

April 15, 2014 UTRCA Response to EEPAC's Recommendations to UTRCA 7, April 2014

RE: Introducing largemouth bass to control goldfish at Sifton Bog ESA

John and I have had a chance to review EEPAC's response to the proposed largemouth bass introduction. Comments have been made and are in the attached PDF. Below are some links that may be useful for more understanding about the biology and use of bass to eliminate goldfish.

Population size, growth and control of exotic goldfish in a small impoundment: Remediation Effort

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~wint0190/comp%20page/Gold%20Paper/goldpaper2.2%20FD%20web.htm>

Removal of undesirable fish species in warm water ponds- see page pg 2

<http://ces3.ca.uky.edu/westkentuckyaquaculture/info/removal%20of%20undesirable.pdf>

Biological Synopsis of Largemouth Bass

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/337843.pdf>

Jason

Responses by UTRCA to Comments from EEPAC

1. 2-3 DOZEN representing several year classes.
2. Goldfish are being controlled by this method unintentionally where the two species coexist. EX Westminster Ponds
3. Although largemouth bass introduction might harm sensitive fish communities, fish samples have yielded no other fish species from Sifton Bog. Unfortunately we have no fish data from Sifton prior to goldfish introduction. We do not know if there was no fish community present or a native fish community that was decimated by the goldfish introduction, a phenomena observed elsewhere (J. Schwindt, UTRCA, personal communication)
4. This is the result we are after. No native fish are present. The bass introduction will result in a decline or elimination of the only species present; goldfish. This comment supports the rational to introduce largemouth bass.
5. There are also many cases of successful biocontrol introductions. The bog is a closed water system, there is no issue of the bass spreading anywhere else. The bass may suffer from winter mortality and this would be an ongoing project with bass introductions and electrofishing in future years until some level of goldfish population control is achieved. It is hoped that with goldfish control, a number of other native fish species could be introduced to develop a native fish community found to be self-sustaining in other similar habitats. EX central mudminnow brook stickleback, cyprinids - northern redbelly dace, golden shiner, fathead minnow centrarchids - pumpkinseed, longear sunfish
6. Largemouth bass are an invasive species to sensitive native fish communities. The bog does not have a fish community. Only goldfish are present. Therefore they would only be invasive on the goldfish population. Which is the objective.

7. Electrofishing is to be used in conjunction with the introduction.
8. This option has already been researched. Too harmful to the other biotic communities in the bog.
9. UTRCA has corresponded with experts internal and external, that have local knowledge of the bog and the biological interactions between these fish species. The MNR has been supportive with the process to initiate this project.
10. The UTRCA educates the public about the invasive goldfish at Sifton Bog and the other ESA's regularly.
11. This project has been thoroughly researched by the UTRCA. These comments lead me to believe that the objectives, parameters and biological interactions in regards to this project and the Sifton Bog are not fully understood.

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