

Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area – Long Lake

2023 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Long Lake is located in Jackson County at the Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area just east of DeSoto, IL.

DESCRIPTION: There are no facilities or boats ramps at this 42 acre lake. All fishing at Long Lake and the entire site is closed from November 1 through the end of February. There is a gravel road down to a gate on the NW portion of this lake. **This is private property, please do not park and/or attempt to access Long Lake from this private property.** No gas boat motors are allowed to operate at this site.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on annual fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Largemouth Bass – The largemouth bass population in this lake is good. During the 2022 spring electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 82 fish per hour. Of the 41 bass collected, 44% were over 15 inches, 27% were over 16 inches, and 10% were over 18 inches. The largest bass collected in the 2022 survey weighed 5.3 pounds.

Crappie – Blazer Lake has an average crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Of the 17 crappie collected in the 2022 spring electrofishing survey, 41% were over nine-inches in length and 29% were over 10 inches in length. One white crappie over 12 inches was collected.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is stunted and poor. Only 17% percent of the bluegill collected in the 2022 spring survey were over 7 inches. No bluegill over 8 inches were collected.

Redear Sunfish – No redear sunfish were collected in the 2022 spring survey.

Channel Catfish – The channel catfish population is average at best. Two channel catfish (12-18 inches) were collected in the 2022 spring survey. No channel catfish have been stocked by IDNR in this lake.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14” and 1 over 18”	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Channel Catfish	6	None
Crappie	25	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	Bow Fishing is Allowed

CLOSED FISHING SEASON – No fishing from November 1 through the end of February.

No gas boat motors are allowed to operate at this site.

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area 618-521-8873.