



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 2017 increased somewhat compared to the previous year, and still easily met the management plan goal, as evidenced by an electrofishing catch rate of 160 per hour. Quality of these fish was similar to the previous year, and 56 percent were larger than 12 inches, while 28% were larger than the 15-inch minimum length limit. A few bass measured more than 18 inches and the largest was just over 5 pounds. Bass body condition remained slightly lower than the management plan goal.

Bluegill: Bluegill abundance in Dutchman Lake during the 2017 survey was similar to largemouth bass. The bluegill catch rate was 168 per hour, which more than doubled that of the previous year, and quality also increased. Eighty-one percent of these fish were larger than 6 inches, and 17% exceeded 7 inches in length. Bluegill body condition was also very good.

Redear: Redear were collected at a rate of 68 per hour in 2017, which was similar to the previous year. Fifty-nine percent of these fish were larger than 7 inches in length, but, like the two years prior, none were longer than 8 inches. Redear displayed acceptable body condition.

Crappie and channel catfish: Too few channel catfish and crappie were collected for assessment of these species in 2017. 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 Chris Bickers at 618-993-7094, or by contacting the Shawnee National Forest office in Vienna at 618-658-2111.