



# LAKE MATTOON

## Lake Status Summary



**LOCATION:** Lake Mattoon is located approximately twelve miles southwest of Mattoon and about 1.5 miles northwest of Neoga, in parts of Shelby, Coles, and Cumberland Counties.

**DESCRIPTION:** The lake covers 1050 surface acres with a maximum depth of 31 feet and average depth of 11.4 feet. Public boat launching facilities are available and the City of Mattoon (217-895-2922 or 234-3611) collects a boating access fee which covers Lake Paradise as well. All tournaments must be scheduled through the City of Mattoon.

**CONCESSION:** Camping, a swimming beach, live bait, fishing tackle, ice, and drinks are available.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** The fish population in Lake Mattoon is intensively surveyed every two years, primarily by electrofishing. The fish are measured, weighed, and scales collected before releasing them alive. Hybrid striped bass and saugeye populations are being maintained by annual stockings by the IDNR.

**FISHERY STATUS:** **Largemouth bass** are moderate in abundance due to a lack of aquatic vegetation for nursery habitat. Decent numbers of bass from ½-3 lbs. are present with fish over 6 lbs. caught on occasion. Fishing quality is rated as fair-good for 2014.

**Crappie**, both white and black crappie are abundant. Growth rates vary from slow to fast within this population. However, anglers may still catch crappie up to 13 inches and ¾ lbs with fishing prospects for 2014 as good-excellent.

**Saugeye** (sauger X walleye hybrids) were initially stocked in 2010. Saugeye are moderate in abundance with anglers reporting catches of some legal saugeye. The 2012 and 2013 year classes look strong, with 45 fish collected per hour in 2013. Fishing quality is rated as fair for 2014.

**Hybrid striped bass** are stocked annually with population density varying with stocking density. Good numbers of hybrid striped bass have been caught in recent years by fishermen. Numbers of hybrids are caught below the spillway in early spring. Catch rates of hybrid striped bass were high during the standardized fall survey in 2012 and good in 2013. Fishing quality is rated as good for 2014.

**Channel catfish** are currently abundant in the lake. The average catch goes from ¾ - 4 ½ lbs., with the occasional fish over 10 pounds caught. Fishing prospects are rated as good for 2014.

**Flathead catfish** are low in abundance. Fishermen catch a few large flatheads infrequently. Catch and release is encouraged. Fishing quality is rated as poor.

**Common carp** are abundant with fish exceeding 10 lbs. Fishing quality is rated as good.

**Freshwater Drum**, commonly called drum “perch”, are moderately abundant with fish exceeding 10 lbs.

**Bluegill** fishing is fair. Few fish exceed 7.5 inches, but most have a heavy body weight.

**Yellow bass, longear sunfish, green sunfish, warmouth, and yellow and black bullheads** are present, but are seldom harvested by fishermen due to the small size attained by these species.

**REGULATIONS:** Pole and line fishing only, with no more than two poles allowed per person, with only two hooks or lures per pole. All statewide regulations are in effect. After sunset the entire lake is no wake.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Length Limits
Large or Smallmouth Bass	6	14” minimum
Saugeye, walleye, sauger	6	14” minimum
Hybrid striped bass	None (less than 17”)	Only 3 fish 17” or larger

### **COOPERATIVE SPORTSMEN + STRUCTURED HARVEST = OPTIMAL FISHING QUALITY!**

Please Remove All Litter!

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Lake Mattoon Marina

phone: 217-895-2922 (winter: 234-3611)

or

Mike Mounce, IDNR, 1660 W. Polk Ave. Charleston, IL.

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