

Bruce Lake

2019 Crappie Survey

Lake Information: 245 acres; 34 feet max depth
Located: Winamac, IN; Pulaski/Fulton Counties
Access: Boat ramp on North shore
GPS Coordinates: N 41.08019, W -86.47101
Amenities: Seasonal restroom
Outboard Motor Restriction: 10 mph limit
Fishing Regulations: Statewide
Recent Stocking: 2019; 495 Muskies

Best Fishing: Muskie, Crappie, Bluegill, Largemouth Bass
DNR Contact Information:
 Fish Management District 1
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Report Approved By: Dan Carnahan, Fisheries Supervisor
Date approved: February 2, 2022
Technical Publication: 2022-OSR ANGLER-9

Methods

- Survey Dates: April 22-23, 2019
- Gear: Small Lake Michigan style trap nets: 4 overnight lifts

Summary

Fish Community

- Overall, there were 3,393 Black and White Crappies collected for a catch rate of 848.3 fish/net.
- Black Crappie were slightly more numerous with 1,765 individuals which ranged in length from 5.4 to 16.2 inches (Figure 1).
- Black Crappie ages ranged from 1 to 11. Averaging 6.6, 8.2, and 8.5 inches at ages 2, 3, and 4 years old. Three to six year old fish constituted 84% of total collected.

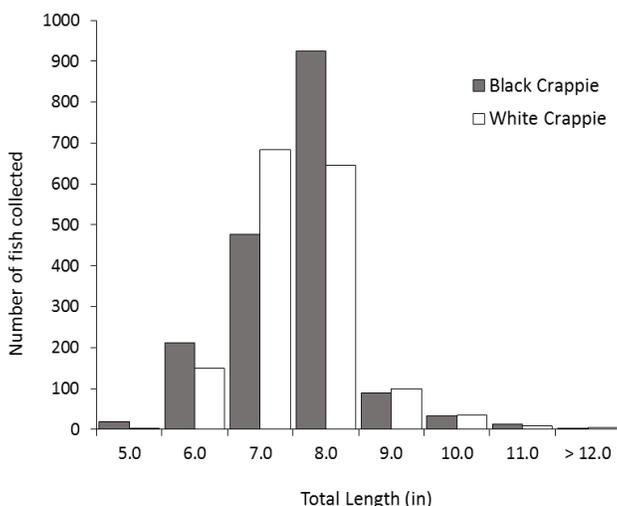


Figure 1. Number of crappie collected by length.

- A total of 1,628 White Crappies were collected from 5.8 to 15.2 in, but were not aged (Figure 1).
- Eighty percent of both species of crappies were between 7.0 and 9.0 inches.

Stocking

Table 1. Fish stocked in Bruce

Year	Species	Number	Size (in)	Average size (in)
2019	Muskellunge	495	9.7 - 10.1	9.8
2018	Muskellunge	490	7.9 - 9.7	8.8
2017*	Channel Catfish	3,280	9.0 - 11.0	10.0
2017	Muskellunge	490	8.9 - 11.3	10.1

*Private stocking Lake since 2017.

Highlights

- This was the first targeted crappie survey at Bruce Lake, with catch considerably higher than other local lakes.
- In a 2014 Bruce Lake angler creel survey, crappie were the fourth most targeted species and the second highest species harvested with an estimated 1,699 fish taken, averaging 9.8 inches.
- General fisheries surveys in the 2011 and 2014 indicated inconsistent crappie recruitment, primary driven by a couple strong year classes. This survey had strong year classes in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Similar among surveys, growth slows at age 3.
- In addition to crappies, 16 Muskies ranging from 24.0 to 47.5 inches were sampled with 63% being legal length (36 in.) and longer.



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

Indiana Fishing Regulation Guide:
www.Fishing.IN.gov