

Abstract

Survival was extremely low for tiger muskellunge fingerlings stocked for 3 consecutive years in a 15-acre lake with bluegills, golden shiners and an average population of largemouth bass. Survival averaged 4.1% for early-plant (about 3.5-inch) fingerlings and 1.8% for normal-plant (about 7.0-inch) fingerlings. Mean length attained by each early plant exceeded the mean length of the equivalent normal plant.

The relatively low survival of all plants was typical of other plants of similar sized fingerlings made into lakes containing established populations of bass and bluegills. Considerably higher survival (15 to 36%) resulted when tiger muskellunge were stocked in a lake with adequate forage (minnows) and few or no predator fishes.