

Lake Management Status Report

Date of Report: 03/12/2021	Fisheries Manager: Fred A. Cronin	District: 16
Lake Name: Silver Lake (Highland)	County: Madison	Water #: 191
Ownership (STATE, PUBC, PUBO): PUBC		Acreage: 550

LM STATUS REPORTS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

1. Listing of the Sport Fish Regulations in Effect
2. Listing of Fisheries Management Activities Completed with Evaluation of Success
3. Lake Management Plan Progress Table
4. Recommendations for Observed Problem Trends

1. Listing of the Sport Fish Regulations in Effect

- A. Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass - 15" minimum length limit – 3 fish/day
- B. Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Saugeye - 14" minimum length limit – 6 fish/day

2. Listing of the Fisheries Management Activities Completed with Evaluation of Success

- A. 06/04/20 - Stocked 9,800 1.4 inch Sauger
- B. 08/05/20 – Stocked 13,772 4 inch Largemouth Bass
- C. 10/08/20 - Population Survey - 4 x 30 minute EF runs

3. Lake Management Plan Progress Table

Largemouth Bass									
	LMP Goals	2004	2006	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
PSD	40-70	71	62	67	43	75	78	71	53
RSD15	38	30	28	31	18	36	36	36	47
RSD18	5	3	1	2	5	15	6	11	14
RSD 8.0-11.9	30	29	40	35	57	25	27	44	47
RSD 12.0-14.9	32	41	32	34	25	38	36	20	6
CPUE (#/hr)	68	43	74	101	61	29	73	27	28
Wr	90-110	96	98	104	102	93	98	103	100

The largemouth bass numbers are about the same as the previous survey. The size distribution of the bass collected looks good and fish are present in several year classes. The RSD15 of 47 shows a good percentage of fish over 15 inches. The fish collected were in good condition with an average relative weight (Wr) of 100. Largemouth bass numbers are low likely due to poor natural reproduction and recruitment in the bass population. Stocking of largemouth bass from the state hatchery and from the new rearing pond should help to offset this.

Bluegill									
	LMP Goals	2004	2006	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
PSD	20-40	16	35	20	61	19	35	40	37
RSD7	10-15	0	2	2	2	0	6	2	0
Wr	90-110	101	101	111	92	106	108	101	99

The bluegill population is fair to poor. The PSD was good but few fish are reaching 7 inches (RSD7 of 0). The condition of the fish was good with an average relative weight (Wr) of 99.

Redear Sunfish									
	LMP Goals	2004	2006	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
CPUE (#/hr)		11	58	12	9	7	22	13	5
PSD		83	52	100	89	57	91	84	56
RSD8		50	42	78	78	29	64	52	22
RSD9		33	33	33	33	0	55	52	0
Wr		93	101	109	102	90	106	92	98

The redear sunfish numbers appear to be dropping. The size distribution was fair with some fish over 8 inches. The condition was good with an average relative weight (Wr) of 98.

White Crappie								
	LMP Goals	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020		
CPUE (#/hr)	-	35	33	24	20	18		
PSD	40-60	73	65	53	74	81		
RSD9	30	49	47	23	28	64		
RSD10	15	13	37	17	15	56		
Wr	90-110	85	85	90	91	94		

The white crappie population is doing very well in this lake. It appears the lake has good numbers and a very good size distribution with many fish over 10 inches collected in this survey.

Gizzard Shad									
	LMP Goals	2004	2006	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
PSD	30-60	0	1	0	0	0	60	3	0
CPUE (#/hr)	150	73	211	259	29	180	61	266	138
<4(#/hr/%)	45/30	14/19	14/7	7/3	5/16	86/48	0/0	32/12	12/5
4.0-5.9	60/40	19/26	105/50	212/82	12/41	74/41	9/15	78/30	103/75
6.0-7.9	30/20	9/12	9/4	3/1	2/5	0/0	1/1	63/24	9/5
>8.0	15/10	31/42	83/39	38/15	11/36	20/11	52/84	93/35	14/14
Wr	90-110	92	95	99	89	86	96	89	92

Gizzard shad numbers are lower than the previous survey. The size distribution shows gizzard shad in several size classes.

Channel Catfish – 25 channel catfish were collected, ranging in length from 15 to 27 inches and an average weight of over 2.5lbs. A very good catfish fishery is present in this lake.

Carp – 50 common carp were collected, ranging in length from 12 to 32 inches. There are a lot of carp present in this lake.

Sauger – Only 2 sauger were collected in this survey. They were both small fish under 8 inches. Reports from anglers suggest these fish are doing well and many good sized fish are being caught.

4. Recommendations for Observed Problem Trends

The largemouth bass numbers are still lower than we would like in this lake. However, the size structure and condition are good. Hopefully, the supplemental stockings of largemouth bass will help improve these numbers. The new rearing pond will also provide additional bass for stocking. Water quality improvements and shoreline stabilization efforts are likely helping to improve spawning conditions as well. Largemouth bass stockings will continue to be requested from our state hatchery, however due to current reductions in our hatchery production further stockings are not guaranteed. The redear sunfish, crappie, and channel catfish populations should provide very good angling opportunities. The sauger stocking seems to be successful based on angler reports and should be continued.

SIGNATURES:			
District Fisheries Manager	Date	Regional Fisheries Administrator	Date