



Dunlap Creek Lake, Fayette County

2025 Trap Net and Night Electrofishing Survey

Introduction

Dunlap Creek Lake is a 50-acre Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) impoundment near Uniontown, PA. The lake has one boat launch (electric motors only), adequate parking, picnic tables, and fishing piers. These facilities are provided and maintained by Fayette County.

The PFBC manages Dunlap Creek Lake using Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations for all warmwater/coolwater species. Previous surveys of Dunlap Creek Lake have documented dense populations of Largemouth Bass and low to moderate abundance of crappies and Bluegills. Walleyes were previously stocked in the lake; however, stocking was discontinued due to poor survival of Walleye fingerlings. Dunlap Creek Lake is also stocked with catchable trout and is in the Stocked Trout Water Open to Year-Round Fishing program.

Dunlap Creek Lake was surveyed in April 2025 with trap nets and in May 2025 by night flatbottom boat electrofishing. The purpose of the surveys was to monitor the status of the lake's fish populations and update fisheries management plans for the lake.

Methods

Six Pennsylvania style trap nets and three night flatbottom boat electrofishing runs were used to sample the fish populations at Dunlap Creek Lake. Panfish were the primary target of the trap netting portion of the survey whereas Largemouth Bass were targeted using night electrofishing. Effort was 136.75 hours for trap netting and 1.03 hours for night electrofishing.

Results

Overall trap net catch was low at Dunlap Creek Lake in 2025 (Table 1). Bluegills were the most abundant species captured with 86 individuals ranging from 2 to 8 inches in length. Bluegills were evenly distributed in size between 2 and 7 inches. Total catch of crappies was low with 19 individuals captured; however, most of the crappies captured were over 9 inches. Both Black Crappie and White Crappie were captured, as well as hybrids between the two species. Yellow Perch numbers were low with only one individual over 9 inches. A few additional species, including a fair amount of hatchery Rainbow Trout, were also captured in trap nets.

Table 1. Species, number caught, and length range for the 2025 trap net survey on Dunlap Creek Lake.

Species	Number	Length (in.)
Common Carp	1	Not measured
Rainbow Trout - hatchery	17	Not measured
Flathead Catfish	1	Not measured
Bluegill	86	2 - 8
Black Crappie	8	9 - 11
White Crappie	7	6 - 13
hybrid crappie	4	10 - 12
Yellow Perch	6	5 - 10



An average-sized Black Crappie (left) and White Crappie (right) captured at Dunlap Creek Lake

In contrast to the trap netting portion of the survey, the night electrofishing portion of the survey revealed a quality Largemouth Bass population present at Dunlap Creek Lake. We captured 173 Largemouth Bass ranging between 4 and 22 inches during the electrofishing survey. Just under 40% of the Largemouth Bass caught were over 12 inches in length, which was a vast improvement from the 2016 survey when only 2% exceeded 12 inches. Mean total catch per unit effort, CPUE ≥ 12 inches, and CPUE ≥ 15 inches all exceeded Big Bass Program guidelines used to characterize a quality bass population in Pennsylvania (Figure 1).

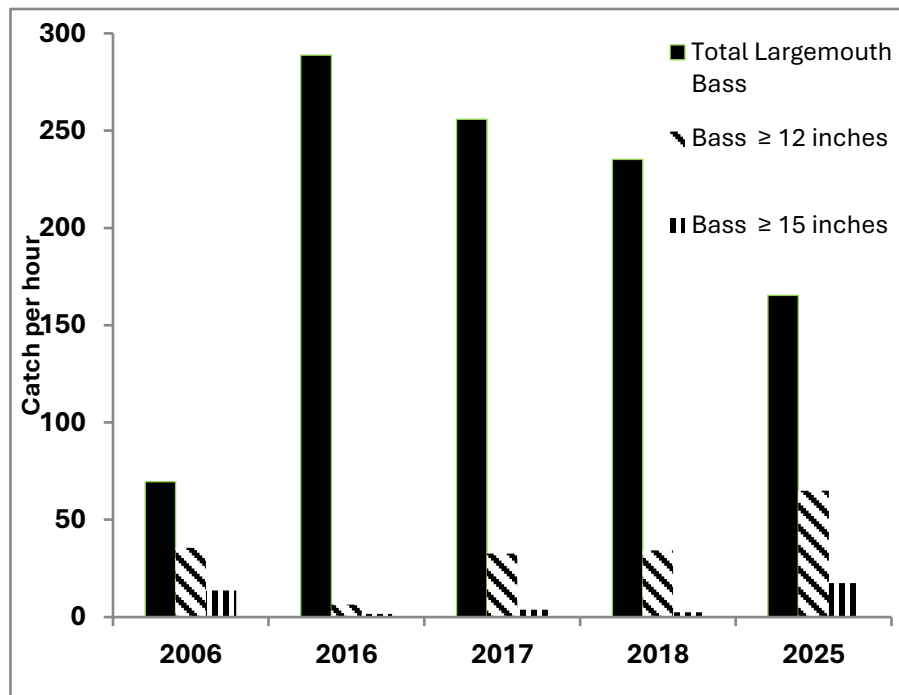


Figure 1. Electrofishing catch rate of all Largemouth Bass (black bar), Largemouth Bass 12" long and longer (diagonally-hashed bar) and Largemouth Bass 15" long and longer (vertically-hashed bar) from Dunlap Creek Lake during last five surveys.



A pair of big bass captured night electrofishing at Dunlap Creek Lake in 2025.

Discussion

Overall, Dunlap Creek Lake currently provides good fishing opportunities for Largemouth Bass and stocked Rainbow Trout. Lower numbers of panfish are available to anglers but a few quality crappies and Bluegills are present.

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