



Late-Spring Electrofishing Survey Summary Little Moose Lake, Iron County, 2013

Survey Description

The Mercer DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a late-spring electrofishing survey at Little Moose Lake on May 22, 2013. The lake was surveyed for purposes of obtaining representative samples of the bass and panfish populations. Water temperatures during the survey were in the upper 50s, and weather conditions were calm. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

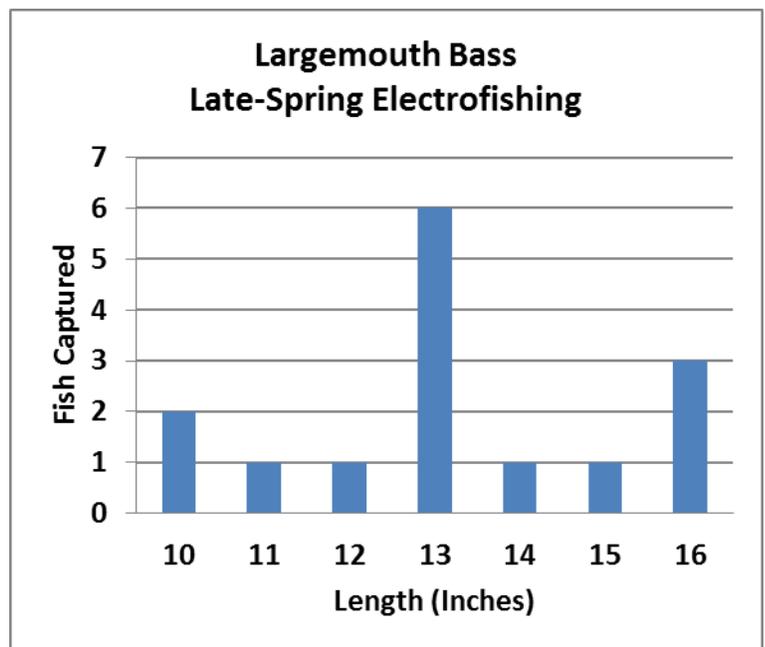
Habitat Characteristics

Little Moose Lake is a shallow, 13-acre drainage lake (maximum depth 14 feet) with dark brown-stained water and low transparency. A small, unimproved boat landing (best suited for small watercraft) with limited parking is available. The littoral zone (near-shore area where light is able to penetrate to the lake bottom) substrates are comprised primarily of muck. Due to limited sunlight penetration in the dark water, aquatic vegetation is limited to the extreme shallows near shore.

Largemouth Bass



Captured 14 per mile $\geq 8''$	
Quality Size $\geq 12''$	80%
Preferred Size $\geq 15''$	27%

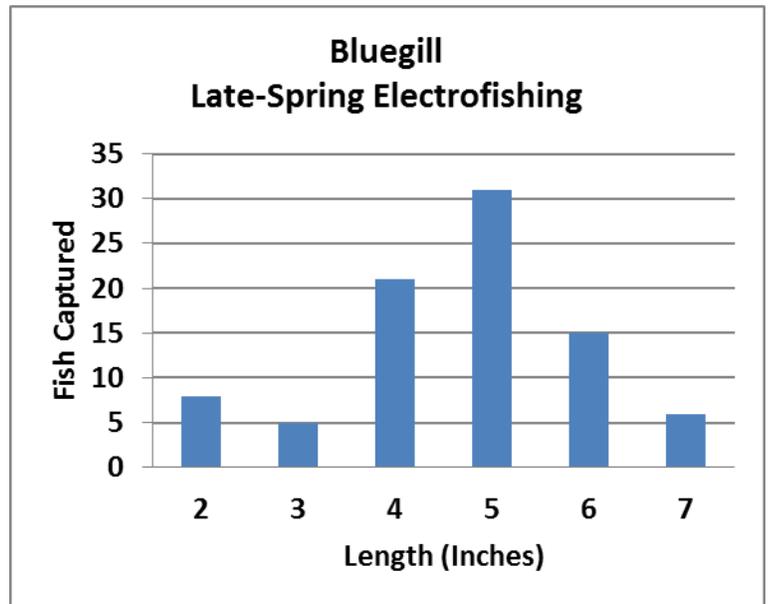


We captured largemouth bass at a moderate rate (14 per mile), but the absence of fish less than 10 inches long indicated very low reproductive survival of young bass. Size structure of the population was good from an angler's viewpoint. No smallmouth bass were captured or seen during this survey.

Bluegill



Captured 72 per mile $\geq 3''$	
Quality Size $\geq 6''$	27%
Preferred Size $\geq 8''$	0%

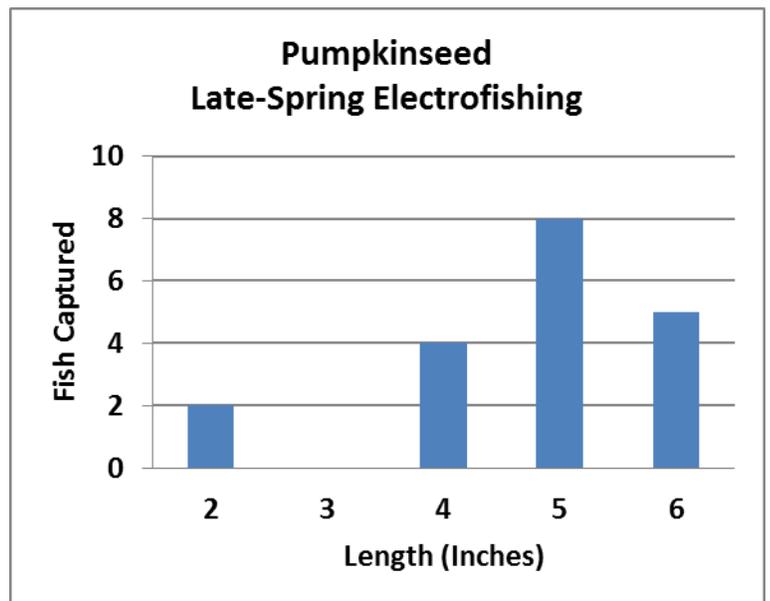


Bluegills ≥ 3 inches were captured at a moderate rate (72 per mile). Very few fish were of acceptable size to anglers. Largemouth bass are not numerous enough to keep mid-sized bluegills “thinned out” and growing to acceptable sizes.

Pumpkinseed



Captured 16 per mile $\geq 3''$	
Quality Size $\geq 6''$	29%
Preferred Size $\geq 8''$	0%



Pumpkinseed sunfish ≥ 3 inches were captured at a relatively low rate (16 per mile) during the late-spring electrofishing survey. As with bluegill, the size structure of the population was poor.

Conclusions

Little Moose Lake contains a fish community similar to larger Moose Lake, which is located about a quarter-mile upstream. Despite its small size, Little Moose Lake's fishery offers some unique opportunities (a decent bass fishery, and a musky fishery that electrofishing gear does not adequately assess). However, the relatively unproductive nature of the lake limits its capability to produce large fish in high numbers. Nonetheless, Little Moose's remoteness can offer anglers a quality wilderness experience, and solitude to go along with it.

Three muskellunge (32 – 37 inches), two small perch, a yellow bullhead, and white sucker were also captured during the survey.

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