

Excerpts from four page preliminary DNR report on the survey they conducted in the Sandstone Flowage in 2003 and comparing it to one done in 1990; expect that the DNR will provide the full final report for our fall meeting. T. Ver Haagh May 28,2004

	<u>By Net</u>				<u>By Shocking</u>			
	1990		2003		1990		2003	
	#	size	#	size	#	size	#	size
Walleye	128	8-28.4	16	10.5-24	17	9.5-18.4	6	6.5-15.4
L bass	45	6.5-12.9	99	7.5-21.4	23	4.5-15.9	27	2.9-17.4
S bass	65	9- 18.4	1	17.2	5	11.5-12.9	31	6.0-19.9
N pike	286	8.5-36.4	285	8.5-36.4	3	18.5-21.9	16	8.5-25.4
Musky	4	10.6-40	3	11 – 42	0		4	9- 21.9

Per Greg Kornely DNR.....Essentially Sandstone Flowage has a good and diversified fishery...the numbers do not suggest a great deal of change with the exception of the walleyes. The bass populations, both largemouth and smallmouth should provide quality fishery in Sandstone. The northern pike population appears almost identical to what it was back in 1990, as does the muskellunge. There are a few muskellunge around but not that many. They should be viewed as adding to the variety in the flowage and not as a threat to any other species.....Although I did not include any specific data on the panfish populations, the bluegills captured this year (2003) looked much better than in 1990. The size structure also looked better.

The most significant change is to the walleye population. Back in 1990 I found that there were strong and weak year classes of walleyes in the flowage. This suggests that reproductive success was variable. This could be because of spring water temperatures and flows. This is probably the same thing that is happening now except that poor year classes have been strung together for a few years. This year the increased flow regimes may have a positive effect on the walleye year class.

Without getting much deeper into the data I think that stocking walleyes may be necessary to give Sandstone Flowage a shot in the arm so to speak. I will propose to do this in the near future. I hope that my short letter does not suggest that things are not good. Everyone who lives on Sandstone Flowage is very fortunate. It is a beautiful resource to look at, to navigate and to fish. Please don't take it for granted.