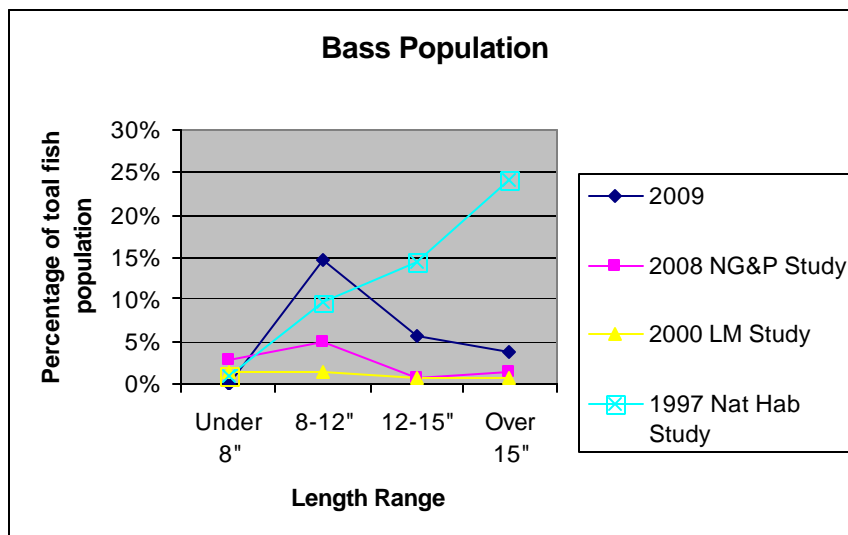


Fish Population Tracking and Analysis 2009

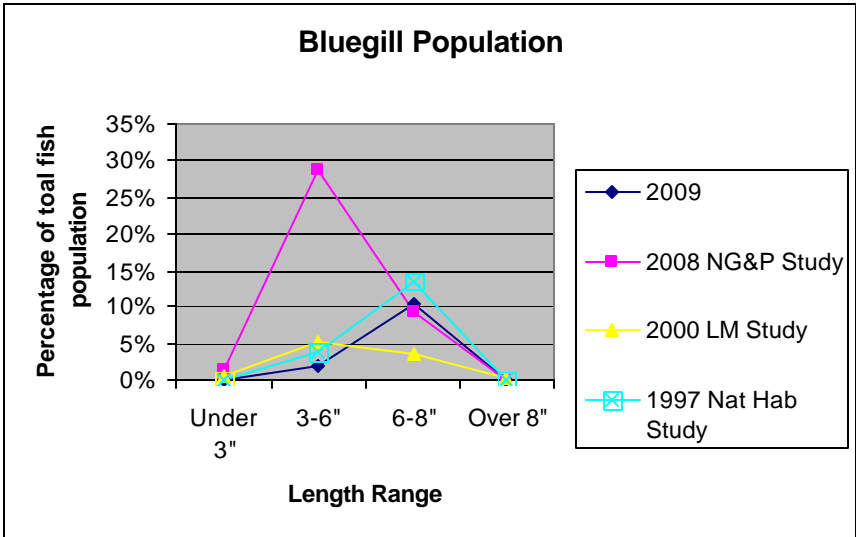
It is important to track the fish population in order to determine the overall health of the fish and the effectiveness of stocking methods. This year is the first year we have compiled data received from fishing logs recorded by anglers. In the future, more insight into the fish population will be learned by comparing trends over the years. Although we only have one year of data from the fishing logs, we have historical data from electro-fishing studies to compare to. It is important to note that the sampling methods are considerably different and direct comparisons between these studies and our own tracking method is difficult. Also note, the fish that people generally fish for will likely be overrepresented in these studies and other fish will likely be underrepresented.

If you would like to participate in the fish tracking, a log sheet can be found on the lake's website or can be obtained from Kevin Eastman (lot 67, 894-5716). Record the species, number, and size of the fish caught. At the end of the year, return them to Kevin Eastman to compile. The more people that participate in the tracking, the more accurate the data will be.

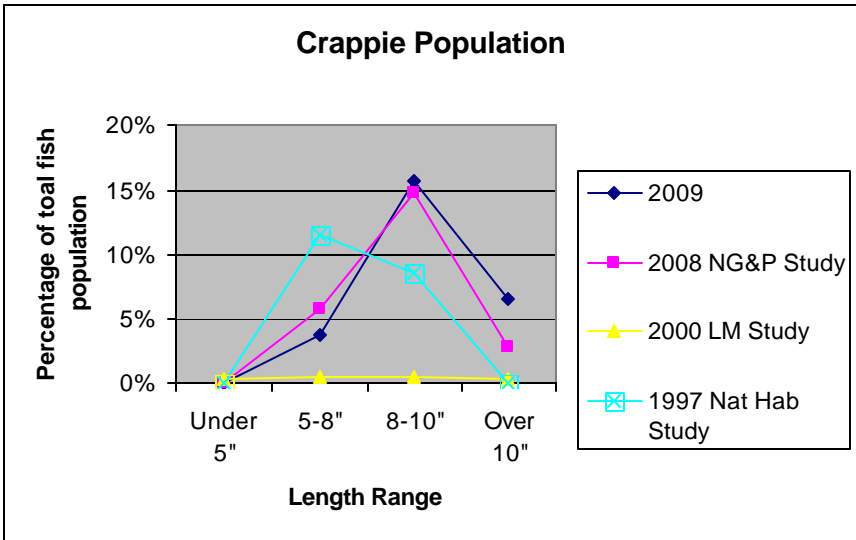
The following graphs show the relative population by size range for various fish. The populations are displayed by total percentage of fish sampled in order to compensate for varying sample sizes from year to year.



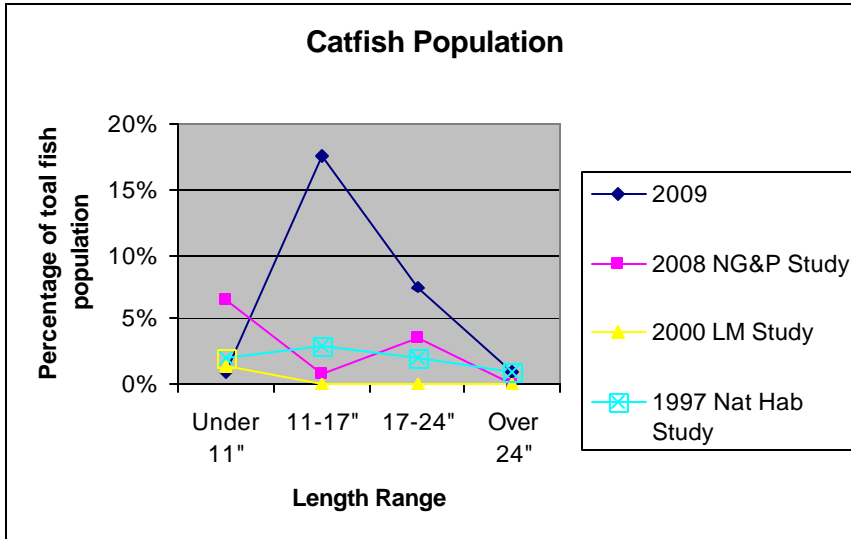
This graph shows the bass population in the lake. One thing that stands out is that in 2009 there is a definite spike in the bass population at 8-12". This is not surprising since this is what was stocked in the spring. I would expect to see that peak shift to larger fish and level out as they mature and spawn. It is also important to note that the oldest study available shows a very healthy bass population, while more recent studies show a decline. This is why it is important to stock bass and support catch and release for bass.



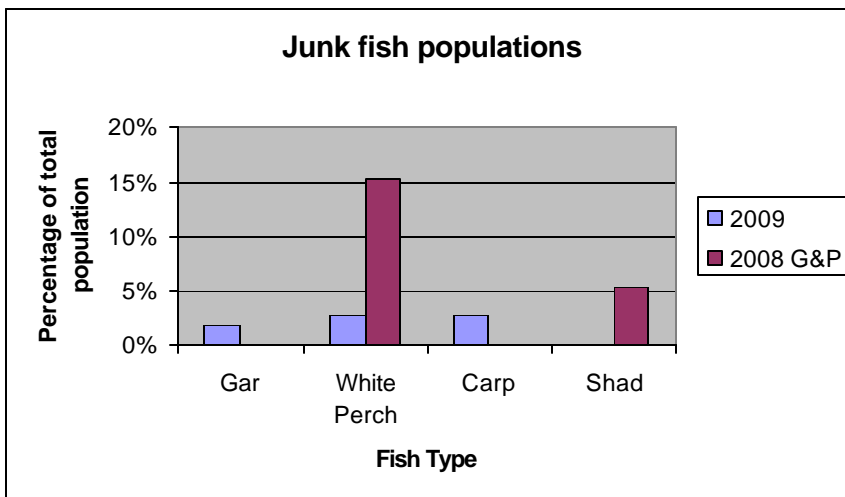
This graph shows the bluegill population of the lake, which seems relatively consistent and healthy.



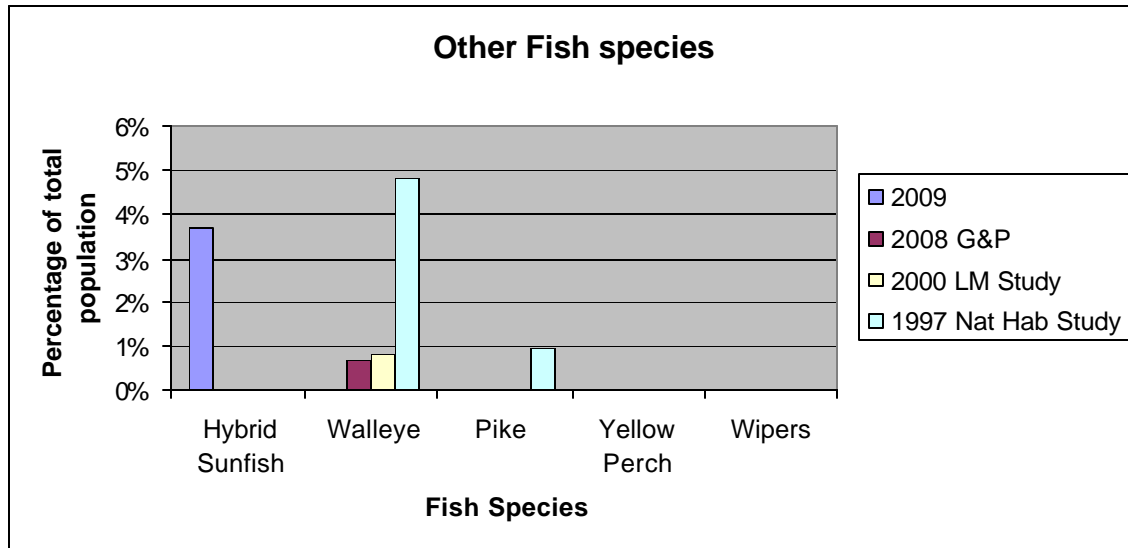
This graph shows the crappie population of the lake, which seems relatively consistent and healthy. Interestingly, the 2000 study shows very low populations. This is likely underrepresented because of conditions that existed at the time of the sampling. This is one of the disadvantages of relying only on the electro-fishing studies done all at once compared to averaging conditions over the entire year as is done with the fish tracking logs.



This graph shows the catfish population. There seems to be a large discrepancy between the fishing logs and the electro-fishing studies, which makes it difficult to determine anything. This is likely due to the differences in sampling methods. We may have to wait for data from future years to learn much about the catfish.



This graph shows the populations of junk fish. The earlier studies had incomplete data on these species of fish and were not included. For some reason, the gar and carp were not caught in the Game and Parks study, although we know they are present. These fish are likely underrepresented in the fishing log because they are generally not fished for. Shad were not present in the fishing log because they would generally not be caught with hook and line, although we know they are present in the lake in great numbers. These species of fish should be removed from the lake whenever they are caught.



This graph shows the populations of other species of fish present in the lake. We have record of stocking all of these fish except the hybrid sunfish. Walleye, pike, and yellow perch would not normally survive well in this type of lake because they generally prefer cooler, clearer, rock bottom lakes. This would explain their apparent decline in population since stocking. Wipers are being stocked again in the fall of 2009 because of their potential to control white perch and shad populations.

If you have any comments or suggestions on improving our fishing, please contact:

Kevin Eastman (lot 67)
 Fishery Committee
 894-5716
kevinandluci@hotmail.com