



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

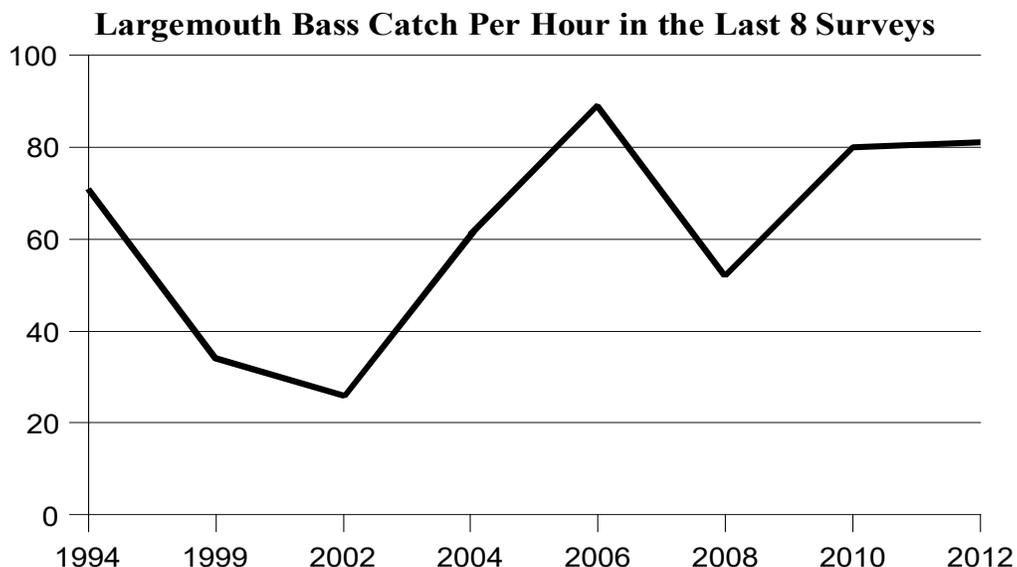
May 29, 2012
Mr. Glenn Dalton
1 Holiday Point Parkway
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Dear Mr. Dalton,

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the results of the electrofishing survey conducted on Holiday Shores Lake on May 11, 2012. 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 fish species and numbers:

Bluegill	372	Channel catfish	5
Gizzard shad	172	Smallmouth bass	4
Largemouth bass	81	Flathead catfish	2
Green sunfish	36	Common carp	2
White crappie	31	Yellow bullhead	2
Redear Sunfish	24		

Largemouth bass - 81 largemouth bass were collected in one hour of shocking. This is about the same as the previous survey in 2010. Typically we like to see at least 60 bass per hour in this type of lake, so it is good to see the number well above this goal. The following graph shows the changes in bass numbers from the last 8 surveys.



The largemouth bass collected from this survey show a very desirable size distribution. Good numbers were collected in all size classes. An impressive 12% of the bass collected were over 18 inches. The bass collected show signs of good growth and very good condition. This bass population should provide great angling opportunities for quality size fish. It is also good to see 42% under 12 inches. This suggests good natural reproduction over the past 2 years.

<u>Largemouth Bass</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>
0 - 12 inches	25%	51%	77%	10%	23%	35%	42%
12 - 15 inches	31%	18%	18%	19%	23%	23%	19%
15 - 18 inches	27%	21%	5%	55%	37%	34%	27%
over 18 inches	17%	10%	0%	16%	17%	9%	12%

Smallmouth Bass – Four were collected, 2 were about 14 inches and 2 were about 6 inches. They were in good condition and the 2 smaller fish are strong evidence of natural reproduction.

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 in high numbers that is to be expected.

Redear Sunfish - 24 were collected. They were all between 9-10 inches!

Crappie – 31 white crappie were collected. Most were 7-8 inches but 2 were over 10 inches.

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 – 5 were collected. They were in good condition with an average weight of 2.8 lbs.

Flathead Catfish – 2 were collected. One was 3 lbs and one was almost 20 lbs!

Common Carp – A few were seen, all very large. 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.

Summary and Recommendations - Overall the fish population of the lake looks very healthy and balanced. I am pleased to see the largemouth bass numbers continuing to be above our goal level. The size distribution and condition also look great. No yellow bass were collected in this survey! Their numbers are way down due to a recent die off of this species. This is very good news and should result in improved reproduction of bass. It appears the stocked smallmouth bass have survived and are growing well and even getting some natural reproduction. I would hope to see some over 15 inches very soon. Additional stockings of this species may be considered. The redear sunfish collected were very impressive. All were between 9-10 inches and in great condition. Continued stocking of this species would benefit this developing quality panfish population. 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 bluegill, carp, crappie, and larger channel catfish.

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

Sincerely,

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