

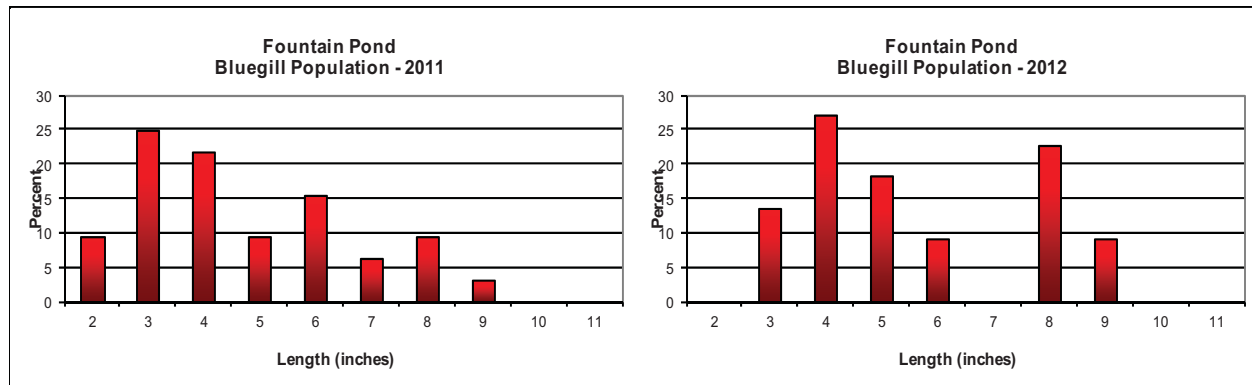


Figure 3. Comparison of the length distribution of bluegill collected from [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2011 and May 2012.

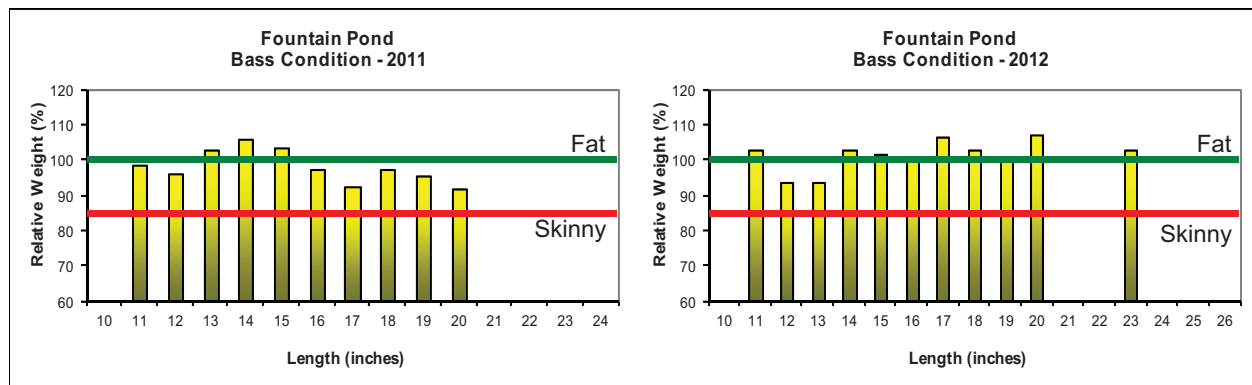


Figure 4. Relative weight distribution of adult largemouth bass collected from [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2011 and May 2012.



Fishery Assessment

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

Threadfin shad have become an important component of the forage base in [Fountain Pond](#). We observed several different size groups, indicating a healthy population. Maintaining a healthy shad population will be important for [Fountain Pond](#) to continue producing quality and trophy size bass.

Largemouth bass ranging in size from 5 to 23 inches in total length were collected in high abundance. The length distribution of largemouth bass (Figure 2) reveals the presence of bass over a wide range of size classes. This represents improvement from the previous year, most likely the result of bass harvest and a reproducing threadfin shad population.

The average relative weight of adult bass in our most recent sample additionally reflects notable improvement over last year. This year's average relative weight was 102, as compared to last year, 100 (Figure 4).

Largemouth bass 18 inches and smaller represent the primary targets for harvest over the coming year. Remember that we talked about you and your family harvesting the larger bass. I would tell any other fisherman to harvest bass 16 inches and smaller. We harvested 22 pounds of bass during the evaluation.

Bluegill and shellcracker were collected ranging in size from 3 to 9 inches in total length. Figure 3 depicts the length distribution of the bluegill population. Of note, an abundance of intermediate (3-5") bluegill and other forage was collected. Further, mature adult bluegill were relatively scarce in the sample and would benefit from a more intensive feeding program.

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

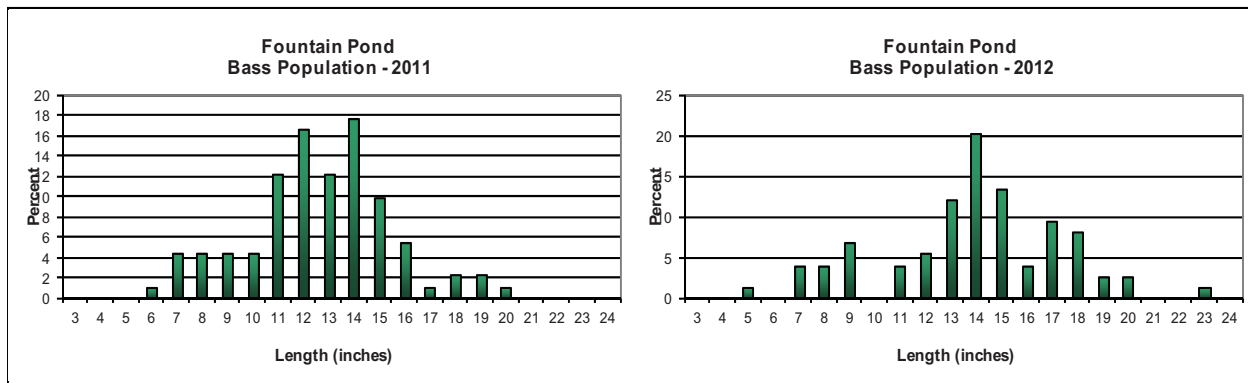


Figure 2. Comparison of the length distribution of bass collected in [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2011 and May 2012.