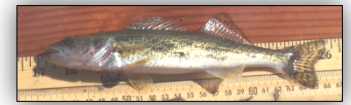
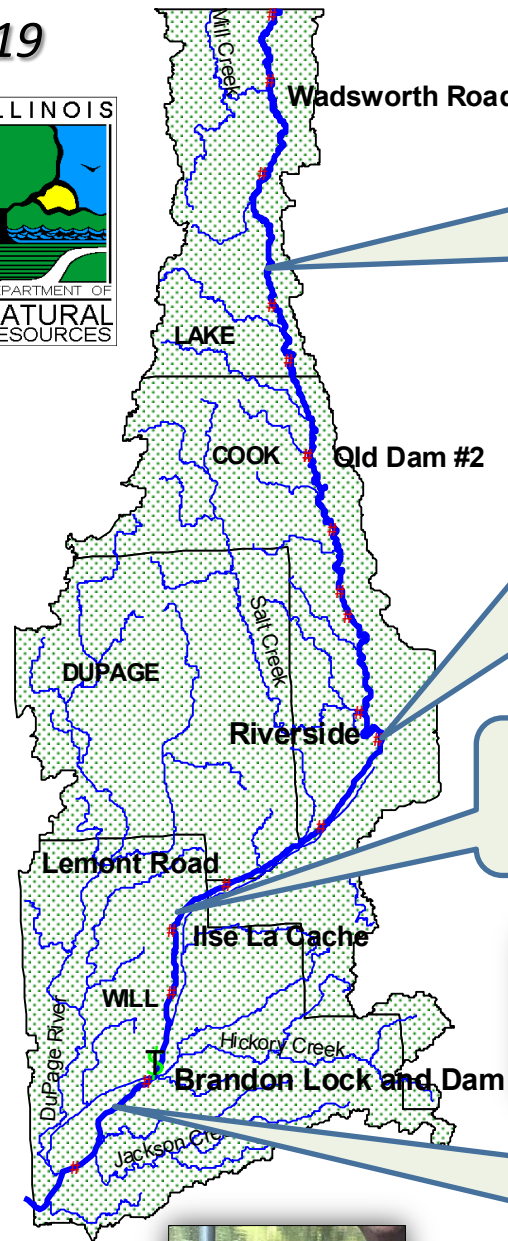


Des Plaines River Fishery Fact Sheet - 2019

Over the past thirty years the Des Plaines River has transformed from a highly degraded stream to a thriving urban fishery. Much of the river is bordered by Forest Preserves with many access areas. In 2018, IDNR Fisheries sampled 17 locations on the mainstem of the river using boat electrofishing. Stations are shown as red dots on the map. (See reverse side for additional information).

- **Northern Pike** catch rate was five per hour in the low gradient area upstream of Riverside; most locations held fish up to 26 inches in length.
- **Largemouth Bass** catch rate was 44 per hour at upstream stations around Wadsworth Road. Larger fish were more common downstream around Lemont Road and Isle La Cache where catch rates for 12 to 18 inch fish ranged from 8 to 17 per hour.
- **Bluegill** were at an all time high. Lake County and Northern Cook County sites produced 88 fish per hour vs. 14 per hour in the downstream areas. Bluegill in the 5 to 6 inch range were very abundant.
- **Rock Bass** also increased in 2018 with hotspots at Old Dam #2, Riverside, and Lemont Road. Catch rate was 40 per hour, with 40% of fish in the 6 to 8 inch range.
- **Channel Catfish** numbers were near average river-wide; 16-24 inch present throughout the river. Riverside and Lemont Road were the best spots with catch rates up to 26 per hour.
- **Smallmouth Bass** showed a sharp increase in the lower river; 170 collected in 2018 around Lemont Road, compared to 28 in 2013. Record high catch rates of 68 and 83 fish per hour at the Isle La Cache and Division Street locations. Catch rate for 12 to 16 inch fish averaged 24 per hour. These catch rates are comparable to the Fox and Kankakee Rivers.
- **Sauger** only 14 collected in 2018. Size ranged from 4 to 17 inches. IDNR stocks 20,000 two-inch Sauger per year, which has previously produced catch rates from 14 to 40 per hour.
- **Walleye** were variable; typically found only at Riverside.
- See reverse side and www.ifishillinois.org for more information.



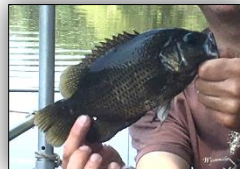
Upper River
 Largemouth Bass***
 Northern Pike**
 Rock Bass**
 Bluegill***

Middle River
 Smallmouth Bass**
 Channel Catfish***
 Walleye**
 Sauger**
 Rock Bass***
 Crappie **

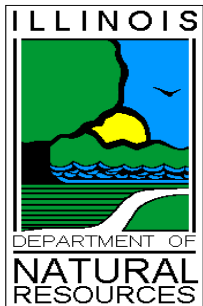
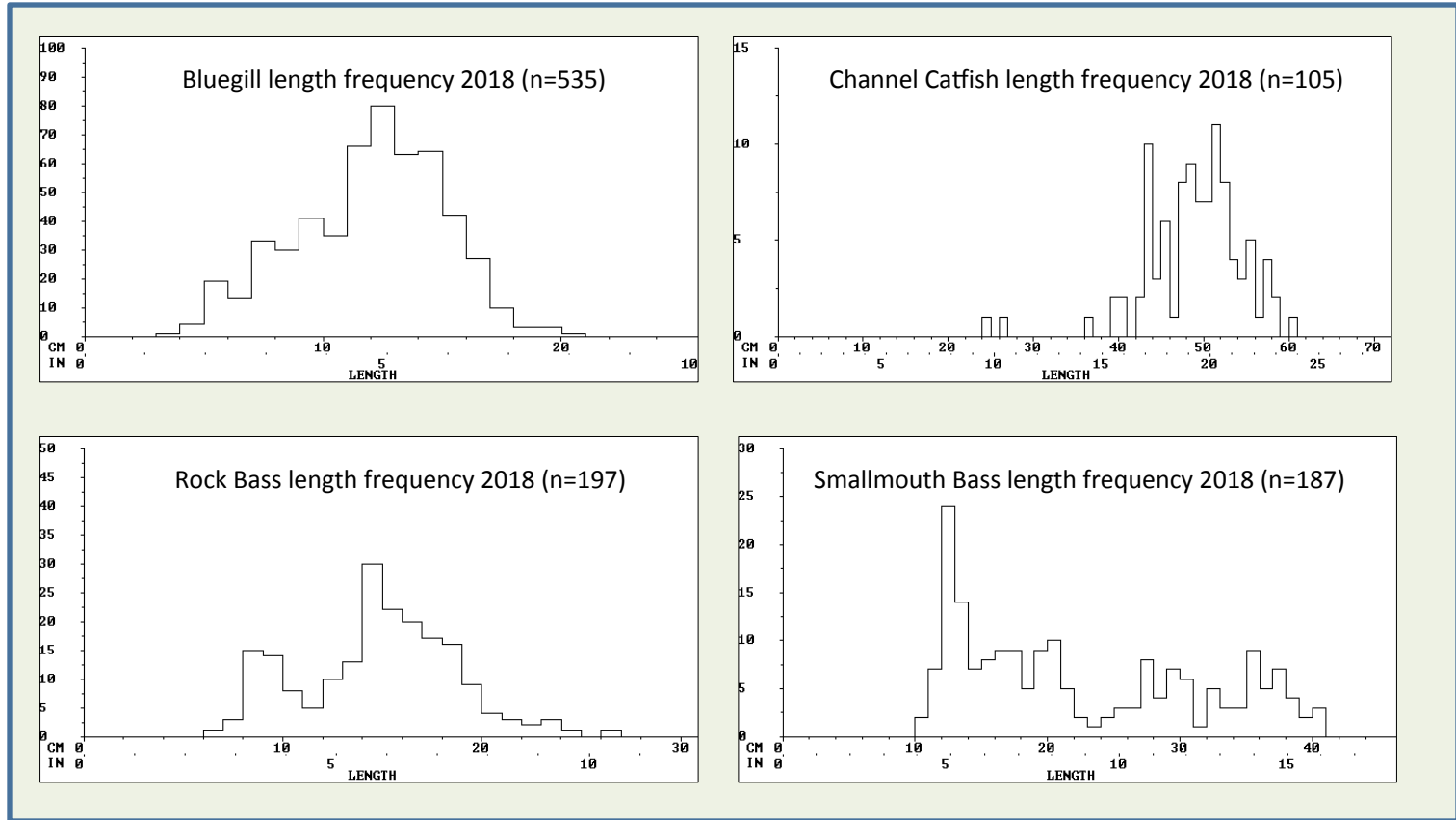
Lower River
 Channel Catfish***
 Largemouth Bass***
 Smallmouth Bass****



Dresden Dam Pool
 Largemouth Bass***
 Bluegill**
 Channel Catfish**



Key: Fair** / Good*** / Excellent ****



Typical Length at Age for Illinois Sportfish									
Age in Years	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bluegill	3	4.6	5.7	6.6	7.4	8.4			
Channel catfish	6.4	9.6	12.6	14.3	16.7	18.5	21	22.6	25.6
Largemouth bass	6.3	9.0	11.6	13.5	15.8	17.4	18.9	19.8	20.3
Northern pike	19.0	23.5	25.2	27.8	28.4	31.1	32.5		
Rock bass	4.0	5.3	6.6	7.7	9.0	10.0			
Smallmouth bass	5.5	8.1	10.1	12.1	13.1	14.0	14.5	15.4	16.2