

June 5, 2006

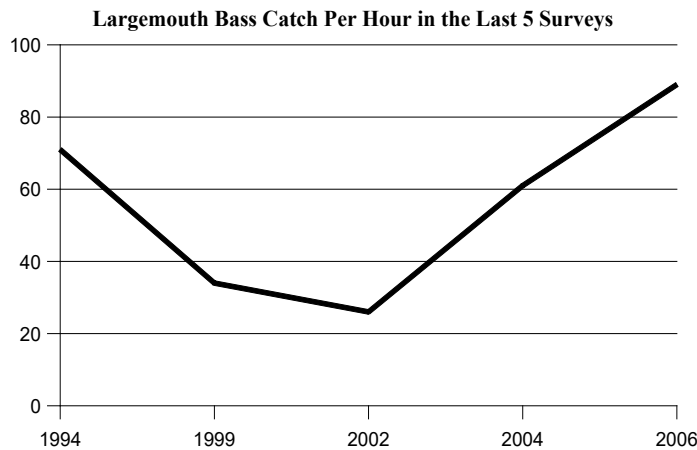
Mr. Edward Noder
1 Holiday Point Parkway
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Dear Mr. Noder,

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the results of the electrofishing survey conducted on Holiday Shores Lake on May 18, 2006. I will also compare this data to previous surveys and provide some management recommendations. The lake was sampled for 1 hour in two separate 30 minute electroshocking runs. We collected the following species and numbers:

Largemouth bass		89
Bluegill	168	
Black crappie		16
White crappie		7
Channel catfish		1
Green sunfish		32
Yellow bass		442
Common carp		3
Gizzard shad		66

Largemouth bass - 89 largemouth bass were collected in one hour of shocking. This is up from 61 collected in the 2004 survey and only 26 collected in the 2002 survey. The current bass numbers are very impressive. Typically we like to see at least 60 bass per hour in this type of lake. The following graph shows the changes in bass numbers from the last 5 surveys.



The largemouth bass collected

from this survey shows a dramatic shift in the size distribution from the previous survey. Only 5% of the bass collected in the 2004 survey were over 15 inches, 71% of the bass collected in this year's survey were over 15 inches. These fish were in very good condition and most were between 2-4 lbs. This high number of quality sized fish is more than likely the result of the bass stockings in 2002-2004.

<u>Largemouth Bass</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2006</u>
0 - 12 inches	25%	51%	77%	10%
12 - 15 inches	31%	18%	18%	19%
15 - 18 inches	27%	21%	5%	55%
over 18 inches	17%	10%	0%	16%

This bass population should provide outstanding angling opportunities currently and for the next 1-2 years. The only concern is the low percentage of young bass collected. I am more convinced than ever that the high numbers of yellow bass are the main reason for the lack of successful reproduction of bass. During this survey very high numbers of yellow bass were seen and collected very near shore. Most of the bass have spawned and this years bass fry are free swimming in schools near the shores. These fry are approximately 1/4 inch long and are likely the primary prey of the yellow bass at this time.

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.

Crappie - 16 black crappie and 7 white crappie were collected. The black crappie were between 6-8 inches with an average of 7 inches. The white crappie were between 6-7 inches with an average of 6.5 inches. This sample may not accurately represent the crappie population of the lake due to the fact that the majority of the crappie have moved to deeper water where they are not easily collected by electro-shocking. However, it does suggest that crappie numbers may be high and average size may be somewhat small.

Hybrid Striped Bass - None collected. 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 - Only one collected. The fish was over 22 inches and in good shape. We do not expect to get a good sample of channel catfish 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 - 3-4 common carp were observed during the survey. Most were large fish in the 5 - 20 lb. range. One was over 30 lbs. 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 - I am very pleased with the results of this survey. The largemouth bass numbers are up where you want them and the number of quality size fish is very high. These strong year classes of bass are more than likely the result of the bass stockings from 2002-2004. The condition and quality of these fish show that the lake can support high numbers quality bass. The only bad news is that the number of smaller bass is very low. This suggests that natural reproduction and recruitment of bass is still low. This is most likely due to the impacts of a very large yellow bass population, as mentioned earlier in this report. This simply means that to maintain the current numbers and quality sizes of largemouth bass periodic stocking will be necessary. We can only hope that the yellow bass numbers will decline sometime in the future and natural reproduction of largemouth bass will improve. Supplemental

stockings of 6-8 inch largemouth bass, up to 25 per acre, every other year is recommended based on current conditions. Continued stocking of hybrid striped bass will ensure improvement of this fishery. Supplemental stocking of channel catfish at a rate of up to 25 per acre is also a good option. Encourage harvest of yellow bass, bluegill, carp, crappie, and larger channel catfish.

If you need more information or have questions regarding this report please call me.

Sincerely,

Fred A. Cronin
Dist. 16 Fisheries Biologist
Horseshoe Lake State Park
3321 Hwy 111
Granite City, IL 62040
(618) 931-4217