

# Flatfoot Lake Population Survey



Located in Chicago; to get to this lake use the entrance for Beaubien Woods from southbound I-94 just south of 130<sup>th</sup> St. This old strip mine is 19-acres in size and has a maximum depth of 15.4 feet. Flatfoot Lake is home to Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, sunfish, bullheads, and crappie. Like Cermak Quarry this lake is part of the IDNR's Urban Fisheries Program and gets stocked with Channel Catfish and hybrid sunfish every year. A barrier free fishing pier is located near the picnic shelter. Designated ice fishing 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.

Water samples are collected and analyzed for each survey. The information collected over the years will show trends to 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.

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**Date of survey: September 29–October 1, 2020**

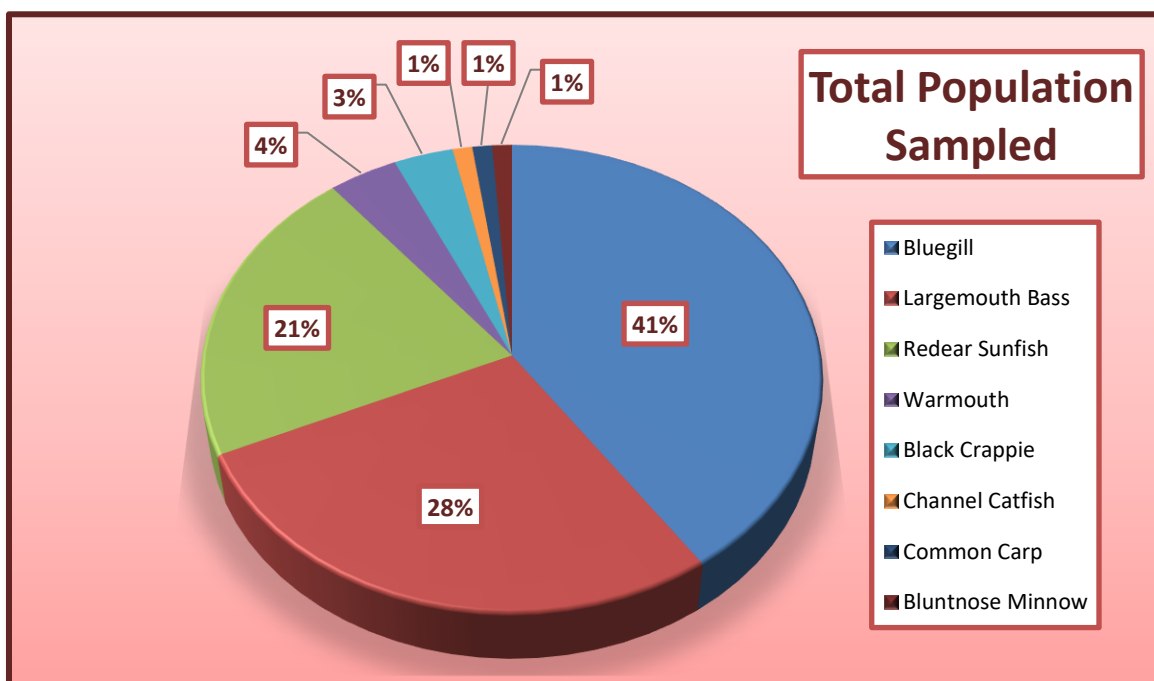
**Electro-fishing time: 30 minutes**

**3 Fyke nets fished: 24 hours**

**0 feet of gill nets fished:**

## Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	73	41.01%
Largemouth Bass	49	27.52%
Redear Sunfish	37	20.79%
Warmouth	7	3.93%
Black Crappie	6	3.37%
Channel Catfish	2	1.12%
Common Carp	2	1.12%
Bluntnose Minnow	2	1.12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>99.98%</b>



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## Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.0	8	10.96%	NA	0+
-	-	-	-	-
2.0	6	8.22%	0.004	0+
2.5	12	16.44%	0.007	0+
3.0	17	23.29%	0.02	1-2+
3.5	6	8.22%	0.03	2+
4.0	5	6.85%	0.05	2+
4.5	7	9.59%	0.06	2+
5.0	4	5.48%	0.09	3+
5.5	6	8.22%	0.12	4+
6.0	2	2.74%	0.16	4+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100.01%</b>		

## Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	1	2.04%	0.02	0+
-	-	-	-	-
4.5	1	2.04%	0.04	1+
5.0	7	14.28%	0.06	1+
5.5	1	2.04%	0.07	1+
-	-	-	-	-
9.0	3	6.12%	0.29	2+
9.5	2	4.08%	0.38	2+
10.0	2	4.08%	0.43	2+
10.5	5	10.20%	0.48	2+
11.0	6	12.24%	0.61	2-3+
11.5	6	12.24%	0.62	3+
12.0	5	10.20%	0.78	3+
-	-	-	-	-
13.0	3	6.12%	0.89	3+
-	-	-	-	-
14.0	4	8.16%	1.25	4+
14.5	1	2.04%	1.50	4+
15.0	2	4.08%	1.52	5+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>99.96%</b>		

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## Redear Sunfish

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.5	1	2.70%	NA	0+
-	-	-	-	-
3.0	1	2.70%	0.02	1+
3.5	1	2.70%	0.05	1+
-	-	-	-	-
4.5	5	13.51%	0.05	2+
5.0	11	29.71%	0.09	2-3+
5.5	5	13.51%	0.10	3+
6.0	6	16.22%	0.14	3+
6.5	7	18.92%	0.19	3+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>99.99%</b>		

## Warmouth

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.5	1	14.29%	0.05	2+
-	-	-	-	-
5.5	2	28.57%	0.14	3+
6.0	1	14.29%	0.20	3+
6.5	3	42.86%	0.26	3-4+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.01%</b>		

## Black Crappie

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
5.5	1	16.67%	0.09	1+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	1	16.67%	0.14	2+
7.0	1	16.67%	0.21	2+
7.5	1	16.67%	0.20	2+
-	-	-	-	-
11.0	2	33.33%	0.79	3-4+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

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## Other Species collected

Species	Number	Length	Weight	Age
Channel Catfish	2	15.5 - 16.0	1.28 – 1.30	NA
Common Carp	2	21.5 – 23.0	4.54 – 5.79	5+

## Stocking

The Forest Preserves of Cook County works closely with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to stock fishes 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 ½ to ¾-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.

Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Channel Catfish	3,333	3,333	-	-	-
Hybrid Sunfish	6,120	6,120	Numbers Unavailable	6,120	6,120
Bluegill	11,940	43,317	14,098	-	-