



Du Quoin Fairgrounds – Long Cut Lake

2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: The Du Quoin State Fairgrounds are located within the city of Du Quoin, IL in Perry County. Long Cut Lake is located on the northwest side of the fairgrounds.

DESCRIPTION: This lake is a 40-acre strip cut that is mostly surrounded by the state fairgrounds. There is no boat ramp open to the public. However, most of the lake shore is well maintained and is accessible to shore anglers. This lake receives a considerable amount of fishing pressure due to the ease of public access and location within the city of Du Quoin.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a summary of game fish populations based on a 30-minute spring electrofishing survey and a fall netting survey conducted in 2021. Both trap nets and gill nets were used for the fall netting survey.

Largemouth Bass – Long Cut Lake contains an abundance of small bass in the 10 to 12-inch range. A total of 102 Largemouth Bass were collected during the spring electrofishing survey. Of the bass collected, 50% were between 10 and 12 inches. Very few bass over 12 inches were collected.

Bluegill – The Bluegill population in Long Cut Lake appears to demonstrate decent growth potential despite the presence of Gizzard Shad. During the spring electrofishing survey, only 17 Bluegill were collected. However, several of them were over 7 inches and a few were just under 8 inches in length. Body condition was very good across all sizes of Bluegill. The abundance of small bass in the lake is a likely driver behind the favorable Bluegill size structure.

Redear Sunfish – Redear growth also appears to be very good in Long Cut Lake. Although only 3 fish were collected, they were all quality-size individuals. The largest was over 11 inches and weighed 1.23 lbs.

Channel Catfish – IDNR stocks roughly 1,500 (8-10-inch) Channel Catfish in Long Cut Lake every year. The fishery these stocked fish sustain is very popular among local anglers, who often harvest their catch. During the fall netting survey, a total of 31 Channel Catfish were collected in three overnight gill net sets. The largest catfish was just over 5 lbs. 68% of the catfish collected were under 11 inches in length and were likely stocked earlier in the year. Annual Channel Catfish stockings will continue on an annual basis to sustain the fishery for them.

Yellow Bass – Although not targeted by many anglers, Yellow Bass can provide excellent angling opportunities in lakes where growth is sufficient. Yellow Bass also provide excellent table fare due to their invertebrate diet. Long Cut Lake harbors a quality Yellow Bass population with many fish in the 10 to 12-inch range. Thirteen of the 23 Yellow Bass collected during the fall netting survey were over 10 inches in length.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Largemouth Bass	3	15 inches
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952.