Nevada Department of Wildlife

Lake Mead Sportfish

C.R.A.B.
January 9–10, 2013
Laughlin, NV

Presented by Debora Herndon
2011 - 2012
Lake Mead hydrograph

Lake Elevation

Dec Feb Apr Jun Aug Oct Dec Feb Apr Jun Aug Oct

48 ft increase
18 ft decrease
Creel Census

100 days of creel surveys conducted at 4 landings
  802 anglers contacted
  2833 fish harvested

Catch rates increased for 2012
  Average 1.15 Fish / hour
  Last years average 0.84 fish / hour

5.25 fish / angler day
  Last year 4.0 fish / angler day
Fish per angler hour
Creel harvest
Species percentage
Species preference

- indis.
- BC
- BG
- RBT
- CC
- LMB
- SB
Striped bass catch rate

- Jan
- Feb
- Mar
- Apr
- May
- Jun
- Jul
- Aug
- Sep
- Oct
- Nov
- Dec

Catch per hour: 2012 vs. 2011
Shad trawls
Shad production by year

- Lake Mead average
- Overton Arm
- Boulder Basin
Striped bass

Gill net condition factor $K(fl) = 0.94$
59% in poor condition ($K(fl) < 1.0$)

Creel survey samples condition factor = 1.05
35% in poor condition
Tournament striped bass

Average condition factor = 1.06, 29% poor condition
Average length 19.8 inches, weight 2.5 lbs.
Last year 20 inches, weight 2.75 lbs.
Fall gill nets

77 nets, 111 net nights of effort
NDOW, AZGFD, & BOR
1,528 fish captured
CPUE=13.72 Fish/net night
30 Bass tournaments in 2012

Largemouth bass
  Average 16.5 inches, 2.3 lbs.
  Condition factor $K = 1.36$

Smallmouth bass
  Average 15.8 inches, 1.9 lbs.
  Condition factor $K = 1.28$
  ($K = 1.34$ in 2011)
  Average 40% of tournament catch
Snorkel surveys

![Graph showing trends in LMB YOY and SMB YOY vegetation percentages from 2008 to 2012.]

![Graph showing trends in LMB sub-adult and SMB sub-adult populations from 2008 to 2012.]
Summary

The lake elevation has dropped from that of 2011

Still good amounts of submerged vegetation in the backs of coves.

Improved angler catch rates for 2012

over 1 fish per angler hour

Improved striped bass catch rates for the summer months

Low threadfin shad production for 2012

Poor striped bass condition.

Decreasing gizzard shad abundance.
Thank you.