

## **2020 Lake Holiday Fish Stocking**

### **ISSUE:**

Board release of approved CIP Funds totaling \$10,000 to facilitate LHCC's 2020 Fish Stocking Program.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Continued replenishment of Lake Holiday's smallmouth bass population while adding species (walleye/crappie) which provide exceptional table fare for LHCC residents when they reach legal size. LHCC's 2020 smallmouth stocking will continue to help offset the results of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR's) three most recent electroshock fish surveys conducted in 2009, 2014 and 2017. Smallmouth bass comprised 50% of our total bass population in 2009, population totals declined to 29% in 2014, and, during 2017, this total fell to 6%. Several factors impacted the population/habitat of this specific fishery including the 10'-12' lake draw down during dam construction and stocking of sterile grass carp. The grass carp eradicated the vegetative/grass cover necessary for the young of the year class smallmouth to hide while reaching a sustainable size and the lake draw down significantly damaged the shallow water cover necessary for productive spawning. During on-going conversations with Brad Fink (VDWR Fishery Biologist), he has consistently recommended that Lake Holiday stock smallmouth bass of the largest size feasible (6"-8") and other sportfish (walleye/crappie) which can help reduce the harvesting of smallmouth bass by providing species which are recognized as exceptional table fare. The VDWR size specification promotes higher survival rates during stocking while also limiting other predatory fish from feeding on the smaller stocked species.

Fender's Fish Hatchery located in Baltic, Ohio conducted LHCC's 2018 stocking (previous VDWR Permits/Approvals) and will also assist with our 2020 efforts. Fender's can supply smallmouth bass, walleye and crappie which meet/exceed VDWR's recommendations and more importantly, can provide the required "VDWR Health Certificates" for fish stocked in waters of the State. The LC also voted in support of this stocking recommendation at their October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION/SUMMARY:**

Board release of approved CIP Funds totaling \$10,000 to facilitate LHCC's 2020 Fish Stocking Program. These funds will be supplemented by the collection of \$2,250 in private donations led by Jared Mounts (LC Member). The Lake Committee has worked with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (Virginia Fish Stocking Authorization Form) and Fender's Fish Hatchery to purchase the following sport fish at a total delivered cost of \$12,250 (\$10,000 LHCC Funding and \$2250 Private Donations):

- 1200 smallmouth bass (6"-8" length)
- 1200 Walleye (5"-7" length)
- 1000 Crappie (3"-4" length)

Contingent on weather conditions/water temperatures, we anticipate stocking to occur during November of 2020.

**PROPOSED MOTION/ACTION:**

Motion for Board release of approved CIP Funds totaling \$10,000 to facilitate LHCC's 2020 Fish Stocking Program during November 2020. The Lake Committee would also request LHCC Resident/Member notification (Newsletter/E-Mail Blasts) similar to the 2018 stocking effort which saw a large number of participants from the community.

**SPONSOR:**

Jon Reedy  
LC Board Liaison

Jared Mounts  
LC Fishery Sub Committee