

Lake Lonely General Biological Survey (Survey #517084)

Robert Fiorentino, Region 5 Fisheries

8/21/2018

Lake Lonely is a 136-acre lake in the Town of Malta, Saratoga County. The lake shoreline on the north side is a mixed deciduous swamp, while the south side is primarily developed with personal residences. The outlet is a shallow weedy channel that drains into Kayaderosseras Creek approximately one mile upstream of Saratoga Lake. Lake Lonely provides a warmwater fishery, with largemouth bass and northern pike the most common sportfish documented in the last survey in 2005.

On 9/12/2017, the entire shoreline of the lake was boat electrofished in five sections: three 15 minute all fish runs and two 30 minute game fish runs. A total of 12 species were collected. Of the 210 fish collected, 132 were largemouth bass, by far the most abundant species (Table 1). Largemouth bass sizes ranged from 3 to 19 inches (Figure 1), with a mean length of 13 inches (SD=4). The mean catch rate was 79/h (SE=10), well above the NY Statewide Fisheries Database average of 49/h. Proportional stock density and RSD₁₅ were estimated at 75 and 58, respectively. The length frequency distribution indicated that there was a large portion of the population at or above legal size (Figure 1). The mean *Wr* was 117 (SD=21), and ages ranged from young of the year to 8+ years old.

Other sportfish captured in the survey included six northern pike from 7 to 23 inches in length, two chain pickerel, three smallmouth bass from 10 to 15 inches and three black crappie, the largest at just under 11 inches. A total of 57 bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish were also collected.

Table 1. Number collected and length category catch rates of sportfish and panfish.

Fish Species	N	Effort (h)	All sizes	Length category catch rate		
				≥Stock	≥Quality	≥Preferred
Largemouth bass	132	1.68	79	64	48	38
Smallmouth bass	3	1.68	2	2	1	0
Northern pike	6	1.68	4	3	1	0
Chain pickerel	2	1.68	1	0	0	0
Black crappie	3	1.68	2	2	2	1
Bluegill	46	0.56	77	77	25	0
Pumpkinseed	11	0.56	20	20	5	2

Largemouth bass are abundant, in good condition, and have good size and age structures, and should provide quality fishing opportunities in Lake Lonely. Good opportunities also exist for sunfish, and there is a chance of a nice northern pike. Statewide fishing regulations continue to be appropriate for Lake Lonely.

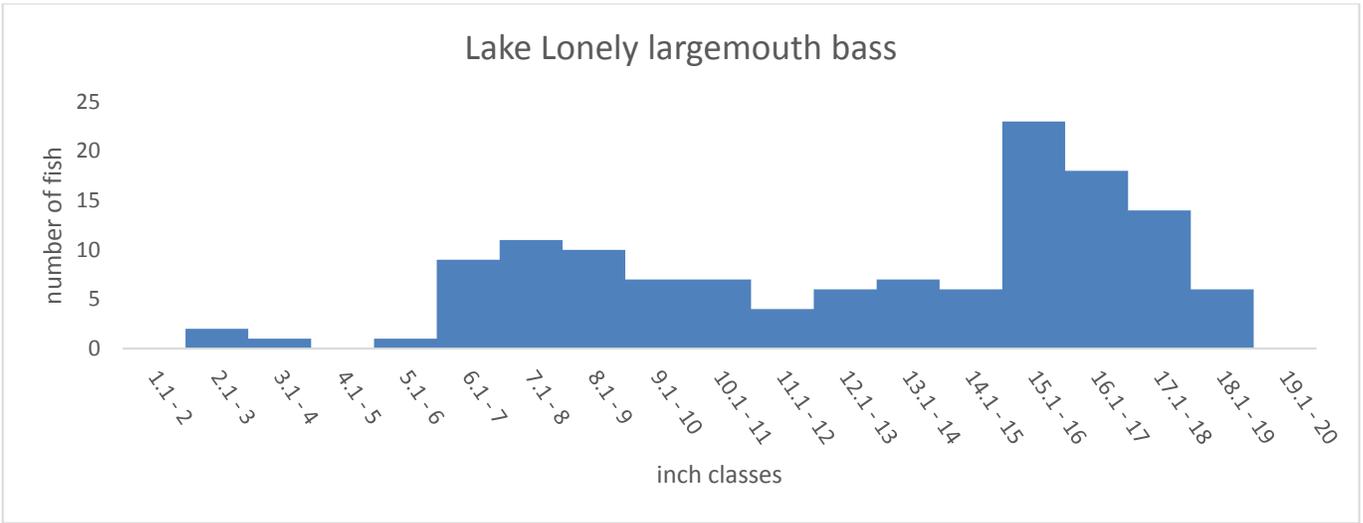


Figure 1. Length frequency of largemouth bass from Lake Lonely, 2017.