



## IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary SSSP Buckhorn Unit Pond #2

**Location:** Siloam Springs State Park Buckhorn Unit is located six miles south of Timewell off Route 24 or nine miles north of Route 104 in Brown County. There are two ponds on this site that are managed for sport fishing. Pond #2 is the smaller of the two ponds.

**Area:** 1.25 acres

**Lake history and characteristics:** Siloam Springs State Park Buckhorn Unit was acquired by the State of Illinois in the Spring of 2001. Species in the pond include Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and Channel Catfish.

**Largemouth Bass:** In 2020, 13 Largemouth Bass ranging from 7.5-17.3" were collected. Most fish measured between 7-12". Three fish exceeded 14". No Largemouth Bass exceeded 18". The largest fish measured 17.3" and weighed 2.76lbs. The 2020 catch rate of 52 fish/hour of electrofishing was just under the management goal ( $\geq 60$  bass/hour). Maintaining a dense population of Largemouth Bass is a priority for this pond. This situation will create higher predation on sunfish, which will result in better sunfish quality. Average relative weights of Largemouth Bass were low in 2020.

**Bluegill:** Bluegill were collected at a catch rate of 260 fish/hour of electrofishing in 2020. 21.5% of the catchable Bluegill population in this pond measured over 7", and 7.7% exceeded the minimum length limit and measured over 8". One fish exceeded 9". Bluegill body condition is average.

**Redear Sunfish:** Redear Sunfish are doing well in this pond and were collected at a rate of 28 fish/hour in 2020. 85.7% of catchable sized fish were 8" or larger. The largest Redear Sunfish measured 10.2" and weighed 0.88lb. Average body condition of the fish collected was excellent.

**Channel Catfish:** Channel Catfish were last stocked in this pond in 2015. No Channel Catfish were collected in the 2020 survey. IDNR will stock Channel Catfish as hatchery production allows.

**Other fish species:** None.

**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 – 1 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, 18" Minimum Length Limit
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 10 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, 8" Minimum Length Limit
- Channel Catfish – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

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

- Spot treatment along bank fishing area on 6/5/2020.

**Fisheries Management Activities Completed:**

- Conducted a summer population survey utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (1 – 15 min AC electrofishing run) 6/5/2020. 85 fish were collected, representing 3 species. Water temperature was 77.5F.



PHOTO 1. 6/5/2020 electrofishing survey at SSSP Buckhorn Unit Pond #2.



PHOTO 2. Redear Sunfish collected and released during the 6/5/2020 electrofishing survey.



PHOTO 3. A 9" Bluegill collected and released during the 6/5/2020 electrofishing survey.