

## **New Germany Lake Fish Population Study – 2017**

New Germany Lake is a shallow (maximum depth 12 feet) 10-acre impoundment located within New Germany State Park in Garrett County. New Germany Lake is primarily a warmwater fishery; however, stocked rainbow trout provide a popular springtime recreational fishery. Seven fish species were collected in New Germany Lake during our most recent electrofishing survey including largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, golden shiner, spottail shiner and one large tiger muskie was observed. The warmwater gamefish and panfish species found in New Germany Lake are managed under Maryland's statewide regulations and the trout fishery is managed as a put-and-take trout fishing area as described in the Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing.

### ***Largemouth bass***

The largemouth bass population is characterized by having juvenile to preferred-sized fish ( $\geq 15$  inches) in the population. However, the percentage of legal-sized fish in the population was slightly less than the desirable range for small impoundments. Largemouth bass growth rates in New Germany Lake are considered slow for Maryland's bass populations, reaching harvestable size of 12 inches by Age 8.



*Largemouth bass from New Germany Lake, 2017*

***Panfish***

Pumpkinseed and bluegill are abundant panfish species found in New Germany Lake, providing a lot of recreational fishing opportunity for park visitors. Both fish species exhibited good body condition and a large portion of the populations were in the 6-inch to 8-inch size class.



*New Germany Lake pumpkinseed*

The yellow perch was a new fish species collected in New Germany Lake during the 2017 survey. The yellow perch population shows diverse size classes from juvenile to quality size fish, and exhibited good body condition. Growth rates were considered slow in younger years, but the rate of growth was normal as they aged.



*New Germany Lake yellow perch*

***Rainbow trout***

About 2,900 rainbow trout are stocked each spring in New Germany Lake, providing anglers with additional springtime recreational fishing opportunity. Additional rainbow trout are stocked each spring for youth fishing events.

***Tiger muskies***

Tiger muskie fingerlings were stocked in New Germany Lake during various years from 1998 to 2016 to control panfish populations. The most recent stocking occurred in May 2016 when 1,488 fingerlings were stocked. One large tiger muskie was observed during the 2017 sampling efforts but was not captured. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch and release for the tiger muskie and largemouth bass in order to keep the panfish populations in check and to provide for more quality sized panfish for anglers to harvest.

For more information please contact Alan Klotz at [alan.klotz@maryland.gov](mailto:alan.klotz@maryland.gov)