



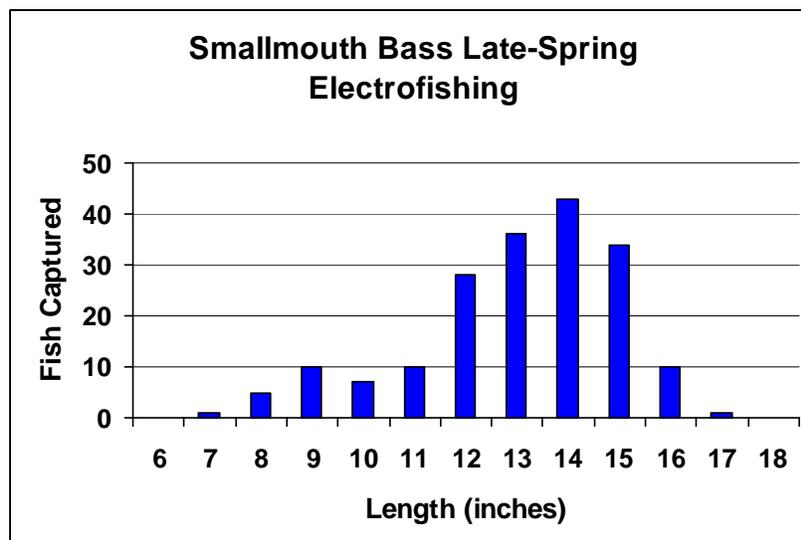
Late-Spring Electrofishing Survey Summary Gile Flowage, Iron County, 2011

The Mercer DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted electrofishing surveys on the Gile Flowage on May 25th and 26th, 2011, as part of the fisheries management baseline monitoring program. A total of 10.0 miles of shoreline were sampled (2.5 miles sub-sampled for panfish). Smallmouth bass was the primary target species; but data on the status of bluegill, black crappie, and yellow perch were also obtained. A fyke netting survey, conducted in early July, was also completed to better assess the status of the panfish community (e.g. black crappie and bluegill). The results from that fyke netting survey are presented in a separate survey summary. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Smallmouth Bass



Captured 19 per mile $\geq 7''$	
Quality Size $\geq 11''$	88%
Preferred Size $\geq 14''$	48%
Memorable Size $\geq 17''$	1%



Summary of Results

The shoreline reaches that were sampled during this survey are areas that have been determined to be selected by smallmouth bass for spawning purposes, as well as random locations not identified to be favorable for any particular species. Water levels during the survey were noted to be near normal elevations, and water temperatures were in the mid to upper 50s. Therefore, the survey was well-timed for purposes of obtaining a representative sample of all sizes of smallmouth bass in, and around, the near-shore spawning areas.

A total of 187 smallmouth bass were captured during the 2011 survey. Smallmouth bass ≥ 7 inches were captured at a rate of 19 per mile, just below the target range (20-40 per mile) identified in the 2005 Gile Flowage Fishery Management Plan, and somewhat higher than the 2008 capture rate of 12 per mile in 2008. Of all bass 7 inches and longer captured during the 2011 survey, 48% were over 14 inches (22% in 2008), but no fish were over 18 inches (2% in 2008; Management Plan target range 5-15%). Except for the scarcity of fish over 18 inches, the smallmouth bass population appears to be very healthy (near optimal abundance with an increasing proportion of preferred-size fish). Gile Flowage smallmouth bass are managed under a 14-18 inch no-harvest slot and 3 fish daily bag limit (only 1 > 18) that went into effect in 2008. A couple more surveys will need to be completed in order to determine if the slot limit is properly functioning to achieve the Management Plan objectives. Anglers should find quality smallmouth bass fishing opportunities for both numbers and size (with the exception of fish over 18 inches) on the Gile Flowage.

Very low numbers of panfish were captured during this survey. Because the few panfish captured do not provide an adequate sample of those species, panfish results are not presented here. Instead, a better representation of the current panfish community within the Gile Flowage can be found in the document, "Gile Flowage 2011 Summer Fyke Netting Survey Summary," posted separately.

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