



F1 Hybrid Largemouth Bass Research Project

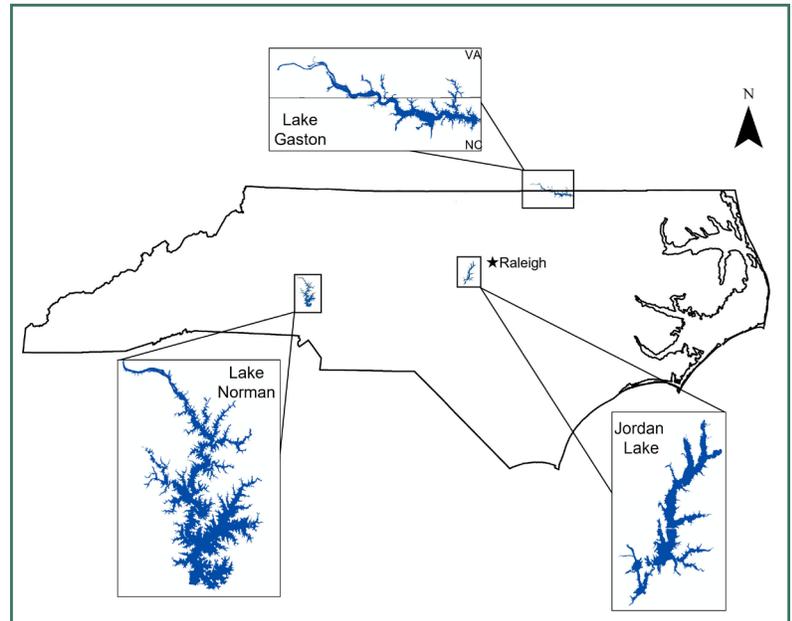
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Highlights

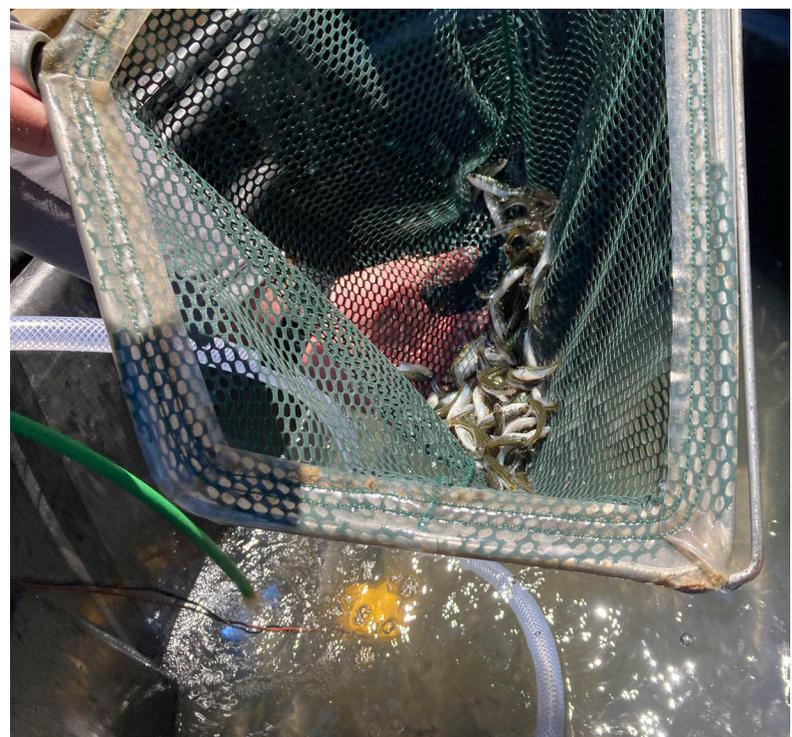
- F1 hybrid Largemouth Bass are a first-generation cross of a Northern Largemouth Bass and Florida Largemouth Bass. These hybrids have the potential for rapid growth.
- F1 hybrids will be stocked at B. Everett Jordan Reservoir, Lake Gaston, and Lake Norman for the next 4-5 years (2023 to 2027).
- Fin clips collected from NCWRC surveys and tournament weigh-ins will be genetically analyzed to determine the success of F1 hybrids. It is impossible to tell the difference between stocked F1 hybrids and other naturally spawned Largemouth Bass without using genetics.
- F1 hybrid Largemouth Bass success will be evaluated at these three reservoirs to determine future management.



Lakes where F1 fingerling stockings will occur.



F1 hybrid fingerling. Fish are approximately 2 inches in length at the time of stocking.



F1 hybrid fingerlings being stocked into Lake Norman



N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission F1 Hybrid Largemouth Bass Research Project

Anglers have advocated for the stocking of F1 hybrid Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus* X *Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) to augment Largemouth Bass populations and potentially increase the quantity of trophy black bass in reservoirs. F1 hybrids are a 50-50 cross between a pure Florida Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus*) and a pure Northern Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*). This cross between the two strains of Largemouth Bass is believed to have “hybrid vigor”. This vigor may allow F1 hybrids to grow rapidly and attain a larger overall size than other forms of Largemouth Bass. Offspring of a F1 hybrid will no longer be a cross between a pure Florida Largemouth Bass and a pure Northern Largemouth Bass, therefore the Commission must continue to stock F1 hybrids on a consistent basis to maintain the population.

F1 hybrids have been stocked in Lake Norman since 2021 and stocking at B. Everett Jordan Reservoir and Lake Gaston will begin in Summer 2023. The Commission’s goal in stocking F1 hybrids will be to evaluate their persistence, growth potential, and ability to increase the overall quality of the existing Largemouth Bass fishery in reservoirs with different levels of productivity.



Commission staff stocking F1 hybrid fingerlings into Lake Norman.

Project Objectives:

- Determine the persistence and growth rates of stocked F1 hybrids in B. Everett Jordan Reservoir, Lake Gaston, and Lake Norman.
- Evaluate if environmental conditions at these reservoirs impact the quality of the F1 hybrid fisheries.

What’s Next:

- Continue stocking F1 hybrids annually during the summers of 2023-2027.
- Complete electrofishing surveys and tournament collections annually to assess the impact of stocking until at least 2030.

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