

Lake Wawasee 2022 Status and Trends Survey

Lake Information: 3,410 acres; 70 feet max depth

Located: Syracuse, IN; Kosciusko County; **GPS Coordinates:** N 41.398818; W -85.69743

Lake Map: [Contour map](#)

Ownership: Indiana Department of Natural Resources; **Access:** Public access ramp; **Fees:** None

Special Restrictions: None; **Outboard Motor Restrictions:** None

Best Fishing: Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Yellow Perch

Thermocline: 25 feet

DNR Contact Information: Tyler Delauder, District 3 Fisheries Biologist. D3Fish@dnr.IN.gov

Fish Survey Dates: June 1 to June 21, 2022

Aquatic Vegetation: Fifteen species of aquatic plants were found and 12 of them were native species. Chara, starry stonewort, and coontail were the dominate species. Plants were found to a depth of 21 feet.

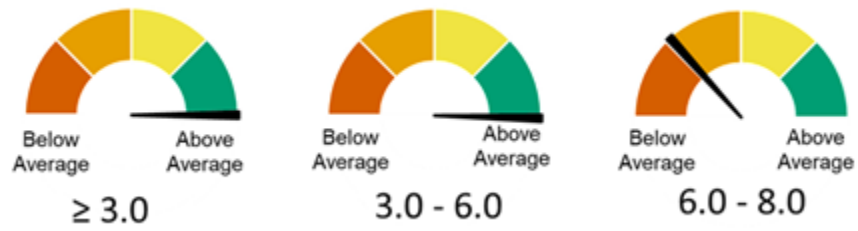
Comments: Lake Wawasee is providing anglers with quality fishing opportunities for multiple species. Bluegill numbers were high however the presence of larger fish was low. Largemouth Bass and Yellow Perch fishing are a focus for many anglers.

Fish Species Composition

Species	Number	Percent	Min Length	Max Length
Bluegill	943	76.4	1.5	8.9
Largemouth Bass	78	6.3	3.5	15.5
Yellow Perch	46	3.7	3.5	11.9
Warmouth	26	2.1	2.8	8.2
Longear Sunfish	18	1.5	2.6	5.4
Brook Silverside	17	1.4	3.3	4.3
Pumpkinseed	17	1.4	2.0	7.2
Yellow Bullhead	14	1.1	6.3	13.5
Golden Shiner	13	1.1	4.9	7.3
Redear Sunfish	12	1.0	3.1	11.0
Brown Bullhead	11	0.9	8.2	14.6
Black Crappie	9	0.7	4.2	10.7
Northern Pike	9	0.7	18.5	26.2
Spotted Gar	5	0.4	15.4	36.4
Rock Bass	4	0.3	7.7	10.1
Bowfin	3	0.2	22.8	23.3
Hybrid Sunfish	3	0.2	7.9	8.4
Green Sunfish	2	0.2	4.2	5.4
Lake Chubsucker	2	0.2	4.6	9.6
Longnose Gar	2	0.2	25.1	39.0
Common Carp	1	0.1	26.4	26.4

Catch Rates (by inch class)

Bluegill



Largemouth Bass

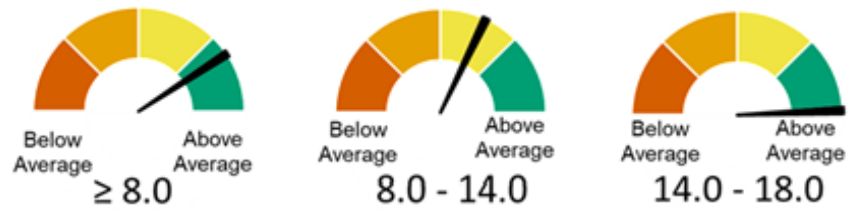


Figure 1. Catch rates of Bluegill and Largemouth Bass compared to other Glacial Lakes.

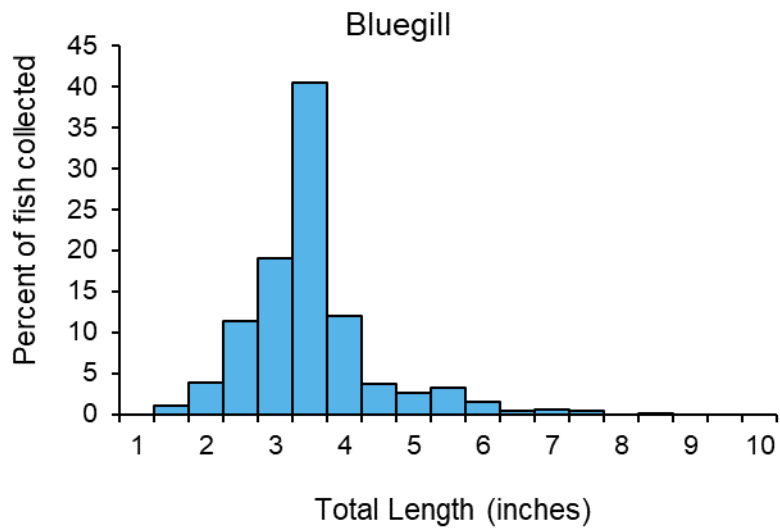


Figure 2. Bluegill length frequency

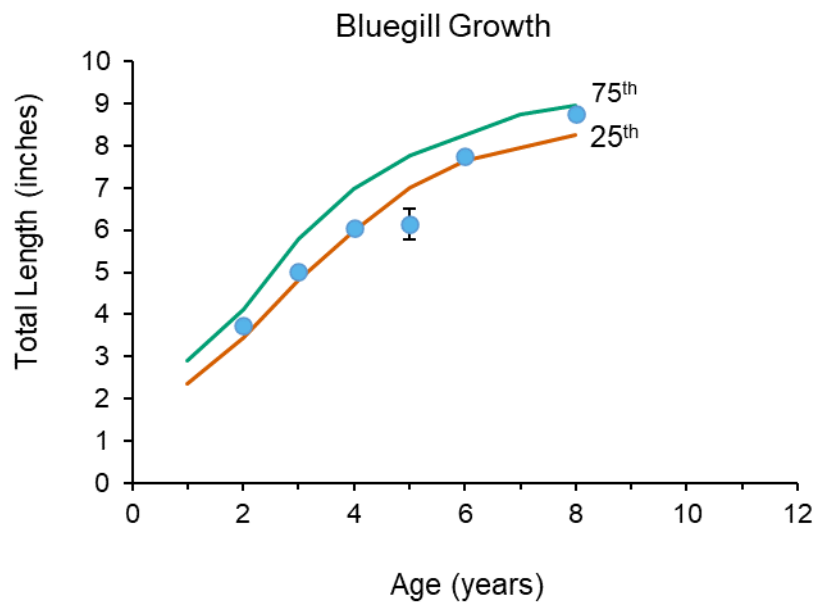


Figure 3. Bluegill average length at age compared to the 25th and 75th growth percentiles. Any age between the 25th and 75th percentiles is considered average growth while any above or below them is considered great or poor growth.

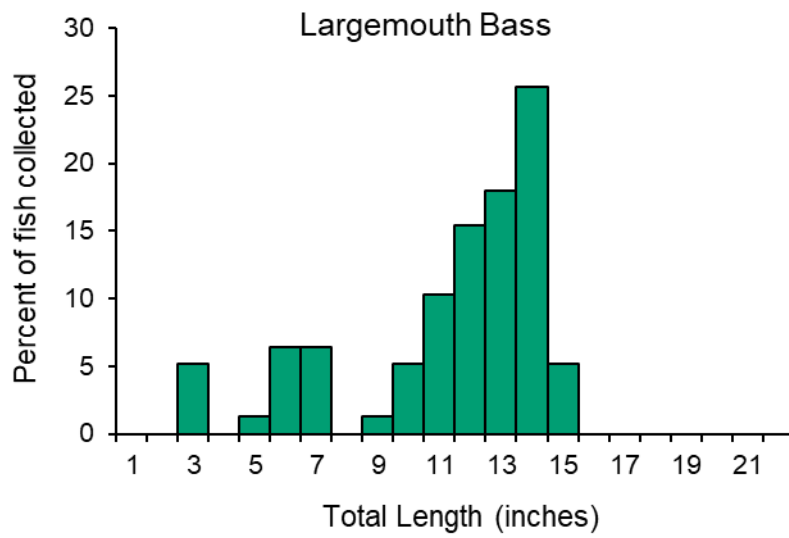


Figure 4. Largemouth Bass length frequency.



Figure 5. Largemouth Bass average length at age compared to the 25th and 75th growth percentiles. Any age between the 25th and 75th percentiles is considered average growth while any above or below them is considered great or poor growth.

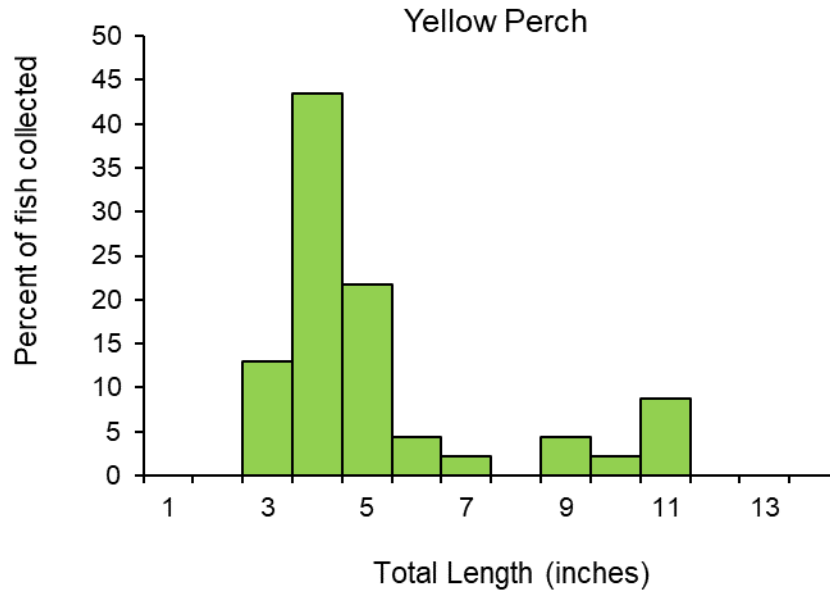


Figure 6. Yellow Perch length frequency.

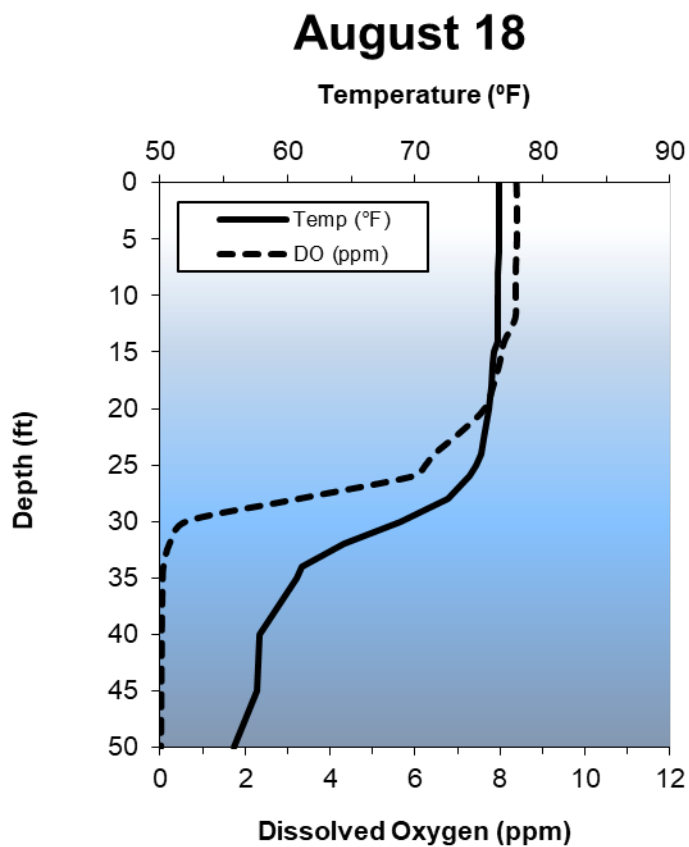


Figure 7. Temperature and oxygen profiles by depth.

Survey Info

Waterbody: Wawasee
 County: Kosciusko
 Acres: 3,410
 Survey Date: August 17, 2022
 Biologist: Delauder - D3
 Sampling trophic status: Oligo
 Secchi Depth (ft): 11.50

Species Occurrence:
(# of sites)

Chara	36
Starry stonewort	26
Coontail	24
Bladderwort	19
Eelgrass	15
Variable pondweed	12
Clasping-leaf pondweed	10
Southern naiad	9
Sago pondweed	9
Eurasian water milfoil	7
Slender naiad	6
Long-leaf pondweed	2
Floating-leaf pondweed	2
Curly-leaf pondweed	2
Flat-stem pondweed	1

of species: 15

of native species: 12

Max Sample Depth: 25.0ft

Max Plant Depth: 21.0ft

Overall Coverage: 78.0%

Native Coverage: 71.0%

Mean species/site: 1.80

Mean native species/site: 1.45

Dominance Sum: 56.4

Total Sites: 100

Historical Vegetation Coverage

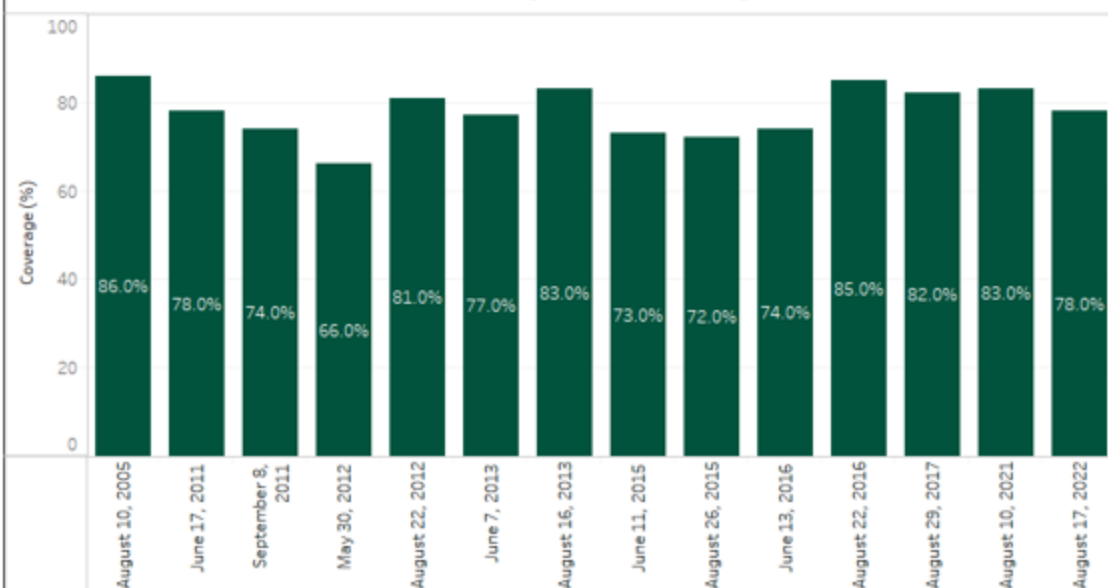


Figure 8. Submersed aquatic vegetation survey results.