



IDNR – Fisheries

2016 Lake Status Summary

Pittsfield Lake



Location: Between Pittsfield and Griggsville, east of Rt. 107 and south of I72, Pike County

Area: 241 acres

Lake history and characteristics: Pittsfield Lake was constructed by the City of Pittsfield in 1960 as a flood control impoundment. It was subsequently used as the source of drinking water for the city. No longer used as a water source, Pittsfield Lake attracts many anglers and campers to its rural setting. The lake has a maximum depth of 34 ft, average depth of 12 ft, and shoreline length of 5.2 miles. The lake offers two boat launches, camping and picnicking. A boat permit and launch fee are required (Pittsfield City Hall 217-285-4484). The lake has a 25 HP limit and is no wake.

Largemouth bass: We collected 96 largemouth bass for a total of 48/hr of electrofishing, which is just under the management goal of 60/hr. Bass ranged from 4 – 21.5” and weighed up to 6 lbs. The population structure is good with 37% of catchable bass measuring over the 14” minimum length limit and 9% measuring over 18”. Largemouth bass body condition was good and within management goals ($Wr = 93$). Anglers can catch largemouth bass off of points, deadfalls, and stickups in the warmer months of the year with plastic worms, jigs, spinners, crank baits, minnows, crayfish and worms.

White and black crappie: White crappie are the dominant crappie species in Pittsfield Lake, which is common in a turbid lake. However, a decent population of black crappie is present. We collected more crappie during the spring trap net survey compared to the fall electrofishing survey, which produced a total of 216 white crappie and 54 black crappie ranging from 6.5 – 15” weighing up to 1.9 lbs. Both white and black crappie were in below average body condition ($Wr = 89$ and 79 , respectively), which suggests there is most likely competition for food sources occurring within the population. White crappie are fatter than black crappie in Pittsfield Lake, which is also common in turbid lakes as white crappie are better able to tolerate such conditions. There is no fishing regulation for crappie at Pittsfield Lake. Crappie species are often times very reproductive, therefore a regulation on harvest is not necessary. Anglers can catch crappie species around submerged structures throughout the lake in the spring and fall with spinners, jigs and minnows.

Channel catfish: The trap net and electrofishing surveys conducted in spring and fall 2016 showed a lack of channel catfish below 24”, which indicates poor recruitment into the population. We collected 15 channel catfish during the spring trap net survey measuring between 24 – 31” and weighing up to 15.8 lbs. These fish were in excellent body condition. Pittsfield Lake was added to the channel catfish stocking list and will receive non-vulnerable sized 8-10” channel catfish to supplement the population if hatchery production allows. Anglers can catch channel catfish near deadfalls and stickups in the warmer months throughout the lake using bottom fishing techniques with cut bait, shrimp, chicken livers or night crawlers.

Walleye: Walleye are stocked annually as fingerlings by the State Hatchery system. We only collected 10 walleye from our 2016 surveys ranging from 9 – 26” weighing up to 7.9 lbs. Body condition was good. It is expected that the walleye population is doing well given the good body condition observed, the wide range of size classes, the abundant forage base, and a lower density of largemouth bass. Nice walleye can be caught in the at the base of the dam in the spring or fall using minnows, night crawlers, jigs, crank baits, spoons and spinners.

Hybrid striped bass: The hybrid striped bass population is excellent at Pittsfield Lake. We collected 38 hybrid stripers in our spring trap net surveys and 19 in the fall electrofishing survey in 2016. They ranged in size from 17 – 28” and weighed up to 12.6 lbs. These fish are in excellent body condition. Hybrid striped bass are stocked annually when hatchery production allows. They provide a great fishing opportunity for those looking to diversify their catch.

Flathead catfish: We collected 14 flatheads during our spring trap net and fall electrofishing surveys. The flathead catfish ranged from 11 – 41.5” and weighed up to 42 lbs. The population is doing well and should provide excellent fishing opportunities.

Fishing Regulations: see the Fishing Regulation Booklet or IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates

2 pole and line fishing only – sport fisherman may harvest carp, buffalo, suckers and gar by bow and arrow devices, gigs or spears during May and June

Largemouth bass - 14" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 6 per day.



Striped, white, or hybrid striped bass – 17" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 3 per day.



Walleye – state wide - 14" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 6 per day.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Management Objectives
Largemouth Bass												
% >12"	53	40							45	53	72	40-60
% >14"	34	21							19	19	37	
% >15"	26	18							17	14	26	15-25
% >18"	9	7							11	6	9	5-10
condition	98	106							83	91	93	90-110
fish/hr EF	356	279							36	112	48	>60
White Crappie												
% >8"	82	83							100	100	73	40-60
% >9"	46	67							33	57	28	20-40
% >10"	46	33							33	43	17	10-20
condition	87	-							86	81	89	90-110
fish/hr EF	11	7							5	4	3	70-100
fish/net night	-	-							-	-	14	15-20
Black Crappie												
% >8"	34	36							41	56	68	40-60
% >9"	6	0							18	6	5	20-40
% >10"	2	0							0	0	3	10-20
condition	112	118							87	87	79	90-110
fish/hr EF	103	280							12	17	4	70-100
fish/net night	-	-							-	-	4	15-20
Channel Catfish												
% >16"	100	100							100	100	100	50-70
% >18"	100	100							100	100	100	15-30
% >22"	67	100							100	100	94	5-10
condition	107	113							107	111	127	90-100
fish/hr EF	15	13							1	2	0	10-15
fish/net night	-	-							-	-	1	5-15
Walleye												
% >12"	100	100							0	92	80	40-60
% >14"	100	100							0	92	80	20-40
% >18"	50	92							0	54	80	10-20
% >20"	50	83							0	39	70	5-10
condition	147	100							84	80	96	90-110
fish/hr EF	2	12							3	7	5	15-25
Hybrid Striped Bass												
condition	-	97							86	91	98	90-110
fish/hr EF	1	28							1	15	10	15-25
fish/net night	-	-							-	-	3	15-25

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:
none

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:
-conducted a spring trap net survey (15 trap nets for 24 hours) 4/28/16
- Stocked 9,703 – 1.5" walleye fingerlings 5/24/16
- conducted a fall electrofishing survey (1 – 2 hr pulsed –DC runs) 9/27/16

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