

Fords Lake

Lackawanna County

2025 Black Bass Survey



A 21.1-inch, 5.6-pound Largemouth Bass captured from Fords Lake on May 14, 2025.

[Fords Lake](#) is a 73-acre impoundment in Lackawanna County. Owned by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the lake has a fishing pier and boat launch with boating limited to unpowered boats and those with electric motors only. All fish species are managed using statewide Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations.

Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a night boat electrofishing survey of Fords Lake on May 14, 2025. We caught a total of 180 Largemouth Bass in a little over an hour of sampling time. Total night electrofishing catch rate for Largemouth Bass was 174.6 fish/hour. The bass ranged from 5 to 21 inches in total length (Figure 1.) The catch rate for bass ≥ 12 inches was 22.3 fish/hour and the catch rate for bass ≥ 15 inches was 6.8 fish/hour (Table 1.) The total catch rate was higher than was recorded in 2011 but lower for the larger length groups; however, they continue to be higher than the catch rates from the 2007 survey.

Fords Lake has ideal habitat for Largemouth Bass. The lake is shallow with numerous stumps scattered throughout the lake and downed trees along some of the shoreline. The shallow nature leads to growth of aquatic vegetation which can get very dense in the warmer months. Unless the angler is prepared to fish in the dense vegetation it's advised to fish Fords Lake during the cooler months before the aquatic vegetation becomes dense. Also, observed but not captured during this survey were good numbers and size distribution of Bluegills and both Black and White crappies.

Table 1. Night electrofishing catch rate (fish/h) comparisons by year of Largemouth bass at Fords Lake.

	2025	2011	2007
Total catch	174.6	77.9	36.6
≥ 12"	22.3	45.4	3.6
≥ 15"	6.8	15.1	0.0

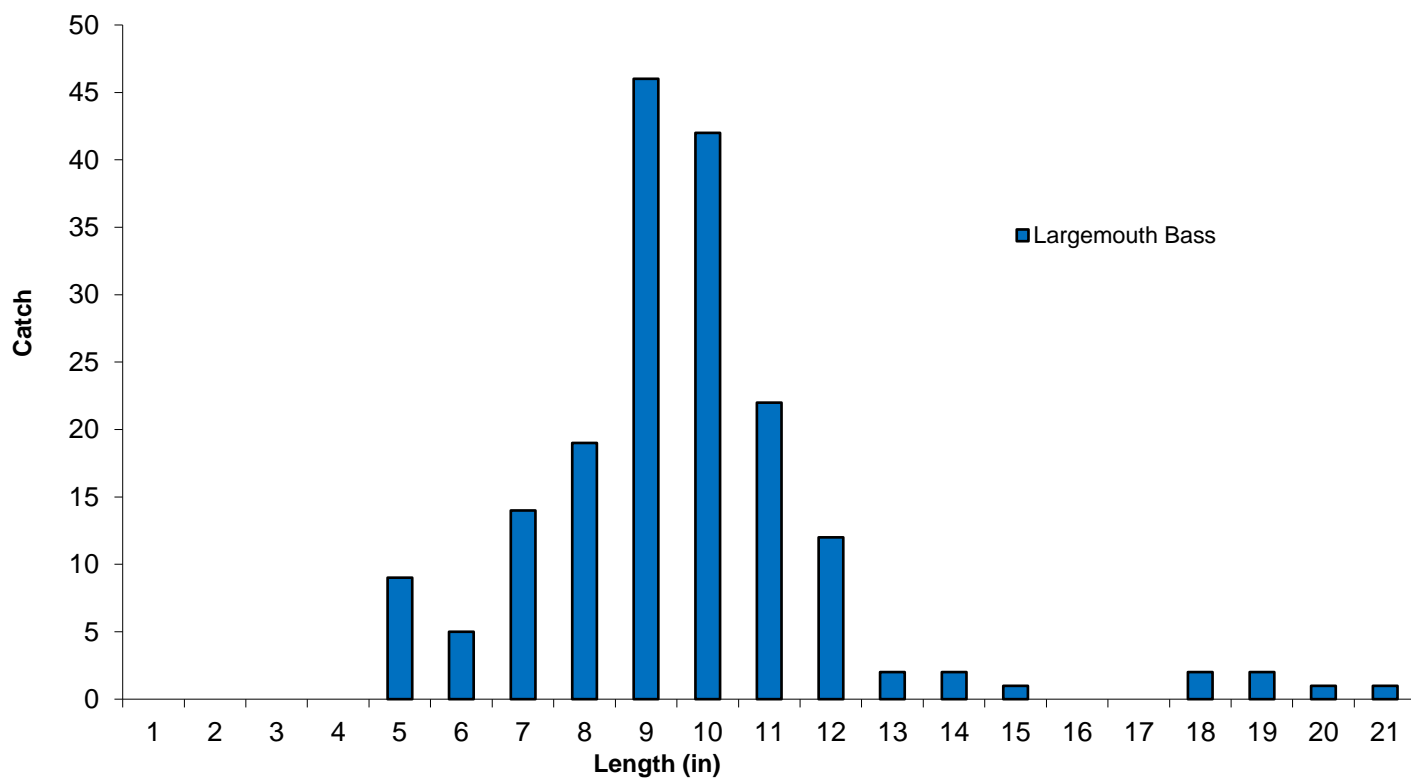


Figure 1. Length-frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass collected on May 14, 2025 at Fords Lake.

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