



Member Meeting Minutes August 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 by Association President Steve Young. There were 30 members, guests and visitors present.

After giving a brief history of the implementation and successes of the Association's fish shelter program, Steve introduced guest speaker Heather Hettinger of the DNR Fisheries Management Office in Traverse City. She discussed past and present fish stocking programs in Intermediate Lake, many details of which can be read in her attached handout. She then led a discussion of fish shelters, their maintenance, redeployment and eventual replacement as needed due to natural decomposition, and complimented the association's excellent and ongoing efforts in this area. Other topics discussed briefly included the natural arc of an invasive species' presence, fishing tournament regulations and practices, muskie stocking in Intermediate Lake and boat washing/cleaning as a vital step in preventing the spread of invaders.

Members and visitors then introduced themselves, each describing their location and their personal history regarding the lake.

Ken Freeman reported that current membership stands at 137; he sends a reminder email to members when their annual dues are due.

Steve reported briefly for Treasurer Dave Christian that the current bank balance is \$15,104, including \$5,710 designated for Swimmers Itch remediation programs.

Jim Gilleylen reported that the results of the Swimmers Itch survey conducted by Freshwater Solutions will be available this Fall, along with their analysis and recommendations for addressing the Swimmers Itch problem.

Steve then reported that CAKE/CISMA has received a grant to survey Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites invasions on the Chain of Lakes, and that Dave Edwards of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will survey the lakes for aquatic invasive species.

A brief discussion followed regarding the association's several committees. All members are urged to volunteer their time and energies to any committee. A brief Q&A session led to members recommending support for septic system inspections. Steve suggested the possibility of a barbecue to follow the next meeting, which is scheduled for September 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Webb

Intermediate Lake Association

August 10, 2019



Intermediate Lake History

Intermediate Lake's first documented fish stocking took place in 1932 and consisted of 5,000 largemouth bass. Stocking activity in the following years was sporadic. Large numbers of walleye fry (up to 800,000) were planted in the 1930's along with fingerling yellow perch (up to 175,000), adult rainbow trout (500) and adult smallmouth bass (168). Rainbow trout (6,000 fingerlings) and lake trout (8,000 fingerlings) were stocked in the 1940s. In 1969, Fisheries Division stocked 968 rainbow fingerlings and 100 steelhead fingerlings. In 1970 Fisheries Division stocked 3,109 rainbow trout fingerlings and 3,800 brown trout were stocked in 1971. Brown trout yearlings were stocked again in 1974 and 1975 at rates of 19,570 and 30,000. The salmonid stocking program was discontinued in 1975. In 1989, Fisheries Division began a walleye stocking program (25,000 walleye fingerlings). Walleyes are the only fish species that are currently stocked into the lake. Walleye are stocked every other year- our last walleye stocking was in 2018 with 71,475 spring fingerling walleye going in on May 30th.

Intermediate Lake was last surveyed by DNR Fisheries Division in June of 2008. This was a full Status & Trends survey using largemesh fyke nets, smallmesh fyke nets, experimental gill nets, and trap nets. A total of 1,624 fish were collected from the following species; black crappie, bluegill, bluntnose minnow, white sucker, lake herring, largemouth bass, longnose gar, longear sunfish, mimic shiner, northern pike, pumpkinseed sunfish, rock bass, sand shiner, smallmouth bass, walleye, and yellow perch. All fish that had samples collected for ageing were growing well above the State averages; bluegill (+0.3"), pumpkinseed (+0.5"), rock bass (+0.5"), walleye (+0.6"), and yellow perch (+0.6").

Intermediate Lake is a productive lake with a good forage space capable of supporting key predators such as northern pike, small and largemouth bass, and Great Lakes muskellunge. We receive annual reports of anglers catching or observing muskie in this lake, and in the spring of 2019, we had a lake resident report their children collecting a juvenile lake sturgeon while catching minnows.

Future Plans for Intermediate Lake

- Approximately 80,000 spring fingerling walleye will be stocked in May/June 2020.
- A fall Serns Index survey to assess the success of the walleye stocking will be conducted in October/November 2020.
- Fisheries Division surveys most lakes every 10-15 years. Intermediate Lake is now within this timeframe and thus will be added to our survey schedule as time allows.

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Traverse City DNR Customer Service Center