

LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

Date of Report: 6/28/2024 **Fisheries Manager:** Rob Hilsabeck
District No.: 4 **LAKE NAME:** Russell T Lake SDHSEFWA
County: Knox **Water No.:** 4134 **Ownership:** State **Acreage:** 22

D.F.M.	Date	R.F.M.	Date
--------	------	--------	------

1. All Fish - 2 pole and line fishing only.

Large or Smallmouth Bass:

- Protected Slot Length Limit from 14 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish:

- 25 fish Daily Harvest Limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie:

- 25 Fish Daily Harvest Limit with no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10 inches.

Pure Muskellunge:

- Harvestable slot from 36 to 42 inches, and 48 inch minimum length limit with 1 fish daily harvest limit.

Channel Catfish:

- 6 fish daily harvest limit.

Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Walleye:

- 3 fish daily harvest limit.

Recreational Use Restrictions:

- Waterfowl Refuge or Hunting Area (all use other than waterfowl hunting prohibited from 14 days prior to duck season through the end of the central zone Canada goose season). All live bait greater than 8 inches must be rigged with a quick set rig.

2.

IDNR Fisheries completed late summer electrofishing survey on 8/18/2023.

Parking lot completed, trail and access to lake completed, regulation and dedication signs posted, and first opening to public fishing on 4/1/2021!

**LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT
RUSSELL T LAKE SDHSFWA**

3. Lake Management Plan Progress Table:						
		<u>2016</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2020</u>	2023	LMP
Largemouth Bass						
						Objectives
Stock #		44	28	38	71	
PSD		71	29	42	52	40-60
RSD14		18	7	13	35	
RSD15		11	7	3		
RSD16		2	4	3	23	
RSD18		0	4	3	7	5-10
Wr			93	92	95	90-110
YAR		.1	6	.9	.2	
CPUE (f/min)			.8	1.7	2.4	1/min
EFFORT		30	36	23	30	
Bluegill						
Stock #		88	126	97	70	
PSD		63	83	67	64	20-40
RSD7		6	34	44	27	
RSD8		0	0	4	3	1-5
Wr			88	87	99	90-110
CPUE (f/min)		2.9	3.5	4.2	2.3	
Redear Sunfish						
Stock#		7	6	9	3	
PSD		100	100	100	100	30-50
RSD9		14	33	44	0	
Wr			109	103	111	90-100
CPUE (f/min)		.23	.17	.39	.1	
Black Crappie						
Stock#		4	7	6	28	30-50
PSD		25	100	100	96	
RSD9		25	86	100	86	
RSD10		25	43	83	18	20-40
RSD11		0	0	0	11	5-10
Wr			95	85	93	90-100
CPUE (f/min)		.1	.2	.26	.9	

Channel Catfish						
Stock#		2	1	0	1	
PSD		100	100		100	40-60
RSD18		100	100		100	10-20
Wr			106		114	90-100
CPUE (f/min)		.07	.03	0	.03	

**LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT
RUSSELL T LAKE SDHSFWA**

4. In 2023, a late summer D.C. electrofishing survey was used to evaluate the fish population. This lake was completely rehabilitated in fall of 2012. It was restocked in 2012 and 2013 with fingerling largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, redear sunfish and channel catfish. This lake opened to public fishing on 4/1/2021.

The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 71 stock sized bass from electrofishing. The largemouth bass population appears to be defined by a high percentage of fish from 3 to 18 inches in length with an average Relative weight of 95. In 2017, the bass regulation for Snakeden Hollow SFWA waters were changed from a 3 fish daily harvest limit with only 1 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches, to a protected slot length limit from 14 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit. The goal of the new bass regulation is to increase the density of the bass population from 14 to 18 inches.

This increased bass density should help create a population that is composed of fish large enough to be efficient predators upon the panfish population. The benefit to bass anglers will be more fish surviving past 15 inches to catch, and for the anglers wanting to harvest bass will be the opportunity to still harvest fish under 14 inches.

The bluegill population was sampled by 70 fish in the electrofishing survey. The current bluegill population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 8.0 inches in length. This population is of high density and in good body condition with an average Wr of 99.

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 3 fish in the electrofishing survey. The current redear population is rated as very good with the larger fish up to 11 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in very good body condition with an average Wr of 111.

In 2017, the bluegill and redear sunfish regulation was changed from a 10 fish daily harvest limit to a 25 fish daily harvest limit. This change will allow anglers the ability to harvest more bluegill and redear sunfish per daily visit to Snakeden Hollow SFWA waters.

In 2023, the black crappie population was sampled by 28 fish in the electrofishing survey. The size ranged to over 11 inches in length and the body condition was good at an average Wr of 93.

In 2017, the crappie regulation was changed from a 5 fish daily harvest limit, to a 25 fish daily harvest limit with no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10 inches. The goal of the new regulation is to allow the harvest of more of the slower growing black crappie, while maintaining and promoting the population structure of crappie over 10 inches in length.

The channel catfish population was sampled by 1 fish in 2023 in the electrofishing survey. This population is of low density and in good body condition. The last stocking of channel catfish was in 2014.

Recommended Lake Management Activities with Rationale for Implementation:

Supplemental stocking is required for the following fish:

Channel Catfish: Once the lake is open to public access, resume non vulnerable channel catfish stocking.

Muskie: Establish a very low density of all female muskie population in Russell T Lake from the transfer of approximately 10 fish from Lake McMaster over five years.

Biological Surveys - Conduct surveys to measure trends in fishery population dynamics, angling regulations and progress toward management goals. Utilize D.C. electrofishing to sample a target number of at least 50 stock-size largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, redear and channel catfish populations.

Aquatic Vegetation Control - IDNR Fisheries will apply aquatic herbicides as needed to manage exotic or nuisance aquatic plants for fishing access or sportfish management.

Lake Access - Coordinate with the site staff on the development of a parking area to allow shoreline fishing and car top boat fishing. And establish a dedication sign for Ken Russell at this access area.

Site Map - update the site map of the water bodies as needed.