



# Lyerla Lake – Union County

## 2022 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 375 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 following is a summary of game fish populations based on a spring electrofishing survey and a fall trap netting survey during 2021.

**Crappie** – Lyerla Lake contains a quality crappie fishery consisting of both Black and White Crappie, although White Crappie are more numerous and demonstrate greater growth potential. During 2021, 41 crappies were collected during the spring electrofishing survey and an additional 41 were collected during the fall trap netting survey. Of the crappie collected during spring electrofishing, 61% were over 10 inches and 32% were over 12 inches in length. During the fall trap net survey, the average size was much smaller. Only 15% of crappie were over 10 inches.

**Bluegill** – A total of 35 Bluegill were collected during the 2021 spring electrofishing survey. Of those Bluegill, 23% were over 7 inches. Bluegill body condition was excellent across all size groups. Similar to Horseshoe Lake in Alexander County, a variety of environmental factors and an influx of riverine species have severely impacted the Bluegill fishery.

**Gar** – Shortnose Gar and Spotted Gar are numerous in Lyerla Lake and should provide excellent opportunities for bow fishing.

**Bowfin** – Bowfin are abundant in Lyerla Lake and should provide excellent opportunities for hook and line anglers as well as bow fishermen.

### Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	
Channel Catfish	6	None

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