



# Bay Creek Lake

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## 2013 Lake Status Summary

Bay Creek #5, located two miles northwest of Glendale was constructed in 1975 as a flood control reservoir in the Bay Creek watershed. Bay Creek #5 Lake is located in Pope County Illinois. The lake is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and is surrounded by expanses of timbered land. The lake has one boat ramp and a ten horsepower outboard motor limit. At normal pool, Bay Creek #5 Lake has a **surface area of 110 acres**, a maximum depth of 15 feet, and an average depth of 6 feet. Shallow shoreline areas become filled with extensive submerged vegetation and the lake is fertile enough to support light to moderate plankton blooms during summer months.

Recent survey data suggests Bay Creek #5 is currently supporting a balanced fishery. Fish most commonly sought after by anglers include largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, channel catfish and crappie.

**Largemouth bass** – Despite Largemouth bass population indices being below recommended ranges a fair representation of size structure exists. Bass abundance is good, as measured by catch per unit of effort of electro fishing, as the average number of bass caught in recent surveys is 108 bass per hour. Many fish between 0.5 to 1.5 pounds are present with larger bass sampled and reportedly being caught by anglers. Bass fishing is expected to be good. Currently, there is a 15 inch minimum size limit for bass and a creel limit of 6 fish per day.

**Bluegill** – Bluegill numbers at Bay Creek #5 are good. Abundance as measured by the average catch per unit of effort of electro fishing, in recent samples, is 172 fish per hour. Bluegill size structure remains constant as most catchable fish are between 6.0 and 7.5 inches. Bluegill fishing at Bay Creek #5 is expected to be fair to good. Currently there are no size or creel limits for sunfish at Bay Creek #5.

**Crappie** – Black and white crappie are present in Bay Creek #5 and fishing as reported from anglers has been fair. Anglers should target crappie around structure and the creek channel using minnows and jigs. Currently there are no size or creel limits for crappie at Bay Creek #5.

**Channel catfish** – Anglers continue to report good catches of channel catfish. Many fish reported and collected during electro fishing surveys are 16 inches or better. Fishing prospects for channel catfish are expected to be good. A daily catch limit of six fish applies.

**Additional fisheries information** can be obtained on the I Fish Illinois web site, <http://www.ifishillinois.org> or by consulting the current Illinois Fishing Information booklet

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