

## Lake Management Status Report

<b>Date of Report:</b> 01/30/17	<b>Fisheries Manager:</b> Fred A. Cronin	<b>District:</b> 16
<b>Lake Name:</b> Otter Lake	<b>County:</b> Macoupin	<b>Water #:</b> 182
<b>Ownership (STATE, PUBC, PUBO):</b> PUBC		<b>Acreage:</b> 765

**LM STATUS REPORTS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:**

1. Listing of the Sport Fish Regulations in Effect
2. Listing of Fisheries Management Activities Completed with Evaluation of Success
3. Lake Management Plan Progress Table
4. Recommendations for Observed Problem Trends

1. Listing of the Sport Fish Regulations in Effect

- A. All Fish – 2 pole and line fishing only.
- B. Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass - 15" minimum length limit – 3 fish/day
- C. Striped, White, or hybrid Striped Bass – 3 fish >17" daily; 10 fish daily creel limit.
- D. Muskellunge – 48" minimum length limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.
- E. Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.
- F. Recreational use Restrictions – all live bait in excess of 8" must be rigged with a quick set rig.

2. Listing of the Fisheries Management Activities Completed with Evaluation of Success

- A. 05/10/16 - Spring Population Survey - 4 x 60 minute EF runs.
- B. 06/17/16 - Stocked 7,982 1.3 inch Striped Bass Hybrid.
- C. 08/24/16 - Stocked 767 10.75 inch Muskellunge.
- D. 11/01/16 - Stocked 281 1-10 inch Largemouth Bass from the rearing ponds.

3. Lake Management Plan Progress Table

<b>Largemouth Bass</b>								
	LMP Goals	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2013	2016
YAR	1-3	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
PSD	40-60	54	54	71	81	71	84	82
RSD15	20-30	24	23	32	45	49	46	49
RSD18	5-10	11	5	11	14	14	10	13
Wr	90-110	98	99	99	96	99	-	99
CPUE (#/hr)	>60	46	31	37	60	46	38	54

The largemouth bass numbers show an increase in this survey and are very near our goal of 60 per hour. The size distribution of the bass shows a high percentage of larger fish with the PSD, RSD15, and RSD18 all above our goals. The condition of the collected looks good with an average Wr of 99.

<b>Bluegill</b>								
	LMP Goals	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2013	2016
PSD	20-40	22	10	15	16	13	16	7
RSD7	10-20	3	0	0	0	1	1	1
Wr	90-110	97	90	101	107	104	-	101
CPUE(#/hr)	>100	125	142	65	59	28	183	242

The bluegill numbers are high but the quality is poor with very few fish reaching 7 inches

<b>Channel Catfish</b>								
	LMP Goals	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2013	2016
PSD	50-70	65	76	85	85	88	78	74
RSD18	30-40	58	44	62	56	77	44	66
RSD20	10-20	33	28	46	36	54	19	36
Wr	90-110	93	96	110	106	103	-	99
CPUE (#/hr)	>5	15	12	10	10	14	7	11

**Channel Catfish** – The channel catfish population in Otter Lake looks very good with a good number of fish collected showing good size structure and condition.

<b>White Crappie</b>								
	LMP Goals	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2013	2016
PSD	40-60	76	41	17	62	56	62	52
RSD10	15-25	37	24	4	11	33	8	25
RSD12	5-15	2	0	1	2	3	4	0
Wr	90-110	93	89	89	89	97	-	87
CPUE (#/hr)	>7	12	23	42	29	26	7	11

The white crappie population appears good with many of the fish collected over 10 inches (RSD10 of 25). The condition of the fish collected was a little poor with an average Wr of 87.

**Striped Bass Hybrid** – Four were collected in this survey. They were between 12-16 inches and in good condition.

**Gizzard Shad** – Shad were collected in fairly low numbers in this survey. All were larger sizes between 7-13 inches.

**Muskellunge** – No musky were collected in the 2016 electrofishing survey. However all indicators suggest this population continues to do very well in this lake.

#### 4. Recommendations for Observed Problem Trends

Currently the sport fish populations of Otter Lake look very good. The largemouth bass numbers are higher than the two previous surveys. The crappie, channel catfish, hybrid striped bass, and musky populations continue to show good numbers and quality. Bluegill quality continues to be poor but this is expected in lakes with gizzard shad populations. The 2016 survey did show very high numbers of yellow bass. This is a concern because high numbers of this species can have a

negative impact largemouth bass reproduction. Additional stocking of largemouth bass from the on-site rearing ponds and purchased fish would be beneficial in maintaining a quality largemouth bass population. Continued stocking of musky will ensure this quality fishery. The striped bass hybrid stocking could be reduced or eliminated in the coming years due to reduced production from our state fish hatcheries. The Lake commission may want to make an effort to continue this stocking by purchasing these fish. Currently Otter lake provides quality fishing opportunity for multiple species. Through the continued partnership of the IDNR and the Otter Lake Commission hopefully we can maintain this quality fishery.

SIGNATURES:			
District Fisheries Manager	Date	Regional Fisheries Administrator	Date