



Wolf Lake William W. Powers Conservation Area Fisheries Fact Sheet

Prior to 1947 Wolf Lake was a small, shallow glacial lake situated in a wetland area between the confluence of the Grand Calumet and Calumet Rivers. Since that time however, the construction of a low level dam and levees from extensive dredging operations have changed the lake's appearance. The lake and its fishery have developed into a haven for fishermen to enjoy some quiet time away from the highly urbanized vicinity and catch quality size fish. The lake is located on the Illinois and Indiana state line. The Illinois portion of Wolf Lake consists of 390.0 of the acres, and is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as part of the William W. Powers Conservation Area. Fishing ranks as one of the most popular recreational activities at William Powers. The fact sheet has been designed to provide anglers with information about the fishery and its Site Specific regulations.

Location: Southeast of Chicago, east of Avenue "O" at 130th St. in the Hegwisch neighborhood.

Status of the Sport Fishery: Information is based on IDNR sampling data and angler reports. Three aquatic nuisance species established themselves in Wolf Lake in the 1990's: Zebra mussels, round gobies, and Eurasian milfoil. Each has impacted the lake's ecosystem in some way, Eurasian milfoil is the most noticeable as it impacts both shore and boat fishing access.

Largemouth Bass: Recent survey data indicate the largemouth bass population consists of fish from young of the year through age 8. Largemouth averaged 12.7" long with fish collected up to 18" long. Clear water and abundant vegetation make for good bass habitat. The electrofishing catch per effort (CPE) for all bass combined was "good" at 0.9 fish per minute which was near management goals of 1.0 fish per minute.

Smallmouth Bass: Smallmouth bass are stocked annually to expand their population and they're doing just that. Smallmouth bass were collected more often than largemouth in the most recent electrofishing survey. Smallies to 18" were collected and seem to be thriving in Wolf Lake.

Bluegill: Stock structure of the bluegill population has increased over past surveys with 26% (in 2005) of the sample over 6 inches long compared to 11% (in 2000) and 22% (in 1999). Changes may be related to the amount of vegetation present and the amount of "hiding" cover present. After the 2004 Sonar treatment in the Indiana portion of Wolf Lake, Eurasian milfoil abundance dropped which would have made bluegills more vulnerable to predation thus reducing their abundance and allowing for increased growth rates. Too much vegetation leads to stunting, too little to over-predation and thin fish. When vegetation is abundant, targeting bluegills and protecting predatory fish sometimes helps increase average length in panfish.

Channel Catfish: Channel catfish are stocked annually to maintain their presence and abundance. Catfish are a favorite among local fishermen for fight and table fare. Fish collected by IDNR staff averaged just under 13 inches suggesting most fish are harvested beyond that. Larger fish are occasionally caught but are more rare. Wolf Lake is annually stocked with 13,000 to 15,000 non vulnerable catfish fingerlings (6 to 8 inches long).

Walleye: No walleye were collected during the most recent fisheries survey though fishermen have reported fish up to 10 pounds. Walleye are difficult to collect with A/C electrofishing gear during the day in clear water (secchi to 8 foot). Illinois stocks approximately 10,000 fingerlings annually with early stockings of 15,432 in 2004, 18,787 in 2003 and 18,720 fingerlings in 1997 develop the fishery.

Northern Pike/Tiger Muskellunge: Northern pike are an important predator of Wolf lake and a favorite among many fisherman. To maintain their abundance approx. 1200 northern pike fingerlings (6.8") are stocked annually. Fish over 36" long have been reported by fishermen and fish between 26" and 30" are commonly collected by IDNR staff.

Site Specific Sportfishing Regulations for Wolf Lake (Illinois Portion):

<u>Species</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>	<u>Length Limit</u>
Largemouth/Smallmouth bass	6	14 inches
Walleye	6	14 inches
Tiger Muskellunge	1	36 inches
Northern Pike	3	24 inches
Channel Catfish	6	None

Note:

Fishing is prohibited during the waterfowl hunting season. Boat fishing is allowed, there are three developed ramp. Boats with motors larger than 10 hp must remain at "no wake". Rental boats are available from the park concessionaire. Swimming and wading are prohibited.

For Further Information Contact:

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