

05/19/09

LAKE: RAINTREE	BIOLOGIST: MATTUCKS
COUNTY: CASS	SIZE: 220 ACRES
SURFACE TEMP: 75 DEGREES	TYPE GEAR: EF
TIME STARTED: 9:00 AM	BASS PSD: 81 %
TIME STOPPED: 11:30 AM	BASS RSD15: 44%
TOTAL TIME: SEC.1559	BLUEGILL PSD: 0%
NETTERS: 2:	BLUEGILL RSD8: 0%
VOLTS: 150	
AMPS: 10	

LAKE CONDITIONS AND FISH POPULATIONS CHARACTERISTICS

1. The bass population is showing signs of declining the number of bass sampled dropped from 67% to 44% that were over 15 inches long. The size structure of the population remains good but no longer excellent. The body condition was still good.
2. The size structure of the bluegill population remains poor. All bluegill sampled were shorter than 6 inches. Body condition of these fish was good. This population remains poor because of competition with gizzard shad for the available food.
3. Crappie were not capture in this sample. They had already moved to deeper water after the spawn.
4. Channel catfish were sampled in high numbers. This is unusual for electrofishing. The population of channel catfish remains high. The fish ranged in size from 12.7 to 17.1 inches long. Body condition was good on these fish.
5. Water willow was seen in good amounts around the shoreline of the lake and Coontail and Naiads were found growing out in the lake. Very little woody structure was observed.
6. Other fish observed in small numbers include green sunfish, redear sunfish, golden shiners and bullheads. Gizzard shad were found in very high numbers.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue the voluntary 12 to 15-inch slot length limit on largemouth bass. Bass between 12-15 inches in length should be released unharmed. Harvest of the under 12-inch fish will increase the growth rate of the remaining fish and result in more fish getting to 15 inches quicker. Harvest should remain within statewide limits.
2. Harvest bluegill within statewide limits. No size restrictions are needed.
3. Crappie in subdivision lakes tend to be under harvested. From talking to the anglers this is true for Raintree. All crappie should be harvested within statewide limits.
4. The channel catfish population is in very good shape. Harvest of these fish can continue under statewide regulations.
5. With the continued development of Raintree Lake, loss of habitat along the shoreline will be the biggest problem for the fisheries of this lake. Whenever possible shoreline vegetation should be kept. Water willow, arrowhead and other plants of this type provide cover and food for young fish. This vegetation also slows shoreline erosion. If vegetation that grows above the surface of the water needs to be controlled or if the possibility of the spay getting into the water while spraying the rip-rap an approved aquatic herbicide should be used like *EAGRE*, *AQUATIC KILLZALL OR ERASER AQ*. Dry land vegetation can be controlled by *ROUNDUP*. The label is the law.
6. If the coontail gets out of control treatment should start in the spring when water temp. reaches 60 degrees and before the vegetation becomes too dense. Waiting until mid summer for herbicide treatments could result in a fish kill.
7. The addition of hard cover should continue. Christmas trees are OK put do not last like hard woods.
8. Silt basins should contain as much vegetation as possible. These plants will not only filter out silt from development, it will also reduce nutrient flow into the lake. This in turn will reduce the need for aquatic plant control in the lake and improve the water quality in the lake as well. The addition of plants like water willow, pickerel weed and fragrant water lilies could help control bacterial levels too and still allow anglers to fish.