

**Kissena Park Lake Survey (Survey #:219005)**  
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Kissena Lake is a small 8.5 acre lake just east of Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. This shallow lake is within Kissena Park with 0.5 miles of shoreline fishing access and a maximum depth of 5 ft. Two sides of the lake features railings, which provide safe fishing access for young anglers. Current fishing regulations include mandatory catch and release and use of barbless hooks. The primary sportfish is largemouth bass, but many anglers target large common carp, as well. Fishing clinics, hosted by DEC I FISH NY staff, are frequently held here to introduce fishing to children. A boat electrofishing survey, following the DEC Black Bass and Sunfish Sampling Manual for Lakes and Ponds (Brooking et al., 2018), was conducted in September 2019 to assess fish populations.

Six species were captured, totaling 279 fish. Forty-eight largemouth bass were captured and ranged in length from one to 16 inches. Mean ( $\pm$  standard error) relative weight of largemouth bass was  $91 \pm 2$ . This value is low compared to ideal relative weight values between 95 and 100, and relative weight values from previous surveys conducted in 2011, 2013, and 2015, which all averaged at 97. However, largemouth bass catch rates ranked in the top 11% of all NY state lakes. Low relative weights paired with high catch rates may be indicative of overcrowding, whereby an overabundance of largemouth bass limits access to optimal habitat and space to grow.

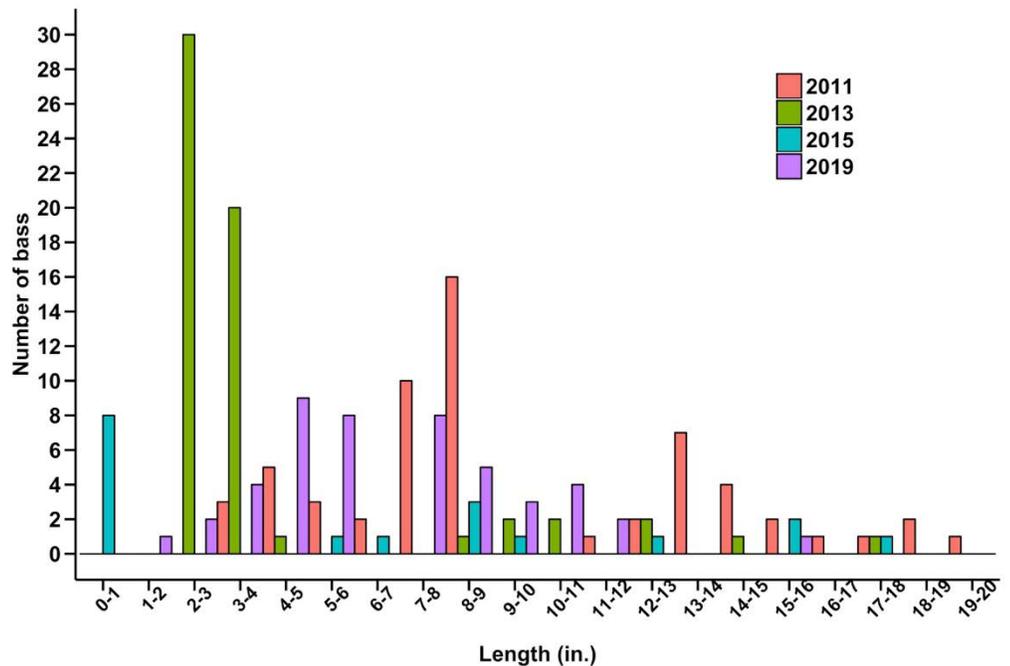


Figure 1. Length frequency distributions of largemouth bass across size bins for Kissena surveys during the years 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2019.

This largemouth bass population does have ample prey, however, with bluegill as the most abundant species, making up just over half of the catch. Other captured fish species included brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, and black crappie. The fisheries team also observed 15 common carp during the survey. It is of note that there was a large fish kill in Kissena Lake in 2015 (reflected by the length frequency distribution in Fig. 1), but 2019 catch rates of bluegill and largemouth bass suggest these sportfish populations have rebounded and seem to be stable. Kissena continues to serve as a great location for first time anglers, as beginners are likely to catch panfish and brown bullhead species.



Table 1. Total number of fish, effort, and catch rates per size category for all species caught during the 2019 Kissena electrofishing survey.

Species	Total catch	Time (h)	Catch rate (fish caught/ h; standard error)				
			All sizes	YOY	≥Stock	≥ Quality	≥ Preferred
Largemouth bass	48	0.51	94(12)	59(3)	35(12)	2(2)	2(2)
Bluegill	160	0.51	314(41)	145(34)	169(15)	55(4)	0(0)
Pumpkinseed	18	0.51	35(17)	0(0)	35(17)	2(2)	0(0)
Brown bullhead	26	0.51	51(10)	0(0)	51(10)	51(10)	2(2)
Black crappie	11	0.51	22(5)	0(0)	22(5)	8(2)	0(0)

**Literature Cited**

Brooking, T., Loukmas, J., Jackson, R., VanDeValk, T. 2018. Black bass and sunfish electrofishing protocol for lakes and ponds. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration, F-63-R, Study 2, Job 2-2.3, Albany, New York.