



SHABBONA LAKE

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Shabbona Lake is located in Dekalb County approximately 2 miles south and 1 mile east of the city of Shabbona.

DESCRIPTION –Shabbona Lake was constructed in 1974 for recreational fishing. Shabbona Lake has 318 surface acres of water. The lake has an average depth of 17.5 feet deep and a max depth of 40 feet. The original river channel can still be found along with old road beds and standing timber creating a unique fishing experience. A two-lane concrete boat ramp with car/trailer parking is available. Boat rentals are available from the bait shop.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - The fishery is managed by annual species-specific surveys. Habitat structures or brush piles are completed annually when weather and conditions allow.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Shabbona Lake receives an annual stocking of Channel catfish and Walleye. Muskie will be stocked every third year starting in 2018. Hybrid striped bass are stocked when available. Largemouth and Smallmouth bass are stocked when available or when a poor year class has been identified. Below is a description of the fishery.

LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS – In the 2019 fall survey Largemouth bass were the dominate species. Largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 196 fish per hour of electrofishing. 13% of the Largemouth bass sampled were 14 inches or larger. Largemouth bass 11-14 inches long accounted for another 6% of the sample. Smallmouth bass made up 15% of the total sample of black basses in 2019.

WALLEYE – The Walleye population is healthy with good numbers of the fish sampled over the 18inch minimum length limit. Fish over 25 inches are common. Walleye were captured at a rate of 200 fish per hour in the spring electrofishing sample. Walleye are stocked annually at a rate of 80 per acre.

MUSKELLUNGE – Spring trap netting catch rates continued to be high at 6.3 fish per net night. The largest fish sampled in 2019 was a 46.9 inch female that weighed 35 pounds. The average size Muskie from spring trap nets in 2019 was 36.8 inches. No Muskie sample was done in 2020 due to COVID restrictions.

CRAPPIE – A total of 156 crappie and 2 hybrids were sampled by trap nets in 2020. Black Crappie were the dominate species with 96 sampled. Both species have good relative weights for all size groups sampled. Both species have excellent growth reaching over 9 inches in 2 plus years. It seems that White Crappie could be specifically harvested over Black Crappie; they have a max age of 4 in the sample. Black crappie sampled have a max age of 8.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES – Shabbona Lake supports a variety of fish species which include sunfish (bluegill and green sunfish), common carp, yellow perch and others. Shabbona Lake is supported by a gizzard shad forage base as well as various other minnow and sucker species.

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

- All Fish 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
- Large or Smallmouth Bass 1 Fish Daily Creel Limit (14" Minimum Length Limit)
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish 10 Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)
- Channel Catfish 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)
- Pure Muskellunge 1 Fish Daily creel Limit (48" Minimum Length Limit)
- Striped, White, or Hybrid Striped Bass . . . 3 Fish Daily Creel Limit (17" Minimum Length Limit)
- Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Walleye. 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit (18" Minimum Length Limit)
- White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie 10 Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)

CONTACT INFORMATION – Shabbona Lake State Park: 815-824-2106
 IDNR Fisheries County Biologist: 630-360-4185

Shabbona Lake Map

