



LAKE STOREY

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION:

Lake Storey is located in Knox County at the northwest edge of Galesburg with access to the lake off of U.S. Route 150.

DESCRIPTION :

Lake Storey is a medium sized watershed type impoundment owned by the City of Galesburg and managed for fishing by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Lake Storey is 132.5 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 32 feet. It has a shoreline length of 5.8 miles and is 1.5 miles in length from east to west. A boat ramp and parking lot is provided on each end of the lake. Other facilities provided at Lake Storey Park include: camping, swimming, golf, picnic areas and a 2.65 mile paved trail.

Lake Storey was constructed in 1928-29 by the Atchison, Topeka and Sante Fe Railroad as their water supply reservoir. In 1952, the lake and surrounding land was gifted to the City of Galesburg for the development of Lake Storey Park.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The lake and its sport fishery are evaluated annually by spring trapnetting and a fall electrofishing survey. These surveys direct fish stockings, fish regulations and aquatic vegetation treatments.

The waterlevel at Lake Storey is drawn down annually 5 to 6 feet in early September as a major fish management practice. The annual fall drawdown increases the predation of small fish, which enhances the growth rates of both predator and prey species.

Largemouth Bass:

In 2020, only fall D.C. electrofishing was used to survey the fish population. The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 267 bass from electrofishing.

The largemouth bass population appears to be defined by a high percentage of fish from 3 to 18 inches in length with good average Relative weights. In 2017, the bass regulation for Lake Storey was changed from a 1 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches and/or 5 fish less than 12 inches daily, to a protected slot length limit from 12 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit. The goal of the new bass regulation is to increase the density of the bass population from 14 to 18 inches.

The 5 year averages from 2011 to 2015 were RSD15 of 21, RSD16 of 12, and RSD18 of 3. And a 5 year average CPUE 2.1 fish per minute over 8 inches with pulse D.C. eletrofishing.

In 2020 the values were at a PSD of 43, RSD15 of 13, RSD16 of 7 and the RSD18 of 2. The average body condition was at a Wr of 100. The CPUE was 3.4 fish per minute over 8 inches with pulse D.C. electrofishing.

The goal of the protected slot length limit is to create a high density bass population that is composed of fish large enough to be efficient predators upon the panfish population. The benefit to bass anglers will be more fish surviving past 15 inches to catch, and for the anglers wanting to harvest bass will be the opportunity to still harvest fish under 12 inches. The current indices levels will need to be evaluated over

the next 3 years to determine if progress is being made to increase the number of fish from 15 to 18 inches in length. From 2017 to 2020 the new bass regulation has not improved this population density.

Bluegill:

The bluegill population was sampled by 96 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current bluegill population is rated as average with the larger fish up to 7.5 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in average body condition with a Wr average of 95.

Redear Sunfish:

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 9 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current redear population is rated as average with the larger fish up to 9.4 inches in length. This population is of low density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 101.

Crappie:

The white and black crappie populations have been an average rating in recent years. The 5 year averages from 2011 to 2015 were an RSD10 of 35 for white crappie and an RSD10 of 1 for black crappie. The black crappie population has become the dominant species. The 5 year trapnet catch per unit of effort was 17.9 black crappie per net night and 1 white crappie per net night.

In 2020, the white crappie population was sampled by 15 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The black crappie population was sampled by 5 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The 15 stock size white crappie were sampled with a PSD of 100, RSD9 of 93, RSD10 of 72, and RSD11 of 27. The 5 stock size black crappie were sampled with a PSD of 100, RSD9 of 0, RSD10 of 0 and RSD11 of 0. Both species had average WR values of 90 and 92. These indices have all been steady the last 6 years. Anglers can continue to apply harvest pressure upon the dense black crappie population that is from 7.5 to 9 inches in length.

Walleye:

The walleye population was sampled by 14 fish in the fall electrofishing survey. The current walleye population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 27 inches in length. The CPUE for electrofishing was at .2 fish per minute in 2020. This population is of moderate density and in average body condition with a Wr average of 91. Jake Wolf hatchery stocked 6696 fish at 1.5 inches long in 2016. No walleye were stocked in 2017, 2018 and 2019. In 2020, 6,819 walleye at 1.4 inches were stocked from Jake Wolf Hatchery.

Muskie:

No spring trap netting occurred in 2020 due to COVID work restrictions. A total of 9 muskie were sampled by the spring trapnet survey in 2019. These fish ranged from 28 to 45 inches long. The body condition of these fish was average with a Wr of 85. A moderate density of quality size muskie are present. 43 muskie have been recaptured with PIT tag data from Lake Storey since 2002. The 2014 recapture growth rate for a male over 10 years old was .21 inches and .26 lbs per year. And the growth rate for 2 females over 10 years old was 1.1 inches and 1.40 lbs per year. Jake Wolf stocked 136 muskie at 10.75 inches in 2016. Jake Wolf stocked 135 at 12.5 inches in 2017, 136 fish at 12.5 inches in 2018, and 142 fish at 13.5 inches in 2019. An annual stocking is now scheduled to maintain a moderate density of healthy muskie.

Channel Catfish:

The channel catfish population was sampled by 7 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current channel catfish population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 24 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 97. Little Grassy hatchery stocked 3,900 fish at 7.7 inches in 2020. An annual stocking of non-vulnerable channel catfish has occurred in the recent past. These stockings have established a population with anticipated high angler harvest pressure.

Other Species:

8 common carp, 1 green sunfish, 1 bluegill x redear sunfish hybrid, 1 gizzard shad and 1 yellow bullhead were also sampled in 2020. All of these species, except for the gizzard shad, have been maintaining a low density in the recent past in Lake Storey.

Fishing Regulations:

All Fish - 2 pole and line fishing only.

Large or Smallmouth Bass:

- Protected Slot Length Limit from 12 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish:

- 25 fish Daily Harvest Limit.

Pure Muskellunge:

- 42 inch minimum length limit with 1 fish daily harvest limit.

All fish:

- 2 Pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish or Blue Catfish:

- 6 fish daily harvest limit.

Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Walleye:

- 3 fish daily harvest limit.

Recreational Use Restrictions:

- All live bait greater than 8 inches must be rigged with a quick set rig.

- No gas motors to propel watercraft, electric motors only.

-Swimming is permitted only in designated area when lifeguard is on duty.

CONTACT INFORMATION –

Galesburg Park District: (309) 345-3630

IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: (309) 446-9143.

Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>