

Bode Lake - South Population Survey



Located in Hoffman Estates on the north side of Bode Rd., 1 mile west of Barrington Rd. Bode Lake is made up of two lakes along Poplar Creek; the larger and deeper Bode Lake South is 10-acres with a depth of 20.7 feet. Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish are the top predators in these lakes. Bluegill, Green Sunfish, bullheads, crappie, and Common Carp can also be found here. Ice fishing is permitted on the south lake; however, due to the inflow from Poplar Creek **no ice fishing is permitted on the north lake.**

Fish Population Survey

Fish population surveys are periodically conducted on Forest Preserves lakes in order to assess the health of the lake and the fish population in it. Surveys last anywhere from a few hours to a few days depending on the size of the lake.

Fish are collected during surveys to assess the health of the population. Several methods are used to collect fish, these include experimental gill nets, Fyke or trap nets and the use of an electro-fishing boat. All fish collected are measured, weighed and a scale sample is collected when applicable. These scale samples are used to age the fish. All fish are then returned to the lake when possible.

Water samples are collected and analyzed for each survey. The information collected over the years will show trends in the lake's health. If any unusual readings are found, further tests may be done, or the Illinois DNR and EPA may be asked to investigate.

The information listed below was collected during the most recent survey. It is only a snapshot in time. Many factors such as temperature, wind, rain and even moonlight can affect the species and number of fish that are collected. The Forest Preserves' Fisheries Section looks at data from many years when assessing a lake's fish population and assumptions from just one year of data therefore should not be made.

The dates of the survey along with the type of equipment used and the length of time it was fished is listed below. The "Total Population" tables & charts show all species collected and includes not only game fish but also forage fish. A healthy balanced population of forage fish and predatory (game) fish is needed in order to support a healthy overall fish population. Ideally, 30 to 40% of a lake's total fish population should be made up of forage fish in order to support a healthy predatory fish population. The species of forage fish varies from lake to lake, Gizzard Shad may be the main forage fish in one lake, while Bluegill/sunfish may be the main forage fish in another

Individual species tables are included only for the game fish that were collected. Game fish are those fish most sought after by anglers.

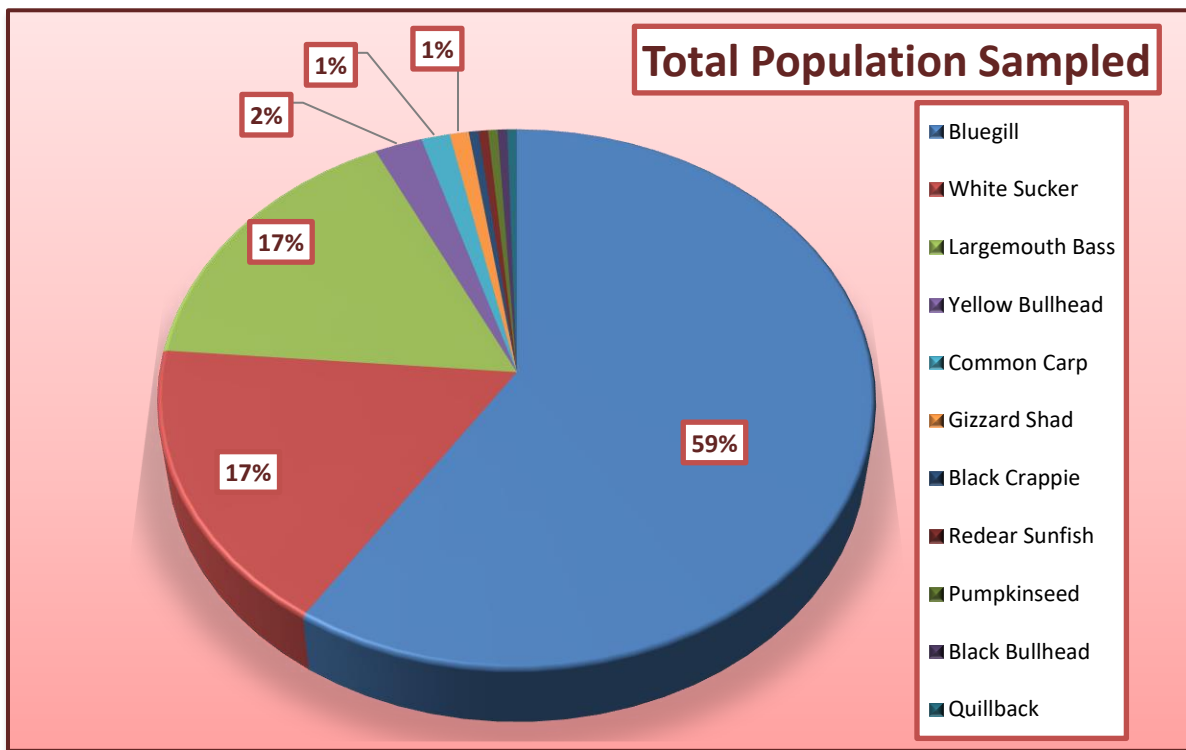
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Date of survey: August 17, 2023
 Electro-fishing time: 30 minutes
 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
 0 feet of Gill net fished: 0 hours

Total Population

| Species | Number | Percent |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Bluegill | 125 | 58.69% |
| White Sucker | 38 | 17.84% |
| Largemouth Bass | 35 | 16.43% |
| Yellow Bullhead | 5 | 2.35% |
| Common Carp | 3 | 1.41% |
| Gizzard Shad | 2 | 0.94% |
| Black Crappie | 1 | 0.47% |
| Redear Sunfish | 1 | 0.47% |
| Pumpkinseed | 1 | 0.47% |
| Black Bullhead | 1 | 0.47% |
| Quillback | 1 | 0.47% |
| Total | 213 | 100.01% |



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Bluegill

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs. | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------|
| 2.5 | 2 | 1.60% | 0.01 | 0+ |
| 3.0 | 21 | 16.80% | 0.02 | + |
| 3.5 | 11 | 8.80% | 0.03 | 1+ |
| 4.0 | 8 | 6.40% | 0.05 | 1-2+ |
| 4.5 | 21 | 16.80% | 0.05 | 1+ |
| 5.0 | 54 | 43.20% | 0.08 | 1-2+ |
| 5.5 | 2 | 1.60% | 0.12 | 2+ |
| 6.0 | 4 | 3.20% | 0.1 | 2-3+ |
| 6.5 | 2 | 1.60% | 0.17 | 3+ |
| Totals | 125 | 100.00% | | |

Largemouth Bass

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs. | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------|
| 2.0 | 3 | 8.57% | 0.002 | 0+ |
| 2.5 | 2 | 5.71% | 0.004 | 0+ |
| 3.0 | 4 | 11.43% | 0.009 | |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 6.5 | 1 | 2.86% | 0.12 | 1+ |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 8.0 | 1 | 2.86% | 0.24 | + |
| 8.5 | 4 | 11.43% | 0.26 | 2+ |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 9.5 | 1 | 2.86% | 0.42 | 2+ |
| 10.0 | 1 | 2.86% | 0.48 | 2+ |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 11.0 | 4 | 11.43% | 0.64 | 3+ |
| 11.5 | 2 | 5.71% | 0.81 | 3+ |
| 12.0 | 4 | 11.43% | 0.89 | 3+ |
| 12.5 | 3 | 8.57% | 1.03 | 3-4+ |
| 13.0 | 1 | 2.86% | 1.11 | 4+ |
| 13.5 | 1 | 2.86% | 1.25 | 4+ |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 14.5 | 1 | 2.86% | 1.67 | 5+ |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 15.5 | 1 | 2.86% | 1.84 | + |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 16.5 | 1 | 2.86% | 2.53 | 5+ |
| Totals | 35 | 100.03% | | |

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Yellow Bullhead

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs. | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----|
| 6.5 | 1 | 20.00% | 0.15 | NA |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 7.5 | 1 | 20.00% | 0.22 | NA |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 9.0 | 3 | 60.00% | 0.38 | NA |
| Totals | 5 | 100.00% | | |

Common Carp

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs. | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----|
| 16.0 | 1 | 33.33% | 1.97 | 2+ |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 19.5 | 1 | 33.33% | 3.69 | 2+ |
| - | - | - | - | - |
| 21.0 | 1 | 33.33% | 5.00 | 5+ |
| Totals | 3 | 99.99% | | |

Other Species Collected

| Species | Number | Length - Inches | Weight – lbs. | Age |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|---------------|-----|
| Black Crappie | 1 | 10.5 | 0.54 | + |
| Redear Sunfish | 1 | 5.5 | 0.22 | + |
| Pumpkinseed | 1 | 4.5 | 0.06 | + |
| Black Bullhead | 1 | 9.5 | 0.44 | NA |

Fisheries Survey Overview

Normally this survey would have included the fishing of two experimental gill nets to sample for bottom and open water species. However, because of an unscheduled dive training exercise by local fire departments, the survey was cut short and only an electro-fishing survey was done in 2023. Open water species such as Gizzard Shad, Yellow Bass and Black Crappie along with bottom species like Channel Catfish and bullheads were not collected in numbers that reflex the actual population of these species. Only two Gizzard Shad were collected in 2023 representing 0.94% of the total population sampled whereas shad represented 17.54% of the total population sampled in 2020. Even though Channel Catfish were stocked by the Illinois DNR in both 2016 and 2018, none were collected in 2023. Catfish and bullhead are difficult to electro-fish and is most likely the reason for them not being represented in the 2023 survey.

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Good numbers of both Bluegill and Largemouth Bass were sampled in 2023. The Bluegill ranged in size from young-of-the-year 2.5-inch fish, up to 6.5-inches. Almost 50% of the population of Bluegill sampled were over 5-inches. Thirty-five Largemouth Bass were collected ranging in size from 2.0-inches up to 16.5-inches. Over 8.5% of these bass were above the legal size limit of 14-inches.

With its open shoreline and healthy bass and Bluegill population Bode – South is a great lake to take the kids for an afternoon of fishing. Additionally, with its connection to Poplar Creek an angler might hook into a surprise Smallmouth or Northern Pike making for an interesting outing.