



Du Quoin City Lake

2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Du Quoin City Lake is located in Perry County north of Du Quoin. From center of town take State Route 51 North for approximately 4 miles and turn east onto City Lake Road.

DESCRIPTION: This 210-acre impoundment has a shoreline length of 12 miles and a maximum depth of 16 feet. Much of the lake is relatively shallow and is surrounded by spatterdock (yellow cow lily) along the shoreline, which provides excellent fish habitat. There is a gravel boat ramp, but no docks, restrooms or concessions are available and parking in the gravel lot is limited. The city of Du Quoin now requires payment of a daily use fee or purchase of an annual pass to use the public boat ramp.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Du Quoin City Lake supports a quality multispecies fishery. The following is a summary of game fish populations based on a multi-gear fall survey completed in 2023.

Largemouth Bass – Bass abundance in Du Quoin City Lake is still relatively low, although size structure is favorable. During the 2023 fall electrofishing survey, bass were collected at a rate of 62/hour, barely exceeding the management goal of 60/hour. Of the bass collected, 17% were at least 15 inches and 5% were at least 18 inches. Body condition of bass in the sample was relatively good with the mean relative weight at 93. Given that bass abundance is relatively low, but size structure and growth are favorable, regulations will be changing to a reduced creel limit of 3/day and a 15” minimum length limit, effective April 1, 2024.

Crappie – Du Quoin City Lake contains a good crappie fishery consisting of Black, White, and Hybrid Crappie. During the 2023 fall survey, a total of 147 crappie were collected in trap nets, which exceeded the management goal of 10/net night). Of crappie in the sample, 8 were Black Crappie, 130 were White Crappie, and 9 were hybrids. About 60% of crappie collected in trap nets were over 9 inches and 31% were over 10 inches. Otolith age data collected during previous surveys showed that growth rates for both Black and White Crappie were relatively good. In summary, the crappie population is in good condition and anglers should expect quality fishing opportunities.

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – The Bluegill fishery in Du Quoin City Lake is relatively good for a lake with an abundance of Gizzard Shad. During the 2023 fall survey, 121 Bluegill were collected while electrofishing, of which 24% were over 7 inches and 1% were over 8 inches. The high density of Gizzard Shad in the lake is likely a limiting factor for Bluegill growth. The Redear Sunfish population in Du Quoin City Lake is among the best in southern Illinois, containing an abundance of adults in the 9–11” range. Of the 44 Redear collected during the 2023 electrofishing survey, 39% were over 9 inches, and 16% were over 10 inches. Mean relative weight was excellent at 100, indicating an ample forage base of mollusks in the lake. Anglers should expect excellent angling opportunities for Redear.

Channel Catfish – Over 11,000 Channel Catfish were stocked from 2020 through 2022 to supplement poor natural recruitment and increase angler satisfaction. For the first time, several catfish were collected while electrofishing during the fall survey, indicating that stockings have been effective at increasing abundance. In addition, baited hoop nets were also set during the fall survey to specifically target Channel Catfish. A total of 53 Channel Catfish were collected in hoop nets. Catfish in the sample ranged from 12 to 26 inches in length, the largest weighing nearly 8 lbs. In summary, survey results suggest the catfish population has been improving due to stocking efforts. In addition to enhancing angling opportunities, it is hoped that larger Channel Catfish will utilize the abundant stock of Gizzard Shad as prey. Catfish stockings will continue to occur each year that surplus fish are available from state hatcheries.

Saugeye – The primary reason for stocking Saugeye is to provide an additional predator of Gizzard Shad. Over 11,000 Saugeye fingerlings were stocked in Du Quoin City Lake during 2022. However, insufficient numbers were available from the state hatchery system for a repeat stocking in 2023. During the 2023 fall survey, one 15" Saugeye was collected. Additional year classes of Saugeye will be stocked if adequate numbers are available from the state hatchery system.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Crappie	25	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Largemouth Bass	3	15 inches

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952.