



# WASHINGTON COUNTY STATE LAKE

## 2019 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 2018 fall electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 72 fish per hour. Of the 72 bass collected, 29% were over 15 inches, 28% were over 16 inches, and 17% 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** – Four white crappie (11-14 inches) were collected in the 2018 survey. Twenty-two black crappie (6-13 inches) were collected in the 2018 survey. When combining all crappie (both species) collected during the 2018 survey, 54% were over 9 inches and 46% were over 10 inches.

**BLUEGILL** – The bluegill sunfish population is poor. Bluegill are stunted and overabundant. No bluegill over 7 inches were collected in the 2018 survey.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** - The channel catfish population is excellent. IDNR stocks this lake annually with channel catfish. Thirteen channel catfish (9-22 inches) were collected in the 2018 survey.

### **FISHING REGULATIONS:**

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass – <u>as of 4/01/2016</u>	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](mailto: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.