

Electrofishing Highlights

- On 10/13 Mike Kalstrup and Frank Jakubicek from the DNR electrofished for approximately 1 hr.
- The DNR's boat was equipped with special equipment that induces DC current into the water. This system is designed for use in clear / high mineral content water and can shock fish up to a depth of 5'.
- During this outing they netted Northern Pike, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, and a small Carp. (See the photos taken by John Murphy during the shocking on the blog)
- During the shocking they saw decent numbers of this year's largemouth bass hatch. This means the largemouth bass are reproducing.
- Fisheries biologist noted that the majority of the L.M. Bass fingerlings were only 1 1/2"- 2" long. At this time of year in most lakes they should be 4"-6" in length. Frank is concerned about the winter survival rate for these fish being they are so small. Also the surviving fish will not be big enough to reproduce next year.
- It was evident that there was a noted "age" gap in the L.M. Bass population in the 10"-14" class, which would be about 1 yr. to 1 1/2 yrs. old on our lake. When fish are 10"-14" they become sexually mature and can start reproducing. The small shocked bass will not be able to spawn next year as they should. They would be ready to spawn in about 1 to 1 1/2 years from now.
- The DNR recommended **not** to stock the lake this late in the season, but wait until next spring. They recommend stocking as many 4"-6" or 6"-8" L.M. bass to help "fill" the noted gap in year class that was missing. These fish if stocked would then be big enough to spawn the following year.
- In regards to the 20 muskies stocked last fall. The DNR biologist believes that their impact on the game fish community will be **insignificant**. See the report and information in the download section on the blog. The document covers recent research on this topic by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources.
- The Illinois Dept. of Resources when stocking musky in a lake would typically stock two fish per acre (**Over 200 muskies** in one stocking for our lake) for many years in order to establish a sustainable musky population.

- The DNR recommended increasing plant coverage and diversity from where it currently is in order to stabilize the lake's ecosystem i.e. water clarity, fish populations, etc., to prevent swings in fish year classes.
- The DNR will provide a final detailed report in January 2010.