

June 29, 2004

Mr. Edward Noder
1 Holiday Point Parkway
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Dear Mr. Noder,

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the results of the electrofishing survey conducted on Holiday Shores Lake on May 20, 2004. I will also compare this data to the previous surveys conducted in 1999 and 2002. I will also provide some management recommendations. The lake was sampled for 1 hour in two separate 30 minute shocking runs. We collected the following species and numbers:

Largemouth bass	61
Bluegill	206
Green sunfish	54
Redear sunfish	2
Yellow bass	150
Common carp	5
Gizzard shad	158
Yellow bullhead	2

Largemouth bass - 61 largemouth bass were collected in one hour of shocking. This is a very significant increase in bass numbers from the two previous surveys, where 34 per hour were collected in 1999 and 25.5 per hour were collected in 2002. Typically we like to see about 60 bass per hour in this type of lake. The following table shows the size distribution compared to the two previous surveys.

<u>Largemouth Bass</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2004</u>
0 - 12 inches	25%	51%	77%
12 - 15 inches	31%	18%	18%
15 - 18 inches	27%	21%	5%
over 18 inches	17%	10%	0%

The largemouth bass collected from this survey shows a shift in the size distribution from the previous surveys. Most of the fish collected (95%) were under 15 inches. I believe this is a result of the recent stockings of bass. Ten of the bass collected were under 6 inches. This suggests some successful natural reproduction is occurring. I am sure there are larger bass in the lake that were not collected in this survey but I suspect their numbers are fairly low. The results of this survey shows the importance of the recent stockings which should lead to a strong year class of quality fish in the up-coming years.

Bluegill - Bluegill were collected in good numbers. They ranged in size from 2 to 7 inches in length. The average size was about 5 inches. The quality of the bluegill is not great, but in lakes with gizzard shad and

yellow bass present in high numbers that is to be expected.

Crappie - No crappie were collected. This survey is no reflection of the crappie population in the lake. The crappie move to deeper water at this time of year and are difficult for us to collect. Crappie populations tend to cycle every 3 - 4 years. The increase in bass numbers will likely improve the quality of the crappie.

Hybrid Striped Bass - None collected We do not expect to get a good sample of these fish with an electrofishing survey. I would suspect these fish are doing well and growing well. There are plenty of gizzard shad, which is the primary food source for these fish. With periodic stocking these fish will provide good angling opportunities and help to reduce the shad population.

Channel Catfish - None collected. We also do not expect to get a good sample of these fish with an electrofishing survey. Channel catfish will continue to do well in this lake and periodic stocking will help to keep the numbers up and the angling good.

Common Carp - Several common carp were collected in the 10 - 20 lb. range. These fish can provide a good angling opportunity for anyone interested in fishing for them. They can be caught on home-made dough bait or corn. Really! they are fun to catch.

Summary and Recommendations - It is good to see the increase in bass numbers and the size and quality of these fish should continue to improve. Hopefully this increase in numbers will also increase more natural reproduction. I feel the recent stockings of bass has likely prevented a serious drop in the bass population. The Yellow bass numbers are still quite high (little change from the previous surveys). These fish are not desirable sport fish and are likely the reason for the low reproduction of largemouth bass. However, there is no practical way to significantly reduce their numbers. Yellow bass populations often cycle naturally and when the current year class dies off numbers will likely decrease for a few years. Supplemental stockings of largemouth bass, up to 25 per acre every other year will continue to be helpful. Continued stocking of hybrid striped bass will ensure continued improvement of this fishery. Supplemental stocking of channel catfish at a rate of up to 25 per acre is also a good option. Encourage harvest of yellow bass, bluegill, carp, crappie, and larger channel catfish. Limit harvest of largemouth bass.

If you need more information or have any questions please call me.

Sincerely,

Fred A. Cronin
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