

Lake Wee Ma Tuk

- 5/22/17
- 162 acres
- 50-60 years old
- 35-40' max depth
- 24" average visibility
- Heavy water flow in and out
- Overall low on aquatic vegetation
- Overall not much cover in the lake
- Overall most of the fish biomass in the lake (over 75%) consists of trash fish species- yellow bass, common carp, and gizzard shad.
- Lots of small bluegill, small crappie, nice channel and flathead catfish, nice walleye, and nice largemouth bass round out the remaining biomass.
- The largemouth bass are not recruiting well which actually leads to more bigger fish than smaller fish which is nice for growing 3-5 lb largemouth bass!

Based on our observations and conversations here are some recommendations for your situation. The overall goal would be to turn the trash fish biomass into species of fish more desirable for anglers.

- Implement a yearly walleye stocking plan of 5 fish 5-8" per acre every fall. They cost \$1.50 each plus \$45 delivery. Allow just one walleye per day for harvest between 15-18". Protect the smaller and larger sized fish. If you would like to allow more harvest for the walleye then you would want to stock 10 walleye per acre every fall and allow 3 fish per day between 15-18" with one fish over 24".

- Consider stocking 5-10 hybrid striped bass 5-6” per acre every spring. They cost \$2.50 each plus \$45 delivery. Keep these fish catch and release only for the first 5 years of the stocking program and then allow one fish per day over 18” once they are firmly established in the lake. These fish will grow 6-8 lbs on average in your situation, but some of them will grow to over 15 lbs in your lake. These fish are ferocious feeders that work together in schools to corral gizzard shad to the surface out in open water and feast on them. Largemouth bass also will join up with them for this as well. Your lake is perfect for these fish and you will create a world class hybrid striper fishery in just 3-4 years.
- The walleye and hybrid striped bass will not reproduce in your lake, but by stocking these fish on an annual basis you will create a population of these fish with different age and size structures, basically replicating a natural stocking ladder. By doing this annually you will get longterm results and will greatly reduce the trash fish biomass in the lake by replacing them with highly desirable species of fish!
- Every other year stock 5 largemouth bass 5-8” per acre. These fish cost \$2.40 each plus \$45 delivery. These stocked fish will grow much bigger than the largemouth bass that are born in the lake. There isn’t much food for young of year largemouth bass to eat due to competition from all the small adult yellow bass, but by stocking largemouth already 5-8” they will have plenty of forage to eat for the rest of their lives and will turn into 4-6 lb largemouth in short order. This may be hard to understand, but the largemouth 1-5” in your lake are taking too long to grow to 5-8” long.
- Place as much woody cover in the lake as possible every year. Bushy brushy trees give the predators ambush points to capture prey more efficiently. The more efficient a predator is, the bigger it will grow and the more trash fish it can eat in its lifetime.
- This plan sounds pretty simple and basic, but if you can find

enough labor to place the habitat and raise enough funds to stock the fish needed every year, you will create a world class fishery in short order. Not only will the hybrid striped bass, walleye, and largemouth bass do well, but the reduction in trash fish biomass will lead to much better crappie and bluegill as well.

- I would suggest taking out as many crappie and bluegill as you guys can catch for the next 3 years.
- I would also encourage all largemouth bass to be catch and release only for the next 3 years.
- I would encourage some harvest on flathead and channel catfish of basically 6 per day.
- Herman Brothers would love the opportunity to stock and actively manage your lake. Feel free to ask any questions or send reports, pics, ideas, or concerns to nate@hblakemanagement.com. This lake is a truly unique opportunity with unbelievable potential.