



TOTAL LAKE MANAGEMENT

All your lake

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Consulting
Vegetation Control
Electrofishing
Fish Stocking

Water Analysis
Habitat Improvements
Otterbine Fountains
Sweeney Feeders

January 10, 2011

2010 Fisheries Survey Report, Indigo Lake

Report prepared by Matt Ward

Overview

This is the summary and analysis of the fisheries survey we conducted at Indigo Lake on January 6th, 2011.

Fish were sampled via electrofishing. Generally speaking bass and catfish populations are in good shape while crappie are over-populated. Baitfish populations were varied and generally high. Water turbidity was acceptable and vegetation coverage minimal.

Survey Observations

Species sampled

Other than largemouth bass, electro-fishing yielded bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, longear sunfish, warmouth, threadfin shad, gizzard shad, golden shiners, creek chub, spotted suckers, white crappie, and channel catfish.

Baitfish

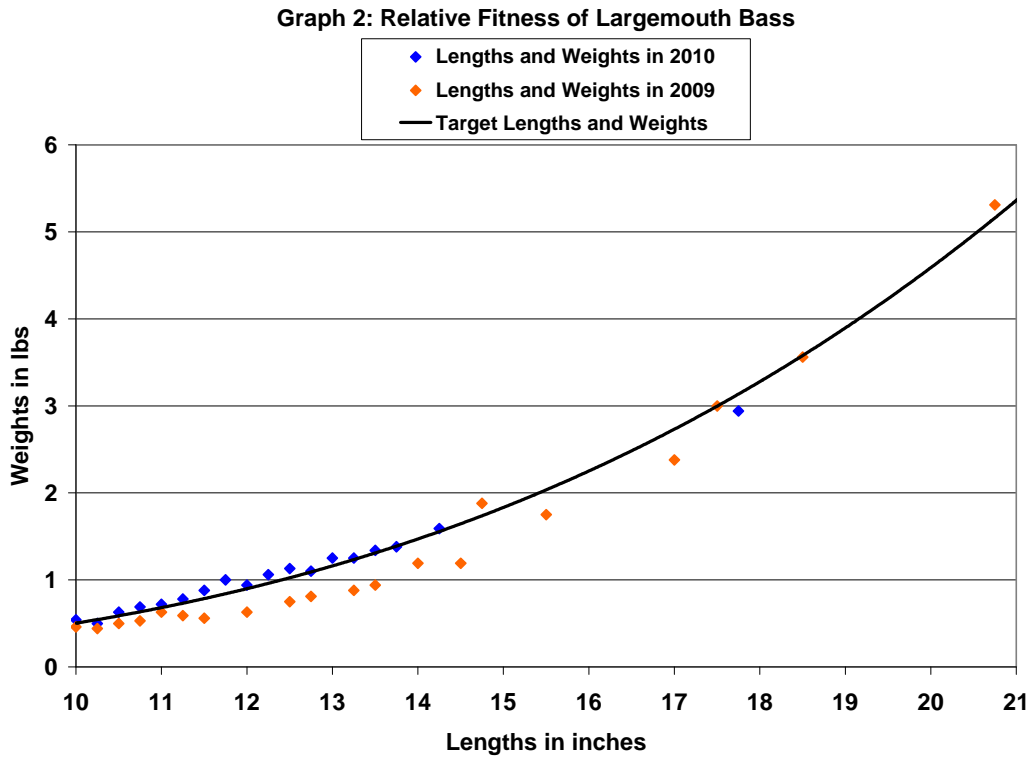
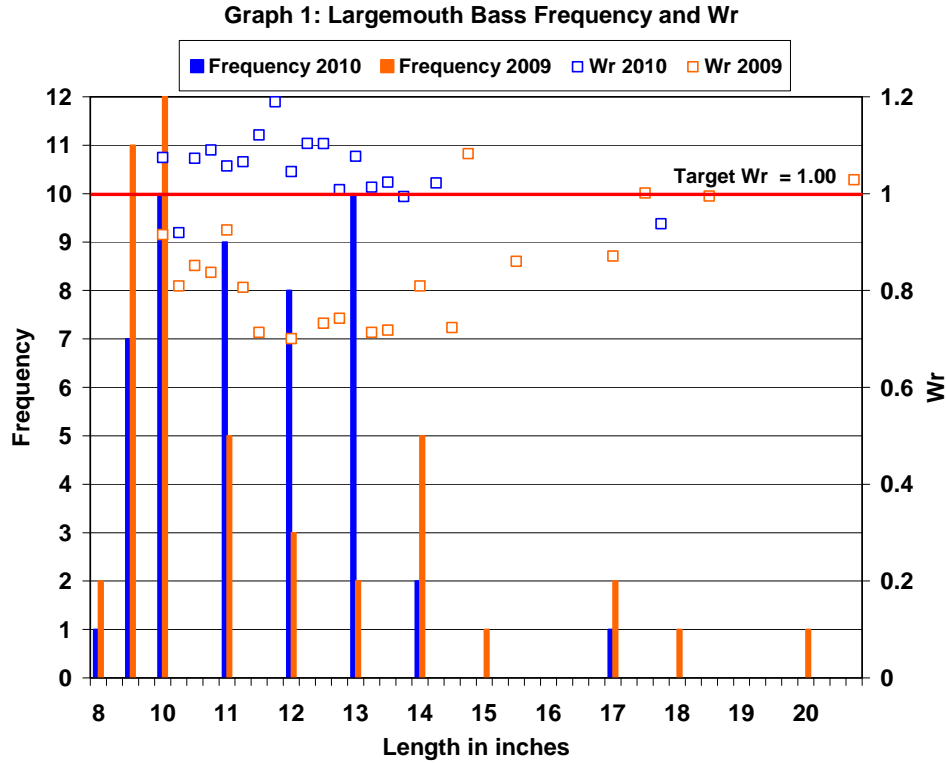
Baitfish populations were generally high and diverse with bluegill, redear sunfish, threadfin shad, and golden shiners being the most critical species. Bass appeared to be corralling the threadfin shad into various coves and pockets around the lake while sunfish were generally focused around various forms of habitat, including docks, vegetation, and rip-rap (rocks).

Largemouth Bass

Bass sampled ranged from 8.5 to 17.75 inches with an average Wr of 1.05 (Graph 1). The majority of bass sampled were under 14 inches in length (Graph 1). Average Wr has increased an impressive 21% since the fall of last year. Graph 2 shows ideal bass weights and lengths (black line) and those of the fish we collected for both 2010 and 2009 (blue and orange points respectively).

Channel Catfish

Channel catfish sampled, ranged up to 20 inches in length. Catfish sampled were generally in good health, indicating that catfish populations are much more balanced than they have been in the past.



White Crappie

Electrofishing yielded 32 white crappie which ranged in size from 8.5” to 12.25.”
 Sampled crappie were very thin indicating excessive numbers of crappie inhabit the lake.

Vegetation

During our survey, the majority of the vegetation we saw was water primrose, cattails, parrot feather, smartweed, and alligatorweed. We have also noted, over the course of the year, coontail, chara, bushy pondweed, and watergrass. We have controlled and will continue to control exotic vegetation, such as parrot feather, as well as continue to eradicate vegetation that could act to block the flow of water over the spillway. Note that continued periods of improved water clarity may result in a vegetation explosion in the near future.

Recommendations for Indigo Lake

- Continue stocking supplemental forage. Stock bluegill and threadfin shad each spring.
 - Threadfin shad stockings serve to boost populations reduced by bass predation over the winter
 - Bluegill stockings help to make bluegill the predominant species of sunfish, as these sunfish are the most important sunfish species for your bass.
- Harvest channel catfish larger than 10"
 - Harvest is less critical than it has been, but remains critical to the balance of Indigo Lake
- Harvest crappie larger than 10"
 - Particularly large numbers of crappie should be harvested during the coming year
- Harvest bass under 13" in length
 - Our goal will be to reduce the number of small bass to provide additional food for your larger bass
- Because I believe fishing pressure on Indigo Lake is light compared to total harvest needed, I recommend allowing for unlimited and or highly liberal bag limits.
- It is important that lake owner's utilize the fishery, by eating fish, to help keep fish populations balanced.