

Hills Creek Lake

Tioga County

2025 Black Bass Survey



A 21.4-inch, 5.3-pound Largemouth Bass captured from Hills Creek Lake on May 6, 2025.

[Hills Creek Lake](#) is a 137-acre impoundment located in [Hills Creek State Park](#), Tioga County. Hills Creek State Park offer many amenities including a campground and year-round programs run by the DCNR staff. The lake has several boat launches as well as a fishing pier, boat rental, and beach with swimming area. Boating is limited to unpowered boats and those with electric motors only. All fish species are undermanaged using statewide Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations.

Fisheries Management Area 4 biologists conducted a night boat electrofishing survey of Hills Creek Lake on May 6, 2025. We caught a total of 84 Largemouth Bass in a little over an hour of sampling time. Total night electrofishing catch rate for Largemouth Bass was 81.6 fish/hour. The bass ranged from 6 to 21 inches in total length (Figure 1.) The catch rate for bass ≥ 12 inches was 71.9 fish/hour and the catch rate for bass ≥ 15 inches was 31.1 fish/hour (Table 1.) The total catch rate for all length classes were higher than those recorded in both 2015 and 2023. The 2023 survey was conducted a month later in June where dense beds of aquatic vegetation are believed to have negatively impacted the catch rates from that survey.

Hills Creek Lake has ideal habitat for Largemouth Bass. The lake is shallow with numerous stumps scattered in the north end of 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. Also observed but not captured during this survey were good numbers and size distribution of Bluegills, crappies, Yellow Perch and Chain Pickerel.

Table 1. Night electrofishing catch rate (fish/h) comparisons by year of Largemouth Bass at Hills Creek Lake, Tioga County.

	2025	2023	2015
Total catch	81.6	48.0	50.3
≥ 12"	71.9	23.5	25.7
≥ 15"	31.1	7.8	8.9

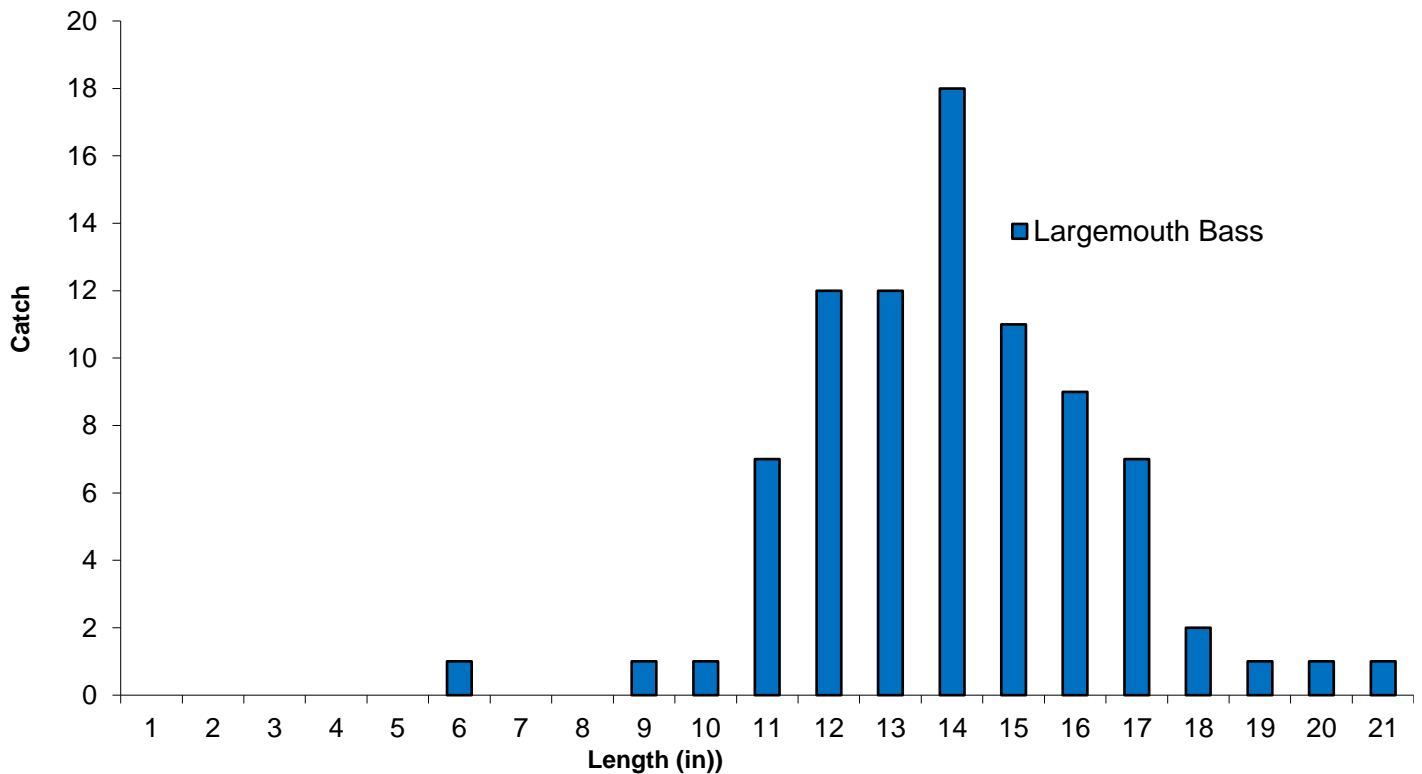


Figure 1. Length-frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass collected on May 6, 2025 at Hills Creek Lake, Tioga County.

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