



LAKE STOREY

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION:

Lake Storey is located in Knox County at the northwest edge of Galesburg with access to the lake off of U.S. Route 150.

DESCRIPTION :

Lake Storey is a medium sized watershed type impoundment owned by the City of Galesburg and managed for fishing by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Lake Storey is 132.5 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 32 feet. It has a shoreline length of 5.8 miles and is 1.5 miles in length from east to west. A boat ramp and parking lot is provided on each end of the lake. Other facilities provided at Lake Storey Park include: camping, swimming, golf, picnic areas and a 2.65 mile paved trail.

Lake Storey was constructed in 1928-29 by the Atchison, Topeka and Sante Fe Railroad as their water supply reservoir. In 1952, the lake and surrounding land was gifted to the City of Galesburg for the development of Lake Storey Park.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The lake and its sport fishery are evaluated annually by spring trapnetting and a fall electrofishing survey. These surveys direct fish stockings, fish regulations and aquatic vegetation treatments.

The waterlevel at Lake Storey is drawn down annually 5 to 6 feet in early September as a major fish management practice. The annual fall drawdown increases the predation of small fish, which enhances the growth rates of both predator and prey species.

Largemouth Bass:

The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 206 bass from electrofishing.

The largemouth bass population appears to be defined by a high percentage of fish from 4 to 14 inches in length with good average Relative weights. In 2017, the bass regulation for Lake Storey was changed from a 1 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches and/or 5 fish less than 12 inches daily, to a protected slot length limit from 12 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit. The goal of the new bass regulation is to increase the density of the bass population from 14 to 18 inches.

The 5 year averages from 2011 to 2015 were RSD15 of 21, RSD16 of 12, and RSD18 of 3. And a 5 year average CPUE 2.1 fish per minute over 8 inches with pulse D.C. eletrofishing.

The 2016 electrofishing survey indicated a size structure that had increased to a PSD of 32, RSD15 of 13, RSD16 of 6 and the RSD18 of 2. The average body condition was at a Wr of 100.

The goal of the protected slot length limit is to create a high density bass population that is composed of fish large enough to be efficient predators upon the panfish population. The benefit to bass anglers will be more fish surviving past 15 inches to catch, and for the anglers wanting to harvest bass will be the opportunity to still harvest fish under 12 inches.

Bluegill:

The bluegill population was sampled by 58 fish in spring trapnets and 340 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current bluegill population is rated as average with the larger fish up to 7.5 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in average body condition with a Wr average of 89.

Redear Sunfish:

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 4 fish in spring trapnets and 45 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current redear population is rated as average with the larger fish up to 10.4 inches in length. This population is of low density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 95.

Crappie:

The white and black crappie populations have been an average rating in recent years. The 5 year averages from 2011 to 2015 were an RSD10 of 35 for white crappie and an RSD10 of 1 for black crappie. The black crappie population has become the dominant species. The 5 year trapnet catch per unit of effort was 17.9 black crappie per net night and 1 white crappie per net night.

In 2016, the white crappie population was sampled by 5 fish in spring trapnets and 21 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The black crappie population was sampled by 203 fish in spring trapnets and 30 fish in fall electrofishing survey. 26 stock size white crappie were sampled with a PSD of 89, RSD9 of 54, RSD10 of 23, and RSD11 of 8. 233 stock size black crappie were sampled with a PSD of 29, RSD9 of 1, RSD10 of 0 and RSD11 of 0. Both species had average WR values of 85 and 91. These indices have all been steady the last 6 years. Anglers can continue to apply harvest pressure upon the dense black crappie population.

Walleye:

The walleye population was sampled by 22 fish in spring trapnets and 24 fish in the fall electrofishing survey. The current walleye population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 27 inches in length. The CPUE for trapnets was at 1.1 fish per net night in 2016. This population is of moderate density and in average body condition with a Wr average of 85. Jake Wolf hatchery stocked 6696 fish at 1.5 inches long in 2016.

Muskie:

A total of 22 muskie were sampled by the spring trapnet survey in 2016. These fish ranged from 31.5 to 42.5 inches long. The body condition of these fish was low at an average Wr of 86. A moderate density of quality size muskie are present. 43 muskie have been recaptured with PIT tag data from Lake Storey since 2002. The 2014 recapture growth rate for a male over 10 years old was .21 inches and .26 lbs per year. And the growth rate for 2 females over 10 years old was 1.1 inches and 1.40 lbs per year. Jake Wolf stocked 136 muskie at 10.75 inches in 2016. A annual stocking is now scheduled to maintain a moderate density of healthy muskie.

Channel Catfish:

The channel catfish population was sampled by 4 fish in spring trapnets and 9 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current channel catfish population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 26 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 109. Jake Wolf hatchery stocked 1500 fish at 7 inches in 2016. An annual stocking of non-vulnerable channel catfish has occurred in the recent past. These stockings have established a population with anticipated high angler harvest pressure.

Other Species:

13 carp, 2 golden shiners, 6 green sunfish and 3 yellow bullhead were also sampled in 2016. These species have been maintaining a low density in the recent past in Lake Storey.

Fishing Regulations:

All Fish - 2 pole and line fishing only.

Large or Smallmouth Bass:

- Protected Slot Length Limit from 12 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish:

- 25 fish Daily Harvest Limit.

Pure Muskellunge:

- 42 inch minimum length limit with 1 fish daily harvest limit.

All fish:

- 2 Pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish or Blue Catfish:

- 6 fish daily harvest limit.

Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Walleye:

- 3 fish daily harvest limit.

Recreational Use Restrictions:

- All live bait greater than 8 inches must be rigged with a quick set rig.

- No gas motors to propel watercraft, electric motors only.

-Swimming is permitted only in designated area when lifeguard is on duty.

CONTACT INFORMATION –

Galesburg Park District: (309) 345-3630

IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: (309) 446-9143.

Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>