



Herrin #1 Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Herrin #1 Lake is a 60-acre city-owned impoundment located on the southwest edge of Herrin, Illinois in Williamson County. The lake is partially surrounded by homes and a golf course and has an improved boat ramp. A fairly significant oxygen-related fish kill occurred in Herrin #1 Lake in September 2010, and the fish community has rebounded well.

Largemouth bass: Abundance of largemouth bass in Herrin #1 Lake, based on electrofishing catch-per-unit-effort in 2018 was lower in 2019 (more comparable to the rate in 2016). Largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 182 per hour. Of these, 38% were over 12 inches, which dipped just below the management plan goal, and 5% were larger than the lake's 15 inch minimum length limit. Bass body condition was better than the previous 5 years in 2019 and was just above the management plan goal range.

Bluegill: Bluegill were collected from Herrin #1 Lake during the 2019 survey at a substantially lower rate compared to the previous year, but quality of these fish was similar. The bluegill electrofishing catch rate was 54 per hour, and 79% were over 6 inches (still greatly exceeding the management plan goal). Also, fifty-four percent were larger than 7 inches. Bluegill body condition stayed excellent.

Redear: Redear abundance was low in 2019 sampling of Herrin #1 Lake (12/hr), which is normal. However, 67% of redear were greater than 8 inches and body condition was excellent.

Channel catfish: Ten channel catfish were collected per hour of electrofishing during the 2019 survey, which was down from the previous year. These fish ranged from 18 to 24 inches in length, and their condition was excellent. The channel catfish population is normally maintained by stocking every other year, but an additional 1,000 non-vulnerable channel catfish were stocked in 2019 because of a hatchery surplus.

Crappie: Crappie are generally very scarce, and both black and white crappie were collected at a rate of 6/hour in the 2019 sample. All crappie had substandard body condition

Regulations in effect: Largemouth bass – 15 inch length limit and 3 per day creel limit. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel limit. Electric motors only. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information. A city permit is required for accessing Herrin #1 Lake. Contact the city clerk at 618-942-3175 for more information.

Additional Fisheries Information can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Luke Nelson at 618-364-5381