



# MAZONIA STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

## Carp Lake (Mazonia Lake #8)

### FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Carp Lake (Lake #8) 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** – Carp Lake is an intermediate-sized impoundment in the Mazonia Main Unit covering 17.6 surface acres. It is connected by a narrow channel to Gar Lake (Lake #9). Shoreline access is limited by extensive stands of tall reed grass. The lake has a one-lane concrete boat ramp with adjacent parking. Carp 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:** Carp Lake surveyed on an alternate year basis. Fish stocking is presently limited to channel catfish.

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

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Electrofishing catch rates nearly doubled in 2017, but this is due to the influence of young-of-the-year bass, which were very abundant. The number of bass 8” and larger continued to decline; the average size bass collected was 8.4”. On a somewhat positive note, the number of legal size bass did increase.

**BLUEGILL** – The results of the 2017 survey suggest an improving bluegill fishery. The average length for bluegills collected was 5.7” which is the highest it has been for several years. Larger bluegills, those which were 7” or more, accounted for nearly one-quarter of the survey collection.

**CRAPPIE** – The crappie fishery at Carp Lake is dominated by white crappie (black crappie numbers have been insignificant) but this species has proven difficult to sample. Electrofishing has generally failed to adequately sample crappie and to that end, collection numbers have dwindled over the past few surveys. However, this alleged “gear bias” does not hold entirely true. Early spring trap netting surveys conducted in 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005 never yielded high catch rates as netting efficiency ranged from just 0.9 to 3.1 crappie per net night. The highest white crappie collection to date occurred in 2009 with a total of 102 sampled, 98 of which were collected by electrofishing. The 2017 survey yielded a very poor sample of 3 white crappie averaging 10.8”.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Surveys tend to produce a very low number of channel catfish but site reports indicate anglers have reasonable success although Carp Lake is not thought of as one of the better lakes for channel catfish.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:** A variety of other species which can be caught include common carp, bullheads and several gar species.

**Length of Selected Species Collected in the 2017 Fall Survey (all gear types combined)**

Species	Number of Fish Caught in Each Length Group (Inches)								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total
Largemouth bass	40	29	22	17	16	1	0	0	125
Bluegill	35	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
Crappie (white and black)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Channel catfish	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Yellow bass	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

**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.