

Summary of the 2007 Tipton Lake Fish Survey

LARGEMOUTH BASS

The catch rate in 2007 was 164 bass per hour and exceeded the objective of 75 per hour. Approximately 46% of the bass collected were less than 6 inches. Reproduction appears not to be a problem.

Based on bass 8 inches and longer, approximately 65% were over 12 inches. The optimum range is 40-70%. The percentage of bass over 15 inches was 35%. The objective is 10-20%. There was a good distribution of bass across all sizes.

Even with a high catch rate, condition (plumpness) was fair with an average relative weight of 92. Condition improved for bass larger than 15 inches. There is an indication bass are running low on prey for bass less than 15 inches but larger bass are plump and healthy.

BLUEGILL

The catch rate for bluegill was 456 per hour and exceeded the objective range of 250 to 450 per hour. Approximately 43% of the bluegill were smaller than 3 inches and indicates reproduction is not a problem. There should be plenty of small bluegill to feed the bass.

Based on bluegill 3 inches and longer, only 12% were 6 inches or longer. The optimum range is 20-40%. Size structure is poor for the bluegill fishery. Angler harvest may be high for the larger bluegill and this is needed to keep the number of bluegill in check.

Body condition (plumpness) was good with an average relative weight of 95. The objective is 95-104. It appears angling pressure may be reducing the number of larger bluegill. Even though the catch rate exceeded the management objective, there appears to be enough forage to maintain this number of bluegill.

REDEAR SUNFISH

The catch rate for redear sunfish was 52 per hour and failed to meet the objective of 60 per hour. Redear are reproducing in the lake and should continue to sustain a population in the lake. The presence of aquatic vegetation in the lake is critical to maintaining this fishery.

Based on redear 4 inches and longer, 55% were 7 inches or longer. The optimum range is 20-40%. No redear sunfish were collected over 9 inches. Anglers may be removing the larger redear from the lake.

Body condition (plumpness) was fair with an average relative weight of 91. The objective is 95-104. Body condition decline as the redear get larger in length.

CHANNEL CATFISH

No channel catfish were collected during the survey.

The fishing regulations at Tipton Lake are:

All Fish
Channel Catfish

- 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
- 3 Fish Daily Creel Limit

Large or Smallmouth Bass
Large or Smallmouth Bass

- 15" Minimum Length Limit
- 3 Fish Daily Creel Limit