



SAND POND - ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

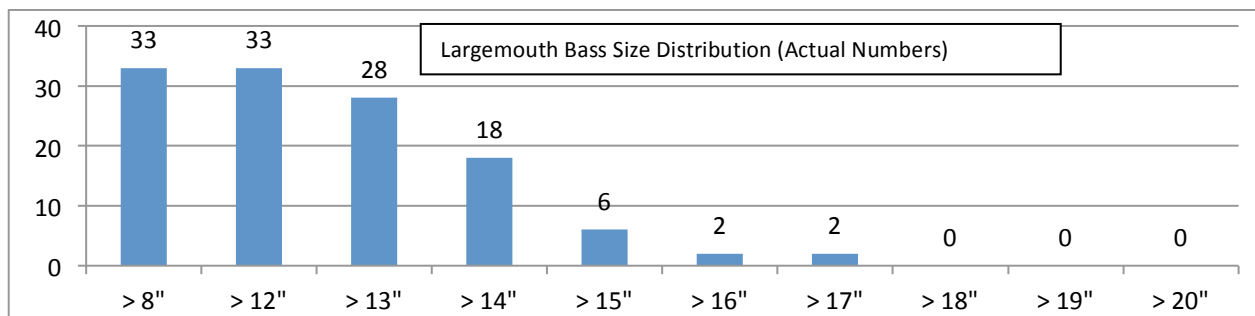
LOCATION – Located in the North Unit of Illinois Beach State Park near Zion, IL in Lake County.

DESCRIPTION – Sand Pond lies within Illinois Beach State Park. It is a 20 acre glacial lake with a discharge that flows into Kellogg creek then into Lake Michigan. Sand Pond has a shoreline length 0.7 miles; watershed 36.9 acres; maximum depth 9.6 feet and an average depth 4.8 feet. A limestone trail system surrounds the lake for access. No boats are allowed, there is a handicap accessible fishing pier, pit toilets and an ample shore fishing access. No fish cleaning station is available onsite but a fish cleaning station is available at North Point Marina, just to the north.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Occasional fish surveys are conducted to assess the Status of the Fishery and to evaluate stocked species. Herbicide use is kept to a minimum and used to enhance access for shore fishing.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Sand Pond receives annual stockings of 8” to 10” Channel Catfish, 10” northern pike, 10” to 14” Rainbow Trout for both the spring and fall seasons and periodic stockings of largemouth bass to balance the fishery and provide sport fishing opportunities. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In 2016, an electrofishing trip around the lake produced 35 largemouth bass. Fish ranged from 5.9” to 17.5” long and weighed up to 2.9 lbs.; The size structure shows that as fish approach the legal length limit (15”), larger fish become less abundant and are harvested by fishermen (as expected); fishermen should enjoy some nice “catching” on this quiet, smaller size, State Park lake.



BLUEGILL – In 2016, 35 Bluegill were collected. Fish ranged from 1.5” to 6.8” long. We like to see bluegills nearing 8” long but heavy fishing pressure probably impacts the maximum size bluegills can grow in this lake.

CHANNEL CATFISH – This species is stocked every year to supplement the sport fishery. Channel catfish are a targeted species in Sand Pond so fish beyond 20” long are rare. Sand Pond is too small to grow large channel catfish, there just aren’t enough hiding places to grow large catfish in this small lake.

COMMON CARP – Carp are present in the lake but not abundant, in 2014 we collected 18 carp during that years survey where during prior surveys carp were absent from the lake. Carp may have entered the system during a high water event when water overtopped the road and came in from Kellogg Creek.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: See below:

(30 minutes DC electrofishing)

| Species | Number | Relative Abundance (%) | Minimum (inches) | Average (inches) | Maximum (inches) |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| LARGEMOUTH BASS | 35 | 40.2 | 5.9 | 13.7 | 17.5 |
| BLUEGILL | 35 | 40.2 | 1.5 | 6 | 6.8 |
| GOLDEN SHINER | 7 | 8.0 | 3.9 | 7.1 | 8.4 |
| YELLOW PERCH | 2 | 2.3 | 3.7 | 4.5 | 5.3 |
| WARMOUTH | 2 | 2.3 | 3.9 | 6 | 8.1 |
| WHITE SUCKER | 2 | 2.3 | 8 | 9.6 | 11.2 |
| RAINBOW TROUT | 1 | 1.1 | | 11.7 | |
| NORTHERN PIKE | 1 | 1.1 | | 21.3 | |
| CHANNEL CATFISH | 1 | 1.1 | | 9.4 | |
| BLACK CRAPPIE | 1 | 1.1 | | 8.6 | |
| SPECIES = 10 TOTAL = | 87 | 100.0 | | | |

FISHING REGULATIONS – See IFISHILLINOIS website for details: <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>

All Fish Species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.

Rainbow Trout – Spring and Fall seasons (see website or Fishing Regulations Booklet for closure dates)

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

No Boats or Wading Allowed

CONTACT INFORMATION – Illinois Beach State Park: 847/662-4811.
IDNR District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2319.

Sand Pond Map

