



# GRAYSLAKE

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Located in the Village of Grayslake north of Route 120 west of South Lake Street in Lake County, IL.

**DESCRIPTION** – Grayslake is a 80.0 acre natural/glacial lake, the lake is owned and managed by the Grayslake Community Park District which maintains public boating (no motors/carry in only) from shore access at the northwestern part of the lake. Grayslake has a maximum depth of 17.3 ft.; average depth of 4.3 ft. There is no concession stand, no boat rental and no fish cleaning station. Ice fishing is allowed with access available via a parking lot in the northwestern corner of the lake

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Occasional fish surveys are conducted to update the status of the fishery with emphasis on predator species like largemouth bass and northern pike. Aquatic vegetation is managed by the Park District to control exotic species.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Grayslake receives annual stockings of 270 - 8" northern pike and received a onetime stocking of 1025 - 4" largemouth bass fingerlings to jumpstart the fishery following a severe winterkill in 2014. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – In summer 2014, 2 adult bass were collected via electrofishing (60 minutes) and 32 young of the year bass were collected in a seine. Adult fish were 12" and 15" long, fish collected in the seine were 2" to 3" long. Some adult fish survived the winterkill and reproduced providing the lake with future bass fishing, the supplemental stocking added to their abundance but it will take 3 or 4 years to see the results of these efforts. For comparisons sake, a 2012 survey produced a catch of 118 bass in 30 minutes!

**BLUEGILL** – In 2014, only 6 bluegill were dipped in one hour of electrofishing, bluegill abundance was down following the 2013 winterkill. Fish ranged from 4.5" to 6.0" long but since bluegill can spawn several times per summer and adult fish were present, their population should rebound fairly quickly.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – 7 black crappie were collected while electrofishing and another 85 young of the year fish were collected in our seines. Fish measured from 2" to 11" long in the electrofishing survey and in the seines were 2" long and considered young of the year and spawned in spring 2014. Crappie are tolerant of tough winter conditions and reproduce well so our biggest concern is that they don't become too abundant and "stunt" at about 8" to 9" long. Building a strong predatory base and promoting harvest of small crappie by fishermen will help prevent this. The problem is that fishermen don't like to harvest smaller size fish!

**NORTHERN PIKE** – 3 northern pike were collected while electrofishing. They ranged in size from 19.6" to 20.9" long. Northern pike are stocked annually to provide predatory pressure to the system so fish like black crappie and bluegill do not become overabundant but their current presence is minimal and it'll take some time to get them back on track. At present, there is a lot of smaller size food for fish to eat so fish should grow fast while feasting at the buffet table!

**ADDITIONAL NOTES** - In summer of 2013 a blackchin shiner (E&T species) was collected by the INHS which was the first time one was collected since the early 1990's. It'll be to see if any more are collected following the severe winterkill event we experienced in 2014. Yellow perch (3" long) were collected in

abundance in the beach seine suggesting a fairly strong presence of adult size fish but none were collected via electrofishing.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES** – Pumpkinseed sunfish, brown bullhead, bluntnose minnow, common carp, yellow bullhead, yellow perch.

**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:

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

Boaters – No motors (gas or electric)

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Grayslake Park District: (847) 223-7529 ([www.glpd.com](http://www.glpd.com))  
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: (815) 675-2319

### Grayslake Map

