

O'Malley's Ponds Population Survey



The newest fishing lake within the Forest Preserves of Cook County, O'Malley Ponds were acquired by the District in 2005. Located in Sauk Village at the intersection of Sauk Trail and Burnham Avenue, O'Malley Ponds consist of 3 ponds. Fishing is permitted in the South Pond on the south side of Sauk Trail and both the Central and North Ponds on the north side of Sauk Trail with a total of 21-acres of fishable water. A fourth pond is located nearby and is private property. The fish population of O'Malley Ponds consists mostly of Largemouth Bass and Bluegill with smaller numbers of Yellow Perch, crappie and bullheads. Grass Pickerel, a small relative of Northern Pike can also be found in the ponds and are easily mistaken for young Northern.

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 lakes 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 moon light 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 lakes 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.

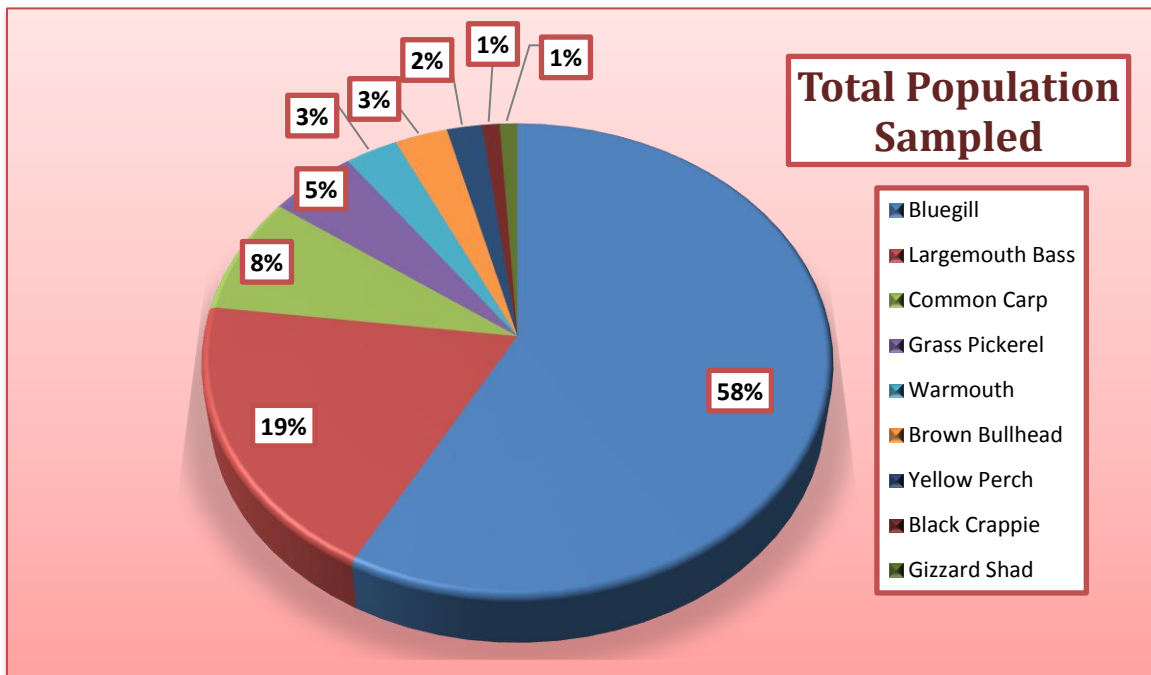
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Date of survey: September 12, 2017
Electro-fishing time: 30 minutes
o Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
o feet of gill nets fished: 0 hours

Total Population

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	58	58.00%
Largemouth Bass	19	19.00%
Common Carp	8	8.00%
Grass Pickerel	5	5.00%
Warmouth	3	3.00%
Brown Bullhead	3	3.00%
Yellow Perch	2	2.00%
Black Crappie	1	1.00%
Gizzard Shad	1	1.00%
Total	100	100.00%



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Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs	Age
0.5	6	4.32%	NA	0+
1.0	30	21.58%	NA	0+
1.5	46	33.09%	0.004	0+
2.0	35	25.18%	0.004	1+
2.5	5	3.60%	0.01	1+
-	-	-	-	-
4.0	2	1.44%	0.05	1+
4.5	3	2.16%	0.07	1+
5.0	10	7.19%	0.10	1 – 2+
5.5	2	1.44%	0.13	3+
Totals	139	100.00%		

Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs	Age
9.0	1	2.94%	0.41	1+
9.5	2	5.88%	0.49	1+
10.0	7	20.59%	0.59	1+
10.5	7	20.59%	0.63	1+
11.0	12	35.29%	0.94	1 – 2+
11.5	3	8.82%	0.86	1 – 2+
12.0	2	5.88%	1.01	2=
Totals	34	99.99%		

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Common Carp

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs	Age
16.0	1	12.50%	1.56	3+
-	-	-	-	-
22.5	1	12.50%	4.89	5+
23.0	1	12.50%	4.72	5+
23.5	1	12.50%	6.23	5+
-	-	-	-	-
25.0	1	12.50%	7.48	5+
25.5	1	12.50%	8.11	6+
26.0	1	12.50%	8.31	6+
-	-	-	-	-
28.5	1	12.50%	12.06	7+
Totals	8	100.00%		

Grass Pickerel

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs	Age
9.0	1	20.00%	0.20	2+
9.5	1	20.00%	0.21	2+
10.0	2	40.00%	0.27	2+
-	-	-	-	-
11.5	1	20.00%	0.33	3+
Totals	5	100.00%		

Warmouth

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs	Age
2.5	1	33.33%	0.01	1+
3.0	1	33.33%	0.02	2+
-	-	-	-	-
4.5	1	33.33%	0.06	3+
Totals	3	99.99%		

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Brown Bullhead

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs	Age
7.5	1	33.33%	0.20	NA
-	-	-	-	-
8.5	1	33.33%	0.27	NA
-	-	-	-	-
9.5	1	33.33%	0.39	NA
Totals	3	99.99%		

Other Species collected

Species	Number	Length	Weight	Age
Yellow Perch	2	7.0 – 8.5	0.13 – 0.21	3 – 4+
Black Crappie	1	7.3	0.15	4+