



MAZONIA STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Goose Lake (Mazonia Lake #6)

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Goose Lake (Lake #6) is located within the Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area North Unit, 3 miles southwest of Braidwood in Grundy County on Illinois Route 53 and Huston Road.

DESCRIPTION – Goose Lake is one of the smaller impoundments in the Mazonia North Unit at 9.8 surface acres. Due to its proximity to the main access road, it receives a fair amount of bank fishing pressure. Under normal water level conditions Goose Lake is isolated from other lakes. However, higher water levels facilitate boat access to a smaller interior pond. Shoreline access is limited by extensive stands of tall reed grass but more of the shoreline is accessible on Goose Lake than most others. Goose Lake has a primitive, one-lane gravel boat ramp and adjacent parking area. Goose Lake is closed to fishing during upland game and waterfowl season. Following the completion of the hunting seasons, it reopens for ice fishing dependent upon ice conditions.

HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: Goose Lake is surveyed biennially. Fish stocking has included Channel Catfish and Smallmouth Bass (discontinued due to poor results). *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Largemouth Bass catch rates declined in the 2020 survey, as did the proportion of adult fish over 12 inches. Legal sized fish were absent from the survey (largest fish collected was 14.5 in). Body condition (plumpness) was substandard for most size groups suggesting limited forage.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill catch rates severely declined in 2020 and were at extremely poor levels. However, the proportion of adult fish both over 6 inches increased and one Bluegill over 8 inches was captured. Body condition was good for all size groups.

CRAPPIE – Very few Crappie have ever been collected from Goose Lake but it is likely to support a small population. That fishery would not be considered noteworthy.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel catfish are stocked on a rotational basis to augment the population as natural reproduction and recruitment are suspected to be low. Harvestable-size Channel Catfish are likely removed as they are caught.

YELLOW BULLHEADS: Yellow Bullheads have historically been fairly prominent in most surveys and are an underutilized resource.

ADDITIONAL LAKE INFORMATION: Trolling motor only.

Additional Site-Specific fishing regulations:

All Fish Species: 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only

Large or Smallmouth Bass: 15" Minimum Length Limit; 3 Fish Daily Creel

Black, White, or Hybrid Crappie: 10 Fish Daily Creel Limit

Channel Catfish: 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area: 815/237-0063.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.