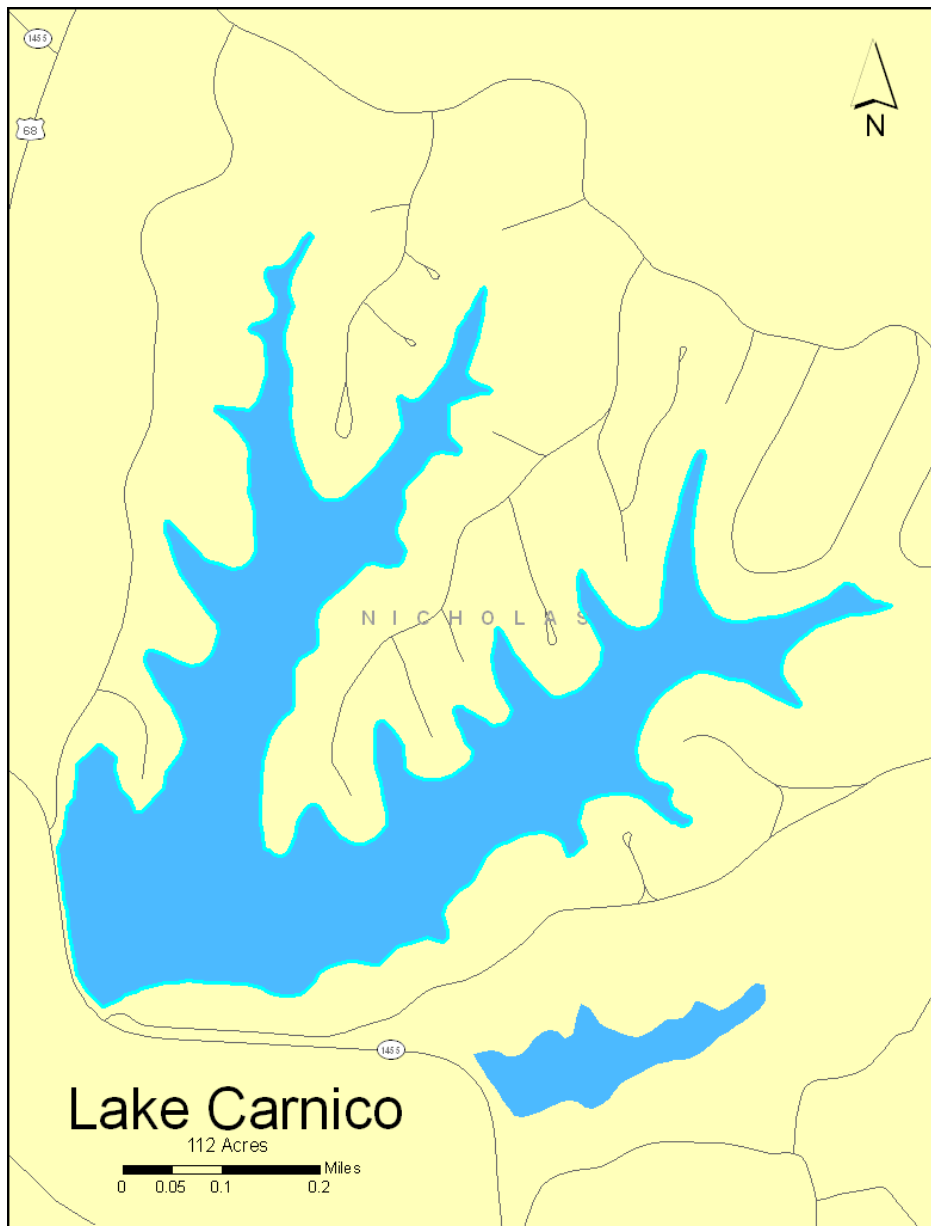


Lake Carnico Bass Assessment 2016

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 the [Sportfish Assessments](#) page for an explanation of how the assessment works and for a list of other lakes with largemouth bass assessments.

Please note that the minimum size limit for largemouth bass on this lake is 15.0 inches.



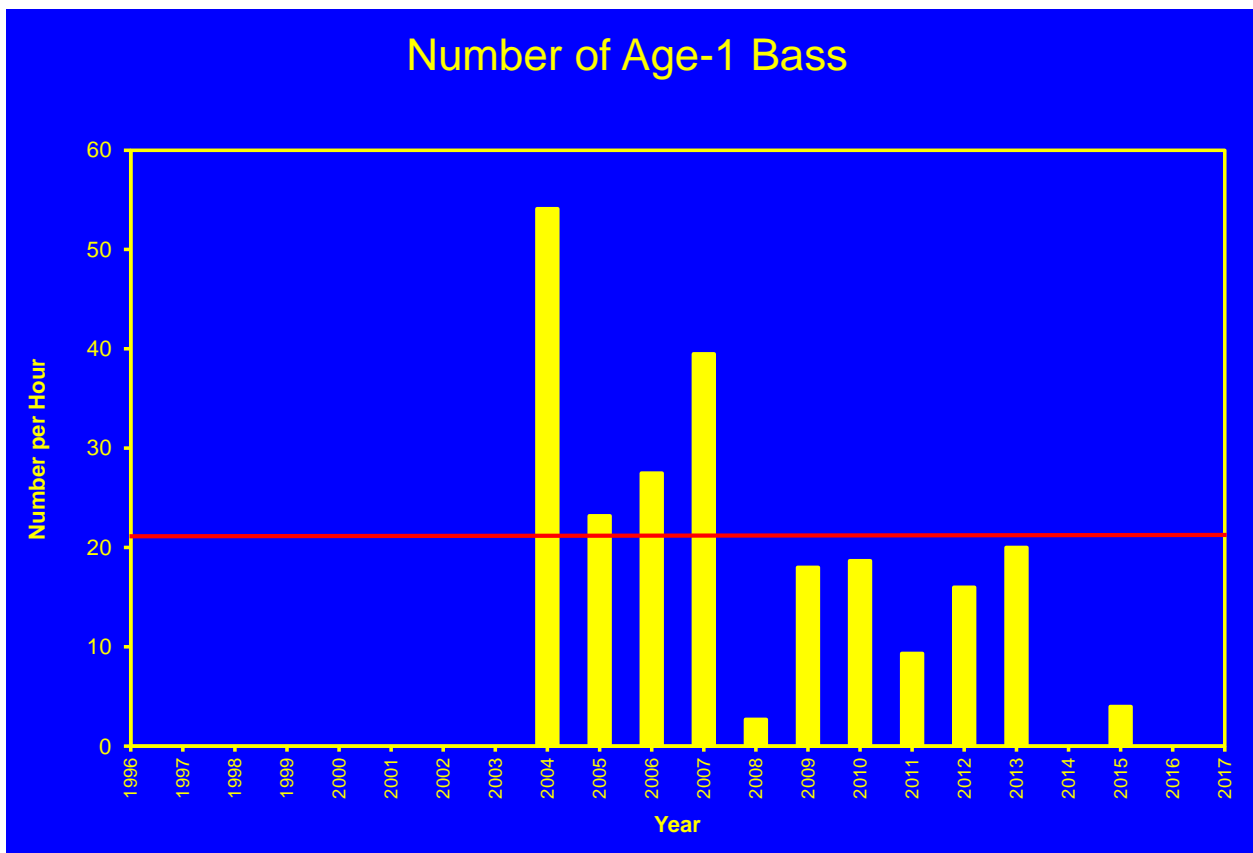
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Lake Carnico, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged 10.8 inches since 1992 (represented by the red line). When compared to other lakes of similar size, the average growth rate for largemouth bass at this lake is “Good”. Growth rates are generally related to factors such as population density, food resources, lake fertility and weather patterns. The last year that largemouth bass were aged was 2009, and the length of age-3 largemouth bass was 11.0 inches.



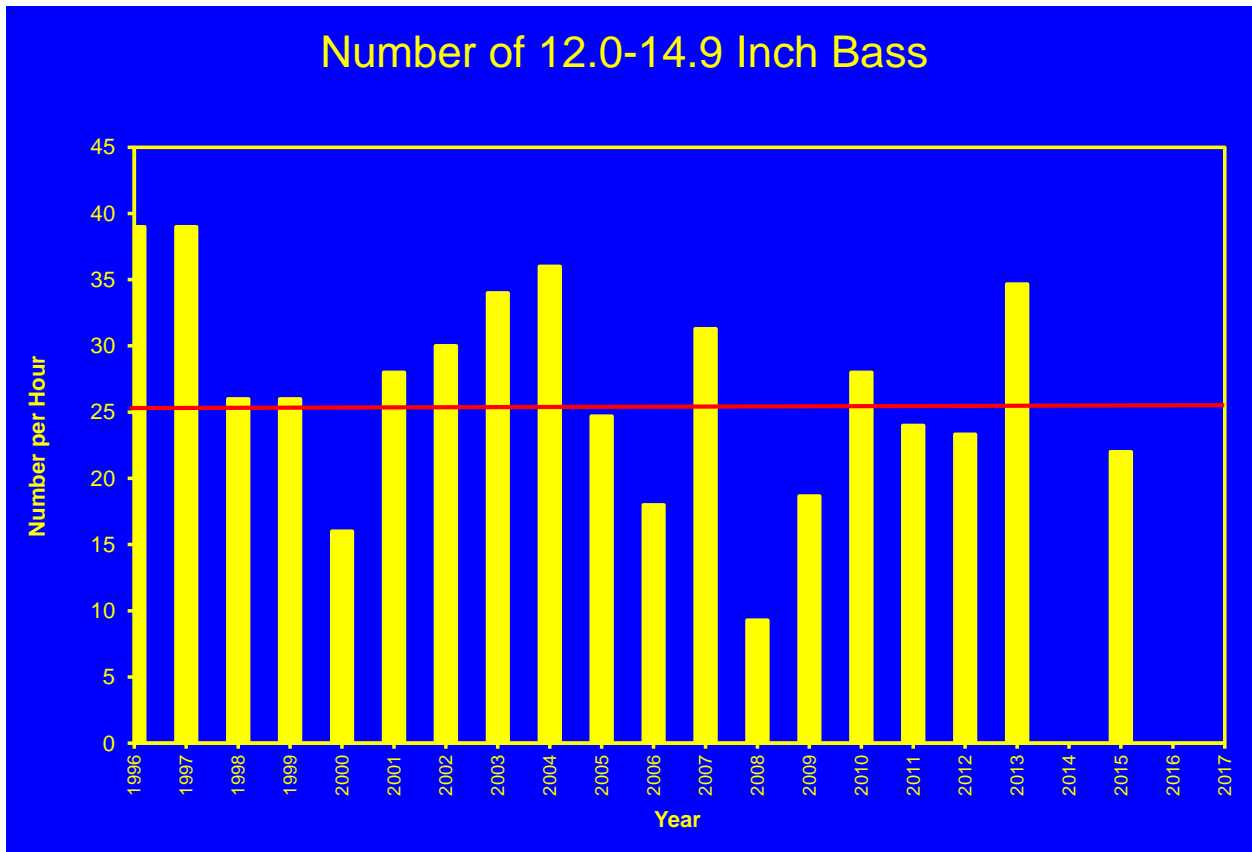
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

Catch rates of age-1 largemouth bass are used 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 21.2 fish per hour (f/h) of electrofishing. When compared to other lakes of similar size, this is considered to be a “Fair” age-1 catch rate. Since 2008 catch rates of age-1 fish has been below average and hovered in the “Fair” range. To make up for these shortages, KDFWR has been stocking juvenile largemouth bass. These stockings should help to offset poor spawns and recruitment.



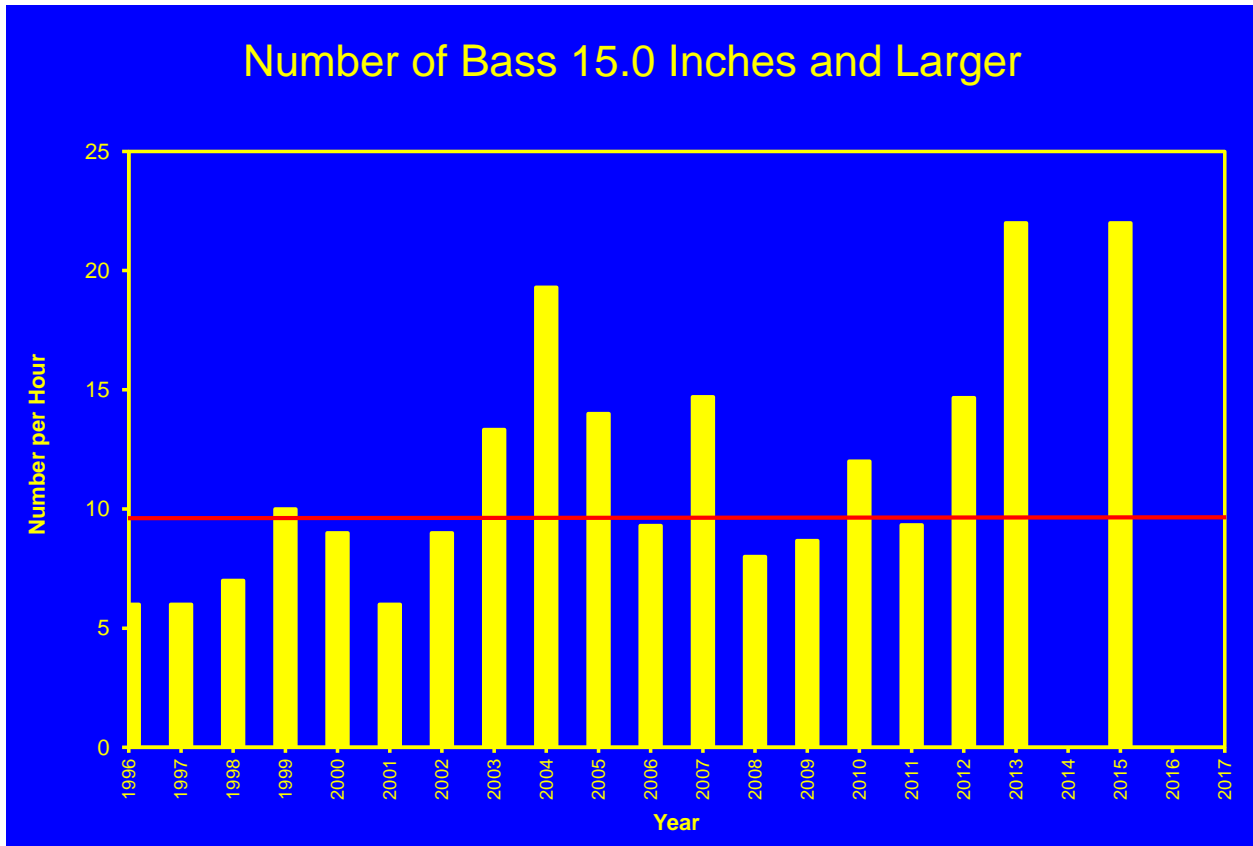
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass since 1990 has averaged 25.4 f/h which puts Lake Carnico in the “Fair” rating when compared to other lakes of similar size. However, since 2005 the lake has only produced values over the mean in 3 years (2007, 2010 and 2013). Considering the average catch from 2005 to present, the mean value is just slightly lower than the 23 year average and still would be fair. If the survival rates of those bass stocked since 2008 are good, look for values within Parameter 3 to be on the increase.



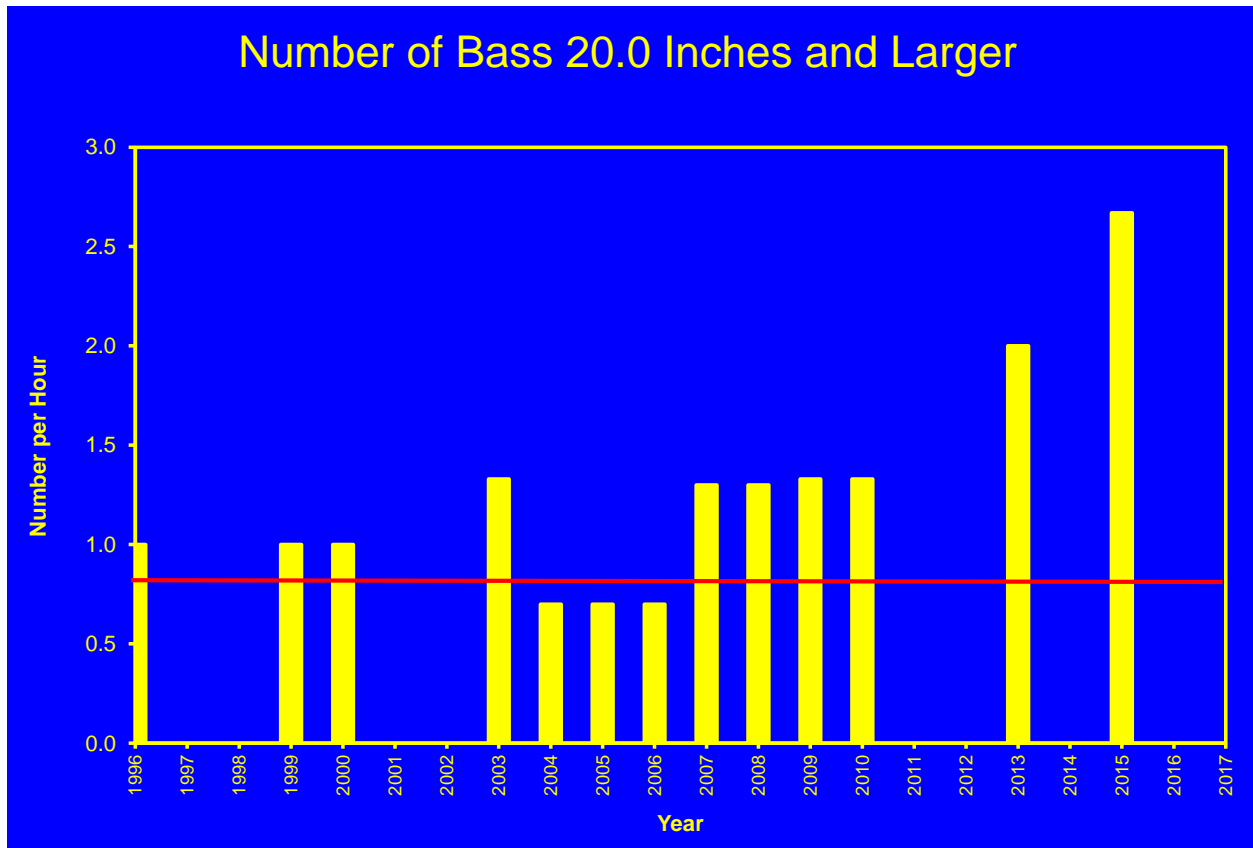
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 9.7 f/h over the past 23 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 reaching a fluctuating peak since 1999. In 2015 the catch rate was 22.0 f/h which now indicates the bass fishery has moved into the “Good” category.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

Since 1990 the electrofishing catch rate of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 0.7 f/h for Lake Carnico. As compared to other lakes of similar size, this is a “Fair” catch rate for this size group. The catch rate in 2013 and 2015 were some of the highest on record (average of 2.3 f/h, which would be considered “Good”).



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 20 years (as indicated by the red line). While the lake reached a high point in 2004, it has been on a decline until 2012 and 2013 where improvements have been seen. Lake Carnico is a medium fertility lake which limits the abundance of available forage which in turn may contribute to the lake having an average overall rating. In 2015 this lake was rated “Fair”.

