



BALDWIN LAKE FISHERIES FACT SHEET

One responsibility of the **Illinois Department of Natural Resources** is to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to the residents of Illinois. One means of providing these opportunities has been to lease valuable recreational land and water from utility companies. Baldwin Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area is one such area operated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in cooperation with Dynegy Midwest Generation Company.

LOCATION: Baldwin Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, is located in Randolph and St. Clair Counties approximately 2 miles north of Baldwin.

DESCRIPTION: Baldwin Lake is a perched cooling lake impounding 2,018 surface acres of water with approximately 75% of shoreline comprised of rock rip-rap. There is a 50 h.p. boat motor limit. Two lane concrete boat ramp and fully blacktopped car/trailer parking lot available. Shore angler access is located on the west and north sides of lake.

CONCESSION STAND: No concession available.

HISTORY & STATUS of the SPORT FISHERY: The IDNR Division of Fisheries has been active in the management of Baldwin Lake the late 1960's. Baldwin Lake opened to fishing in July, 1971. Baldwin Lake experienced a severe heat related fish kill in the summer of 2011 and 2012. Except for catfish and shad most other sport fish species were dramatically reduced in number. The IDNR has been aggressively stocking redear sunfish, black crappie, and largemouth bass since this fish kill. After several years of low numbers and poor fishing the lake is recovering well.

Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass - The largemouth bass population has recovered very well. Currently the lake has high numbers of 12-16 inch fish that are growing well. Currently there are few smallmouth bass in the lake. They are mostly larger fish, 15-20 inches.

Flathead, Blue and Channel Catfish – There are very good populations of blue catfish and flathead catfish in the lake. In the 2018 survey 8 blue catfish were collected. They ranged from 20-38 inches with the largest fish over 27 lbs. Two flathead catfish were collected that were 31 and 33 inches. Channel catfish are very abundant but they are mostly smaller fish, 10-12 inches.

Hybrid Striped Bass – There was a good fishery for this species in the past but none have been stocked since the major fish kill. Currently few if any exist in the lake. Hybrid striped bass are more sensitive to high water temperatures. Therefore the stocking of this species has been suspended. If water conditions improve we may stock them again in the future.

Bluegill/Redear Sunfish – Bluegill numbers are high and the size quality is fair with a few fish reaching 7 inches. The recent stockings of redear sunfish seem to be surviving and growing well. Most of the redear sunfish collected in the 2018 survey were over 8 inches.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Two pole and line fishing only.

Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass - 18" minimum length limit, 3 fish/day

Striped, White, or Hybrid Striped Bass - 17" minimum length limit, 3 fish/day

White, Black or Hybrid Crappie - 9" minimum length limit, 25 fish/day

Swimming, wading, water skiing and sail boating are prohibited.

*Hours at Baldwin Lake vary according to season, please contact the park office for details.

Baldwin Lake Park Office: 618-785-2555

IDNR Fisheries Biologist: 618-931-4217.