



WHALON LAKE

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Whalon Lake is an 81-acre gravel pit lake located in Bolingbrook 2 miles west of Rt. 53 on Royce Road and just minutes from Interstate 55.

DESCRIPTION – Whalon Lake is owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC), and the fishery is cooperatively managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the FPDWC. This site was surface-mined by Elmhurst-Chicago Stone for sand, gravel and limestone for nearly 50 years. The property was purchased in the 1990's by the FPDWC. Following the completion of a site development project, the lake was allowed to fully impound and was opened to the public in 2008. Whalon Lake has a maximum depth of nearly 100 feet with an average depth of 15.0 feet. The watershed is very limited but the lake is fed by groundwater. During high water events, water can also enter the lake from the adjacent DuPage River. Shoreline length is approximately 1½ miles excluding the two islands located in the southeast portion of the impoundment. Whalon Lake offers diverse habitats, both natural and man-made. Very user-friendly, the entire shoreline is accessible to bank fishing and a barrier-free fishing pier facilitates access for anglers with special needs. Whalon Lake has a two-lane concrete boat ramp and boats are restricted to utilizing electric trolling motors only. Fishing is open daily during open water - ice fishing is not allowed.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - Whalon Lake is surveyed on a biennial basis incorporating various gear types. Aquatic vegetation is managed by the FPDWC in cooperation with the IDNR. As a compliment to the aquatic plant introduction projects accomplished by the FPDWC, the introduction of water willow along selected shoreline areas of the lake's two islands was completed by the IDNR in 2013.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY –Whalon Lake receives annual stockings of 8" to 10" channel catfish and fingerling walleye. *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.* Below is a brief description of the major sportfish species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – The fall 2015 fish population survey yielded an electrofishing catch rate of slightly less than one fish per minute of effort, ranging from 2.4" to 18.1" at an average length of 8.5". This collection was somewhat top-heavy as 72% of the adults captured were legal size (15"). **Smallmouth bass** are also present in lower density and this species has exhibited reproduction and sporadic recruitment. Smallmouth bass collected in 2015 ranged from 3.1" to 17.7", averaging 8.4".

BLUEGILL – In 2015, 62 bluegills were captured in one hour of electrofishing ranging in length from 2.0" to 7.1" averaging 5.1". 30% of the adults sampled were at least 6". A thriving gizzard shad population is likely impacting bluegill growth.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Spring trap netting in 2015 yielded a good collection of black crappie which was dominated by larger adults. Crappie captured in this survey ranged from 8.0" to 11.9", averaging 10.1". An equal number were sampled in the fall survey but this collection was dominated by smaller fish, as evidenced by an average length for fall-caught black crappie of 5.4".

CHANNEL CATFISH – Stocked annually since 2011, channel catfish were poorly represented in the 2015 survey. The poor results are felt to be a sampling anomaly and not a true reflection of the present population. Catfish collected in this survey ranged from 16.9" to 21.7" and averaged 19.6".

WALLEYE – Initiating in 2010, walleyes have been stocked annually (except 2011 due to hatchery production). At an average length of 17.9”, walleyes collected in 2015 ranged from 13.8” to 23.6” verifying recruitment from each stocking. The population, and fishery, is still in a developmental stage but the early signs point towards success and anglers are reporting catches of quality size fish.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES – Prior to the impoundment of Whalon Lake, three large overflow pipes which the quarry was fitted with were specified to contain valves to prevent the ingress of fish from the near-by DuPage River. Unfortunately, this vital component of the lake level control system was omitted and during high water events riverine species have gained access to the lake. Fish population surveys indicated that common carp, white suckers, green sunfish, yellow bass, bullheads and gizzard shad have also become established.

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

Boaters - Trolling motor only

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 15 fish daily creel limit.

Channel Catfish – 3 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 18” minimum length limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.

Walleye – 16” minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

CONTACT INFORMATION – Forest Preserve District of Will County: 815/727-8700.
or visit their website at <http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.

WHALON LAKE MAP

