



HERMAN BROTHERS FISHERIES

Electrofishing Survey Results/Data/Recommendations

Braidwood Conservation

Beaver Lake

General Information

Name: Braidwood Conservation – Beaver Lake

Location: Braidwood, IL

Date: May 21, 2020

Lake Age: Unknown; Strip Mine Lake.

Depths: Slightly deeper than Moose Lake, but close to the same depths.

Watershed/Water Fluctuations: Same watershed as the big (moose) lake. It is about 3' high now.

Water Quality/Clarity: Lake gets some algae blooms from all of the nutrients.

Vegetation: Same as Moose Lake.

Habitat Description: Lake has slightly more habitat than Moose Lake. A lot of good woody habitat has fallen into this lake giving the fish more ambush points.

Current Management Strategies & Goals

- This lake has more habitat than any other lake on the property.
- A lot of walleye and crappie has been stocked.

Goals/Uses/Questions/Concerns

- The main goal for Beaver Lake is grow amazing walleye.

Fish Species Present/Desired

- **Bluegill**
 - Low abundance of bluegill.
- **Walleye**
 - High numbers of walleye.
- **Bass**
 - Currently catching tons of bass in the lake.
 - High numbers of bass, the lake is slightly overcrowded.
- **Crappie**
 - Crappie are abundant.

Recommendations

1. My number one recommendation is to focus on the harvest all of the bass from the lake in the next two years.
 - We can assist the harvest by utilizing the electrofishing boat to get the bass out of the lake. I want to try get the bass population as low as possible so you can really grow some giant walleye and have high numbers of healthy walleye in beaver lake.
2. I really think that stocking more food into this lake will be the next key to success. The major components to growing large walleye is good water source (which you have) and next in my opinion is the food source. We will work on building the most incredible food source in this lake and the food will transfer down into Moose lake when large rains happen which will only help that lake as well.

- a. I recommend stocking the following fish each fall for the next 3 years to boost the food source
 - i. 7,500 bluegill 3-5" \$.85 each
 - ii. 500 # golden shiners \$9.50 per pound.
- 3. Continue the walleye and perch stocking as you have been doing the past few years.
 - a. If you need to cut back on stocking numbers of walleye and perch in this lake for the next few years you can do that to really help fund the forage stocking that you should be doing.
- 4. For limits/harvest recommendations on this lake I would go with the following
 - a. Harvest all bass for next two years
 - b. Allow 5 bluegill of any size per person per day.
 - i. Not high numbers of bluegill, but some of the other lakes can produce plenty of bluegill for people to catch if they would like to catch bluegill...
 - c. Allow 10 crappie under 10 inches per person per day.
 - d. Allow 2 walleye between 15-18" per person per day.



Sincerely,

Austin Bennett

Fisheries Biologist

Abennett@hblakemanagement.com