

Skokie Lagoons #6 Population Survey



Located in Glencoe and Winnetka along Forestway Drive between Willow and Dundee Rd.'s, just east of Edens Expressway (I-94). Skokie Lagoons are a system of 7 lagoons connected by channels on the Skokie River. The total acreage for the entire lagoon system is 242-acres. The maximum depth of 14.9 feet is located in Lagoon #2; however, pockets of 10 feet or more can be found in most of the other lagoons. The main predators in the Skokie Lagoons include Walleye, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish. Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Yellow Bass, crappie, bullheads, and Common Carp can also be found in the Lagoons. A Boat ramp and barrier free fishing wall is located off Tower Road just east of the Edens Expressway. For acceptable watercraft and general boating regulations see the District's Fishing Guide. Canoe and kayak rentals are available at Lagoon #3 in the parking lot along Tower Road just west of Forestway Drive.

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.

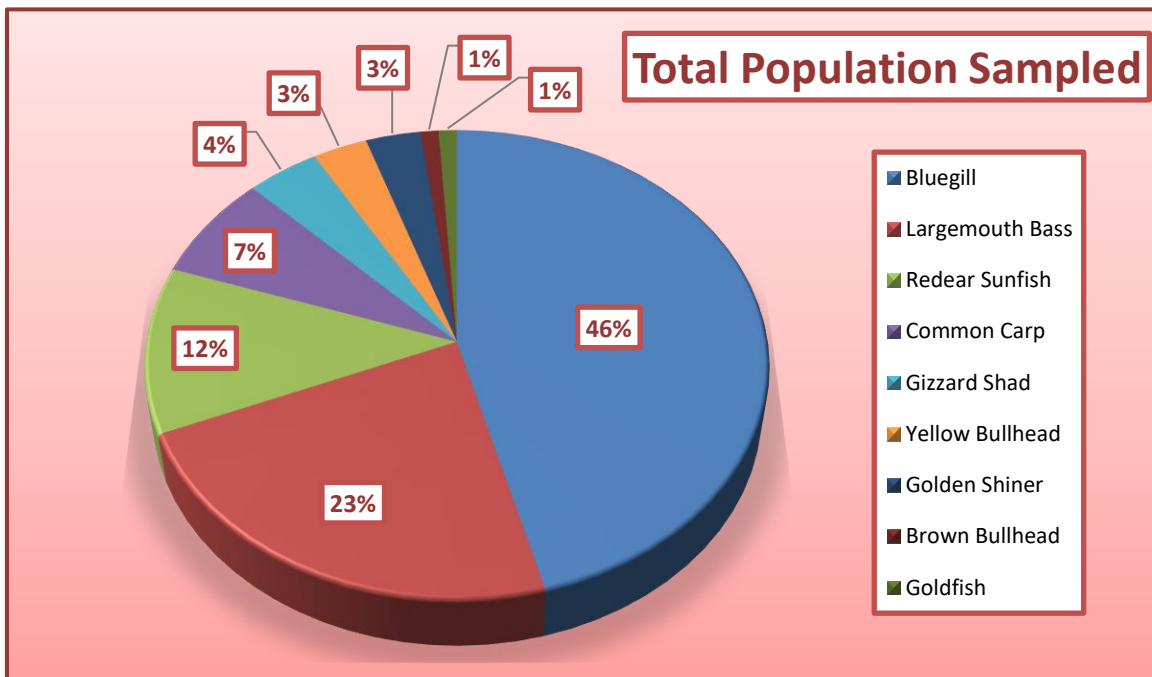
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Date of survey: July 27, 2023
Electro-fishing time: 35 minutes
0 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
0 feet of gill nets fished: 0 hours

Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	44	45.83%
Largemouth Bass	22	22.92%
Redear Sunfish	11	11.46%
Common Carp	7	7.29%
Gizzard Shad	4	4.17%
Yellow Bullhead	3	3.13%
Golden Shiner	3	3.13%
Brown Bullhead	1	1.04%
Goldfish	1	1.04%
Total	96	100.01%



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Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.0	1	2.27%	0.007	0+
2.5	6	13.64%	0.01	0+
3.0	10	22.73%	0.02	1+
3.5	4	9.09%	0.04	1+
4.0	4	9.09%	0.05	2+
4.5	4	9.09%	0.06	2+
5.0	7	15.91%	0.09	2+
5.5	4	9.09%	0.13	2 - 3+
6.0	3	6.82%	0.14	3+
6.5	1	2.27%	0.23	3+
Totals	44	100.00%		

Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
4.5	1	4.55%	0.46	1+
-	-	-	-	-
8.5	2	9.09%	0.27	1 - 2+
9.0	2	9.09%	0.35	2+
9.5	1	4.55%	0.40	2+
10.0	3	13.64%	0.52	2+
-	-	-	-	-
11.0	1	4.55%	0.66	2+
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	3	13.64%	0.88	3+
12.5	1	4.55%	0.91	3+
-	-	-	-	-
13.5	2	9.09%	1.23	3+
14.0	3	13.64%	1.45	3 - 4+
-	-	-	-	-
15.5	1	4.55%	1.85	3+
-	-	-	-	-
17.5	1	4.55%	3.21	4+
-	-	-	-	-
18.0	1	4.55%	3.14	4+
Totals	22	100.03%		

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Redear Sunfish

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
5.0	3	27.27%	0.10	2+
5.5	3	27.27%	0.12	2+
6.0	2	18.18%	0.16	2+
6.5	2	18.18%	0.22	2 - 3+
-	-	-	-	-
7.5	1	9.09%	0.29	3+
Totals	11	99.99%		

Common Carp

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
13.5	1	14.29%	1.34	2+
-	-	-	-	-
20.5	1	14.29%	4.26	4+
-	-	-	-	-
22.5	1	14.29%	6.17	4+
23.0	1	14.29%	6.47	4+
23.5	1	14.29%	5.99	5+
24.0	1	14.29%	7.52	5+
-	-	-	-	-
25.0	1	14.29%	6.59	5+
Totals	7	100.03%		

Yellow Bullhead

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
9.0	1	33.33%	0.33	NA
9.5	1	33.33%	0.39	NA
-	-	-	-	-
10.5	1	33.33%	0.50	NA
Totals	3	99.99%		

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Other Species Collected

Species	Number	Length	Avg. Weight	Age
Brown Bullhead	1	10.5	0.54	NA

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.

Channel Catfish are stocked at around 6-inches in most lakes.

The IDNR suspended the production, rearing and stocking of Northern Pike in 2017, Northern stocking resumed in 2020 and were stocked in the 7 to 9-inch range. Muskellunge range from 10 to 14-inches and are stocked in the Main Pool of Busse Reservoir intermittently.

Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Channel Catfish	3,582	4,750	4,750	4,750	4,750
Northern Pike	-	1,974	969	981	968
Walleye	9,531	16,788	11,572	9,153	10,003

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Fisheries Survey Overview

Skokie Lagoon #6 is the smallest lagoon of the Skokie Lagoons system and is located off Forest Way Drive near the picnic pavilion. The Bluegill in Lagoon #6 is comparable to the rest of the system with fish up to 6.5-inches and made up 46% of the total population sampled. Largemouth Bass made up 23% of the total population sampled. Bass ranged in size from 4.5-inches up to 18.0-inches with six of the bass collected coming in over the legal size of 14.0-inches. Just like the rest of the lagoon system, larger bass are most likely in this lagoon and in larger numbers than were sampled.

Eleven Redear Sunfish were also collected in the 2023 survey. This sunfish species came in with Bluegill stockings in the late 90's and early 2000's. They are reproducing on their own and seem to do quite well with adult fish reaching 7.5-inches and weighing over a quarter of a pound.

Both Walleye and Channel Catfish were stocked in Lagoon #6, but none were collected in the 2023 survey. These species are better collected using a gill net or Fyke/trap net. These nets are rough on fish, especially in the warmer summer month.