



HENNEPIN CANAL

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – The Hennepin Canal is a 104.5 mile linear park that spans (Rock Island, Henry, Bureau, Lee, and Whiteside Counties). Construction began on the Canal in 1890 and was completed in 1907. The Canal became a State Park in 1970.

DESCRIPTION – The Hennepin Canal spans 5 counties. The Visitors Center is located just south of Interstate 80 just off Highway 40. The Canal is 925 acres with an average depth of 5 feet; the canal is 104.5 miles long and averages about 90 feet wide. The majority of the Canal is accessible to bank angling. Boating is permitted with a maximum 10 horsepower limit. All boats should try to operate with “no wake” to protect the shoreline from wave erosion. The Hennepin Canal has 10 concrete boat ramps and 1 gravel boat ramp. There is no concession on the canal. However, there are many cities near the Canal that offer bait, food and supplies.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - The fishery is managed by annual species-specific surveys and stocking. The Hennepin Canal receives an annual stocking of Largemouth bass and Sauger. Trout are stocked at the Visitor Center Lagoon in the spring and fall.

Largemouth Bass:

The feeder canal has a history of low Largemouth abundance until you get to the lower end of the Feeder near the summit pool. The longer middle pools, stations 2-4, of the Hennepin canal provide the best habitat for bass.

Station 1

Year	<7.9	7.9-11.8	11.8-15	15-20.1	> 20.1	Total
2017	5.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	12.0
2019	4.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	9.0
2021	0.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
2023	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	3.9
Avg W _r (116)		(110)	(106)			

Station 2

Year	<7.9	7.9-11.8	11.8-15	15-20.1	> 20.1	Total
2017	21.0	34.0	35.0	5.0	0.0	95.0
2019	15.0	26.0	21.0	5.0	0.0	67.0
2021	39.0	36.0	37.0	5.0	0.0	117.0
Avg W _r (110)		(101)	(95)	(90)		
2023	17.0	59.0	35.0	9.0	1.0	121.0
Avg W _r (97)		(95)	(89)	(86)	(81)	

Station 3

Year	<7.9	7.9-11.8	11.8-15	15-20.1	> 20.1	Total
2017	16.0	44.0	29.0	5.0	0.0	94.0
2019	27.0	50.0	31.0	7.0	0.0	115.0
2021	20.0	29.0	22.0	4.0	0.0	75.0
Avg W _r (122)		(104)	(95)	(94)		

2023	6.0	65.0	44.0	14.0	0.0	129.0
Avg Wr	(116)	(102)	(94)	(93)		

Station 4

Year	<7.9	7.9-11.8	11.8-15	15-20.1	> 20.1	Total
2017	13.0	45.0	37.0	25.0	0.0	120.0
2019	46.0	84.0	19.0	5.0	0.0	154.0
2021	16.0	51.0	35.0	4.0	0.0	106.0
Avg Wr	(112)	(97)	(88)	(94)		
2023	3.0	20.0	15.0	2.0	0.0	40.0
Avg Wr	(99)	(93)	(88)			

Station 5

Year	<7.9	7.9-11.8	11.8-15	15-20.1	> 20.1	Total
2017	8.0	10.0	18.0	28.0	0.0	64.0
2019	14.0	8.0	14.0	8.0	0.0	44.0
2021	16.0	12.0	8.0	2.0	0.0	38.0
Avg Wr	(107)	(107)	(90)	(92)		
2023	44.0	10.0	6.0	8.0	0.0	68.0
Avg Wr	(99)	(100)	(88)	(88)		

Station 6

Year	<7.9	7.9-11.8	11.8-15	15-20.1	> 20.1	Total
2017	2.0	10.0	8.0	12.0	0.0	32.0
2019	24.0	18.0	4.0	2.0	0.0	48.0
2021	8.0	8.0	8.0	2.0	0.0	26.0
Avg Wr		(101)	(92)	(81)		
2023						
Avg Wr		(101)	(92)	(81)		

Station 8

Year	<7.9	7.9-11.8	11.8-15	15-20.1	> 20.1	Total
2017	18.0	8.0	30.0	24.0	0.0	80.0
2019	10.0	14.0	12.0	4.0	0.0	40.0
2021	88.0	10.0	8.0	2.0	0.0	108.0
Avg Wr	(102)	(102)	(111)	(92)		
2023	46.0	40.0	28.0	0.0	0.0	114.0
Avg Wr	(119)	(99)	(95)			

Bluegill:

Bluegills are abundant throughout the entire canal system. The middle, Stations 2-4, pools typically have the best populations. Relative Weights throughout the system remain excellent for most size groups.

Station 1

Year	<3.1	3.1-5.9	5.9-7.9	7.9-10	Total
2017	18.0	49.0	12.0	0.0	79.0
2019	24.0	15.0	8.0	0.0	47.0
2021	18.0	94.0	10.0	0.0	122.0
Avg Wr		(122)	(108)		
2023	6.7	54.7	41.3	0.0	102.7
Avg Wr		(132)	(125)		

Station 2

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.1</u>	<u>3.1-5.9</u>	<u>5.9-7.9</u>	<u>7.9-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017	3.0	244.0	89.0	0.0	336.0
2019	70.0	139.0	42.0	0.0	251.0
2021	23.0	156.0	89.0	0.0	268.0
Avg Wr		(125)	(115)		
2023	45.0	139.0	111.0	0.0	295.0
Avg Wr		(121)	(108)		

Station 3

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.1</u>	<u>3.1-5.9</u>	<u>5.9-7.9</u>	<u>7.9-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017	1.0	164.0	58.0	0.0	223.0
2019	96.0	398.0	82.0	0.0	576.0
2021	72.0	163.0	40.0	0.0	275.0
Avg Wr		(119)	(116)		
2023	36.0	792.0	297.0	0.0	1125.0
Avg Wr		(126)	(113)		

Station 4

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.1</u>	<u>3.1-5.9</u>	<u>5.9-7.9</u>	<u>7.9-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017	0.0	134.0	52.0	0.0	186.0
2019	27.0	232.0	37.0	0.0	296.0
2021	21.0	92.0	53.0	0.0	166.0
Avg Wr		(110)	(105)		
2023	42.0	169.0	39.0	0.0	250.0
Avg Wr		(108)	(105)		

Station 5

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.1</u>	<u>3.1-5.9</u>	<u>5.9-7.9</u>	<u>7.9-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017	4.0	400.0	144.0	0.0	548.0
2019	40.0	236.0	216.0	0.0	492.0
2021	12.0	240.0	184.0	0.0	436.0
Avg Wr		(115)	(101)		
2023	128.0	448.0	144.0	0.0	720.0
Avg Wr		(115)	(101)		

Station 6

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.1</u>	<u>3.1-5.9</u>	<u>5.9-7.9</u>	<u>7.9-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017	8.0	164.0	46.0	0.0	218.0
2019	4.0	122.0	80.0	0.0	206.0
2021	92.0	160.0	24.0	0.0	302.0
Avg Wr		(104)	(104)		
2023	72.0	184.0	112.0	0.0	368.0
Avg Wr		(118)	(119)		

Station 8

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.1</u>	<u>3.1-5.9</u>	<u>5.9-7.9</u>	<u>7.9-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017	0.0	342.0	192.0	0.0	534.0
2019	24.0	102.0	76.0	0.0	202.0
2021	20.0	68.0	30.0	0.0	118.0
Avg Wr		(113)	(98)		
2023	90.0	1116.0	36.0	0.0	1242.0
Avg Wr		(114)	(107)		

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES – The Hennepin Canal supports a variety of fish species which include Flathead catfish, Channel catfish, Crappie species, Common carp, and others.

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

- All Fish 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
- Large or Smallmouth Bass 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit (14" Minimum Length Limit)
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish Statewide Regulation
- Channel Catfish Statewide Regulation
- Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Walleye Statewide Regulation

Jug Fishing is permitted from sunset to sunrise

Carp and Buffalo may be taken by bow and arrow devices May 1 through September 30

CONTACT INFORMATION – Hennepin Canal State Park: 815-454-2328
IDNR Fisheries County Biologist: 630-360-4185