



Lyerla Lake – Union County

2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Lyerla Lake is located in Union County within Union County State Fish & Wildlife Area near Ware, IL.

DESCRIPTION: Lyerla Lake is roughly 270 acres in size and is very shallow. There is only one gravel boat ramp. Lyerla Lake is a floodplain lake that is frequently flooded with water from adjacent creeks.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The primary sport fish in Lyerla Lake are crappie. The following species information is based on a spring electrofishing survey completed during 2023.

Crappie – Lyerla Lake contains a quality crappie fishery consisting of both Black and White Crappie. However, the population is heavily regulated by water levels. During the drought of 2022, severe fish kills seems to have impacted the crappie population, as very few were collected in comparison to 2021 survey results. Despite low numbers in the 2023 electrofishing sample, several White Crappie over 12 inches were collected.

Bluegill – Only one Bluegill was collected during the 2023 electrofishing survey. The severe drought of 2022 led to low water levels and severe fish kills in Lyerla Lake, which seems to have impacted Bluegill numbers based on survey results.

Gar – Shortnose Gar and Spotted Gar are numerous in Lyerla Lake. Although not popular with most anglers, gar can provide great angling opportunities for anglers with the proper gear to target them. Gar should not be viewed as detrimental species, as they are native and have been shown to have little impact on traditional sport species.

Bowfin – Bowfin are numerous in Lyerla Lake and should provide good opportunities for anglers with the proper gear. Bowfin are aggressive predators and very strong fighters. Similar to Gar, Bowfin are a native species and should not be viewed as detrimental.

Fishing regulations:

All Fish – 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
All fishing and boat traffic prohibited from October 15 through the last day of February

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952.