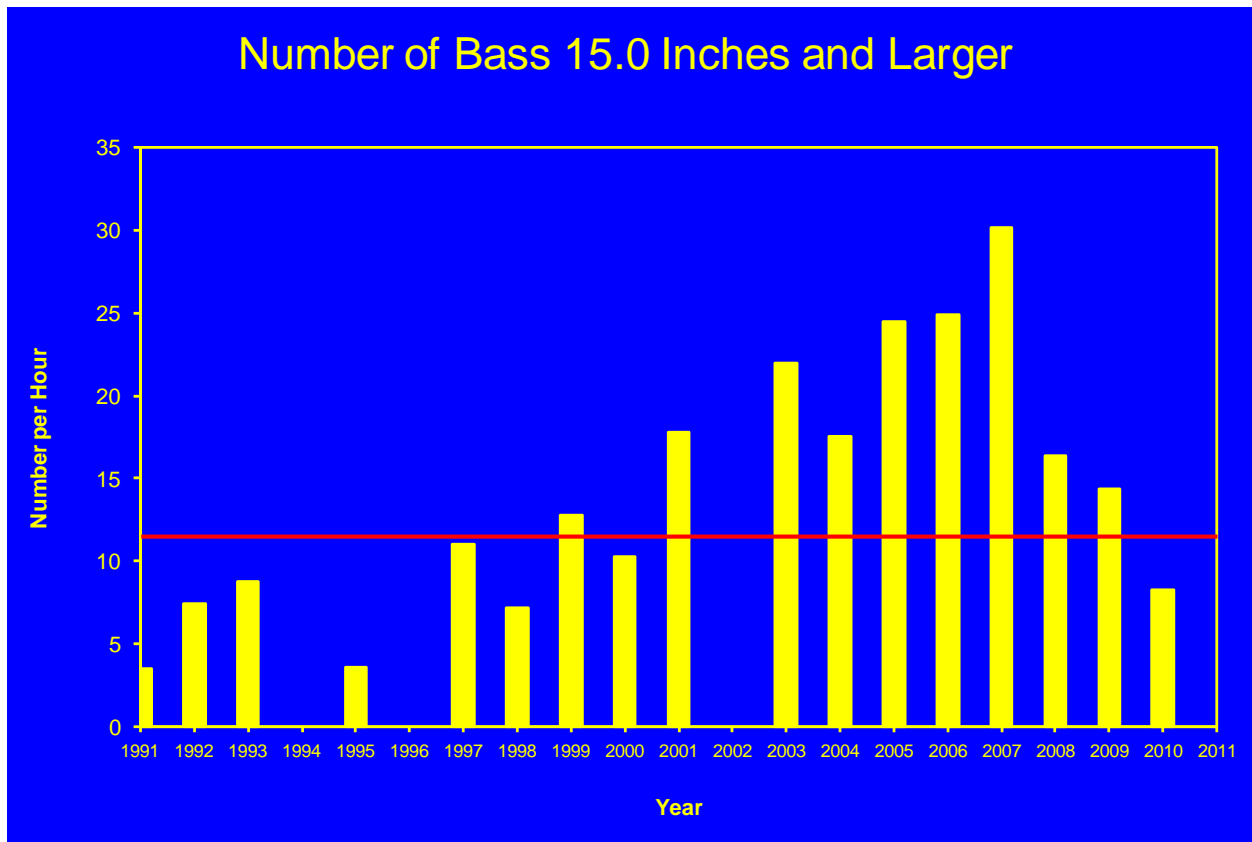
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged 23.39 fish per hour over the years (see red line), which gives Dewey Lake a “fair” rating when compared to other lakes in its size range. In 2010, the catch rate for this size range of bass was well below the 22 year average at 12.30 fish per hour of electrofishing, and considered “poor.” Again, this is not cause for alarm as the 2010 sample was not very representative of the population. However, numbers seen in 2008 and 2009 were also below average for Dewey Lake (21.56 and 18.80 fish per hour, respectively and both are considered “fair”). 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. As a result, slightly decreasing numbers of larger bass will be available to anglers fishing the lake.



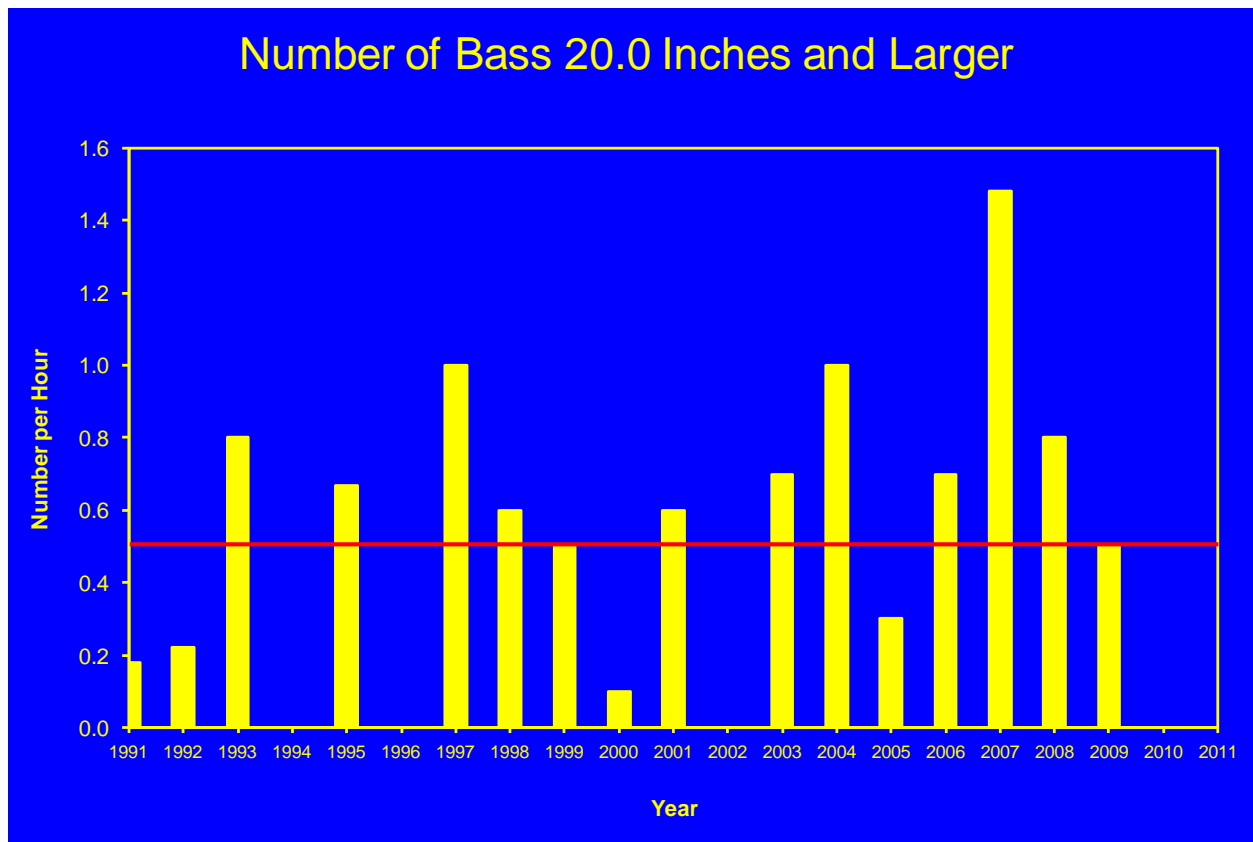
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass at Dewey Lake has averaged just over 11.95 fish per hour of electrofishing (red line). Again, as compared to other lakes, this is a “fair” catch rate for this size group. Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass at the lake had been generally increasing since 1998, but took a downward turn in 2008. This along with the downturn in the catch rate of bass between 12.0 and 14.9 inches leaves cause for concern for the quality of largemouth bass fishing in Dewey Lake in years to come.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 0.52 fish per hour at Dewey Lake since 1986. This catch rate gives the lake a “fair” rating when compared to other lakes in its size range. In 2010, no fish 20.0 inches and larger were found, again likely do to a poor sample. However, fair numbers of fish in this size range have been seen in recent years. While the chances of catching a trophy fish were probably better in 2007, catching a trophy would still not be out of the question.



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

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Dewey Lake has averaged a “good” rating over the past 12 years. The largemouth bass population at this lake has been fairly consistent until recently. The assessment score dropped by seven points (from 13 “good” to 6 “poor”) from 2009 to 2010, representing the largest drop since the initiation of this assessment. As mentioned, this drop is likely due mostly to poor sample timing. The assessment score will likely increase to near normal levels again in 2011.

