The Department of Natural Resources is currently surveying Keyes Lake in Florence County to determine the status of this fishery. Keyes Lake covers 202 acres and has a maximum depth of 77 feet.

Walleye
Fyke nets were used from 3/22-3/29 this spring to mark walleyes. The boom shocker was then deployed for 3 evenings in early spring to recapture walleyes and make an adult population estimate. Based on these surveys I estimate that there are approximately 91 adult walleyes (0.45/acre) in Keyes Lake. This is the lowest adult walleye population ever recorded in Keyes Lake! The largest walleye sample was 29.7 inches and weighed nearly 11 pounds.

Largemouth Bass
Largemouth bass were captured during our spring fyke net survey, walleye electrofishing surveys and 5 bass electrofishing surveys to estimate the adult population. During these surveys we captured and measured 418 different largemouth. After analyzing the data I estimate their to be approximately 1,000 (no I did not round this number off) largemouth bass ≥ 8.0 inches in Keyes Lake (4.95/acre). The majority of these fish were 11-15 inches, with the largest being 18.5 inches.

Smallmouth Bass
Smallmouth bass were less abundant than largemouth bass in Keyes Lake. We captured a total of 75 smallmouth bass during our surveys in 2012. Smallmouth bass showed a better size structure than largemouth bass, with the largest fish being 20.5 inches long.
Norther Pike
Northern Pike were not specifically targeted during our surveys on Keyes Lake. However, we did collect fish during spring netting and electrofishing surveys. We only captured 26 different northern pike during our electrofishing and netting surveys. Fish sampled ranged from 11.0 to 29.4 inches in length.

Panfish
Panfish were sampled using fyke nets over a 2-day period in June. We captured 270 bluegills (24.5/net-lift) during our survey making them the most abundant panfish species in Keyes Lake. Bluegill size structure is very good with 81% being ≥ 6.0 inches and 11% being ≥ 8.0 inches in length.

Rock bass was the 2nd most encountered panfish species with 51 fish captured during our summer survey. Rock bass size structure is fairly poor in this small sample with 34% ≥ 7.0 inches and 4% ≥ 8.0 inches in length.

Black crappie are not captured in high numbers during our summer panfish surveys due to their early spawning period. We did witness a modest number of black crappies during our spring netting and electrofishing surveys in 2012. A random subsample was measured showing a good size structure with 58% ≥ 10.0 inches in length.