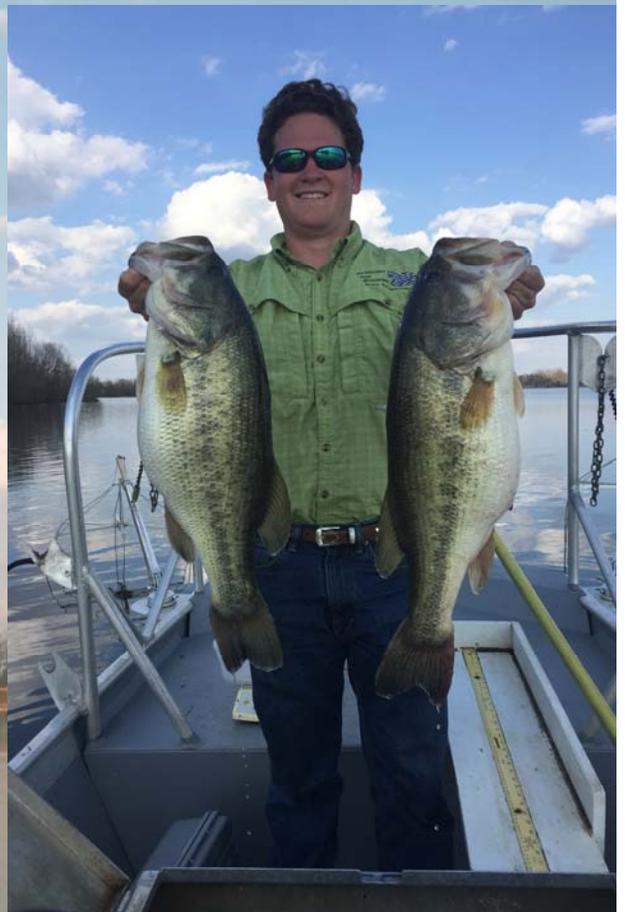


Management Plan
For
Lake Cameron

February 22, 2018





Introduction

As an integral part of the ongoing management program for [Lake Cameron](#), [Southeastern Pond Management](#) conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the 200 acre impoundment on February 22, 2018. A representative sample of the fish community was collected by electrofishing to accurately assess the present state of balance. In addition, a water chemistry test was conducted to determine total alkalinity. The degree of aquatic weed infestation was also recorded. Results of these assessments provide the basis for this management plan.

The goal of this management plan is to create and maintain a balanced fish community with the potential for trophy largemouth bass, quality bluegill and quality crappie fishing.



Electrofishing equipment was used to collect a fish sample from [Lake Cameron](#), February 2018.



Lake Environment Assessment

The aquatic environment of [Lake Cameron](#) is in excellent condition, as usual. Water chemistry is in the ideal range, in terms of pH and alkalinity. No serious infestations of aquatic weeds or algae were observed during this visit.



[Lake Cameron](#), February 2018.



Fishery Assessment

Electrofishing produced a sample of fish comprised of bass, bluegill, shellcrackers, black crappie and channel catfish.

Bass ranging in length from 12 to 23 inches and weighing up to nearly 9 pounds were collected (Figure 1) in good numbers. Compared to last year, big bass were relatively more abundant than smaller bass. Bass smaller than 12 inches were not collected this year. We recommend holding a Small Bass Rodeo to help with the small bass harvest.

The bass this year were fat and in good condition also. The mean Relative Weight (W_r) of the bass was 113 this year, compared to 111 in 2017 (Figure 2, next page). This is not a statistically significant difference, but it is an increase nonetheless. This value means that the bass are, on average, about 13% above ‘average’ weight for a bass of the same length. In simple terms, the bass are very fat and chunky.

Adult crappie were turned up and collected in good numbers, also. Most of the crappie were large

adults—larger, in general, than we saw last year—as they have grown well over the past year. If the goal is to maintain a viable and high quality crappie population, continue to implement and observe the limit on crappie harvest. Crappie are vulnerable to high harvest rates, particularly in the spring, and can be overharvested.

Bluegill and shellcrackers were found in good abundance. No direct management action is indicated for the bluegill/shellcracker population. Continue to observe a limited harvest on these species.

Only a few catfish were turned up this year. Catfish are still present so the Catfish Rodeos should continue as they are successful.

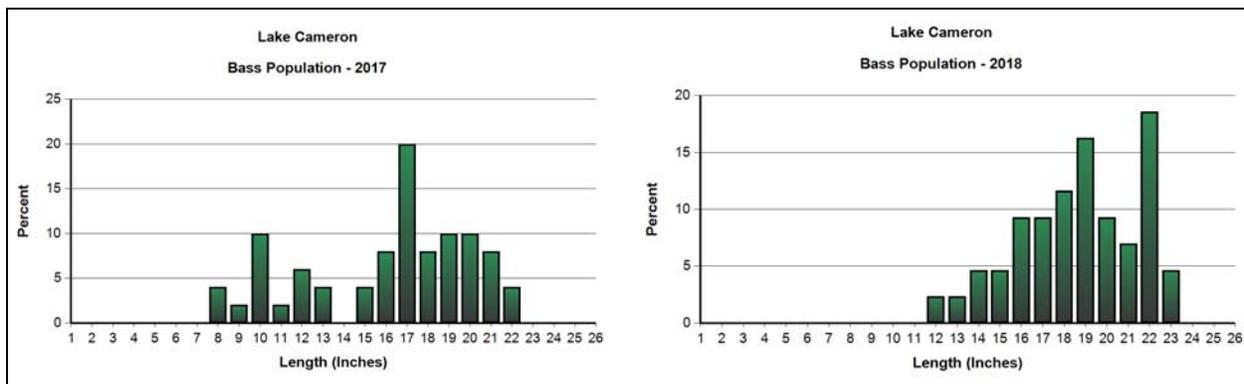


Figure 1. Comparison of the length distribution of bass collected in Lake Cameron in February 2017 and February 2018.

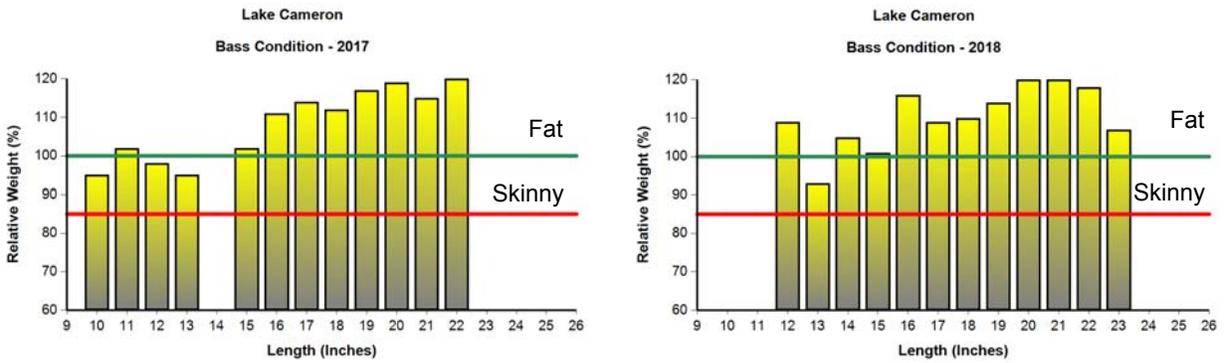


Figure 2. Relative weight distribution of adult largemouth bass collected from [Lake Cameron](#) in February 2017 and February 2018.



Summary of Management Recommendations

The fish population in [Lake Cameron](#) is still, as usual, in excellent condition. The bass are abundant and quality to trophy size fish are present in good numbers. Crappie are present in good number and size also.

Management for the coming year will be essentially unchanged from last year.

Harvest **bass 14" and smaller**. We recommend a **Small Bass Rodeo (one or more)** to aid in achieving high harvest on these small bass.

Harvest all catfish when caught. Continue the catfish tournaments to control the catfish population.

Maintain the recommended **crappie harvest limit of 5 crappie** per person per day. Of course, unlimited catch and release crappie fishing can proceed.

Continue the **harvest limit of only 10 bluegill and shellcrackers** per person per day.

The management activities we recommend over the course of the next twelve months are listed in the following pages. In an effort to assist in the prioritization of these management inputs, we have developed a simple color-coding system. You will note this system in the bottom right-hand corner of the respective Management Recommendations to follow:

LEVEL 1

Highest priority. Generally, require immediate attention.

LEVEL 2

Secondary in importance to Level 1. Directed toward achieving your stated management objectives.

LEVEL 3

Increase enjoyment and/or functionality of your pond but have less impact on the overall management program.



ANNUAL HARVEST

ANNUALLY
2018

Current Status: Owner Responsibility

- Approved Declined Done

Date Approved: _____

Date Done: _____



MANAGEMENTACTIVITY:
Harvest bass 14" and under

COST:
Hook and line: N/A

LEVEL 1

ANNUAL HARVEST

ANNUALLY
2018

Current Status: Owner Responsibility

- Approved Declined Done

Date Approved: _____

Date Done: _____



MANAGEMENTACTIVITY:
Limit 5 crappie/person/day

COST:
Hook and line: N/A

LEVEL 1

ANNUAL HARVEST

ANNUALLY
2018

Current Status: Owner Responsibility

- Approved Declined Done

Date Approved: _____

Date Done: _____



MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY:
Harvest all catfish caught

COST:
Hook and line: N/A

LEVEL 1