

May 10, 2002

Mr. Parke Smith
1 Holiday Point Parkway
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Dear Parke,

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the results of the electrofishing survey conducted on Holiday Shores Lake on April 26, 2002. I will also compare this data to the previous survey conducted in September 1999 and provide some management recommendations. The lake was sampled for two hours. We collected the following species:

Largemouth bass
Hybrid Striped bass
Black crappie
Bluegill
Green sunfish
Yellow bass
Channel catfish
Common carp
Gizzard shad
Golden shiner
Yellow bullhead

Largemouth bass - 51 bass were collected. That is 25.5 bass per hour. The 1999 survey produced 34 bass per hour. Typically we like to see about 60 bass per hour, so numbers remain a little low. The size distribution and condition of the fish looked very good. The following table shows the size distribution compared to the 1999 survey.

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2002</u>
0 - 12 inches	25%	51%
12 - 15 inches	31%	18%
15 - 18 inches	27%	21%
over 18 inches	17%	10%

The size distribution for this sample and the 1999 sample both look good with all sizes well represented. We did collect more 0-12 inch fish in this survey. This is likely the result of a recent stocking of bass. The low numbers are the only concern with the bass in this lake. Natural reproduction is likely limited due to high numbers of yellow bass, common carp, and gizzard shad. Supplemental stocking of largemouth bass would be the best solution to this problem. Largemouth bass could be stocked every year at a rate of up to 25 per acre.

Bluegill - Bluegill were collected in good numbers. They ranged in size from 2 to 7 inches in length. The average size was about 5 inches. The quality of the bluegill is not great, but in lakes with gizzard shad and

yellow bass present in high numbers that is to be expected. Supplemental stocking of largemouth bass may improve average size of the bluegill over time. Increasing predation may reduce numbers and growth will improve.

Crappie - Only two black crappie were collected. They were about 7 inches and 10 inches in length. This survey is no reflection of the crappie population in the lake. The crappie move to deeper water at this time of year and are difficult for us to collect. Crappie populations tend to cycle every 3 - 4 years. Again, increasing bass numbers would likely improve the quality of the crappie.

Hybrid Striped Bass - We collected one fish, over 22 inches in length and in good condition. We do not expect to get a good sample of these fish with an electrofishing survey. I would suspect these fish are doing well and growing well. There are plenty of gizzard shad, which is the primary food source for these fish. With periodic stocking these fish will provide good angling opportunities and help to reduce the shad population.

Channel Catfish - We collected one channel catfish almost 26 inches in length. We also do not expect to get a good sample of these fish with an electrofishing survey. Channel catfish will continue to do well in this lake and periodic stocking will help to keep the numbers up and the angling good.

Common Carp - Several common carp were collected in the 10 - 20 lb. range. These fish can provide a good angling opportunity for anyone interested in fishing for them. They can be caught on home-made dough bait or corn. Really! they are fun to catch.

Summary and Recommendations - The fish community in this lake appears very similar to the last survey in 1999. The largemouth bass are in very good condition and many large fish (3 - 5 lbs.) are present but numbers remain low. Yellow bass numbers are still very high. These fish are not usually desirable sport fish and they could be the reason for the low reproduction of largemouth bass. However, there is no practical way to significantly reduce their numbers. Yellow bass populations often cycle naturally and when the current year class dies off numbers will likely decrease for a few years. The recent gizzard shad kill is a natural occurrence and will likely benefit the lake. Adult gizzard shad get to big for most predator fish to eat and then compete with more desirable sport fish for food and space. In general the lake is in good shape. It continues to have an abundance of prey fish. Supplemental stockings of predators (largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass, etc.) is recommended. Encourage harvest of yellow bass, bluegill, carp, larger crappie, and larger channel catfish. Limit harvest of largemouth bass.

Enjoy the lake! If you need more information or have any questions please call me.

Sincerely,

Fred A. Cronin
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