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
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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.

![Graph showing number of crappie collected by length](image1)

Figure 1. Number of crappie collected by length.

Stocking
Table 1. Fish stocked in Bruce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Size (in)</th>
<th>Average size (in)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Muskellunge</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>9.7 - 10.1</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Muskellunge</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>7.9 - 9.7</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td>3,280</td>
<td>9.0 - 11.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Muskellunge</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>8.9 - 11.3</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.