



Ramsey Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Ramsey Lake was constructed in Ramsey Lake State Park near Ramsey, IL in 1949.

Location: Ramsey Lake is located in Fayette County, approximately 2 miles northwest of Ramsey Illinois.

Area: Ramsey Lake has a surface area of 46 acres, a maximum depth of 22 feet, and a mean depth of 8 feet. The lake has 2.8 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 1,500 acres.

Status of the Sport Fishery: The sport fish population in Ramsey Lake is comprised of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, and channel catfish. The lake also contains green sunfish, saugeye (walleye/sauger hybrids), and yellow bullheads. The fish population is surveyed annually, and summaries below are based on the results of the recent population survey and four-year trends in the population indices.

Largemouth Bass – The 2020 survey showed that the size structure of the bass population had improved slightly from last year. The survey found a large number of bass between 8” – 14” in length. However, approximately 19% of the adult bass in the sample exceeded the 14” minimum length. Average body condition decreased and CPUE increased, but both remained over their lake management plan targets. The number of larger fish in the population is still below a desirable level, but is expected to improve further in the coming years. No bass over 20” were collected in 2020, but the percentage of adult bass between 15” – 20” improved from 6% in 2019 to 9% in 2020.

Bluegill/Redear - The average body condition for bluegill collected in 2020 remained below the lake management plan target. However, electrofishing catch rates remained high and the population size structure was good. Approximately 36% of the adult bluegill in the sample exceeded 7” in length and 10% exceeded 8”. This lake should provide good bluegill fishing in the coming year. The redear population in Ramsey Lake was also in good shape. Average body condition exceeded the lake management plan target and 25% of the redear were 9” or longer and 6% exceeded 10” in length.

Crappie – The 2020 survey showed that black crappie condition remained good ($Wr = 99$). The size structure of the population was also good and fish over 9” accounted for 57% of the adult crappie in the sample. With good growth rates, the population should remain strong over the next few years.

Channel Catfish – Catfish are abundant in Ramsey Lake and should provide good fishing opportunities in the coming year. Most fish will range from 1 – 4 lbs. with larger fish over 5 pounds. This lake provides excellent bank fishing opportunities. The best places to fish include the dam, the parking area near the boat ramp, the upper end of the lake, and in the backs of coves.

Fishing Regulations: All Species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	14”
Channel Catfish	6	
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	
White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie	10	9”

Additional Regulations: No gas motors are allowed.

Contacts: Ramsey Lake State Park 618/423-2215, IDNR 618/393-6732.

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