

2015 Rice Lake Fish Stocking Project

Objective: To begin to replace game fish lost in 2013-2014 winterkill with species and sizes which will help control the common carp population. Recent fish survey conducted in 2014 confirmed that rough fish (Carp and Bullhead) dominate the lake and are major sources to the poor water quality. Removal of the bulk of the Carp will help provide a better habitat for native game fish, which in turn will allow native vegetation to return to the lake and not be dominated by Curlyleaf Pondweed. Stocking will take place in Spring of 2015, with possible follow up stocking later this season (based on consultant recommendation).

Background: The only previous fish stocking done in Rice Lake was in 1995 for a few hundred small game fish. No game fish have been installed in the lake since that time. In previous years (up through the early 2000's) the crappie population was plentiful. However, many of the crappies were removed from the lake by visiting fishermen from shoreline fishing.

Fish surveys done in 2008 and 2014 demonstrated declines among game fish and increases in rough fish:

Table S1. Rice Lake trapnet results for fish surveys conducted in 2014 and 2008 by Blue Water Science and in 1979, 1985, 1994 by the MnDNR. Fish data are shown as fish/trapnet. YOY = young of the year.

	1979 July 12 (5 nets) (MnDNR)	1985 July 9 (8 nets) (MnDNR)	1994 July 11 (9 nets) (MnDNR)	2008 Aug 19-21 (12 nets) (BWS)	2014 July 17-18 (12 nets) (BWS)	DNR Range
Bullhead - Black	99	116	1.7	177	7.6	0.7 - 26
Bullhead - Brown			0.1			1.4 - 6.6
Bullhead - Yellow	0.4	2.8	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.8 - 6.2
Carp		2.1	0.3	3.8	0.3	1.0 - 3.6
Crappie - Black	1.4	17	35	46	2.8	1.8 - 21
Crappie - White			0.4			2.5 - 11.6
Dogfish (Bowfin)		0.3	1.1	0.2		0.5 - 1.7
Golden Shiner				1.8	16	NA
Largemouth Bass		0.1	0.4	1.8	0.5	0.3 - 1.2
Northern Pike	0.4	3.1	0.3	0.1	1.3	NA
Sunfish - Bluegill	2.6	42	40	37	62	7.5 - 63
Sunfish - Green		0.4	0.6		0.1	0.2 - 2.0
Sunfish - Hybrid		9.3	1.9			NA
Sunfish - Orangespot			0.1			NA
Sunfish - Pumpkinseed		2.1	10	1.0	0.1	0.8 - 8.4
Tadpole madtom (small bullhead)	0.2					NA
White Sucker		2	0.2	6.5	0.1	0.3 - 2.2
Yellow Perch	3.6	21	8.9	4.2	0.7	0.5 - 3.4
Bullhead - Black YOY				16	654	NA
Carp YOY					405	NA
Crappie - Black YOY					1.3	NA
Sunfish - Bluegill YOY					2.7	NA

Stocking certain varieties of game fish can have a negative impact on rough fish such as the common carp and bullhead. Game fish such as largemouth bass, crappies and bluegills will feed on both the eggs and young of carp and bullhead. Game fish are also positive impacts on the lake as a whole, since they improve the water quality and do not root up the vegetation like carp do.

In 2015, the Rice Lake Area Association (RLAA) contracted with Rademacher Ponds to install these fish:

- Largemouth Bass (2,000 fingerlings)
- Largemouth Bass (10 mating pairs)
- Black Crappie (2,000 fingerlings)
- Bluegill Sunfish 2,500 fingerlings)
- Perch (500 fingerlings)

Videos of fish being installed:

- [Adult Bass](#)
- [Crappies](#)