

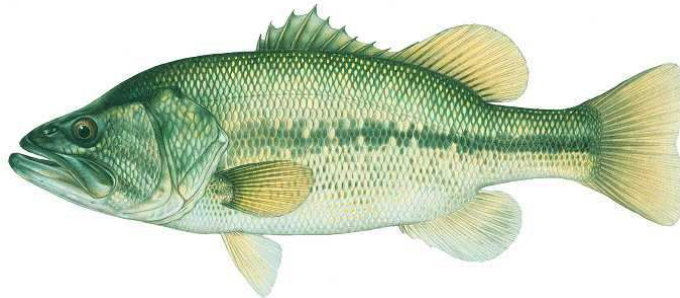
Highland Lake Fishing Regulations and Guidelines

Effective 2/02/2016



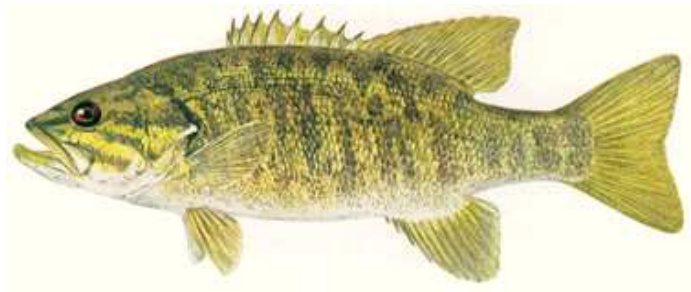
Game Fish

Largemouth Bass



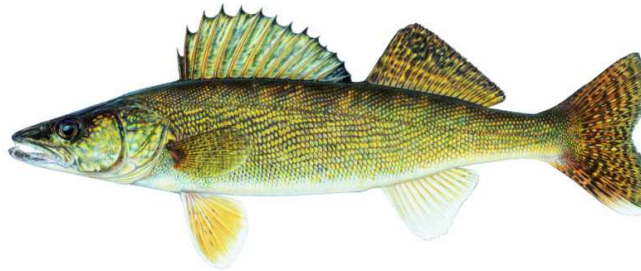
Limit 3 per day. Minimum length limit, 12 inches. “Catch and Release Only” from May 15th thru June 25th as bass are on the beds spawning. Release of bass during this time helps ensure a successful spawn that will provide a “Free” natural fish stocking and a sustained Largemouth Bass populations for years to come.

Smallmouth Bass



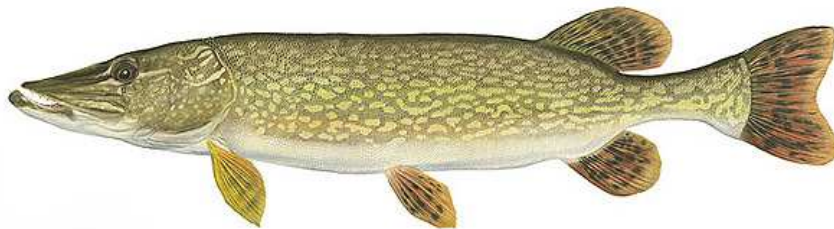
Catch and release only. Smallmouth Bass are not common to our lake environment and natural spawning of these fish is highly unlikely. These fish are pound to pound one of the best fresh water fighting fish.

Walleye



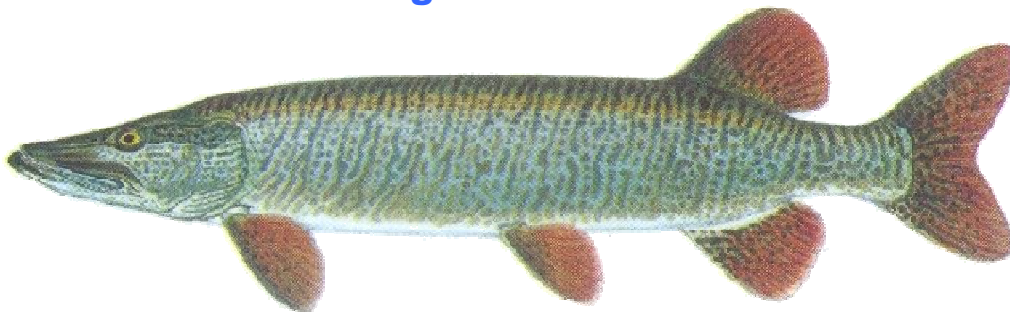
Minimum length limit 16 inches. Limit 2 per day. Natural spawning of these fish is highly unlikely on our lake. Coveted by many anglers to be the best tasting fresh water fish.

Northern Pike



Northern Pike: Minimum length limit 30 inches. Limit 1 per day. Outstanding fighting fish that is capable for reach lengths of 40 inches on our lake. Natural spawning of these fish is highly unlikely on our lake. This fish is very good to eat as well.

Tiger Muskie



Catch and release only. The Tiger Muskie is a cross between a Northern Pike and a Muskie. This fish is “sterile” and cannot reproduce. The Tiger Muskie is the result of the true muskellunge and the northern pike interbreeding either naturally or by a fish hatchery. Tiger Muskies can grow to 50 inches on our lake.

Muskellunge “Pure Muskie”



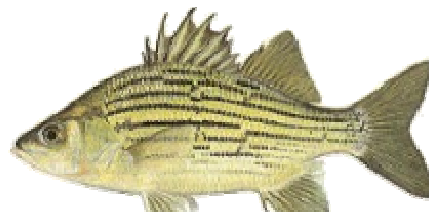
Catch and release only. The Muskellunge is the ultimate prized game fish. Known as the “Fish of 10,000 casts”. Like the Northern Pike and Tiger Muskie these top-level aquatic predators are often blamed for fish population declines, an accusation that holds little truth as well. These efficient predators play an important role helping to control fish populations. They keep populations of smaller, more productive fish in check as these populations could explode causing detrimental shifts in many ecosystems. Natural spawning of these fish is highly unlikely on our lake. Fish have been caught up to 52 inches on our lake.

Rough/Nuisance Fish

White and Yellow Bass (AKA Stripped Bass):



White Bass



Yellow Bass

When caught they should be removed from the lake. These bass are a type of pan fish that, once introduced to a lake they can completely take over the fish population within a few years. These fish are able to reproduce when they reach five to six inches and aggressively feed on the eggs of nest laying fish, like largemouth bass and bluegills. They will also eat the newly hatched larvae of those species as well as crappies. These fish are a great table food and perfect for any fish fry.

Carp



All are keepers. When caught they should be removed from the lake. Carp can impact a water body by increasing turbidity and phosphorus, releasing nutrients in the sediment. They can also destroy aquatic vegetation, aquatic habitats and fish spawning beds during feeding activities. If prepared correctly Carp can be very good eating.

Fishing License Information

All anglers 16 and over must have a valid Illinois Fishing License. Fishing licenses are easy to obtain and they can be purchased on line here at

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/FishingLicensesFees.aspx>

Live Bait Use/Cautions

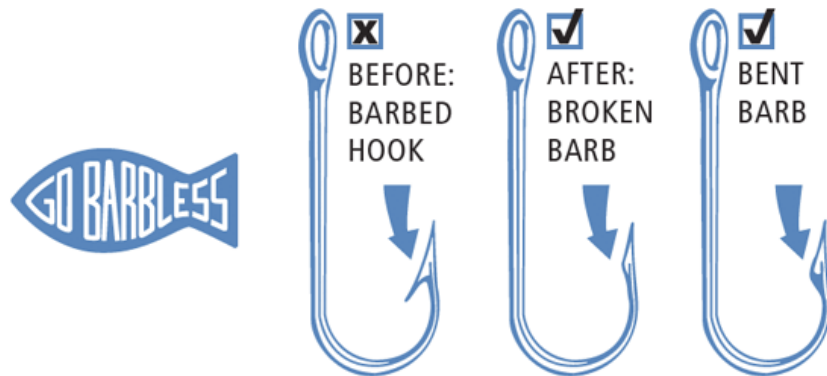
Live bait is permitted; however live bait should not be released back into the lake. Always dispose of unused bait by placing it in the garbage. Exotic species are one of the biggest threats to our natural lake environment. Please do not release unused live bait into Highland Lake as non-native species can cause problems for the existing fish populations.

Practice Catch & Release

Please use barbless, non-stainless steel hooks whenever possible.

Barbless Hooks permit easier removal of the hook, minimizing damage to the fish and reducing handling time, which subsequently increases the chances of survival for released fish. Many fish that are released after being caught with a barbed hook later die from excessive handling, bleeding or infection. Barbless hooks can be

purchased at local sporting goods stores. Barbed hooks can easily be converted to barbless by either crimping or filing the barb off.



Non-Stainless Steel Hooks are also important as should a hook become embedded in a fish and you can not remove it. They will rust overtime which can help increase the fish's survival rate from damage and infection. However, stainless steel hooks can last for years continuously wearing and leaving a raw wound open for infection. Go to this link for tips on how to properly catch and release fish.

http://www.fish.state.pa.us/education/learning/fish_funda/catch_release.htm

Do Not Release Fish Caught In Other Waters Into Highland Lake.

Fish species not native or caught in other lakes and released into Highland Lake can establish a self-sustaining populations that could outcompete, prey on or otherwise overwhelm native species. Already, exotic invasive fish like the Asian Carp have established self-sustaining populations in many waterways causing damage to freshwater ecosystems.