

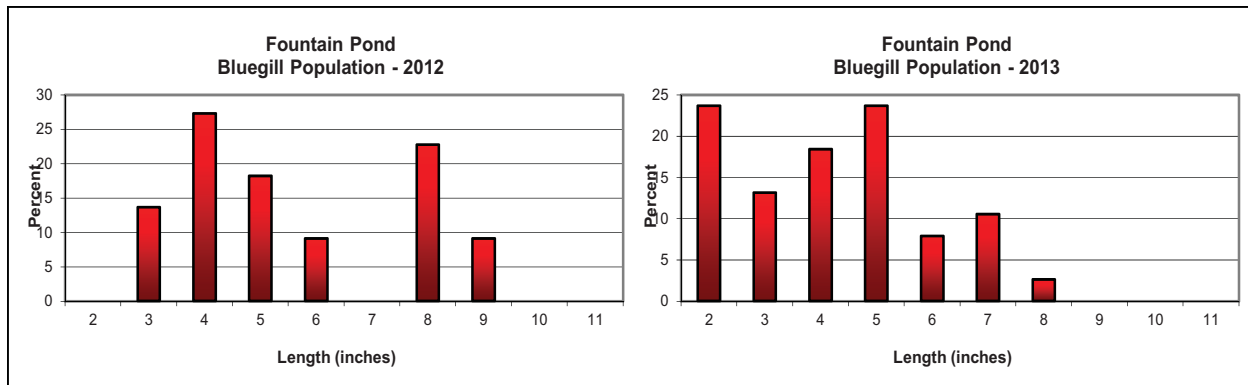


Figure 3. Comparison of the length distribution of bluegill collected from [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2012 and May 2013.

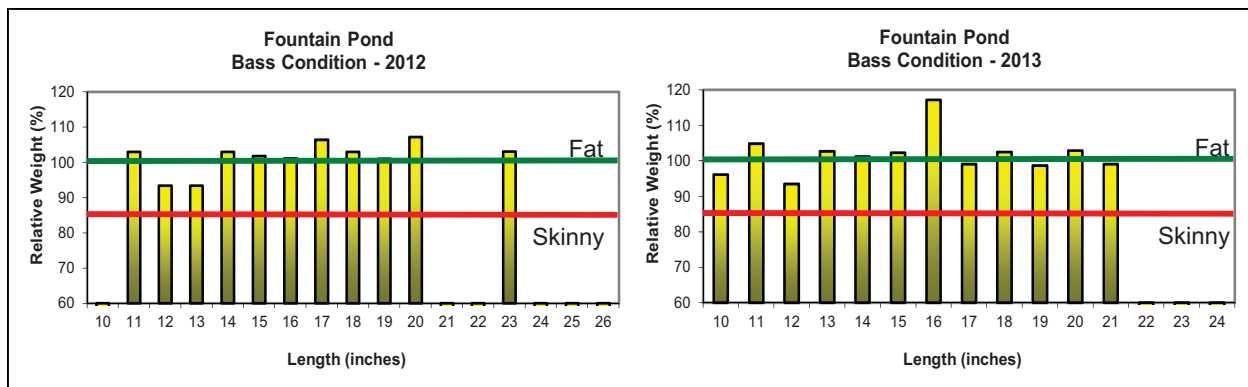


Figure 4. Relative weight distribution of adult largemouth bass collected from [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2012 and May 2013.



Fishery Assessment

The fishery in [Fountain Pond](#) was sampled with standard boat-mounted electrofishing equipment. The sample contained largemouth bass, threadfin shad, coppernose bluegill, and redear sunfish (shellcracker). Currently, largemouth bass are functioning as the primary predators in [Fountain Pond](#). The threadfin shad, bluegill, 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 7 to 21 inches in total length were collected in moderate 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 improved bass harvest.

The average relative weight of adult bass in our most recent sample additionally reflects no significant change over last year. This year's average

relative weight was 101, as compared to last year, 102 (Figure 4).

Largemouth bass 17 inches and smaller represent the primary targets for harvest over the coming months. We harvested 61 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, an abundance of intermediate (3-5") bluegill and other forage was collected. Mature adult bluegill were also abundant in the sample.

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.

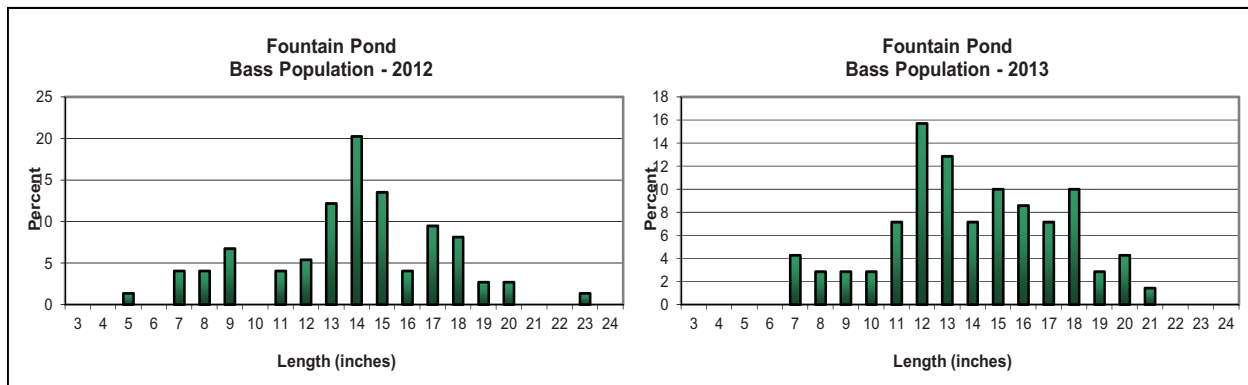


Figure 2. Comparison of the length distribution of bass collected in [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2012 and May 2013.