



The Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund

Final Report: Grant #2021110080

Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership

December 5, 2022

The Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership (BLEAP), a 501c3 organization, has been working with the Michigan DNR to devise and implement a fishery management plan for Big Bass Lake (BBL) located in Lake County Michigan. There was an overabundance of stunted bass and low numbers of bluegill, perch and crappies. The DNR advised us to catch and keep as many of the 10" to 14" bass as legally possible because of an overabundance small bass for the lake to support (not enough food). That is why the bass rarely grow above 14" and why the pan fish numbers are so low, the bass are eating the pan fish before they reach respectable size. In order to make a measurable improvement to the BBL fishery, hundreds of pounds of bass had to be removed from the lake. To implement this plan, the BLAEP Fishing and Fish Habitat Committee (chaired by Tom Stinson) organized several "Big Bass Lake Family Fish Outings" for the summer of 2022. This was the second family fishing outing hosted by BLAEP. In 2021, we sponsored a much smaller event only over the Labor Day weekend with prizes totaling \$200. It was so popular, we decided to do a much larger fishing event in 2022.

Conclusion: The "Big Bass Lake Family Fish Outings 2022" was a HUGE success with many families and kids participating. It was great to see families fishing on the lake and hear the excited shouts from kids as they brought in the fish! Although we do not have a quantitative measure of success, several fishermen who frequent BBL commented on the improvement of the fishing this summer. We will continue to do family fishing events (of one sort or another) to support the sport and encourage families spending time together fishing on BBL!

The BLAEP organization would like to thank you for your generous support of our lake, its fish habitat and quality time spent by families this past summer.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Adams  
President, Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership  
basslakes.aep@yahoo.com  
<https://basslakesaep.wixsite.com/501c3>

Tom Stinson  
Chair of the BLAEP Fishing and Fish Habitat Committee

Here is the announcement advertising the events that was distributed via email and posted on our website and Facebook page:

### ***Big Bass Lake Family Fish Outings2022***

Let's get the "Big Bass" into Big Bass Lake again! Bass Lakes AEP is hosting several fish outings for Bass Lakes families and guests. The purpose of the fish outings is to harvest stunted bass and get families out fishing. The DNR has advised we remove the stunted small bass (10"-14") to allow pan fish populations to recover and help bass over 14" grow larger. Please help improve the fishery and get kids fishing!

Now for the fun part! Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund has chosen to fund our management plan and has given us \$2000 worth of prizes that will awarded this season! We will begin awarding prizes Memorial weekend and will run through Labor Day weekend.

#### Objectives & Rules:

1. Get families out fishing!
2. Remove stunted bass (10" to 14") only.
3. 10" to 14" Bass must be kept and not returned to the lake.
4. A creel survey must be filled out for each day of fishing. A picture of the creel survey along with a picture of kept bass must be sent to Tom Stinson (616)460-8516 or [stinsonproducts@gmail.com](mailto:stinsonproducts@gmail.com)
5. The contests will be held five times over the summer: Memorial Day weekend, Labor Day weekend, and monthly for June, July and August.
6. Most fish entered overall by a family team will be the winner for each event!
7. Prizes will be awarded by raffle drawing from creel survey entries. Entries need to be sent before 10pm on the last day of each event.
8. Winners will be announced on the BB/LB Lakes Irons Facebook page and by text or email.
9. Please post pictures of our kids and families participating on the Friends of BB/LB Lakes Irons Facebook.

This event is sponsored by Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership through the Fishing & Fish Habitat Committee. Please contact Tom Stinson with any questions or comments at [stinsonproducts@gmail.com](mailto:stinsonproducts@gmail.com)

All prizes are provided through a grant from **Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund**.

[Creel Survey](#)

Administration of the grant was conducted by awarding approximately 20% of the fishing equipment purchased with the \$2000 after each event. All items purchased with the grant were awarded. Here are some of the photos used when the events were advertised:



Here are some of the photos submitted by 2022 event participants:



