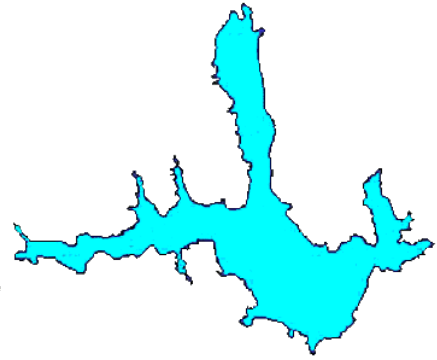


IDNR – Fisheries

2017 Lake Status Summary

Siloam Springs



Location: Siloam Springs State Park in Adams County, 11 miles south of Clayton off of Route 24 or 6 miles north of Route 104.

Lake history and characteristics: This impoundment is 58 acres and has a maximum depth of 43 feet and a shoreline length of 3.9 miles. Siloam Springs Lake was built in 1955 to provide fishing opportunity to patrons of Siloam Springs State Park. The lake is clear and deep in a forested setting. This impoundment was first stocked with smallmouth bass by the Division of Fisheries in 1955. Redear sunfish were added in 1956 and channel catfish in 1958. It was opened to fishing in the spring of 1958. An attempt to establish rock bass followed lake rehabilitation in 1962. Bluegill entered the lake by overflow from area ponds or angler introduction about that time and changed the fish population dynamics. In 1965 largemouth bass were stocked to provide a viable predator to control an overwhelming bluegill population. Today the sport fishery includes largemouth bass, white crappie, bluegill, reard sunfish, and channel catfish. In addition, rainbow trout are stocked for the spring and fall trout seasons. Two pole and line fishing only for all species. There is a good concrete ramp on southeast shore and six fishing piers. Boats can be powered by electric motors only. Boat and canoe rentals, a variety of bait and tackle, snack foods, soda and sandwiches are available on a seasonal basis from the concession stand by the lake (phone 217-894-6263). Largemouth bass, crappie species, and bluegill are under a consumption advisory for Mercury contamination. It is advised that pregnant or nursing women, women of childbearing age, and children less than 15 years old consume no more than 1 meal/month, while women beyond childbearing age and males more than 15 years old are advised to consume no more than 1 meal/week.

Largemouth bass: The Siloam Springs largemouth bass population is characterized by a large number of stunted, 9-12" bass with a few very large individuals. The 2016 fall survey showed a catch rate of 130 bass/hr electrofishing with the 9-12" bass in poor body condition ($Wr = 82$). However, there are some very large individuals that are making it through the bottle neck at 12" and putting on weight. The 2015 survey produced a 9.7 lb bass and the 2016 survey produced a 7.6 lb bass. The protected slot 12-14" has been implemented for many years, but angler harvest is not reducing the population below 12" enough to see an affect. This lake can be difficult to fish due to its maximum depth of 43', steep sides, and abundant vegetation and woody cover, but very rewarding. Anglers can catch largemouth bass during the warmer months of the year around beds of aquatic vegetation, points, and deadfalls with plastic worms, jigs, spinners, crank baits, minnows, crayfish and worms.

White and Black Crappie: Little is known about the crappie population. Spring trap net surveys are needed to properly assess the population, but have not been conducted due to time and manpower constraints. We collected only 3 white crappie and 2 black crappie in the fall electrofishing survey. All fish were in poor body condition. Anglers can catch crappie in the spring and fall on submerged structures and stickups with spinners, jigs and minnows.

Channel catfish: We collected 29 channel catfish during the summer 2016 survey (22/hr of electrofishing) ranging from 10 – 19" and up to 2 lbs. We did collect one larger individual weighing 12 lbs. Channel catfish were in less than average body condition. Siloam Springs receives supplemental channel catfish stockings on an annual basis. Given the below average body condition, supplemental stocking was changed to a biennial rate. Anglers can catch channel catfish around brushy areas, coves, and along the shoreline in the warmer months of the year using bottom fishing techniques with cut bait, shrimp, chicken livers or night crawlers.

Bluegill/reard sunfish: The bluegill population is below average, but should be better given the large number of hungry bass. The population is composed of mainly 6-7" fish with a decent number measuring between 7-8". However, body condition is very poor ($Wr = 78$ in 2016). The reard sunfish population is much like the bluegill population, but we did see higher numbers of 7-8" fish. Redear are also in poor body condition ($Wr = 83$ in 2016). Siloam Springs is very clear and has abundant aquatic vegetation growing in more than 15 ft of water. High percent cover of aquatic vegetation can reduce foraging success of largemouth bass on bluegill and reard, thereby reducing growth rates of predator and prey.

Fishing Regulations: see the Fishing Regulation Booklet or IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates

2 pole and line fishing only

Sport fishermen may harvest carp and suckers by bow and arrow devices, gigs or spears during may and June

Largemouth bass – protected slot length, no possession between 12 – 15”, 6 fish/day creel limit.



Channel catfish - 6 fish per day creel limit.



Trout – closed spring (March 15) and fall (Oct 15) season through opening day, catch and release fly fishing permitted.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Management Objectives
Largemouth Bass												
% >12"				27						25	16	30-50
% >15"				5						11	7	10-40
% >18"				5						9	4	5-20
condition				77						90	90	90-110
fish/hr EF				28						128	130	>60
Bluegill												
% >6"				21						25	70	30-50
% >7"				7						9	18	10-20
% >8"				0						0	1	5-10
condition				84						82	78	90-110
fish/hr EF				18						248	58	>100
Redear sunfish												
% >7"				4						5	5	30-50
% >8"				0						0	0	10-20
% >10"				0						0	0	5-10
condition				90						85	83	90-110
fish/hr EF				23						17	17	>20
Channel Catfish												
% >16"				-						39	41	50-60
% >18"				-						6	26	10-20
% >20"				-						0	4	5-15
condition				84						88	93	90-100
fish/hr EF				1						14	22	10-20

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

- conducted a fall fish population electrofishing survey using standard protocols (1 hr and 20 min pulsed-DC electrofishing survey 10/18)
- stocked 5,350 rainbow trout 3/15 and 9/28
- stocked 1,240 – 7” channel catfish 7/21

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