

## 2017 Eastern Region Impoundment Surveys

The Eastern Shore of Maryland is blessed with many small impoundments that are open to public fishing. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Freshwater Fisheries Program manages these areas to provide the best fishing experience for our anglers. Assessments of these fisheries are usually completed on a rotational basis, with assessments being completed usually every 2-5 years based on size and angler use. Public fishing areas can be located using the online, interactive [Public Angler Access Map](#).

During 2017, surveys of popular fisheries such as Smithville Lake and Johnson's Pond were completed, as well as some lesser-known areas like Colburn Mill Pond and Adkins Mill Pond. All surveys were conducted using a boat-mounted electrofishing unit, collecting fish from selected shoreline sites.



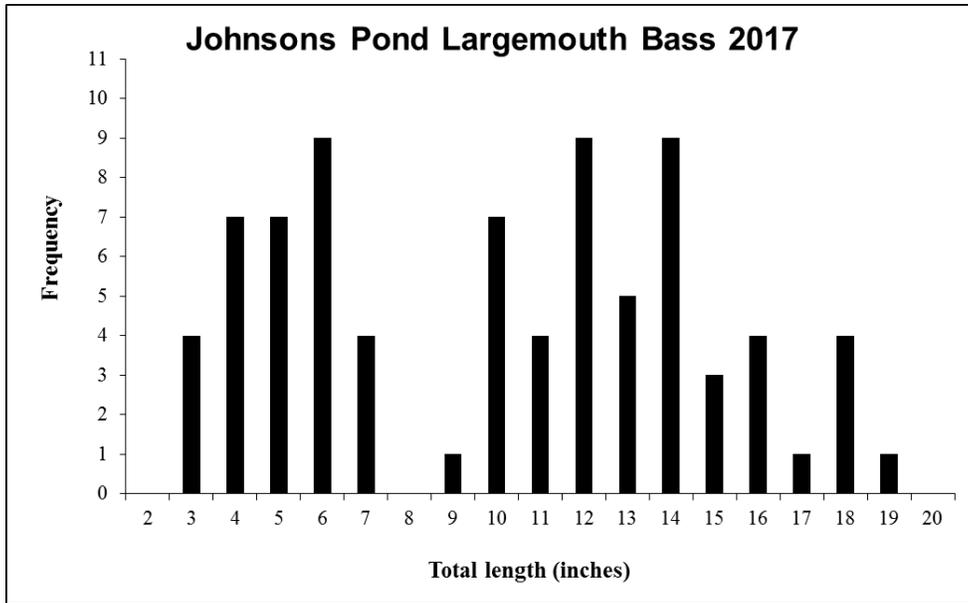
*Biologists collecting fish with an electrofishing boat*

### Johnson's Pond and Smithville Lake

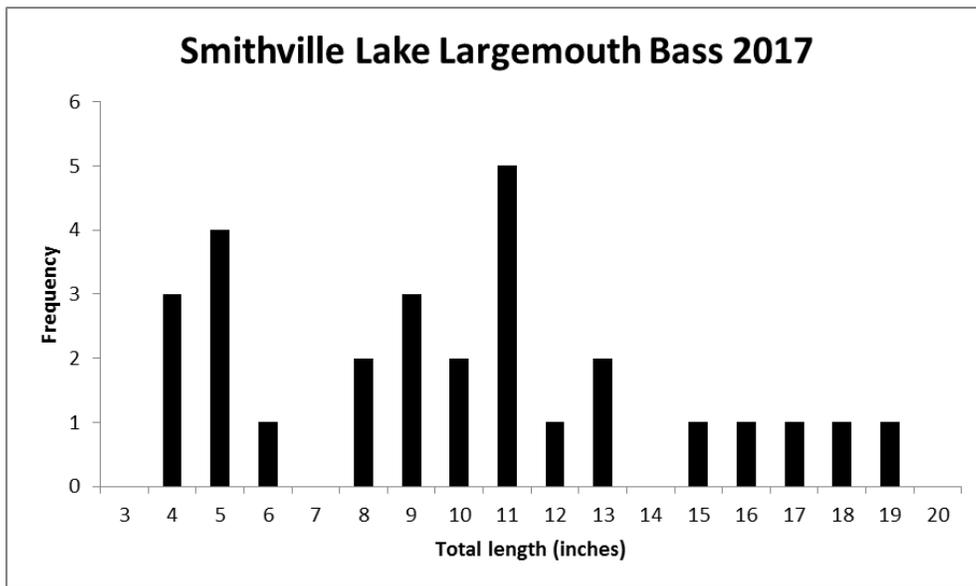
Both Johnsons Pond and Smithville Lake are supporting good bass and bluegill populations. The bass population in Johnson's is particularly robust and it continues to be one of the best largemouth bass fisheries in Eastern Region. There are also large bluegill and redear sunfish available to anglers and plenty of black crappie. Black crappie have become particularly abundant in Smithville Lake, their numbers could cause forage problems in the lake in the future for other predatory fish like largemouth bass and chain pickerel. We are currently encouraging anglers to fish for them and maybe take a few home for dinner to reduce their numbers.

*Trophy redear sunfish from Smithville Lake*





*Length frequency of largemouth bass collected by electrofishing from Johnson's Pond, 2017*



*Length frequency of largemouth bass collected by electrofishing from Smithville Lake, 2017.*



*Bass and redear sunfish from Colburn Mill Pond.*

### Colburn Mill Pond and Adkins Mill Pond

Colburn Mill Pond and Adkins Mill Pond are located in Wicomico County. Both are small, but can offer good fishing. Colburn Mill Pond in particular is supporting very robust bass and panfish populations. Adkins Mill Pond anglers will encounter bass, chain pickerel and panfish like bluegills and black crappie.



*Bass and chain pickerel from Adkins Mill Pond*