



# CITIZEN'S LAKE

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

### LOCATION:

Citizen's Lake is located in Warren County at the west edge of Monmouth along U.S. Route 34.

### DESCRIPTION :

This small watershed impoundment of 26 acres is owned by the City of Monmouth and managed for fishing by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The lake has a south basin of 17.7 acres with a maximum depth of 33 feet and a north basin of 8.3 acres with maximum depth of 13 feet. The two basins are connected by a short channel that is spanned by a historic 1895 bridge. In 2016, the bridge was dedicated to Ken Russell the longtime IDNR District Fisheries biologist that helped relocate the bridge to Citizen's Lake. Most of the 1.4 miles of shoreline is accessible to bank fishing. Boat ramps are available on both basins and a small trailer campground is situated near the north lake basin.

### MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The lake and its sport fishery are evaluated annually by a fall electrofishing survey. This survey directs the fish stockings, fishing regulations and aquatic vegetation treatments. Since 1994, the waterlevel at Citizen's Lake has been drawn down 5.5 feet in early September as a major fish management practice. The annual fall drawdown increases the predation of small fish, which favors an increased rate of growth in both the predator and prey species.

In 2018, two fall D.C. electrofishing surveys were used to evaluate the fish population. The first survey was completed on 9/17/2018 and noted a very strong blue green algal bloom. Then on 9/28/2018, I evaluated a low dissolved oxygen fish kill at Citizen's Lake that had started in the preceding days. The fish kill was moderate on the south half of the lake and minor on the north half of the lake. The kill was composed primarily of gizzard shad and bluegill, but also had largemouth bass, channel catfish and black crappie involved. On 10/16/2018, I completed another electrofishing survey on both halves of the lake as a follow up evaluation from the fish kill.

### Largemouth Bass:

In 2018, The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 48 bass from electrofishing surveys. The largemouth bass population appears to be defined by a high percentage of fish from 4 to 10 inches and from 16 to 21 inches in length with the group from 10 to 16 inches missing. The bass population appeared to be rebounding from the complete winter fish kill in 2013/2014, but will need to be evaluated in 2019 to see how the low oxygen fish kill affected the bass population.

### Bluegill:

The bluegill population was sampled by 143 fish in fall electrofishing surveys. The current bluegill population is rated as below average with the larger fish up to 7.0 inches in length. This population is of high density and in average body condition with a Wr average of 90. The establishment of the dense gizzard shad population in 2018 has caused a serious space and food competition with the bluegill population in Citizen's Lake. After the late September low oxygen fish kill, a request was placed for a supplemental bluegill and redear sunfish stocking for Citizen's Lake. LaSalle Hatchery stocked 15,419 bluegill at 1.1 inches and 7,792 redear sunfish at 1.3 inches on 10/17/2018. This was an effort to utilize available fish stocks from the hatchery to quickly reestablish a sport fish balance.

**Redear Sunfish:**

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 1 fish in the fall electrofishing survey. The current redear population is rated as a low density with the larger fish up to 10 inches in length.

The fall 2018 stocking will be evaluated for establishment in 2019.

**Black Crappie:**

In 2018, the black crappie population was sampled by 22 fish in the fall electrofishing surveys. The size ranged from 6.7 to 7.9 inches in length and the body condition was average at a Wr of 87. No harvest or length limit is necessary at this time for the crappie population.

**Channel Catfish:**

The channel catfish population was sampled by 5 fish in the fall electrofishing survey. The current channel catfish population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 23 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 106. Jake Wolf hatchery stocked 1,213 fish at 6.4 inches in 2018. An annual stocking of non-vulnerable channel catfish is scheduled for the future.

**Rainbow Trout:**

In 2018, no rainbow trout were stocked due to the poor water conditions and potential for low oxygen stress in late September and October in Citizen's Lake. The trout stocking is scheduled to resume in the fall of 2019.

**Fishing Regulations:**

All Fish - 2 pole and line fishing only.

Large or Smallmouth Bass:

- Protected Slot Length Limit with 1 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches and/or 5 fish less than 12 inches daily.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish:

- 10 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Channel Catfish:

- 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Trout:

- Fall Closed Season until the annual opening in October.

Recreational Use Restrictions:

-The use of gasoline motors to propel watercraft is not permitted, electric motors only.

-Swimming is not permitted.

**CONTACT INFORMATION –**

City of Monmouth Clerk's Office: (309) 734-2141.

IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: (309) 446-9143.

Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>

