

From Virginia Game & Inland Fisheries District Fisheries Biologist

- “The South Rivanna Reservoir is a great fisheries resource for Albemarle County;
- Reservoir supports self-sustaining populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie and channel catfish;
- The largemouth bass population is outstanding;
- Excellent numbers of catchable sized bass some greater than twenty plus inches.”

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- Silt/sediment removal can often benefit the spawning success of bass and sunfish species.
- Typically loose, mucky silt is removed, exposing the harder lake bottom. These harder surfaces create better areas for spawning nests and fish egg deposition.
- Sediment reduction can also help to control nuisance aquatic vegetation;
- Removing the silt layers will also stabilize the lake floor which can help promote the growth of native vegetation.

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To minimize the impacts of sediment removal on the fish community:

- Sediment removal operations should be avoided during the spawning season - April through July
- Sediment removal operations should be performed in a manner that isolates the disturbance to the small areas of the reservoir where removal operations are being performed;

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- Sediment removal operations should be performed in a manner that does not allow the release of turbid/disturbed water or sediment into the Rivanna River downstream;
- Fish habitat that is retrieved during sediment removal operations should be returned to the water body after excavation;
- Excavated materials should be disposed of offsite and in appropriate dumping areas.