

LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

Date of Report: 6/28/2024 **Fisheries Manager:** Rob Hilsabeck
District No.: 4 **LAKE NAME:** Freshwater Lake SDHSFWA
County: Knox **Water No.:** 4160 **Ownership:** State **Acreage:**16.0

D.F.M.	Date	R.F.M.	Date
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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 9/8/2023.

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		2020	2023	LMP
Largemouth Bass				
				Objectives
Stock #		47	51	
PSD		85	45	40-60
RSD14		38	41	
RSD15		19		
RSD16		4	28	
RSD18		2	2	5-10
Wr		99	91	90-110
YAR		1.7	.6	
CPUE (f/min)		1.6	2.8	1/min
EFFORT		30	18	
Bluegill				
Stock #		68	86	
PSD		12	8	20-40
RSD7		0	2	
RSD8		0	0	1-5
Wr		88	87	90-110
CPUE (f/min)		2.3	4.8	
Redear Sunfish				
Stock#		11	17	
PSD		55	29	30-50
RSD9		0	0	
RSD10		0	0	
Wr		100	100	90-100
CPUE (f/min)		.4	.9	

4. In 2023, a late summer D.C. electrofishing survey was used to evaluate the fish population.

The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 51 stock size bass from electrofishing. The largemouth bass population appears to be defined by a high percentage of fish from 2 to 16 inches in length with an average Relative weight average of 91. 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 86 fish in the electrofishing survey. The current bluegill population is rated as poor with the larger fish up to 7.0 inches in length. This population is of high density and in average body condition with the Relative weight average at 87.

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 17 fish in the electrofishing survey. The current redear population is rated as poor with the larger fish over 8.0 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in good body condition with the Relative weight average at 100.

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 not sampled in the electrofishing survey.

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.

In 2023, the channel catfish population was sampled by 3 fish in the electrofishing survey from 12 to 24 inches in length. This population is believed to be of low density and in good body condition. The last stocking of channel catfish was in 2008. None are scheduled for the future.

Recommended Lake Management Activities with Rationale for Implementation:

Supplemental stocking is required for the following fish:

Biological Surveys - Conduct annual surveys to measure trends in fishery population dynamics, angling regulations and progress toward management goals. Utilize D.C. boat 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 shoreline fishing areas and the posting of regulations.

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