

## 2018-19 Eastern Region Small 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.

[Click Here!](#) To see the locations of all our public fishing areas.

In 2018 and 2019, surveys of popular fisheries such as Tuckahoe Lake, Leonards Mill Pond and Wye Mills Lake were completed. All surveys were conducted using a boat-mounted electrofishing unit, collecting fish from selected shoreline sites.



*Biologists collecting fish with an electrofishing boat*

### Tuckahoe Lake and Leonards Mill Pond

Both Tuckahoe Lake and Leonards Mill Pond currently are supporting robust bass populations. In fact, Tuckahoe Lake, although heavily utilized, may support the densest bass population on the Eastern Shore. Both impoundments have had excellent bass reproduction in recent years. As a result, the majority of the population is comprised of smaller individuals. These fisheries depend on that recruitment to replace fish lost due to natural and fishing

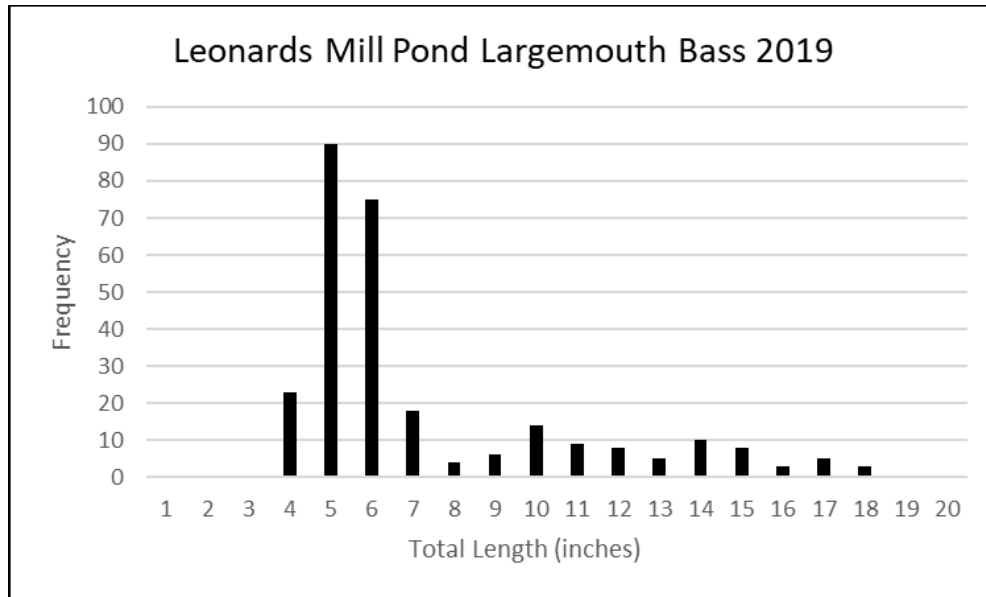
mortality. Reproduction in 2019 in Leonards Mill Pond was exceptional. Both impoundments also support excellent fishing for chain pickerel and various panfish species. Some of the redear sunfish are so big they could be considered true trophies. Fishermen who have not targeted redear sunfish in our impoundments before should give it a try. Grass shrimp on a small shad dart or jig are very effective.



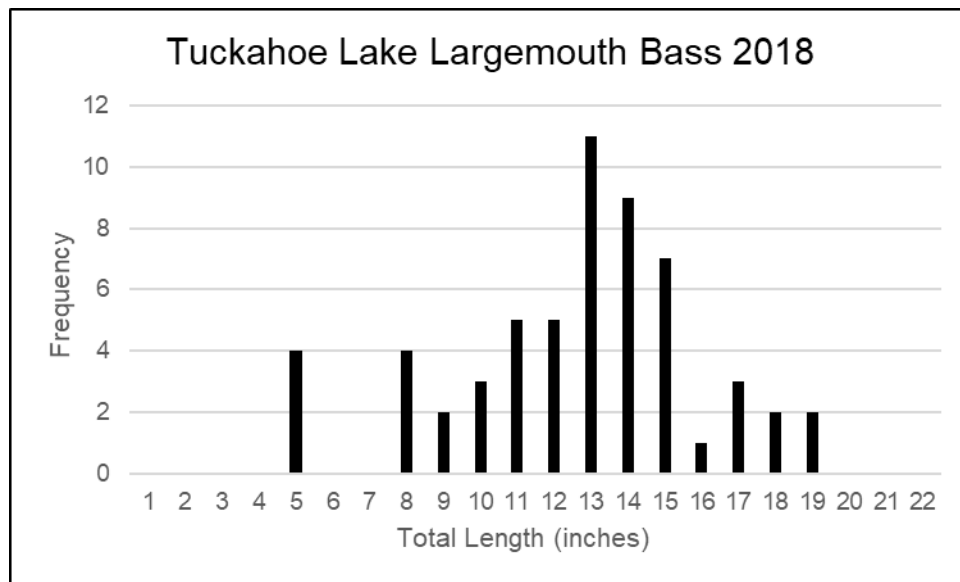
*Abundant young bass from Leonards Mill Pond*



*Trophy redear sunfish from Tuckahoe Lake*



*Length frequency of largemouth bass collected by electrofishing from Leonards Mill Pond, 2019*



*Length frequency of largemouth bass collected by electrofishing from Tuckahoe Lake, 2018*

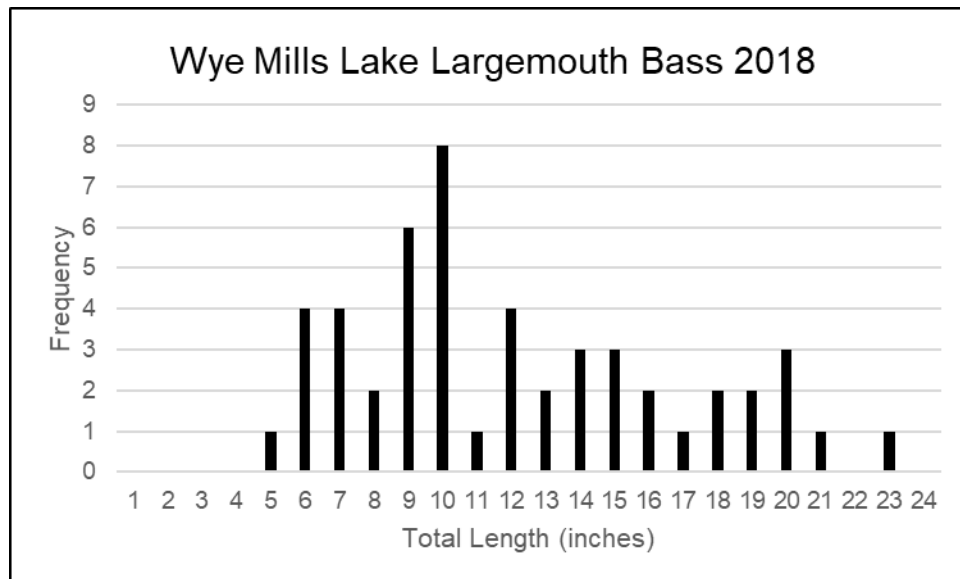
Wye Mills Lake

Wye Mills Lake historically supported a great bass fishery. It was known for producing excellent numbers of some very, very large bass. A fish kill occurred in 2004 due to low dissolved oxygen which nearly wiped out all the fish living in the lake. Since that time, our staff has worked to try to re-create what was once a great bass fishery. Bass reproduction has been poor in recent years. As a result, Fishing and Boating Services has supplemented natural reproduction with

stocking of juvenile bass when reproduction is poor. This has improved the bass population overall, but has not allowed it to reach the pre-2004 levels. Overabundant small bluegill and black crappie are likely competing with the young bass for food. The good news is that once bass grow large enough to feed on the small bluegill, they grow rapidly and quite large. Wye Mills may not have great numbers of bass currently, but it does support many quality sized fish. Fishing and Boating Services will continue stocking of bass as needed. The larger issues including poor water quality and excess siltation are trying to be addressed in the watershed. There are numerous restoration projects ongoing to limit sediment and nutrient runoff into Wye Mills Lake. These projects are being completed by state, county and local agencies and conservation organizations.



*Trophy largemouth bass from Wye Mills Lake*



*Length frequency of largemouth bass collected by electrofishing from Wye Mills Lake, 2018*