



MAZONIA STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Carp Lake (Mazonia Lake #8)

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Carp Lake (Lake #8) is located within the Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area Main Unit, 3 miles southwest of Braidwood in Grundy County on Illinois Route 53 and Huston Road.

DESCRIPTION – Carp Lake is an intermediate-sized impoundment in the Mazonia North Unit Complex covering 17.6 surface acres. It is connected by a narrow channel to Gar Lake (Lake #9). Shoreline access is limited by extensive stands of tall reed grass. The lake has a one-lane concrete boat ramp with adjacent parking. See “Additional Lake Information” below for important site closures.

HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Carp Lake is surveyed on an alternate year basis. Fish stocking is presently limited to Channel Catfish. A variety of other species (beside those listed above) can be caught and include Common Carp, Bullheads and several Gar species.

No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain. However, the statewide methylmercury advisory for sensitive populations is in effect (one meal per week of predatory sportfish for the most sensitive populations).

LARGEMOUTH BASS – The 2021 Spring survey yielded a lower Largemouth Bass catch rate compared to the 2019 survey, though this is likely due to adding an additional electrofishing run in an area where Largemouth Bass were obviously not as present. The Proportional Size Distribution (PSD) slightly decreased to 68, meaning that 68% of the adult population is comprised of fish ≥ 12 inches. However, the PSD-P increased to 32 indicating that 32% of the adult population is ≥ 15 inches (which is also legal size). Both of these values exceed their respective target ranges. Fish ≥ 18 inches are absent from the survey, which is a historical trend. Body condition for all size groups was excellent, indicating sufficient forage for adequate growth is present. **15-inch Minimum Length Limit (3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit)**

BLUEGILL – Bluegill catch rates declined from a near record high in 2019, though this could also be attributable to adding an additional electrofishing run to the 2021 survey. However, Bluegill PSD substantially declined from the 2019 survey indicating a shift in the population to one dominated by smaller fish. Bluegill body condition was excellent, indicating sufficient forage for adequate growth despite the shifting size distribution.

CRAPPIE – Electrofishing is not a standard method for assessing Crappie populations, and as such the Spring 2021 survey does not provide a good assessment of the fishery. However, Crappie lengths ranged from 7.5 – 13 inches. Trap netting, which is a favored gear for evaluating Crappie, is difficult in steep-sided lakes. **10 Fish Daily Harvest Limit**

CHANNEL CATFISH – Surveys tend to produce a very low number of Channel Catfish but site reports indicate anglers have reasonable success although Carp Lake is not thought of as one of the better lakes for Channel Catfish.

ADDITIONAL LAKE INFORMATION: Trolling motor only. Swimming is prohibited. Fishing at the North Unit is closed ten days prior to the opening of the Central Zone Duck Season and reopens after the season ends. During Upland Game Season, the North Unit is open Wednesdays - Sundays (sunrise to 4:00 P.M) and closed Mondays and Tuesdays. After Upland Game Season ends, the North Unit is open 7-days a week. During Winter, only one entrance might be open due to road conditions. Statewide fishing regulations apply.

Additional Site-Specific Fishing Regulations:

All Fish Species – Two Pole and Line Fishing Only.

Channel Catfish – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit.

Large or Smallmouth Bass – 15-inch Minimum Length Limit (3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit).

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 10 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

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