

Management Brief

March 2023



We sampled the fish population in the big lake on March 23, 2023. Sampling conditions and water quality were ideal.

- The 2022 Largemouth Bass spawn was successful, and another strong cohort of young bass entered the population this past year.
- We examined 47 bass weighing up to 9.2 lb. Condition of bass longer than 12 inches remains outstanding, with a Relative Weight of 1.25 The bass population is in incredible shape!
- Bluegills and redears ranged up to 13.5 inches.
- 78 crappie were collected, ranging up to 1 lb 13 oz. Overall crappie numbers continue to diminish, but average size is increasing. Management practices begun in 2011 are paying off with elimination of the stunted crappie situation. This, again, is consistent with management objectives.
- Hybrid Striped Bass have clearly accomplished their mission and large hybrids presumably do remain in the lake, though none were observed during sampling.



Specific Recommendations for 2023

- 1) Continue allowing limited harvest of largemouth bass LESS THAN 14 inches.
 - a) Maintain the daily creel limit at 7 bass per angler.
 - b) Release all bass measuring 14 inches and longer.
 - c) Observe good "Catch-and-Release" handling practices to avoid stress on released bass.
- 2) Immediately Release ALL hybrid striped bass that are caught incidentally or intentionally.
- 3) Harvest bluegills and redears as desired, with a Daily limit of 25.

CONTINUE TO REMOVE ALL CRAPPIE THAT ARE CAUGHT - WITHOUT EXCEPTION - REGARDLESS OF SIZE

- 4) Remain cognizant of vegetation on trailers, in livewells, etc. Exotic plants like Hydrilla and Giant Salvinia are potentially disastrous intruders!

Nutrient Management

- a) Minimize application of nitrogen fertilizer.
- b) Use time-release or liquid formulations.
- c) Maintain "buffer strip" of slightly higher grass (4-6 inches) on lakeshore to "filter" nutrient runoff.
- d) Minimize/eliminate grass clippings

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions of hope."

John Buchan