

**OTTER LAKE**  
**2015 – 2016 FISHERIES FACT SHEET**

Otter Lake is named after Otter Creek which was dammed to provide flood control, water-based recreation, and potable water for surrounding towns. This beautiful central Illinois Lake was built in 1968, and has provided wonderful fishing opportunities since.

**Location** – 6 miles west of Girard, IL. in north central Macoupin County.

**Area** – 765 acres ; shoreline length – 39 miles ; watershed size – 12,985 acres ; maximum depth – 51 feet ; average depth – 20 feet.

**Description** – Otter Lake has a 115 hp motor size limit. There is a single boat ramp at mid-lake on the north side of Palmyra blacktop. The site has a concession stand/bait shop, campground, and picnic areas.

**Status of the Sport Fishery** – Approximately 20 species occupy this impoundment. Otter Lake receives stockings of 10" to 14" Muskie, 4" to 8" Largemouth Bass, and 2" Striped Bass Hybrids. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

**Channel Catfish** – Our spring 2015 species evaluation sample yielded 43 Channel Catfish ranging from 12" to 24.5", and maxing the scale at 5.6 lbs. 12 (28%) attained 2 lbs., 4 (9.3%) reached 4 lbs., and 0 (0%) exceeded 6 lbs. in total weight.

**Muskie** – During this survey we boated 14 Muskie measuring from 30.7" to 39.4", and weighing up to 18.7 lbs. 13 (92.9%) made it to 32", 11 (78.6%) reached 34", and 5 (35.7%) topped 36" in total length.

**Striped Bass Hybrids** – During March of 2015, we captured 28 Striped Bass Hybrids. These individuals started from 10.9" to 26.4", and topped the scale at 9.2 lbs. 11 (39.3%) were at least 4 lbs., 4 (14.3%) met 6 lbs., and 2 (7.1%) attained 8 lbs., or better.

**White Bass** – During our spring field work we collected 5 White Bass which ranged from 11.4" to 17.6", and weighed up to 2.6 lbs. 4 (80%) were 12", 1 (20%) measured 14", and 1 (20%) grew to 16" in size.

**Fishing Regulations** – Site specific angling regulations. All other statewide regulations apply at this water body.

Recreational Use Restrictions – All live bait in excess of 8" must be rigged with a quick set rig.

All Fish – 2 pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15" minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

Striped, White, or Hybrid Striped Bass – 3 fish 17" or longer; 10 fish daily creel limit.

Muskie – 48" minimum length limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.

**Contact Information** – Otter Lake Water Commission – 217/965-1566.

IDNR Fish Biologist – 217/833-2811.