

Versailles Lake
Ripley County
Supplemental Survey

Date of Survey: November 2, 2006

Fisheries Biologist: Larry L. Lehman

Assistant Fisheries Biologist: Clinton R. Kowalik

Survey Objectives: 1) Evaluate sauger fry stockings made into Laughery Creek above Versailles Lake, and 2) evaluate white bass adult stockings into Versailles Lake and into Laughery Creek above the lake.

Methods: Fish collection effort equaled 0.5 h pulsed DC daytime electrofishing with two dippers along left bank of Versailles Lake (210 ac) from boat ramp to vicinity of dam.

Summary: Nearly 695,000 sauger fry were stocked into Laughery Creek just above the SR 350 Bridge during the 4-year period from 2003 through 2006 (Table 1). The stocking site is 5 to 6 miles above Versailles Lake. No sauger were seen or collected during fall electrofishing surveys for sauger fingerlings at the stocking site in 2003 or 2004. No survey was conducted in 2005 because sauger were not stocked that year (Table 1).

For 3 years, adult white bass were collected during their spring spawning run up Big Raccoon Creek in Putnam County above Harden Reservoir. These fish were stocked into Versailles Lake in 2004 (Table 2). Stockings in 2005 and 2006 were made into Laughery Creek at a farm ford 6 or 7 miles above the lake. No white bass or sauger were collected in 2006 during a fall electrofishing survey at the Laughery Creek stocking site upstream of the lake.

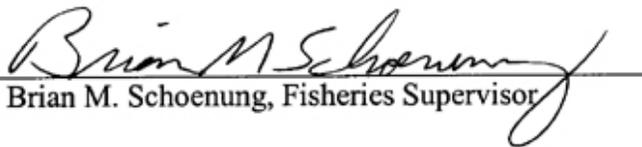
No sauger or white bass were seen in Versailles Lake in November 2006 survey. Sauger fry apparently failed to survive. It is recommended that 6,150 sauger fingerlings be stocked in 2008 and several years following.

There is no evidence that the white bass adults survived to spawn. Collecting white bass from Big Raccoon Creek and moving them to Laughery Creek will be put on hold for now due to uncertainties about the presence of the fish disease Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS).

We will continue to survey Laughery Creek and/or Versailles Lake to evaluate sauger survival in years when they are stocked.

Submitted by: Clinton R. Kowalik, Assistant Fisheries Biologist
Date: 3/14/07

Approved by: Larry L. Lehman, Fisheries Biologist

Approved by: 
Brian M. Schoenung, Fisheries Supervisor

Date: March 5, 2009

Table 1. Sauger fry stocking record for Laughery Creek (Ripley County) by IDNR personnel.

Date stocked	Number	Size range (in)	Stocking site
4/22/2003	196,800	Fry	At bridge on SR 350
4/26/2004	70,550	Fry	At bridge on SR 350
4/30/2004	153,550	Fry	At bridge on SR 350
4/25/2006	274,000	Fry	At bridge on SR 350
Total	694,900		

Table 2. White bass (WHB) stocking record for Versailles Lake and Laughery Creek (Ripley County).

Date stocked	Number	Size range (in)	Comments
4/28/2004	180	8-12	Stocked into lake; mostly males
5/5/2004	106	8-12	Stocked into lake
5/2/2005	200	8-12	Stocked into Laughery Creek*; mostly males
5/9/2005	22	8-14	Stocked into Laughery Creek*; WHB run apparently peaked between 5/2/05 and 5/9/05
5/4/2006	200-300	8-12	Stocked into Laughery Creek*

*Stocked at farm ford approximately 0.8 mile upstream of SR 350 bridge.