



IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary Waverly Lake

Location: Waverly Lake is in Morgan County, 3 miles northwest of Waverly, and 23 miles southwest of Springfield.

Area: 119 acres

Lake history and characteristics: The Division of Fisheries entered into a formal Cooperative Management Agreement with the City of Waverly in 1984. The lake has one boat ramp on the south side of the lake on Waverly Lake Road. The lake is mostly surrounded by hardwood timber offering an abundance of submerged snags and stumps for fish habitat.

Largemouth Bass: The Largemouth Bass catch rates remain low (CPUE = 26). Ideally, we would sample 60 or more Largemouth Bass in one hour of electrofishing. Fish collected ranged from 6.3-22.0" and weighed up to 5.7lbs. 21.7% (5 fish) of our sample reached 18" and are probably fish from the 2018 hatchery stocking.

Bluegill: This population is poor. The relative weights are excellent, but no fish were collected over 7". In lakes where Gizzard Shad are present Bluegill tend to exhibit slow growth due to competition for food resources.

Black and White Crappie: Two White Crappie were collected in 2019. These fish measured 9.8" and 10.6". Average body condition was good ($W_r = 95$). One Black Crappie was collected in 2019. It measured 8.3". No White Crappie were collected in 2017. Very few White Crappie were collected in 2016 and they were in poor body condition ($W_r=84$).

Channel Catfish: Six Channel Catfish were collected in 2019, ranging from 11.0-19.7", and the largest weighed 2.4lbs. Non-vulnerable Channel Catfish were last stocked in August of 2018. Prior to the 2018 stocking, Channel Catfish had not been stocked since 2000. There is a lack of predators and the lake is turbid, which suggests that catfish should do well in this lake. Channel Catfish will continue to be stocked on a biennial schedule.

Flathead Catfish: Flathead Catfish, a large predator fish, were discussed as a potential option for controlling undesirable fish species (e.g., Common Carp, Bullhead *spp.*, Gizzard Shad, etc.). Historic stocking records and survey data indicated that no Flathead Catfish were present in Waverly Lake. District Biologist, Blake Ruebush, and assisting field staff stocked 108 Flathead Catfish ranging from 3.5"-45.4" from 8/14-16/2019. The largest fish weighed 49.5lbs. 106 Fish were collected from the Alton Reach, IL River. Two fish came from the 2019 IL State Fair Display. 49 of the 108 fish were given a Floy-Tag and PIT-Tag to track recapture, growth, and harvest. Two Flathead Catfish were collected during the fall 2019 electrofishing survey. Flathead Catfish #23448 measured 14.1" when it was stocked on 8/14/2019 and 15.7" on 9/26/2019 when it was collected in the fall survey. The second Flathead Catfish collected measured 9.1" and was one of the unmarked fish that was released in August. Flathead Catfish stocking and tagging will occur again in 2020, as scheduling allows.

Other fish species: Other species collected during the population survey included Black Bullhead, Common Carp, Freshwater Drum, Green Sunfish, Gizzard Shad, Yellow Bullhead, and Yellow Bass.

Fishing Regulations: see the Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or www.IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates.

Two pole and line fishing only and each pole must not have more than 2 hooks or lures attached while fishing.
Channel Catfish - 6 fish daily harvest limit
Largemouth Bass – 6 fish daily harvest limit / 15” minimum length limit

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:

- none

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

- Conducted population surveys utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (2 – 30 min Pulsed-DC electrofishing runs) 9/26/2019. 564 fish were collected, representing 13 species. Water temperature was 73.5F.
- Collected flesh samples from Common Carp, Bluegill, and Largemouth Bass. Samples were sent to the IL EPA to test for contaminant levels.
- District Biologist and assisting field staff stocked 108 Flathead Catfish ranging from 3.5”-45.4” from 8/14-16/2019. The largest fish weighed 49.5lbs. 106 Fish were collected from the Alton Reach IL River. Two fish came from the 2019 IL State Fair Display. 49 of the 108 fish were given a Floy-Tag and PIT-Tag to track recapture, growth, and harvest.
- Conducted population surveys utilizing a standard sampling protocol (2 – 30 minute Pulsed-DC electrofishing runs) on 5/14/2019. Conducted population surveys utilizing Low-Pulse DC Electrofishing (3 – 15 minute Low Pulsed-DC electrofishing runs) on 5/14/2019. The purpose of these surveys was to further confirm that no Flathead Catfish were present in the lake. None were collected.
- Hatchery stocked 2,850 7” Channel Catfish on 8/14/2018.
- Hatchery stocked 50 4-7lb Brood Bass that were retired from egg production on June 8, 2018.