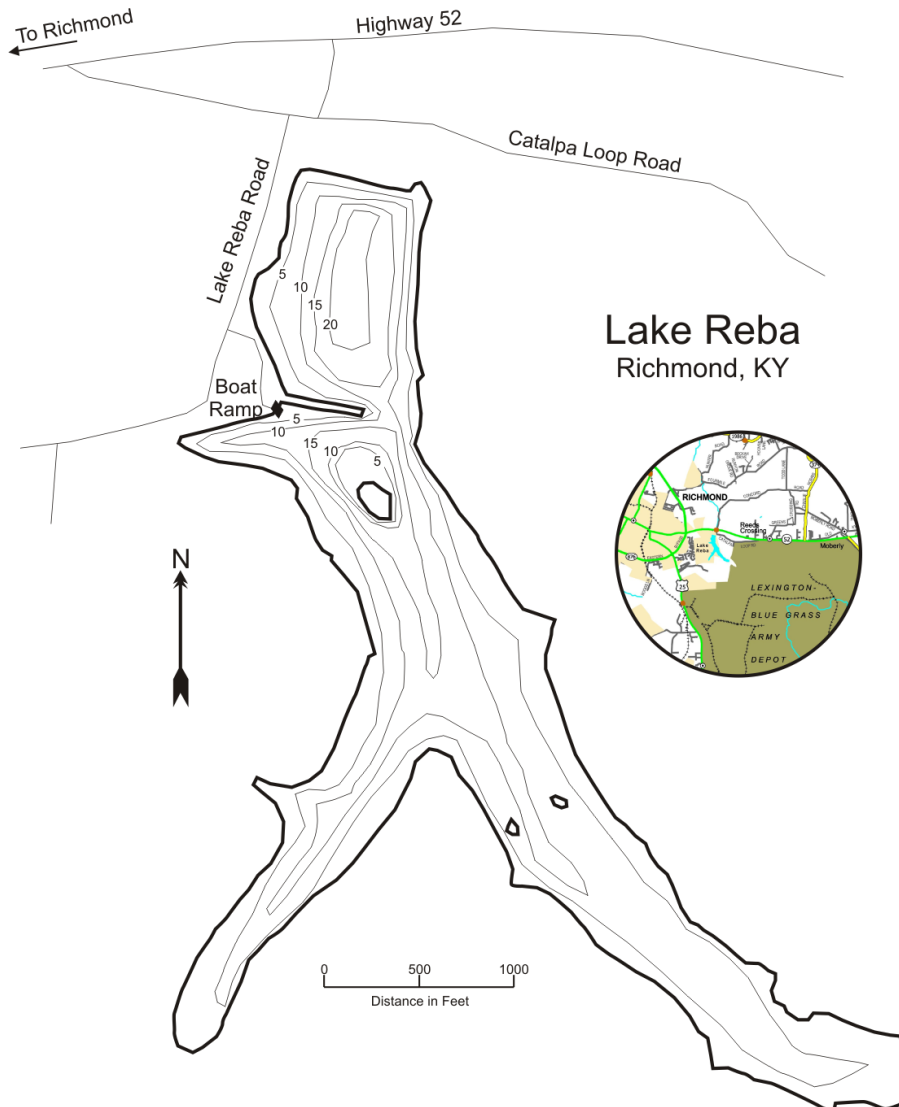


## Lake Reba Bass Assessment 2016

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).

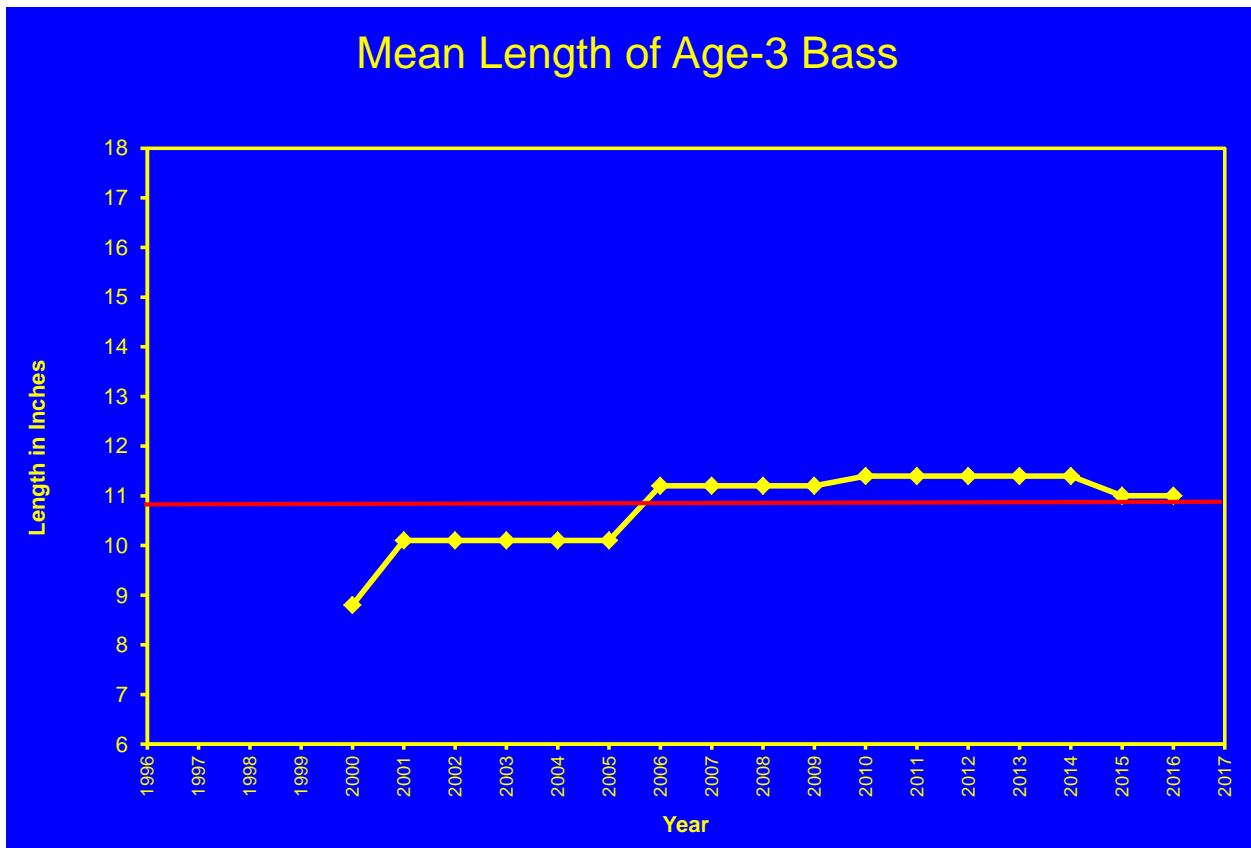
Please see the [Sportfish Assessments](#) page for an explanation of how the assessment works and for a list of other lakes with largemouth bass assessments.

*Please note 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.*



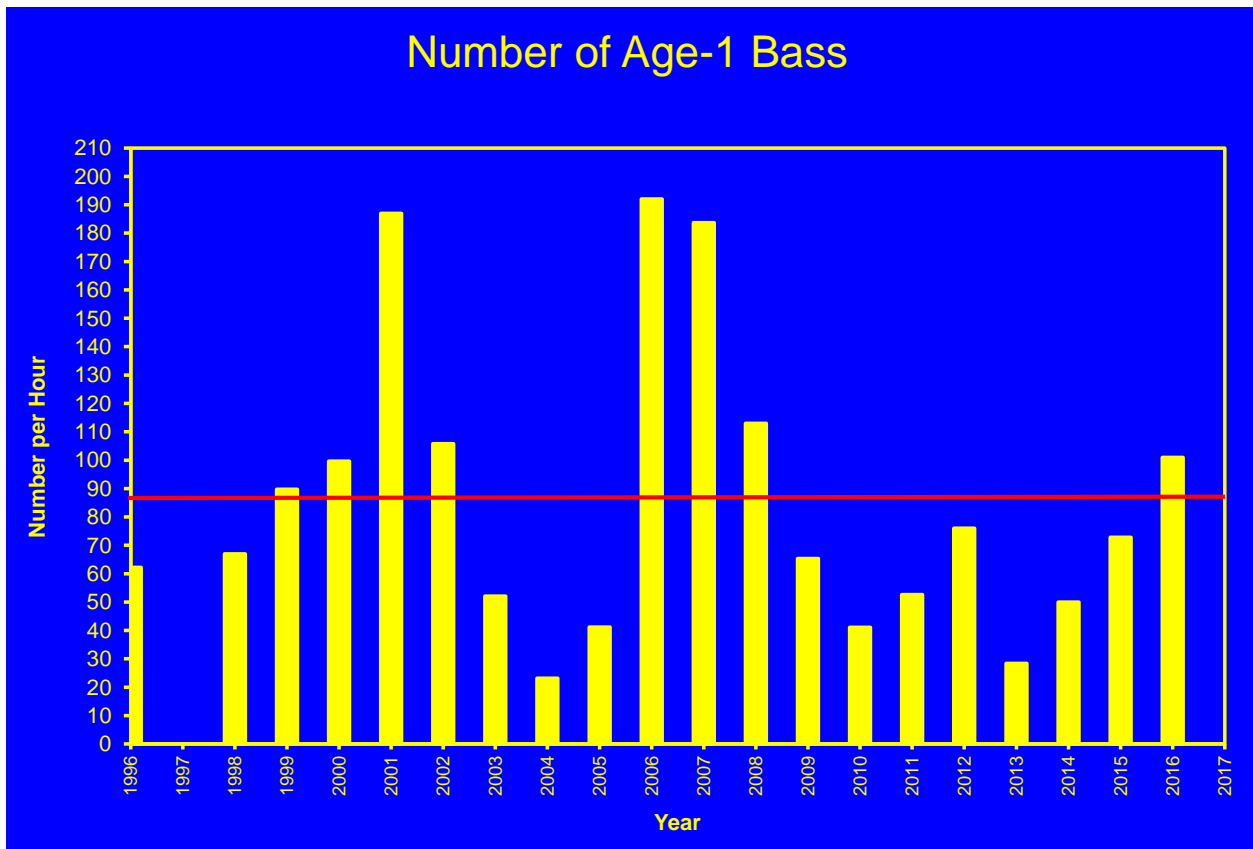
## Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Lake Reba the length of age-3 fish has averaged 10.8 inches since 1995 (represented by the red line). When compared to other lakes of similar size in Kentucky this is considered “Good” growth for largemouth bass. 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 2015 and fish averaged 11.0 inches at age-3. In general, largemouth bass reach a harvestable size of 15.0 inches in their 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year, which is similar to lakes of this size and in the same region.



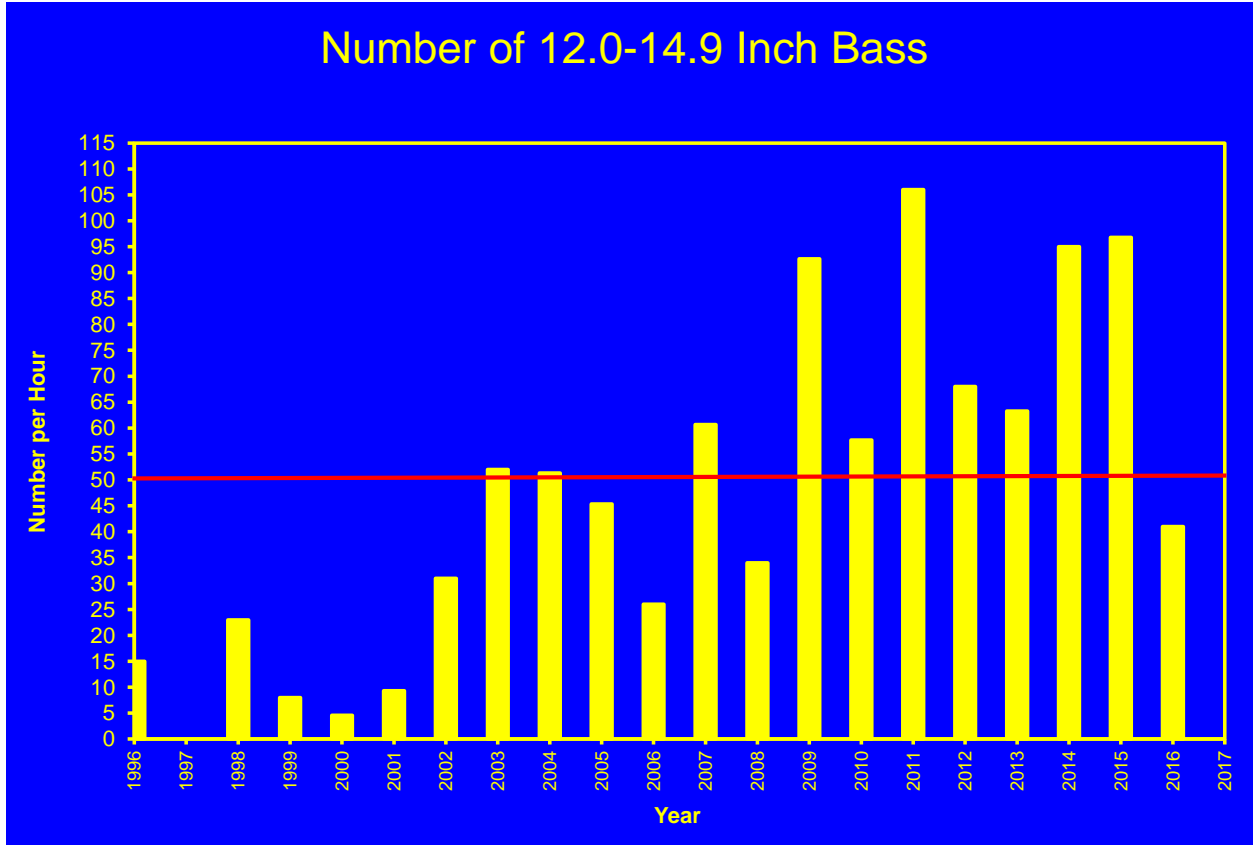
## Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

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 88.3 age-1 bass captured per hour. This is considered to be “Excellent” when compared to other lakes of similar size. However, the mean catch rate from 2009 to 2013 has generally remained below the 20 year average. Catch rates of age-1 fish could be related to factors such as food availability, predation on these young fish and weather or lake conditions during the spawn. KDFWR supplements poor recruitment by stocking fingerling largemouth bass (under 5.0 inches) in the lake.



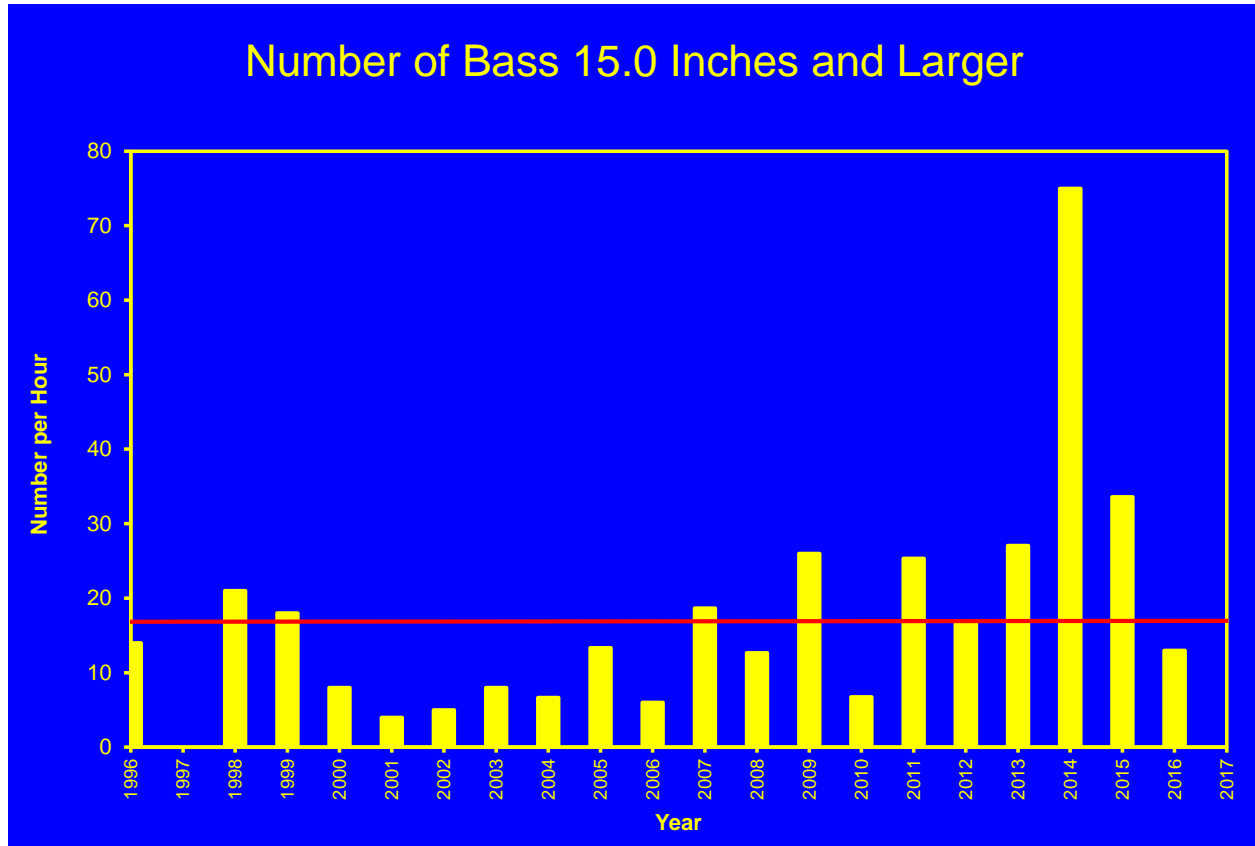
### Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

Since 1995 the electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass in Lake Reba has averaged around 50.2 f/h which is “Excellent” when compared to other lakes of similar size. This catch rate has fluctuated since 2009 but has generally remained above the mean. High abundance of fish in the 12.0-15.0 inch range is expected given the protection provided by the 15.0 inch minimum size limit.



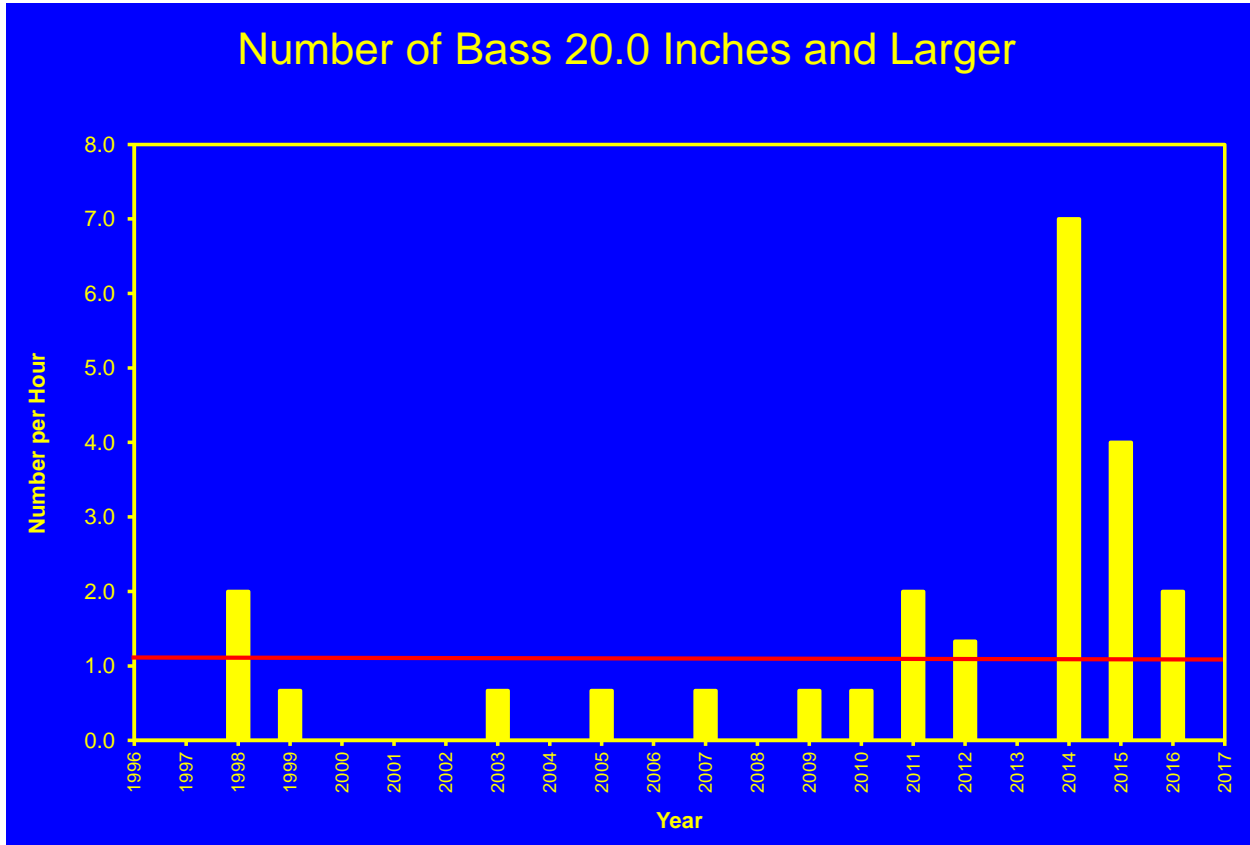
## Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 17.2 f/h since 1995. This is considered to be “Good” when compared to other lakes of similar size.



## Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 1.1 f/h since 1995. This is considered to be “Fair” when compared to other lakes of similar size. Prior to 2010, this number had been fairly consistent, but recent catch rates have jumped to 7.0 f/h, 4.0 f/h and 2.0 f/h (which are all either “Good” or “Excellent” ratings). While there are a few 20.0 inch or larger fish in Lake Reba, better opportunities for large fish may be found at other lakes in the area.



## 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 Reba has been “Good” since 1995. In the last 3 years, the lake has been rated as “Excellent” twice. This lake provides excellent fishing opportunities for anglers of all types: from the panfish angler to the trophy bass hunter.

