



# Lake Norman F-1 Stocking Program – Spring 2021 Electrofishing Results

May 2021



On April 12 and April 13, 2021, fisheries biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission surveyed the four sites where F-1 Largemouth Bass were stocked in the Fall of 2020. Our goal for this survey was to determine if F-1 Largemouth Bass persisted in or adjacent to these sites and if so, if any change in their growth had been detected since last fall. We expended 3.8 hours of electrofishing time over these four sites and collected 93 Largemouth Bass of which 6 were confirmed to be F-1 Largemouth Bass based on the presence of a coded wire tag.

The average weight of the 2,000 fish stocked in October 2020 was 0.2 lbs. and the average length was 8 inches. The average weight of the tagged fish we collected in Spring of 2021 was 0.2 lbs. and the average length was 8 inches. In other words, these six fish had not grown since they were stocked six months earlier.

What do these results mean? The lack of growth was not surprising given that these fish were stocked near the end of the 2020 growing season and were collected at the beginning of the 2021 growing season. It will take additional

time to see if these fish grow better in Lake Norman than wild spawned Largemouth Bass. The low numbers of fish collected were not surprising given that stocked Largemouth Bass can move from stocking sites, particularly at younger ages, and stocked Largemouth Bass do not survive as well as wild spawned fish in many systems.

Our next survey for these sites is planned for Spring 2022. Updates on the F-1 stocking program will be posted to our social media accounts when new information is available.



*Left photo: Fisheries biologist Troy Thompson collects fish for scanning; Top photo: Biologists scan collected fish for coded wire before releasing them back into the lake.*

