

Summary of the 2010 White Oak Lake Fish Survey

LARGEMOUTH BASS

The catch rate in 2010 was 38 bass per hour and this fails to meet the objective of 60 per hour. This is the lowest catch rate for bass ever obtained on this lake.

Based on bass 8 inches and longer, approximately 59% were over 12 inches. In 2003 this value was 86%. The optimum range is 40-60%. The percentage of bass over 15 inches was 6%. The objective is 10-20%. Size structure is poor. Only one legal bass was collected.

Body condition has been poor since the first survey in 1994. The low condition factors indicate intra-specific competition for food. The plumpness of the bass declines as length increases.

BLUEGILL

The catch rate went from 328 bluegill per hour in 2003 to 154 in 2007 and then rebounded to 212 in 2010. The catch rate of bluegill less than 3 inches went from 186 in 2003 to 10 in 2007 and 12 in 2010. The removal of the vegetation eliminated the structure that held the small bluegill.

Based on bluegill 3" and longer, 14% were 6" or longer. The optimum range is 20-40%. Size structure declined from the 2010 survey. Even with the decline in the number of bluegill less than 3 inches, the number of bluegill over 3 inches has remained relatively stable.

Body condition was fair in 2010 with a relative weight of 92. The objective is 95-104. It appears angling pressure may be reducing the number of larger bluegill.

REDEAR SUNFISH

Even though 32 per hour were collected in 2003, only one redear sunfish was collected in 2007 and none were collected in 2010. The lack of vegetation is hampering the redear sunfish population.

BLACK CRAPPIE

In 2003, 26 black crappie were collected per hour. The catch rate in 1996 was 3 per hour and fell to 2 per hour in 2007. No crappie were collected in 2010, but the survey was conducted in June and most crappie were probably in deeper water.

CHANNEL CATFISH

Channel catfish are stocked on an annual basis from the State hatchery system. No catfish have been collected until the 2007 survey. In 2007, a catch rate of 18 catfish per hour was obtained. In 2010, a catch rate of 14 catfish per hour was obtained. This met the management objective of 5 to 15 per hour.

The fishing regulations at White Oak Lake are:

All Fish
Channel Catfish
Large or Smallmouth Bass
Large or Smallmouth Bass

- 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
- 3 Fish Daily Creel Limit
- 15" Minimum Length Limit
- 3 Fish Daily Creel Limit