



# Sam Parr Lake

## Fisheries Fact Sheet

Sam Parr Lake was constructed in Sam Parr State Park near Newton in 1971 through the cooperative efforts of the Illinois Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal funds for construction of the lake were provided through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.

**Location:** Sam Parr Lake is located in Jasper County, approximately 3 miles northeast of Newton Illinois on IL Rt. 33.

**Area:** Sam Parr Lake has a surface area of 180 acres, a maximum depth of 28 feet, and a mean depth of 10 feet. The lake has 9.5 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 3,950 acres.

**Status of the Sport Fishery:** The sport fish population in Sam Parr Lake is comprised of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, white crappie, and channel catfish. The lake also contains common carp and gizzard shad. The fish population is surveyed annually, and summaries below are based on the results of the most recent population survey and four-year trends in the population indices.

**Largemouth Bass** - The size structure of the bass population remains stable and in good shape. The CPUE remained well above the target (77/hr.). Larger fish are abundant, and should continue to provide some great fishing. Currently 42% of the bass are greater than 14" in length. The condition of bass over 16" is excellent (Wr = 102). However, of some concern is the large number of fish 12" – 15". Bass in this size group comprised 73% of the population in 2017, and their condition was poor (Wr = 87). In 2018, this size group dropped to 34% of the adult population, but their condition remained poor (Wr = 88) In 2019, anglers can expect to catch lots of fish 14" – 20" in length ranging from 1.2 – 5.3 lbs. with a few larger fish up to 7 pounds.

**Bluegill** – Size structure of the bluegill population remains poor and below the target range. Body condition improved slightly (Wr = 91), and the fishery is still comprised almost entirely of fish under 7" in length. The precipitous decline in the quality of the bluegill population coincided with the 2005 appearance of gizzard shad. Anglers can expect most fish to range from 5" – 7" and weigh from 0.1 – 0.22 lbs.

**Crappie** – Sam Parr Lake contains good numbers of both white and black crappie, but the size structure of the populations are very different. The black crappie population continues to be dominated by strong age 2 and age 3 year classes with very few fish greater than 10". The size structure of the white crappie population has improved slightly in the last year. Data from the 2018 population survey indicate 13% of the adult white crappie population exceed 10" in length. Of special concern is the poor body condition of both species (black crappie Wr = 88; white crappie Wr = 81). With poor growth rates and below optimal size structure, crappie fishing will be fair at best in the coming year.

**Channel Catfish** – Catfish remain relatively abundant in Sam Parr and should provide good fishing opportunities in the coming year. Most fish will range from 1 – 6.5 pounds with larger fish up to 10 pounds. This lake provides excellent bank fishing opportunities. The best places to fish include the rip-rap along the dam, the upper ends of the two main arms of the lake, and in the backs of coves.

**Fishing Regulations:** Two pole and line fishing only

<b>Species</b>	<b>Daily Creel Limit</b>	<b>Minimum Length Limit</b>
Largemouth Bass	6	14"
Channel Catfish	6	

**Additional Regulations:** Boats with outboard motors are restricted to 10 horsepower maximum.

**Contacts:** Sam Parr State Park 618/783-2661; IDNR Fisheries 618/393-6732

**Updated 01/07/19**