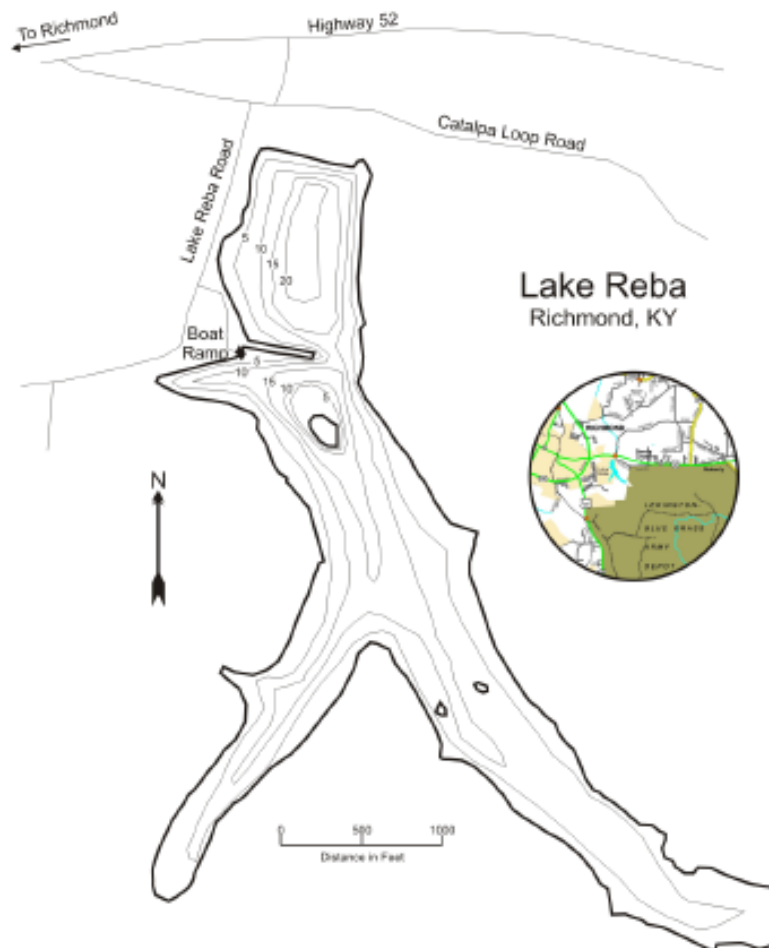


## Lake Reba Largemouth Bass Assessment 2022

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. Lake Reba is a popular destination for anglers fishing for largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill, and redear sunfish. The following graphs show data trends and rankings for each of the five parameters used in the largemouth bass assessment.

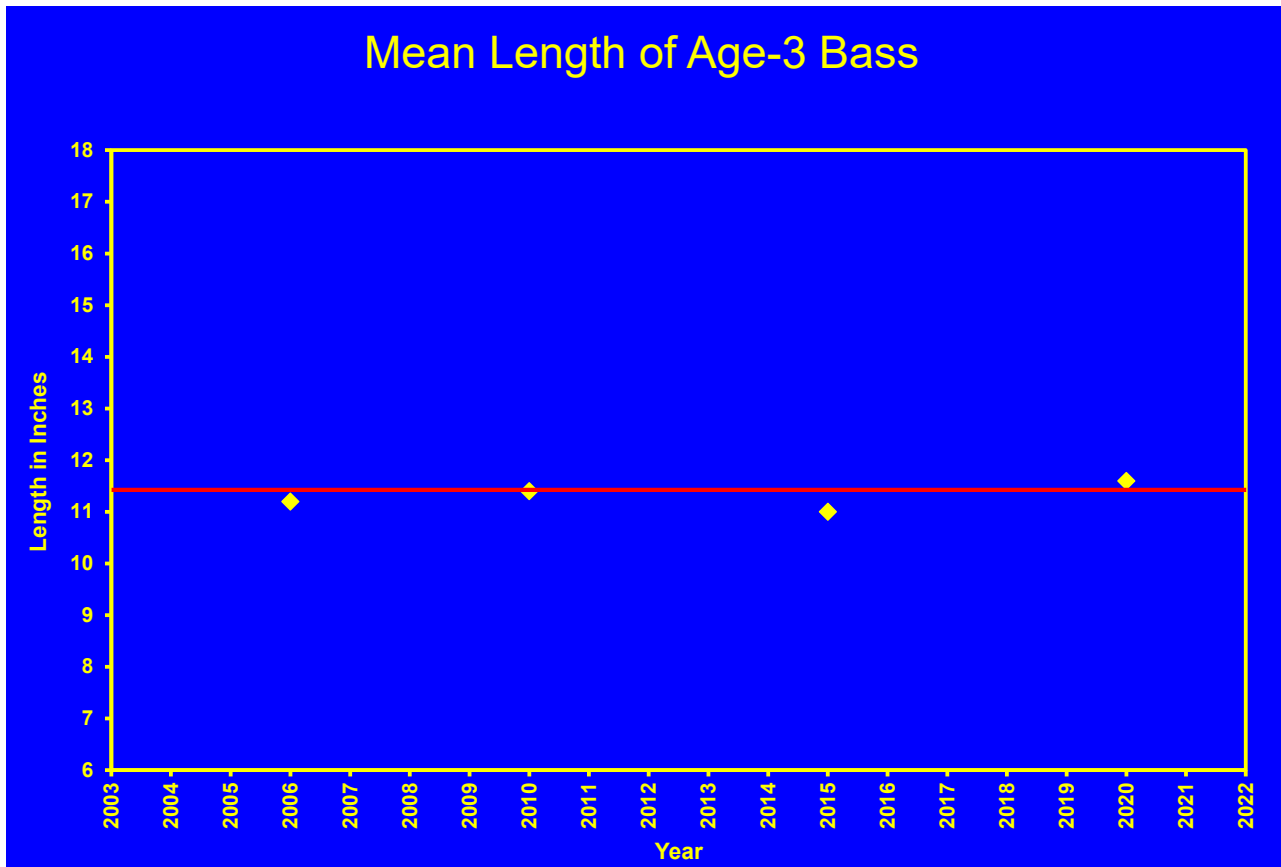
Please see the [Sportfish Assessments](#) page for an explanation of how the assessment works and for a list of other lakes with largemouth bass assessments.

*Please note there is a 12.0-inch minimum size limit on largemouth bass and a 6-fish daily creel limit. Possession of shad for bait is prohibited in this lake and there is an electric motor only restriction.*



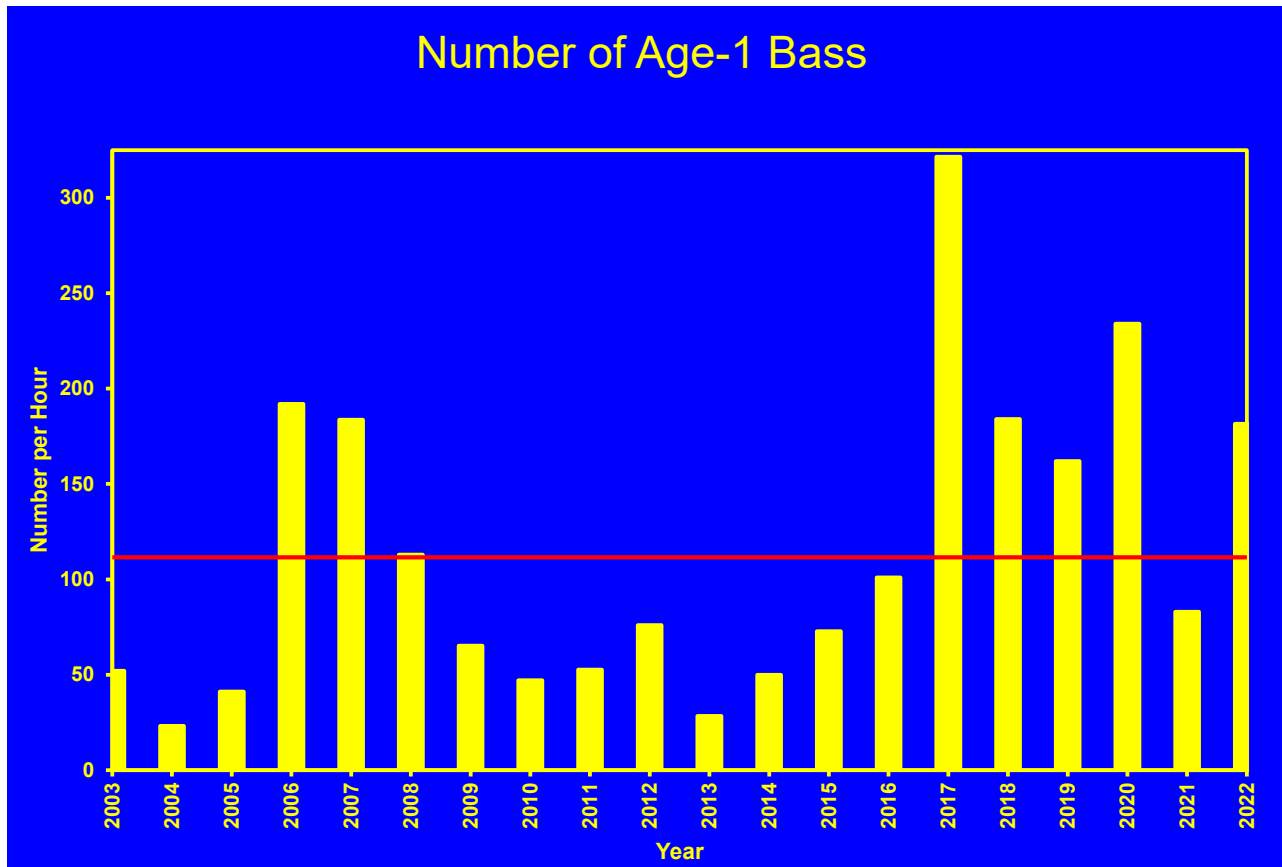
## Parameter 1 – Mean Length at Age-3 (growth rate)

At Lake Reba, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged 11.3 inches since 2003 (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”. Over the past 20 years, age-3 length has been very stable ranging from 11.2-11.6 inches. 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 2021, and the length of age-3 largemouth bass was 11.6 inches, falling above the 20-year average.



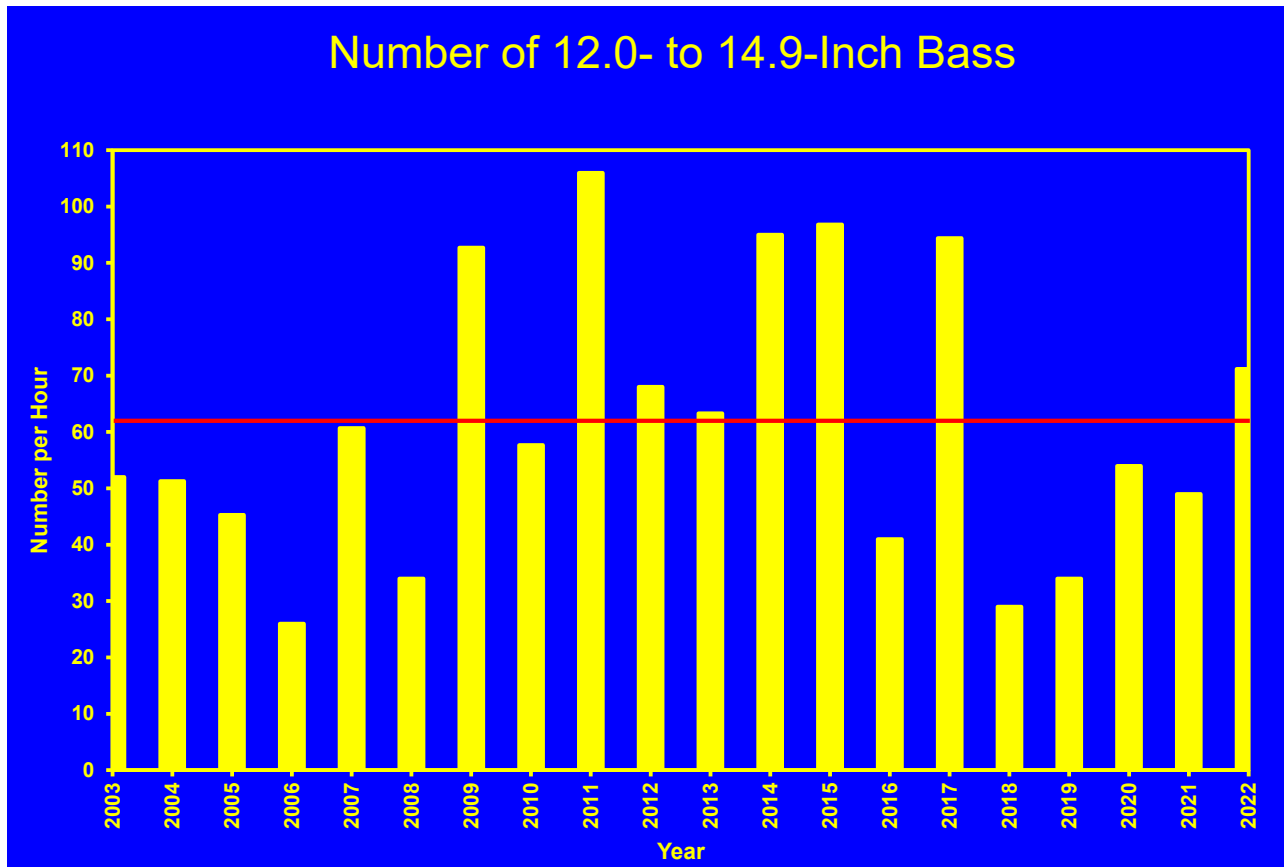
## Parameter 2 – Number of Age-1 Bass (spawning success)

KDFWR looks at the electrofishing catch rates of age-1 largemouth bass to assess the success of the spawn that 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 Reba, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged 113.2 fish per hour (fish/hr) of electrofishing. When compared to other lakes of similar size, this is considered to be an “Excellent” age-1 catch rate. Since 2015 age-1 catch rates have ranked as “Excellent.”



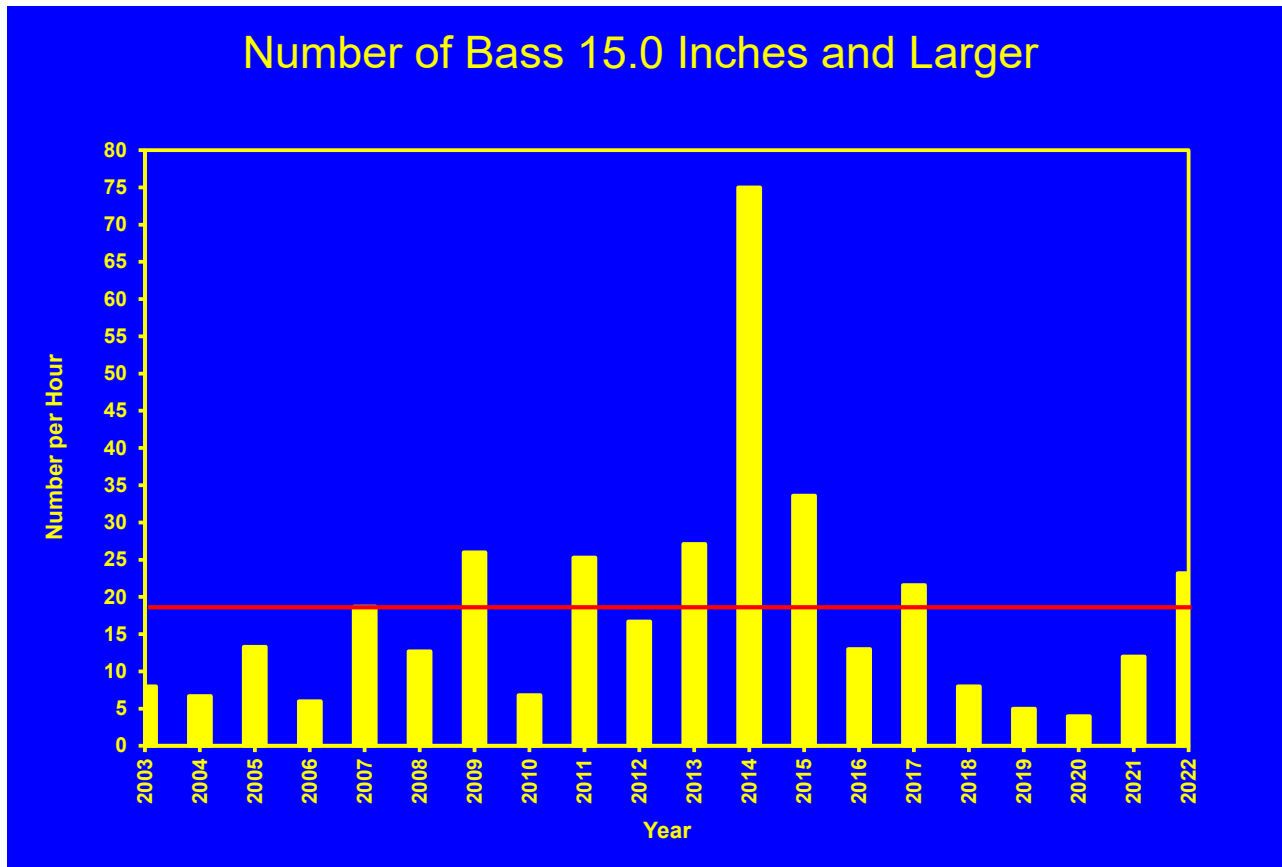
### Parameter 3 – Number of 12.0- to 14.9-Inch Bass

The electrofishing catch rate of 12.0- to 14.9-inch largemouth bass since 2003 has averaged 61.1 fish/hr, which puts Lake Reba in the “Excellent” rating when compared to other lakes of similar size. There has been a steady increase in catch rates since 2018, with the last three years rating as “Excellent.” In 2021, a regulation change lowering the minimum size limit from 15.0 to 12.0 inches was implemented. In the near future, we expect to see a decline in 12.0- to 14.9-inch largemouth bass and an increase in 15.0-inch and larger largemouth bass.



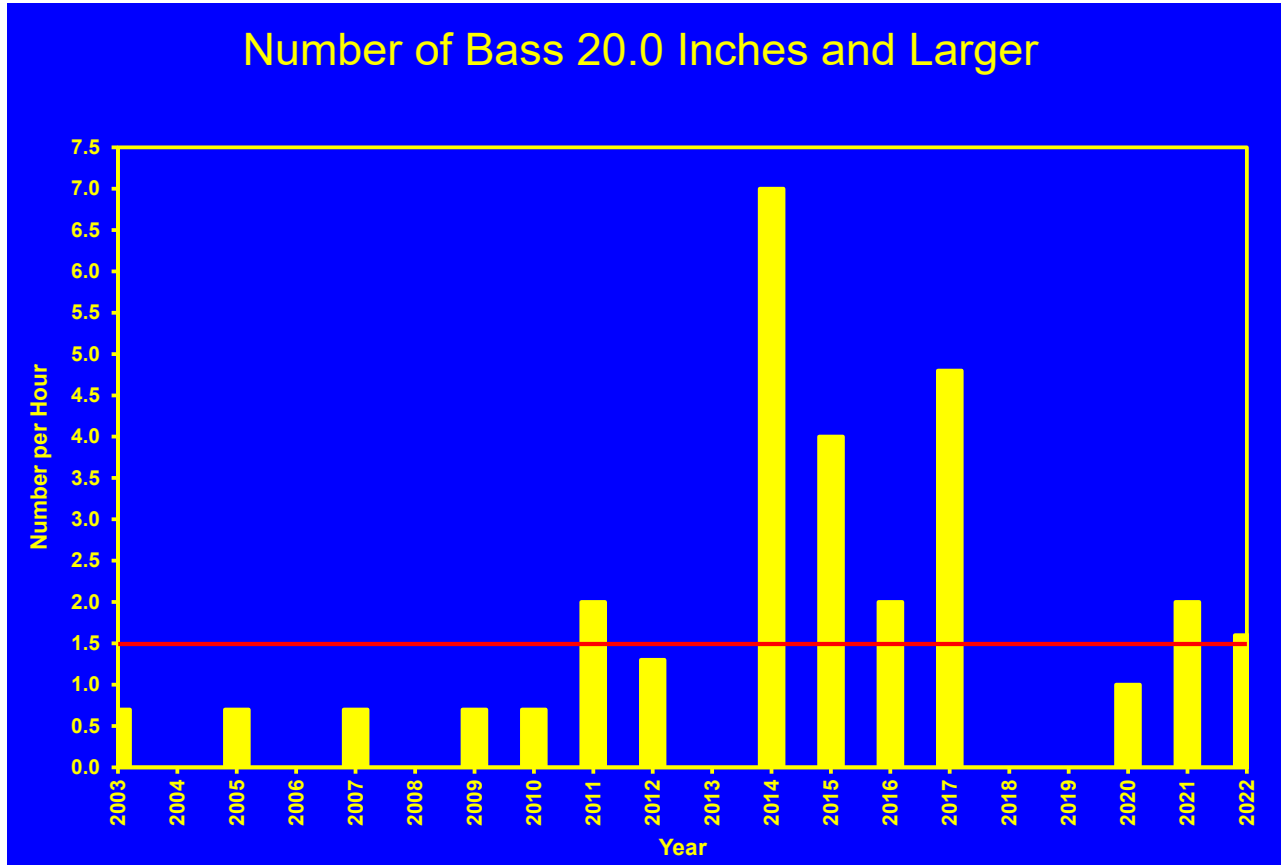
## Parameter 4 – Number of Bass 15.0 Inches and Larger

The electrofishing catch rate of 15.0-inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 18.1 fish/hr over past 20 years. This is “Good” in comparison with other lakes of similar size. Observations in 2014 and 2015 were among some of the highest recorded and would be considered “Excellent” for a lake of this size. The decline in 12.0- to 14.9-inch largemouth bass observed in 2012-2013 likely contributed to increased survival and growth of those fish observed as 15.0-inch and larger in 2014 and 2015. The catch rate of 15.0-inch and larger largemouth bass in 2022 was the highest observed since 2016.



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

Since 2003 the electrofishing catch rate of 20.0-inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 1.4 fish/hr for Lake Reba. As compared to other lakes of similar size, this is a “Fair” catch rate for this size group. Catch rates varied greatly from 2003 to present and peaked in 2014. It can be difficult to consistently sample fish of this size, which usually accounts for the variation in catch rates between years. The last two years, 2021 and 2022, had “Good” catch rates of largemouth bass 20.0-inches and larger.



## Overall – Total Assessment Score (all five parameters added together)

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Lake Reba has averaged a “Good” rating (14.8) over the past 20 years (indicated by the red line). In the last 3 years, the lake has been rated as “Excellent” twice. Lake Reba provides excellent fishing opportunities for anglers of all types.

