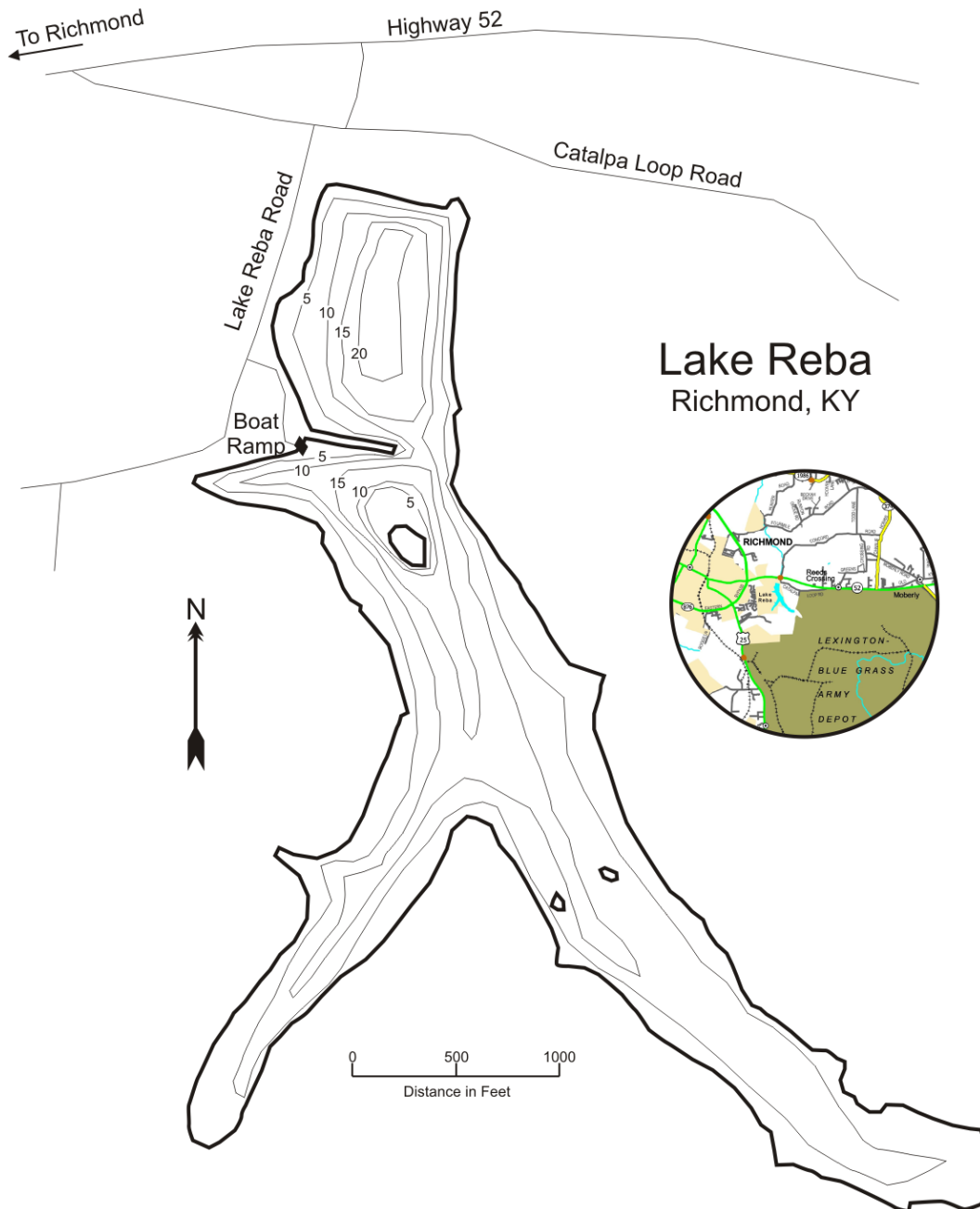


Lake Reba Bass Assessment 2011

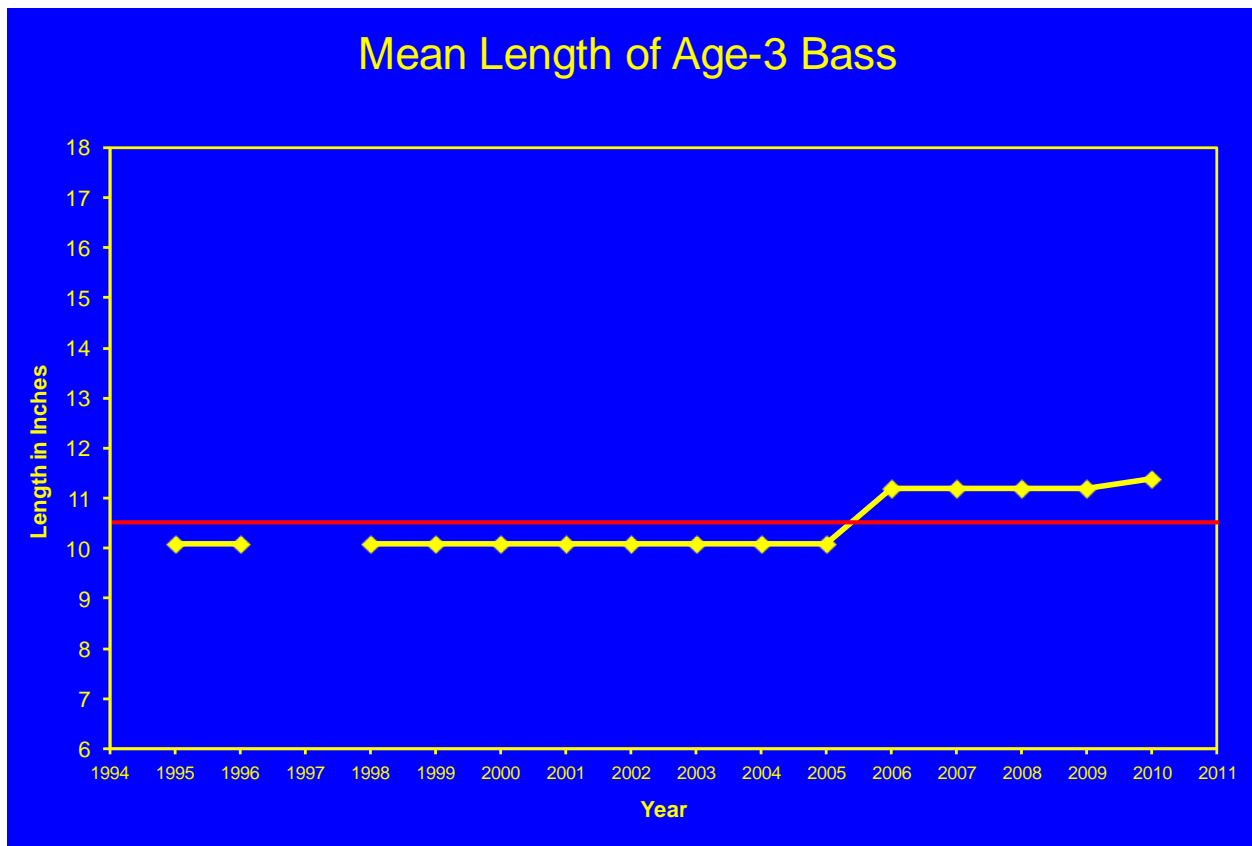
Lake Reba is a 76 acre reservoir located just to the east of Richmond in Madison County. The lake was created in the 1890's by impounding Otter Creek in the Kentucky River drainage. The lake has taken several forms over the last century but in the 1990's a new dam was built creating the present form of Lake Reba. It is bordered by Gibson Bay Golf Course, Richmond City Park, Catalpa Park and the Bluegrass Army Depot. It is a popular destination for anglers fishing for largemouth bass, channel catfish, and sunfish species (namely bluegill and redear sunfish). Please see "Understanding the Largemouth Bass Assessment" article for an explanation of how the assessment works.

Please note there is a 15.0 inch minimum size limit on largemouth bass and a 3 fish daily creel limit. Possession of shad for bait is prohibited in this lake and there is an electric motor only restriction on all boats.



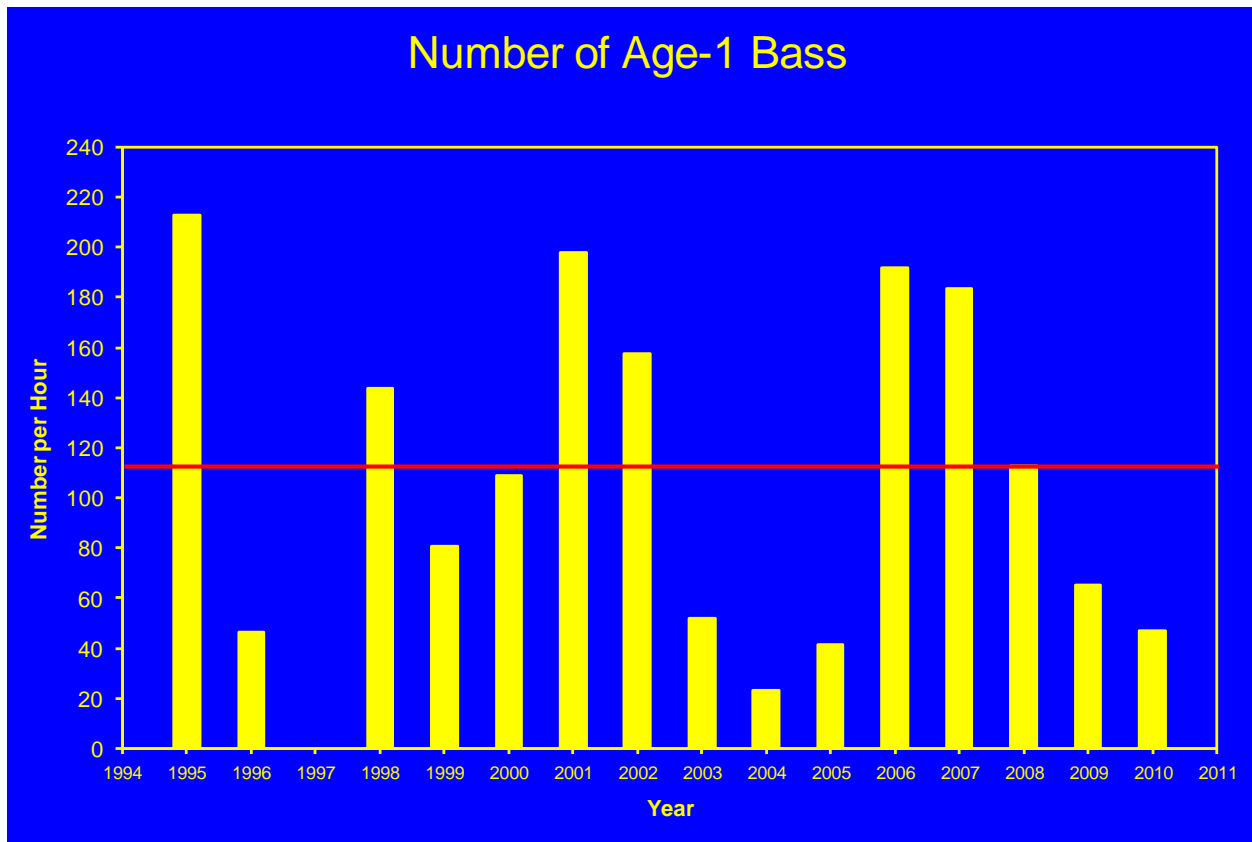
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Lake Reba the length of age-3 fish has averaged 10.5 inches since 1995 (represented by the red line). When compared to other lakes in Kentucky of similar size this is considered fair growth for largemouth bass. Over the last five years this parameter has increased to 11.2 inches and 11.4 inches which is considered good growth and marginal excellent growth. 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 2010.



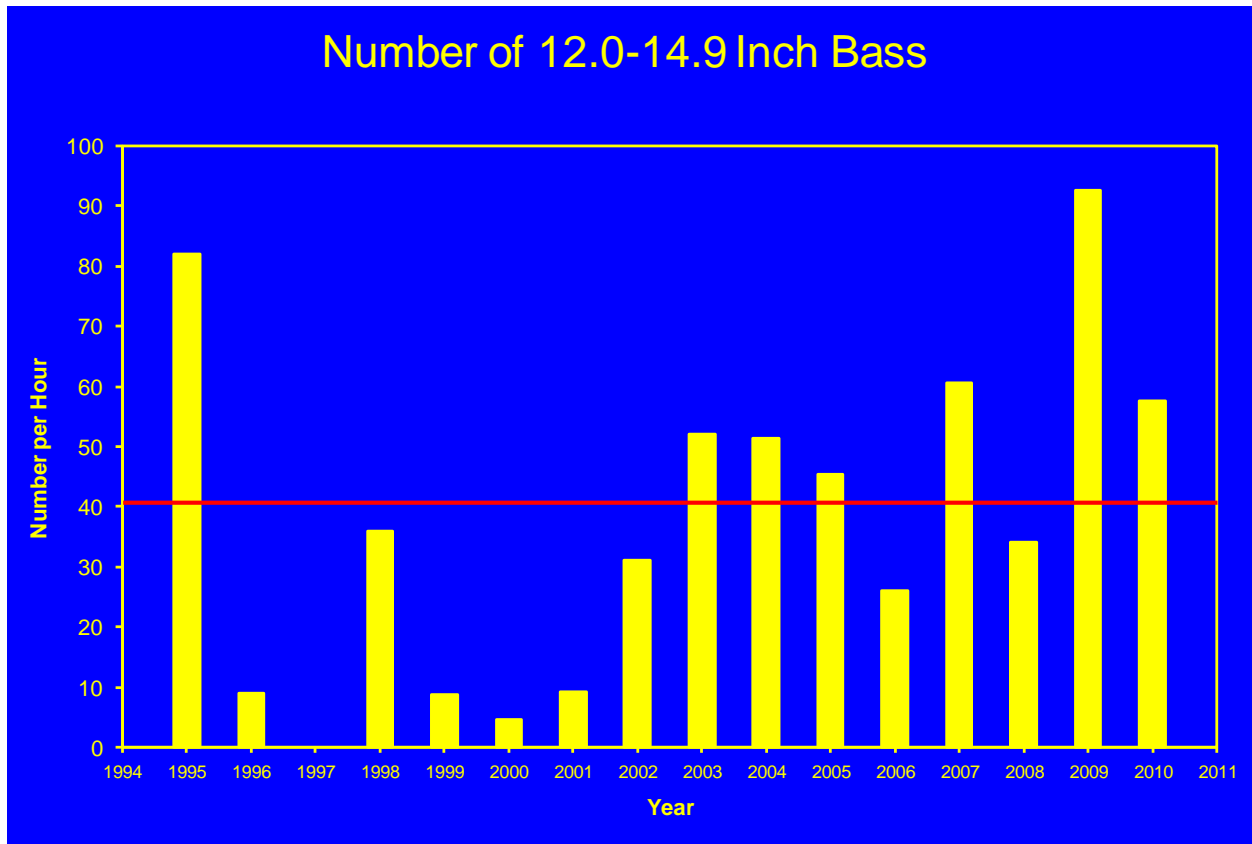
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

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. Since 1995, Lake Reba has averaged around 110.00 age-1 bass captured per hour. This is considered to be excellent when compared to other lakes of similar size. However, since 2006, this level has continuously fallen to well below the 15 year average. This could be related to factors such as food availability, predation on these young fish and weather or lake conditions during the spawn. It should be noted, though, that in 2009 a catch rate of 47.00 fish/hour was obtained and this still is good recruitment when compared to other lakes of this size. KDFWR supplemented poor recruitment by stocking fingerling largemouth bass in the lake in 2008, 2009 and 2010.



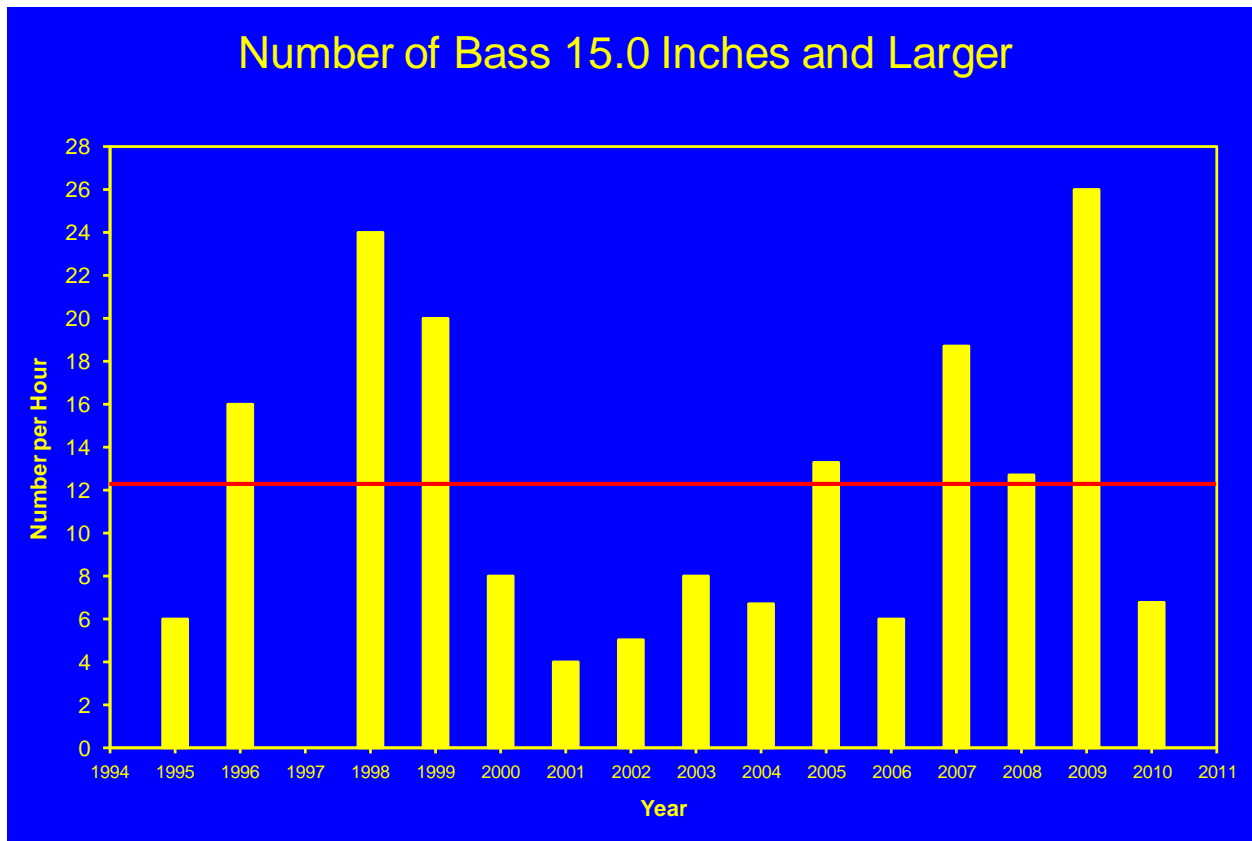
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass in Lake Reba has averaged around 40.00 fish/hour which is good when compared to other lakes of similar size. This catch rate decreased in 2010, but is still above the mean and still considered to be excellent. High abundance of fish in the 12.0-15.0 inch range might be expected given the fertility of the lake and the protection provided by the 15.0 inch minimum size limit.



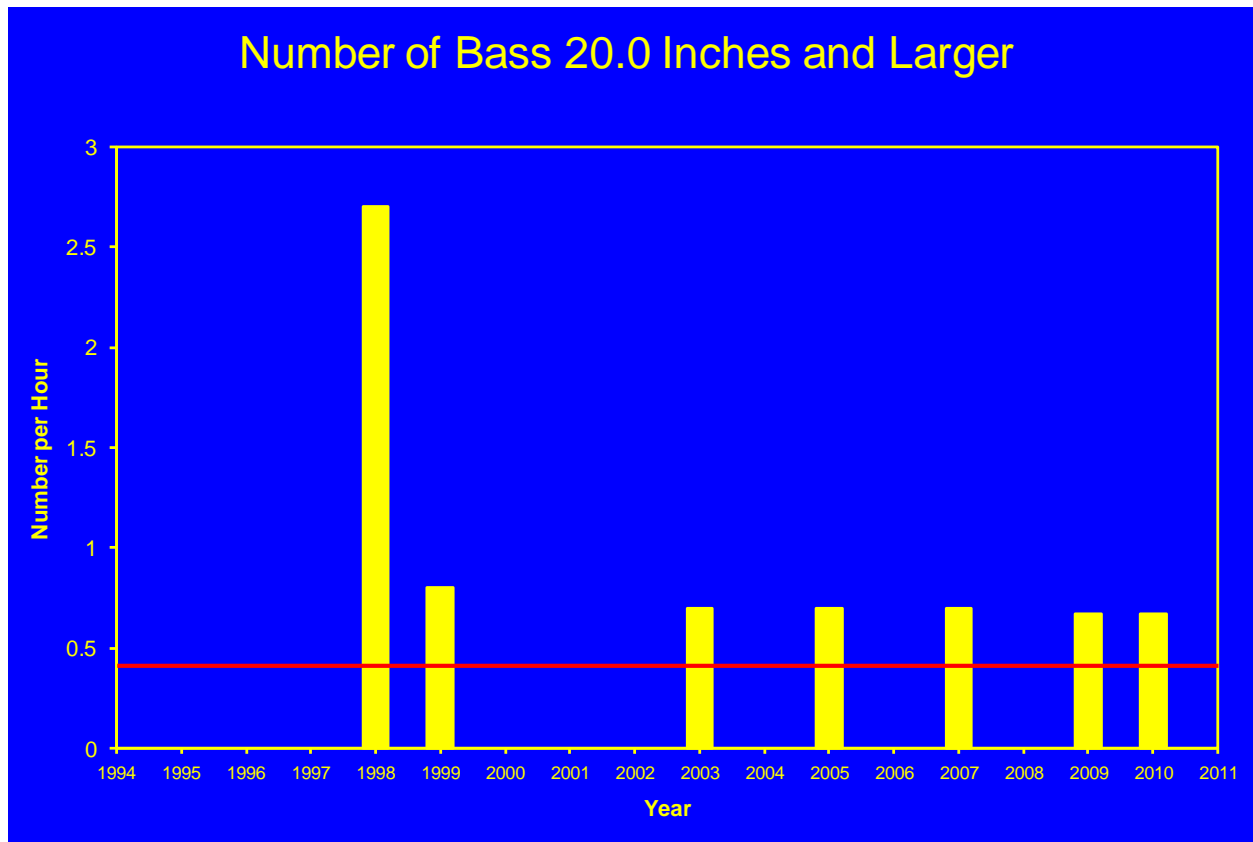
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 12.00 fish/hour since 1995. This is considered to be fair when compared to other lakes of similar size. The trend for this size class appears to be a high year followed by a down year and 2010 appeared to be a down year with 6.75 fish/hour. This was the first year below the mean since 2006 and downward trends in this size range might be related to competition factors decreasing the abundance of fish as they become larger, or just simply a sampling anomaly. Continued sampling of this population is most definitely warranted to monitor future trends.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged almost 0.50 fish/hour since 1995. This is considered to be poor when compared to other lakes of similar size. With the exception of 1998, this number has been fairly consistent through the years. There are a few 20.0 inch or larger fish in Lake Reba, but better opportunities may be found at other lakes in area.



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

Overall, when compared to other lakes in Kentucky, the largemouth bass fishery at Lake Reba has been fair to good since 1995. Since 1995 the lake has rated good five times with three of those five years occurring since 2003. Overall, the lake is a great place to largemouth bass fish in Eastern Kentucky for smaller bass.

