

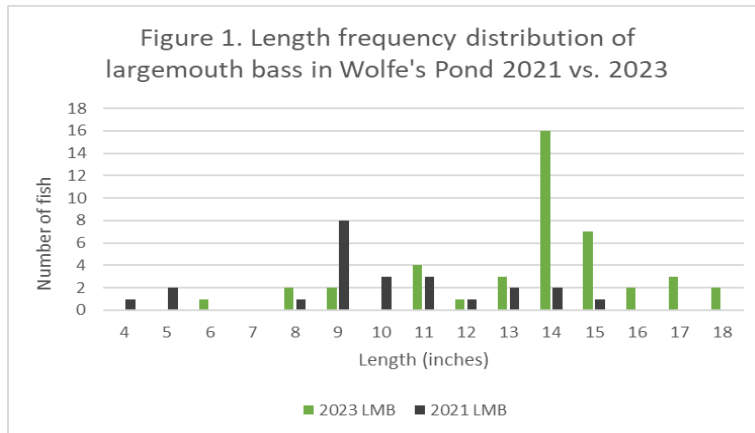
Wolfe’s Pond Centrarchid Sampling Plan (Survey #:223005)

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Wolfe’s Pond is a 16-acre waterbody located within Wolfe’s Pond Park, Staten Island, and it is part of the Lower Hudson Watershed. Fishing access is most prevalent along the pond’s eastern shoreline, adjacent to the public parking lot. Additional fishing access is available along the western park shoreline paralleling Holton Avenue. According to New York State and City regulations, catch and release fishing is required, along with the use of barbless hooks, by NYC regulations.



In 2011, Hurricane Irene breached the beach berm that separated Wolfe’s Pond from Raritan Bay. This opened the pond to saltwater infiltration until the berm was repaired in 2020, as part of a restoration effort by NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. During 2020 Wolfe’s Pond was stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, and fathead minnows.

DEC staff conducted an evening boat electrofishing survey on May 9th, 2023, in accordance with the DEC Black Bass and Sunfish Electrofishing Protocol for Lakes and Ponds (Brooking et al. 2018). The primary objective of this survey was to look at the presence and abundance of each species. Additionally, this electrofishing data will be compared alongside trap netting data (survey #223003), acquired from Wolfe’s Pond two weeks prior. Four, 15-minute runs were completed to cover most of the shoreline. A small amount of shoreline (~5%) was missed because of woody debris in the water. This is the second survey completed at Wolfe’s Pond since the 2020 fish stocking. Water clarity was poor during this survey.

A total of 388 fish of seven different species were caught during this survey. Species consisted of black crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, largemouth bass (LMB), pumpkinseed, white perch, and golden shiner (Table 1). One American eel and two common carp were observed, and 56 gizzard shad (10-14 in) were captured and included with bulked fish. Forty-three largemouth bass were caught during this survey, ranging from 6 - 18 inches (Figure 1). The average length of bass captured was 14.9 inches. Overall relative weight¹ (W_R) of LMB was 99.7. Based on the relative weight of LMB captured during this survey ($W_R = 99.7$) bass can be described as being in average condition (Murphy et al. 1996). Since the last survey, in 2021, largemouth bass in this pond have increased in length (Figure 1). Black crappie sizes have also increased significantly since the last survey, one preferred size fish was collected (Table 1). Survey data suggests that Wolfe’s Pond supports a diverse fishery.

¹ Relative weight is an index used by fisheries biologists to determine if a fish is in good condition, fat or thin, such that $W_R = 100$ represent “average” condition.



Table 1. Number collected and length category catch rates for fish species captured during a boat electrofishing survey of Wolfe's Pond on May 9th, 2023.

SPECIES	TOTAL CATCH	TIME(H)	ALL SIZES	AGE-1	Catch rates (fish/hr: standard error)		
					≥STOCK	≥QUALITY	≥PREFERRED
Black crappie	22	1.00	22(4.8)	0	21(4.4)	5(1.9)	1(1)
Bluegill	110	1.00	110(16)	10(2)	96(15)	18(6)	0
Brown Bullhead	3	1.00	3(2)	0	3(2)	3(2)	2 (1.2)
Largemouth bass	43	1.00	43(10)	1(1)	42(9.9)	33(9.8)	9(4.4)
Pumpkinseed	183	1.00	183(29)	13(3.8)	135(23.9)	0	0
White Perch	20	1.00	20(6.5)	0	7(7)	7(7)	1(1)
Golden Shiner	7	1.00	7(2.5)	*	*	*	*

Literature Cited

Brooking, T., Loukmas, J., Jackson, R., VanDeValk, T. 2018. Black bass and sunfish electrofishing protocol for lakes and ponds. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration, F-63-R, Study 2, Job 2-2.3, Albany, New York.

Murphy, B.R. and Willis, D.W. 1996. Fisheries Techniques 2nd Edition: Length, Weight, and Structural Indices. Page 456-457., American Fisheries Society, Bethesda.