

The Piney Z Lake Fish Management Area is a beautiful 193-acre lake in Leon County providing fishing, paddling and wildlife-viewing opportunities right in your backyard. Lately, lack of bank fishing success has been a cause for concern. Therefore, this year the lake will undergo a few enhancements to improve fishing. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) fisheries staff monitoring data reflects a healthy bass population. However, lack of vegetation and woody structure near the earthen fishing fingers make bank fishing success difficult. This spring, the FWC and the City of Tallahassee's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs department are scheduled to create four brush fish attractors, which will provide cover for fish. These fish attractors will be placed within casting distance of the fishing fingers and pier.

There are large numbers of bass in the lake and they are reducing the number of bream, which anglers like to catch, as well. We are proposing a rule change, which, if passed, will allow some bass harvest and at the same time create a trophy bass fishery. Reducing the bass population through harvest along with a fall stocking of bluegill should do wonders to set the fish populations on the right track to a healthy balance.

Until August 2008, the lake was covered with lily pads but heavy rain from Tropical Storm Faye removed a majority of the lily pads and the remaining grass carp took care of the rest, leaving little protection for smaller fish. The FWC will conduct an experiment attempting to re-establish the lake with bulrush and other selective native aquatic plants from Lower Lake Lafayette. It is the FWC's hope that these projects will enhance fishing efforts for all. The FWC's Division of Freshwater Fisheries would love to partner with a youth/service organization to build the fish attractors. For more information, contact Nicole Kierl (850-271-0913 or Nicole.Kierl@MyFWC.com).



White squares are proposed fish attractor locations.
Red squares are proposed vegetation plots.