



BURNING STAR STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA – SHOP LAKE

2021 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Shop Lake is accessed from State Route 149 in Jackson County. From 149 turn north onto Mine Road to the south parking lot for the Burning Star complex which is located between DeSoto and Hurst.

DESCRIPTION: There are no facilities or boat ramps at this 24 acre lake. All fishing is walk-in only and no gas motors are allowed.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Largemouth Bass (LMB) – Thirty-one LMB (5-19 inches) were collected in the 2020 fall electrofishing survey. Prior to its opening to the public in April 2016, it appears this lake had a bass crowded population which is beginning to be reduced by angler harvest. As more of the smaller bass below the 14-18 protected slot limit are harvested, the remaining smaller bass will grow into the protected slot limit. Once in the protected slot limit, the growth rates of the bass should increase leading to an increase in the number larger bass in the lake in the next 3-5 years.

Crappie – No crappie were collected in the 2020 survey.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is poor. No bluegill over 7 inches were collected in the 2020 survey.

Redear Sunfish – No redear sunfish were collected in the 2020 survey.

Channel Catfish – No catfish were collected during the 2020 survey.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14” and 1 over 18”	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Crappie	25	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	Bow fishing is allowed

RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS – From November 1 through the end of February fishing is prohibited. No vehicular access is allowed past the gates. No gas motors allowed.

MAPS/CONTACTS – A map of the 24 lakes located on Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area can be obtained via email by sending a request to Shawn.Hirst@illinois.gov

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