

FISHING TIPS: BLUEGILL

Fishing For Bluegill in Illinois.

Ounce for ounce many anglers consider the bluegill one of the sportiest of game fishes. As a general rule, this species is fairly easy to catch, puts up a scrappy fight if caught on a fly or ultra-light rod and is mighty fine eating.

(Spawning Time) As waters warm to near 70° F, bluegill spawning activities begin in lakes and rivers. Adults can be observed by fishermen boating or walking along shorelines while they make nests, spawn, and guard the nest and young. Males react to invading live baits and jigs presented near active nests by striking the bait. Once disturbed while on the nests, bluegill only leave for a short time before returning to resume spawning activities. Individuals not actively spawning can be found resting in slightly deeper water near the spawning beds.

(Post spawning Time) Following the conclusion of spawning activities, bluegill move to deeper water (suspending above the thermocline from 10-18 feet deep) and in pockets of aquatic vegetation or other structural features (wood or rocks) to avoid predation by other fish. The orientation to water temperature gradients and physical structure (aquatic habitat) provides the key to fishermen looking to catch this taste fish. Live baits (such as crickets, nightcrawlers, worms, grubs) and small artificial baits (such as jigs with twister tails and safety blade spinners ie. Beetle spins) are effective ways to fish the target areas for catching slab bluegill.

BEST BAITS: wax worms, red worms, red wigglers, crickets, night crawlers, small minnows, and artificial flies and poppers



BEST AREAS TO FISH:

Baldwin Lake 2,018 acres
Beaver Dam Lake - 57 acres
Borah Lake
Busse Lake - 590 acres
Fox Chain O'Lakes - 7,110 acres
Crab Orchard Lake - 6,965 acres
Dawson Lake - 158 acres
Devil's Kitchen - 810 acres.
Dutchman Lake - 118 acres
Frank Holten Lakes - 80 & 97 acres
Greenville New City Lake - 775 acres
Hennepin Canal - 926 acres
Horseshoe Lake 1,890 acres
Lake Carlton - 77 acres
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Lake Mingo - 170 acres
LaSalle Lake - 2,035 acres
Lincoln Trail Lake - 146 acres
MazoniaFWA- 576 acres

McCullom Lake - 245 acres
Mermet Lake - 452 acres
Mississippi River - Pool 12, Frentress Lake
Mississippi River - Pool 19
Burlington Island R.M. - 339.5 mi
Ramsey Lake - 56 acres
Red Hills Lake - 40 acres
Rend Lake - 18,900 acres
Sam Dale Lake - 194 acres
Sam Parr Lake- 180 acres
Shabbona Lake - 318 acres
Siloam Springs - 58 acres
Smithland Pool/Ohio River - Tributaries
Sugar Creek Lake - 96 acres
Tampier Lake - 160 acres
Walnut Point Lake - 59 acres
Weldon Springs Lake - 29.4 acres
Wolf Lake - 391 acres

