

LAKE RAMSEY LAKE SURVEY JUNE 2016

Shoreline seine hauls the other day revealed no evidence of bass reproduction. While I sense there are some bass fingerlings somewhere in the lake it would appear the numbers are seriously lacking. Forage species included silversides, gizzard shad and bluegill. The shallow grade from the bank into the lake around the perimeter is less than ideal. We did not detect depths exceeding 4 feet until we were 15-25 feet from the bank. Also, a phytoplankton bloom was not observed. In essence, the bottom portion of your food chain is significantly absent. It was no wonder that both bass and bluegill reproduction success and recruitment have been negatively impacted.

In consideration of the above observations in a smaller lake the recommendation would be to lime and fertilize. That's not a reasonable solution in this case. I suspect the soils in this area have a pH of 5 or lower which is very acidic. Forage species, especially shad are sufficient to support more bass. With the circumstances as they are, I would recommend an annual stocking of bass, preferably advanced fingerlings. I don't think it's reasonable to expect sufficient bass spawning success and supplemental stockings make sense.

Secondly, the lake lacks sufficient cover. The piers are ideal structure however piers in shallow water which heats up is insufficient. Structure in 4-6 foot water is more desirable.

Last, but not least, I highly recommend a winter drawdown on this lake from a fisheries perspective. Moving the small fish out of the shallows for a 4-month period will work wonders on your fish growth and condition factors. I know that there is little likelihood that the residents will vote in favor of a draw-down, however you should be aware that draw-downs really work.

Let me know if you have questions or comments regarding the above.

Thanks,

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