



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Sam Flood, Acting Director

January 31, 2007

Mr. Jerry Sellers
Lost Nation Lake

Dear Jerry,

Lost Nation Lake was surveyed on October 3, 2006, by Dan Sallee, Joe Ferencak, and Rick O'Neil. Total sample time was 45 minutes with a sub-sample collected of the very abundant gizzard shad. Sampling efficiency was good with excellent catch rates for largemouth bass, and bluegill. A total of 12 species and 1 hybrid (tiger muskie) were collected.

The 82 largemouth bass collected ranged in size from 3.2" to 17.8". 15% of the bass collected exceeded the lake's 16" limit. The Proportional stock density indicates an excellent bass fishery in the lake with a score of 66, and the Relative Stock Density for 16"+ fish was 21. Body conditions of larger fish able to utilize the shad forage base were excellent, while smaller fish had average condition. Enough young naturally recruited age 0 largemouth were present to indicate a successful spawn in 2006.

Five smallmouth bass were collected during the survey ranging from 7.2" to 16.1". We did not see any evidence of natural reproduction in the smallmouth for 2006. It's clear that the smallmouth bass can't compete with the thriving largemouth bass population and will require supplemental stocking if you wish to maintain this fishery.

A total of 12 walleye or .26 fish/minute were collected and ranged in size from 10.7" to 26.2" (7.7 lbs.). It appears that your annual stocking program is working very well for this species.

A total of 2 black crappie and 6 white crappie were collected, which is a similar catch rate to our 2004 survey. Spring trap-netting is a much more efficient method of sampling these species, but it appears that you have a good population of crappie.

A total of 3 tiger muskie were collected ranging from 11.4" to 21.7". As I have previously suggested, you might want to try true muskie at a stocking rate of 0.5 to 1 fish per acre.

Other fish collected during the 2006 survey included green sunfish (38), channel catfish (4), carp (4), yellow bullhead (1), golden shiner (2), and gizzard shad (38). All of these species appear to be present at similar levels to prior years.

It appears that your current regulations are maintaining a very good fishery for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and channel catfish. I would suggest continuing your walleye stocking program, and would again suggest trying true muskie.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Dan Sallee
Region 1 Fisheries Biologist
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