



HERMAN BROTHERS FISHERIES

Electrofishing Survey Results/Data/Recommendations

Little Swan Lake Report 2026

Fish Population Evaluation Report

Waterbody: Little Swan Lake

Owner: Kevin Curless

Location: Avon, Illinois

Prepared By: Herman Brothers Fisheries

Date: 2026

Lake Overview

Little Swan Lake continues to trend in an exceptionally positive direction, with major improvements across all species. Past stocking and management efforts are clearly paying off, and the lake is developing into a high-quality, multi-species fishery.

Key highlights include:

- **World-class largemouth bass fishery**
- Improving **crappie size structure**
- Strong and expanding **bluegill population**
- **Large catfish** with need for recruitment
- Thriving **walleye population**, ready for expansion

The outlook for the next 3 years is outstanding.

Current Fishery Assessment

Largemouth Bass

The bass fishery is in **elite condition**:

- Average: **15" / 2.1 lbs**
- Strong population of **18–22" fish**
- Many fish in the **4–6 lb class**

All bass observed showed **excellent relative weights**, indicating ideal forage availability and growth conditions.

Crappie

- Average size: **~9” and improving**
- Largest observed: **14.25” white crappie**
- Population is **declining in numbers (positive trend)**

The lake is successfully **recovering from a previously stunted crappie population**.

Bluegill

- Strong numbers of **6–8” fish**
- Excellent body condition
- Now producing **harvestable size fish consistently**

Bluegill are serving as a strong **forage backbone** and key to continued bass success.

Channel Catfish

- Majority observed were **8–15 lbs**
 - Population is aging and requires **restocking of younger fish**
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Walleye

- Observed: **22–24” fish in great condition**
- Population is healthy and ready for expansion

Walleye will play a key role in **balancing shad and forage populations** moving forward.

Management Plan (2026–2028)

Bass Management

- **No harvest in 2026**
- **2027–2028: Harvest bass under 13”**
 - Limit: **3 per person per day**

No additional bass stocking needed during this period.

Walleye Program

- Stock **2,000 walleye (6–8”)** annually for **3 years (fall)**
- Adjust regulations:
 - **1 fish per day over 18”**

This will:

- Protect newly stocked fish
 - Build a sustainable, harvestable population
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Catfish Stocking

- **2026:** Stock 1,000 catfish (8–10”)
- **2027–2028:** Stock 500 annually

Maintain current harvest limits.

Crappie Management

- **2026:** Continue removing all crappie caught
 - **2027–2028:**
 - 10 fish/day over 10”
 - Unlimited under 10”
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Bluegill Regulations

- Limit: **10 fish per day over 8”**

Focus is to:

- Protect larger fish
 - Maintain strong forage base
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Habitat Improvements

- Add **5–10 natural habitat structures annually**
 - Brush piles
 - Trees with branches

Focus on:

- Areas away from boating/swimming
 - Enhancing forage survival and fish holding areas
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Summary

Little Swan Lake is evolving into a premier fishery, with exceptional bass growth, improving crappie populations, and strong forage dynamics.

The next 3 years will focus on:

- **Fine-tuning harvest strategies**
- **Building walleye population**
- **Recruiting younger catfish**
- **Protecting bluegill**

A follow-up evaluation in Fall 2028 is recommended to adjust management based on continued progress. Please let us know if you need anything at all!



Sincerely,

Austin Bennett

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