



# TURNER LAKE

## CHAIN O LAKES STATE PARK

### FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Located in Chain O Lakes State Park in Spring Grove, Illinois, Lake County.

**DESCRIPTION** – Turner Lake is a relatively shallow natural/glacial depression characterized as a bog lake. In 1974 a stop small dam and fish weir were installed to expand and stabilize water levels in the marsh adjacent to the lake to facilitate northern pike reproduction and prevent rough fish contamination via the Fox River/Chain O' Lakes system. An aeration system was installed in 1979 and is run each winter to keep an area open so noxious gases don't build up under the ice causing a fish kill. The aeration line was replaced in 2011. Turner Lake is 45 acres; maintains a maximum depth of 10.0 ft. with an average depth of 5.0 ft.; storage capacity is 228 acre-feet. There is a single, gravel boat ramp on the northeast end of the lake for primitive access and 2 fishing piers. Shorefishing opportunities are limited due to the nature of the shoreline. Rental boats are available through a concessionaire at the main boat launch, (electric motors only), live bait, tackle, ice, food, and soft drinks also available at the main boat launch. No fish cleaning station is available. Other amenities in the park include: camping, picnic areas, playgrounds, and crushed rock bike paths, and horseback riding and trails.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Turner Lake receives regular fish surveys to evaluate stocked species, access points and fishing piers are occasionally treated with aquatic herbicides to reduce abundance of Eurasian milfoil (an Aquatic Nuisance Species).

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** –Turner Lake receives annual stockings of 8" to 10" channel catfish, 8" northern pike, and periodic stockings of 4" largemouth bass. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body. Note: **TURNER LAKE EXPERIENCED A NEAR "TOTAL" WINTER FISHKILL IN 2013 AND WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF RE-ESTABLISHING IT'S FISHERY. SOME CATCHABLE SIZE FISH ARE PRESENT BUT NOT VERY ABUNDANT!**

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Some breeder size fish are present but their abundance is minimal. Supplemental stockings will help improve abundance; spawning structures were installed to improve nesting success in an attempt to improve natural reproduction to "grow" the population.

**BLUEGILL** – Some breeder size fish are present but their abundance is minimal. Bluegill reproduce well and their abundance should expand rapidly.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – No crappie were collected in spring fyke nets set following the winterkill of 2013.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – This species is stocked annually (at 8" to 10") because their popular amongst fishermen. Preferred size (16" to 18") fish are still a year or so away following the winterkill of 2013.

**Northern Pike** – Northern pike are stocked annually to supplement predatory pressure on panfish and provide additional sportfishing opportunities. Fish up to 24" long were collected in a fyke net survey following the winterkill so some northern pike survived and are still present in various sizes.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES** – Besides the four northern pike collected, three brook stickleback and one golden shiner were collected in fyke nets fished for 8 net nights of effort! Golden shiners did spawn since their young of the year (YOY) were abundant by mid summer. The system use to have 13 fish species in this system.

**FISHING REGULATIONS:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Size Limit</b>	<b>Daily Limit</b>
Largemouth bass	15"	1
Channel catfish	None	6
Northern pike	24"	3
2 Pole and Line Only Fishing		

(see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

Boaters – electric trolling motor only

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Chain O Lakes State Park: 847/587-5512.  
IDNR District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2319.

**Turner Lake Map**

