



Illinois

Department of Natural Resources

<http://dnr.state.il.us>

One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

December 4, 2002

Tim Spelde
716 Mississippi Dr.
Dixon, IL 61021

Dear Tim:

On October 11, 2002 Rick, Karen and I along with many interested fishermen electrofished Lost Nation Lake for 60 minutes and collected 494 sport fish from 9 of the lake's 11 most important sport species. Absent from the collection were white crappie and muskie.

We collected 143 bass ranging in size from 3.2 - 19.5". The large 1997 year class now is 15" plus, and another large year class produced in 2001 is 6" plus. The 2001 year class impacted the 2002 year class much the same way the dominant 1997 year class impacted the following 3 year classes 1998 to 2000. Bass body condition is excellent at 104% of the standard. With the weak year class produced in 2002 we may need to supplementally stock bass in 2003. Next year's survey will help determine our bass needs.

The bluegill collection found fish ranging in size from 1.0 - 7.6" with a remarkable 31% of these fish exceeding 6". The collection of 290 bluegill per hour is in line with our historic collection of 297 per hour. The body condition is 100% of the standard. Once again good bluegill fishing should be expected in 2003.

Our walleye collection found 14 fish ranging in size from 10.7" (2001 stock) to 21.3" (1997 stock). Intervening stocks from 2000 to 1998 were represented in fish ranging in size from 14.2" - 18.7". Although few walleye are ever collected during daytime electrofishing, we did collect enough to show the stocking program has been successful. The body condition is 97% of the standard.

My records indicate smallmouth bass were stocked in 2000 and 2001, and our collection of 6 fish ranging in size from 6.4 - 8.7" undoubtedly represents fish from both stocks. The body condition is 113% of the standard.

Two pike at 13" perhaps from the 2002 stocking, 3 catfish very old up to 28", one 10 1/2" white bass and 2 older black crappie, one at 3/4 lbs. completed our game fish collection.

The 33 carp we collected ranged in size from 13.1 - 25.6" with an average size of 19.32" and an average weight of 3.77 lbs. Last year the average size was 22.4" at an average weight of 5.1 lbs. with the smallest carp collected at 18.2". Clearly a year class was formed about 4 years ago and

first collected during this survey. The unfortunate continued year class formation, along with the poor body condition averaging 83% of the standard, points to a substantial carp population in the lake.

Since 1997 to the present survey we have removed 201 carp weighing a total of 867 lbs. or 9.9 lbs. per acre. This is not much compared to what is out there.

Carp along with other forage species including shad, bullheads, green sunfish, golden shiners, white suckers, quillback and a variety of minnows dictates that a vigorous predator stocking program is warranted.

My suggested stocking program for the coming years is the following:

<u>Species</u>	<i>Odd Years</i>		<u>Species</u>	<i>Even Years</i>	
	<u>Min. Size</u>	<u>Number</u>		<u>Size</u>	<u>Number</u>
Muskie	10"	88	Pike	8"	440
Walleye	7 - 10"	880	Walleye	7-10"	880
Open			Sm.bass	5"	880

The open spot could be reserved for largemouth bass if they are needed in 2003. If there is an interest in channel catfish, periodically 2,200 - 8" plus fish could be added. Crappie stocks should not be made favoring the more predatory species listed above and the fact that reproduction is taking place in the lake. To encourage fishing on the lake and garner support for management programs, I suggest you enact the following regulations.

	<u>Minimum Size</u>	<u>Limit</u>
Large or smallmouth bass	16"	1
Walleye	16"	3
Muskie or tiger muskie	42"	1
Northern pike	30"	3
Catfish	16"	3
White bass	10"	10
Crappie	None	20
Bluegill	None	20
Carp	None	All must be taken

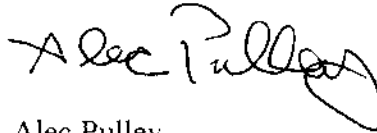
If there is an interest in bow fishing, carp can be taken in May and June in the shallow water spawning areas.

I hope this helps with the future management of Lost Lake and I know you will have followup questions or comments so feel free to contact me.

Mr. Tim Spelde, Lost Nation Lake
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If I can find the time, I would like to net the lake in June and do some limited shocking as a supplement to our regular fall survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alec Pulley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "P" and "L".

Alec Pulley
District Fisheries Manager
Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park
8542 North Lake Road
Lena, IL 61048

AP/cs
cc: Jerry Sellers
File