



## IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary Schuy-Rush Lake

**Location:** Schuy-Rush Lake is on the southeast edge of Rushville, 50 miles NW of Springfield

**Area:** 191 acres; shoreline length 12.2 miles; watershed 8,498 acres; maximum depth 39 feet; and average depth 12.4 feet

**Lake history and characteristics:** Schuy-Rush Lake is an artificial impoundment located just off of U.S. Route 67 between Rushville and Beardstown. The lake was constructed as part of a flood control projects and is presently used for recreation. There are several houses situated around the lake and the city maintains a small park and camping area at the north end. The lake has a maximum depth of approximately 40 ft. and an average depth of approximately 13 ft. Siltation has greatly reduced its original storage capacity and the lake has lost an estimated 25 surface acres above the U.S. Route 67 highway bridge. The lake has one concrete boat ramp on the NW edge, has unrestricted boat fishing, offers camping and picnicking. No boat rental, skiing, or swimming is offered or allowed.

**Largemouth Bass:** The Largemouth Bass population is doing well at Schuy-Rush Lake. Catch rates have not met or exceeded the management goal of 60 fish/hour of electrofishing since 2017, however the quality of fish has remained strong. The 2020 survey yielded 37 Largemouth Bass ranging from 3.9-20.0" and weighing up to 4.7lbs. 30% of the catchable population exceeded 18". The 2019 survey showed 52% of the catchable population measuring over 15" and 19% measuring over 18". Largemouth Bass at Schuy-Rush have maintained good average body condition (2020  $Wr=96$ , 2019  $Wr = 101$ ). Anglers can catch Largemouth Bass off points, deadfalls, and stickups in the warmer months of the year with plastic worms, jigs, spinners, crank baits, minnows, crayfish and worms. The biggest Largemouth Bass ever collected while electrofishing at Schuy-Rush Lake weighed 6.7 lbs and measured 22" long.

**Bluegill:** The Bluegill population at Schuy-Rush Lake is characterized by a high density of fish measuring 4-6" in less than desirable body condition. The largest Bluegill collected in 2020 measured 6.7". Bluegill populations do not tend to thrive in the presence of Gizzard Shad. Gizzard Shad and Bluegill compete for the same food source, therefore, show poor growth rates and reduced maximum size. Anglers can catch Bluegill on their spawning beds in the spring or near shoreline cover year-round with crickets or night crawlers.

**White Crappie:** The White Crappie population continues to be doing great as far as quantity but is lacking in quality. Fish collected in 2020 ranged from 6.8-12.9". 31% of the catchable White Crappie population exceeded 10". The average body condition of fish collected improved slightly from 2018 to 2019 (2018 Wr=84, 2019 Wr=90) but dipped down (Wr=83) in 2020. A new crappie regulation was implemented on April 1, 2017 that will help reduce crowding at 7-9", reduce the bottle neck effect, and increase growth rates, which should help produce larger, fatter crappie of harvestable size. The new regulation is 25 Fish Daily Harvest Limit with no more than 10 Fish  $\geq$  10". Anglers can catch White Crappie around submerged structures throughout the lake in the spring and fall with spinners, jigs and minnows.

**Channel Catfish:** The Schuy-Rush Channel Catfish population is composed of fish measuring up to 9 lbs. Channel Catfish can reproduce and recruit into the catchable population naturally in Schuy-Rush Lake because of its high level of turbidity. The 2020 survey yielded 1 fish measuring 26.4" and weighing 8.0lbs. In 2019, two Channel Catfish were collected during the fall electrofishing survey. Anglers can catch Channel Catfish near deadfalls and stickups in the warmer months throughout the lake using bottom fishing techniques with cut bait, shrimp, chicken livers or night crawlers.

**Sauger/Walleye:** Walleye were stocked into Schuy-Rush Lake from 1987-2001. Stocking was discontinued in 2001 due to little evidence of the population establishing, suspected spillway escapement and high turbidity levels. A group of Sauger fry were stocked in 2014. Two Sauger were collected during the fall 2020 electrofishing survey. Those fish measured and 16.5" and 17.7".

**Muskellunge:** Annual Muskellunge stocking began at Schuy-Rush in 2006, except for a few low production years. The fall 2020 electrofishing survey yielded 2 Muskellunge measuring 23.2" and 24.3". The 2018 trap net and electrofishing surveys resulted in 11 Muskellunge collected measuring 27 - 41" weighing up to 22 lbs. Anglers can catch muskie in the spring and fall around beds of aquatic vegetation using minnows, spinners, spoons, jigs, jerk and crank baits.

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

**Fishing Regulations:** see the Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or [www.IFISHILLINOIS.org](http://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 – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit
- White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 25 Fish Daily Harvest Limit with no more than 10 Fish  $\geq$  10".
- Channel Catfish – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit.
- Sauger/Walleye – Statewide Regulation - 14" Minimum Length Limit, 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit
- Muskellunge – Statewide Regulation – 36" Minimum Length Limit, 1 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

**Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:**

- None

**Fisheries Management Activities Completed:**

- Hatchery stocked 2,172 4.8" Blue Catfish on 10/8/2020.
- Conducted a fall fish population survey utilizing standard sampling protocol (2 - 30 minute pulsed-DC electrofishing surveys) 10/6/2020. 439 fish were collected, representing 13 species and one hybrid group. Water temperature was 61.7F.
- The 2020 spring trap net survey was cancelled due to COVID-19 work restrictions.