

FY 2008-2009 – ANNUAL REPORT FISHING BOARD

The growing popularity of fishing in Crystal Lakes is evidenced by increased participation by members, guests, and non-members. We appreciate everyone VISIBLY wearing their badges to help discourage unauthorized fishing.

A comprehensive study of Crystal Lakes performed by the Aquatic Biologists at Liley Fisheries indicated that heavy fishing pressure was depleting the stocked rainbow trout. To improve the fishing, total stocking throughout Crystal Lakes was increased to just over 12,000 pounds. The last stocking in October provided some of the best ice fishing in recent years. The price of rainbows for stocking rose to \$3.50 per pound in 08-09, but the member contribution remains at \$12 per lot. The difference is made-up by an increase in fishing by non-members.

The study also indicated that the fish are very healthy, fed by an ample food supply of midges, sowbugs, scuds, and minnows. One surprising result showed that in terms of total numbers of fish in the lake, brown trout comprised over 60%. The age-classes sampled shows that we are achieving significant natural brown reproduction from fall spawning in Panhandle Creek above the lake.

Reports from stream fishermen and informal fall spawning surveys indicate that the catch-and-release policy on the streams is achieving the goal of more surviving wild fish and larger average size, with increased angler satisfaction. 90% of the fishable waters in Crystal Lakes are now managed as “put-and-take”, giving fishermen the opportunity to take home a stringer of tasty trout for the skillet. The remaining 10% is managed as a quality fly-lure, catch-release fishery.

The July Fishing Derbies once again attracted many participants, with more than 95 anglers in the children’s and youth Derby alone. The winning fish was over 21” long!

The great fishing in Crystal Lakes is also attracting more illegal fishermen. Many are guests who do not buy day passes. We are now working with the Division of Wildlife to prosecute unauthorized fishermen, but need more help to ensure that the fishery is protected for members and their paying guests. Anyone interested in helping to patrol, even if periodically checking one pond on weekends, would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Fishing Board or the Crystal Lakes office.

Fishing Board Members:

Lou Phillippe, President
Doug Durica, Vice President
Len Hochnadel, Treasurer
Jeff Gutekunst, Secretary
Bill Trout
Mike Girard

Judy Randol

Volunteer Patrolmen:

Bill Popejoy

Don Reffel