



# 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 of rock 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, Walleye, Hybrid striped bass, and Muskie. 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 2015 fall survey Largemouth bass were the dominate species. Largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 93 fish per hour of electrofishing. 15% of the Largemouth bass sampled were 14 inches or larger. Largemouth bass 11-14 inches long accounted for another 16% of the sample. Both size groups will provide quality fishing for 2016. Smallmouth bass made up 12% of the total sample of black basses. Small mouth bass were captured at a rate of 13 fish per hour of electrofishing. 23% of the Smallmouth bass in the sample were 14 inches or longer. The 2014 year class of Smallmouth bass is strong and will help to rebound catch rates in 2 years.

**WALLEYE** – The Walleye population is strong with 50% of the fish sampled in 2015 over the 18inch minimum length limit. Walleye were captured at a rate of 8 fish per hour in the fall electrofishing sample. Walleye are stocked annually at a rate of 80 per acre.

**MUSKELLUNGE** – Spring trap netting catch rates continued to be high at 8.6 fish per net night. The largest fish sampled in 2015 was a 46.3 inch female that weighed 28 pounds. The average size Muskie from spring trap nets in 2015 was 35 inches and weighed 13 pounds.

**CRAPPIE** – Shabbona lake has a population of both Black and White crappies. The 2015 sample was 50% Black crappie and 50% White Crappie. The average length for White crappies was 8.5 inches and 8.0 inches for Black crappies. The largest White crappie collected in 2015 was 12 inches and the largest Black crappie was 10 inches.

**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**

