



Du Quoin Fairgrounds – Long Cut Lake

2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: The Du Quoin State Fairgrounds are located within the city of Du Quoin, IL in Perry County. Long Cut Lake is located on the northwest side of the fairgrounds.

DESCRIPTION: This lake is a 40-acre strip cut that is mostly surrounded by the state fairgrounds. There is no boat ramp open to the public. However, most of the lake shore is well maintained and is accessible to shore anglers. This lake receives a considerable amount of fishing pressure due to the ease of public access and location within the city of Du Quoin.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The fish community in Long Cut Lake is surveyed by IDNR every other year using a combination of electrofishing and nets. The following is a summary of game fish populations based on a 30-minute spring electrofishing survey and a fall netting survey conducted in 2023.

Largemouth Bass – Long Cut Lake contains an abundance of small bass in the 10–12" range. A total of 148 Largemouth Bass were collected during the 30-minute spring electrofishing survey. Of the bass collected, 93% were under 12 inches in length. Very few bass over 12 inches were collected, although a small number of larger fish in excess of 5 lbs. are present.

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – Bluegill collected during the 2023 electrofishing survey demonstrated relatively good body condition and growth potential. Several Bluegill in the 7-to-8-inch range were collected, along with one individual that exceeded 8 inches. Anglers should expect to find quality-size Bluegill in Long Cut Lake. Redear growth also appears to be very good. Individuals collected during the 2023 survey ranged from 8 to 11 inches in length. The largest was over 11 inches and weighed 1.1 lbs.

Black Crappie – Black Crappie are present in Long Cut Lake. Very few have been collected during surveys, but individuals over 12 inches are present.

Channel Catfish – IDNR stocks roughly 1,500 (8-10-inch) Channel Catfish in Long Cut Lake every year. These stockings support a popular fishery among local anglers, who often harvest their catch. During the 2023 netting survey, a total of 21 Channel Catfish were collected in three overnight gill net sets. Catfish in the sample ranged from 9 to 25 inches in length, the largest weighing in at 6 lbs.

Yellow Bass – Although not targeted by many anglers, Yellow Bass can provide excellent angling opportunities in lakes where growth is sufficient. Yellow Bass also provide excellent table fare due to their invertebrate diet. Long Cut Lake harbors a quality Yellow Bass population with many fish in the 10 – 12" range. 50 Yellow Bass were collected during the 2023 netting survey, of which 44% were between 10 and 12 inches in length.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Largemouth Bass	3	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

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