

# **STATUS OF THE CHANNEL CATFISH FISHERY IN ILLINOIS**

## **REGION III**

### **DISTRICT 11**

Michael J. Mounce

**LINCOLN TRAIL LAKE** is located within Lincoln Trail State Park, approximately two miles south of Marshall in Clark County. The lake covers 137 surface acres with a maximum depth of 35 feet and average depth of 15.9 feet. A 10 h.p. boat motor restriction is in effect. Public boat launching facilities are available. A large number and a wide size range of catfish was collected (8-24 inches) in the 1999 fish population survey. Reports from park staff, concession managers, and anglers, indicate that catfish fishing is good. A large number of channel catfish are taken at night. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**MILL CREEK LAKE** is located approximately eight miles west of Marshall, in Clark County. The lake covers 731 surface acres with a maximum depth of 60 feet and average depth of 22.7 feet. Public boat launching facilities are available. No channel catfish had been stocked in this lake for many years and natural reproduction has been unsuccessful due to high bass densities and clear water. In 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999 the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Clark County Park District have both stocked channel catfish. This fishery is developing very well. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**CHARLESTON SIDE CHANNEL LAKE** is located approximately three miles southeast of Charleston, in Coles County. The lake covers 317 surface acres with a maximum depth of 16 feet and average depth of 7.7 feet. Public boat launching facilities are available. There is a no wake regulation in effect on the entire lake. Good fishing for channel catfish exists through maintenance stockings by the IDNR. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**LAKE PARADISE** is located approximately four miles south of Mattoon in Coles County. The lake covers 138 surface acres with a maximum depth of 16 feet and average depth of 8.5 feet. Public boat launching facilities are available, but are in poor condition. A naturally reproducing population exists. Fishing prospects for channel catfish are good.

**OAKLAND CITY LAKE** is located on the northeast side of Oakland in Coles County. The lake covers 29.3 surface acres with a maximum depth of 8 feet and average depth of 3.5 feet. Public boat launching facilities are available. Electric motors only are allowed on this lake. A wide size range of catfish were collected (2-23 inches) during the 1999 fish population survey. Channel catfish fishing prospects are likely fair to good in Oakland City Lake. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**COLES COUNTY AIRPORT LAKE** is located on the south side of Coles County Airport, between Charleston and Mattoon, in Coles County. The lake covers 20.0 surface acres with a maximum depth of 7 feet and average depth of 3.5 feet. Recreational use is restricted to fishing. No public boat launching facility is available. Good fishing for channel catfish exists through maintenance stockings by the IDNR. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**LAKE MATTOON** is located approximately eight miles southwest of Mattoon and about 1.5

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miles northwest of Neoga, in Shelby, Coles, and Cumberland Counties. 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. A naturally reproducing population exists, although recently reproductive success appears to be reduced. Fishing prospects for channel catfish are fair.

**PANA LAKE** is located approximately two miles east of Pana in Shelby and Christian Counties. The lake covers 219 surface acres with a maximum depth of 36 feet and average depth of 14.7 feet. Public boat launching facilities are available. A fair number of catfish were collected in the most recent standardized fish population survey conducted in September 1998. A good size range of catfish were collected (9-26 inches) in this most recent survey. Fair to good channel catfish angling exists in this lake through maintenance stockings by the IDNR.. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**WOOD LAKE** is located on Lake Shelbyville Project Lands, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Project, approximately four miles south of Sullivan in Moultrie County. The lake covers 27.0 surface acres with a maximum depth of 22 feet and average depth of 7.3 feet. A gravel public boat launching facility is available. Fair to good fishing for channel catfish exists through maintenance stockings by the IDNR. Electric motors only are allowed on this lake and the lake is closed to boat traffic through May 31 each year. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**WALNUT POINT LAKE** is located in Walnut Point State Park, approximately 3 miles north of Oakland in Douglas County. The lake covers 52 surface acres with a maximum depth of 32 feet and average depth of 12.5 feet. Public boat launching facilities are available. Fair to good fishing for channel catfish exists through maintenance stockings by the IDNR. Electric motors only are allowed on this lake. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**PARIS TWIN LAKES** are located on Route 1 on the north edge of Paris in Edgar County. The two lakes have a combined surface acreage of 220 acres. Public boat launching facilities are available. Good to excellent fishing for channel catfish exists through maintenance stockings by the IDNR. A six catfish/day creel limit exists.

**LAKE DECATUR** is located in Decatur in Macon County. The lake covers 3093 surface acres with a maximum depth of 22 feet and average depth of 6.0 feet. Public boat launching facilities are available. A naturally reproducing population exists, although recently reproductive success appears to be reduced. Fishing prospects for channel catfish are fair to good.