



IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER **May 2012**

Website: www.lakeida.org

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Welcome from your President

Our focus this summer is to keep our lake healthy, fun, full of fish, and to keep out zebra mussels. Your Directors are working very hard to accomplish these goals - water monitoring, fish stocking, hiring and working with AIS inspectors plus planning a fun summer. We all must do our part to enjoy our beautiful Lake Ida.

--- Dian Lopez

This is Our Lake!

As the district directors gathered for the Ida Lake Association (ILA) director's meeting on Saturday, April 28th, this theme seemed to resonate. Lake Ida is our lake, and we all need to be actively involved in its management. We all need to be members for the only \$25 low cost of annual dues, and we all need to be informed and voice our ideas by attending our two bi-annual meetings. The spring meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, May 26th at 9:00 AM** at the Ida Township town hall. Please come, this is our lake.

Spring Meeting - Saturday, May 26th

Come join your friends and neighbors at 9am at the Ida Township Hall. We will have the results of the Lake Ida survey that you completed this past winter. In addition, copies of the Lake Water Quality Report for Lake Ida and the Lake Information [Fishing] Report for Lake Ida will be available for attendees. Please come and hear and see what the experts have to say. We could also use your expertise. Let us know how we can help keep Lake Ida beautiful.

District Directors

First thank you to our present and past District Directors who have invested their time to research projects, attend meetings, and make decisions affecting our lake. Currently we have some vacancies, so now is the time to step up and volunteer to represent your neighbors. Districts 2, 4, 7, 9, and 15 need Co-directors to help with the work in those districts. District 7 needs two Co-directors as we currently have no representatives. Contact your current District Director or email president@lakeida.org if you can help. Without those additional directors, the June Newsletter, which we deliver personally, won't even be able to be distributed. Please help!

DNR Fish Report (Excerpts from 7/9/07 report)

"This lake is a popular destination for both anglers and recreational boaters. Recreational pressure can be high, especially on weekend days during summer months. Lake Ida supports a complex fish community due to good water quality and exceptional habitat diversity such as shallow bays, rock bars, abundant mid-lake structure, emergent and submergent vegetation, etc. Fish management investments are focused on sustaining a consumptive walleye fishery. Annual fry and periodic fingerling stockings are programmed in efforts to supplement natural reproduction and sustain high walleye numbers and catch rates. DNR stockings are augmented with fingerlings purchased and stocked by the Lake Ida Association. The intense stocking program has resulted in elevated survey catches in some years, but has yet to sustain desired population objectives. Catches during the 2007 survey exceeded that of the prior two surveys, but walleye abundance can be described as average when compared to similar lakes across Minnesota. Size structure of 2007 population sample meets management objectives. Mean

length and weight of 2007 captures was 16.0 inches and 1.7 pounds. Walleye abundance and fishing success are projected to increase in coming years in response to above average catches of young fish observed in 2006 and 2007 fall electrofishing surveys. Successful natural reproduction and subsequent recruitment are necessary to sustaining a quality walleye fishery.

Largemouth and smallmouth bass are abundant and anglers can expect good fishing success.

Smallmouth are not as common as largemouth, but abundance has increased in recent years. Size distribution of largemouth and smallmouth bass population samples were remarkably similar in 2007. Smallmouth bass averaged 13.0 inches and 1.4 pounds. Largemouth bass averaged 12.8 inches and 1.3 pounds.

Northern pike abundance increased in response to above-average precipitation and high water through the mid- and late-1990's. Currently, catch rates are higher than what is expected for this type of lake. Pike exceeding 30.0 inches are present but smaller, slow growing "hammer-handle" pike dominate the population. Harvest of these smaller pike is highly encouraged to help keep this population in check. Lower numbers of hammer-handle northern pike should also improve survival of young walleye. An occasional muskellunge has been captured during lake surveys. One 52-inch Muskie was collected during the 2007 survey. This trophy game fish is not stocked into Lake Ida, thus abundance is extremely low. Presence of this species in Lake Ida is likely a result of downstream emigration from Lake Miliona.

Panfish anglers will encounter an abundant population of bluegill. Fishing quality afforded by bluegill is fair to good. Mean length of those captured during the 2007 survey was 6.0 inches.

Angler catches of eight-inch and larger sunfish are common during summer months. Black crappie are present at low to moderate density. Size structure of this population is considered moderate. Mean length during the 2007 survey was 8.0 inches. Most harvest occurs in advance of

and during the spring spawning period. Rock bass sustain a moderately abundant population and contribute to fishing. Relatively few are harvested. Eight-inch or larger yellow perch are rare. Few escape predation to grow to a harvestable size. Lake Ida also supports opportunities to catch and harvest tullibee and large yellow bullheads..

There is also a posted fish spawning area, located at the entrance of a bay near Betsy Ross

Resort on the northwest shoreline. Fishing is prohibited within the posted area during the spring spawning season. Fishing pressure can be seasonally heavy, particularly for black crappie and walleye, while other game fish populations are under-utilized. To help maintain fish community balance and quality fishing experiences, anglers are encouraged to adopt selective or smart harvest strategies. Selective harvest encourages release of larger fish and increased harvest of more abundant smaller or under-exploited fishes.

Walleye anglers should exercise constraint while fishing in deep water. Walleye occupy depths in excess of 60 feet in fall, winter, and spring months. Walleye caught at depths in excess of 30 feet or one atmosphere are subject to water pressure changes that result in over-inflation of their swim bladder which can force their stomach to protrude outside the mouth. The extended gas bladder prevents captured fish from leaving the water surface and moving into deeper water for some time. Such captures can be seen floating on the surface where they are subjected to predation from birds, gill desiccation, or even sunburn, which can lead to secondary infections and eventual mortality. It is wasteful and counterproductive to management efforts to practice catch and release of walleye from deep water. Many released fish will die from stress of the capture. Catch and harvest what you need for a meal and move on. See the link below for specific information on gillnet surveys, stocking information, and fish consumption guidelines. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=21012300>

2012 FISHING UPDATE

Although this DNR report is five years old it does give a good overview for fishing conditions on Lake Ida. What are we doing about it? On April 4, 2012 twelve thousand two hundred and fifty (12,250) 4-5" walleye fingerlings were stocked in Lake Ida by the Ida Lake Association. A total of \$3,500 was spent including a \$1,500 donation by the Leaf Valley Game & Fish Conservation Club. Thank you Leaf Valley Sportsmen. The timing was late this year due to some funding delays by various organizations, which with the early but thin ice, delayed the process last fall. There is, however, already \$1,400 in reserve for next year's stocking. Fingerlings are pretty small to see with a camera lens, but attached is a photo of 4-5" fingerlings being poured into the lake".



Ida Lake Association receives a \$5500 grant to monitor boat launches at the public landings

Do you remember how much fun writing that term paper for high school or college was? Well several members of the ILA board of Directors in conjunction with the Ida Township Board did just that and applied for and are processing a grant from the Minnesota DNR. We received \$5500. Along with an additional \$1,500 budgeted by the Ida Lake Association, we have hired several individuals for a total of 700 hours this spring and summer to monitor boats launching and landing at the public landings and a few other locations on the lake. The inspectors

will be trained by the DNR to identify and inform boaters of potential dangers of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on their boats. They will be looking for Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Milfoil and other AIS. They will also advise boaters of the current laws and penalties for potentially transporting and spreading AIS.

"The Watercraft Inspection Program was created in 1992, in response to legislation proposed by the DNR, Minnesota Lakes Association, and angling groups. The goal of the program is to prevent the spread of invasive species within Minnesota through boater education, watercraft inspections and watercraft decontaminations at public water accesses.

In 2011 legislation aimed at strengthening Minnesota's ability to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species was signed into law in May. As a result of this legislation, the DNR can give watercraft inspectors new authorities. With these new authorities inspectors can, along with conservations officers, visually and tactilely inspect water-related equipment. Those inspections can include the removal, drainage, decontamination or treatment of water-related equipment to prevent the transportation of aquatic invasive species.

DNR authorized inspectors can prohibit the launching or operation of water-related equipment if a person refuses to allow an inspection, or doesn't remove water or aquatic invasive species. Authorized inspectors can also require a watercraft to be decontaminated prior to launching into MN waters".

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/watercraft_inspect.html

Excerpts from Minnesota Invasive Species laws_
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/laws.html>

Transportation Prohibitions

Current state law prohibits transportation of all aquatic plants (with a few exceptions). This law

will not only help prevent the spread of Eurasian water milfoil, but it will also reduce the risk of

zebra mussels being transported while attached to aquatic plants. And it will reduce the inadvertent transport of other harmful plants into or within the state.

Under state law, it is unlawful to:

- transport aquatic plants ...(\$50 civil penalty or misdemeanor)
 - 🕒 *transport zebra mussels and other **prohibited** species of animals on a public road (\$250 civil penalty or misdemeanor)*
 - 🕒 place or attempt to place into waters of the state a boat, seaplane, or trailer that has aquatic plants (\$100 civil penalty), zebra mussels, or other **prohibited** invasive species attached (\$500 civil penalty or misdemeanor).

Regulations on Transport of Water

"As of May 28, 2011, the following regulations, apply to the transportation of water by boaters from all waters in the state (violations are misdemeanors):

- a person leaving waters of the state must drain water-related equipment holding water including bait containers, live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the watercraft and associated equipment from a water access or riparian property; and
- drain plugs, bailers, valves, or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges, and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting watercraft and water-related equipment..."

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/laws.html>

Lake Service Providers (LSPs)

In 2011, additional AIS legislation was passed in Minnesota requiring training and licensing for

businesses or individuals (LSPs) that install and/or remove docks, boatlifts, and other boat and

recreational lake equipment. LSP business owners or senior management are required to attend in-person training and those same persons must obtain a license. Lake home owners are responsible for requiring LSPs to comply with this requirement, as this is our lake. **(DCLA [Douglas County Lake association] Update Volume2 Issue 2 Spring 2012)**

Burning Regulations

It is illegal to burn within 100 feet of the ordinary high water level of the lake, except for recreational campfires. Campfires do not require a permit but need to be no more than three feet in diameter and three feet tall. Any other burning does require a permit, but county burning restrictions may still be in place. See the DNR Burning Permits Information website: (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html>)

Mystery Boat?

In the August, 2011 Ida Lake Newsletter, we referred to the winner of the 4th of July Boat Parade as the mystery, Hawaiian- decor boat. The boat belongs to the Alvin Braun family and was decorated by their grandchildren. Thank you Braun family for correcting our oversight and congratulations to your "ship designers."

Suggestions, Comments, or Complaints:

• Suggestions, comments, or complaints are always welcome. Please just email:

newsletter@lakeida.org

Editor, Mike Shaughnessy