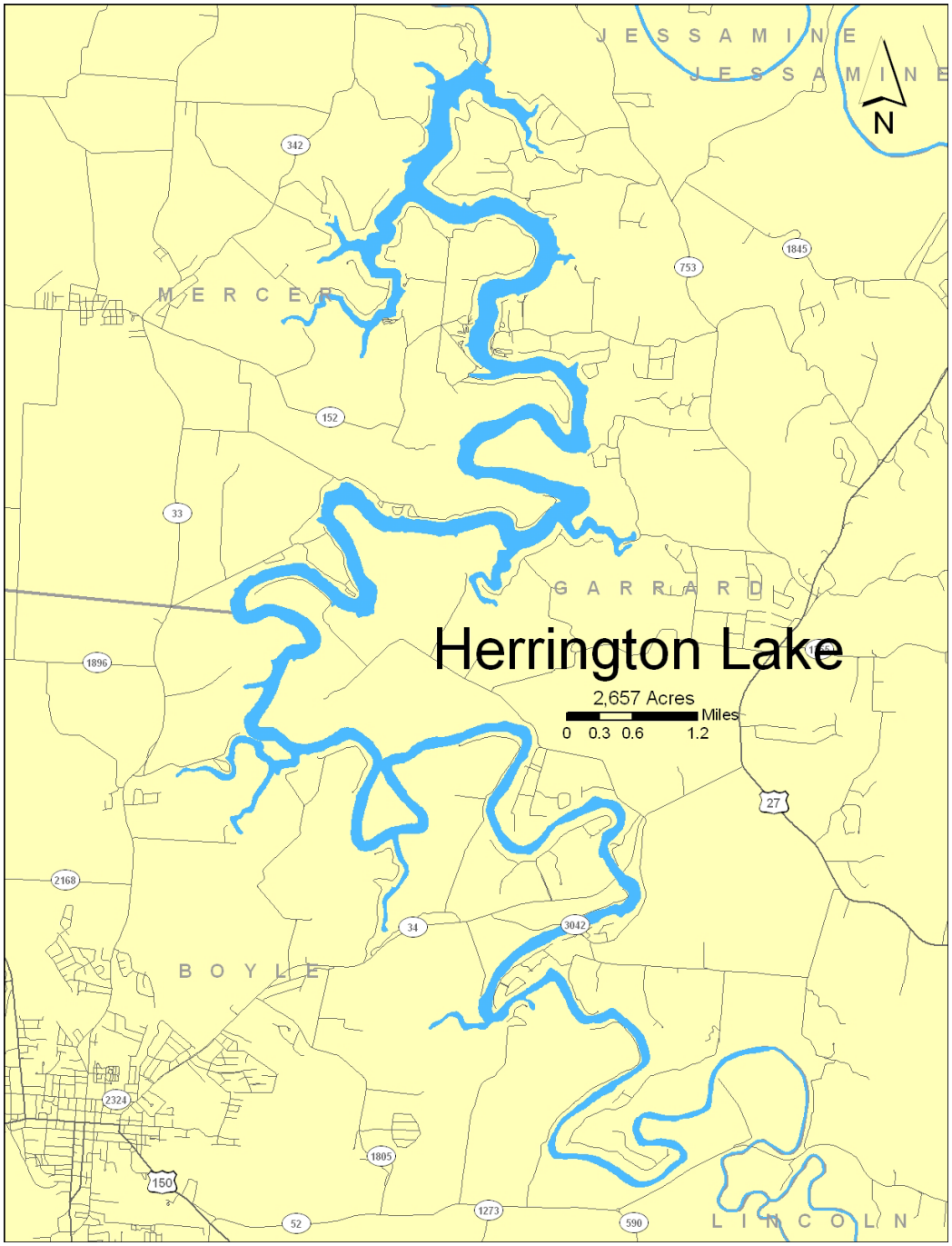
Herrington Lake Bass Assessment 2022

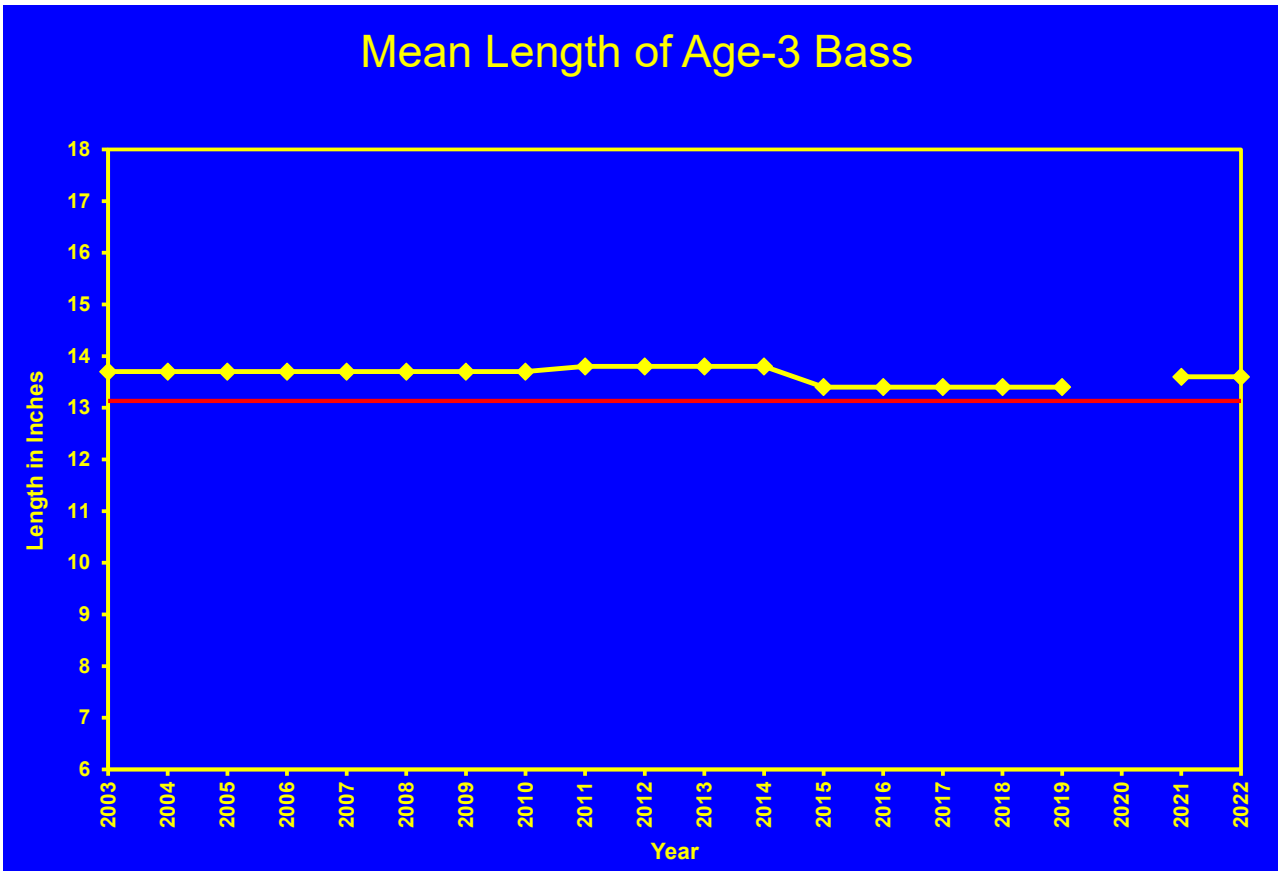
Herrington Lake is a 2,657-acre reservoir owned by Kentucky Utilities and is an impoundment on the Dix River. Herrington Lake was impounded in the late 1920's. The lake has a very popular bass fishery due to its close proximity to Lexington. Past creel surveys have shown that there is heavy fishing pressure 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 the Sportfish Assessments page for an explanation of how the assessment works and for a list of other lakes with largemouth bass assessments.



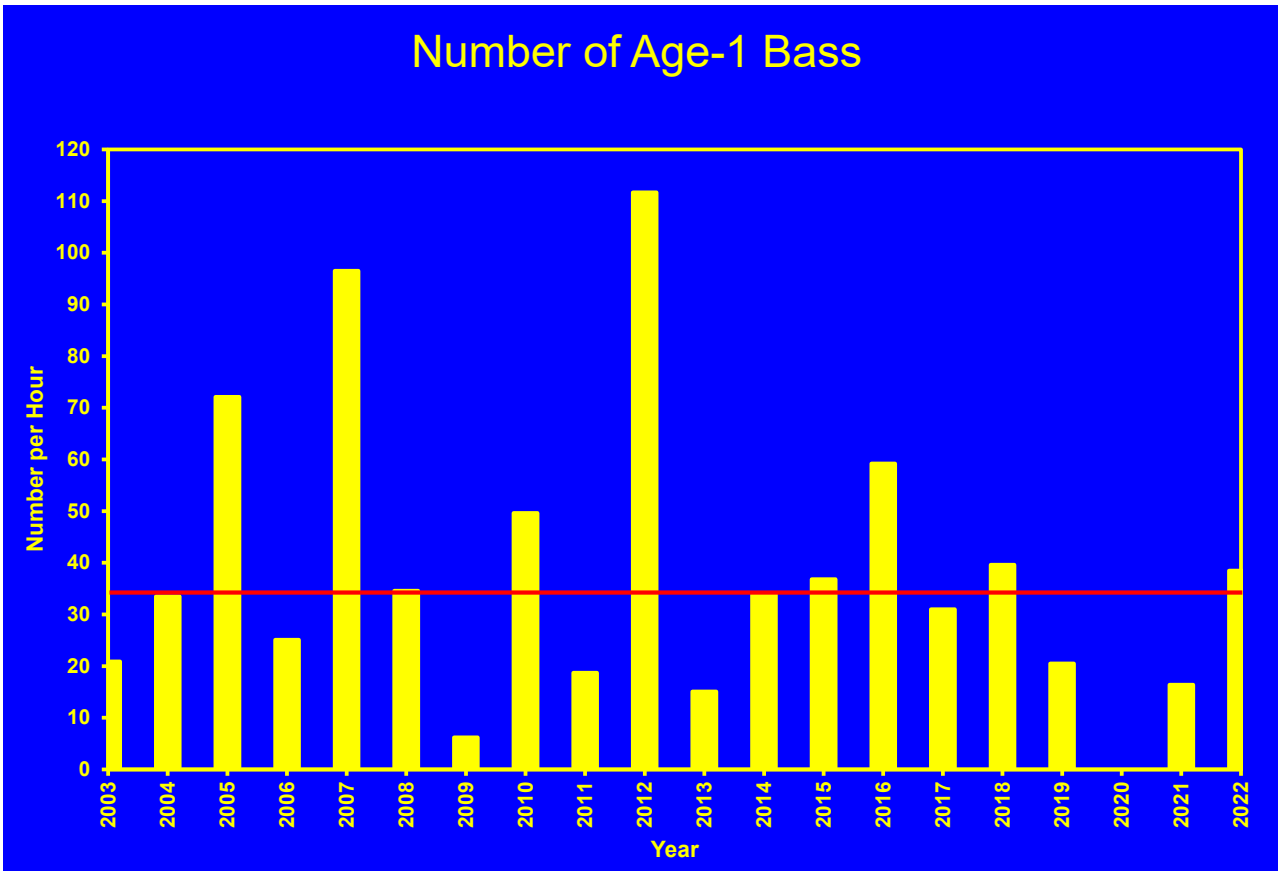
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Herrington Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged 13.1 inches (average from 1994-present) which 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 2021 where growth was ranked as being excellent. KDFWR biologists are planning to re-evaluate the growth rates of largemouth bass at Herrington Lake in 2026.



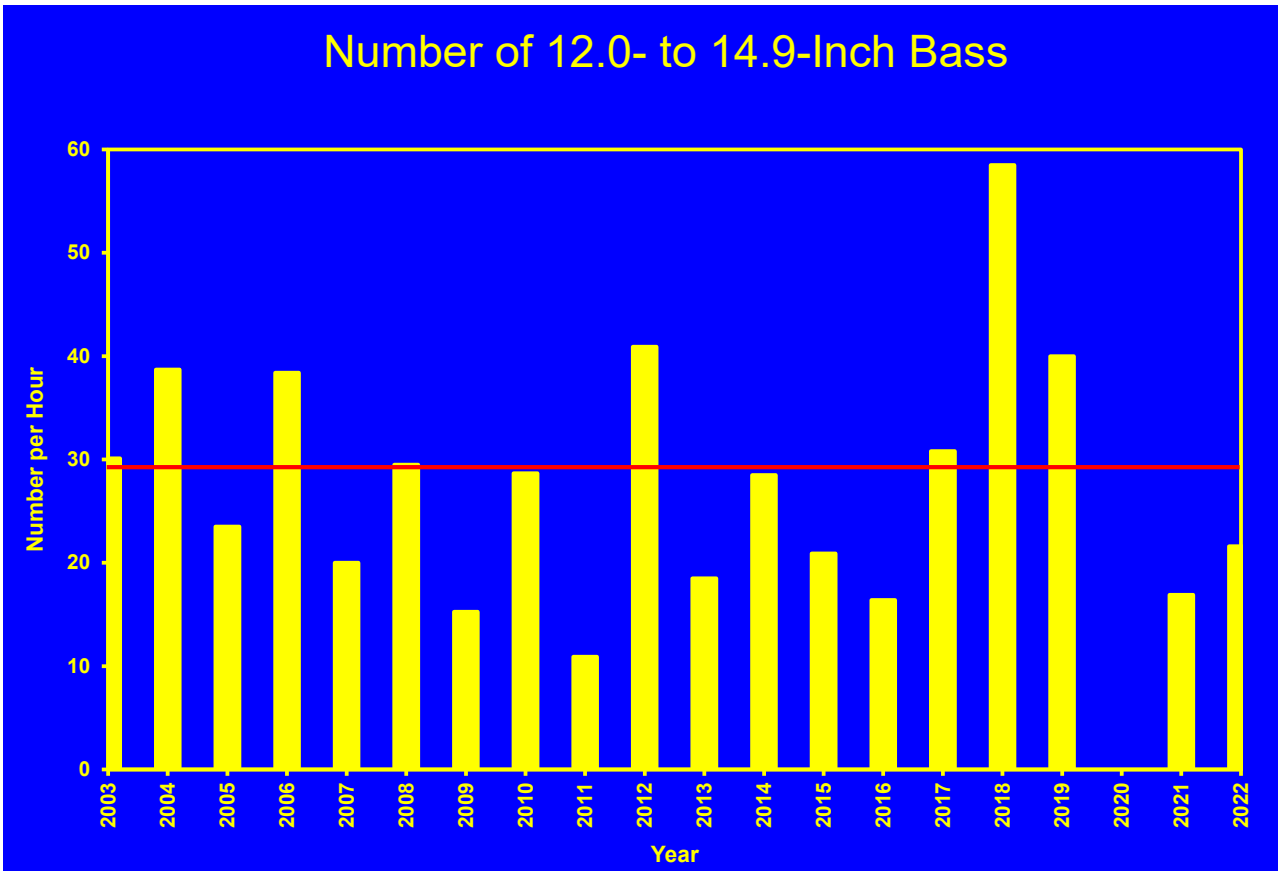
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

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 32.9 bass/hr of electrofishing (1994-present) indicated by the red line. Overall, age-1 bass numbers at Herrington Lake are ranked as being good compared to other lakes of a similar size. However, during years of poor reproduction, the department does provide supplemental stocking of largemouth bass. The spring catch of age-1 bass was above average in 2022, and biologists will continue to monitor this parameter and its contribution to the overall bass population.



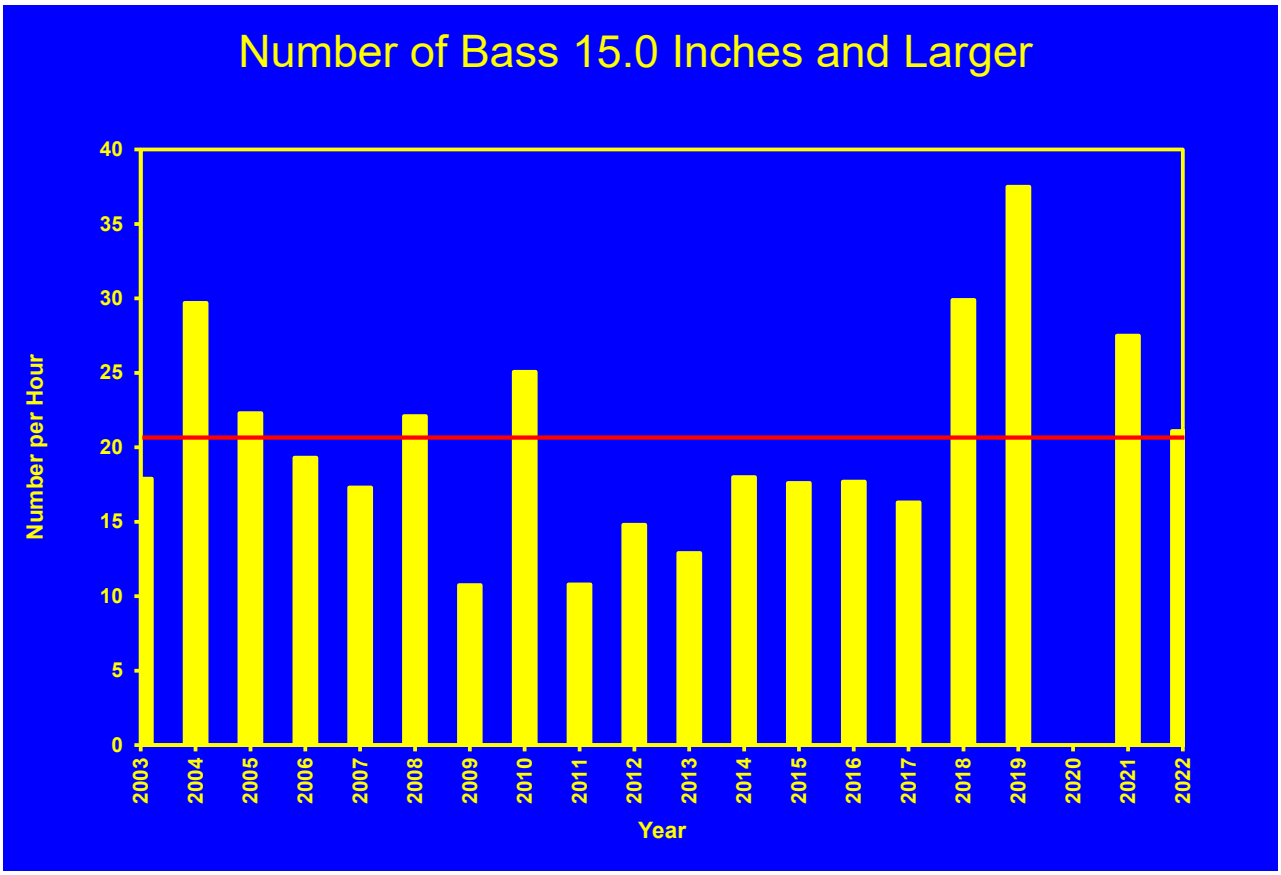
Parameter 3 – Number of 12.0- to 14.9-inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged 29.4 bass/hr (1994-present) 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 two years, KDFWR biologists have recorded below average catch rates of this size group at Herrington Lake.



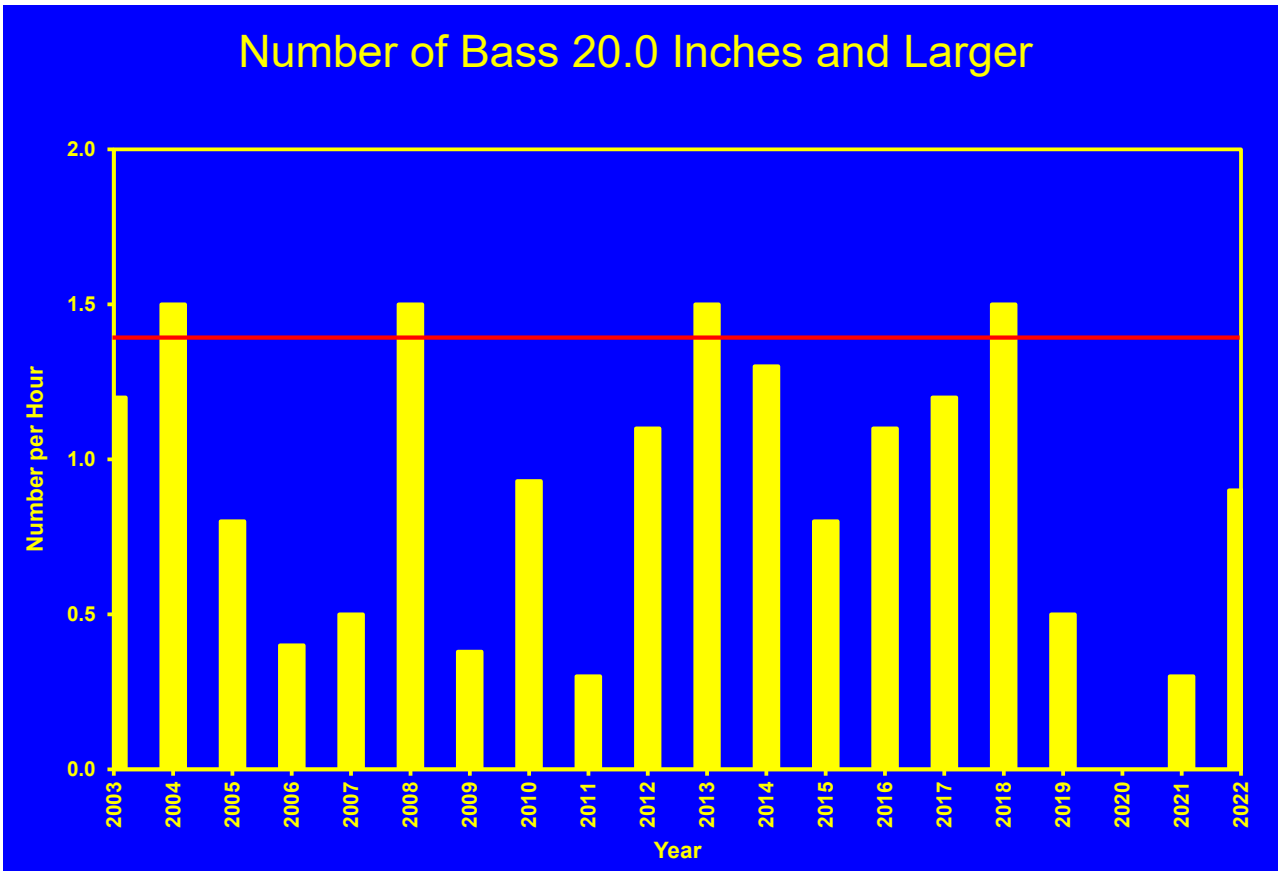
Parameter 4 – Number of bass 15.0 inches and larger

Electrofishing catch of 15.0-inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 20.9 bass/hr (1994-present) as indicated by the red line. Again, as compared to other lakes, this is a very good catch rate for this size group. Herrington Lake offers many quality-sized bass to catch.



Parameter 5 – Number of bass 20.0 inches and larger

The electrofishing catch of 20.0-inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 1.4 bass/hr since 1994 as indicated by the red line. Compared to other lakes, this is an excellent catch rate for this size group. The catch rates of 20.0-inch and larger bass have remained below average for the lake since 2019.



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

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Herrington Lake has averaged a “good” rating since 1994 as indicated by the red line. The largemouth bass population at Herrington Lake has been stable with only two fair ratings and the rest good or excellent ratings since 2003. In 2022, the overall assessment rating for the largemouth bass population at Herrington Lake was good. Biologists expect the future of the largemouth bass fishery at Herrington Lake to continue being strong. The fluctuations in the largemouth bass population are likely due to years with above average rainfall.