



ANALYZING FARM POND POPULATIONS
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During late June-July in ponds stocked 2 years or more, use a 1/4" mesh minnow seine 15-20 feet long and 4-6 feet deep either in an arc or along the shoreline of the pond. collect fish and analyze populations as follows:

FISH COLLECTED BY SEINING

CONDITION OF FISH POPULATION

NO young bass present
 MANY recently hatched bluegill
 NO or FEW 3-5 inch bluegill

Desirable bluegill population but bass are overcrowded

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Harvest more bass to keep them from becoming overcrowded.

NO young bass present
 NO recently hatched bluegill
 MANY 3-5 inch bluegill

Undesirable population with bluegill overcrowded

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Use traps or seines to remove the excess numbers of 3-5 inch bluegill. Check for and correct habitat problems such as excess clay turbidity or abundant vegetation. If possible, stock up to 25 bass 6-8 inches in length per surface acre.

NO young bass present
 NO recently hatched bluegill
 MANY 3-5 inch bluegill
 MANY tadpoles and/or minnows and/or crayfish

Undesirable population with bluegill overcrowded. Very few bass in pond.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Remove the excess numbers of bluegill by trapping and seining in the fall. This will provide greater opportunity for the survival of bass fry the following spring. Stock 50 bass (6-9 inches long) per acre.

NO young bass present
 NO recent hatch of bluegill
 FEW 3-5 inch bluegill

Undesirable population with crowding due to other fish competing with bluegill.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: If undesirable fish are present they should be removed by draining the pond or chemically treating the water with fish toxicant. Restock as a new pond.

NO young bass present
 FEW 3-5 inch bluegill
 NO recent hatch of bluegill
 MANY 3-5 inch green sunfish

Undesirable fish population with overcrowding due to green sunfish.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Green sunfish can be reduced in numbers by intensive seining or more effectively by selective treatment with fish toxicant. If their population is extremely large the pond should be drained or treated with a fish toxicant and restocked as a new pond.

Young bass PRESENT
 MANY recently hatched bluegill
 FEW 3-5 inch bluegill

Desirable fish population

Young bass PRESENT
 NO recent hatch of bluegill

NO 3-5 inch bluegill

Analyzing Pond Populations
Page 2

Undesirable fish population with bluegill absent.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Stock pond with bluegill at the rate of 200 adults (4-6 inches) per acre of water.

Young bass PRESENT
NO recent hatch of bluegill
FEW 3-5 inch bluegill

Temporary desirable population but bluegill may have competition.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: If the competitive species of fish are undesirable, they can be removed by draining or chemical treatment, or reduced in numbers by fishing, trapping, or seining.

NO game species present
FEW to many carp, suckers, bullheads, shad or other undesirable species

Undesirable fish population

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Remove the undesirable fish by draining and/or treatment with a fish toxicant. Restock with suitable fish.

Ponds may also be analyzed by the anglers catch. ALL anglers must record ALL fish they catch REGARDLESS of whether or not they keep or release them. After a fishing season, the records can be analyzed as follows:

FISH CAUGHT BY ANGLERS

CONDITION OF FISH POPULATION

Bluegill 6 inches and longer
Bass from 1-2 pounds although smaller or larger sizes are also caught

Desirable fish population

Primarily small bluegill of 3-5 inches in size
Very few bass are caught and when caught are larger than 3 pounds in size

Undesirable population with bluegill overcrowded

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Impose a 15 inch minimum length limit on the bass population which are allowed to be caught and kept by anglers.

Bluegill average in excess of 0.3 pounds
Bass average less than 1 pound and are very thin

If large bluegill are preferred, do nothing. Bass are overcrowded.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Fish harder for bass. Keep all bass caught until size and condition improve.

Small crappie, sunfish, bullheads, carp or other undesirable fish of any size

Undesirable fish population

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Remove all fish in the pond either by draining and/or by treatment of the pond with a fish toxicant and restock.