



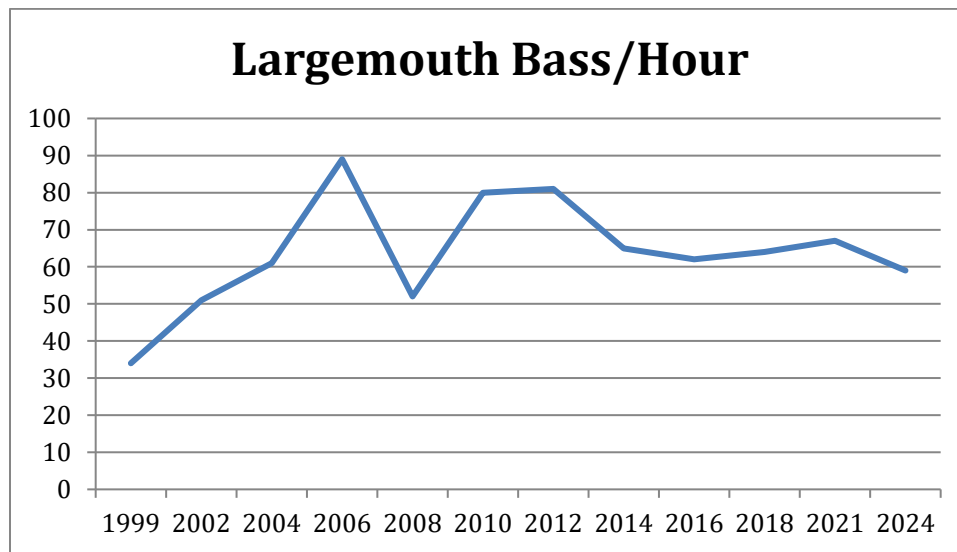
June 5, 2024  
Matt Ressler  
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(618) 792-7995

Dear Matt and Holiday Shores Residents,

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the results of the electrofishing survey conducted on Holiday Shores Lake on May 21, 2024. We electrofished for 1 hour in two separate 30-minute runs to collect a representative sample of the fish population. The water temperature was 78 degrees, and the water was fairly clear as shown by a Secchi Disk measurement of 80 cm. Water conductivity was 325 micromhos/cm. We collected the following fish species and numbers:

Bluegill	254	Warmouth	2
Yellow Bass	4	Redear sunfish	23
Gizzard Shad	190	Yellow Bullhead	3
Largemouth Bass	59	Channel Catfish	2
Green Sunfish	20	Flathead Catfish	4

Largemouth Bass – Fifty-nine Largemouth Bass were collected in one hour of shocking. This is a little lower than last year but this makes the 5<sup>th</sup> survey in a row of fairly consistent bass numbers (see graph below). Typically, we like to see at least 60 bass per hour in this type of lake and we are close to this goal. I think the spawn was a little earlier than usual this year and we would have collected more of the in-shore bass if we had sampled sooner in the season.



The largemouth bass collected show good numbers in all size classes. Forty-four percent of the bass collected were less than 12 inches suggesting good reproduction and/or survival of stocked fish. Twenty-five percent of the bass were over 15 inches.

Largemouth Bass	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2021	2024
0-12 inches	51%	77%	10%	23%	35%	42%	45%	37%	53%	27%	44%
12-15 inches	18%	18%	19%	23%	23%	19%	25%	27%	31%	37%	31%
15-18 inches	21%	5%	55%	37%	34%	27%	15%	19%	11%	25%	22%
over 18 inches	10%	0%	16%	17%	9%	12%	15%	16%	5%	10%	3%

Bluegill - Bluegill were collected in good numbers and ranged in size from 1 to 7 inches. The most common size was 6-7 inches. The Bluegill population is decent for numbers and size quality is fair.

Redear Sunfish – We collected 23 Redear Sunfish in this survey which is more than were collected in any other survey since 2012. The Redear Sunfish looked great, and sizes ranged from 7.8 to 10.2 inches.

Crappie – We did not collect any crappie even though they are numerous in this lake. This was not surprising since they are in deeper water away from shore this time of year.

Channel Catfish – We collected 2 Channel Catfish. One measured 19 inches (2.4 lbs.) and the other was 22 inches (4.4 lbs.). The fact that we only collected 2 does not suggest their numbers are low in the lake: our equipment is just less effective at collecting catfish than other species.

Flathead Catfish – We collected 4 Flathead Catfish, all located near the same submerged log. They ranged from 26 inches (7.9 lbs.) to 27 inches (10.3 lbs.).

Gizzard Shad – We collected 220 Gizzard Shad ranging from 6 – 12 inches.

#### Summary and Recommendations –

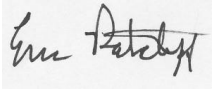
Overall, the fish population of the lake looks healthy and balanced. The Largemouth Bass numbers are about the same as the previous 4 surveys and remain close to our goal level. The size distribution and condition also look good. One-quarter of the bass were over 15 inches. Only 4 Yellow Bass were collected in this survey which is great since their numbers have been high in the past, and high numbers can negatively affect bass reproduction. Hopefully their numbers will stay low.

Redear Sunfish numbers were up this year and their size was impressive. Continued stocking of this species would be smart since they tend to grow larger than Bluegill, especially in lakes like yours with a Gizzard Shad population. The maximum size of the Bluegill in this survey was 7 inches, whereas the max Redear size was 10.2 inches.

Although we did not collect any crappie, I realize an overabundance of smaller crappie continues to be an issue in your lake. Continued removal of all crappie caught is advised, and the continued stocking of predators such as Largemouth Bass and Hybrid Stripers might also help. If you need recommended numbers for stocking, you can call me. Stock Channel Catfish every 3 - 4 years at 25 per acre if they are desired and some harvest is taking place. If you stop stocking them, they will probably eventually disappear from the lake. Encourage the removal of every crappie and Yellow Bass caught.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray rectangular background. The signature reads "Eric Ratcliff" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Eric Ratcliff  
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