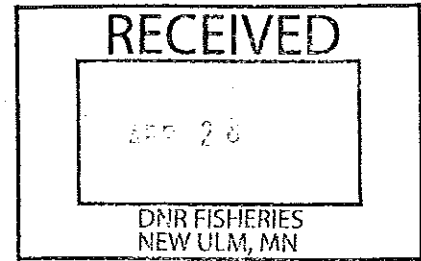




FISHERIES WARMWATER STREAM RECONNAISSANCE REPORT



REGION 5	AREA Lake City	STREAM NAME South Fork Zumbro	TRIBUTARY NO. M-34	LENGTH 53.3 mi.
COUNTY Dodge, Olmsted		WATERSHED NAME, NO. Zumbro River - 41	SOURCE (T.R.S) T105N R17W S29	MOUTH (T.R.S) 108N 14W S14

DATE(S) OF ASSESSMENT: Angling: 8/18-8/24/03 and seining: 10/15/03

ASSESSMENT PURPOSE: Assess smallmouth bass size structure through angling and non-game/minnow species diversity by seining.

LOCATIONS/STREAM MILES:

Similar reaches and specific sampling locations are labeled in the Discussion and Summaries of this report.

Discussion of the fishery (angler/s):

From upstream working downstream:

Mile 32.2-30.9, from the county 126 bridge downstream to the County 15 bridge (Schmidt): Stream corridor was in a very natural/wild state. Bottom substrate was mostly sand with some gravel and rubble. Only one, four-inch smallmouth bass was caught.

Mile 30.9-29.0, from Olmsted County 15, downstream through the Keller WMA to the cement ford (Binder, Sogla): Four smallmouth bass caught, 9.5 to 13.0 inches in length. Water level was normal to low and clear.

Mile 20.0-18.4, from the Mayowood Lake Dam to just upstream from Olmsted County 8 (Schmidt): This stretch contains several deep pools and good riffles for smallmouth bass. Habitat is excellent, but is negatively altered by poor water quality resulting from the impoundment behind the Mayowood Dam. Nutrient rich water from Mayowood lake was brown/green in color caused by a mixture of suspended silt and algae. Water clarity slowly improves downstream. A total of 17 smallmouth bass were caught. Sizes ranged from 8-14 inches in with a median length of 10.0 inches.

Mile 13.9-11.8, Elton Hills Drive to 37th Street (Binder): A total of 12 smallmouth bass were caught. Lengths ranged from 6 to 15 inches with a median length of 8.5 inches. Also caught was a 25-inch northern pike and two white bass, 9 and 10 inches.

Mile 9.7-5.5, from Essex Park to County Road 14 (Schmidt, Binder): Conditions were low, clear water, but less so than the previous angling survey. Several quality pools were filled in since the last survey, and held fewer smallmouth bass. Smallmouth collected were in good condition. A total of 29 were caught, ranging in size from 6 to 14 inches in length, median length was 8.0 inches. The most notable change compared to the last survey was the presence of white bass. Approximately 60 were caught, ranging from 8 to 10 inches in size.

Stream: South Fork Zumbro
 Date: October, 2003

SMALLMOUTH BASS SAMPLING SUMMARY

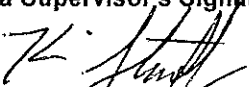
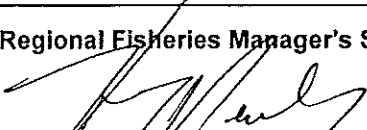
Station*	5	4	3	2	1	
Gear	Anolina	Anolina	Anolina	Anolina	Anolina	
Date	8/28/03	8/28/03	8/27/03	8/27/03	8/18/03	
Location (Mile)	30.9-32.2	30.9-29.0	20.0-18.4	11.8-13.9	9.7-5.5	
Location (Description)	From the Olmsted County 15 bridge upstream to the next crossing.	From the Olmsted County 15 bridge downstream to the next crossing.	From the Mayowood Lake Dam downstream to about a 1000 feet upstream of County Road 8.	From 37 th Street upstream to the pedestrian bridge downstream from Elton Hills Drive.	From just downstream of Essex Park, downstream to County 14.	
Effort (Angler-hrs)	2.50	7.00	4.00	3.75	6.00	
Adult smallmouth bass	1	4	17	12	29	
CPE (Fish/AnHr)	.4	.57	4.25	3.2	4.8	

* Station numbers used for this Recon only.

SUMMARY:

Eleven miles of river were fished from 18 August through 28 August for a total of 23.25 angler-hours (AnHr). Sixty-three smallmouth bass were sampled ranging in size from 4 to 15 inches. The average median length was 9 inches. Catch rates ranged from .4 to 4.8 per AnHr. Smallmouth bass habitat represented by rocky substrate, riffle areas and pools containing adequate depth and/or cover was best in stations 1 – 3. It was noted that pool depth and overall habitat quality in station 1 had decreased since the previous angling assessment in 2000. Habitat in station 3 however was better than expected as were the number and size of smallmouth bass collected. This station is highly urbanized relative to upstream reaches, but contains several riffle/pool sequences and overall pool quality was good. Water quality was poor however due to Mayowood Lake. The removal of the Mayowood Dam would benefit aquatic life in this stretch of the Zumbro, as well as the entire river upstream from the Rochester Flood Control Project. Smallmouth bass habitat upstream from Mayowood lake to the source is fair to good, but spatially small. Several years of sampling have indicated that while both adult and juvenile fish are present, abundance is very low.

Approximately 50-60 white bass were caught in station 1. This represents a marked change from the previous angling assessment in 2000 when there were no white bass caught.

Credits and Signatures:		
Field Crew: Al Schmidt, John Hoxmeier, Eric Merten		
Report Completed by: Al Schmidt		
APPROVED BY:		
Area Supervisor's Signature  4-21-04	Regional Fisheries Manager's Signature 	Date 10/22/04