

General Information

Name: Coal City Lake

Contact: Jim

Email: Fishingjim320@gmail.com

Date: April 25th, 2025

Introduction

In this report you will find a general overview of the results from our electrofishing survey at Coal City Lake. We have given the following recommendations below based off of our electrofishing survey results throughout the lake. We have produced about 24 amps and 300 volts using DC electrofishing equipment. Below is the general information, fishery recap and recommendations.

HERMAN BROTHERS FISHERIES

Electrofishing Survey Results/Data/Recommendations

Coal City Lake Report 2025

Main Lake

Size: 250 acres

Depth: 80'

Water Quality/Clarity: extremely clear water!

Current Management Strategies & Goals

- Grow larger bass
- Enhance habitat/cover in shallow water



General Information

Name: Coal City Lake

Contact: Jim

Email: Fishingjim3520@gmail.com

Date: April 25th, 2025

Introduction

In this report you will find a general breakdown of the results from our electrofishing survey at Coal City Lakes. We have given the recommendations below based off of our electrofishing survey results throughout the lakes. We surveyed each transect for 30 minutes using DC electrofishing equipment. We were able to produce about 24 amps and 300 volts during each of the transects surveyed. Below is the general information, fishery recap and recommendations.

Main Lake

Size: 250 acres

Depth: 80'

Water Quality/Clarity: extremely clear water!

Current Management Strategies & Goals

- Grow larger bass
- Enhance habitat/cover in shallow water

Fish Species Present/Desired

- This lake is a fantastic multispecies fishery with great bluegill, redear and crappie. Below is a breakdown of each of the primary gamefish collected and a description of the population sampled at the main lake.

Bluegill: the bluegill are very healthy with a great size distribution of 2-10" fish. Ideally you would have more 2-5" bluegill to feed your bass, but overall great opportunities for everyone to catch 7-10" bluegill.

Redear sunfish: the redear are doing amazing. Lots of great 8-11" redears in the lake and very few parasites in all the fish due to the healthy redear population.

Crappie: the crappie aren't reproducing as much as the lake can support, but the ones that do make it turn into great fish! We didn't collect many crappie in this survey, but the nature of the lake and the time of year was just a couple weeks early for the crappie to move up closer to the shoreline. The ones we did collect (about a dozen) were in great body condition and health.

Largemouth bass: the largemouth for the most part are topping out at 13.5" long with some bass growing to 23" but very few are making it past 15" in their entire 8-10 year average lifespan. Most bass observed were 90% relative weight which means they are 10% skinnier than they should be for their lengths. The largest bass we observed was 21" and 4.66 lbs. The smallest bass in the lake are only 2.5" long and a full year old. The age structure of bass in the lake is a lake full of 12" full grown adult largemouth bass. These fish will not grow any longer as they are already 6-10 years old and only 12" long.

Walleye: the Walleye population is based off of stocking success and creates a really nice bonus fishery in the lake. We observed a 27" 7.22 lb walleye along with a few smaller recently stocked walleye. The walleye do also help keep the common carp in check. Common carp: the lake has common carp which are not a desirable species due to the damage they do to fish nests. They also directly compete with bluegill, crappie, and bass for food.

Other species are bullhead, channel catfish, northern pike, rock bass, and warmouth.

Recommendations

1. The best advice I can give you is to understand the importance of enhancing the habitat/cover in the shallow water in this lake. Due to the steep sides, clear water, and overall deep depths the lake is missing the littoral zone (which is food producing shallow water). The best way to overcome this limiting factor is to add as much bushy brushy branchy woody habitat along the shorelines. The fry coming off the nests need this thick cover to hide in, even just living 30-40 days longer before getting eaten makes a significant difference in the forage produced. With all that being said simply go around the edges of the lake and drop cedar trees and other bushes and trees that overhang the lake, into the lake right along the shoreline. Spending 2-3 days per year every year with 3-4 guys will make a tremendous difference in this fishery short term and long term.
2. Your current daily limits are great, except for some extra bass harvest on bass under 14" for the next couple years would be recommended.
3. If you'd like to grow some bigger largemouth bass in the lake you can spend this year and next year removing 10-15 bass per acre under 14" long (2,000-3,000 bass each year, so 4,000-6,000 total over two years). This will help the forage build and set the stage very

well for a bass stocking fall of 2026 for bringing in new genetic bass. You would stock 2,500 titan bass 6-8" long and then shut off bass harvest for 2027 to allow the new titan bass to grow up past 12" long in 2027. Doing this helps the bass population tremendously on many levels. The bass harvest for two seasons (this year and next) is the biggest key for this to be the most successful.

4. The bass tournaments are your chance to really make a difference and keep track of bass coming out. Ultimately it's up to those guys if they'd like bigger bass in the lake. If they want bigger fish quicker they will creatively get the bass out at each tournament. If they are happy with the bass size they can keep catching and releasing the adult bass under 14". I would still stock new genetic bass at the end of 2026, but the success of that stocking will be greatly enhanced by the bass harvest in 2025 and 2026!
5. The 2nd incline boat ramp (the last spot on the main lake) was interesting how few fish there were back in that whole 25 acre zone. To increase fertility of that area and make it a better asset for the lake, I would recommend fertilizing with a special pond pro fish growing fertilizer. Just simply pour into your prop wash 100 lbs per month for May, June, and again in July. This will create a plankton bloom that will feed young fish. I would only fertilize this back area of the lake with a goal of just 2-4' of visibility in this zone. This is far better than stocking baitfish. This amount of fertilizer in this area will not impact the clearwater upfront in the ski area, it will stay put in that zone. It's specifically designed for lakes and growing fish.

Pricing: pond pro fertilizer 25 lb pail \$95

6. I would recommend stocking this lake with these fish each year for the next 5 years. This lake is already great, but truly has so much more potential to tap into. These stocked fish

bypass the limiting factor of the lake which is food availability for young of the year fish.

They go in at the size where food is plenty available for them to keep growing quickly the rest of their life. For example, your bluegill and crappie are taking 1/2 their life to get up to 4-6" whereas in a fertilized hatchery pond we grow them to 4-6" in just 12-14 months. Then, when they get stocked into the lake they grow quickly to 8-10" fish and still have a lot of life left.

2500 bluegill 4-6"

2500 crappie 4-6"

1250 walleye 6-8"

250 lbs rainbow trout 10-13"

Pricing:

Bluegill 4-6" \$1.30 each

Crappie 4-6" \$1.67 each

Walleye 6-8" \$3.26 each

Rainbow trout \$9.77 per lb

7. Fall of 2026 stock 2500 Titan Largemouth Bass 6-8". Don't allow harvest of any bass for

2027. Plan for the bass stocking fall of 2026 and again fall of 2029.

Del Abbey Lake

Size: 9 acres

Depth: 28'

Water Quality/Clarity: great contour and depth variation

Fish Species Present/Desired

- This lake has a great population of fish, notably quite a few catfish 3-6 lbs, some really big 3-5 lb largemouth, nice crappies and nice bluegills. Couple notes would be there is a surplus of 9-11" largemouth, very few redear, more parasites in the fish like yellow grub and black spot.

Recommendations

1. Add new trees for habitat every year. About 5-8 per year.
2. Fertilize 36 lbs of fertilizer per month for May, June, and July.

Pricing: pond pro fertilizer 25 lb pail \$95

3. Stock 9 grass carp for cutting back the chara and curly leaf just a bit.

Pricing: grass carp \$18.60 each

4. Harvest 40 bass per acre under 12" in this lake. 360 bass this year and again next year.

Release all bass over 12".

5. Stock 90 bass per year for the next 3 years 12-14" from the main lake and bring them over to this lake.

6. Stock 500 adult redear sunfish from the main lake and bring them over to this lake.

7. Stock 450 bluegill 4-6" per year for next 3 years.

Pricing: bluegill 4-6" \$1.30 each

8. Stock 450 Arkansas blacknose crappie 4-6" each year for next 3 years. These fish have a thick dark line on their nose all the way to their top dorsal fin which makes them easily identifiable how successful their stockings are when anglers catch them.

Pricing: blacknose crappie 4-6" \$1.67 each

Catfish Lakes

Size: 3 and 2 acres

Recommendations

1. Continue stocking about 200 lbs of catfish into each pond before the derby like you've been doing.

Pricing: adult channel catfish \$5.12 per lb

2. I would also suggest stocking 200 channel catfish 8-10" into each pond each year to create more catfish fishing opportunities year round in addition to stocking the larger catfish right before the derby. These 8-10" catfish are cheaper and will create even better catch rates for not just the derby but year round.

Pricing: channel catfish 8-10" \$1.40 each

3. Another great fish for derbies and shoreline fishing ponds for families are hybrid bluegill. Stock 500 hybrid bluegill 4-6" per pond per year and catch rates for fish at the derby will go up tremendously as well. Plus these fish in the ponds will be able to be utilized all year long by the families.

Pricing: hybrid bluegill 4-6" \$1.30 each

Dump Lake

Size: 4.5 acres

Recommendations

1. Stock 200 walleye 6-8" every year.

Pricing: walleye 6-8" \$3.26 each

2. Stock 300 blacknose crappies 4-6" every year.

Pricing: blacknose crappies 4-6" \$1.67 each

Sandy Beach Lake

Size: 13 acres

Recommendations

1. An idea for this lake would be to stock 20 tiger muskie per year for 3 years to add some variety of species to the club. There will be anglers who really enjoy muskie fishing for tigers and this could be the perfect little muskie fishing lake. You may also be surprised to see the results of this to the overall fishery here in this lake.

Pricing: tiger muskie \$24.18 each

Ice Skating Lake

This pond dries up, but could be great to stock 25 lbs of fathead minnows into each spring to keep mosquitoes down and just get a community cloverleaf minnow trap to trap minnows out of each day. People can use it for bait or to feed to the fish. Just simply keep the trap in the pond with a rope and pull it out and empty the minnows into a bucket. If you bait it with a sock full of dog or cat food you can pull minnows out every few hours.

Pricing: fathead minnows \$10.23 per lb

Final Thoughts/Conclusion

I don't know enough about bullhead pit lake, lost lake and sandy beach to make many recommendations currently, but feel free to talk to me specifically about them anytime for any ideas, questions, concerns, etc. We would be happy to help answer any other questions that you have moving forward. This plan is specifically meant to help get the gamefish population back to a thriving state to the full potential. Please let us know if you need anything at all!

Sincerely,

Austin Bennett

Fisheries Biologist

Abennett@hblakemanagement.com





Herman Brothers Fisheries Retail Price Sheet

3004 North Taylor Road, Hanna City, IL 61536

Austin Bennett: Abennett@hblakemanagement.com 309-693-3255

Fish Species	Retail Price	Fish Species	Retail Price
Fathead Minnows	\$11.00 Per LB.	Titan Largemouth Bass 3-10"	\$1.50 Per Inch
Golden Shiners	\$11.00 Per LB.	Hybrid Striped Bass 3-4"	\$2.25
Bluegill 1-2"	\$0.38	Hybrid Striped Bass 4-6"	\$3.00
Bluegill 2-3"	\$0.58	Hybrid Striped Bass 6-8"	\$4.50
Bluegill 3-5"	\$0.95	Smallmouth Bass 3-5"	\$7.25
Bluegill 4-6"	\$1.40	Smallmouth Bass 5-7"	\$9.95
Bluegill 5-8"	\$1.95	Channel Catfish 4-6"	\$0.90
Hybrid Bluegill 1-2"	\$0.38	Channel Catfish 6-8"	\$1.25
Hybrid Bluegill 2-3"	\$0.58	Channel Catfish 8-10"	\$1.50
Hybrid Bluegill 3-5"	\$0.95	Channel Catfish Adults	\$5.50 Per LB.
Hybrid Bluegill 4-6"	\$1.40	Blue Catfish	\$5.50
Hybrid Bluegill 5-8"	\$1.95	Walleye 4-5"	\$2.00
Redear Sunfish 1-2"	\$0.43	Walleye 5-7"	\$2.50
Redear Sunfish 2-3"	\$0.65	Walleye 6-8"	\$3.50
Redear Sunfish 3-5"	\$1.50	Walleye 7-10"	\$5.25
Black Crappie 2-3"	\$0.90	Perch 3-5"	\$1.20
Black Crappie 3-4"	\$1.25	Perch 4-6"	\$1.85
Black Crappie 4-5"	\$1.80	Perch 5-7"	\$2.50
Black Crappie 5-7"	\$3.00	Jumbo Perch 7-10"	\$4.00
Largemouth Bass 2-4"	\$1.20	Pure Muskies	\$28.00
Largemouth Bass 4-6"	\$2.15	Tiger Muskies	\$26.00
Largemouth Bass 5-7"	\$2.90	Rainbow Trout	\$10.50 Per LB.
Largemouth Bass 6-8"	\$3.65	Golden Trout	\$10.50 Per LB.
Largemouth Bass Adults	\$12.00 Per LB	Lunker Trout	\$14.50 Per LB.
Triploid Grass Carp	\$20.00	Northern Pike	\$24.00