



IDNR – Fisheries

2017 Lake Status Summary

Ashland New Reservoir



Location: Northwest Morgan County, 3 miles southwest of Ashland off of Rt. 123 and Collins Rd., 21 miles northwest of Springfield
Area: 10 acres

Lake history and characteristics: The Ashland New Reservoir is owned by the Village of Ashland and was constructed in 1978 as a secondary water supply. The Village of Ashland entered into a formal Cooperative Management Agreement with IDNR in 1988. The first step taken was a complete rehabilitation of the lake and subsequent restocking. The lake is 10 acres and has a maximum depth of approximately 20 feet. Boats are allowed with electric trolling motors only. There is a one lane gravel ramp on the north end of the lake and the entire shoreline is accessible to bank fishing.

Largemouth bass: The 15" minimum length limit that had been in place since 1988 was removed in April of 2007. Since, the number of >15" bass has increased. Our 2016 summer population survey showed 36% of catchable sized bass to measure over 15", which is much higher compared to the last survey in 2011 that showed only 4% measuring greater than 15". The regulation change has resulted in a shift in size structure, although there is still a high density of bass (360/hr in 2016). Bass body condition has increased over the last ten years to 97 in 2016. Increasing the potential for this high density population to grow to larger sizes should positively affect the bluegill and redear sunfish population. Larger bass can consume larger sunfish, which should allow the remaining sunfish to grow even larger. 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.

Bluegill: The bluegill population is doing great, although not as good as in past years. All bluegill population indices were within the desired ranges. Eleven percent of the catchable population measured over 7", while 6% measured over 8". The current bluegill/redear sunfish regulation is 10 fish/day. This quality bluegill fishery should provide anglers with excellent fishing opportunities for years to come.

Redear sunfish: The 2016 summer survey did not produce as many redear as we hoped, but if we had been able to conduct the survey a month earlier we would have had different results. Nonetheless, the redear sunfish population looks to be healthy. We collected 30 redear/hr electrofishing, of which 30% of the catchable population measured over 8" and 10% measured over 10". Redear were in good body condition (Wr = 100). Much like the bluegill population, the redear sunfish population should provide anglers with excellent fishing opportunities.

Channel catfish: We collected only 2 channel catfish during the summer 2016 survey. These two catfish measured 22-23" and weighed 4.6 – 4.9 lbs. The IDNR will continue to stock non-vulnerable sized channel catfish biennially, or as State Hatchery production allows, in order to maintain angling opportunities for this species. Catfish are regulated with a 6 fish/day creel limit. 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.

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

2 pole and line fishing only - each pole must not have more than 2 hooks or lures attached while fishing.

Bluegill/Redear - creel limit of 10 per day.



Channel catfish – creel limit of 6 per day.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Management Objectives
Largemouth Bass												
% >12"	41	14	89	59		48					68	40-60
% >15"	13	2	4	15		4					36	10-25
% >18"				4		0					1	5-10
condition	90	94	-	95		93					97	90-110
fish/hr EF	166	98	252	93		125					360	60-75
Bluegill												
% >6"	33	6	26	41		56					28	25-45
% >7"	16	0	3	39		36					11	10-20
% >8"	11	0	0	20		7					6	5-10
condition	111	107	-	104		111					98	90-110
fish/hr EF	128	36	62	70		127					284	>75
Redear sunfish												
% >7"	46	100	18	100		93					40	25-45
% >8"	34	100	5	97		78					30	10-20
% >10"	2	0	5	32		55					10	5-10
condition	125	126	-	123		116					100	90-110
fish/hr EF	82	14	44	55		161					30	>50
Channel Catfish												
% >16"		-	-	-	-						100	50-60
% >18"											100	10-20
% >20"	138										100	5-15
condition											114	90-100
fish/hr EF				2	-						6	10-20

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment: none

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

-conducted a summer electrofishing population survey
6/10/16

Fish biologist:

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