



# HOMER LAKE

## LAKE STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION:** Homer Lake is part of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) and is located 2 miles Northwest of Homer and 15 miles Southeast of Champaign.

**DESCRIPTION:** Homer Lake is 80.8 acres and was built in 1969. The lake has a maximum depth of 24 feet and an average depth of 8.4 feet. There are 4 boat ramps. More information about the Homer Lake Forest Preserve can be found at the CCFPD web page <http://www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/HomerLake.html>.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY:** The IDNR Division of Fisheries has been active in the management of the fisheries in Homer Lake since the lake was constructed in 1969. The lake receives stockings of channel catfish. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys.

**Largemouth Bass** - During the most recent fish survey, 133.3 bass per hour were collected using DC electrofishing. The average catch rate since 2011 is 125.3 bass per hour. The largest bass collected weighed 6.8 pounds. Based on bass collected that were larger than 8 inches, 70% were larger than 12 inches, and 36% were larger than 15 inches. Homer Lake has an excellent bass fishery.

**Bluegill** –Homer Lake has a large population of bluegill, but the average size is small. Anglers have a great opportunity to catch a bluegill, but may struggle to catch bluegill larger than 8 inches. Approximately 22% of the bluegill collected in the most recent fish survey were over 6 inches, but none were longer than 8 inches.

**Redear Sunfish** – Redear sunfish were collected at a rate of 76 per hour with electrofishing. The average catch rate since 2011 is 38.6 per hour. The catch rate of redear less than 7 inches increased from 18.7 per hour in 2017 to 64 per hour in 2019. The future of this fishery looks promising. Of the redear that were collected over 4 inches, 16% were over 7 inches.

**Crappie** – During the most recent fish survey, the catch rate of white crappie dropped to only 4 per hour. The management objective is 25 to 50 white crappie per hour. The average catch rate since 2011 is 61.7 white crappie per hour.

Black crappie numbers have increased the past few years and were collected at a rate of 30.7 per hour in 2019. The black crappie fishery is relatively young and none were over 10 inches. There is no crappie regulation at Homer Lake.

**Saugeye** – Saugeye were first stocked into Homer Lake in 2016. In 2017, the catch rate for saugeye was 6.7 per hour and did not meet the management objective of 10 per hour. The statewide management objective for walleye/saugeye fisheries is 5 per hour. No saugeye were collected during the May 2019 survey. In the fall of 2019, a night survey was completed to collect saugeye and were collected at a rate of 14 per hour and ranged in length from 7 inches to 21.5 inches.

**Channel Catfish** - The State Hatchery System stocks 8-inch channel catfish into Homer Lake each year. This stocking program has produced an excellent catfish fishery. Catch rates of catfish fluctuate from survey to survey, but catch rates of anglers are consistently good. Based on data from fish surveys, the catfish are very plump. The catfish average in size from 11 inches to 24 inches.

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**FISHING REGULATIONS:** 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only. Electric Motor Only

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LENGTH LIMIT</u>	<u>DAILY CREEL LIMIT</u>
Largemouth bass	14"	6
Channel Catfish	None	6
Crappie	None	None
Saugeye	14"	6

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect. For further regulation information, please consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet or visit [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org).

**For more information:** Homer Lake and general park information 217-896-2733  
IDNR Fisheries 217-784-4730