

Big Cedar Lake Washington County, Cisco Assessment and Walleye – Cisco Interactions Project.

Conducted on 21AUG2013 – 22AUG2013 Conducted by Paul Kanehl Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Section and Brett H. Weir Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Washington County Delegate, Warm Water Species Study Committee Member.

This is not an official report. An official report will be provided later on 2015.

This is a personal eyewitness assessment. I/Brett Weir participated in and witnessed a zero gill net capture result for Cisco and Lake Trout on Big Cedar Lake Washington County 21AUG2013 – 22AUG2013

Now, many people have commented on the summer 2002. An eye witness reminisced and claimed he counted 100's to maybe a 1000, 15" to 16" Cisco dead in one day and another individual claimed he found 30 Lake Trout dead in one day. I cannot qualify these claims with any hard evidence and I realize people's emotions can run high, that could result to exaggeration. I do not want to offend anyone's eye witness reports or personal commentary. But, I can make a reasonable assumption and that is: Residence and Area Fishermen and Women, witnessed an unusual event On Big Cedar Lake in summer of 2002 that resulted to something extraordinary "High numbers of dead Deep Water Fish Species: Cisco and Lake Trout." Could the result of assumed depleted oxygen levels of summer 2002 explain why we did not capture any Cisco and Lake Trout on August 21-22, 2013? And, moving forward what is the future status of a harvestable population of these two species?

Zebra Mussels, What impact does this mussel have on a Deep Water Lake? I get many conflicting reports of early sightings of Zebra Mussels in Big Cedar Lake. We can't pin point the year of introduction. It is safe to say that the mussel presence was known in early ~2002 or 2003?

Definition of the Gill Nets that were used: three gangs of gill nets were used. Each gang comprised of 5 - 8' spools and each spool contained a 8' x 100' long net that was suspended from water surface down 100' and anchored to the bottom of Big Cedar Lake in 100' of water depth.

Brett Weir

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Cc: Travis Motl, DNR Fisheries Biologist, Plymouth Office.
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