

# CLINTON LAKE

## LAKE STATUS SUMMARY

One of the responsibilities of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the residents of Illinois. One means of increasing this opportunity has been through the leasing of valuable recreation land and water from utility companies. The Clinton Lake State Recreation Area is operated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources with the cooperation of Exelon Corporation. This site has greatly increased the fishing opportunity, as well as other major water recreational activities, for residents of Illinois.

**LOCATION:** Clinton Lake is located in DeWitt County 10 miles east of Clinton, IL.

**DESCRIPTION:** This 4,895 acre lake was constructed to serve as a cooling reservoir for the Clinton Nuclear Power Station. The lake has a maximum depth of 60 feet and an average depth of 15 feet. Clinton Lake is No Wake for all boats from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise with the exception of waterfowl hunters. Various portions of the lake are designated as no-wake, electric motor only, or no boat areas for safety and security reasons. All IDNR ramps are now equipped with wheelchair accessible boat docks. There are 17 Class AA campsites, 286 Class A campsites and 5 Class B/S campsites at Clinton Lake with showers and almost all are adaptable to either tents, trailers or motor homes. Reservations will be accepted using the [Reserve America website](#). Bowfishing is allowed on certain areas of the lake.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY:** The IDNR Division of Fisheries has been active in the management of the fisheries in Clinton Lake since the lake opened in 1979. The lake receives stockings of walleye, hybrid striped bass, blue catfish, and blacknose crappie. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys.

**Largemouth Bass** - The most recent survey resulted in a catch rate of 88.9 bass per hour. The average catch rate for the past 6 surveys is 86.5 bass per hour. The largest bass collected weighed 5.4 pounds. There are good numbers of larger bass in the lake, with 57% being over 12 inches in length and 32% over 15 inches. Clinton Lake has an excellent bass population.

**Walleye** – The catch rate for walleye during the most recent survey was 2.4 walleye per hour. The 6-survey average is 6.1 walleye per hour. Of the walleye collected over 10 inches, 74% were longer than 15 inches and 53% were longer than 20 inches. Clinton Lake has a good walleye fishery.

**Hybrid Striped Bass** - Hybrid striped bass were first stocked in Clinton Lake in 1978. During the spring netting survey, hybrid striped bass were collected at a rate of 2.4 per net. This was a large reduction in catch rate. The recent high water events at Clinton Lake allow the hybrids to escape over the spillway. Fortunately there is an annual stocking of hybrid striped bass that will quickly improve this fishery. The 6-survey average is 17.2 hybrids per net. The hybrid striped bass ranged in size from 14.5 inches to 27 inches. The heaviest hybrid weighed 13.84 pounds and the average weight was 5.54 pounds. Clinton Lake has a good hybrid striped bass fishery.

**White Bass** – There were strong year classes in 2011, 2014, and 2015, which has produced a great white bass fishery. The catch rate in the most recent survey was 11.5 white bass per hour. The 6-survey average is 21.4 white bass per hour. The white bass fishery should be good in 2017.

**Crappie** – In an attempt to improve the crappie fishery, blacknose crappie are stocked from on-site rearing ponds. During the most recent survey, the catch rate for black crappie was 13.1 black crappie per hour and the catch rate for white crappie was 18.8 per hour. The blacknose crappie catch rate was 6.1 per hour. Clinton Lake is producing a tremendous crappie fishery.

### FISHING REGULATIONS FOR CLINTON LAKE

Species	Daily Limit	Length Limit	
Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass	3	16 inches	
Walleye	3	18 inches	NEW 4/1/17
Hybrid Striped Bass/White Bass/ Striped Bass	10	Only three may be over 17 inches.	
Crappie	15	9 inches	
Channel Catfish/Blue Catfish	10	None	NEW 4/1/17

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect. For further regulation information, please consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet.

**For further information:** Site Office (217) 935-8722

Fisheries (217) 784-4730

