



MONEE RESERVOIR

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Monee Reservoir is located in Will County, 2 miles south of Monee off Ridgeland Road and just minutes from Interstate 55.

DESCRIPTION: Monee Reservoir is a dug and dammed impoundment constructed in 1916 as a water supply source for steam locomotives. Monee Reservoir was leased and managed by the Izaak Walton League from 1928 through the 1960's. Various lease holders operated the reservoir on a club basis throughout the 1970's. The property was purchased in the 1980's by the Forest Preserve District of Will County. The reservoir was drained, dredged and enlarged in 1990-91 and opened to the public in 1992. Monee Reservoir has a maximum depth of 27.0 feet with an average depth of 9.1 feet and covers 46 surface acres. Monee Reservoir offers diverse habitats, both natural and man-made. The majority of the shoreline is closed to bank fishing and therefore much of the fishery receives modest angling pressure. See "Additional Lake Information" below for important site information.

HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: Monee Reservoir is routinely surveyed on a biennial basis, but other surveys may take place as circumstances dictate. Aquatic vegetation is managed by FPDWC, in cooperation with the IDNR. Monee Reservoir receives annual stockings of Channel Catfish and Black Crappie. The Northern Pike stocking program was terminated in 2005.

A special mercury advisory is in effect for Largemouth Bass of all sizes which limits consumption to one meal per month for most sensitive populations and one meal per week for the general population.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: The 2021 electrofishing survey resulted in a substantial increase in the Largemouth Bass catch rate (1.9/minute) compared to the 2017 survey (1.2/minute). The number of fish over 8 inches increased, as did the average length (11.5 inches). The proportion of adult fish over 12 inches was 91% and the proportion of adult fish over 15 inches was 14%. Body condition was good for most size groups though fish over 15 inches may be experiencing a slight forage bottleneck.

BLUEGILL: The Bluegill catch rate declined in the 2021 electrofishing survey (1.9 fish/minute), along with the number of fish over 3 inches. Although the average length increased (2.5 inches), other size structure indices (e.g., PSD and PSD-P) indicate that the adult population is dominated by small fish. This is in contrast to the 2017 electrofishing survey. Body condition was good for the size group collected, indicating sufficient forage should be available for adequate growth.

REDEAR SUNFISH: Nine Redear Sunfish were collected in the 2021 electrofishing survey. Lengths ranged from 5.6 – 8.0 inches, and mean fish length was 6.9 inches. Due to timing constraints, Spring or Fall Trap netting was not conducted (which somewhat negatively impacted the Redear Sunfish collection). Even so, Redear Sunfish appear to be on a decline. A two-year stocking request has been made with the State Hatchery System to attempt to bolster the population.

BLACK CRAPPIE: Forty-nine Black Crappie were collected in the 2021 electrofishing survey. Lengths ranged from 2.4 – 7.2 inches, and mean fish length was 4.3 inches. Body condition was good for the size group collected, indicating sufficient forage should be available for adequate growth. Electrofishing is not typically used to evaluate Crappie populations, and as such this survey does not provide a good assessment of the fishery. Even so, the population appears to be dominated by smaller fish. Black Crappie are stocked on an annual basis through the State Hatchery System.

CHANNEL CATFISH: One Channel Catfish (29.3 inches) was collected in the 2021 electrofishing survey. Electrofishing is not typically used to evaluate Channel Catfish populations, and as such this survey does not provide a good assessment of the fishery. Channel Catfish are stocked annually.

YELLOW PERCH: Nine Yellow Perch were collected in the 2021 electrofishing survey. Lengths ranged from 2.8 – 11.5 inches. Yellow Perch are an unfortunate consequence of well-intended but illegal angler introduction.

ADDITIONAL LAKE INFORMATION: Swimming is prohibited. Boat fishing is restricted to rental boats and watercraft which are available at the site. An on-site concession stands provides bait, tackle, ice, food, and soft drinks. Ice fishing is prohibited, and fishing is open daily during open water. **Statewide fishing regulations apply.**

Additional Site-Specific Fishing Regulations:

All Fish Species: Two Pole and Line Fishing Only.

Channel Catfish: 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Large or Smallmouth Bass: 15-inch Minimum Length Limit (1 Fish Daily Harvest Limit)

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie: 15 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Monee Reservoir Office: 708-534-8499

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