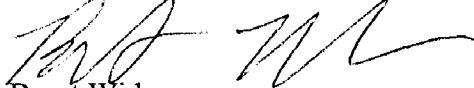


To: Interested Parties
From: Brent Widener, Fort Benning Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Date: 27 April 2009
Subj: Exception to Policy for Increased Harvest of Largemouth Bass in Kings Pond

Recent Survey's indicate that King's Pond has a severe bass crowded condition. The primary management strategy for improving this condition is dependent upon the removal of 20-30 lbs per acre of bass less than 14" in length. About 3000-4000 largemouth bass less than 14" need to be removed from Kings Pond. The shorter the period of time in which these fish are removed the more successful this management effort will be and the faster the pond will recover from its current condition. Without this effort, the quality of largemouth bass being caught in Kings Pond will continue to be poor. Once the pond has recovered, the quality of fish being harvested will increase dramatically over the next couple of years. Other efforts to help remedy this issue include the stocking of threadfin shad and adult bluegill which will provide an important source of food to help the largemouth bass grow. Conservation has stocked 30,000 threadfin shad and 5,000 bluegill to date. At the end of May an additional 35,000-40,000 bluegill will be stocked into King's Pond as well.

For those who are interested, the Conservation Branch will be issuing exception to policy letters allowing fisherman to harvest largemouth bass 14" or less from Kings Pond without those fish counting against their daily creel limit. This will only apply to individuals authorized to fish on Fort Benning and their guests. All bass 14" or less which are caught must be kept and cannot be released back into any pond on Fort Benning. The total number of bass caught each day must be reported to the Fort Benning Fish and Wildlife Biologist within 48 hours of harvest. This exception to policy will be granted for a designated time period which will be addressed in the exception to policy letter. All fishermen participating in this management effort must have their exception to policy letter in possession while fishing. Once the Fish and Wildlife Biologist has determined that a sufficient number of bass have been removed from the population, all fishermen participating in this effort will be informed that their exception to policy is no longer valid.

Please contact the Fish and Wildlife Biologist via mail, phone or email to request an exception to policy to assist with largemouth bass removal at Kings Pond. Please provide your name, address and phone number where you can most easily be reached. Your interest in and assistance with this effort is sincerely appreciated.



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