



Fish Stocking ~ Fish Habitat ~ Floating Docks  
Pontoon Boats ~ Lake Management

## **SURVEY REPORT**

This report summarizes the data collected on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, while conducting an electroshock survey at the 3.7-acre Lake on the Property of Brad Gersten near Bells, Texas.

### **LAKE DESCRIPTION**

The watershed is composed of grassland. At the time of the survey the water temperature was 71°F and the Secchi depth was 30". The deepest section of the lake is 14' deep with an average depth of 4-6'. The spillway is enclosed and the dam has a number of trees and shrubs growing on it.

### **FORAGE**

**Bluegill:** We found good densities of native bluegill across a variety of sizes, with the heaviest density in the 1-3" range. Bluegill are the backbone of the food chain for your largemouth bass. We recommend stocking coppernose bluegill to increase the overall size possible for your bluegill. Coppernose bluegill have the ability to reach 2 lbs. when a regular feeding plan is used. We will recommend feeding to promote growth of bluegill by adding 2 feeders. This will produce a brood stock from your coppernose needed to maintain a good population of forage fish. The larger your bluegill are, the more young your bluegill will produce. A bluegill this large will be safe from predation and will make for a brood stock that can produce year after year.

**Redear:** No redear were retrieved at the time of the survey. Redear are an additional forage fish that eats snails. Snails are part of the life cycle of the Yellow Grub Parasite. We saw this parasite on the fins or gills of your bass during the survey. We recommended stocking large redear to establish this population and remedy the parasite problem.

### **PREDATORS**

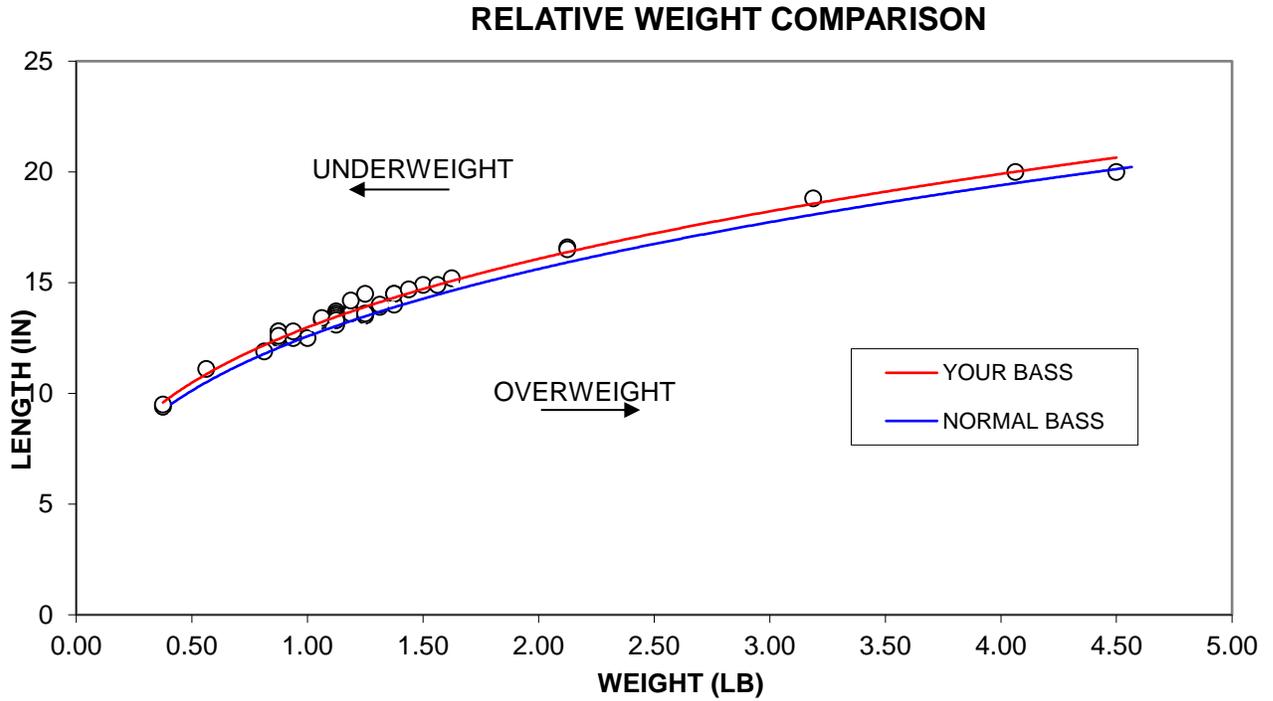
**Largemouth Bass:** We weighed and measured 45 bass with an average length of 13.8". The average relative weight was 87%. Relative weight compares the weight of a bass in your lake to the length-specific standard weight for bass. Your bass are underweight because they are overpopulated in the 13-14" range. If you harvest bass under 14", you will thin the numbers and increase forage for your bass across all sizes.

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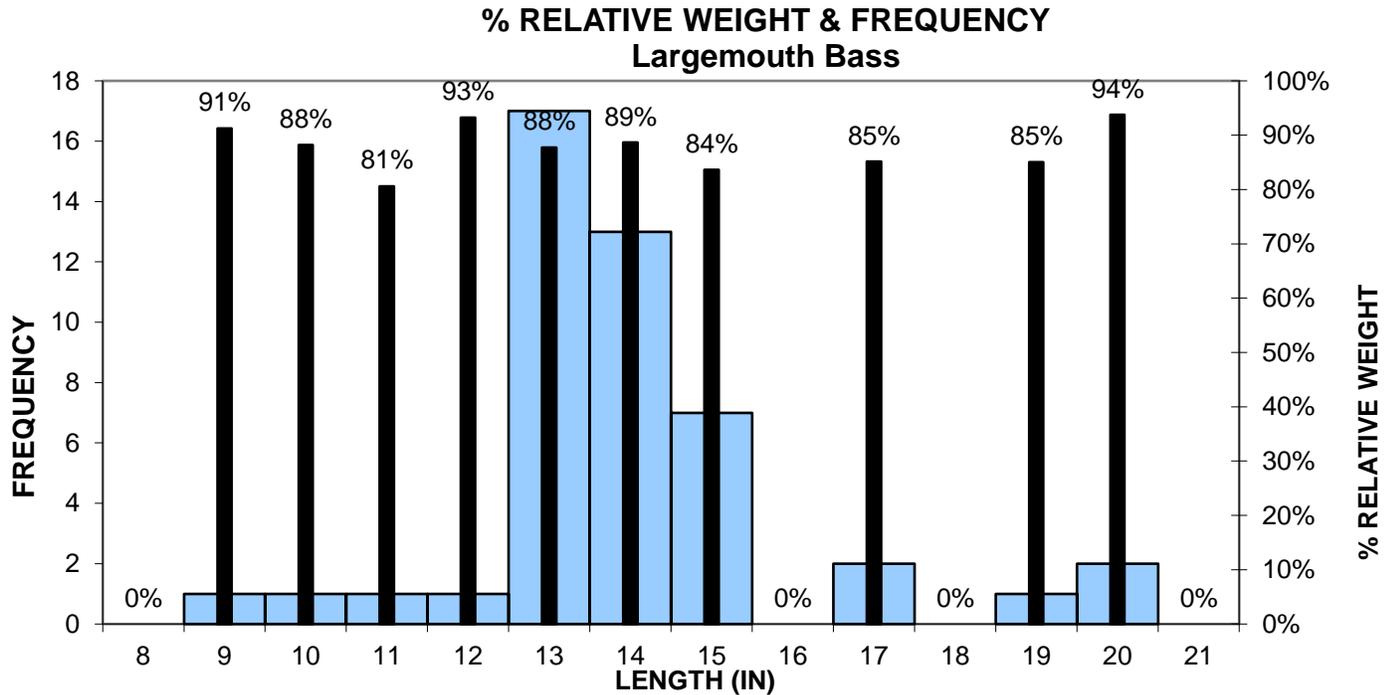
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**CHARTS**

**Relative Weight Comparison Chart:** This graph shows each individual bass plotted in comparison to a normal relative weight curve.



**% Relative Weight & Frequency Chart:** This graph shows the average relative weight and frequency for each size class.



## **HABITAT**

The lake contains good edge vegetation that provides excellent cover for your forage fish. There is a lot of submerged vegetation, mostly coontail, with some American pondweed and primrose. We recommend chemically treating the coontail to keep it under control; it will need to be observed over the next few months. We also recommend getting a permit from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (see attached application) for 40 grass carp as a long term solution to your vegetation issues.

Your lake overflow is controlled by a metal riser an option that we noticed would be to weld an 18-24" extension to your spillway to raise the water level. Raising the water level will make it possible to annex the half acre pond that is separated by a levy on the south side of the lake. With deeper water levels, light will not be able to penetrate to the bottom of your lake, and this will help control some of the vegetation. This could cause the lake to encroach on neighbor's property, so this will need to be considered if you would like to do this.

Once your vegetation is under control in the fall, we suggest adding additional habitat for your fish. Adding additional structure is important to give your bass an ambush point, which will reduce energy that is normally burned feeding. Our Honey Hole Trees are excellent structure to add since they will not deteriorate and can be placed wherever you would like in your pond.

## **SUMMARY**

The lake is in relatively good condition; however your bass densities are high in the 14" and under range. We recommend stocking additional forage fish; stocking large-jumbo coppernose, large redear, golden shiners, and crawfish will increase the forage population in your lake to give the bass the boost they need to increase their size to reach up to 3 lbs. this season. Adding and maintaining 2 feeders will increase the size of your bluegill, making them a larger meal for your bass as well as providing a brood stock. We recommend removing 200-250 bass under 14" from your lake to thin the numbers of your bass and give your baitfish a chance to increase in size. After your bass harvest is done and your forage fish have had a chance to recover, we recommend stocking F1 hybrid bass in the fall to improve overall genetics in your lake.

There are a lot of trees growing on your lake's dam. We recommend removing as many trees less than 5" in diameter as you can. You can trim the remaining trees to allow light to penetrate to the ground to encourage grass growth. Having grass growing on your dam will help control erosion. Most of the trees are softwoods that easily die and create channels in your damn where the roots are that compromise its long-term integrity.

We noticed a lot of turtles in your lake during the survey, adding turtle removal to your maintenance can be a valued addition. Turtles will eat the eggs from spawning beds and can cause setbacks to reaching your goal. We also have a bass harvest service to help quickly reach

your goal, with this service we can credit you toward your forage fish cost with the bass we remove.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Stock 300 large – jumbo (availability) coppernose per acre @ \$.67-\$.87 each
2. Stock 300 large redear per acre @ \$.72 each.
3. Stock 80 lbs. golden shiners @ \$11.00/ lb.
4. Stock 20 grass carp @ \$17.00 each. (permit required, recommend permit for 40)
5. Stock 200 lbs. of crawfish @ \$8.50/lb.
6. Harvest 200-250 bass under 14”.
7. Thin and remove trees from dam.

### **OPTIONAL**

1. Raise metal riser 18”-24”.
2. Add 25 pack of Honey Hole Trees @ \$3125
3. Add 2 floating feeders with anchor kits and installation @ \$1305 each.
4. Add turtle trap @ \$239
5. Stock 400 F1 hybrid bass in fall after fish harvest @ \$5.00

## **COST SUMMARY**

1. Coppernose Bluegill Stocking - \$743.70 - \$965.70
2. Redear Stocking - \$799.20
3. Golden Shiners Stocking - \$880
4. Triploid Grass Carp Stocking - \$340 (pending permit)
5. Stock 200 lbs. of Crawfish - \$1,700

**TOTAL: \$4,462.90 – 4,684.90**

## **OPTIONAL COST SUMMARY**

1. 25 pack of Honey Hole Trees – \$3,125
2. Add 2 floating feeders with anchor kits and installation - \$2,610
3. Add turtle trap - \$239
4. Stock 400 F1 hybrid bass in fall after fish harvest - \$2,000

**TOTAL: \$7,974**

### **\*House pond water quality**

Alkalinity = 427.5

Hardness = 495.9

pH = 7.8

Please note that the Honey Hole Trees and Shrubs do not have to be installed at the same time if you would prefer to spread the install out over a period of time.

Thank you for the opportunity to survey your lake and your interest in Pond King's products and services. I look forward to helping you reach your management goals for your lake.

Kenny Fleitman