



TURNER LAKE

CHAIN O LAKES STATE PARK

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

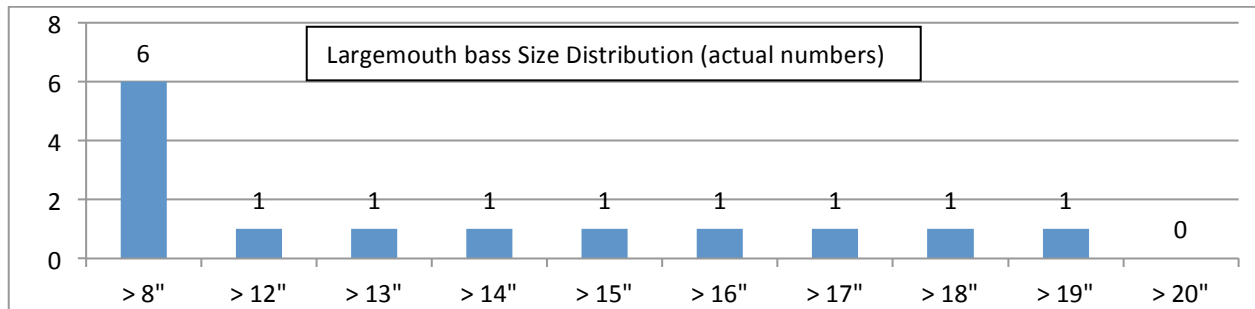
LOCATION – Located in Chain O Lakes State Park in Spring Grove, Illinois, Lake County.

DESCRIPTION – Turner Lake is a relatively shallow natural/glacial depression characterized as a bog lake. In 1974 a stop small dam and fish weir were installed to expand and stabilize water levels in the marsh adjacent to the lake to facilitate northern pike reproduction and prevent rough fish contamination via the Fox River/Chain O' Lakes system. An aeration system was installed in 1979 and is run each winter to keep an area open so noxious gases don't build up under the ice causing a fish kill. The aeration line was replaced in 2011. Turner Lake is 45 acres; maintains a maximum depth of 10.0 ft. with an average depth of 5.0 ft.; storage capacity is 228 acre-feet. There is a single, gravel boat ramp on the northeast end of the lake for primitive access and 2 fishing piers. Shorefishing opportunities are limited due to the nature of the shoreline. Rental boats are available through a concessionaire at the main boat launch, (electric motors only), live bait, tackle, ice, food, and soft drinks also available at the main boat launch. No fish cleaning station is available. Other amenities in the park include: camping, picnic areas, playgrounds, and crushed rock bike paths, and horseback riding and trails.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Turner Lake receives regular fish surveys to evaluate stocked species, access points and fishing piers are occasionally treated with aquatic herbicides to reduce abundance of Eurasian milfoil (an Aquatic Nuisance Species).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY –Turner Lake receives annual stockings of 8" to 10" channel catfish, 8" northern pike, and periodic stockings of 4" largemouth bass. Turner Lake experienced a winter fishkill in 2013 (the blizzard year). Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – 14 bass were collected in 30 minutes of DC electrofishing. Fish measured up to 19.2" long and weighed up to 4.4 lbs. Most bass collected were < 12" long and from supplemental stockings but a few were breeder size fish added to the lake following the winterkill to promote reproduction.



BLUEGILL – Some breeder size fish are present but their abundance is low. Bluegill reproduce well and their abundance is expanding nicely.

BLACK CRAPPIE – 3 Black crappie were collected. The largest 9.3" long and weighing 0.5 lbs. I would prefer if you keep every crappie you catch and remove them from the lake until our bass population becomes established. Crappie can become very abundant, very fast so until a strong predator base is established it's best they aren't allowed to establish!

CHANNEL CATFISH – Present via stocking but the population is still developing.

Northern Pike – Northern pike survived the winterkill, have been stocked since and were collected up to 27" long. Northern pike are a good predator to help balance the predator/prey ratios in a lake.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:

(30 minutes DC electrofishing)

Species	Number	Relative Abundance (%)	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
BLUEGILL	34	24.5	3.4	4.4	9.1
LAKE CHUBSUCKER	29	20.9	2.8	6.7	11.3
GRASS PICKEREL	14	10.1	5.2	7.3	9.5
LARGEMOUTH BASS	14	10.1	6.3	8.7	19.2
NORTHERN PIKE	10	7.2	14.6	19.7	26.9
BROWN BULLHEAD	9	6.5	4.6	8.3	12.2
GOLDEN SHINER	7	5.0	3.2	3.6	4.4
PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH	5	3.6	4.4	5	6.4
CENTRAL MUDMINNOW	4	2.9	2.7	3.3	4.6
YELLOW BULLHEAD	3	2.2	8.9	9.3	9.7
GREEN SUNFISH	3	2.2	2.2	4.4	6.8
BLACK CRAPPIE	3	2.2	7.8	8.7	9.3
WARMOUTH	2	1.4	6.1	7.4	8.7
IOWA DARTER*	2	1.4		1.8	
SPECIES = 14 TOTAL =	139	100.0			
* E&T Species					

FISHING REGULATIONS:

- Largemouth bass - 15" Length Limit, 1 Fish Daily Limit
- Channel catfish – No Length Limit, 6 Fish Daily Limit
- Northern pike – 24" Length Limit, 3 Fish Daily Limit
- 2 Pole and Line Only Fishing
- Electric motors only, Non-Developed Gravel Launch
- See Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet or <http://www.ifishillinois.org>

CONTACT INFORMATION –

Chain O Lakes State Park: 847/587-5512.
 IDNR District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2319.

Turner Lake Map

