

From: Bruesewitz, Rick (DNR) <rick.bruesewitz@state.mn.us>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 11:38 AM

To: cherylhmcdonough@gmail.com

Subject: RE: Farm Island Lake Update for newsletter

Hi Cheryl,

We have heard nothing of additional observations of zebra mussels. No news good news, I guess.

Regarding fisheries stuff, we did conduct a gill net only survey this summer and saw pretty much normal catches almost all around. The two exceptions were for Smallmouth Bass (highest we've observed) and Rock Bass (second highest observed). While the Rock Bass have always been common in Farm Island, Smallmouth Bass are relatively new and have been increasing since we first saw one in 2013. While not currently abundant, they now appear to be more common. Note that it appears that Largemouth Bass were captured just below normal levels for Farm Island. There is a chart below that compares the 2020 and 2018 catches with the norms for Farm Island.

Regarding fall electrofishing, we completed this assessment of juvenile Walleye near the end of September. While young of year walleye were scarce (no fry stocking this spring due to Covid 19), we did observe some from natural reproduction, which suggests we should see some in our future gill net assessments. I would not expect the 2020 year class to be strong at all, but it will contribute some to future catches.

More importantly, we did observe a good number of yearling and two year old fish, now measuring from about 8 to 12 inches. This is consistent with observations from the summer gillnet assessment too. The 2019 year class is one where we also added some fingerlings since electrofishing catches were not all that high last fall. It looks like the combination of fry and fingerling stocking was successful last year. That being the case, I don't think there is a need at this point to consider additional stocking this fall.

Feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

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Assessment Gillnet Catch Rates for fish at Farm Island Lake in 2018 and 2020.

