

Management Brief

June 2025



We sampled the fish population in the big lake on May 23, 2025. Partly cloudy skies and light winds made sampling conditions excellent.

- The 2024 Largemouth Bass spawn was successful, and yet another strong cohort of fingerling bass entered the population this past year. Numerous 6-8" bass fingerlings were observed.
- We examined 79 adult bass weighing up to **9 lb 2 oz.** Condition of bass longer than 12 inches remains outstanding, with a Relative Weight of 1.19. *The bass population remains in incredible shape!*
- Bluegills and redears ranged up to **14 inches**, with several exceeding 1.25 lb
- No crappie were collected, but that is to be expected given the later than usual sampling date and higher ambient water temperatures. Crappie had already moved to deeper water structure where they are inaccessible to our electrofishing equipment. But anecdotal evidence, primarily word of mouth from lake anglers, indicates that the average size of crappie continues to increase, despite lower numbers in the creel. As we have previously celebrated, the Management practices begun in 2011 continue paying dividends with the alleviation of the stunted crappie situation.
- Hybrid Striped Bass have clearly accomplished their mission and large hybrids presumably do remain in the lake. Although none have been observed during sampling since 2020, at least one angler reported having caught a hybrid in the past 12 months.



Specific Recommendations for 2025

- 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. IE., bass under 14" may be harvested if desired.
 - c) Observe good "Catch-and-Release" handling practices to avoid stress on released bass.
- 2) Immediately Release ALL hybrid striped bass whether caught incidentally or intentionally.
- 3) Harvest bluegills and redears as desired, with a Daily limit of 25 per angler.
- 4) Remain cognizant of vegetation on trailers, in livewells, etc.

Exotic plants like Hydrilla and Giant Salvinia are potentially disastrous intruders!

CONTINUE REMOVING ALL CRAPPIE CAUGHT - WITHOUT EXCEPTION - REGARDLESS OF SIZE

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 blown into lake.

"There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind."

Washington Irving

