

## Jungle Lake ~ Health of Fish Population



Dr. Carlson, I'm following up on our previous discussion several weeks ago regarding concerns about the status of the fish population in Jungle Lake at Walter Fuller Park. I sent my staff to sample the fish population and am happy to report that overall, the fisheries are in good shape. Attached is a Word file summarizing what we found in the lake. I included pictures of some of the fish that were collected.

I know you were specifically concerned about the largemouth bass population. We used electrofishing techniques to sample fish in the lake out of a boat and collected 95 bass while going around the entire shoreline. We collected bass at a rate of 2.04 fish per minute which is a **very high** and successful collection rate. Most public lakes have a bass catch rate between .50 – 1.50 fish per minute.

Bass collected ranged from 4 – 20 inches in length, which is a healthy range... indicating fish are reproducing successfully (4 inch baby fish) and growing to at least 6+ pounds (20 inch fish) in weight. The relative weights (metric of how fat/ plump) of bass were in the low to mid 80's which is acceptable. No need to stock more largemouth bass since the population is reproducing successfully.

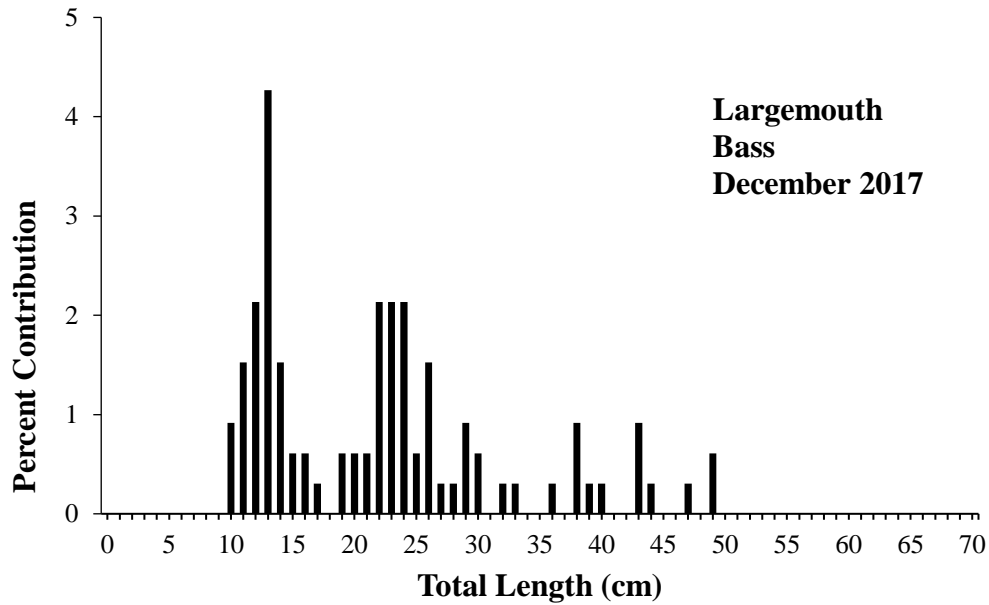
We saw plenty of food for the largemouth bass to eat. The two main fish species we collected, favorite food items of bass, are bluegill and red-ear sunfish. We collected 125 bluegill at a rate of 2.69 fish per minute which is good. A total of 130 red-ear sunfish were collected at a rate of 2.80 fish per minute which is good. There is no need to stock any more forage fish species in the pond for bass to eat.

We observed only a few exotic fish species, which is good because there shouldn't be many for castnetters to catch. Exotic species such as Nile, blue and blackchin tilapia are what castnetters look for when they fish. In conclusion, the fish populations in the lake at Walter Fuller Park are healthy and in good proportion. If you continue to observe castnetting, please contact our Law Enforcement Division at 1-888-404-3922, so a law enforcement officer can investigate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards! Eric Johnson, Fisheries Administrator, FWC – DFFM

**Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg**

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Dec. 2017</b>
Number Collected	95
<b>CPUE</b>	
All Bass	2.04 Fish/min
<b>Length Data (in)</b>	
Mean	9
Median	9
Range (min - max)	4 - 20
<b>Relative Weight</b>	
All Bass	82.60 (2.91)
Stock	82.44 (3.28)
Quality	85.25 (3.38)
Preferred	85.20 (5.30)
Memorable	N/A
Trophy	N/A



**Figure 1.** Length-Frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass collected by full pond perimeter electrofishing survey on Walter Fuller Lake, December 2017.





Metric	Dec. 2017
Number Collected	125
All <u>Bluegill</u>	2.69 Fish/min

Metric	Dec. 2017
Number Collected	130
All <u>Redear</u>	2.80 Fish/min



**Species Found:** Largemouth bass  
 Red-ear sunfish  
 Bluegill  
 American eel (1)  
 Vermiculated sailfin catfish (1)  
 Blackchin tilapia