



HASTINGS LAKE

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Located in the Village of Lindenhurst, in Lake County, Illinois.

DESCRIPTION – Hastings Lake was purchased by the Lake County Forest Preserve District in 2003 from the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. The YMCA maintained a Youth Camp at the lake from 1923 to 2003. Hastings Lake is a glacial origin lake and has inputs from Crooked Lake to the west and Linden Lake to its southeast. Hastings Lake is 74 acres; shoreline length 1.5 miles; watershed 2129 acres (29 to 1); maximum depth 26 feet; average depth 9.5 feet. Carry-in boats, kayaks and canoes can launch on a sandy shoreline in the northwestern part of the lake. Electric trolling motors are allowed. There is no developed boat ramp and there is no trailer parking available. No concessions are available, and no fish cleaning facilities are available.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Common carp were causing some water quality problems when the lake was acquired in 2003 so a removal project was undertaken. At least 1687 carp weighing 6062 lbs. were removed thru 2021 and predator stockings were enhanced. The fishery has rebounded and now supports a more balanced combination of sport fish and pan fish. Occasional fish surveys take place to update the Status of the Fishery.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Hastings Lake receives annual stockings of 10” northern pike. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In 2021, 28 largemouth bass were collected in 50 minutes of DC electrofishing. Fish measured 1.6” and 18”; 57% were over 12” long, 57% were over 14” long, and 42% exceeded the legal length of 15”. Fish sampling can be difficult because of the lake has mostly a shallow shelf near shore then drop-offs fairly steeply. The size structure suggests consistent reproduction and a quality bass fishing experience.

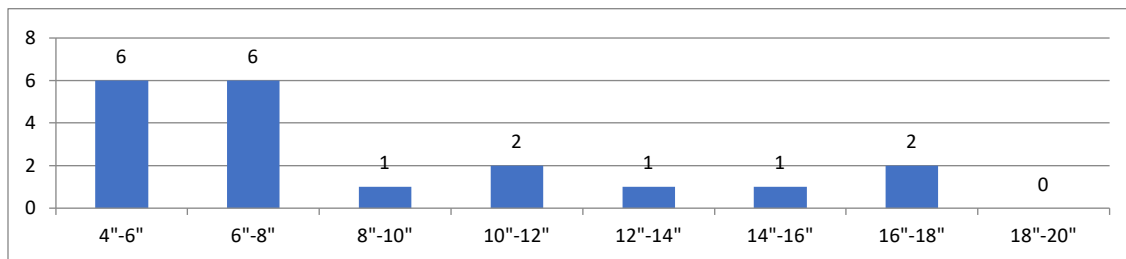


Fig. 1 Largemouth bass Length Frequency

BLUEGILL – In 2021, 128 bluegill were collected. Fish ranged from 2” to 7.6”; 9% of the bluegill were over 7” long and 2% were over 7.5” long. Larger fish likely exist but because of sampling conditions larger size bluegill were tough to collect.

BLACK CRAPPIE – 6 Black crappie were collected in 2021. Fish measured from 3.9” to 5.0”. Larger crappie were not detected but mature size fish >9” likely inhabit the lake.

NORTHERN PIKE – This species is stocked annually with 10” fingerlings. Spring fyke nets targeting northern pike yielded 4.2 fish/net night; averaged 27” long and weighed 4.8 lbs. No northern pike were collected with electrofishing gear this year.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Several other fish species have been collected in the past. They include: northern pike, yellow bass, muskie and a flathead catfish.

(50 minutes DC electrofishing)					
Species	Number	Relative Abundance (%)	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
BLUEGILL	128	56.9	2.0	3.5	7.6
LARGEMOUTH BASS	28	12.4	1.6	6.7	18.0
COMMON CARP*	32	14.2	17.3	19.8	23.1
YELLOW PERCH	23	10.2	4.0	5.8	7.9
BLACK CRAPPIE	6	2.7	3.9	4.6	5.0
GOLDEN SHINER	4	1.8	2.9	4.6	5.8
WALLEYE	2	0.9	17.7	18.1	18.4
BROWN BULLHEAD	1	0.4		10.2	
YELLOW BULLHEAD	1	0.4		9.4	
SPECIES = 9	TOTAL =	225			
		100.0			

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

Boaters – kayak/canoe (electric trolling motor only)

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.

Walleye – 16” minimum length limit; 6 fish daily creel limit

Northern pike – 24” minimum length limit; 3 fish per day creel limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Lake County Forest Preserve District: 847/367-6640.
IDNR Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2386.

Hastings Lake Map

