

East Tennessee's Cool Water Sport Fishery Resources

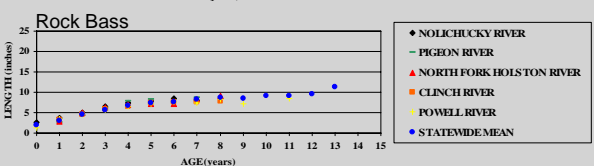
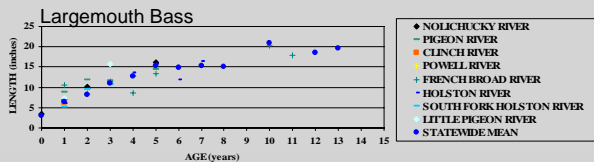
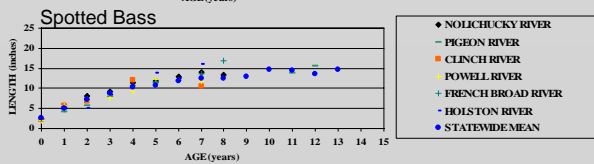
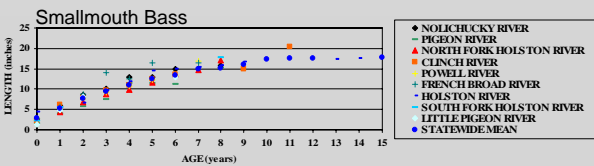
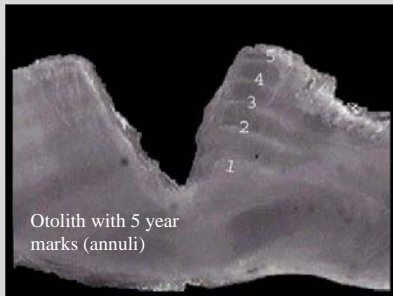


Fisheries managers have many techniques at their disposal to aid in the management of fish populations. One of these is a technique used to age fish and determine growth from a bony structure known as an otolith. Growth rings (alternating slow and fast growth) are formed during the fish's life span. By counting the periods of slow growth, age can be determined. Estimates of length at various age increments are made to determine how fast the fish has grown. This aids managers in determining if special management is required optimize the growth and longevity of various sport species in Tennessee. Below are illustrations of the an otolith and typical growth rings along with the typical size structure of smallmouth bass found in many east Tennessee rivers. The graphs depict average size at various ages for popular sport species found in east Tennessee with a comparison to overall statewide average.

Fishy Facts:

~ Did you know that smallmouth bass can live up to 15 years in Tennessee rivers and streams.

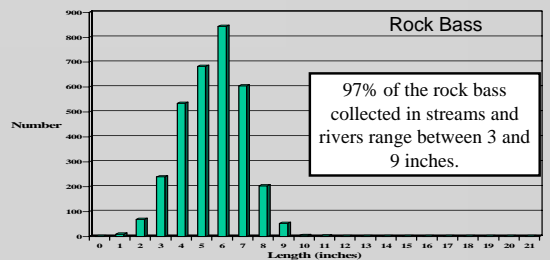
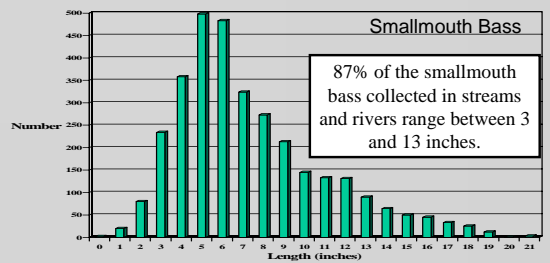
~ It can take up to 12 years for a rock bass (Redeye) to reach 10 inches.



Fisheries managers monitor riverine black bass and rock bass populations with electrofishing. Boat electrofishing units are used to introduce electricity into the water to temporarily stun the fish. Measurements regarding length, weight, and age are recorded from these samples. Information gathered from these surveys is used to make management decisions to optimize the fishery resource and provide a diversity of angling experiences. Below are some illustrations of the typical size range and frequency of smallmouth bass and rock bass (Redeye) from east Tennessee streams and rivers.

Fishy Facts:

~ In east Tennessee rivers it takes a smallmouth bass an average of 4.3 years to reach 12 inches, and 8 years to reach 16 inches.



Some of the most productive river fisheries in the state are located right here in east Tennessee. With over **4,000 miles** of cool water streams and rivers in the region there is plenty of water to explore. Whether your after a feisty stream reared smallmouth, sunfish, or trying for the elusive muksy, rivers and streams in TWRA's Region 4 offer many opportunities. Listed below , you will find some of the more popular cool water fisheries in east Tennessee.

Nolichucky River
French Broad River
Pigeon River
Little Pigeon River

Holston River
Clinch River
Powell River
North Fork Holston River

Little River
Indian Creek
North Fork Clinch River
Big Creek

