



BAKERS LAKE

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION –

DESCRIPTION – Bakers Lake is a small 8 acre lake located just off Airport road in Peru within Baker Park. Bakers Lake is owned by the city of Peru and the Fishery is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fishery Division. A picnic area, shelters and restrooms are available for use at the lake.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - The fishery is managed by a species-specific surveys, regulations, and stocking.

Largemouth Bass:

Bakers Lake historically was sampled in the fall before 2021 using AC electrofishing. The 2024 sample showed a Largemouth population is strong with a PSD of 54. The dominate size group collected in 2024 was in the 12–15-inch size group. Catch rates for fish greater than 12 increased from the 2021 survey. Reduced aquatic vegetation would help the largemouth bass feed on the abundant small Bluegill.

1. Management Plan: Goal	2021	2024
# Stock (200mm)	>50	41
PSD(95% CI)	40-60	54(19)
RSD 15	10-20	22

2.Spring diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Bakers Lake

Year	<8	8-12	12.1-15	15.1-20	> 20	Total
2021	24.0	76.0	68.0	20.0	0.0	188.0
2024	20.0	40.0	104.0	40.0	0.0	204.0

Bluegill:

Bakers Lake historically has had ups and down Bluegill populations, that have coincided with Largemouth bass population densities. The Bluegill population continues to lack in numbers of quality sized, 6-inch and larger, fish. Reduced aquatic vegetation will help to reduce bluegill numbers overall and provide better food and space resources for the remaining fish.

1. Management Plan: Goal:	2021	2024
#Stock(80mm)	>100	40
PSD (95% CI)	20-60	5(5)
RSD 7	10-15	0

2.Spring diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Bakers Lake

Year	<3	3.1-6	6.1-8	8.1-10	Total
2021	16.0	152.0	8.0	0.0	176.0
2024	40.0	260.0	4.0	0.0	304.0

Redear Sunfish:

Despite Baker’s Lake being a shallow lake in northern Illinois, the Redear Sunfish population has improved since they were first stocked in 1999. Redear accounted for 13% of all fish sampled. The abundant snail population is providing excellent food for Redear Sunfish. The current size distribution is going to provide for quality fishing in the future.

1.Management Plan:	Goal:	2021	2024
#Stock(80mm)	>50	32	17
PSD (95% CI)	20-60	22(14)	24(20)
RSD 10	10-15	0	0

2.Spring diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Bakers Lake

Year	<3.9	3.9-7.1	7.1-9.1	9.1-11	>11	Total
2021	8.0	100.0	28.0	0.0	0.0	136.0
2024	12.0	52.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	80.0

Other Species:

Other species present at Bakers Lake are Channel catfish and Green x Bluegill hybrid sunfish. Occasional random species are found due to illegal dumping like a Koi in 2021, which was removed. Illegal dumped species do not appear to be expanding. Grass Carp have been stocked in the past to help control vegetation.

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

- All Fish 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
- Large or Smallmouth Bass 1 Fish Daily Creel Limit over 14 inches
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish Statewide Regulations
- Channel Catfish 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit
- White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie Statewide Regulations

CONTACT INFORMATION – City Of Peru Park District: (815) 223-0061 ext. 2314
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