



IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary Gillespie New City Lake

Location: Resides in south-eastern Macoupin County, 3 miles northwest of Gillespie, Illinois.

Area: 196 acres; shoreline length 8.9 miles; maximum depth 30 feet; average depth 10.9 feet.

Lake history and characteristics: Gillespie New City Lake was built in 1953 and entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in 1984. This agreement was developed to improve fishing opportunities for the angling public. There are two concrete ramps on the east end of the lake. Lake users can fish, camp, boat, and swim. A general store is located on the lake property.

Largemouth Bass: In 2017, 87 Largemouth Bass ranging from 4.3-21.7" were collected. 19.7% of Largemouth Bass collected were 15" or greater. The largest fish measured 21.7" and weighed 5.84lbs. Fish less than 6" (16 fish) were collected suggesting that natural reproduction is occurring. The catch rate of 87 bass/hour surpasses the catch rate goal (≥ 60 bass/hour). Structural indices are in good shape and this lake should continue to offer excellent bass fishing.

Bluegill: Bluegill ranged from 4.7-7.5". 36.0% of Bluegill collected were over 6". One Bluegill exceeded 7". Bluegill body condition is poor. This population is always going to have its challenges competing for food resources with Gizzard Shad.

Redear Sunfish

Redear Sunfish were not very abundant in this survey with only 4 fish collected. Only two fish exceeded 8".

White Crappie

49 White Crappie ranging from 4.3-12.2" were collected in 2017. In 2017, 64.6% of fish exceeded 8", 8.3% of which measured greater than 9". The largest fish measured 12.2" and weighed 0.85lbs. Body condition of White Crappie was excellent in 2017 in comparison to previous years.

Black Crappie: 33 Black Crappie ranging from 6.3-9.4" were collected in 2017. In 2017, 72.7% of fish exceeded 8", 6.1% of which measured greater than 9". The largest fish measured 9.4" and weighed 0.37lbs.

Channel Catfish: Three Channel Catfish were collected, measuring 16.9-26.4". Body Condition was excellent. Channel Catfish were stocked in 2017 and 2019. IDNR will continue to stock Channel Catfish as hatchery production allows.

Hybrid Striped Bass

Hybrid Striped Bass samples tend to be low using electrofishing equipment. Two Hybrid Striped Bass were collected per hour in 2017. These fish measured 9.8" and 12.2". Hybrid Striped Bass are periodically stocked as hatchery production allows.

Gizzard Shad

In 2017, 175 Gizzard Shad were collected in one hour of electrofishing, surpassing the management goal of 100 fish per hour. This forage base is benefiting the bass population and other predator species in the lake.

Other fish species: Other species collected during the population survey included Common Carp, Freshwater Drum, Green Sunfish, Yellow Bass, Yellow Bullhead, and Bluegill x Redear Sunfish Hybrid.

Fishing Regulations: see the Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or www.IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates.

- Two pole and line fishing only and each pole must not have more than 2 hooks or lures attached while fishing.
- Channel Catfish - 6 fish daily harvest limit
- Largemouth Bass – Protected Slot Length Limit with no possession of fish less than 15 inches and greater than or equal to 12 inches, 3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit.

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:

- none

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

- Conducted a fall population survey utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (2 – 30 min Pulsed-DC electrofishing runs) 10/17/2017. 451 fish were collected, representing 13 species and one hybrid group. Water temperature was 65F.
- Hatchery stocked 928 9.3” Channel Catfish on 9/18/2017.
- Hatchery stocked 2,073 1.4” Hybrid Striped Bass on 6/21/2018.
- Hatchery stocked 2,898 7.5” Channel Catfish on 7/30/2019.

