



Beaverdam Run Reservoir, Cambria County

2024 Trap Net and 2025 Night Electrofishing Survey

Introduction

Beaverdam Run Reservoir is a 360-acre impoundment located east of Beaverdale, PA on State Route 869. The impoundment is owned by Highland Sewer and Water Authority and was opened to the public for fishing and other lake recreational activities in 2000. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) recognizes the Authority for their cooperative effort of allowing public access to the reservoir. The reservoir has low turbidity and low productivity. Alkalinity values ranged from 2 to 3 mg/l in 2000 to 7 mg/l in 2024. Currently, Beaverdam Run Reservoir is managed with [Big Bass](#) and [Panfish Enhancement](#) regulations for black bass and Yellow Perch, respectively. The PFBC stocked fingerling Smallmouth Bass in 2003 and 2004 to develop a reproducing population and increase angling opportunities. Local angling groups have been stocking adult Rainbow Trout and Brook Trout at the reservoir in coordination with PFBC.

The lake was surveyed in May 2024 using trap nets and in June 2025 using night electrofishing. Trap netting was performed to assess the lakes naturally reproducing populations of warmwater/coolwater gamefish and panfish. Night electrofishing was performed to assess the lakes naturally reproducing populations of Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass.

Methods

Twelve trap net sets were used in May 2024 and six night electrofishing runs were used in June 2025 to sample Beaverdam Run Reservoir.

Results

Fourteen fish species were captured from trap nets in May 2024 (Table 1). Bluegills were the most impressive of the panfish species captured in trap nets. Numerous Bluegills in the 8- and 9-inch size classes were captured trap netting. Bluegill numbers and sizes have improved greatly since the first survey in 2001 (Figure 1). Beaverdam Run Reservoir would be an excellent place for anglers to target large Bluegills.

Although far less abundant, some quality-sized Pumpkinseeds are also available to anglers at Beaverdam Run Reservoir. Overall, 79% of the Pumpkinseeds captured were 7 inches long and longer (Figure 2). Overall numbers of Pumpkinseeds declined from the previous survey in 2016.

Table 1. Species, number, and length range of fish caught during the 2024 trap net survey at Beaverdam Run Reservoir.

Species	Number	Length (inches)
Golden Shiner	41	Not measured
White Sucker	139	Not measured
Yellow Bullhead	31	6 - 13
Brown Bullhead	55	9 - 15
Rainbow Trout - hatchery	1	14
Green Sunfish	3	4
Pumpkinseed	14	6 - 8
Bluegill	71	6 - 10
hybrid sunfish	4	6 - 8
Smallmouth Bass	43	6 - 20
Largemouth Bass	1	19
Black Crappie	41	9 - 15
Yellow Perch	96	6 - 12

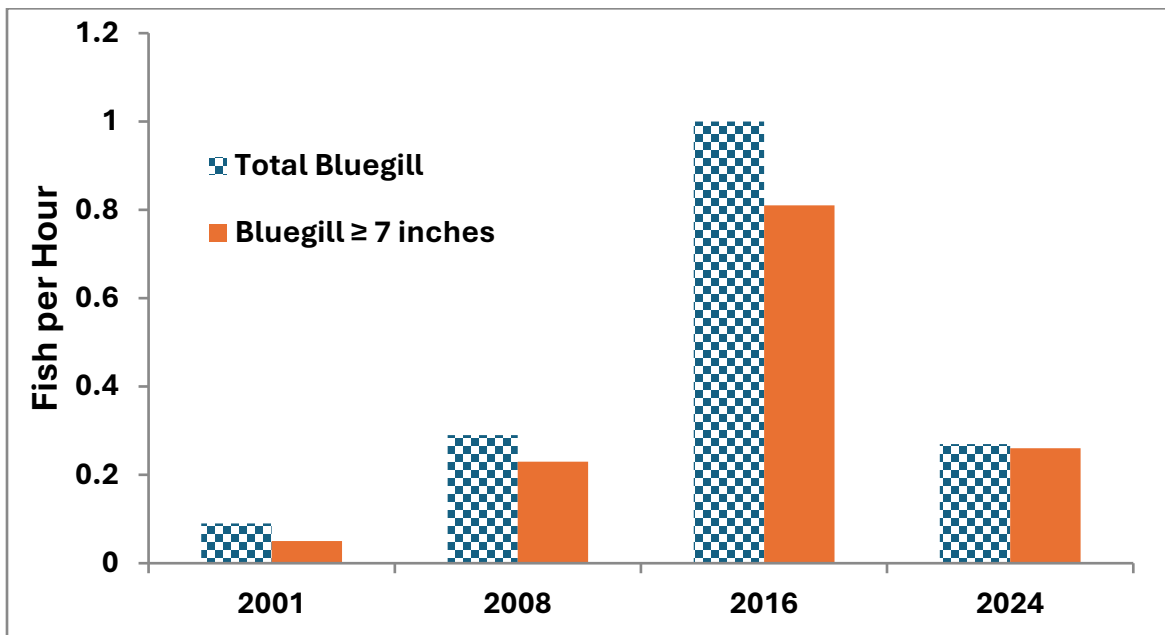


Figure 1. Catch rates of Bluegills (checkered bars) and Bluegills seven inches long and longer (solid orange bars) from trap nets at Beaverdam Run Reservoir during 2001, 2008, 2016, and 2024 surveys..

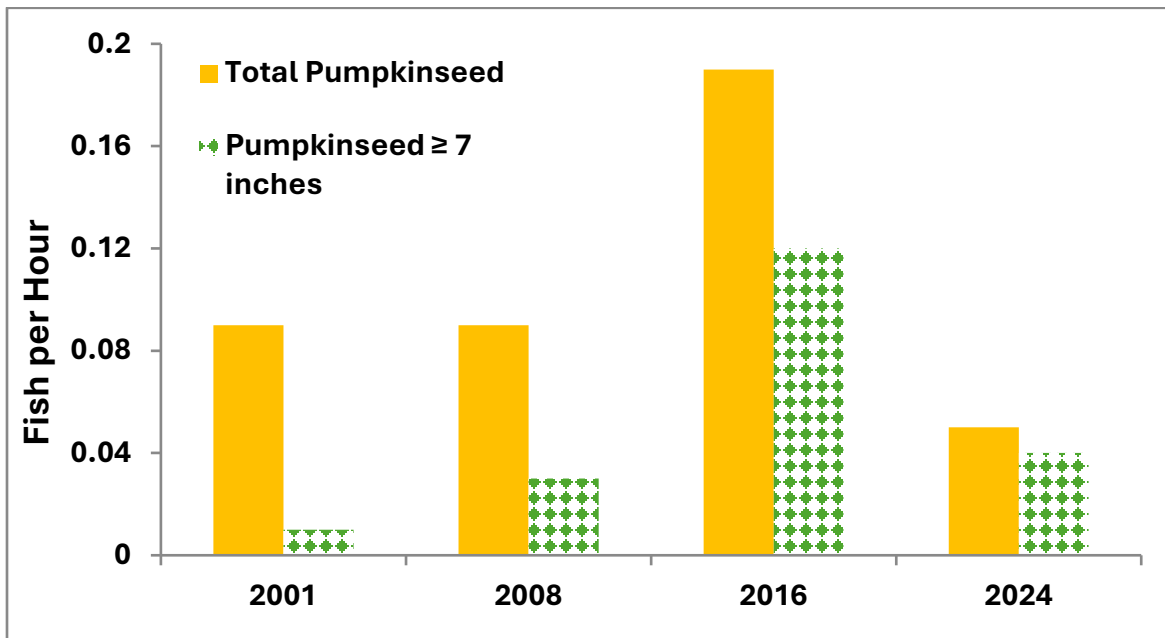


Figure 2. Catch rates of Pumpkinseeds (solid yellow bars) and Pumpkinseeds seven inches long and longer (checkered bars) from trap nets at Beaverdam Run Reservoir during 2001, 2008, 2016, and 2024 surveys.

Rock Bass were also captured in 2024 at Beaverdam Run Reservoir. Overall numbers of Rock Bass captured were lower than in the previous two surveys, but good numbers of fish 7 inches long and longer were present. Approximately 90% of the Rock Bass were over 7 inches long and longer (Figure 3).

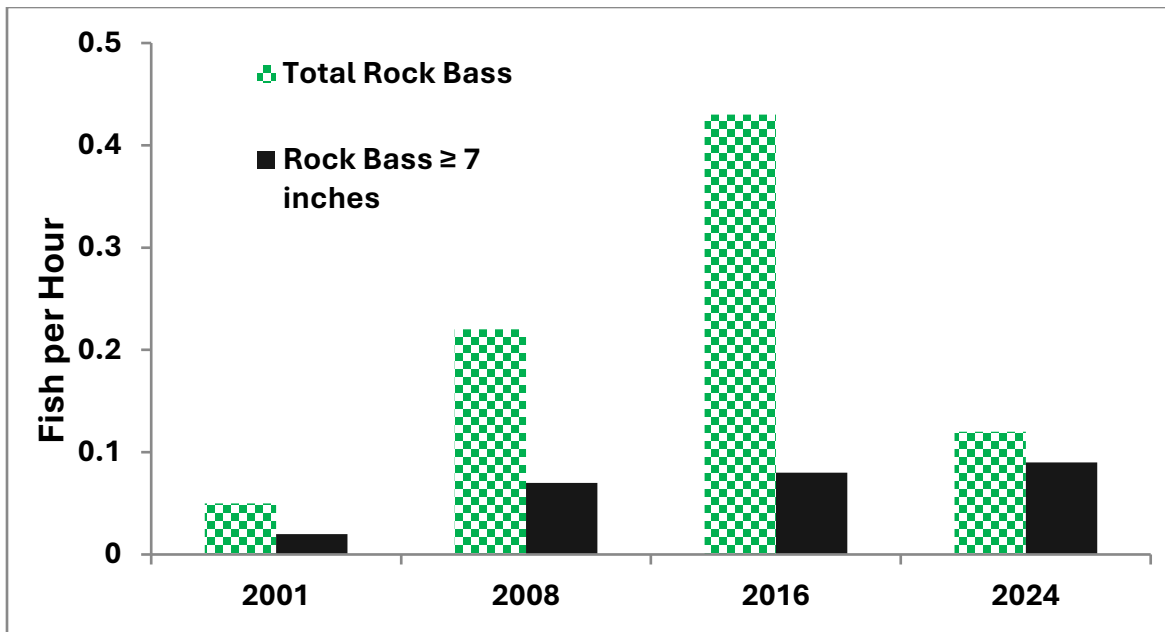


Figure 3. Catch rates of Rock Bass (checkered bars) and Rock Bass seven inches long and longer (solid black bars) from trap nets at Beaverdam Run Reservoir during 2001, 2008, 2016, and 2024 surveys..

Yellow Perch numbers have declined since the initial survey in 2001. However, the catch rate of larger fish has remained similar. Perch nine inches long and longer were captured at a rate of 0.16 fish/h in

2001 compared to 0.28 fish/h in 2024 (Figure 4). The introduction of Smallmouth Bass to the reservoir may be responsible for the overall decline in the Yellow Perch population.

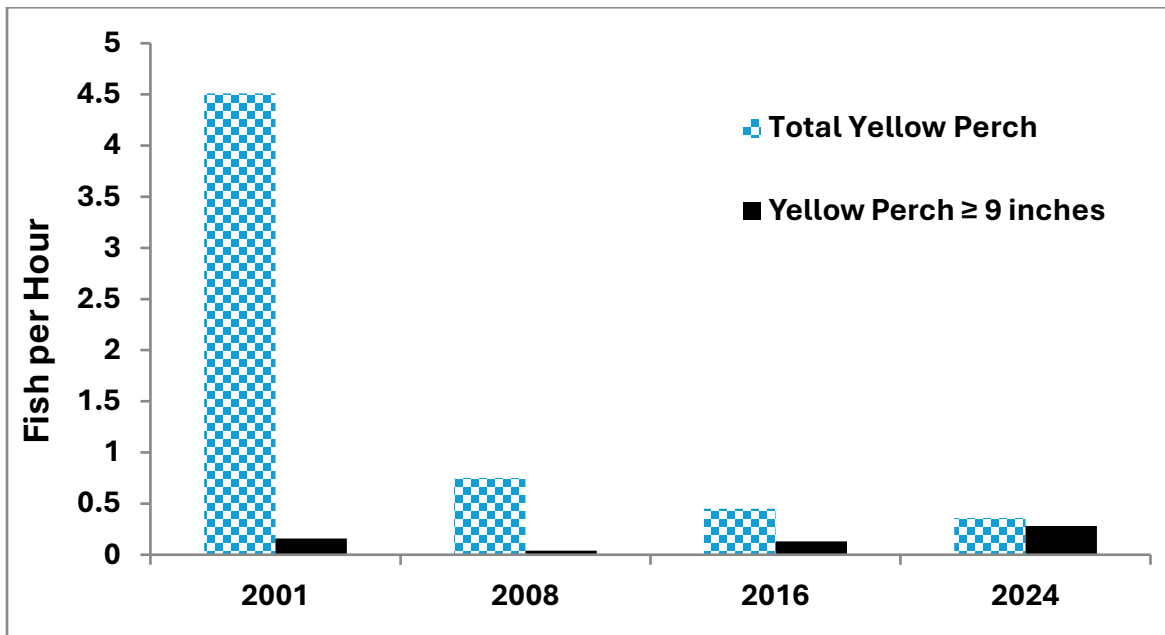


Figure 4. Catch rates of Yellow Perch (checkered bars) and Yellow Perch seven inches long and longer (solid black bars) from trap nets at Beaverdam Run Reservoir during 2001, 2008, 2016, and 2024 surveys.

Black Crappies were captured in decent sizes and numbers in 2024. Catch rates in 2024 were almost triple the rates in all previous surveys. Black Crappies up to 15” were captured during our surveys (Figure 5).

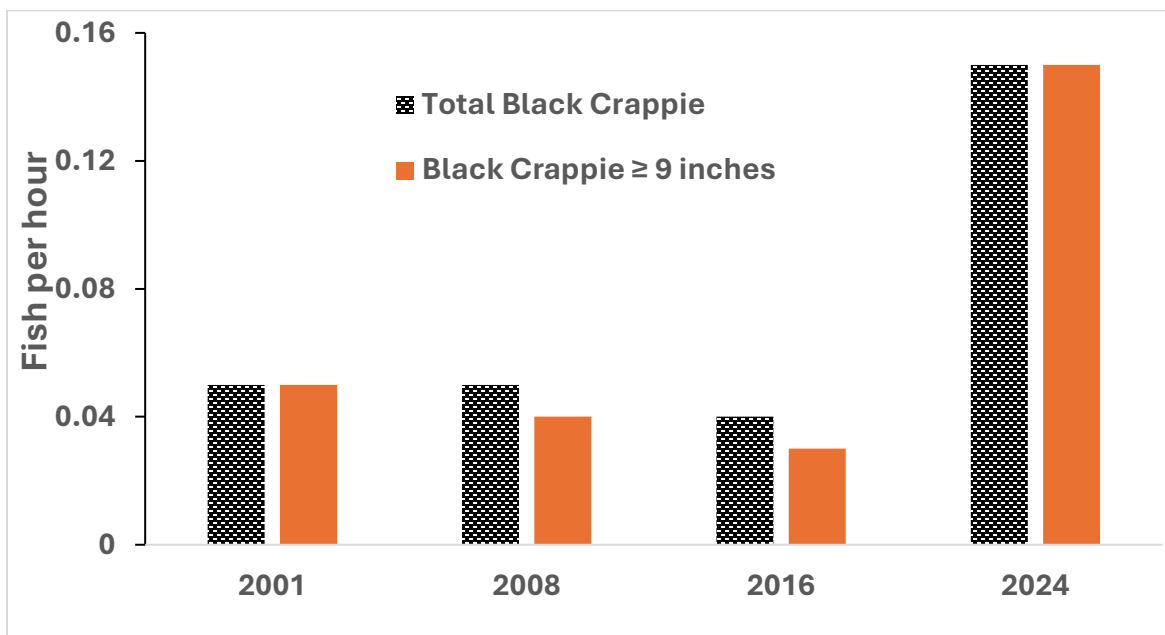


Figure 5. Catch rates of Black Crappies (checkered bars) and Black Crappies seven inches long and longer (solid orange bars) from trap nets at Beaverdam Run Reservoir during 2001, 2008, 2016, and 2024 surveys.

Brown Bullheads abundance has declined since 2001, but the average size of the fish is larger. Fishing opportunities for Brown Bullhead should be fair at Beaverdam Run Reservoir. Smallmouth Bass were also captured in good numbers in trap nets. Typically, black bass species avoid trap nets and are captured primarily by night electrofishing. However, we have captured several Smallmouth Bass in trap nets during the 2008, 2016, and 2024 surveys on Beaverdam Run Reservoir.

Night electrofishing in June 2025 was conducted to evaluate the black bass population of Beaverdam Run Reservoir. Smallmouth Bass was the only black bass species captured in 2025. Largemouth Bass have been captured in low numbers during previous surveys. Catch of Smallmouth Bass was fair but the size distribution was poor with no fish 15 inches long and longer captured and only a handful of fish 12 inches long and longer (Figure 6). Gear inefficiency due to the extremely low conductivity of the water hampered our efforts to effectively sample the bass population at this impoundment. Many fish were simply not stunned due to the low conductivity in this impoundment and were observed easily avoiding capture. Some larger fish estimated to be over 15 inches long and longer were spotted but not captured during the electrofishing survey.

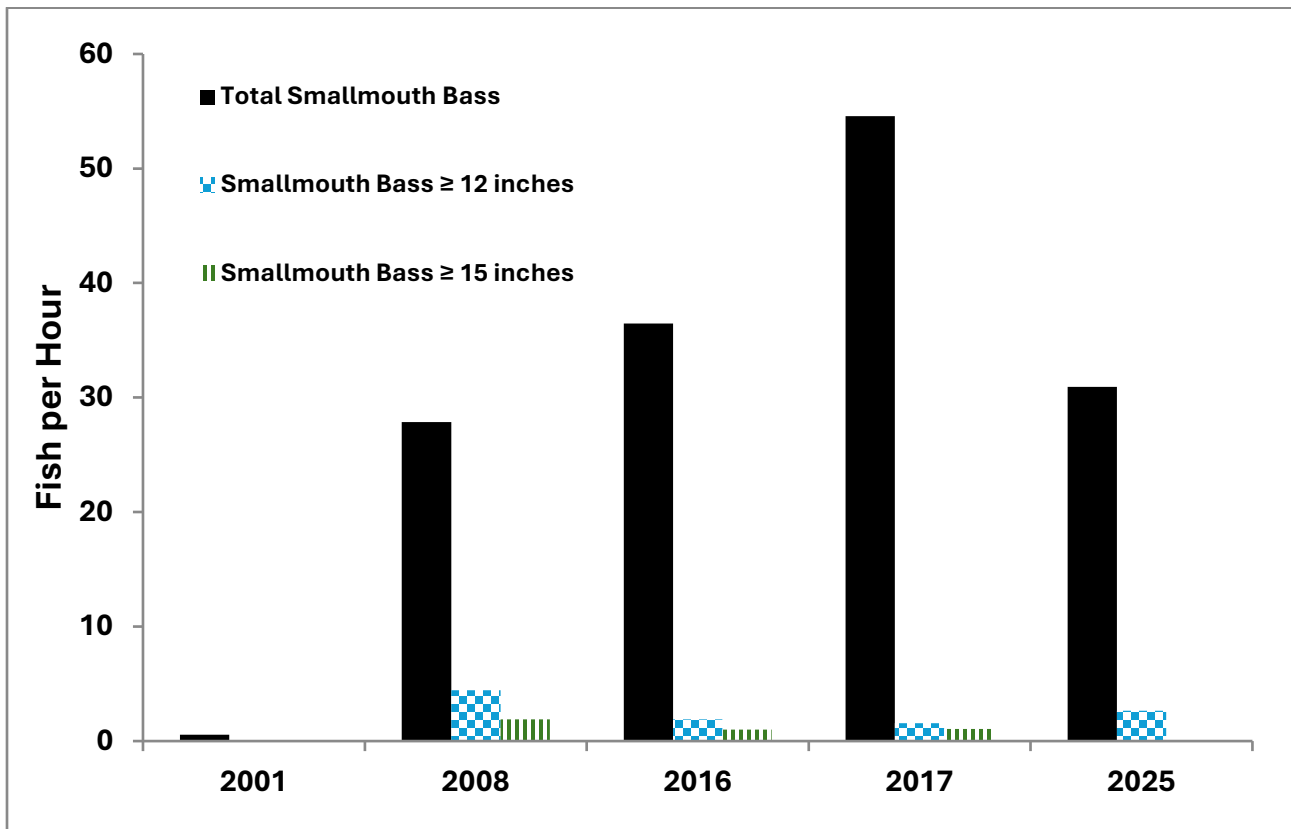


Figure 6. Catch rates of Smallmouth Bass (solid black bars), Smallmouth Bass 12 inches long and longer (checkered bars), and Smallmouth Bass 15 inches long and longer (vertical-hashed bars) during boat electrofishing surveys at Beaverdam Run Reservoir during 2001, 2008, 2016, 2017, and 2025 surveys.

Discussion

Overall, Beaverdam Run Reservoir provides good fishing opportunities for a variety of species. Panfish are at the top of the list, with good numbers of quality-size sunfish and Rock Bass. Although perch numbers have declined, larger fish over 9 inches are still available to anglers. Crappie numbers

are low, but the fish that anglers encounter should be sizable. Smallmouth Bass are also present in numbers for anglers to target.

Fisheries Management Area 8