



IDNR – Fisheries

2018 Lake Status Summary

Schuy-Rush Lake



Location: Southeast edge of Rushville, 50 miles NW of Springfield

Area: 191 acres

Lake history and characteristics: Schuy-Rush Lake is an artificial impoundment located just off of U.S. Route 67 between Rushville and Beardstown. The lake was constructed as part of a flood control projects and is presently used for recreation. There are several houses situated around the lake and the city maintains a small park and camping area at the north end. The lake has a maximum depth of approximately 40 ft. and an average depth of approximately 13 ft. Siltation has greatly reduced its original storage capacity and the lake has lost an estimated 25 surface acres above the U.S. Route 67 highway bridge. The lake has one concrete boat ramp on the NW edge, has unrestricted boat fishing, offers camping and picnicking. No boat rental, skiing, or swimming is offered or allowed.

Largemouth bass: The largemouth bass population is doing well at Schuy-Rush Lake. The 2017 fall electrofishing survey showed that most all population indices were within or exceeding the desired ranges. We collected a total of 63 bass/hr electrofishing ranging from 3 – 22” and weighing up to 6.1 lbs. Our survey showed 33% of the catchable population measuring over 15”, 15% measuring over 18”, and 6% measuring over 20”. Bass at Schuy-Rush are in good body condition ($Wr = 93$). 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. The biggest bass that has ever been collected while electrofishing at Schuy-Rush Lake weighed 6.7 lbs and measured 22” long.

White crappie: The white crappie population continues to be doing great as far as quantity, but is lacking in quality. The 2017 fall fish survey showed the population still displays a bottle neck at 7-9”. Eighty-three percent of crappie collected in 2017 measured between 6-9” and were in poor body condition ($Wr = 82$). The high density of crappie in this size range is reducing growth potential due to competition for food resources. Schuy-Rush Lake had a crappie regulation of 25/day creel and minimum length of 9” prior to April 1, 2017. Crappie <9” need to be thinned out in order to reduce the bottle neck and increase growth rates. A new crappie regulation was implemented on April 1, 2017 that will help reduce crowding at 7-9”, reduce the bottle neck effect, and increase growth rates, which should help produce larger, fatter crappie of harvestable size. The new regulation is 25 fish/day creel limit, with harvest of no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10”. Anglers can catch white crappie around submerged structures throughout the lake in the spring and fall with spinners, jigs and minnows.

Channel catfish: The channel catfish population is excellent. The population is composed of fish measuring up to 37” and 9 lbs. Channel catfish are able to reproduce and recruit into the catchable population naturally in Schuy-Rush Lake because of its high level of turbidity. We collected 49 channel catfish in the spring 2016 trap net survey, but few in the 2017 trap net survey. Channel catfish are in excellent body condition. 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.

Sauger/Walleye: Walleye were stocked into Schuy-Rush Lake from 1987-2001. Stocking was discontinued in 2001 due to little evidence of the population establishing, suspected spillway escapement and high turbidity levels. A group of sauger fry were stocked in 2014. We collected four sauger measuring between 12 – 14.5” during the fall 2016 electrofishing survey. Sauger may do better in Schuy-Rush Lake as they can withstand more turbid water conditions than walleye. Sauger will be stocked annually for a few years, as State Hatchery production allows. Stocking success will be evaluated thereafter.

Bluegill: The bluegill population at Schuy-Rush Lake is characterized by a high density of fish measuring 4-6” in less than desirable body condition. Bluegill populations do not tend to thrive in the presence of gizzard shad. Gizzard shad and bluegill compete for the same food source, therefor show poor growth rates and reduced maximum size. Anglers can catch bluegill on their spawning beds in the spring or near shoreline cover year round with worms, crickets, or night crawlers.

Muskie: Little is known about the muskie population at Schuy-Rush Lake. Annual Muskie stocking began at Schuy-Rush in 2006, with the exception of a few low production years. The 2016 trap net and electrofishing surveys resulted in 6 muskie collected measuring 14-40.5" weighing up to 21 lbs. No muskie were collected in the 2017 trap net survey. Anglers can catch muskie in the spring and fall around beds of aquatic vegetation using minnows, spinners, spoons, jigs, jerk and crank baits.

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

2 pole and line fishing only

Largemouth bass - 15" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 6 per day.



Crappie – 25 fish/day creel limit of which no more than 10 can measure greater or equal to 10".



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



Channel catfish – 6 fish/day creel limit.



Muskie – state wide – 36" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 1/day.



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Management Objectives
Largemouth Bass												
% >12"								40	69	52	62	40-60
% >15"								17	38	32	33	10-25
% >18"								7	15	15	15	1-5
% >20"								0	8	6	6	1-5
condition								99	95	94	93	90-110
fish/hr EF								44	56	55	63	>60
White Crappie												
% >8"								57	42	49	32	50-70
% >10"								18	13	23	7	15-30
% >12"								4	2	4	1	1-5
condition								82	83	89	84	90-100
fish/hr EF								56	336	155	129	70-120
fish/net night								-	-	3	3	15-20
Channel Catfish												
% >16"								100	100	98	100	50-70
% >18"								80	75	95	100	15-30
% >22"								60	0	48	25	5-10
condition								-	100	111	97	90-100
fish/hr EF								3	4	7	3	10-15
fish/net night								-	-	3	0	5-15
Sauger												
% >12"								-	0	100	95	40-60
% >14"								-	0	25	24	20-40
% >18"								-	0	0	0	10-20
% >20"								-	0	0	0	5-10
condition								-	84	74	85	90-110
fish/hr EF								0	1	2	5	15-25

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment: none

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

- conducted a spring trap net survey utilizing standard sampling protocol (15 – 1.5" trap nets) 4/19 – 20
- stocked 200 – 10-12" muskie fingerlings and 10,000 sauger fingerlings
- conducted a fall fish population survey utilizing standard sampling protocol (1 – 1.5 hr pulsed-DC electrofishing survey) 10/30

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