

Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area – Shop Lake

2025 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Shop Lake is located in Jackson County at the Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area just east of DeSoto, IL.

DESCRIPTION: There are no facilities or boats ramps at this 24 acre lake. All fishing at Shop Lake and the entire site is closed from November 1 through the end of February.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on annual fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Largemouth Bass – The largemouth bass population in this lake is good. During the 2024 spring electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 78 fish per hour. Of the 39 bass collected, 21% were over 15 inches, 15% were over 16 inches, and 5% were over 18 inches. The largest bass collected in the 2024 survey weighed 4.9 pounds.

Crappie – No crappie have been collected during 5 fish surveys completed on this lake. This lake is too small to support crappie fishing. Crappie in smaller lakes like this tend to stunt and result in very poor crappie fishing. There have been reports of crappie being present in this lake.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is stunted and poor. No bluegill over 7 inches were collected. No bluegill over 8 inches have been collected during previous fish surveys in this lake.

Redear Sunfish – No redear sunfish were collected in the 2024 spring survey. No redear sunfish have been collected during previous fish surveys in this lake.

Channel Catfish – The channel catfish population is good. Six channel catfish (15-18 inches) were collected in the 2024 spring survey. No channel catfish were stocked in 2024. Channel catfish will be stocked annually in this lake when available.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14” and 1 over 18”	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Channel Catfish	6	None
Crappie	25	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	Bow Fishing is Allowed

CLOSED FISHING SEASON – No fishing from November 1 through the end of February.

Anglers must park in designated parking areas. Because there is no boat ramp at this lake, anglers are not allowed to launch boats in Shop Lake from a trailer. Boats/kayaks/canoes must be carried from the road. Gas motors are allowed but must be operated at no wake speed.

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area 618-521-8873.