



Dutchman Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Dutchman Lake is a relatively clear, infertile, 118-acre U.S. Forest Service-owned impoundment located approximately five miles north of Vienna, IL in Johnson County. The lake is surrounded by forest and has a gravel access road and boat ramp. The Dutchman Lake watershed is large, so significant rains have the potential to quickly raise the water level and decrease transparency.

Largemouth bass: Largemouth bass abundance in Dutchman Lake in spring 2018 increased compared to the previous year. Quality of these fish was better than the previous year, and 64 percent were larger than 12 inches, while 37% were larger than the 15-inch minimum length limit. 10 of the bass sampled measured more than 18 inches and the largest was over 7 pounds. Bass body condition increased in 2019 and met the management plan goal.

Bluegill: Bluegill were less abundant in Dutchman Lake during the 2019 survey. The bluegill catch rate was 24 per hour, a severe decrease compared to the previous year. Only thirty percent of these fish were larger than 6 inches, and no fish exceeded 7 inches in length. Bluegill body condition decreased as well. These severe decreases are not likely related to changes in population, but the vegetation control activities that occurred only 2 weeks before sampling was conducted.

Redear: Redear were collected at a rate of 10 per hour in 2019 and quality decreased. Fifty percent of these fish were larger than 7 inches in length, and no fish were longer than 8 inches. Redear body condition continued to drop below the management goal range. As with bluegill, it's believed the poor sample is correlated to vegetation treatment activities.

Crappie and channel catfish: Too few channel catfish and crappie were collected for an adequate assessment of these species in 2019. Three white crappie were sampled (4-7 inches in length) that had substandard body condition. Three channel catfish were sampled (12-22 inches in length), and these fish displayed excellent body condition. The channel catfish population is maintained by annual or biennial stockings depending on fish availability.

Regulations in effect: Largemouth bass – 15 inch length limit, 6 per day creel limit. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel limit. Ten horsepower outboard motor limit. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information.

Additional Fisheries Information can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Luke Nelson at 618-364-5381, or by contacting the Shawnee National Forest office in Vienna at 618-658-2111.