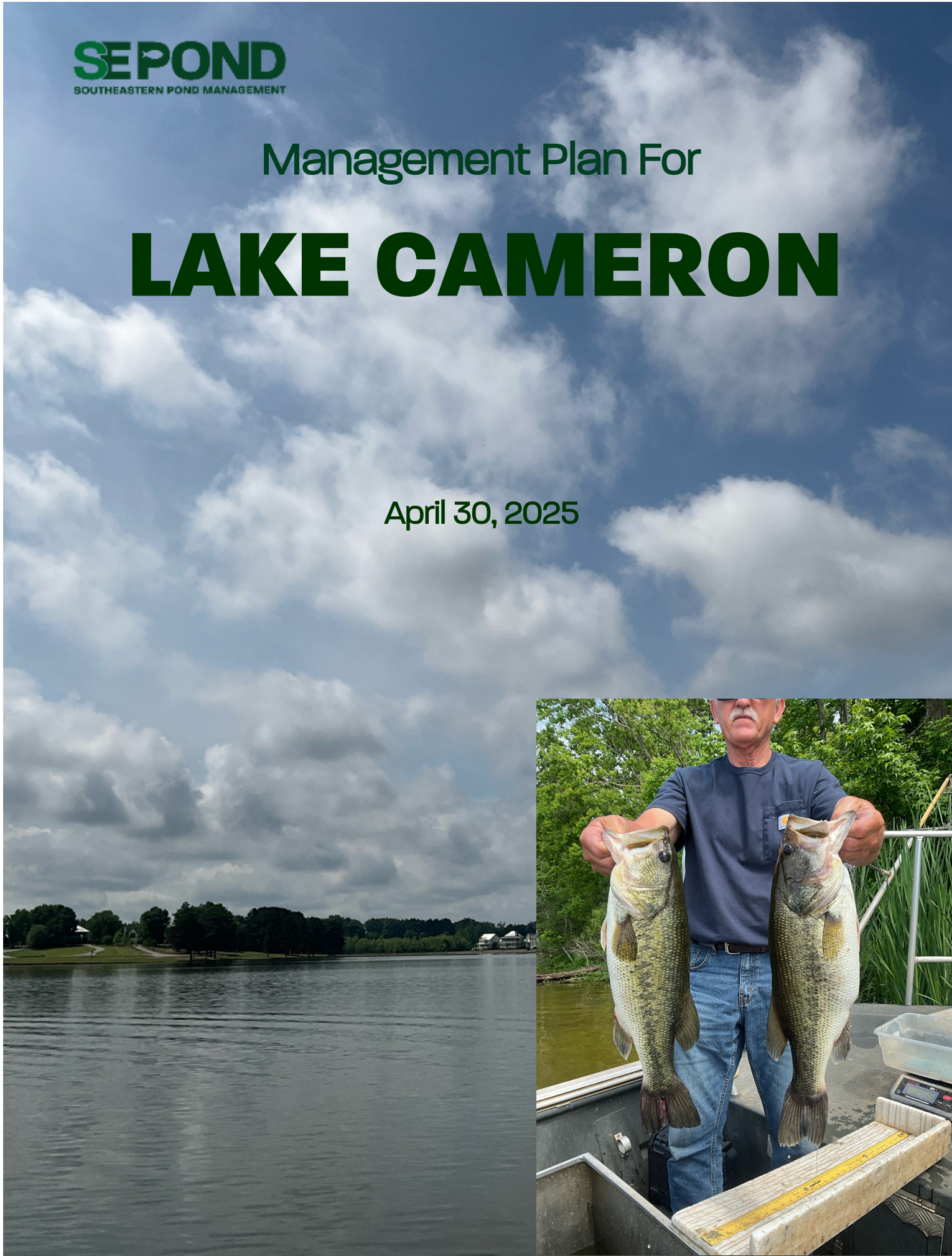


Management Plan For **LAKE CAMERON**

April 30, 2025



INTRODUCTION

As an integral part of the ongoing management program for Lake Cameron, Southeastern Pond Management conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the 200 acre impoundment on April 30, 2025. A representative sample of the fish community was collected by electrofishing to accurately assess the present state of balance. In addition, a water chemistry test was conducted to determine total alkalinity. The degree of aquatic weed infestation was also recorded. Results of the assessments provide the basis for this management plan.

The goal of this management plan is to create and maintain a balanced fish community in Lake Cameron. The following evaluation report and management plan details and explains our recommendations with the follow goals in mind:

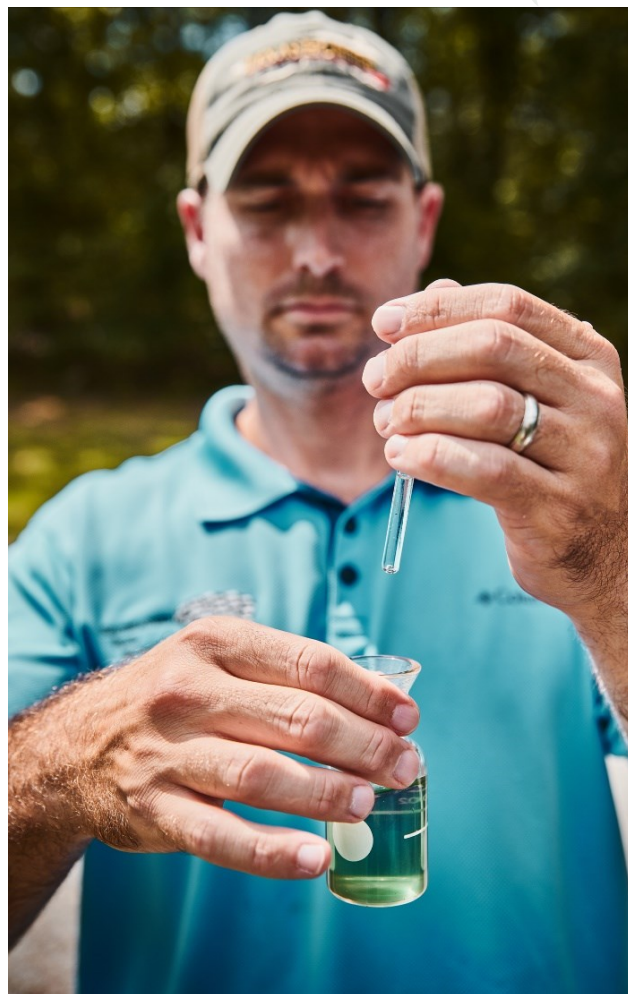
- Create condition favorable for the consistent production of “quality size” and “trophy size” largemouth bass.
- Create conditions favorable for the consistent production of “quality size” bluegill and crappie.
- Generally maintain a high level of water quality as well as an aesthetically pleasing environment for aquatic recreation.



LAKE ASSESSMENT

The aquatic environment of Lake Cameron is currently in near ideal condition, as per usual. The fertility level is high and water chemistry is excellent.

Though none was observed during this evaluation, continue to monitor the presence and growth of the Water Hyacinth. Continue control of this exotic species as in the past.



FISHERY ASSESSMENT

The fishery in Lake Cameron was sampled with standard boat-mounted electrofishing equipment. The sample contained largemouth bass, crappie, bullhead catfish, gizzard shad, threadfin shad and coppernose bluegill. Currently, largemouth bass, crappie and catfish are functioning as the primary predators in Lake Cameron. The bluegill and shad are prey.

Bluegill were shocked up and observed in high abundance and across a healthy, wide range of lengths (Figure 2). No direct management action is recommended or indicated for the bluegill population.

Largemouth bass ranging in size from 13 to 21 inches (Figure 3) were shocked up, observed and collected in moderate numbers. A good handful of quality size bass in the 5 to 6 pound range were collected during this evaluation. Larger bass have been caught by residents last year and into this spring. Note that small, sub-quality bass are still relatively scarce.

The **Mean Relative Weight (W_r)** of adult bass in our most recent sample additionally reflects slight improvement over last year. This year's average relative weight was **101**, compared to

last year, which was **100** (Figure 4). This metric indicates the bass remain in a good ratio to the prey and have not yet returned to an overabundant level, at which harvest of the small bass is needed. We expect regular harvest of small bass will again be required in the next few years.

We shocked up several large crappie this year. Reports are that crappie fishing was very good this spring, with good numbers and several truly trophy sized crappie caught by the residents. Continue to recommend a conservative harvest of crappie.

No channel catfish were shocked up during this evaluation, but they are still present in appreciable numbers. Residents continue to regularly catch catfish in large numbers. Heavy, unlimited harvest of channel catfish should continue as per usual.

Overall, we characterize the fish community in Lake Cameron as balanced.

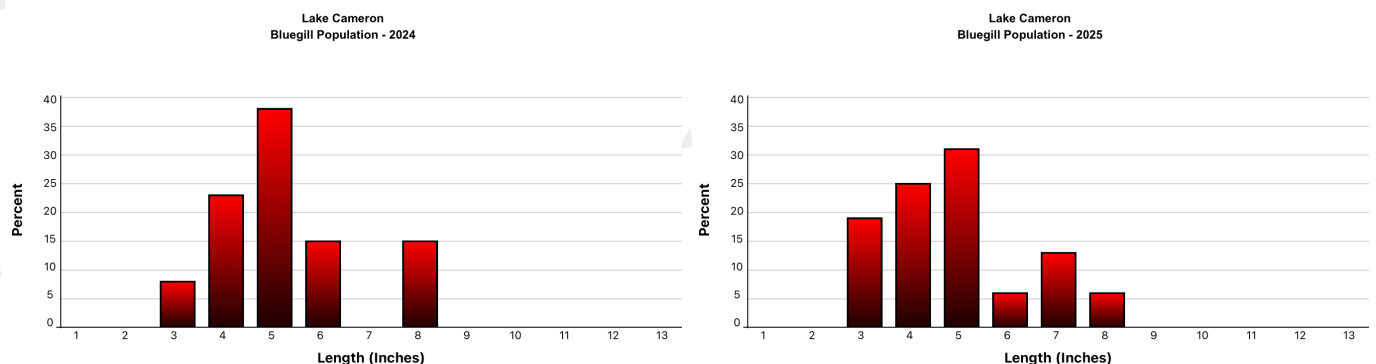


Figure 2. Comparison of the length distribution of bluegill collected from Lake Cameron in March 2024 and April 2025.

FISHERY ASSESSMENT

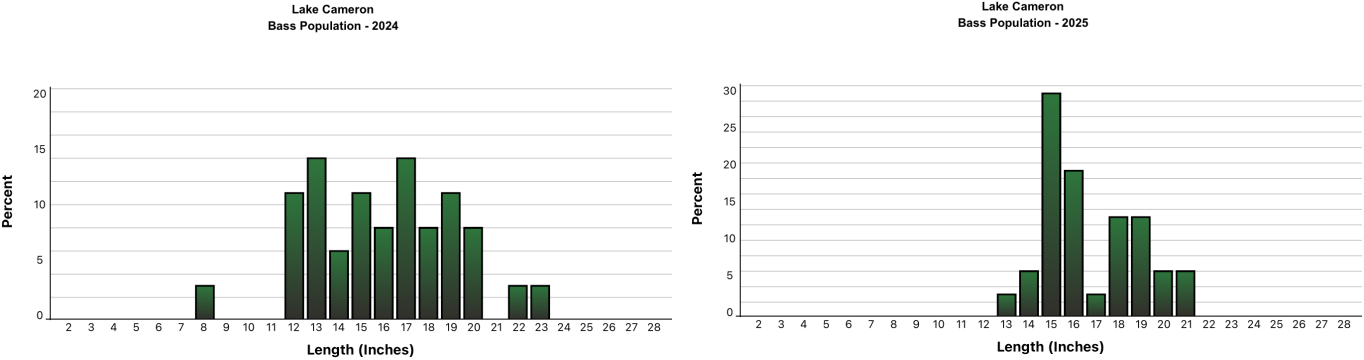


Figure 3. Comparison of the length distribution of bass collected in Lake Cameron in March 2024 and April 2025.

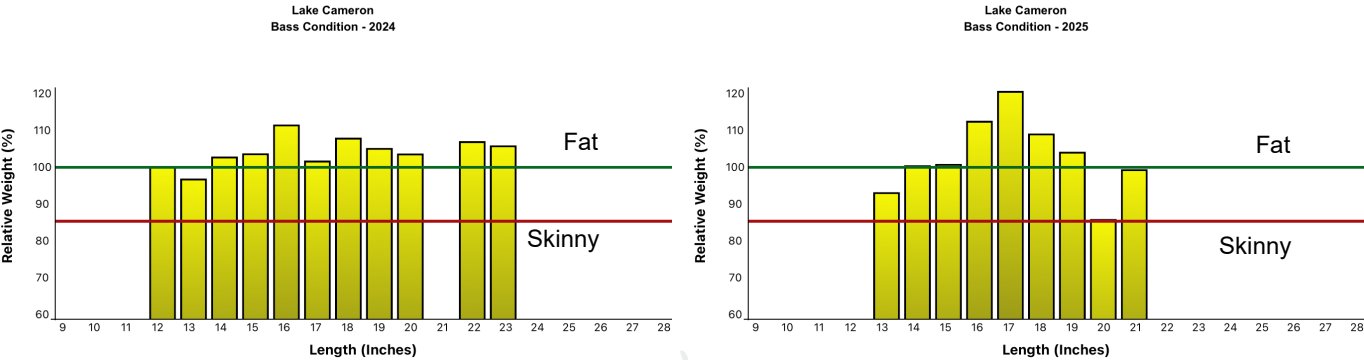


Figure 4. Relative weight distribution of adult largemouth bass collected from Lake Cameron in March 2024 and April 2025.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Lake Cameron is in slightly improved condition this year, compared to last year. The bass population has rebounded from its low point several years ago: residents have had good catch rates of quality to large bass last year and thus far this spring. The bass are also in good/excellent condition. The other fish species appear to be in good abundance and recent catches of crappie and catfish are reportedly at acceptable rates. No significant management actions are recommended for this year.

Continue No Bass Harvest practice for this year.

Harvest all catfish caught.

Observe and enforce (as much as is possible) a conservative limit on crappie.

The management activities we recommend over the course of the next twelve months are listed in the following pages. In an effort to assist in the prioritization of these management inputs, we have developed a simple color-coding system. You will note this system in the bottom right-hand corner of the respective Management Recommendations to follow:

LEVEL 1

Highest priority. Generally, require immediate attention.

LEVEL 2

Secondary in importance to Level 1. Directed toward achieving your stated management objectives.

LEVEL 3

Increase enjoyment and/or functionality of your lake but have less impact on the overall management program.