



Cermak Quarry Population Survey

Located next to the Cermak Aquatic Center in Lyons on Ogden Ave. 1/2 mile west of Harlem Ave. Don't let its small size (only 3-acres) fool you, this old quarry drops down to 18.3 feet. Species found in this quarry include Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, sunfish, and bullheads. This small quarry is part of the IDNR's Urban Fisheries Program and gets stock with Channel Catfish and hybrid sunfish every year.

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.

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.

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.

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.

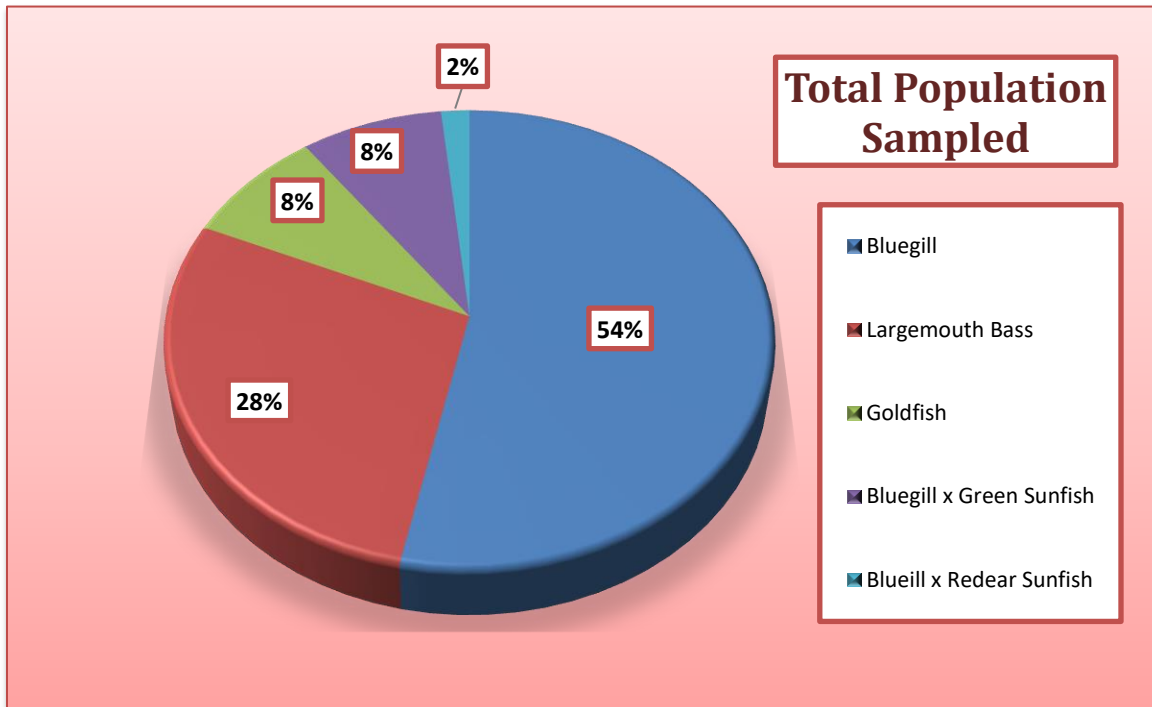
Cermak Quarry Population Survey



Date of survey: June 6, 2023
Electro-fishing time: 30 minutes
0 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
0 feet experimental gill nets fished: 0 hours

Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	32	53.33%
Largemouth Bass	17	28.33%
Goldfish	5	8.33 %
Bluegill x Green Sunfish Hybrid	5	8.33%
Bluegill x Redear Sunfish Hybrid	1	1.67%
Total	60	99.99%



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Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
4.0	3	9.37%	0.05	1+
4.5	6	18.75%	0.04	1+
5.0	2	6.25%	0.09	1 - 2+
5.5	9	28.13%	0.13	2+
6.0	9	28.13%	0.16	2 - 3+
6.5	3	9.37%	0.21	3+
Totals	32	100.01%		

Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
5.0	1	5.88%	0.04	1+
-	-	-	-	-
9.0	4	23.53%	0.34	2+
9.5	2	11.76%	0.35	2 - 3+
10.0	2	11.76%	0.43	3+
10.5	1	5.88%	0.44	3+
11.0	2	11.76%	0.56	3+
11.5	1	5.88%	0.81	3+
-	-	-	-	-
15.5	1	5.88%	1.78	4+
16.0	2	11.76%	1.95	5+
-	-	-	-	-
17.5	1	5.88%	3.13	6+
Totals	17	99.97%		

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Bluegill x Green Sunfish Hybrid

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
5.0	1	20.00%	0.13	2+
5.5	2	40.00%	0.15	2+
6.0	2	40.00%	0.18	2 - 3+
Totals	5	100.00%		

Other Species collected

Species	Number	Length	Weight	Age
Bluegill x Redear Sunfish Hybrid	1	7.5	0.27	3+

Stocking

The Forest Preserves of Cook County works closely with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to stock fish within the Forest Preserves lakes. The decision to stock fish and the number of fish stocked is based on many factors including but not limited to type of species, size of fish stocked, size of the lake and type of stocking. The Forest Preserves of Cook County must follow State of Illinois regulation regarding the introduction and stocking of fish. All requests to stock a new species into a District lake must go through the State's Management Recommendation Committee.

Most stocking fall under one of three categories, introduction, supplemental and put-and-take. Introduction stockings are the introduction of a new species within an existing lake or the stocking of a new body of water. Supplemental stockings are the stocking of species already in a lake and are used to supplement a species that may not successively reproduce on its own or has been overfished. Fish stocked in a put-and-take stocking are catchable size fish.

Size of Fish Stocked

Most of the fish stocked in the lakes of the Forest Preserves of Cook County are young-of-the-year and are provided by the IDNR Hatcheries. Fish from the hatcheries are stocked upon availability and are funded by your fishing licenses.

Bluegill are stocked at 1/2 to 3/4-inch.

Due to the abrupt closing of the hatchery that supplied the IDNR with catchable Channel Catfish and Hybrid Sunfish for the IDNR's Urban Fishing Program, the IDNR was unable to stock Channel Catfish at Cermak Quarry, Flatfoot Lake and Schiller Pond. The IDNR was able to procure Bluegill x Redear Sunfish Hybrids for these lakes, but the exact number of fish are unavailable.

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Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Channel Catfish	480	480	480	-	-
Hybrid Sunfish	825	825	Numbers Unavailable	800	825
Bluegill	10,434	11,070	10,477	-	-

Fisheries Survey Overview

Several years ago, a member of the public released their unwanted Goldfish into Cermak Quarry. Not only is this illegal but it had a negative impact on the fishery of this quarry. These Goldfish reproduced in great numbers and the lack of a large predatory population allowed them to soon overpopulate the lake. The Forest Preserves of Cook County's Fisheries Section spent several days over the last few years removing these Goldfish in order to improve the overall fishery of Cermak Quarry. With only five Goldfish being collected and only a few others being seen, it is hoped that a viable fishery is only a matter of time.

A decent number of Bluegill were collected and hundreds of young-of-year (YOY) Bluegill were seen in the shallow waters close to shore. With the removal of the Goldfish and the increase in YOY Bluegill, the Largemouth Bass is starting to recover from being crowded out by the Goldfish and overfishing. More, larger bass were seen during the 2023 survey than were seen during the Goldfish removals. Like with the YOY Bluegill, many YOY bass were observed in the shallows but were not collected.

Cermak Quarry has been part of the IDNR's Urban Fishing Program since the 1990's. This program included the stocking of hybrid sunfish and catchable Channel Catfish. Due to staffing issues the fishing clinics run by the IDNR have been shut down for many years. The stocking of the sunfish and smaller catfish has continued, however. The IDNR has recently hired new staff and the program is undergoing a revamping and it is hoped this program will soon be available to young anglers in the area. The Bluegill x Green Sunfish and Bluegill x Redear Sunfish sampled are part of this ongoing program.