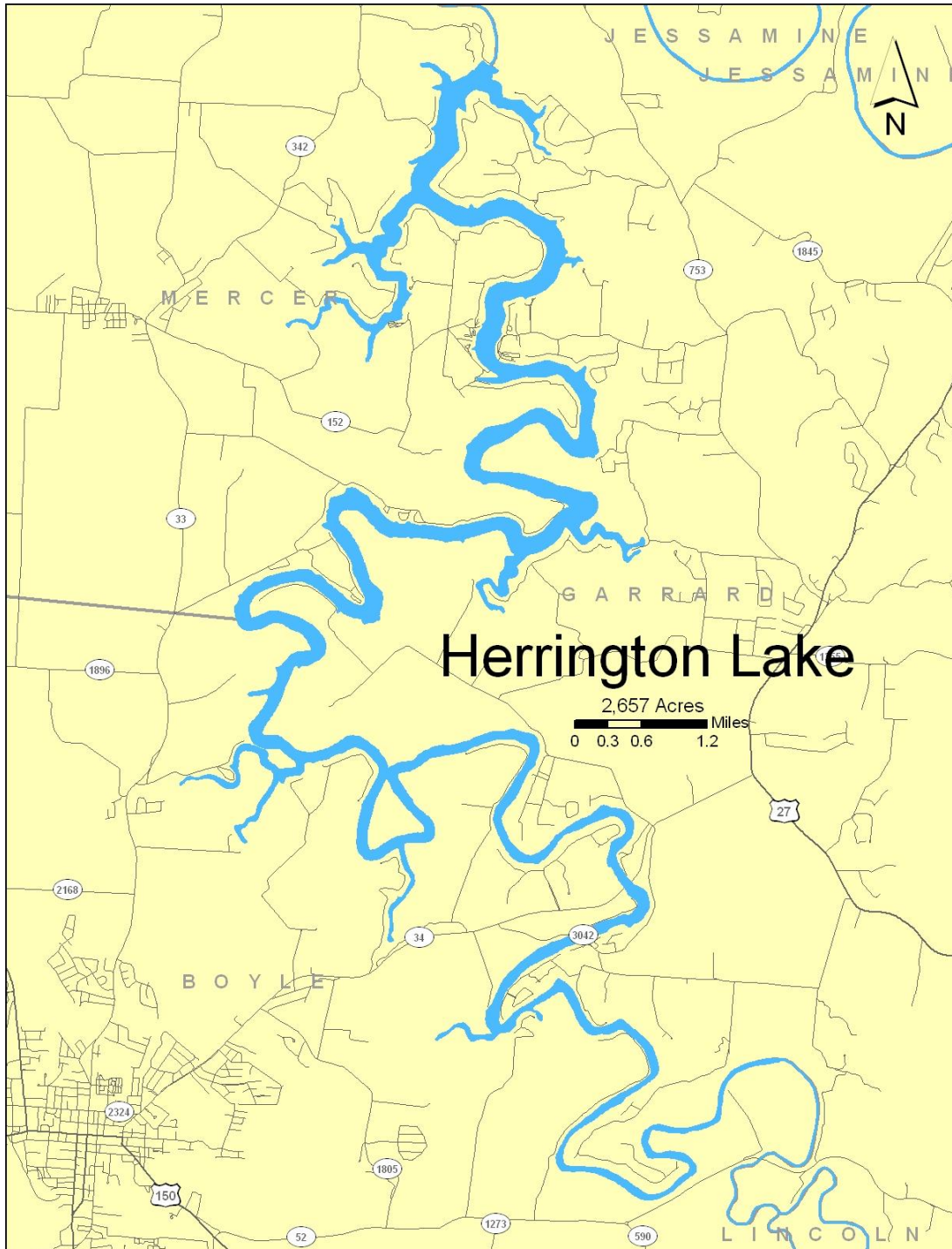


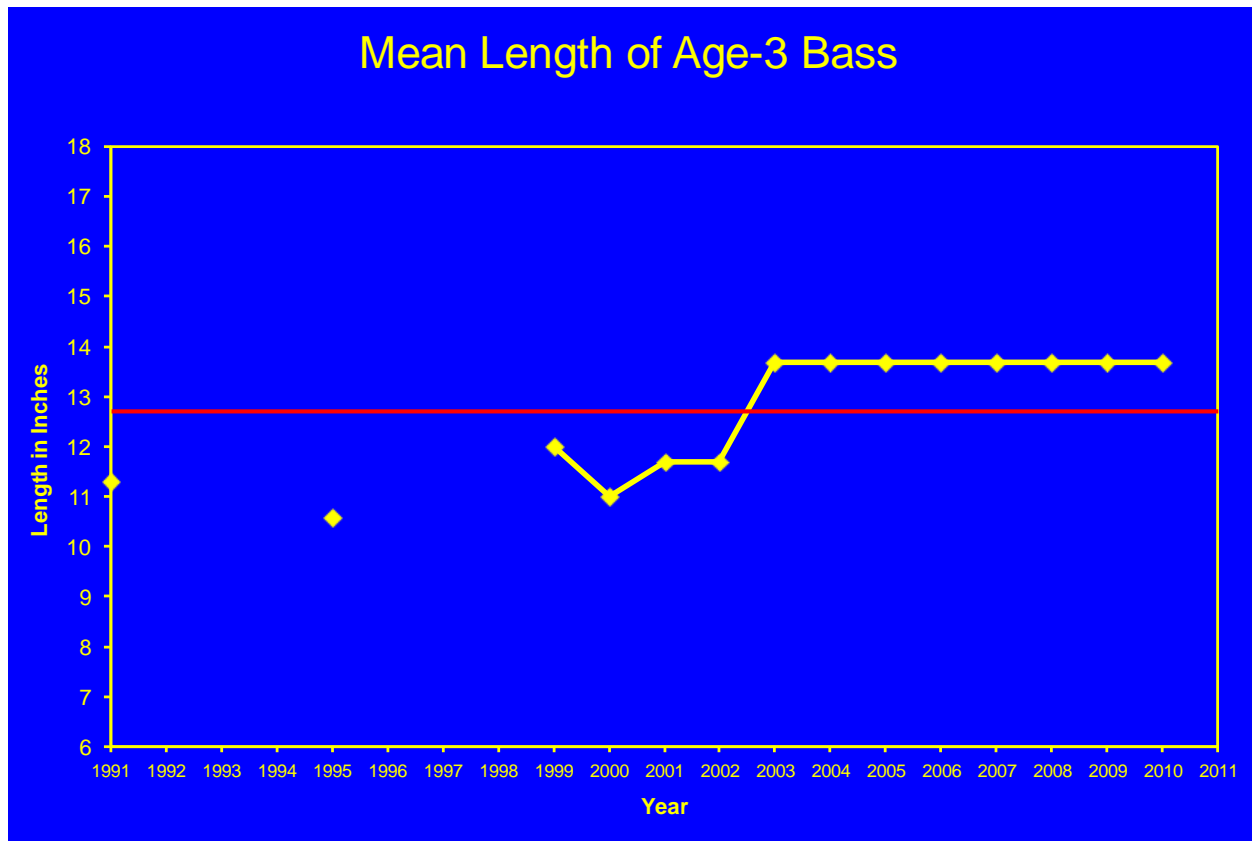
Herrington Lake Bass Assessment 2011

Herrington Lake is a 2,657-acre reservoir owned by Kentucky Utilities and is an impoundment on Dix River. Herrington Lake was impounded in the late 1920's. The lake has a very popular bass fishery due to its close proximity to Lexington. Past creel surveys have shown that there is heavy fishing pressure for largemouth bass at Herrington 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.



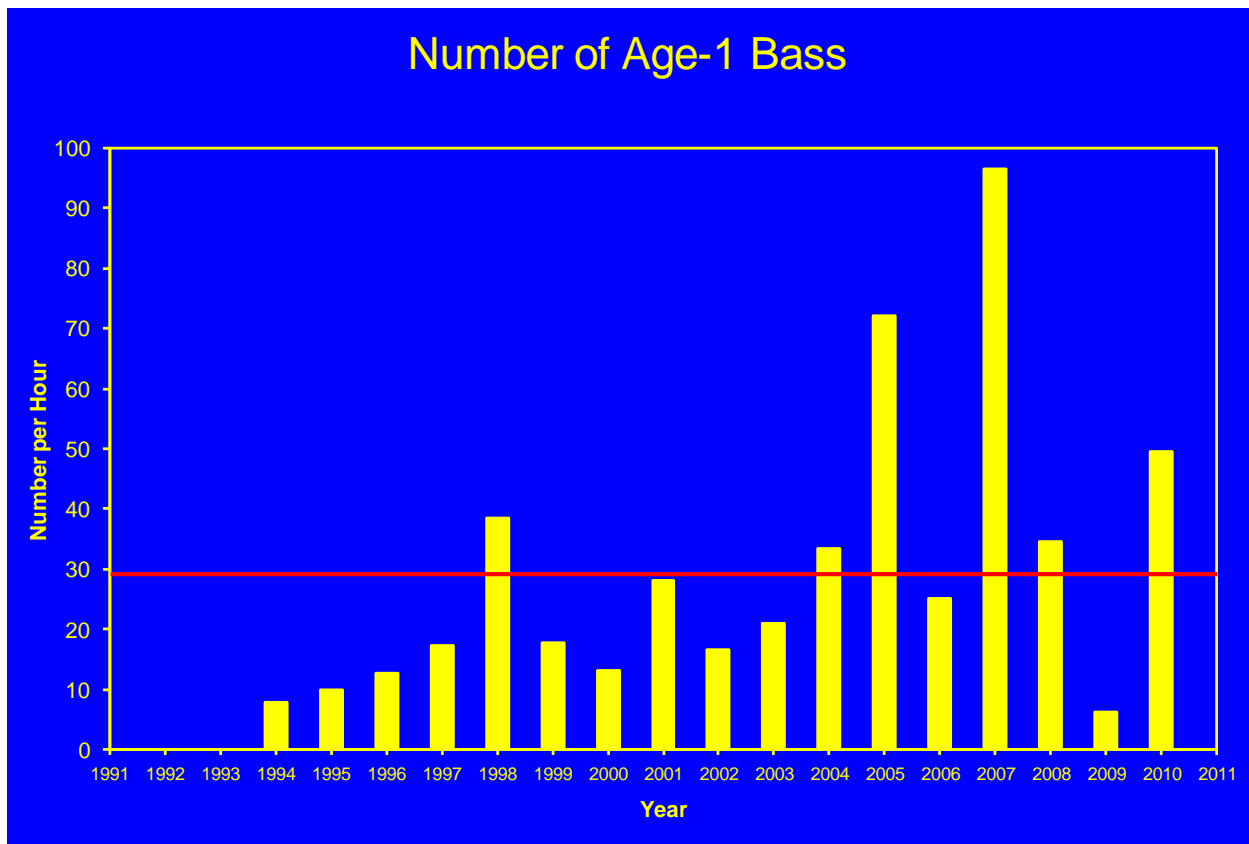
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Herrington Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged just less than 13.0 inches at the lake since 1991 and is represented by the red line. Compared to other reservoirs of a similar size, on average, largemouth bass generally exhibit good growth at Herrington Lake. Growth rates have ranged from poor to excellent during this period. 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 2007. Growth during 2007 was ranked as being excellent. KDFWR biologists are planning to reevaluate the growth rates of largemouth bass at Herrington Lake during their 2011 spring sampling.



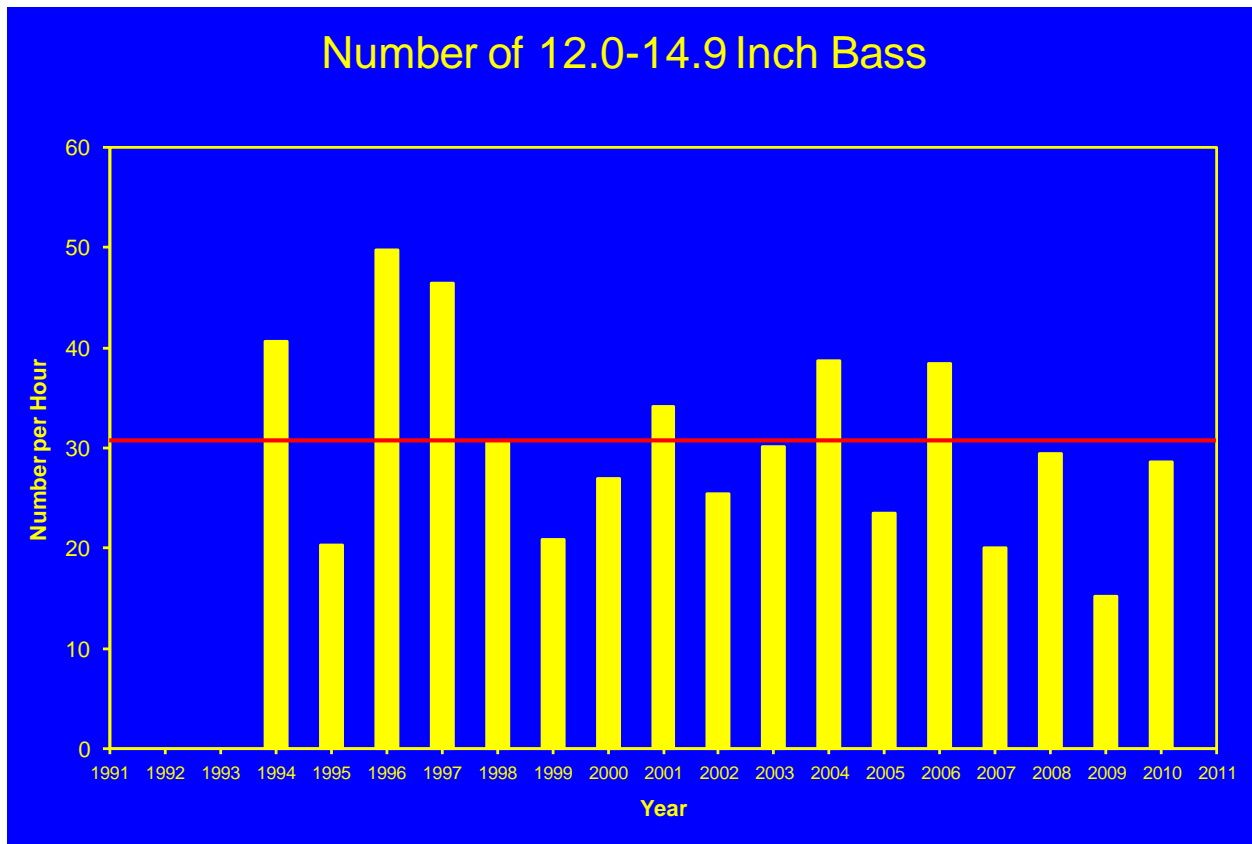
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

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 Herrington Lake, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged less than 30.00 bass/hr of electrofishing since 1994 as indicated by the red line. Overall, age-1 bass numbers at Herrington Lake are ranked as being fair compared to other lakes of a similar size. Recruitment was low during the 1990's but the department began buffering the poor reproduction by supplemental stocking of largemouth bass. In 2009, the spring catch of age-1 largemouth bass was the lowest on record in the past 15 years. In 2010, the spring catch of age-1 was one of the best spawns in recorded history. Bass fishing should benefit from this above average spawn over the next several years.



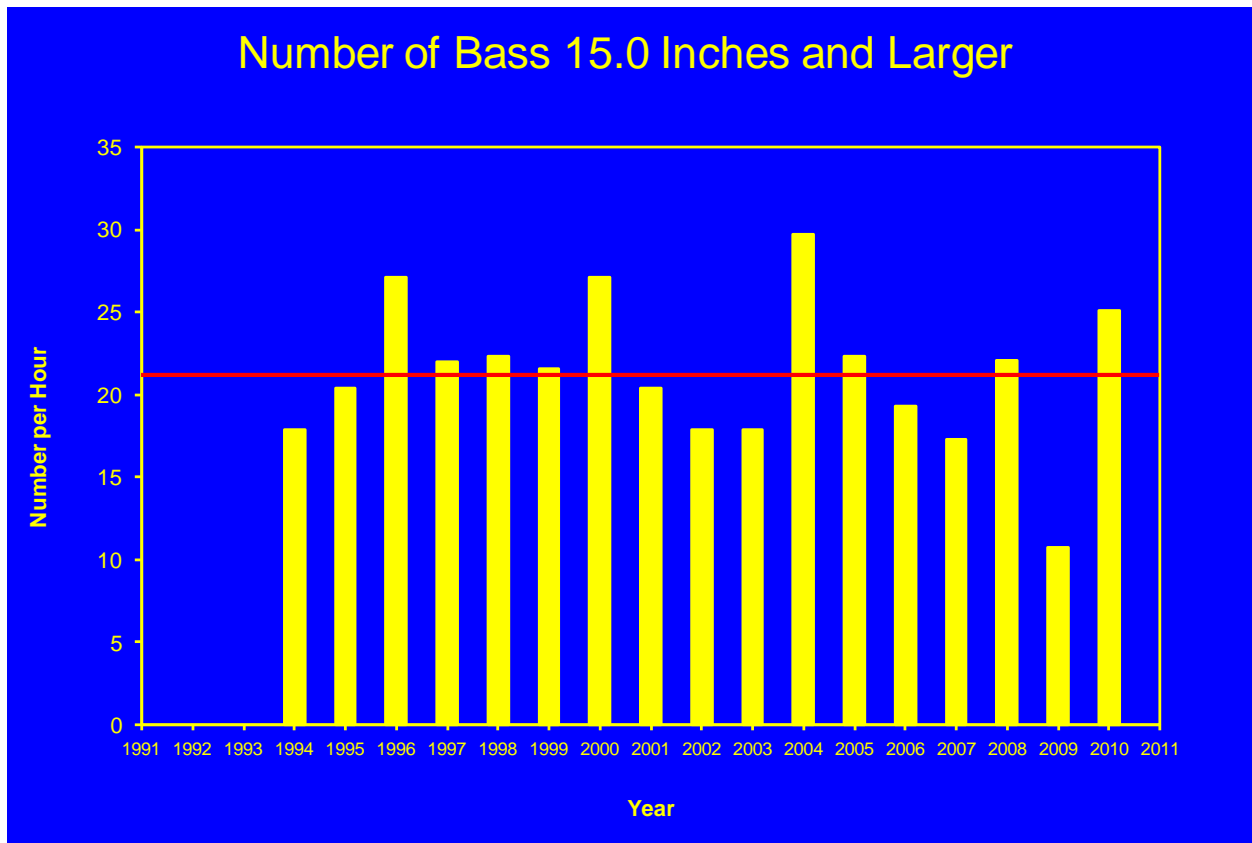
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged a little over 30.00 fish/hr over the years as indicated by the red line. As compared to other lakes, this is a good catch rate for this size group of bass. Over the past four years, KDFWR biologists have recorded below average catch rates of this size group at Herrington Lake. However, with the improved reproduction over the past couple of years, the numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass should increase in the near future.



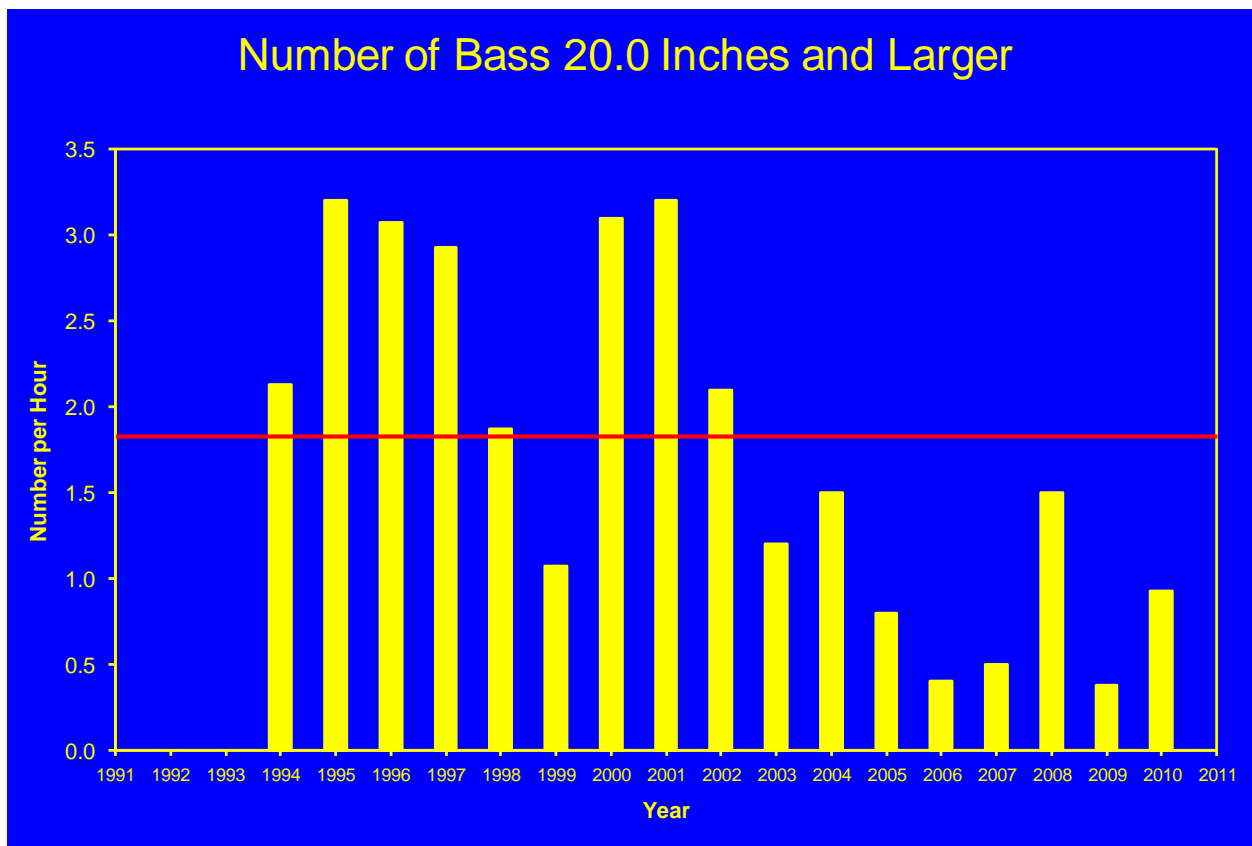
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

Electrofishing catch of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged over 20.0 fish/hr as indicated by the red line. Again, as compared to other lakes, this is an excellent catch rate for this size group. In 2010, biologists continued to observe an excellent catch rate of largemouth bass in this size group. Numbers should remain high due to the higher catch rates of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass collected over the past three years.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass have averaged about 1.80 fish/hr since 1994 as indicated by the red line. Compared to other lakes, this is a fair catch rate for this size group. The catch rates of 20.0 inch and larger bass declined in the late 1990's and early 2000, but numbers have made a gradual improvement over the past few years. These numbers are expected to remain the same or gradually improve over the next few years.



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

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Herrington Lake has rated as a good largemouth bass lake since 1994 as indicated by the red line. The largemouth bass population at Herrington Lake has been fairly stable with one fair rating and the rest good ratings. In 2010, the overall assessment rating for the largemouth bass population at Herrington Lake was good. Therefore, the future of the largemouth bass fishery at Herrington Lake looks very promising based on this assessment.

