



Fishery Assessment

The fishery in [Fountain Pond](#) was sampled with standard boat-mounted electrofishing equipment. The sample contained largemouth bass, northern bluegill and redear sunfish (shellcracker). Currently, largemouth bass are functioning as the primary predators in [Fountain Pond](#). The bluegill and shellcracker are the prey.

Largemouth bass ranging in size from 5 to 20 inches in total length were collected in high abundance (Figure 2). The bass population was dominated by two distinct size ranges: 7 to 12 inches and 19 to 20 inches. Largemouth bass **12 inches and smaller** represent the primary targets for harvest over the coming months. We harvested 27 pounds of bass during the evaluation.

Bluegill and shellcracker were collected ranging in size from 2 to 9 inches in total length. Figure 3 depicts the length distribution of the bluegill population. Of note, relatively few intermediate (3-5") bluegill were collected. Further, mature adult bluegill were nearly absent from the sample. These items collectively require management attention.

The average relative weight of adult bass collected from [Fountain Pond](#) was 83 (Figure 4). In other words, most of the adult bass were in relatively poor condition. The bass population is dominated by skinny, slow growing individuals.

Overall, we characterize the fish community in [Fountain Pond](#) as bass-crowded. A more detailed explanation of bass-crowded ponds in general, and [Fountain Pond](#) in particular is located in the Current State of Balance section of this report.

Management inputs aimed at shifting the fishery toward a state of balance are listed in the Recommended Management Activities section of this report.

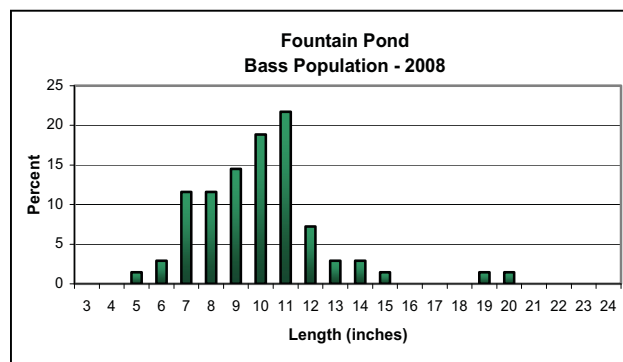


Figure 2. Length distribution of bass collected from [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2008.

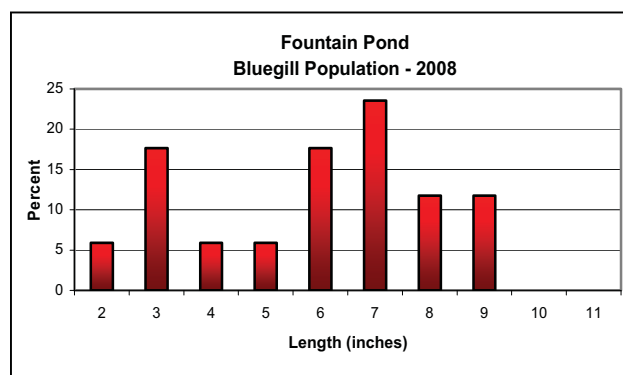


Figure 3. Length distribution of bluegill collected from [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2008.

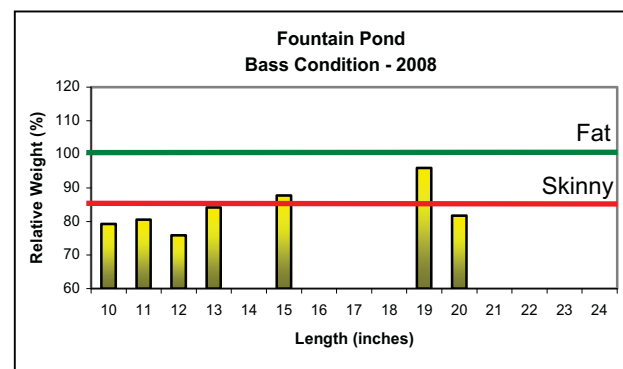


Figure 4. Relative weights (W_r) of adult largemouth bass collected from [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2008.