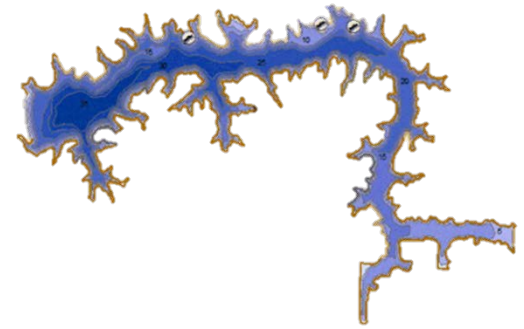




IDNR – Fisheries

2017 Lake Status Summary

Lake Jacksonville



Location: 3 miles south of Jacksonville. 30 miles west of Springfield just off I-72.

Area: 476 acres

Lake history and characteristics: The Division of Fisheries entered into a formal Cooperative Management Agreement with the City of Jacksonville in 1984 to manage the sport fishery. Due to the poor condition of the fishery, the lake was completely drained, rehabilitated and restocked in 1986. This project produced one of the best largemouth bass fisheries in the State. Lake Jacksonville has a maximum depth of 31 feet, an average depth of 12.5 feet, 18.5 miles of shoreline, maintains abundant aquatic vegetation beds, and has a nice double ramp on the north shore. Below is a list of the fish species that are doing well in Lake Jacksonville.

Largemouth Bass: The bass population at Lake Jacksonville remains very good, however it is showing some signs of an aging lake. Over the years undesirable species have become established (e.g. bullhead *spp.*, common carp, yellow bass) and Eurasian water milfoil has replaced the native submersed aquatic plant, coontail. The 2017 fall electrofishing survey yielded a lower catch rate of 55.8 largemouth bass/hour compared to the 2016 survey (catch rate=154 bass/hr.). The decrease in catch rate shown in 2017 is likely attributed to the low water level during the survey. The lake was 18" below normal pool leaving much of the good shoreline structure in shallow water. In 2017, we collected bass ranging from 3.5-22" (0.03 - 8.14 lbs.). A protective slot of 14-18" with a harvest limit of 3 fish per day started April 1, 2017. Lake Jacksonville is currently under a consumption advisory for largemouth bass measuring over 15". No more than 1 meal/week is recommended for women beyond child bearing age and men more than 15 years old, while no more than 1 meal/month is recommended for pregnant or nursing women or women of child bearing age and children less than 15 years old. Check www.ifishillinois.org for updated consumption advisories. Anglers can catch largemouth bass on points, deadfalls, stickups, and along aquatic vegetation beds in the spring and fall with plastic worms, jigs, spinners, crank baits, minnows, crayfish and worms.

Black and White Crappie: The white crappie population is average and is characterized by a large number of fish measuring less than 10". The 2017 electrofishing survey yielded a catch rate of 24.8 fish/hr. with 37% of white crappie exceeding 10". White crappie body condition of 89 is just below the lower end of the management goal. Nineteen black crappies were collected (catch rate=4.7) using electrofishing in 2017. A supplemental spring trap netting survey was conducted to better evaluate the crappie fishery in Lake Jacksonville. White crappie continued to outnumber black crappie. A total of 145 white crappies and 23 black crappies were collected during the 2017 spring trap netting survey. White Crappie measuring 8" or greater represented 93% of the sample, 23% were 10" or greater, and 6% exceeded 12". The crappie regulation is 25 fish/day harvest limit with no more than 10 fish measuring greater than or equal to 10". This regulation was put into place with a goal to reduce the density of fish measuring less than 10", which will allow for more food sources and faster growth rates of the remaining fish. Anglers can catch white crappie on stickups and submerged structures in the spring and fall using spinners, jigs and minnows. The largest white crappie ever collected during an electrofishing survey measured over 15" and weighed 1.8 lbs.

Channel Catfish: The channel catfish population is excellent both in quantity and quality. Channel cats are collected every year weighing 2-10 lbs. in good numbers and are in excellent body condition. Anglers can catch channel catfish in the warmer months using bottom fishing techniques near deadfalls, woody debris, and shallow flats with cut bait, shrimp, chicken livers or night crawlers.

Hybrid Striped Bass: Hybrid striped bass have been stocked on alternate years since 1988 and have done well. The 2017 spring trap netting survey yielded four hybrid striped bass. These fish ranged from 22-27" (6.7-13.7lbs). The average body condition of these fish was excellent. Angler accounts suggest that the population is doing well and is providing good fishing opportunities. Hybrid striper provide a great fishing opportunity for those looking to diversify their catch.

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish: The bluegill population is below average in Lake Jacksonville. Twenty-seven percent of the catchable population measured between 6-7" in 2017, comparable to 30% in 2016. The redear sunfish population is similar to the bluegill population but shows higher numbers of 7-8" fish than bluegill.

Fishing Regulations see the Fishing Regulation Booklet or IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates

2 pole and line fishing only

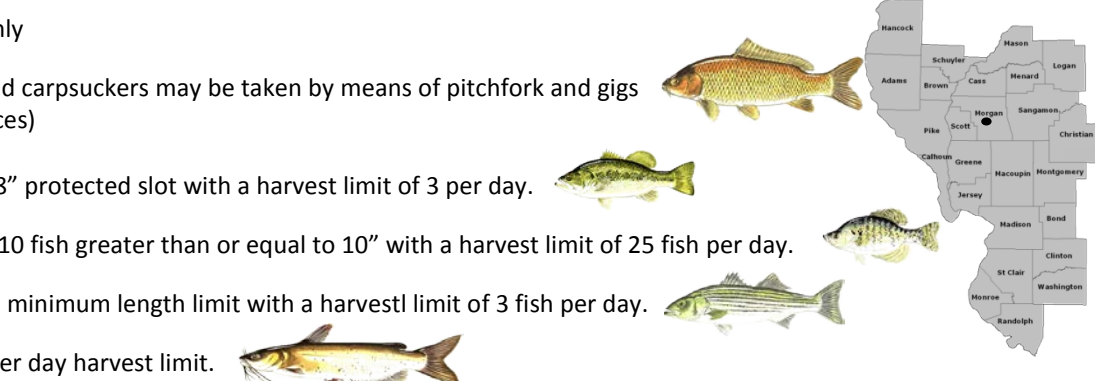
Carp, buffalo, suckers and carpsuckers may be taken by means of pitchfork and gigs (no bow and arrow devices)

Largemouth bass – 14-18" protected slot with a harvest limit of 3 per day.

Crappie – no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10" with a harvest limit of 25 fish per day.

Hybrid striped bass - 17" minimum length limit with a harvest limit of 3 fish per day.

Channel catfish - 6 fish per day harvest limit.



	2006	2007	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Management Objectives
Largemouth Bass										
% >12"	74.3	64	70.6	70.3	57.5	51.2	43.9	43	33	40-60
% >15"	51.6	38	42	52	31.3	26.5	25.4	25	19	10-20
% >18"	19.1	8	15.4	18.9	16.8	12.4	13.7	15	9	5-10
% >20"	4.8	4	6.8	4.1	6.7	3.5	4.9	8	2	1-5
condition	105	97	94	98	95	95	93	93	91	90-110
fish/hr EF	130	224	122	113	53.2	71.8	61.5	154	55.8	>60
White Crappie										
% >8"	91.8	78.3	93.8	91.2	92.9	70	78.1	91	100	30-50
% >10"	22.4	34.8	37.5	12.2	35.7	25	11	22	37	20-40
% >12"	2.4	0	6.2	0	10.7	6.7	1.4	3	2	5-10
condition	88	89	86	90	89	91	89	86	89	90-100
fish/hr EF	29.2	23	24	128	7	22	32.8	30	24.8	70-100
Channel Catfish										
% >16"	90.6	100	75.9	69.6	66.7	63.6	72.2	62	40	40-60
% >18"	78.1	66.7	44.8	52.2	44.4	36.4	38.9	54	35	10-20
% >20"	53.1	66.7	27.6	30.4	33.3	27.3	22.2	23	25	5-10
% >22"	21.9	33.3	13.8	17.4	22.2	18.2	11.1	8	15	1-5
condition	148	101	97	110		96	96	91	97	90-100
fish/hr EF	15.5	3	7.2	11.7		2.8	4.4	3	5	5-15

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment: none

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

- Conducted a trap netting survey on May 1-2, 2017. 17 nets
- Conducted an electrofishing survey consisting of (4) 60 minute pulsed-DC runs utilizing a standard sampling protocol on September 29, 2017.