

SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY

2102-F21-R-47

Name: Ft. Meade Dam

County: Meade

Legal description: Sec 35, T 6N, R 5E

Location from nearest town: 0.25 mi N, 1 mi E, 1.25 mi N, 0.5 mi NE Sturgis, SD

Dates of present survey: June 17, 2014

Date last surveyed: Unknown

Management classification: Warmwater semi-permanent

Primary Species: (game and forage)

1. Largemouth bass

2. Green sunfish

3. Yellow perch

Secondary and other species:

1. Black bullhead

2. White sucker

3. _____

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Surface Area: 15 acres

Watershed: NA acres

Maximum depth: unknown

Mean depth: NA feet

Lake elevation at survey (from known benchmark): full

Ownership of lake and adjacent lakeshore property

Ft. Meade Dam is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is entirely surrounded by BLM land.

Fishing Access

Ft. Meade Dam has several areas that provide shore fishing opportunity, especially near the dam. Anglers must travel on several miles of gravel roads and cross a cattle guard to reach Ft. Meade Dam. This pond is highly affected by drought conditions and the water level drops substantially during periods of drought. There are two picnic tables and a unisex toilet at the reservoir.

Observations of Water Quality and Aquatic Vegetation

There is both submergent and emergent vegetation around most of Ft. Meade Dam during the summer, especially the west, south and southwest shorelines. No obvious pollution problems were identified by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) personnel at the time of the survey. Ft. Meade Dam is in a 50 acre enclosure and cattle grazing is not allowed around the pond.

Observations on conditions of structures (i.e. spillway, boat ramps and docks, roads, etc)

There is no maintained boat ramp, fishing pier, or dock on Ft. Meade Dam. The roads leading to Ft. Meade Dam are typical gravel roads with a few rough areas. The dam and other structures were not inspected by SDGFP personnel at the time of the fisheries survey.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Objective 1. Maintain a largemouth bass/panfish fishery as water levels allow.

Objective 2. Keep the local Wildlife Conservation Officer, BLM, and the public informed of fish management activities and solicit their input when planning future changes to the fishery.

BIOLOGICAL DATA

Sampling Effort and Catch

A fish survey was performed on Ft. Meade Dam on June 17, 2014. The survey consisted of three trap nets left over night (Figure 1) and four angler hours to survey largemouth bass. A total of 212 fish were collected during the survey (Table 1). The angling survey was completed from a small boat using a variety of lure types typically used for angling largemouth bass.

Table 1. Catch data from all species collected in three trap nets in Ft. Meade Dam, Meade County, June 17, 2014. CPUE with 80% confidence intervals in parentheses. PSD, PSD-P and $Wr \geq S$ with 90% confidence intervals in parentheses.

Species	N	CPUE	CPUE-S	PSD	PSD-P	$Wr \geq S$
Yellow perch	201	67 (65.9)	67 (65.9)	36 (6)	0	86.5 (0.8)
Green sunfish	9	3 (4.7)	3 (4.7)	100	11 (26)	103 (2.8)
Black bullhead	1	0.3 (0.3)	0.3 (0.3)	100	0	82.9
White sucker	1	0.3 (0.3)	0.3 (0.3)	100	0	96.5

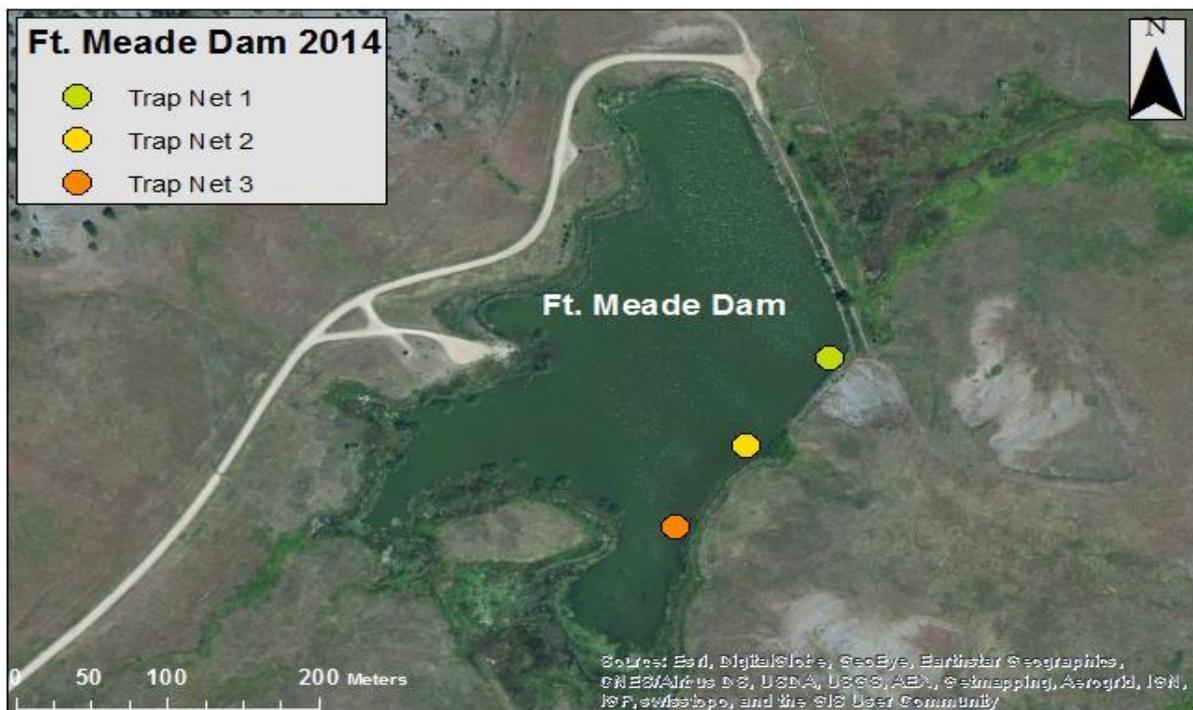


Figure 1. Map of Ft. Meade Dam trap net locations in 2014.

Yellow Perch

Yellow perch were the most abundant fish species collected during the 2014 survey of Ft. Meade Dam (Table 1). The CPUE was 67 and sizes of sampled yellow perch ranged from just over stock length (5 inches) to just below preferred length (10 inches) (Table 1; Figure 2). PSD was 36 with none of the yellow perch sampled being over preferred length. Condition of yellow perch was good with a $Wr>S$ of 87.

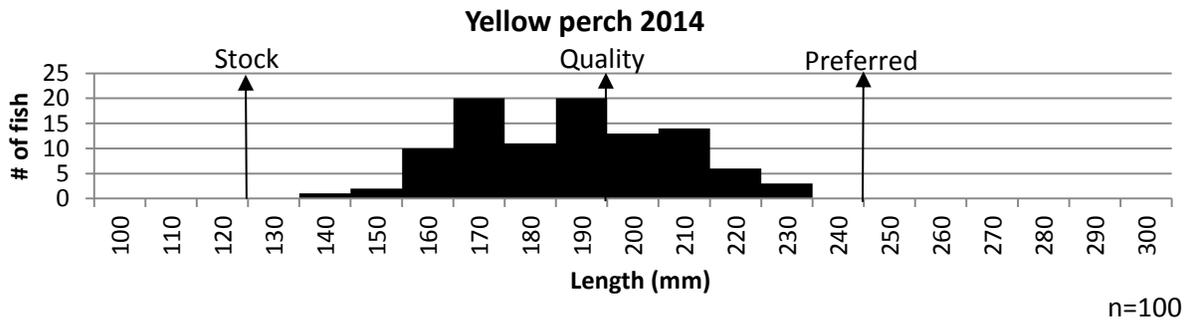


Figure 2. Length frequency histogram for yellow perch collected from a trap net survey of Ft. Meade Dam on June 17, 2014.

Green sunfish

Green sunfish were the second most abundant fish species collected during the fisheries survey at about three fish per net (Table 1). However, the water was very clear and numerous green sunfish were seen in the water. Therefore, density may be higher than was represented in the sample. All of the green sunfish collected were over quality length (PSD=100) and two were over preferred length (PSD-P=11). Green sunfish $Wr>S$ was excellent at 103. Green sunfish were not stocked by SDGFP personnel.

Largemouth bass

During four angler hours no largemouth bass were collected, however, five largemouth bass were seen by SDGFP personnel during the survey and four out of the five were large (estimated to be longer than 15 inches). Ft. Meade Dam has been stocked six times with largemouth bass since 2008. Of the six times, the pond was stocked with fingerling largemouth bass five times.

Other species

White sucker and black bullhead were also caught during the trap net survey with only one individual of each species collected (Table 1). The black bullhead was just less than 12 inches long, and the white sucker was approximately 13 inches in length.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct another largemouth bass survey to get a better understanding of the population.

2. If needed, stock adult largemouth bass to help control the panfish population and provide a largemouth bass fishery.
3. Conduct further surveys as necessary to evaluate stocking success, and to ensure a fishery is maintained.
4. Stock catchable rainbow trout annually in the fall to increase ice fishing opportunity.
5. Stock adult channel catfish when available to provide additional angling opportunity.

APPENDIX

Appendix A. Stocking record for Ft. Meade Dam, Meade, 2003-2014.

Year	Number	Species	Size
2003	750	Rainbow trout	Catchable
2008	80	Largemouth bass	Adult
	1,000	Largemouth bass	Fingerling
2009	2,000	Largemouth bass	Fingerling
2010	1,000	Largemouth bass	Fingerling
2011	7,000	Largemouth bass	Fingerling
2014	400	Largemouth bass	Fingerling