



# BOSS LAKE

## Mautino State Fish and Wildlife Area

### FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Boss Lake is located just south of Sheffield or 3 miles west of Buda, within the Mautino State Fish and Wildlife Area.

**DESCRIPTION** – Boss Lake was created by strip-mining in the 1950's. The lake did not open to the public until 1994 because of lack of roads and restroom facilities. Boss Lake has 15.5 surface acres of water. The lake has an average depth of 34 feet deep and a max depth of 48 feet. A single lane concrete boat ramp with car/trailer parking is available.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES** - The fishery is managed by species-specific surveys and fish stocking. Boss Lake receives an annual stocking of Channel catfish, Smallmouth bass and Redear sunfish.

**Largemouth Bass:**

Historically Boss Lake was sampled by nocturnal dc electrofishing, but later samples were done by day time electrofishing. After reviewing the data and the fact that the region was back to full staff and time permitted, it was decided to go back to the nocturnal surveys. The 2022 survey showed a very similar catch per unit effort (CPUE) of Largemouth bass to the 2019 survey. Population make up was also similar, 8-12 inch fish were the most common size group sampled, followed by 12-15 inch fish. The sampled population dynamics ensure the quality growth of sunfish.

<u>1.Management Plan Fall: Goal</u>			
	2019	2022	
# Stock (200mm)	>100	100	105
PSD	40-60	54	51
RSD 14	10-20	15	13
RSD 18	0-10	0	1
Effort(Min)		45	45

2.Spring nocturnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Boss Lake

<u>Year</u>	<u>&lt;8</u>	<u>8-12</u>	<u>12.1-15</u>	<u>15.1-20</u>	<u>&gt; 20</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019	25.3	61.3	61.3		10.7	158.6
2022	30.7	68.0	64.0		8.0	170.7

**Smallmouth Bass:**

Smallmouth Bass sampled in 2022 accounted for 8% of the total Black Bass sampled up from 4% in 2019. Population information should be used with caution due to low sample numbers.

<u>1.Management Plan Fall: Goal</u>		
	2019	2022
# Sampled		5 11
Effort(Min)		45 45

2.Spring nocturnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Boss Lake

<u>Year</u>	<u>&lt;7</u>	<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-13.8</u>	<u>13.8-16.9</u>	<u>&gt; 16.9</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019	2.7	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7
2022	1.3	8.0	4.0	1.3	0.0	14.6

**Bluegill:**

The 2022 sample showed an excellent Bluegill fishery that has great trophy fish opportunities. Catch rates for both 6-8- and 8-10-inch Bluegill were up from 2019 sample numbers. 11% of the 2022 sample was over 8 inches, 20% was over 7 inches.

<u>Management Plan:</u>	<u>Goal:</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2022</u>
#Stock(80mm)	>100	60	126
PSD	20-60	38	50
RSD 7	10-15	30	38
RSD 8	0-10	18	24

2.Spring nocturnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Boss Lake.

<u>Year</u>	<u>&lt;3</u>	<u>3.1-6</u>	<u>6.1-8</u>	<u>8.1-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019	52.0	49.3	16.0	14.7	132.0
2022	56.0	84.0	33.3	50.6	223.9

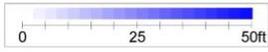
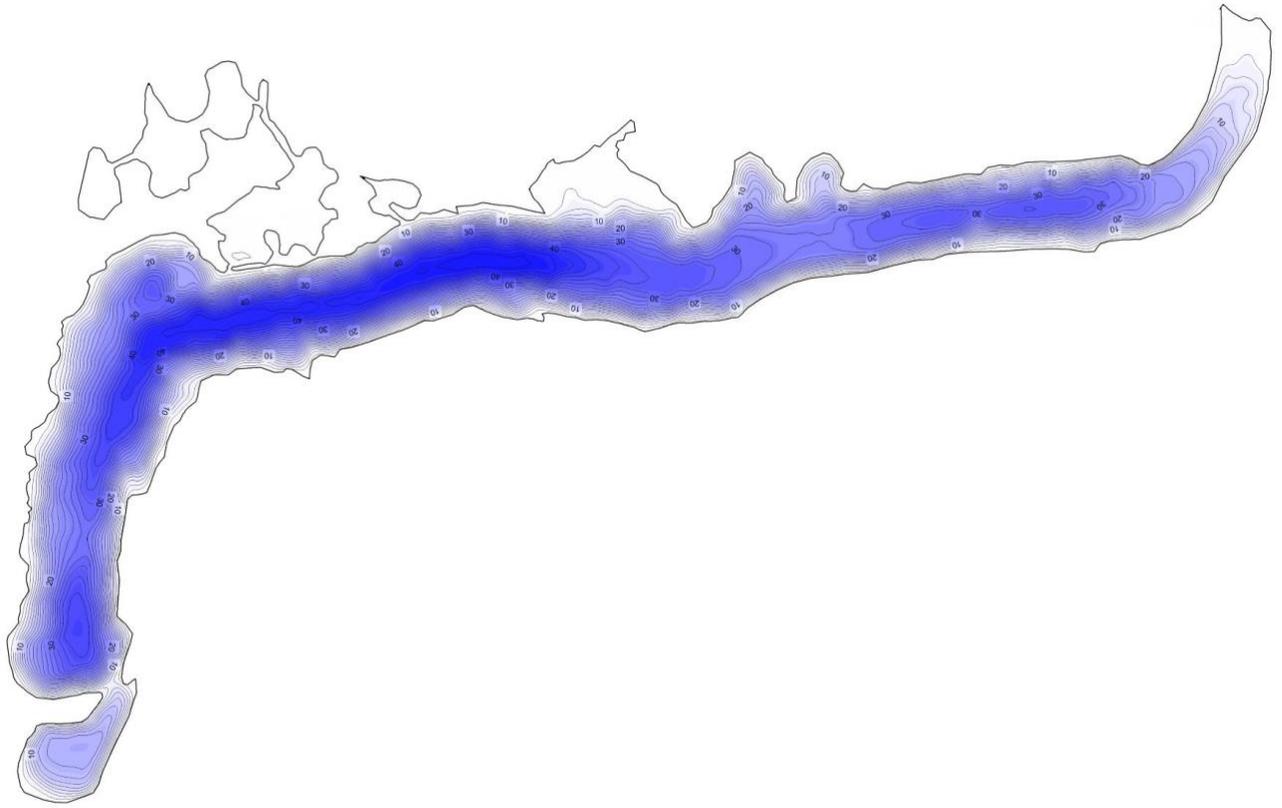
**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES** – Boss Lake supports a variety of fish species which include sunfish (redeer and green sunfish), smallmouth bass, channel catfish, yellow bullhead and others.

**FISHING REGULATIONS** – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

All Fish . . . . .	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
Large or Smallmouth Bass . . . . .	1 Fish Daily Creel Limit (14" Minimum Length Limit)
Bluegill or Redeer Sunfish . . . . .	10 Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)
Channel Catfish . . . . .	6 Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)
Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Walleye . . . . .	State Wide Regulations
White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie . . . . .	No Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park: 815-454-2328  
IDNR Fisheries County Biologist: 630-360-4185



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Mapping by AutoChart