

Rend Lake Fish Attractor Projects Benton, IL St. Louis District



Grant # 1

- \$10,000 grant to purchase supplies to build 700 Spider Blocks and 150 Porcupine Balls
- Spider Blocks = ~\$7.65/Blocks
- Porcupine Balls = ~\$28.50/Ball
- Clearwave Communications donated \$6,000 worth of the orange fiber-optic pipe that would have ended up in the landfill or recycled



Building the Structures

- Construction of the structures was completed by local high school Outdoorsman Club & FFA students and the Boy Scouts
- With the donated labor and supplies, the project garnered \$73,139.39 benefit to the public. This is a \$7.31 for every dollar donated by the grant



Grant #2

- Rend Lake was able to get an additional \$6,000 grant to purchase supplies for 225 more Porcupine Balls
- The additional structures were constructed by a Boy Scout as his Eagle project
- With the completion of these structures, Rend Lake has placed ~1,100 structures in 56 locations over three years
- Shall set and cube structures are being designed for future structures to be placed



Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance



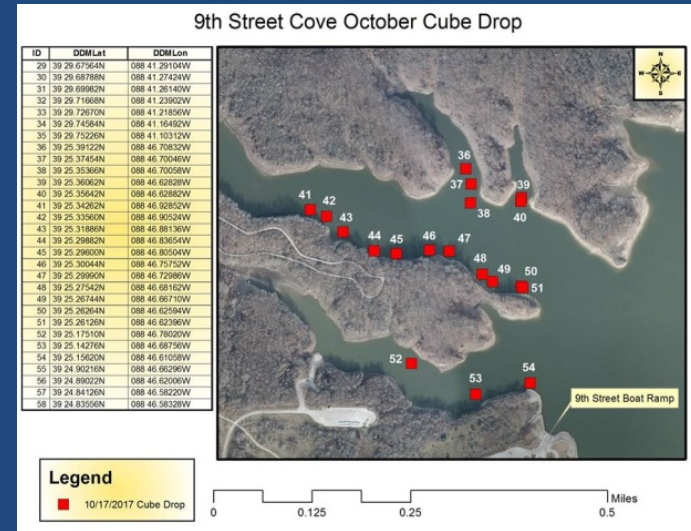
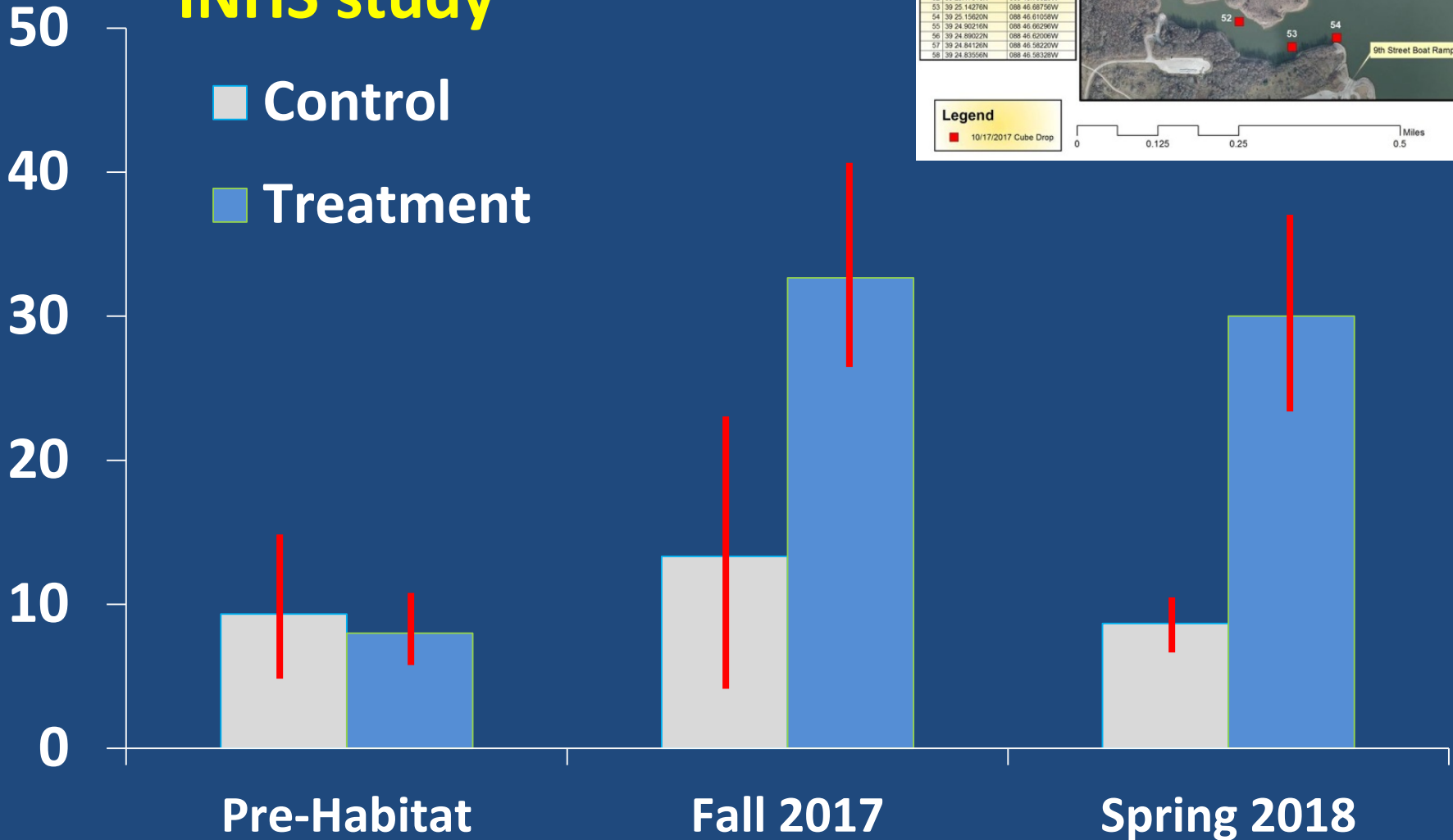
Assembly Line



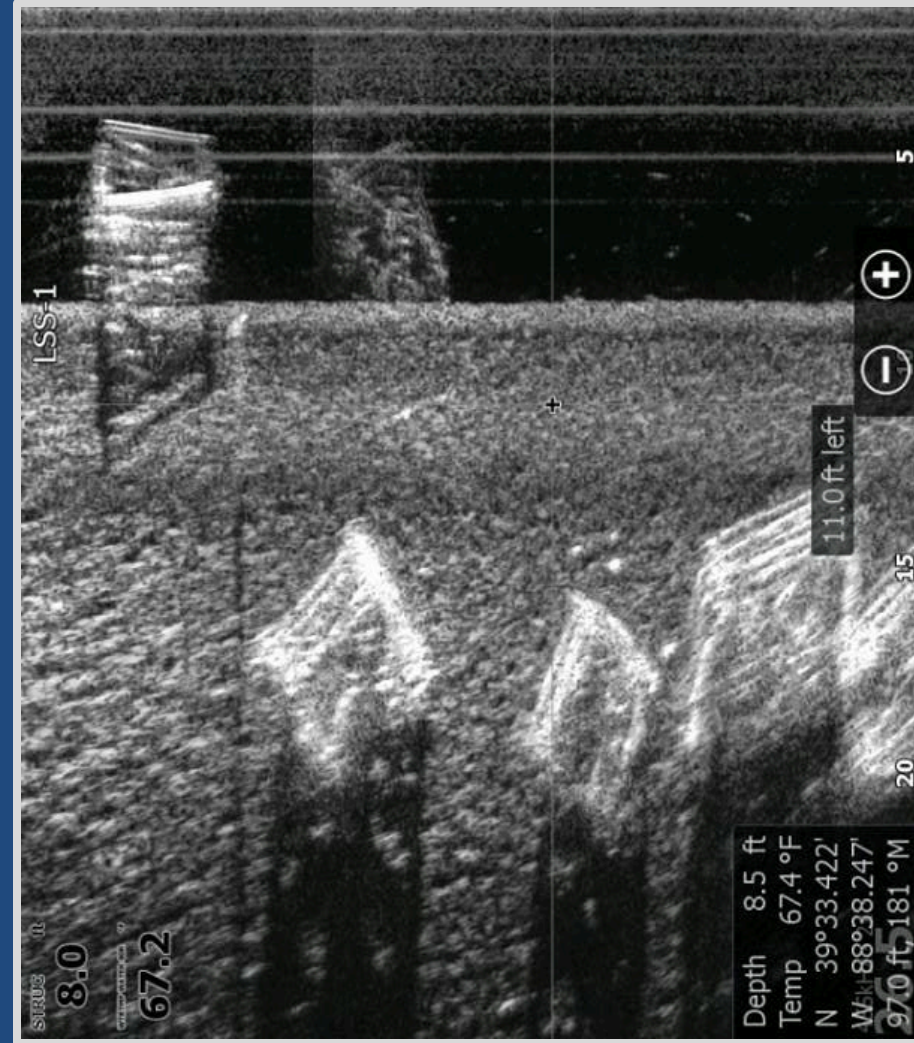
RESULTS!!!

INHS study

- Control
- Treatment



RESULTS!!!



Creating a Nursery

April 8th, 2017



RESULTS



1st Annual LSFHA Banquet, Feb. 23, 2019

290 in Attendance – Net Profit \$20,962.68!



Important Takeaways

1. It is CRITICAL to have a well respected individual that is trusted by the fisherman as the leader of the group – Chip Christensen at Lake Shelbyville.
2. Just as important is a GREAT organizer to keep everyone on track – Bob Kerans for Lake Shelbyville.
3. A cooperating association such as Friends of Lake Shelbyville (501c3) to handle the money is very important for transparency.
4. A Placement Committee made up of the most respected fisherman you can find! We (Corps) give them depth parameters for the structure and let them pick the locations. Goes a LONG way.
5. It is a MUST for Corps employees to participate in the builds in uniform – I can't stress how much goodwill this builds with the community.
6. A Social Media presence is paramount. Our ISOP section is invaluable in assisting with this aspect (Ashley Florey and Sarah Haslett). We can tout our successes, keep people updated on upcoming projects, solicit help for builds, habitat drops, stocking projects, etc.
7. Think outside the box – who knew a fish banquet would go over so well? Also, the highest auction item was a GPS chip with all the structure pre-loaded – went for \$1,000!
8. Support from the bosses! It takes time once all of this starts rolling!

Richard B Russell Habitat Enhancement

- James Sykes
- District Fishery Biologist
- Savannah District



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■ Lake Richard B. Russell Project

■ Received \$16K from RFHP

■ Objective

- Establish shoreline & littoral zone vegetation & adjacent mid- to deep-water structures to improve fish habitat

■ Goals

- Increase habitat & nursery areas for shoreline species, shoreline stabilization & erosion control & mid- to deep-water & foraging habitat for adult fish species

■ Partners included

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- GA DNR
- SC DNR
- GA B.A.S.S Nation



- **Lake Richard B. Russell Project**
 - **Objective – Establish shoreline & littoral zone vegetation (purchase)**
 - Enhance over 13K square feet of shoreline
 - **Aquatic vegetation**
 - 4,500 water willow plants



- **Lake Richard B. Russell Project**
 - **Objective – Provide adjacent mid- to deep-water habitat**
 - **Fish habitat structures**
 - **30 GA cube structures (fabricate)**
 - **43 honey hole & 30 mossback structures (purchase)**

