



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
 Fisheries Management  
 STANDARD LAKE SURVEY REPORT



Lake Name: Lower Sakatah  
 DOW Number: 66-0044-00

Survey Type: Re-Survey  
 Survey ID Date: 07/27/2009

**Lake Identification**

Alternate Lake Name: N/A  
 Primary Lake Class ID: 43  
 DNR Sounding Map Number: N/A  
 Alternate Lake Class ID: 43

**Lake Location**

Primary County: Rice  
 Nearest Town: Morristown

**Legal Descriptions**

Lake Center: Township - 109N Range - 22W Section - 20  
 PLS Section Lake Center: 10902220

**All Legal Descriptions:**

Rice County: Township - 109N Range - 22W Sections - 17, 19, 20

**Area Office**

Area Name: Waterville  
 Region Name: Southern  
 ORG Code: F417  
 Region Number: 4

**Lake Access**

(Information based on Re-Survey dated 08/04/2004)

Station ID	Ownership	Public Use	Type	Location / Comments
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(Data excludes records where public use is not designated or is designated "No Public Use")

**Lake Characteristics**

Lake Area (planimetered acres): 310.00	GIS Shoreline Length (miles): 6.05
GIS Lake Area (acres): 372.20	Maximum Fetch (miles): 3.00
DOW Lake Area (acres): 341.00	Fetch Orientation (degrees): N/A
Littoral Area (acres): 310.00	USGS Quad Map Number: V15a
Area in MN (acres): 372.20	USGS Quad 24K GIS Index: 4230
Maximum Depth (feet): 7.0	
Mean Depth (feet): N/A	

**Watershed Characteristics**

**Major Watershed**

Name: Cannon River  
 Watershed Number: 39  
 Watershed size (acres): 940,540

**Minor Watershed**

Name: Lower Sakatah L  
 Watershed Number: 94  
 Watershed size (acres): 6,041

**Surveys And Investigations**

Initial Survey: 09/02/1986.  
 Re-Survey: 07/27/2009, 08/04/2004, 08/16/1999, 08/03/1994, 08/14/1989.

**STANDARD LAKE SURVEY REPORT**  
**RE-SURVEY DATED 07/27/2009 FOR DOW NUMBER 66-0044-00**

**Surveys And Investigations (Continued)**

**Population Assessment:** 08/07/1968.

**Special Assessment:** 10/19/2006, 11/02/2005, 09/29/2004, 05/25/2004, 10/13/2003, 10/25/2002,  
 10/18/2001, 10/12/2000, 10/06/1999, 10/26/1998, 10/15/1997, 10/16/1996,  
 10/11/1995, 10/24/1994, 10/06/1993, 10/23/1992, 10/01/1991, 10/18/1990,  
 10/19/1989, 10/05/1988, 08/02/1983, 05/13/1954.

**Dissolved Oxygen Check:** 01/22/2010.

**Natural Reproduction Check:** 11/15/2007.

**Aquatic Vegetation And Shoalwater Substrates**

**Abundance Of Aquatic Plants (In Transects)**

**Number of Transects:** 20

**Maximum Depth of Aquatic Vegetation Sample (Feet):** 4.7

**Date(s) of Field Work:** 08/17/2009

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Frequency of Occurrence (%)</u>	<u>Abundance Rating</u>	<u>Mean Abundance (%)</u>
Blue-green algae	-	5	Rare	4.2
Canada Waterweed	Submergent	20	Rare	10.0
Cattail Group	Emergent	10	Rare	5.0
Coontail / Common hornwort	Submergent	90	Abundant	71.7
Curly-leaf Pondweed	Submergent	10	Rare	5.0
Filamentous algae	-	40	Rare	31.7
Lesser Duckweed	Free-Floating	65	Common	40.8
Narrow-leaf Pondweed Group	Submergent	20	Rare	10.0
Sago Pondweed	Submergent	60	Common	41.7
Water Star-grass	Submergent	10	Rare	5.0

(Floating-Leaf and wetland species may be tallied with emergent species)

**Shoalwater Substrates (In Transects)**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency of Occurrence (%)</u>	<u>Abundance Rating</u>	<u>Mean Abundance (%)</u>
Muck	40	Common	33.3
Sand	55	Common	45.8
Silt	60	Common	45.0

**Field Measurements Of Water Quality**

<u>Station ID</u>	<u>Sampling Date</u>	<u>Sample Depth (Feet)</u>	<u>Secchi Depth (Feet)</u>	<u>Field pH</u>	<u>Alkalinity (ppm)</u>	<u>Water Color</u>	<u>Color Cause</u>
WQ - 0	07/31/2009	Surface	3.2	N/A	N/A	Brown Grn	Algae

**STANDARD LAKE SURVEY REPORT**  
**RE-SURVEY DATED 07/27/2009 FOR DOW NUMBER 66-0044-00**

**Net Catch Summary by Numbers for GN**

Standard gill net sets

Number of Sets: 6  
 First Set Date: 07/28/2009  
 Last Lift Date: 07/31/2009  
 Target Species: N/A

Abbr	Species	Total Fish	Number Per Set	Quartiles for Lake Class 43*		
				25%	50%	75%
BLB	Black Bullhead	80	13.33	30.34	75.58	150.62
BLC	Black Crappie	63	10.50	1.41	3.71	13.75
BLG	Bluegill	19	3.17	N/A	N/A	N/A
BOF	Bowfin (Dogfish)	16	2.67	0.17	0.35	0.54
CCF	Channel Catfish	4	0.67	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAP	Common Carp	29	4.83	1.00	3.33	13.75
CSH	Common Shiner	1	0.17	N/A	N/A	N/A
FRD	Freshwater Drum	69	11.50	0.50	2.56	8.33
GOS	Golden Shiner	1	0.17	0.50	1.00	2.58
LMB	Largemouth Bass	13	2.17	0.20	0.50	1.50
NOP	Northern Pike	18	3.00	1.08	3.00	8.00
WAE	Walleye	4	0.67	2.28	6.83	18.06
WHB	White Bass	43	7.17	0.28	5.50	9.94
YEB	Yellow Bullhead	18	3.00	0.50	1.50	3.50
YEP	Yellow Perch	37	6.17	2.65	8.00	25.00
		Total Fish/Set:	69.17	* Quartiles for Number Per Set		

**Net Catch Summary by Weight for GN**

Standard gill net sets

Abbr	Species	Total Weight (Pounds)	Pounds Per Set	Mean Weight	Quartiles for Lake Class 43*		
					25%	50%	75%
BLB	Black Bullhead	73.27	12.21	0.92	0.17	0.26	0.39
BLC	Black Crappie	6.33	1.06	0.10	0.16	0.25	0.35
BLG	Bluegill	3.61	0.60	0.19	N/A	N/A	N/A
BOF	Bowfin (Dogfish)	67.65	11.27	4.23	1.79	2.58	3.05
CCF	Channel Catfish	23.57	3.93	5.89	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAP	Common Carp	122.30	20.38	4.22	0.81	1.98	3.70
CSH	Common Shiner	0.10	0.02	0.10	N/A	N/A	N/A
FRD	Freshwater Drum	103.88	17.31	1.51	0.40	0.82	1.67
GOS	Golden Shiner	0.07	0.01	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.11
LMB	Largemouth Bass	16.48	2.75	1.27	0.60	1.18	1.37
NOP	Northern Pike	66.10	11.02	3.67	1.82	2.50	3.35
WAE	Walleye	6.26	1.04	1.57	1.01	1.53	2.30
WHB	White Bass	56.80	9.47	1.32	N/A	N/A	N/A
YEB	Yellow Bullhead	21.73	3.62	1.21	0.31	0.53	0.73
YEP	Yellow Perch	13.92	2.32	0.38	0.13	0.21	0.31
		Total Pounds Fish/Set:	97.01	* Quartiles for Mean Weight			

**STANDARD LAKE SURVEY REPORT**  
**RE-SURVEY DATED 07/27/2009 FOR DOW NUMBER 66-0044-00**

**Net Catch Summary by Numbers for TN**

Standard 3/4-in mesh, double frame trap net sets

Number of Sets: 9  
 First Set Date: 07/28/2009  
 Last Lift Date: 07/31/2009  
 Target Species: N/A

Abbr	Species	Total Fish	Number Per Set	Quartiles for Lake Class 43*		
				25%	50%	75%
BLB	Black Bullhead	1	0.11	11.50	42.00	132.61
BLC	Black Crappie	7	0.78	1.17	4.88	20.50
BLG	Bluegill	86	9.56	1.17	3.89	20.00
BOF	Bowfin (Dogfish)	25	2.78	0.33	0.50	0.92
CAP	Common Carp	7	0.78	1.00	2.44	5.51
FRD	Freshwater Drum	99	11.00	0.23	0.92	3.25
HSF	Hybrid Sunfish	1	0.11	N/A	N/A	N/A
LMB	Largemouth Bass	6	0.67	0.23	0.38	0.67
NOP	Northern Pike	3	0.33	N/A	N/A	N/A
YEB	Yellow Bullhead	8	0.89	0.50	1.13	2.50
YEP	Yellow Perch	2	0.22	0.33	1.37	3.76
Total Fish/Set:			27.22	* Quartiles for Number Per Set		

**Net Catch Summary by Weight for TN**

Standard 3/4-in mesh, double frame trap net sets

Abbr	Species	Total Weight (Pounds)	Pounds Per Set	Mean Weight	Quartiles for Lake Class 43*		
					25%	50%	75%
BLB	Black Bullhead	1.25	0.14	1.25	0.18	0.28	0.40
BLC	Black Crappie	0.69	0.08	0.10	0.22	0.34	0.50
BLG	Bluegill	7.13	0.79	0.08	0.13	0.24	0.39
BOF	Bowfin (Dogfish)	121.59	13.51	4.86	2.71	3.31	3.78
CAP	Common Carp	43.01	4.78	6.14	1.42	2.92	4.58
FRD	Freshwater Drum	198.67	22.07	2.01	0.28	0.60	0.95
HSF	Hybrid Sunfish	0.05	0.01	0.05	N/A	N/A	N/A
LMB	Largemouth Bass	0.60	0.07	0.10	0.30	0.85	1.53
NOP	Northern Pike	9.38	1.04	3.13	N/A	N/A	N/A
YEB	Yellow Bullhead	10.88	1.21	1.36	0.31	0.48	0.67
YEP	Yellow Perch	0.75	0.08	0.37	0.11	0.18	0.30
Total Pounds Fish/Set:			43.78	* Quartiles for Mean Weight			

**STANDARD LAKE SURVEY REPORT**  
**RE-SURVEY DATED 07/27/2009 FOR DOW NUMBER 66-0044-00**

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**Electrofishing Catch Summary for EF**

**Standard electrofishing**

**Total run-time for all stations:** 01:00:00  
**Total on-time for all stations:** 01:00:00  
**First Sampling Date:** 05/27/2009  
**Last Sampling Date:** 05/27/2009  
**Daylight Sampling:** Yes  
**Target Species:** All ages largemouth bass

<u>Abbr</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Summary By Numbers</u>			<u>Summary By Weight (pounds)</u>			
		<u>Total Number</u>	<u>Number per Hour</u>		<u>Total Weight</u>	<u>Lbs per Hour</u>		<u>Mean Weight</u>
			<u>Run-Time</u>	<u>On-Time</u>		<u>Run-Time</u>	<u>On-Time</u>	
LMB	Largemouth Bass	105	105.00	105.00	157.70	157.70	157.70	1.50

**STANDARD LAKE SURVEY REPORT**  
**RE-SURVEY DATED 07/27/2009 FOR DOW NUMBER 66-0044-00**

**Length Frequency Distribution For GN**

**Standard gill net sets**

(Field work conducted between 07/28/2009 and 07/31/2009)

	<u>BLB</u>	<u>BLC</u>	<u>BLG</u>	<u>BOF</u>	<u>CAP</u>	<u>CCF</u>	<u>CSH</u>	<u>FRD</u>	<u>GOS</u>	<u>LMB</u>	<u>NOP</u>	<u>WAE</u>	<u>WHB</u>	<u>YEB</u>	<u>YEP</u>
< 3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.00 - 3.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.50 - 3.99	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.00 - 4.49	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.50 - 4.99	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.00 - 5.49	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.50 - 5.99	1	35	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.00 - 6.49	-	14	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
6.50 - 6.99	1	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
7.00 - 7.49	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
7.50 - 7.99	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
8.00 - 8.49	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
8.50 - 8.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	3
9.00 - 9.49	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
9.50 - 9.99	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
10.00 - 10.49	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1
10.50 - 10.99	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
11.00 - 11.49	21	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
11.50 - 11.99	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
12.00 - 12.99	15	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	3	1
13.00 - 13.99	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	13	7	-
14.00 - 14.99	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	1	-	-	15	2	-
15.00 - 15.99	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	22	-	1	-	-	7	1	-
16.00 - 16.99	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	6	-	3	-	1	1	-	-
17.00 - 17.99	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
18.00 - 18.99	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
19.00 - 19.99	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20.00 - 20.99	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
21.00 - 21.99	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.00 - 22.99	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.00 - 23.99	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
24.00 - 24.99	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25.00 - 25.99	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
26.00 - 26.99	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
27.00 - 27.99	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
28.00 - 28.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
29.00 - 29.99	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
30.00 - 30.99	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
31.00 - 31.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.00 - 32.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.00 - 33.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.00 - 34.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.00 - 35.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
= > 36.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>37</b>
Min. Length	5.91	4.65	3.82	19.45	11.30	18.11	6.30	9.25	5.91	6.77	18.78	10.31	8.19	10.16	6.22
Max. Length	17.91	6.69	8.35	25.24	30.47	27.56	6.30	20.71	5.91	16.54	30.51	18.66	16.14	15.24	12.52
Mean Length	11.47	5.74	5.90	23.05	19.68	24.26	6.30	14.81	5.91	12.41	25.46	15.75	13.84	12.80	8.94
# Measured	80	62	15	16	29	4	1	67	1	11	16	4	43	18	30
No Lengths for	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	7

**STANDARD LAKE SURVEY REPORT**  
**RE-SURVEY DATED 07/27/2009 FOR DOW NUMBER 66-0044-00**

**Length Frequency Distribution For TN**

**Standard 3/4-in mesh, double frame trap net sets**

(Field work conducted between 07/28/2009 and 07/31/2009)

	<u>BLB</u>	<u>BLC</u>	<u>BLG</u>	<u>BOF</u>	<u>CAP</u>	<u>FRD</u>	<u>HSF</u>	<u>LMB</u>	<u>NOP</u>	<u>YEB</u>	<u>YEP</u>
< 3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
3.00 - 3.49	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.50 - 3.99	-	-	15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
4.00 - 4.49	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
4.50 - 4.99	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.00 - 5.49	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.50 - 5.99	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.00 - 6.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
6.50 - 6.99	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
7.00 - 7.49	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
7.50 - 7.99	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
8.00 - 8.49	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.50 - 8.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.00 - 9.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.50 - 9.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.00 - 10.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.50 - 10.99	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
11.00 - 11.49	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
11.50 - 11.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.00 - 12.99	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
13.00 - 13.99	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
14.00 - 14.99	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	-
15.00 - 15.99	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	1	-
16.00 - 16.99	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-
17.00 - 17.99	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-
18.00 - 18.99	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
19.00 - 19.99	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-
20.00 - 20.99	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.00 - 21.99	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.00 - 22.99	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.00 - 23.99	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
24.00 - 24.99	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.00 - 25.99	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.00 - 26.99	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.00 - 27.99	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.00 - 28.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29.00 - 29.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
30.00 - 30.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.00 - 31.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.00 - 32.99	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.00 - 33.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.00 - 34.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.00 - 35.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
= > 36.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
Min. Length	12.99	5.31	3.23	20.59	13.78	10.83	3.98	0.67	19.49	10.71	7.36
Max. Length	12.99	6.69	8.27	27.56	32.60	19.88	3.98	7.68	29.80	15.75	10.55
Mean Length	12.99	5.71	4.55	24.14	22.05	16.46	3.98	4.99	24.17	13.31	8.96
# Measured	1	7	85	25	7	99	1	6	3	8	2
No Lengths for	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**STANDARD LAKE SURVEY REPORT**  
**RE-SURVEY DATED 07/27/2009 FOR DOW NUMBER 66-0044-00**

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**Length Frequency Distribution For EF**

**Standard electrofishing**

(Field work conducted on 05/27/2009)

	<u>LMB</u>
< 3.00	-
3.00 - 3.49	-
3.50 - 3.99	1
4.00 - 4.49	2
4.50 - 4.99	5
5.00 - 5.49	6
5.50 - 5.99	5
6.00 - 6.49	14
6.50 - 6.99	6
7.00 - 7.49	2
7.50 - 7.99	-
8.00 - 8.49	-
8.50 - 8.99	1
9.00 - 9.49	-
9.50 - 9.99	-
10.00 - 10.49	-
10.50 - 10.99	-
11.00 - 11.49	-
11.50 - 11.99	-
12.00 - 12.99	-
13.00 - 13.99	1
14.00 - 14.99	4
15.00 - 15.99	24
16.00 - 16.99	17
17.00 - 17.99	11
18.00 - 18.99	6
19.00 - 19.99	-
20.00 - 20.99	-
21.00 - 21.99	-
22.00 - 22.99	-
23.00 - 23.99	-
24.00 - 24.99	-
25.00 - 25.99	-
26.00 - 26.99	-
27.00 - 27.99	-
28.00 - 28.99	-
29.00 - 29.99	-
30.00 - 30.99	-
31.00 - 31.99	-
32.00 - 32.99	-
33.00 - 33.99	-
34.00 - 34.99	-
35.00 - 35.99	-
= > 36.00	-

	<u>LMB</u>
Total	105
Min. Length	3.54
Max. Length	18.70
Mean Length	12.11
# Measured	105
No Lengths for	0

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**Age Class Frequency Distribution**

Species and Gear (1)	Number of Fish (2)			Number of Fish in Year Class ('yy) and Age Class																
	Aged	Keyed	Unaged	'09	'08	'07	'06	'05	'04	'03	'02	'01	'00	'99	'98	'97	'96	'95	<'95	
				0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15+	
<b>Channel Catfish</b>																				
<b>GN</b>	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	

**(1) Key to sampling gear abbreviations:**

GN = Standard gill net sets

**(2) Notes:**

Number of Fish Aged: Fish that were aged from bony parts.

Number of Fish Keyed: Fish assigned an age with an age-length key or by expansion of mesh or station age distributions.

Number of Fish Unaged: Fish that were not aged and were not assigned an age.

**Discussion**

Lower Sakatah's aging structures are cataloged and available if needed for future use. Staff and timing shortfalls did not leave enough room for fish aging.

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## **Status Of The Fishery**

Lower Sakatah in Rice County is a 310 acre lake east of Waterville. The lake is accessible from the bridge between Upper and Lower Sakatah on Leroy Avenue, as well as from the access on Upper Sakatah Lake. The Cannon River flows through Lower Sakatah Lake, from upstream Upper Sakatah and Tetonka Lake, and continues on through the city of Morristown and further east to Cannon Lake. Sakatah State Park is located on the south shoreline of Lower Sakatah Lake. With purchase of a state park pass, a resident may take fish by angling (in open water) without an angling license when shore fishing or wading on state-owned land within a state park. Because Sakatah State Park does not encompass the entire shoreline of Upper or Lower Sakatah State Park, the angling license exemption does not extend to residents angling from a boat or float; those anglers must still purchase an angling license.

Lower Sakatah was surveyed the week of July 27th, 2009 to monitor the fish community and aquatic habitat. A variety of fish species were observed at low and moderate abundance. Black crappies were captured in gill nets at a rate of 11 fish per lift. Size was poor, ranging between 5 and 7 inches.

Bluegills were trap netted at a rate of 10 fish per lift. Like black crappies, bluegill size was poor, with fish concentrated in the 3 to 5 inch range. Mean length was 4.6 inches.

Northern pike averaged 3 fish per gill net lift. Pike ranged from 19 to 31 inches. Walleye averaged less than one fish per gill net lift. 450,000 walleye fry are stocked three out of four years.

Yellow perch averaged 6 fish per gill net lift. Perch ranged from 6 to 12.5 inches, with a mean size of 9 inches.

Yellow perch have historically been available in quality (larger than 8 inches) and preferred (larger than 10 inches) size ranges in Tetonka and Upper and Lower Sakatah Lakes.

Four channel catfish were caught during the survey. Channel catfish have been stocked in alternating years on Tetonka lake and fish have been found throughout the Cannon River chain. Channel catfish are not well sampled with nets.

Largemouth bass were well represented in spring electrofishing. Bass averaged 105 fish per hour of on time.

Length ranged from 3.5 to 18.7 inches with a mean length of 12 inches and a mean weight of 1.5 pounds. 55 percent of fish were at RSD-P(15), so better than half of the fish sampled were larger than 15 inches. Largemouth bass do well in Upper and Lower Sakatah, in part because of the minimal shoreline development and fair amount of coarse woody debris in the water. On Lower Sakatah, Sakatah State Park and the Sakatah W.M.A. have put much of the lake's shoreline into protected state ownership.

Freshwater drum (sheephead) were the most abundant fish in all gears, with 12 fish per gill net lift and 11 fish per trap net lift. The most abundant fish in gillnets were black bullhead, at 13 fish per gill net lift. Black bullhead averaged 11.5 inches in length. Other fish observed in the survey include bowfin (dogfish), common carp, common shiner, golden shiner, hybrid sunfish, and yellow bullhead.

Anglers can help maintain or improve the quality of fishing by practicing selective harvest. Selective harvest allows for the harvest of smaller fish for table fare, but encourages release of medium- to large-sized fish. Releasing these fish can help maintain balance in the fish community in Lower Sakatah Lake and provide anglers the opportunity to catch more and larger fish in the future.

Shoreline areas on the land and into the shallow water provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife that live in or near Minnesota s lakes. Overdeveloped shorelines cannot support the fish, wildlife, and clean water that are associated with natural undeveloped lakes. Shoreline habitat consists of aquatic plants, woody plants, and natural lake bottom soils. Plants in the water and at the water's edge provide habitat, prevent erosion, and absorb excess nutrients. Shrubs, trees, and woody debris such as fallen trees or limbs provide good habitat both above and below the water and should be left in place. By leaving a buffer strip of natural vegetation along the shoreline, property owners can reduce erosion, help maintain water quality, and provide habitat and travel corridors for wildlife.

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**Approval Dates And Notices**

Date Approved By Waterville Area Fisheries Supervisor: 04/07/2010

Date Approved By Southern Region Fisheries Manager: \_\_\_\_\_



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