

Crooked Lake

2017 Status and Trends Survey

Lake Information: 206 acres; 108 feet max depth
Located: Columbia City, IN; Noble County
Access: Boat ramp on northwest shore off of State Road 109
GPS Coordinates: N 41.27014, W 85.48909
Amenities: Restroom, ADA access, and nature preserve with hiking trail
Outboard Motor Restriction: 10 mph limit
Fishing Regulations: Statewide
Recent Stocking: None
Best Fishing: Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish

DNR Contact Information:
 Steven Gratz
 North Fisheries Research Assistant Biologist
 (260) 244-6805;
 Nfishres@dnr.IN.gov
Report Approved By:
 Matthew Linn, Research Biologist
 Date Approved: 12/21/2017
 Jeremy Price, Regional Supervisor
 Date approved:

Methods

Fish

- Dates: 6/7/2017 – 6/8/2017
- Electrofishing: 0.5 hours pulsed DC with 2 dippers
- Trap nets: 2 overnight lifts
- Gill nets: 2 overnight lifts

Habitat

- Chemistry: Water clarity and oxygen profiles
- Date: 6/8/2017 and 8/22/2017
- Vegetation: 8/15/2017
- Depth Map: [Click for link to map](#)

Summary

Sport Fish

Bluegill



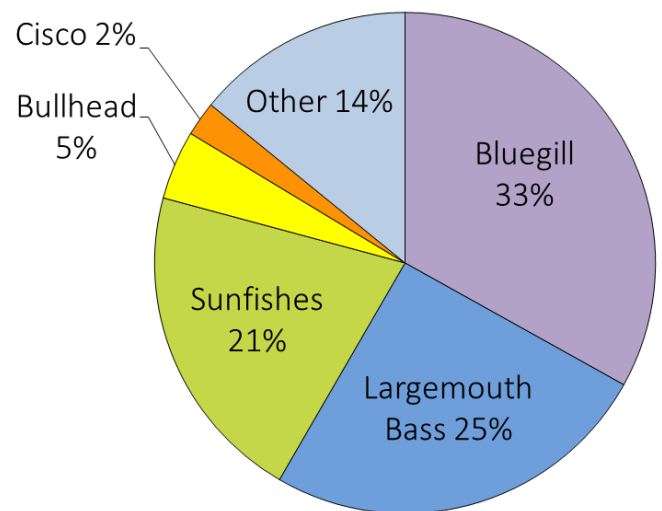
Largemouth Bass



Bluegill and Largemouth Bass catch rates at Crooked Lake compared to regional averages among all glacial lakes in northern Indiana.

Fish Community

- Overall, 269 fish were collected representing 17 species.
- Bluegill were the most abundant species with 89 individuals that measured up to 9.9 inches in length.
- Bluegill had an average length of 4.4 inches with twenty-two percent greater than 6.0 inches.
- Seventy-one percent of the Redear Sunfish were greater than 6.0 inches in length.
- Sixty-eight Largemouth Bass were collected with two greater than 14.0 inches.
- Six Cisco, an environmentally sensitive fish in Indiana, were collected and ranged from 13.1 to 14.2 inches.
- The abundance of Yellow Perch was similar to other northern Indiana lakes.



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuel supports boating access and Sport Fish Restoration.

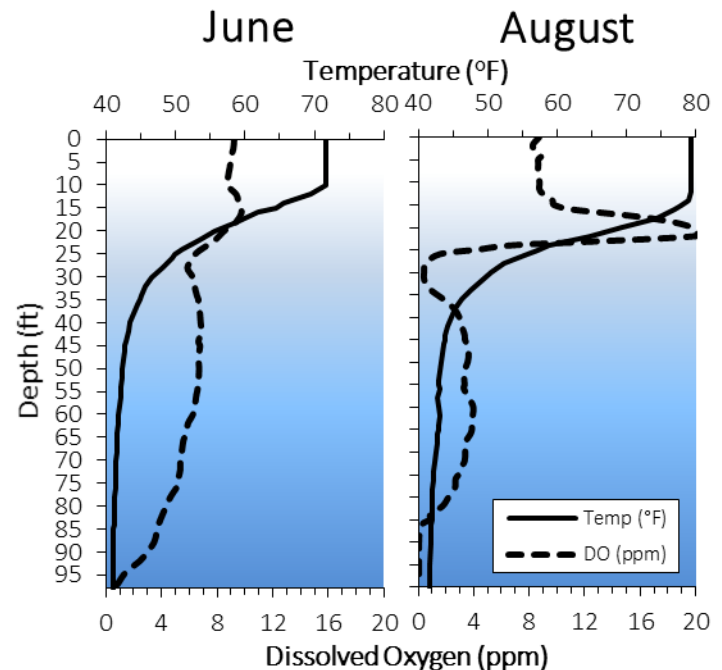
Indiana Fishing Regulation Guide:
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2347.htm>

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Species	Num.	Percent Composition by Num.	Length Range (in)	
			Min	Max
Bluegill	89	33.1	1.7	9.9
Largemouth Bass	68	25.3	2.4	16.4
Redear Sunfish	35	13.0	4.7	10.1
Warmouth	13	4.8	5.2	6.8
Brook Silverside	12	4.5	3.2	3.9
Lake Chubsucker	8	3.0	3.5	9.5
Yellow Perch	8	3.0	3.4	8.4
Black Bullhead	7	2.6	12.6	16.5
Cisco	6	2.2	13.1	14.2
Pumpkinseed	4	1.5	6.4	7.0
Rock Bass	4	1.5	3.6	8.0
Spotted Gar	4	1.5	17.7	26.2
Brown Bullhead	3	1.1	12.1	16.0
Blackchin Shiner	2	0.7	2.4	2.7
Bluntnose Minnow	2	0.7	2.6	3.2
Golden Shiner	2	0.7	2.8	8.7
Yellow Bullhead	2	0.7	9.5	12.0
Total	269			

- Plant coverage in the littoral zone was 95% with *Chara* sp., Coontail, and Eelgrass being the dominant plants (20%, 20%, and 12%, respectively).



Stocking

Species	Years	Average Number Stocked
Lake Trout	1976, 1977, 1979	12,746
Brown Trout	1976, 1977, 1979, 1981-1983	2,151
Rainbow Trout	1976, 1979, 1980, 1983-1994	1,946

Habitat

- Oxygen (≥ 3 ppm) was available for fish down to 90.0 feet in June and 25.0 feet in August. Oxygen (≥ 3 ppm) was also available between 42.0 and 74.0 feet in August.
- Water clarity was 17.5 feet in June and 12.5 feet in August.
- Aquatic plants were collected to 19.0 feet and comprised 21 species.
- Three non-native species, Eurasian watermilfoil, Curly-leaf pondweed, and Brittle naiad, were collected.

Highlights

- Crooked Lake was identified as a Conservation Opportunity Area in the State Wildlife Action Plan, because it supports a population of Cisco. Cisco are listed as a species-of-special-concern in Indiana and are indicators of good water quality.
- The DFW should work with conservation partners to limit the effects of nutrient loading in order to sustain cold-water habitat at Crooked Lake.



Fisheries Aide, Jim Sittler, holding a Cisco captured during a general fisheries survey on Crooked Lake 6/8/2017.

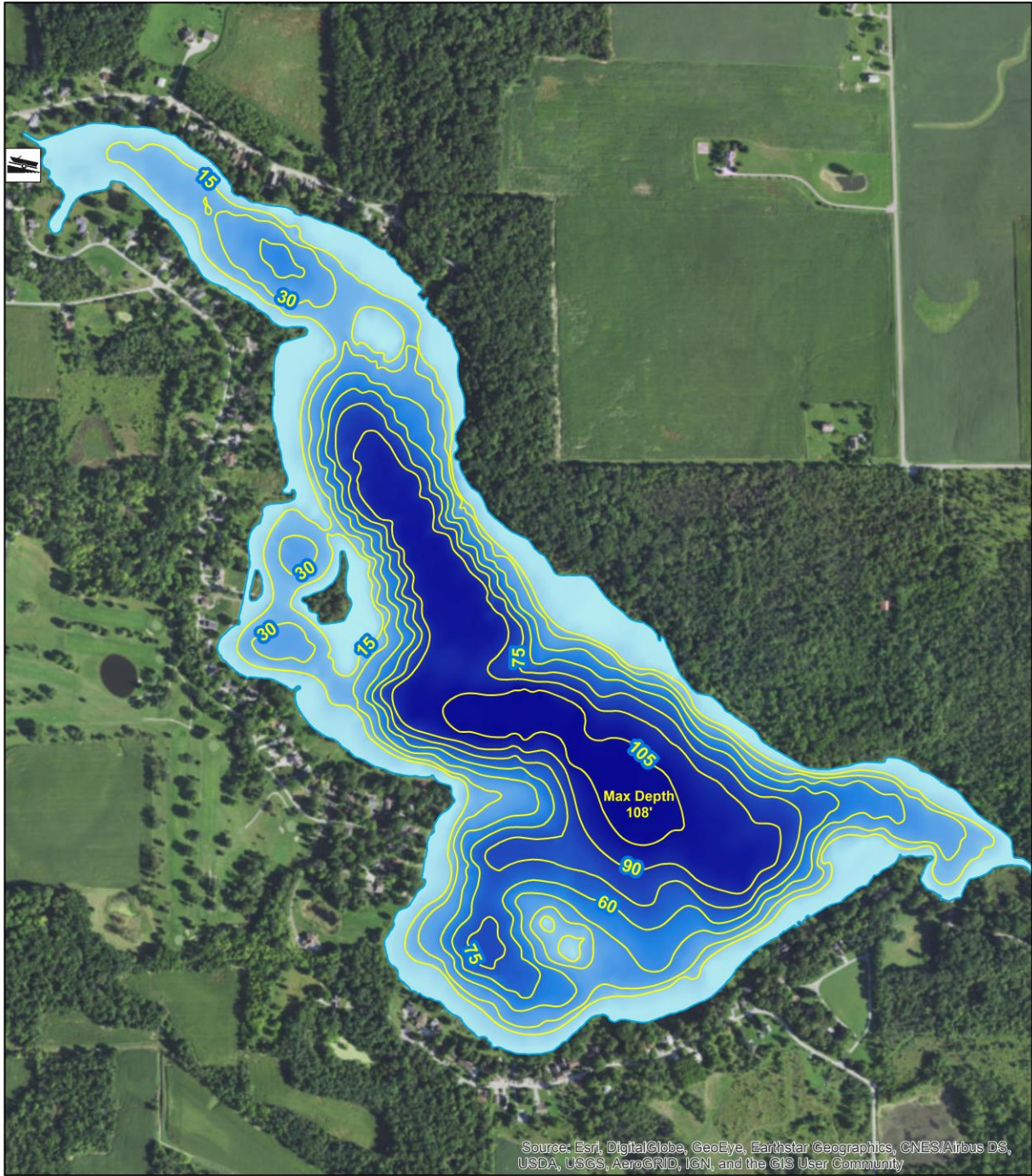


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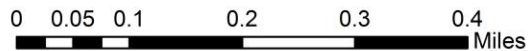
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Crooked Lake
Noble County
206 acres
7/19/2017
15 ft contours



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