



Ramsey Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Ramsey Lake was constructed in Ramsey Lake State Park near Ramsey, IL in 1949.

Location: Ramsey Lake is located in Fayette County, approximately 2 miles northwest of Ramsey Illinois.

Area: Ramsey Lake has a surface area of 46 acres, a maximum depth of 22 feet, and a mean depth of 8 feet. The lake has 2.8 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 1,500 acres.

Status of the Sport Fishery: The sport fish population in Ramsey Lake is comprised of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, and channel catfish. The lake also contains green sunfish and yellow bullhead. The fish population is surveyed annually, and summaries below are based on the results of the recent population survey and four-year trends in the population indices.

Largemouth Bass: Approximately 28% of the adult bass in the sample exceeded the 14” minimum length. Average body condition remained above the lake management plan target. Electrofishing catch rates remained high and well above the lake management minimum target. Recent surveys have collected many bass in the 9” – 14” size group and the size structure of the bass population could improve in the coming years if these smaller fish in the continue to grow. However, abundant numbers of bass in this size range may be helping to promote the quality panfishery at Ramsey Lake. In 2024, most bass over the 14” minimum length limit should weight 1.5 – 4 pounds.

Bluegill: The average body condition for bluegill collected in 2023 remained at the lake management plan target. Electrofishing catch rate remained high and the population size structure was good. Approximately 44% of the adult bluegill in the sample exceeded 7” in length and 12% exceeded 8”. This lake should provide good bluegill fishing in the coming year with some larger fish over 0.33 pounds. **Please practice selective harvest. Bluegill over 8” (especially males) are important for maintaining the size structure of the population. We ask that you consider returning those fish to water and harvest smaller bluegill instead.**

Redear: The redear population in Ramsey Lake was in good shape. Average body condition remained above the lake management plan target. Nearly 9% of the adult redear sampled exceeded 10” in length and 71% were 7” or longer. Redear fishing in 2024 should remain good with some of the larger fish approaching 0.75 pounds.

Crappie: The 2023 survey showed that average black crappie body condition remained very good. The size structure of the population was also good and fish over 9” accounted for 64% of the adult crappie in the sample. With good growth rates, the population should remain strong and continue to provide good fishing opportunities. Keeper fish in 2024 should be 0.40 pounds or larger.

Channel Catfish: Catfish are abundant in Ramsey Lake and should provide good fishing opportunities in the coming year. Most fish will range from 1 to 3 pounds. This lake provides many bank fishing opportunities. The best places to fish include the dam, the parking area near the boat ramp, the upper end of the lake, and in the backs of coves.

Fishing Regulations: Pole and line fishing only; no more than two poles with two or less hooks or lures per pole.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	14”
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish Combined	25	None
White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie Combined	10	9”

Additional Regulations: Operation of gas motors on the lake is prohibited, but they can be used for loading and unloading of boats. Electric trolling motors may be used on the lake.

Contacts: Ramsey Lake State Park 618/423-2215; IDNR 618/393-6732.

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