



Sag Quarry - West Population Survey

Located in Lemont on RT 83 and Archer Ave. just north of 111th St. Like Sag Quarry East, this lake is an old limestone quarry, 14-acres in size and with a maximum depth of 10.3 feet. The species found here includes Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, crappie, Yellow Bass, bullhead, and Common Carp. Sag Quarry West does not get stocked with Rainbow Trout. 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 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.

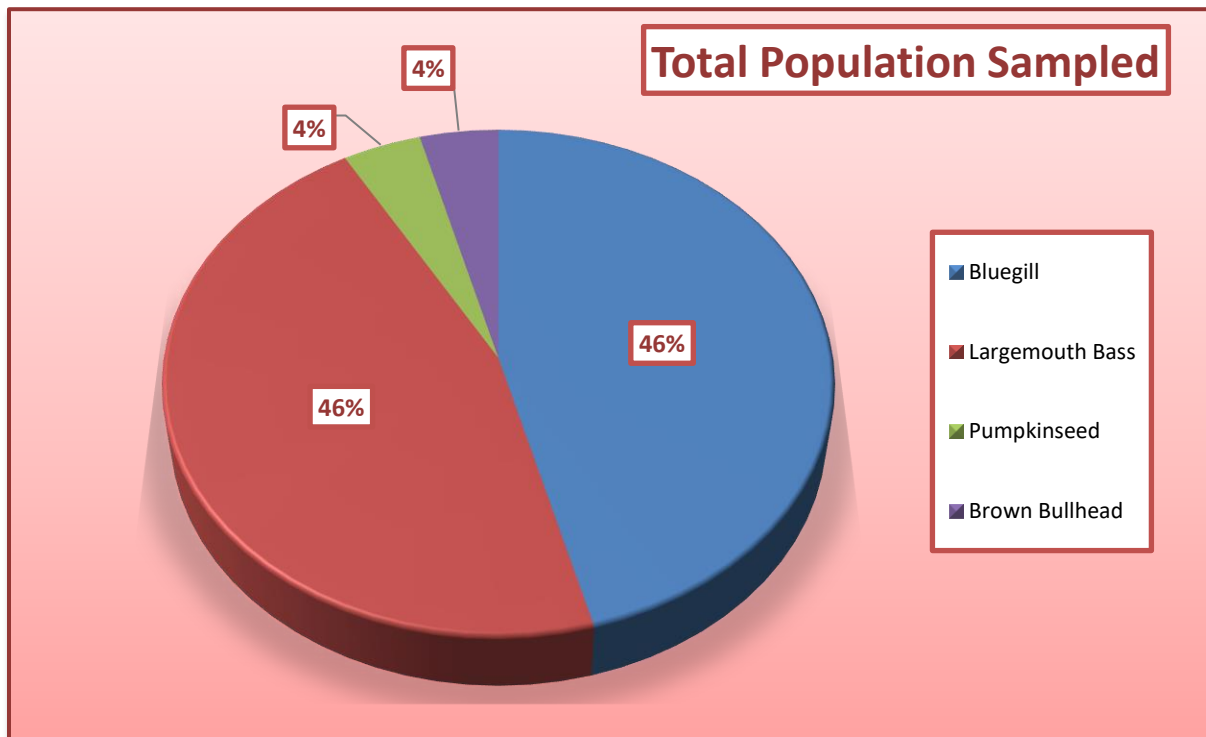
Sag Quarry - West Population Survey



Date of survey: July 25, 2023
Electro-fishing time: 30 minutes
Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
0 gill nets fished: 0 hours

Total Population

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	11	45.83%
Largemouth Bass	11	45.83%
Pumpkinseed	1	4.17%
Brown Bullhead	1	4.17%
Total	22	100.00%



Sag Quarry - West Population Survey



Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.5	9	27.27%	0.04	1+
4.0	3	27.27%	0.04	2+
4.5	2	18.18%	0.06	2+
5.0	2	18.18%	0.07	2 - 3+
5.5	1	9.09%	0.10	3+
Totals	11	99.99%		

Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
4.5	1	9.09%	0.04	1+
5.0	1	9.09%	0.06	1+
-	-	-	-	-
9.0	1	9.09%	0.32	2+
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	1	9.09%	0.79	3+
-	-	-	-	-
13.0	1	9.09%	1.07	3+
13.5	1	9.09%	1.16	3+
-	-	-	-	-
15.5	1	9.09%	1.76	4+
16.0	2	18.18%	2.29	4+
16.5	1	9.09%	2.28	4+
17.0	1	9.09%	2.77	4+
Totals	11	99.99%		

Other Species collected

Species	Number	Length	Weight	Age
Pumpkinseed	1	6.0	0.15	3+
Brown Bullhead	1	13.5	1.40	NA

Sag Quarry - West Population Survey



Fisheries Survey Overview

The fisheries survey of Sag Quarry – West in 2023 was very difficult to conduct. Due to the warm dry summer the aquatic vegetation was out of control making it difficult to electro-fish or use experimental gill nets. Another issue we faced this year was very high conductivity levels making electro-fishing very difficult. Conductivity levels rise with an increase in dissolved solids in the water. This in turn affects the efficiency of the electro-fishing equipment. Fyke nets are also impossible to use due to the nature of the shoreline at the Sag Quarries. Additionally, the water temperature at the surface was around 80^{oF} forcing many of the fish to deeper, cooler water and out of reach of the electro-fishing boat.

Only 24 fish were collected during the survey with eleven Bluegill and Largemouth Bass each being collected. One Pumpkinseed Sunfish and one Brown Bullhead were also collected.

In past surveys the Bluegill at Sag Quarry have been much better than what was sampled in 2023. Numbers were higher and the fish tended to be larger. The Largemouth Bass population, like the Bluegill population is better than indicated in the 2023 data. The bass either retreated to deeper and cooler depths or they moved to highly vegetative areas where we could not follow. Half of the bass collected however were over the legal size limit of 14-inches and many young- of-year bass were seen in the shallows and weed beds.

Other species that are normally collected in surveys at Sag Quarry – West include Black Crappie, Warmouth, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, and bullheads. Since no experimental gill nets were used due to high water temperatures which would result in the loss of many fish, these species were not collected in 2023. Conducting a survey during a different time of the year should produce better results and more accurately represent this quarry's fishery.