



HERMAN BROTHERS FISHERIES

Electrofishing Survey Results/Data/Recommendations

Braidwood Conservation

Moose Lake

General Information

Name: Braidwood Conservation – Moose Lake

Location: Braidwood, IL

Phone: Tyler Geiss: 815-530-5292

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Date: May 30, 2020

Lake Size: ~80-100 acres.

Lake Age: Unknown: Strip Mine Lake.

Depths: 31' max depth.

Watershed/Water Fluctuations: The lake floods and comes up 3 feet at times due to being in a very low area overall.

Water Quality/Clarity: This is a typical strip pit lake. The water is very clear.

Vegetation: The vegetation is mostly milfoil and curly leaf pond weed.

Habitat Description: There is some artificial habitat and quite a bit of woody debris around the lake but not a lot in the water.

Current Management Strategies & Goals

- Currently stocking trout, bluegill, black crappie, walleye, and perch in the lake.

Goals/Uses/Questions/Concerns

- Main goal is to enhance the overall health and size of the fish population. In particular, the bass population seems to be small and in need of growth.

Fish Species Present/Desired

- **Bluegill**
 - The bluegill population is not terrible, but it is not a high enough ratio for the numbers of bass. We typically want to see 8 bluegill per 1 bass collected in these surveys and you were closer to 1:1 today.
- **Perch**
 - Working towards better perch.
- **Bass**
 - Small stunted bass everywhere...
- **Walleye**
 - Working towards better walleye.

Recommendations

1. I recommend adding tons of habitat throughout the lake.
 - Artificial structure, cut trees, and brush. I would try to add about 4 good brush piles per acre of water in this lake. It is lacking big time. Just this on its own will be huge for the overall fish population...
2. I recommend harvesting the bass aggressively.
 - We can utilize the electrofishing boat to remove the bass every spring if desired.
 - I would also suggest having a bass tournament to remove the fish. You can try to remove up to 1,000 bass each year for the next 3 years.
3. Harvest the pickerel anytime you catch these. They are competing for resources with the bass.
4. I recommend utilizing all of the rearing ponds for stocking the bluegill.
 - Stock with either adults to spawn or 2,000 fish that are 2-4" each.
 - We can provide these fish at \$0.49 each.
 - I recommend adding fish feeders to each pond.
 - Feed 50 lbs. of Cargill 1/8" for the first 2 months then use 3/16" for the rest of the months.
5. Stock Muskie, Tiger Muskie, or Pike.
 - Stock at a rate of 1 per acre each fall for the next 3 years.
 - \$18.50 each.
6. Stock catfish 8-10" long in the lake every 3-4 years at a rate of 15 per acre. These fish cost \$1.05 each.
7. Plan on stocking 10 walleye per acre every fall.

- 5-8" long for \$2.00 each.
8. Stock 6000 bluegill from the rearing pond into the lake every fall for the next 3 years.

This will really boost the forage base in this lake and begin to turn things around with your largemouth bass population. This will be the most cost effective way of doing this.

If you are unable to, we could get you 3-5" bluegill stocked for \$0.85 each. These would be the perfect size to stock.



Sincerely,

Austin Bennett

Fisheries Biologist

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