

Results Winterkill Evaluations

The Minnesota DNR East Metro Fisheries Office conducted electro-fishing evaluations of Snail Lake in Ramsey County and Centerville Lake in Anoka County to determine the impact of the recent winterkill on the fish population of those lakes.

DNR and Anoka County staff observed dead Walleye, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Carp and Bluegill on Centerville at the time of ice-out. The results of the electro-fishing survey indicated good numbers of Northern Pike were present, and that populations of Bluegill and Largemouth Bass also survived. Although no Walleye were observed in the evaluation, it is thought the Walleye population was only slightly impacted as Walleye are more tolerant of low oxygen than are Largemouth Bass and Bluegill.

Dead fish including Largemouth Bass and Bluegill were observed at Snail Lake shortly after ice-out. Evaluation of the fish population of Snail Lake caught only Northern Pike – no Bluegill or Largemouth Bass were caught.

Centerville Lake was scheduled to be stocked with Walleye fry this spring. No additional stocking of Centerville Lake is planned at this time as the populations of Largemouth Bass and Bluegill are expected to recover quickly without additional stocking.

Snail Lake will be stocked with Largemouth Bass adults and Walleye fry this spring. It is expected that Walleye fry stocked in the spring of 2014 will grow to “catchable” size by the spring of 2017. It may take 4 or 5 years for the Largemouth Bass population to recover to pre-winterkill levels. Stocking of Snail Lake with Black Crappie is being considered if a suitable source of Black Crappie adults can be identified. No stocking of Bluegill in Snail Lake is planned at this time as the Bluegill population of this lake has been historically of poor quality. Bluegill may be stocked at a later date after predator populations become established if subsequent evaluations indicate stocking of Bluegill is needed.