

SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY

2102-F21-R-47

Name: Williams Dam

County: Fall River

Legal description: Sec 30, T 10S, R 7E

Location from nearest town: 1.25 mi S, 4.7 mi W, 0.6 mi S Oelrichs, SD

Dates of present survey: July 1, 2014

Date last surveyed: Unknown

Management classification: Warmwater semi-permanent

Primary Species: (game and forage)

1. Largemouth bass

2. _____

3. _____

Secondary and other species:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Surface Area: 9.5 acres

Maximum depth: NA feet

Lake elevation at survey (from known benchmark): full

Watershed: NA acres

Mean depth: NA feet

Ownership of lake and adjacent lakeshore property

Williams Dam is within the Williams Game Production Area, is owned by the State of South Dakota and is managed by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP).

Fishing Access

There is good shoreline fishing access especially along the dam. Some areas may become difficult to fish from shore during the summer months as the submergent shoreline vegetation increases. Anglers must travel approximately four and three quarter miles of gravel road and a quarter mile of two-track road to reach the pond. The gravel road is mostly good with a few rough patches but can be very slippery after precipitation events.

Observations of Water Quality and Aquatic Vegetation

There is emergent and submergent vegetation around much of the pond especially the latter during the summer months. SDGFP personnel did not observe any apparent water quality issues at the time of the survey.

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

There are no boat ramps, docks, or fishing piers at Williams Dam. The dam was not inspected by SDGFP personnel during the fisheries survey.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

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

Objective 2. Keep the Local Wildlife Conservation Officer 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 fisheries survey was conducted at Williams Dam on July 1, 2014 using one short term (2 hours) experimental gill net set and four hours of angling. The gill net was experimental-type measuring 45.7 m (150 ft) long and 1.8 m (6 ft) deep with six 7.6 m (25 ft) panels with bar mesh sizes: 12.7 mm (0.5 in), 19.1 mm (0.75 in), 25.4 mm (1.0 in), 31.8 mm (1.25 in), 38.1 mm (1.5 in), and 50.8 mm (2.0 in). Two spinning rods and a variety of lures commonly used for angling largemouth bass were used when sampling the fishery.

During the gill net and angling survey no fish were collected. No fish were seen surfacing or in the shallow water as well, and the water was very clear. Williams Dam was almost entirely dry in 2012 but the lack of fish was still a bit of a surprise. The pond has been managed as a trout fishery in the past and the largemouth bass fingerlings stocked in Spring of 2014 were expected to survive. This is a difficult pond to survey and methods may need to be expanded (such as including shoreline seining) to further document whether the bass stocking was successful or not.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct another survey within a couple years to evaluate if the largemouth bass stocked in 2014 have survived.
2. Stock fathead minnows to provide a forage for small bass, and when the largemouth bass population appears established stock adult bluegill to create a more stable forage base and add angling opportunity.

APPENDIX

Appendix A. Stocking record Williams Dam, Fall River, 2004-2014.

Year	Number	Species	Size
2014	400	Largemouth bass	Fingerling