LARGEMOUTH BASS – 14” minimum length limit/6 fish per day creel

Overall catch rates for largemouth bass showed some recovery from the 5 year low observed in 2014. Catches increased from 17/ hour in 2014 to a modest 27/ hour in 2015. These rates are an improvement, but still far short of the 65/ hour observed in 2013. Size structure of the fish that were collected remained good. Thirty percent of the stock sized fish collected were over 15 inches and should provide good angling opportunity. Five percent of the stock sized fish were over 18 inches, which should provide quality sized fish to the fishery. Most of the bass were in excellent condition due to an abundant shad population. Young of the year bass were collected in greater numbers than recent years. Seven percent of the bass collected in 2015 were young of the year compared to less than 3% in 2014, indicating that a good spawn occurred. Hopefully these fish will provide a foundation for an improved largemouth bass population in the near future. Angling opportunities during 2015 should be fair for largemouth bass.

WHITE BASS

White bass remain very abundant and exhibit a good population structure. The overall catch rate was 72 fish/hour of electrofishing, which is an increase from the 47 fish/ hour from 2014 and is consistent with results from the last several surveys. Multiple year classes were collected in 2015 including an abundance of young of the year, indicating a successful spawning effort. Twenty three percent of the stock is 12 inches or greater in length and should provide good fishing opportunity. The fish are in good condition, thirteen inch fish should average over a pound in weight. Look for good white bass fishing in 2016 as these fish continue to feed and grow.
CRAPPIE – 10 inch minimum length limit/15 fish per day creel

The crappie population in Carlyle Lake remains in excellent condition. The combined catch of white and black crappie was a staggering 302 fish/hour of electrofishing. Thirty one percent of the stock sized white crappie were over the minimum length limit of 10 inches. Only 10 percent of the black crappie were over 10 inches. However two thirds of the crappies collected during the fall survey were black crappie, the majority of which were just under the 10 inch limit. These fish should provide an abundance of quality fishing opportunity once they grow into the legal size. Crappie fishing should be good to excellent in 2015 at Carlyle Lake.

CHANNEL CATFISH

The channel catfish population remains good in Carlyle Lake. Catches of channel catfish in the fall population survey were down from the 5 year high observed in 2014, but should still provide good angling opportunities. There is still an abundance of large fish in the population that should provide good angling opportunities. Catfish fishing should be good in Carlyle Lake in 2015.

BLUEGILL

The Bluegill population at Carlyle remains in poor condition. Catch rates during the fall survey in 2015 were fairly consistent with prior years. Catch rates remain high with 231 fish collected per hour of electrofishing compared to 165 fish per hour in 2014. However the majority of these were small fish. There were only 2% of the stock sized fish larger than 7 inches. These fish will provide limited angling opportunities in the upcoming year. Bluegill fishing should be fair to poor in Carlyle Lake in 2016.