

Lake Management Summary

Lake Name: Devils Kitchen
Ownership: Public

County: Williamson
Acreage: 810

Water No: 270

Date of Report: 12-31-2007

Fisheries Manager: C. Bickers

District No: 22

1. Listing of the Sport Fish Regulations in Effect:

All Fish: Two Pole and Line Fishing Only

LMB: No minimum length limit

2. Management Summary:

Devils Kitchen Lake is a deep, clear, infertile impoundment with low conductivity, characteristics which impede electrofishing efficiency. To maximize efficiency, samples have been collected during early spring (April) in an attempt to catch fish in the vicinity of the shoreline when they are most vulnerable to collection gear.

Large numbers of small largemouth bass in Devils Kitchen Lake assist in maintenance of quality bluegill and redear populations, which are identified as the top management priority. Largemouth bass population quality as measured by PSD in 2007 fell well short of the management plan goal for the sixth year in a row, and bass condition (measured by relative weight) remained substandard as usual. Fewer bluegill were collected in 2007 as compared to 2006, but their quality (PSD) still met the management plan goal. In contrast, more redear were collected per hour of electrofishing than in any sample during the previous fifteen years, and quality of these fish easily exceeded the plan goal. Relative weights of both bluegill and redear were excellent.

Even though the lake is largely managed for a bluegill/redear fishery, poor condition of largemouth bass is an obvious Devils Kitchen fisheries management concern. Threadfin shad have been stocked from 1980 to 1982 and 2000 through 2007, but a seasonal population has apparently never been successful enough to elevate predator condition to the goal range. In order to attempt to improve bass condition, threadfin shad will be stocked each spring, if they are available, until such time it can be determined this forage fish does not benefit Devils Kitchen predators.

No management changes are currently recommended for Devils Kitchen Lake, although anglers are encouraged to harvest small bass to enhance growth rates of the remaining population.