



# Dutchman Lake

## Fisheries Fact Sheet

Dutchman Lake is a relatively clear, infertile, 118-acre U.S. Forest Service-owned impoundment located approximately five miles north of Vienna, IL in Johnson County. The lake is surrounded by forest and has a gravel access road and boat ramp. The Dutchman Lake watershed is large, so significant rains have the potential to quickly raise the water level and decrease transparency.

**Largemouth bass:** Largemouth bass abundance in Dutchman Lake in spring 2021 increased compared to the previous year. Quality of these fish was slightly lower than the previous year, and 51 percent were larger than 12 inches, while 27% were larger than the 15-inch minimum length limit and the largest was over 7 pounds. Bass body condition decreased slightly in 2021 (Wr 88), dipping just below the management plan goal.

**Bluegill:** Bluegill were far more abundant in Dutchman Lake during the 2021 survey. The bluegill catch rate was 156 vper hour, a massive increase compared to the previous sample. Fifty one percent of these fish were larger than 6 inches, and 12 fish exceeded 7 inches in length. Bluegill body condition increased. These changes are most likely linked to the vegetation control activities that occurred only 2 weeks before sampling was conducted.

**Redear:** Redear were collected at a rate of 26 per hour in 2021 and quality increased. Seventy seven of these fish were larger than 7 inches in length, and no fish were longer than 8 inches. Redear body increased to well within the management goal range.

**Crappie and channel catfish:** Too few channel catfish and crappie were collected for an adequate assessment of these species in 2019. Eighteen white crappie were sampled with relatively good body condition. Only channel catfish was sampled, and this fish displayed excellent body condition. The channel catfish population is maintained by annual or biennial stockings depending on fish availability.

**Regulations in effect:** Largemouth bass – 15 inch length limit, 6 per day creel limit. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel limit. Ten horsepower outboard motor limit. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information.

**Additional Fisheries Information** can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Luke Nelson at 618-364-5381, or by contacting the Shawnee National Forest office in Vienna at 618-658-2111.