

Bee Branch Fish Assessment

City of Dubuque Site

Site Location Summary

Legal Description: T89N R2E Section 24 and T89N R3E Section 19

County: Dubuque

Drainage Basin: Mississippi River Basin

UTMNorth: 4709017

Thermal Class: Warm water

Site Type: Fishery assessment

UTMEast: 691974

Sampled Fish

Sample Date: 6/25/2014 **Sample length:** 2250 feet

Herring Family

Gizzard Shad present

Minnow and Carp Family

Common Shiner present

Common Carp 4

Golden Shiner present

Emerald Shiner present

Spottail Shiner present

Sucker Family

White Sucker 3

Catfish Family

Black Bullhead 3

Pike Family

Northern Pike 3

Sunfish Family

Bluegill 116

Green Sunfish 45

Largemouth Bass 11

Orangespotted Sunfish 1

Pumpkinseed 1

Perch Family

Yellow Perch 7

Game fish summary

	<u>Number sampled</u>		<u>Number sampled</u>
Bluegill 2-3"	28	Largemouth Bass 7-9"	4
Bluegill 4-5"	71	Largemouth Bass 10-12"	4
Bluegill 6-7"	17	Largemouth Bass 12-15"	3
	<u>Number sampled</u>		<u>Number sampled</u>
Northern Pike 11-15"	0	Yellow Perch 3-4"	1
Northern Pike 16-20"	0	Yellow Perch 5-6"	3
Northern Pike 21-25"	3	Yellow Perch 7-8"	3

Bluegill caught per hour of electrofishing = 209 Bluegill per hour

Largemouth bass caught per hour of electrofishing = 21 Largemouth Bass per hour

Northern Pike caught per hour of electrofishing = 5 Northern Pike per hour

Yellow Perch caught per hour of electrofishing = 12 Yellow Perch per hour

Explanation of fish assessment results

Bee Branch in this stream segment contained 14 species of native fish and one non-native species (common carp). This is a low species count for a stream sample in eastern Iowa, but this would represent a moderately-high species count for a lake sample in Iowa (Bee branch in this segment had qualities of a lake environment). All fish species found in this sample are common to Northeast Iowa in the downstream extent of Mississippi River tributary streams. Several species in the sample are considered game species and have significant recreational value including the following: bluegill, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, and yellow perch. Given the “newness” of this stream segment, I consider a sample containing 14 native species a mark of success for the project.

We collected bluegill at a rate of 209 fish per hour and this represents a moderately high capture rate for bluegill. This suggests that bluegill were present in the project area at a recreationally significant density, but most bluegill were small (less than 6 inches). We collected two predator species (largemouth bass and northern pike), but the density of those species was low as suggested by an electrofishing capture rate of less than 25 fish per hour. These gamefish data show that Bee Branch does provide fishing opportunities in the Dubuque Metro area, although these opportunities are modest at this time.

We appreciate the opportunity to sample the fishery in Bee Branch and we look forward to working with you in the future. The work that the City of Dubuque has completed on Bee Branch has provided benefits to the natural resources and citizens of Iowa through the creation of “new” aquatic areas and by providing additional fishery resources in the City of Dubuque. Best of luck as the project proceeds upstream.

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