



# McCullom Lake

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – McCullom Lake is located at the northwest edge of McHenry off of McCullom Lake Road. The main entrance is at 4300 Peterson Park Road.

**DESCRIPTION** – This 244-acre, northeastern Illinois lake is relatively shallow, averaging around four feet with a maximum depth of nine feet (see map on reverse side). Shoreline access is available at several small parks, including the City of McHenry's Peterson Park located on the northeast shoreline. Petersen Park has a handicap-accessible fishing pier that is available spring through fall. There is a launch for carry in boats. A small, undeveloped boat launch on the lake's south shore provides boat access for small trailerable boats with motors of 10 horsepower or less (located off West Shore Drive in McHenry). Private residences surround approximately 80% of the shoreline. An aerator is ran periodically through the winter so watch for open water if ice fishing. The lake is managed under a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** McCullom Lake is stocked with largemouth bass, northern pike and channel catfish. The IDNR conducts northern pike stocking success surveys when conditions allow. Four trap-nets were fished for two nights in March of 2018. Also listed are results from the 2014 fall electrofishing survey.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Unfortunately this shallow lake is prone to fish kills and carp infestation. We also noted hundreds small (young of year) yellow bass and yellow perch. Heavy aquatic vegetation in the summer/fall can make this lake difficult to fish.

**NORTHERN PIKE – 2018 Update** - Northern pike were captured at a rate of 8.5 fish per net night in 2018. This survey did have one of the highest catch rates in recent surveys despite pike stocking being halted in 2015. The pike ranged in length from 16.2 to 32.0 inches long. The heaviest fish, a female with eggs, weighed 5.8 pounds. Unfortunately, IDNR is no longer raising and stocking northern pike. Monitoring will continue to determine if a natural reproduction can sustain a pike fishery at McCollum Lake.

*From the 2014 electrofishing survey...*

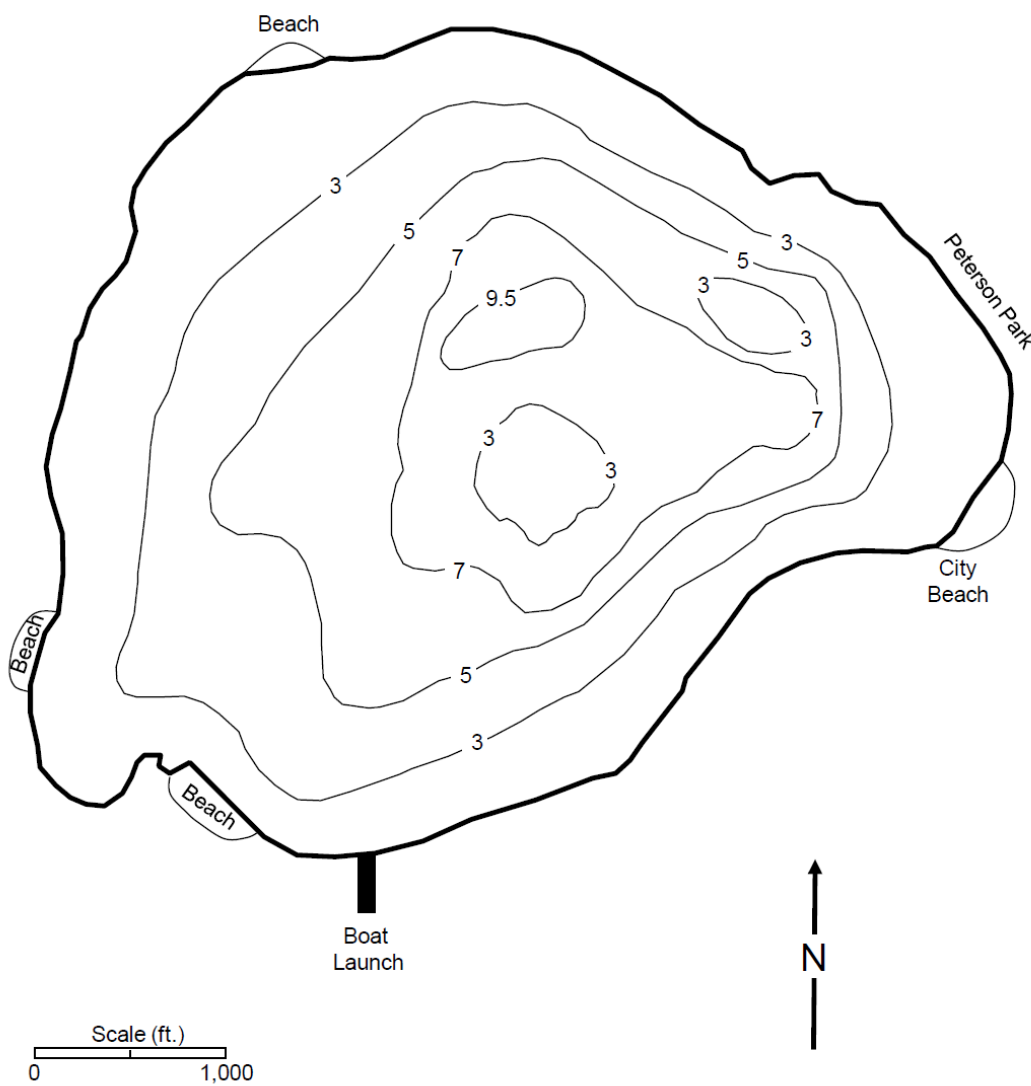
**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Two harsh winters (2010-11 and 2013-14) in the last four years have taken their toll on the bass population in this lake. Largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 11 fish per hour. Bass catch rates have declined since 2004 when the catch rate was 47 fish per hour. A couple of nice bass weighing close to three pounds were captured in the 2014 survey. Adult bass have an abundant food supply as yellow perch and yellow bass have exploded.

**BLUEGILL** – Bluegill abundance was quite low at 16 fish per hour. This number is usually variable as it has ranged from 33 to 103 fish per hour in the last four surveys. The bluegill average length was 4.6 inches.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – No channel catfish were captured during this survey. Channel catfish over 20 inches have been caught in previous surveys. About 1,600 channel catfish are stocked into McCullom Lake annually.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – Black crappie were not captured in this sample. Species specific die-offs have occurred twice in the last 8 years (2014 and 2007). This most recent die-off occurred in late September of 2014 when about 50 dead black crappie were documented at three locations around the lake.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:** Yellow bass and yellow perch were extremely abundant during the 2014 survey. They were collected at an estimated 240 and 204 fish per hour. These two species can become so overabundant they develop into a stunted population as well as compete with young of year largemouth bass. Future stockings of largemouth bass and northern pike should help to correct this problem. Other species present in this sample include common carp, golden shiner, bluntnose minnow and emerald shiner. Northern pike, white sucker and pumpkinseed were not found in this sample but have been previously surveyed in McCullom Lake.



Soundings (ft.) – 1958  
Illinois Natural History Survey

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Fisheries  
2006 - V.S.

For more information about McCullom Lake call the Village of McHenry at (815) 363-2100 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214