



IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary Mauvaise Terre Lake

Location: Southeast edge of Jacksonville. 30 miles west of Springfield just north of I-72.

Area: 172 acres; maximum depth 11’.

Lake history and characteristics: Mauvaise Terre Lake is a turbid lake with a maximum depth of 11 feet located near the dam. It has a gravel boat ramp on the west shoreline and has good shoreline fishing access on the southwest and south shorelines. Below is an update on the fish community in Mauvaise Terre Lake.

Largemouth Bass: Historically the Largemouth Bass population has been composed of a low number of individuals in average body condition. The dense Common Carp population was thought to hinder Largemouth Bass feeding and reproduction by creating turbid water and disrupting bass nests during the spawn. In 2015, the catch rate was poor (CPUE = 26). In subsequent years the Largemouth Bass catch rates have improved. Surveys conducted in 2018 (CPUE = 60), 2019 (CPUE = 45), and 2020 (CPUE = 78) yielded improved catch rates. Ideally, 60 or more Largemouth Bass would be sampled in one hour of electrofishing. 34.2% (13 fish) of catchable size fish in the 2019 sample reached 15”. 5.3% (2 fish) exceeded 18”. Body condition was average in 2019 ($W_r = 103$). In 2020, nearly 38% of the catchable bass population exceeded 15”, and 10% exceeded 18”. Relative Weights remained high in 2020 ($W_r = 104$).

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

Black and White Crappie: The White Crappie is the dominant crappies species in this lake. This population is average but showed promise for good fishing in 2020. 38 White Crappie were collected with 70% of the catchable population exceeding 9”, and 8% exceeding 12”. Average body condition was improved from 2019 ($W_r = 93$) to 2020 ($W_r = 98$). 16 White Crappie were collected in 2019. These fish measured 5.9-11.0”. The 2018 survey yielded similar results to 2019, where 15 fish were collected, ranging from 6.5-12.1”. The 2015 fall fish survey showed a catch rate of 33 White Crappie per hour of electrofishing ranging in size from 6.0-12.0”. Only one Black Crappie was collected in 2020, measuring just over 6”. The largest White Crappie ever collected during an electrofishing survey measured over 15” and weighed 1.8 lbs.

Channel Catfish: Thirteen Channel Catfish were collected in 2020. 33% of the catchable Channel Catfish population exceeded 18”. Eleven Channel Catfish were collected in 2019, ranging from 10.2-14.6”. In 2018, four Channel Catfish were sampled, ranging from 9.4-22.0”. Historically the Channel Catfish population has been excellent both in quantity and quality. Channel Catfish are collected every year in good numbers and are typically in excellent body condition.

Other fish species: Other species present in this lake include Bigmouth Buffalo, Black Bullhead, Brown 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.
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) 9/30/2020. 449 fish were collected, representing 11 species. Water temperature was 66.7F.
- Conducted population surveys utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (2 – 30 min Pulsed-DC electrofishing runs) 9/27/2019. 409 fish were collected, representing 10 species. Water temperature was 71.1F.
- Conducted population surveys utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (2 – 30 min Pulsed-DC electrofishing runs) 9/25/2018. 385 fish were collected, representing 10 species. Water temperature was 74.8F.