



## IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary SSSP Buckhorn Unit Pond #1

**Location:** Siloam Springs State Park Buckhorn Unit is located six miles south of Timewell off Route 24 or nine miles north of Route 104 in Brown County. There are two ponds on this site that are managed for sport fishing. Pond #1 is the larger of the two ponds.

**Area:** 3 acres

**Lake history and characteristics:** Siloam Springs State Park Buckhorn Unit was acquired by the State of Illinois in the Spring of 2001. Species in the pond include Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Channel Catfish.

**Largemouth Bass:** In 2020, 20 Largemouth Bass ranging from 8.7-20.9" were collected during a routine electrofishing survey. Most fish measured between 10-14". Only one Largemouth Bass exceeded 18". The largest fish measured 20.9" and weighed 4.86lbs. The 2020 catch rate of 80 fish/hour of electrofishing meets the management goal ( $\geq 60$  bass/hour). Maintaining a dense population of 10-14" Largemouth Bass will create higher predation on sunfish, which will result in better sunfish quality. Average body condition of Largemouth Bass was low in 2020.

**Bluegill:** Bluegill were collected at a catch rate of 256 fish/hour of electrofishing in 2020. 51.7% of the catchable Bluegill population in this pond measured over 7", and 23.3% exceeded the minimum length limit, measuring over 8". Bluegill average body condition was excellent. This pond has an outstanding Bluegill fishery.

**Channel Catfish:** Channel Catfish were last stocked in this pond in 2015. No Channel Catfish were collected in the 2020 survey. IDNR will stock Channel Catfish as hatchery production allows.

**Other fish species:** None.

**Fishing Regulations:** see the Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or [www.IFISHILLINOIS.org](http://www.IFISHILLINOIS.org) for updates.

- Two pole and line fishing only and each pole must not have more than 2 hooks or lures attached while fishing.
- Largemouth Bass – 1 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, 18" Minimum Length Limit
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 10 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, 8" Minimum Length Limit
- Channel Catfish – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit
- 

**Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:**

- None

**Fisheries Management Activities Completed:**

- Conducted a population survey utilizing a standard sampling protocol (1 – 15 min AC electrofishing run) on 6/5/2020. 84 fish were collected, representing 2 species. Water temperature was 76.6F.



PHOTO 1. 6/5/2020 electrofishing survey at SSSP Buckhorn Unit Pond #1.



PHOTO 2. An 8" Bluegill collected and released during the 6/5/2020 electrofishing survey.