



IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary Beaver Dam Lake

Location: Beaver Dam Lake is in west-central Illinois, seven miles southwest of Carlinville in Macoupin County within Beaver Dam State Park.

Area: 56.6 acres; shoreline length 1.7 miles; watershed 225 acres (4 to 1); maximum depth 10 feet; and average depth 4 feet

Lake history and characteristics: Approximately 12 species live in this small, fertile impoundment. Beaver Dam Lake receives annual stockings of 8" to 10" Channel Catfish and 10" to 14" Rainbow Trout. Beaver Dam Lake has a trolling motor only rule. There is a single, concrete boat ramp on the west end of the lake. A concession stand offers boat and motor rental, live bait, tackle, ice, food, and soft drinks. A fish cleaning station is positioned just north of the boat ramp.

Largemouth Bass: Largemouth Bass numbers rebounded since the 2016 survey (59 fish/hour). In 2019, 101 Largemouth Bass were collected per hour. These fish ranged from 5.1-18.5". The largest bass measured 18.5" and weighed 3.36lbs. In past years the size distribution of the bass collected ranged between 6-15 inches; however, in 2018 and into 2019 the proportion of fish 15" and greater has increased.

Bluegill: The bluegill numbers are a little lower than we would like but the size distribution is very good. Many fish were over 7 inches, and some were over 8 inches. The body condition of the fish was very good.

Redear Sunfish: Like the bluegill population, the Redear Sunfish numbers are low, but the size quality and condition are very good. Four fish were collected in 2016 and in 2018. None were collected in 2019. Redear Sunfish collected in the 2016 and 2018 samples were all over 10 inches with excellent body condition.

Black and White Crappie: Several size classes of both white and black crappie were collected. Crappie numbers have increased over the past few years; however, this higher density of fish is resulting in a lower average body condition, likely due to competition for food resources. 46% of the catchable Black Crappie population exceeds the 9" minimum length limit. The same is true for White Crappie where 65% exceed 9". The largest Black Crappie from the 2019 survey measured 17.3" and weighed 2.89lbs!

Channel Catfish: Twelve Channel Catfish were collected in 2019. They measured between 10-22 inches and were in excellent body condition. IDNR will continue to stock Channel Catfish as hatchery production allows.

Rainbow Trout: Rainbow Trout are stocked in the fall in Beaver Dam Lake as part of the Catchable Trout Program. This put-and-take fishery offers anglers an opportunity to participate in trout fishing. Four Rainbow Trout were collected during the 2018 electrofishing survey, none were collected in 2019.

Other fish species: Other species collected during recent population surveys included Common Carp, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Green Sunfish, and Yellow Bullhead.

Fishing Regulations: see the Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or www.IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates.

- Two pole and line fishing only and each pole must not have more than 2 hooks or lures attached while fishing.
- Largemouth Bass – 15” Minimum Length Limit, 3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit
- Crappie (black, white, or hybrid) – 9” minimum length limit – 10 fish/day.
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 25 fish daily creel.
- Channel Catfish – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit.
- Trout – Fall season closed.

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:

- Conducted an aquatic plant herbicide treatment on 4/15/2019.
- Conducted an aquatic plant herbicide treatment on 4/26/2018.

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

- Conducted a spring population survey utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (2 – 30 min pulsed DC electrofishing runs) 5/8/2019. 321 fish were collected, representing 10 species. Water temperature was 69.4F.
- Conducted a spring population survey utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (2 – 30 min pulsed DC electrofishing runs) 5/10/2018. 315 fish were collected, representing 11 species. Water temperature was 73.6F.
- Fish Stocking 2017-2019
 - Crystal Lake Fisheries stocked 2,500lbs of Rainbow Trout on 10/10/2019.
 - Hatchery stocked 1,985 8.7” Channel Catfish on 8/27/2019.
 - Crystal Lake Fisheries stocked 2,500lbs of Rainbow Trout on 10/11/2018.
 - Hatchery stocked 2,838 7.3” Channel Catfish on 8/1/2018.
 - Crystal Lake Fisheries stocked 2,500lbs of Rainbow Trout on 10/12/2017.
 - Hatchery stocked 2,830 9.3” Channel Catfish on 9/13/2017.