



MAZONIA STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Goose Lake (Mazonia Lake #6)

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Goose Lake (Lake #6) is located within the Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area Main Unit, 3 miles southwest of Braidwood in Grundy County on Illinois Route 53 and Huston Road.

DESCRIPTION – Goose Lake is one of the smaller impoundments in the Mazonia Main Unit at 9.8 surface acres. Due to its proximity to the main access road, it receives a fair amount of bank fishing pressure. Under normal water level conditions Goose Lake is isolated from other lakes. However, higher water levels facilitate boat access to a smaller interior pond. Shoreline access is limited by extensive stands of tall reed grass but more of the shoreline is accessible on Goose Lake than most others. Goose Lake has a primitive, one-lane gravel boat ramp and adjacent parking area. Goose Lake is closed to fishing during upland game and waterfowl season. Following the completion of the hunting seasons, it reopens for ice fishing dependent upon ice conditions.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Goose Lake is surveyed on an as-needed basis. Fish stocking has included channel catfish and smallmouth bass (discontinued due to poor results).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS – The 2016 collection of largemouth bass improved from the previous survey but remained marginal in terms of accurately evaluating this population. Size distribution suggests reproduction and recruitment are occurring but at seemingly meager levels. The average size bass collected was just over 10” with few fish over 12” and none collected which were legal size.

BLUEGILL – The collection of bluegills increased to a modest, but otherwise all-time high in 2016. Size distribution suggests natural reproduction and recruitment with fish collected up to nearly 8”.

CRAPPIE – Very few crappie have ever been collected from Goose Lake but it is likely to support a small population. That fishery would not be considered noteworthy.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel catfish are stocked on a rotational basis to augment the population as natural reproduction and recruitment are suspected to be low. Harvestable-size catfish are likely removed as they are caught.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Yellow bullheads have been fairly prominent in most surveys and are an underutilized resource.

2016 IDNR Fall Survey Results

Species	Number of Fish Collected in each Length Category (Inch)								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total
Largemouth Bass	2	11	17	12	0	0	0	0	42
Bluegill	38	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Channel Catfish	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
Black Crappie	0	10	2	1	0	0	0	0	13
Yellow Bullhead	3	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	17

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:

Boaters - Trolling motor only, except Monster and Ponderosa Lake – gasoline outboards allowed, no wake

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 10 fish daily creel limit on Ponderosa, unlimited elsewhere

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 10 fish daily creel limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area: 815/237-0063.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.