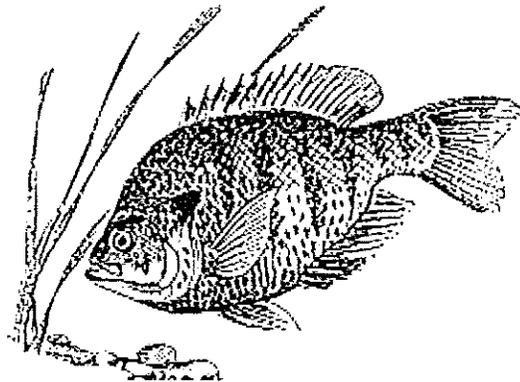


CRYSTAL LAKE
HILLENBRAND FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA

2001 Fish Management Report

Shawn A. Sapp
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FISHERIES SECTION
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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Greene County

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INTRODUCTION

Crystal Lake is located on Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area near the town of Midland off of State Road 59 in Greene County, Indiana. The strip pit is 8 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 40 feet. The watershed is reclaimed surface mine land and the lake is fed primarily by surface run-off. Crystal Lake is owned and managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Fishing access to Crystal Lake consists of a gravel boat ramp at the east end of the lake. Additionally, most of the shoreline is accessible to bank fishing. Electric motors are permitted on the lake, while outboard motors are not. A 14-inch minimum size limit on largemouth bass applies to Crystal Lake as well as all other lakes on Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area.

Previous fisheries work on Crystal Lake included an initial fisheries survey in 1995. A total of 53 fish were collected. Fish sampled included bluegill, largemouth bass, and warmouth.

The present fisheries survey was conducted on June 11-12, 2001. The objective was to evaluate the status of the fishery and changes since the initial survey in 1995. Fish sampling effort consisted of night D.C. electrofishing (0.35 hours), and two gill nets and two trap nets set overnight. This report presents the results of the survey along with recommendations for future work.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Water chemistry parameters were normal for a strip pit in southern Indiana. Crystal Lake was thermally stratified at around 4 feet with oxygen concentrations adequate for game fish survival (5 ppm or more) from the surface to 12 feet. Water transparency, as measured with a Secchi disk, was 11.7 feet. The water was dark green in color. Water conductivity at Crystal Lake was 1,370 μ S, limiting electrofishing effectiveness.

Submersed aquatic vegetation at the time of the survey collectively covered around 30 to 35 percent of the lake. Chara was the most abundant vegetation and covered approximately 30 percent of the lake's bottom. Coontail and Eurasian watermilfoil both comprised one percent of lake coverage and grew to a depth of 11 feet and 8 feet, respectively. Emergent vegetation included phragmites, broadleaf cattail, bulrush, and creeping water primrose. All emergent vegetation was found along the shoreline and covered, at the most, one percent of the lake.

Combined fish sampling effort produced a total of 203 fish representing four species and weighing an estimated 15.78 pounds. Bluegill were the most abundant species by number (88%) followed by largemouth bass (9%), warmouth (2%), and black crappie (less than 1%).

A total of 178 bluegill were collected with a combined weight of almost five pounds. Data from 10 of the largest bluegill were taken from anglers at the time of the survey. Bluegill ranged in size from 1.2 to 8.3 inches. Growth of bluegill was average for all age classes when compared to bluegill growth at similar pits. Bluegill from the 1999 and 2000 year classes were strong, combining for 86% of the bluegill collected. High conductivity attributed to the lack of larger fish in the catch.

The largemouth bass sample consisted of only 19 fish and collectively weighed over nine pounds. Largemouth bass ranged from 1.5 to 13.7 inches in length. Largemouth bass growth was average for age 1 and age 2 fish but above average for age 3 fish when compared to growth of largemouth bass at similar pits. No legal sized bass were collected in the sample; however, several 3-4 pound bass were observed while collecting vegetation transect data. As with the bluegill, highly conductive waters inhibited collection of larger bass.

Warmouth and black crappie were the only other fish species collected. The warmouth ranged from 4.6 to 7.1 inches while the two crappie were 8.7 and 8.9 inches long.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Crystal Lake appears to have a balanced fishery. As with most small strip pits Crystal Lake has a small watershed that provides limited nutrient resources. Additionally, water conductivity at Crystal Lake was high; limiting electrofishing catch success of fishes. Despite the high conductivity adequate numbers of fish were collected in the survey through the use of other gear and angler catches to reach some general conclusions about the status of the fishery.

Growth of bluegill at Crystal Lake was found to be average when compared to bluegill growth at other area pits. The absence of age 4 fish may indicate variable recruitment but could also be contributed to angler selectivity in the harvest. Most of the larger bluegill in the sample were the result of angler catches and this age class may have been too small to interest anglers. Small bluegill (fish less than 3.5 inches) comprised the majority of the sample in the survey.

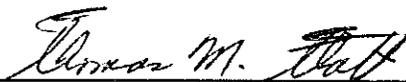
The largemouth bass population at Crystal Lake is adequate to provide predatory pressure of the prey species however, bass 14 inches or larger were not collected in the 1995 survey or the current survey. Growth of all age classes of bass was average or above average indicating the bass population was not stockpiled. Large sized bass were observed during the

current survey but avoided capture. Once again, water conductivity played a negative role in successful collection of bigger fish.

Black crappie were not found in the previous survey. Crappie likely gained access to Crystal Lake incidentally through anglers bait bucket or intentionally through stocking. At the current level crappie are not likely to become a management problem.

Submitted by: Shawn A. Sapp, Asst. Fisheries Biologist
Date: February 28, 2002

Approved by: Brian M. Schoenung, Fisheries Biologist

Approved by: 

Thomas M. Flatt, Fisheries Supervisor
Date: August 28, 2002

LAKE SURVEY REPORT	Type of Survey <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Survey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-Survey
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Lake Name Crystal Lake	County Greene	Date of survey (Month, day, year) 6/11 - 12/01
Biologist's Name Brian Schoenung, Shawn Sapp, and Jamie Smyth		Date of Approval (Month, day, year) 8/28/02

LOCATION		
Quadrangle Name Linton	Range R7W	Section 19
Township Name T8N	Nearest town Midland	

ACCESSIBILITY					
State owned public access site Northeast corner of lake		Privately owned public access site None		Other access site	
Surface acres 8	Maximum depth 40	Average depth 20	Acre feet 160	Water level Normal	Extreme fluctuations Unknown
Location of benchmark Unknown					

INLETS		
Name	Location	Origin
None	Run-off	

OUTLETS	
Name Unknown	Location West end

Water level control			
POOL	ELEVATION (Feet MSL)	ACRES	Bottom type
TOP OF DAM			<input type="checkbox"/> Boulder
TOP OF FLOOD CONTROL POOL			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gravel
TOP OF CONSERVATION POOL			<input type="checkbox"/> Sand
TOP OF MINIMUM POOL			<input type="checkbox"/> Muck
STREAMBED			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clay
			<input type="checkbox"/> Marl

Watershed use Reclaimed mine land
Development of shoreline None

Previous surveys and investigations Spot-check survey 1995
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SAMPLING EFFORT AT CRYSTAL LAKE					
ELECTROFISHING	Day hours		Night hours		Total hours
	N/A		0.35		0.35
TRAP NETS	Number of traps		Number of Lifts		Total effort
	2		1		2
GILL NETS	Number of nets		Number of Lifts		Total effort
	2		1		2
ROTENONE	Gallons	ppm	Acre Feet Treated	SHORELINE SEINING	Number of 100 Foot Seine Hauls

PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS			
Color		Turbidity	
Dark green		11 Feet 8 Inches (SECCHI DISK)	
Alkalinity (ppm)*		pH	
Surface: 188.1 Bottom: 872.1		Surface: 8.4 Bottom: 7.0	
Conductivity:		Air temperature:	
1,370 µS		95 °F /	
Water chemistry GPS coordinates:			
N 39.11792		W 87.23486	

TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN (D.O.)								
DEPTH (FEET)	DEGREES (°F)	D.O. (ppm)	DEPTH (FEET)	DEGREES (°F)	D.O. (ppm)	DEPTH (FEET)	DEGREES (°F)	D.O. (ppm)
SURFACE	81.3	9.8	36	50.0	0.3	72		
2	79.7	10.0	38	50.0	0.3	74		
4	72.5	10.2	40	50.0	0.3	76		
6	70.3	8.7	42			78		
8	69.3	8.9	44			80		
10	68.2	7.5	46			82		
12	63.5	8.2	48			84		
14	59.4	0.4	50			86		
16	55.9	0.4	52			88		
18	53.4	0.4	54			90		
20	52.2	0.3	56			92		
22	51.3	0.3	58			94		
24	50.9	0.3	60			96		
26	50.7	0.3	62			98		
28	50.5	0.3	64			100		
30	50.4	0.3	66					
32	50.2	0.3	68					
34	50.2	0.3	70					

COMMENTS

Smith Root box settings: 530V, 9.5 amps. Two booms with one wire dropper per boom.

*ppm-parts per million

INDIANA DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

AQUATIC VEGETATION FORM

Body of Water: Crystal Lake Code: _____ Date: 06/12/01 Page: 1 of 1

Data recorder, crew: Brian Schoenung, Shawn Sapp, and Jamie Smyth

AQUATIC VEGETATION TRANSECT NUMBER (enter % of transect for each species found)

Common Name	Code	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3	Transect #4	Transect #5
Chara	22	100 %	50 %	100 %	100 %	
Coontail	29	20 %				
Eurasian watermilfoil	39	80 %	50 %	<1 %	10 %	
Filamentous algae	40	10 %	2 %	2 %	<1 %	
Phragmites	79	<1 %		<1 %		
Sago pondweed	91	<1 %	<1 %		3 %	
Max. Depth of Vegetation		8 feet	9 feet	8 feet	17 feet	
GPS Coordinate Shore		N 39.11994 W 87.23172	N 39.11928 W 87.23233	N 39.11889 W 87.23464	N 39.11708 W 87.23519	N W
GPS Coordinate Lakeward		N 39.11975 W 87.23208	N 39.11933 W 87.23244	N 39.11872 W 87.23433	N 39.11711 W 87.23333	N W

Common Name	Code	Transect #6	Transect #7	Transect #8	Transect #9	Transect #10
Max. Depth of Vegetation						
GPS Coordinate Shore		N W	N W	N W	N W	N W
GPS Coordinate Lakeward		N W	N W	N W	N W	N W

ADDITIONAL SPECIES FOUND

Common Name	Code	Comments	Common Name	Code	Comments

Comments: _____

NUMBER, PERCENTAGE, WEIGHT, AND AGE OF BLUEGILL AT CRYSTAL LAKE

TOTAL LENGTH (inches)	NUMBER COLLECTED	PERCENT OF FISH COLLECTED	AVERAGE WEIGHT* (pounds)	AGE OF FISH	TOTAL LENGTH (inches)	NUMBER COLLECTED	PERCENT OF FISH COLLECTED	AVERAGE WEIGHT* (pounds)	AGE OF FISH
1.0	2	1.1	**	0	19.0				
1.5	64	36.0	**	1	19.5				
2.0	35	19.7	0.01	1	20.0				
2.5	32	18.0	0.01	2	20.5				
3.0	22	12.4	0.02	2	21.0				
3.5	8	4.5	0.03	2,3	21.5				
4.0	3	1.7	0.04	3	22.0				
4.5					22.5				
5.0					23.0				
5.5					23.5				
6.0	1***	0.6	0.15	Not aged	24.0				
6.5	1***	0.6	0.19	5	24.5				
7.0	4***	2.2	0.24	5	25.0				
7.5	4***	2.2	0.30	5,6	25.5				
8.0	1***	0.6	0.37	6	26.0				
8.5	1***	0.6	0.45	6	TOTAL	166			
9.0									
9.5									
10.0									
10.5									
11.0									
11.5									
12.0									
12.5									
13.0									
13.5									
14.0									
14.5									
15.0									
15.5									
16.0									
16.5									
17.0									
17.5									
18.0									
18.5									

ELECTROFISHING CATCH	468.6 /hr	GILL NET CATCH	0.5 /lift	TRAP NET CATCH	1.5 /lift
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* Average weights derived from district averages.
 ** Less than 0.01 pound.
 *** Data taken from anglers catch.

NUMBER, PERCENTAGE, WEIGHT, AND AGE OF LARGEMOUTH BASS AT CRYSTAL LAKE											
TOTAL LENGTH (inches)	NUMBER COLLECTED	PERCENT OF FISH COLLECTED	AVERAGE WEIGHT* (pounds)	AGE OF FISH	TOTAL LENGTH (inches)	NUMBER COLLECTED	PERCENT OF FISH COLLECTED	AVERAGE WEIGHT* (pounds)	AGE OF FISH		
1.0					19.0						
1.5	1	5.3	**	0	19.5						
2.0					20.0						
2.5					20.5						
3.0					21.0						
3.5					21.5						
4.0					22.0						
4.5	2	10.5	0.04	1	22.5						
5.0					23.0						
5.5					23.5						
6.0	1	5.3	0.09	1	24.0						
6.5					24.5						
7.0					25.0						
7.5					25.5						
8.0					26.0						
8.5	1	5.3	0.26	2	TOTAL	19					
9.0	2	10.5	0.31	2							
9.5	1	5.3	0.37	2							
10.0	2	10.5	0.43	2							
10.5	1	5.3	0.51	2							
11.0	2	10.5	0.58	2							
11.5	1	5.3	0.67	2							
12.0	1	5.3	0.77	3							
12.5	1	5.3	0.88	3							
13.0	1	5.3	1.02	3							
13.5	2	10.5	1.18	3							
14.0											
14.5											
15.0											
15.5											
16.0											
16.5											
17.0											
17.5											
18.0											
18.5											
ELECTROFISHING CATCH		54.3 /hr		GILL NET CATCH		0.0 /lift		TRAP NET CATCH		0.0 /lift	

* Average weights derived from district averages.

** Less than 0.01 pound.

Species Bluegill	YEAR	NUMBER OF	BACK CALCULATED LENGTH (inches) AT EACH AGE							
	CLASS	FISH AGED	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Intercept=0.8 Crystal Lake	2000	10	1.4							
	1999	12	1.4	2.2						
	1998	4	0.4	2.0	3.2					
	1996	5	1.4	2.1	3.5	5.5	6.6			
	1995	3	1.5	2.2	3.5	5.3	6.7	7.6		
AVERAGE LENGTH			1.4	2.1	3.4	5.4	6.7	7.6		
NUMBER AGED			34	24	12	8	8	3		

Species Largemouth bass	YEAR	NUMBER OF	BACK CALCULATED LENGTH (inches) AT EACH AGE							
	CLASS	FISH AGED	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Intercept=0.8 Crystal Lake	2000	3	3.7							
	1999	9	4.0	8.1						
	1998	5	4.9	9.2	12.0					
AVERAGE LENGTH			4.2	8.6	12.0					
NUMBER AGED			17	14	5					

GPS LOCATION OF SAMPLING EQUIPMENT AT CRYSTAL LAKE

GILL NETS				TRAP NETS				ELECTROFISHING			
1	N	39.11694	W 87.23547	1	N	39.11964	W 87.23233	1	N		W
	N	39.00086	W 87.23478		2	N	39.11703		W 87.23675	N	
2	N	39.11853	W 87.23483	3	N		W	2	N		W
	N	39.11889	W 87.23422	4	N		W		N		W
3	N		W	5	N		W	3	N		W
	N		W	6	N		W		N		W
4	N		W	7	N		W	4	N		W
	N		W	8	N		W		N		W
5	N		W	9	N		W	5	N		W
	N		W	10	N		W		N		W /
6	N		W	11	N		W	6	N		W
	N		W	12	N		W		N		W
7	N		W	13	N		W	7	N		W
	N		W	14	N		W		N		W
8	N		W	15	N		W	8	N		W
	N		W	16	N		W		N		W
9	N		W	17	N		W	9	N		W
	N		W	18	N		W		N		W
10	N		W	19	N		W	10	N		W
	N		W	20	N		W		N		W
11	N		W					11	N		W
	N		W						N		W
12	N		W					12	N		W
	N		W						N		W
13	N		W					13	N		W
	N		W						N		W
14	N		W					14	N		W
	N		W						N		W
15	N		W					15	N		W
	N		W						N		W
16	N		W					16	N		W
	N		W						N		W
17	N		W					17	N		W
	N		W						N		W
18	N		W					18	N		W
	N		W						N		W
19	N		W					19	N		W
	N		W						N		W
20	N		W					20	N		W
	N		W						N		W