

## Haven Lake

82.5 acres

Milford

Although the abundance of largemouth bass has declined here in recent years, the proportion of larger fish remains stable. Bass up to 19 inches were collected. Occasional gaps in the size range indicate possible sporadic recruitment. Average weights were good but were likely impacted by the heavy coverage of hydrilla making it more difficult for the bass to catch forage fish.

A wide size range of bluegill was present, from 4 to nearly 9 inches and average weights were good. The growth of bluegill is better here than most other ponds. Black crappie were also present with larger individuals (> 10 inches) most abundant. A wide variety of panfish occurs here with bluegill, black crappie, yellow perch, white perch, and pumpkinseed sunfish. A few redear sunfish were collected here in 2006 and 2011.

American eel, common carp, and creek chubsucker were common throughout the pond with lesser numbers of golden shiner, brown bullhead, and chain pickerel.



### VEGETATION

Floating mats of the filamentous alga, *Lyngbya*, were present along the shoreline and around the island. Another filamentous species was also present often within beds of hydrilla. The rooted species hydrilla which had been extremely abundant here in recent years appears to have become less common. It is dense in the upper end of the pond, but becomes sparse as one heads toward the dam.

Emergent vegetation is lacking along much of the shoreline as residential lawns grow to the water's edge in many areas.

### SPECIAL CONDITION

Bank fishing is limited to the boat access area due to the high proportion of shoreline in private ownership.

# Haven Lake 2006 Sussex County, Delaware

