



NIPPERSINK LAKE (LCFPD)

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Located west of the Village of Hainsville, IL on Route 120 in Lake County.

DESCRIPTION – Nippersink Lake is owned by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. This impoundment was constructed in 1965 and acquired by the Forest Preserve District around 2005. Nippersink Lake is 13 acres; shoreline length 1.7 miles; watershed 225 acres (4 to 1); maximum depth 17 feet; average depth 4 feet. The lake is one of the Counties fishing clinic locations so is managed as a “Catch and Release” lake. There is no concession or boat access available. Amenities include ample parking, pit toilets, handicap fishing piers and a crushed limestone trail system.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Nippersink Lake is occasionally stocked with fish to enhance fishing opportunities for fishing clinics the County sponsors. Fish surveys are occasionally conducted to remove common carp (which stir up the soft sediments and disrupt spawning of nest building fishes) and assess the fishery present in the lake.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body, survey results are from the north pool.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In 2015, 38 largemouth bass were collected in 30 minutes of DC electrofishing. This was slightly higher than our goal of 1 fish/minute. Bass ranged from 4” to 18.2” long, the largest weighing 3.2 lbs., 62% were over 12” long, 38% were over 14”, 19% exceeded 15” long and 14% of the sample exceeded 16” so the size structure is in place to provide quality bass fishing and improve panfish size structure so anglers can enjoy their fishing experience.

BLUEGILL – In 2015, 142 Bluegill were collected during the survey. They ranged from 2” to 7.8” long , 32% of the catch were over 6” 2.6% were over 7” long and 1% were over 7.5” long. Growing larger bluegill depends on a higher bass abundance so predation can contain reproduction and open up space for fish to grow.

BLACK and WHITE CRAPPIE – 33 Black and 4 White Crappie were collected. Black crappie measured between 5” and 11.8”, 12.5% were longer than 9”, 3% were over 10” long and 3% exceeded 12”. White crappie all ranged about 8.5” in size. Very strong predation is necessary to contain and manage for crappie in a very small lake like Nippersink. They have the potential to become very abundant and dominate this fishery over time, at which point all crappie will stockpile at about 8” to 9” long.

CHANNEL CATFISH – This species is stocked as part of the Counties Fishing Clinic Program. We collected fish between 19” and 21” long which provide for some “bulldog” fights at the ends of the line! Channel catfish are good secondary predators and provide diversity to the fishery.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Approximately 7 species live in this small County impoundment. Additional fish species include: Common carp, green sunfish and central mudminnow. Mudminnows were observed in the shallow southern section of the lake.

FISHING REGULATIONS – Catch and Release only (All species).

CONTACT INFORMATION – Lake County Forest Preserve District: 847/367-6640.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 815/675-2319.

Nippersink Lake Map

