



WASHINGTON COUNTY STATE LAKE

2018 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Washington County Conservation Area is located 4 miles south of Nashville on Route 127.

DESCRIPTION: This scenic 248 acre lake contains a good percentage of woody habitats which is great for attracting and holding fish. There is a concrete boat ramp and plenty of parking in the blacktopped parking lot. There is also a gravel boat ramp for small watercraft. Shore angler access is available at many areas around the lake and there is a 10 hp limit for boat motors.

CONCESSION: Offers boat rental, bait and tackle.

HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The IDNR Division of Fisheries has been active in the management of Washington County Lake since it opened in 1962. The lake receives an annual stocking of channel catfish.

LARGEMOUTH BASS - The largemouth bass population in this lake is good. During the 2017 fall electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 69 fish per hour. Of the 69 bass collected, 38% were over 15 inches, 29% were over 16 inches, and 14% were over 18 inches. A new bass regulation went into effect on April 1, 2016 (see below). The goal of the new bass regulation is to increase the overall number of bass in the lake, as well as the number of bass \geq 14 inches in the lake.

CRAPPIE – Six white crappie (7-11 inches) were collected in the 2017 survey. Sixteen black crappie (7-9 inches) were collected in the 2017 survey.

BLUEGILL – The bluegill sunfish population is poor. Bluegill are stunted and overabundant. No bluegill over 7 inches were collected in the 2017 survey.

CHANNEL CATFISH - The channel catfish population is excellent. IDNR stocks this lake annually with channel catfish. Fifty-five channel catfish (13-22 inches) were collected in the 2017 survey. That was the highest catch rate for channel catfish IDNR has ever had at this lake.

FISHING REGULATIONS:

| Species | Creel Limit | Minimum Length Limit |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Largemouth Bass – as of 4/01/2016 | 2 under 14” and 1 over 18” | 14-18 inch protected slot (no possession) |
| Channel Catfish | 6 | None |
| Striped, White or Hybrid Bass | 3 | 17” |
| All Fish | 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only | |

RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS - Swimming, wading, and waterskiing are prohibited.

FISH ATTRACTORS – A map of the 11 Washington County State Lake fish attractor locations can be obtained via email by sending a request to Shawn.Hirst@Illinois.gov.

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-687-4546. Washington County Conservation Area: 618 327-3137.