



Jericho Lake

2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Jericho Lake is located on the west side of Aurora, in Kane County. Jericho Lake Park is located on the south side of Jericho Road, 0.4 miles west of Orchard Road.

DESCRIPTION – Jericho Lake is a 20.9 acre reclaimed rock quarry with a maximum depth of 26.2 feet. It is a steep sided lake with clear water. The lake is owned and maintained by the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) as a community park. The shoreline is mowed in several areas to allow access for shore fishing. There is a boat ramp for small boats with electric motors only. Carry in water craft are a better option. A picnic area and Frisbee golf course are located in the adjacent park. There are several mowed areas to provide excellent shore fishing. See the reverse side for a bathymetric map.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to facilitate fisheries management activities. Jericho Lake is stocked annually with 450 channel catfish (8-12 inch or non-vulnerable sized) by IDNR. Starting in 2020, Jericho Lake will be stocked annually with Northern Pike. Site specific regulations apply (Six fish daily creel on channel catfish and a three fish, 15 inch minimum limit on largemouth bass and 15 fish creel limit and nine inch minimum length limit on crappie). A 35-minute electrofishing survey took place on September 15th, 2020.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Size distribution and abundance of largemouth bass looked great in the 2020 survey. Bluegill numbers and size distribution were lower than previous surveys. Due to COVID-19 restrictions in Spring of 2020, the survey had to take place in the Fall which most likely underestimated abundance and size structure for both species.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Largemouth Bass were caught at a rate of 139 fish per hour. This is well over the 60 bass per hour considered to be a healthy abundance measure. Largemouth Bass ranged in length from 2.7 to 18.9 inches. The average size bass was 11.1 inches. The heaviest bass weighed 3.0 pounds. Fifty-three percent of the bass measured 12 inches or longer, while ten percent were over the 15 inch minimum length limit. High relative weight (a measure of “plumpness”) indicates that this population, while abundant, has plenty of forage (food). Forage species include Gizzard Shad, Bluegill, Black Crappie and Golden Shiner. Multiple sizes (year classes) indicate successful reproduction and recruitment in this lake.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill were captured at a rate of 111 fish per hour. Bluegill ranged in size from 3.7 to 6.8 inches, with an average size of 5.1 inches. Twenty percent of the catch was longer than six inches.

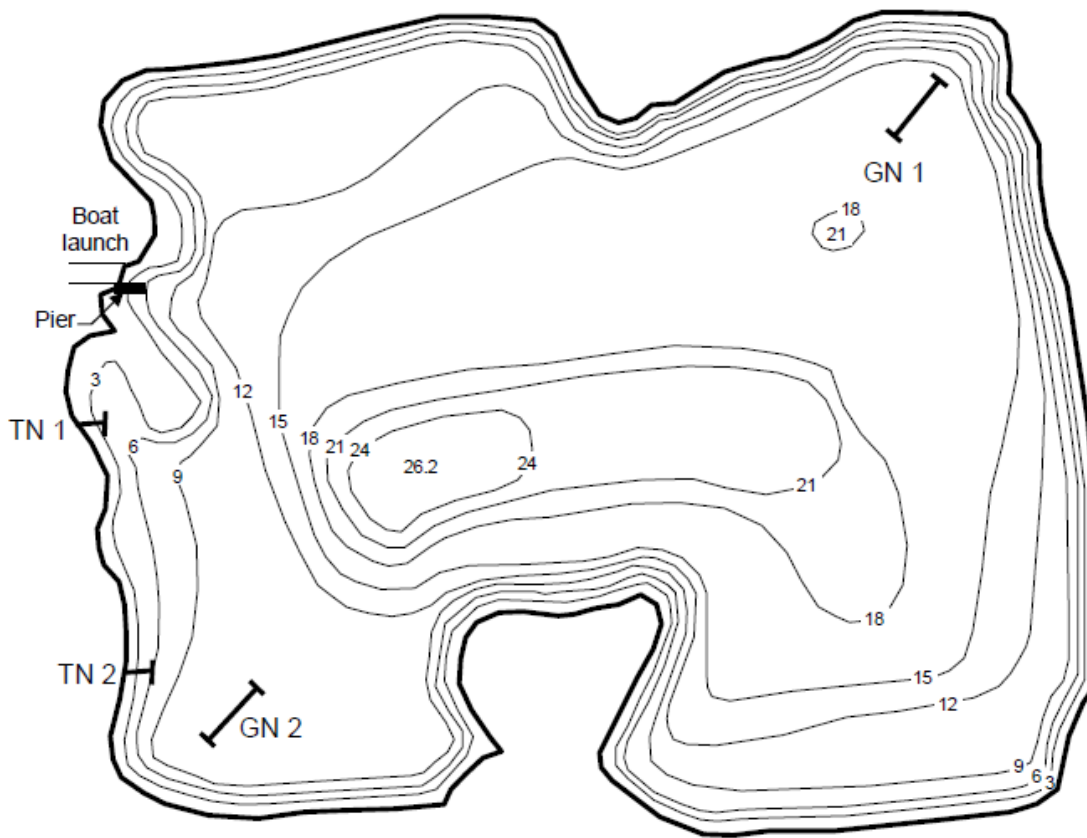
CHANNEL CATFISH – While no Channel Catfish were captured in this survey, anglers at the boat launch said they had good luck fishing for them in the evening. Electrofishing is not an effective method of capturing Channel Catfish in deep clear water. IDNR stocks non-vulnerable Channel Catfish annually in Jericho Lake. Remember there is a six fish limit on Channel Catfish.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Only one 6.8-inch Black Crappie was caught in this survey. Crappie catch rates tend to fluctuate greatly from year to year. Crappie over eleven inches have been present in previous samples as recently as 2016.

COMMON CARP – Common Carp were not overly abundant in this survey. Five Common Carp were captured, ranging in length from 18.6 to 26.6 inches, averaging 22.6 inches. Common Carp have been very abundant in this lake during previous surveys and unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Blackstripe Topminnow, Gizzard Shad, Green Sunfish, Northern Pike, Hybrid Sunfish and Yellow Bullhead were also captured in this survey. Golden Shiner, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Bass, Yellow Perch, and Smallmouth Bass have been caught in previous surveys of Jericho Lake.

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	81	2.7	18.9	11.1	0.1	3.0
Bluegill	65	3.7	6.8	5.1	0.0	0.2
Blackstripe Topminnow	7	2.0	3.1	2.6		
Common Carp	5	18.6	26.6	22.6		
Gizzard Shad	3	8.2	15.6	11.7	0.2	1.5
Green Sunfish	3	2.7	5.0	3.5	0.1	0.1
Northern Pike	3	10.8	11.3	11.0	0.2	0.3
Black Crappie	1	6.8	6.8	6.8	0.2	0.2
Hybrid Sunfish	1	6.9	6.9	6.9	0.3	0.3
Yellow Bullhead	1	8.9	8.9	8.9	0.4	0.4
Total # Fish Collected	170					



Soundings (ft.) –9/19/06
(adjusted to normal water level)

Vic Santucci –3/16/07
IDNR - Fisheries