



# Du Quoin City Lake

## 2021 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

**LOCATION:** Du Quoin City Lake is located in Perry County north of Du Quoin. From center of town take State Route 51 North for approximately 4 miles and turn east onto City Lake Road.

**DESCRIPTION:** This 210-acre lake has a shoreline length of 12 miles and a maximum depth of 30 feet. There is a gravel boat ramp. There are no docks or restrooms available and parking in the gravel lot is limited. Much of the shoreline is surrounded by spatterdock (yellow cow lily) which provides excellent fish habitat.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – The following is a summary of game fish populations based on the annual fish community survey conducted during Fall 2020 by IDNR. In addition to a one-hour electrofishing survey, trap nets were also deployed overnight to collect more information on the crappie population.

**Largemouth Bass** – During the 2020 fall electrofishing survey, a total of 45 largemouth bass were collected during 1 hour of electrofishing. 24% of fish collected were over 14 inches and 2% were over 18 inches. The largest bass collected was 20.7 inches and weighed 5.2 lbs. The catch rate for largemouth bass remains below the goal of 60/hour. This may be due to the presence of a dense ring of spatterdock growing in the shallows around the lake, which obstructs electrofishing. Therefore, the 2021 electrofishing survey will be attempted during the spring, before the spatterdock fully emerges. If catch rates remain depressed, then the overabundant gizzard shad population may be the cause of depressed bass recruitment through competition with juvenile bass for zooplankton. Stockings of additional piscivores (hybrid striped bass and/or saugeye) may be attempted in the future as a means of reducing gizzard shad abundance through predation. Supplemental largemouth bass stockings may also be requested if evidence of poor recruitment continues after switching to spring electrofishing.

**Crappie** – DuQuoin City Lake contains a quality crappie fishery consisting of both black and white crappie. Of the 180 crappie collected during the 2020 survey, 46% were over 9 inches and 15% were over 10 inches. The largest crappie collected was 14.2 inches and weighed 1.5 lbs. White crappie demonstrate greater growth capacity than black crappie in this lake. Black crappie body condition rapidly decreased with length, while white crappie body condition remained relatively good.

**Bluegill** – The bluegill population structure is relatively good, but there is room for improvement. During the 2020 survey, 185 bluegill were collected, of which 12% were over 7 inches. However, no bluegill over 8 inches were collected. Body condition is relatively poor for larger size classes of bluegill. Bluegill growth is likely impacted by the overabundant gizzard shad population. Stockings of additional piscivore species (i.e. hybrid striped bass or saugeye) may be attempted in the future to reduce abundance of large gizzard shad and improve bluegill growth.

**Redear Sunfish** – The redear fishery in Du Quoin City Lake is excellent. Of the 112 redear collected in the 2020 fall survey, 84% were over 8 inches in length and 27% were over 10 inches. The largest redear was 11.7 inches long and weighed 1.2 lbs. Body condition was excellent across all size groups.

**Channel Catfish** – No channel catfish have ever been collected during IDNR surveys at this lake. However, anglers report that they are present and can be caught. Two thousand 6-8-inch channel catfish were stocked in August of 2020 to supplement the fishery. Stockings will continue on an annual basis as long as fish are available.

### **Fishing regulations:**

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Crappie	25	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14" and 1 over 18"	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)

**PHONE NUMBERS:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952.