



Borah Lake  
Fisheries Fact Sheet

Borah Lake was constructed by the City of Olney in 1954 to serve as a water supply reservoir. Annual boat stickers and City of Olney tournament permits are required.

**Location:** Borah Lake is located in Richland County, approximately 1 mile north of Olney Illinois.

**Area:** Borah Lake has a surface area of 137 acres, a maximum depth of 26 feet, and a mean depth of 11 feet. The lake has 15 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 2,155 acres.

**Status of the Sport Fishery:** The sport fish population in Borah Lake is comprised primarily of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, crappie, and channel catfish. The lake is stocked annually with channel catfish. The lake also contains flathead catfish and yellow bullheads. 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.

**Bass:** The size structure of the largemouth bass population has improved over the past two years, but the body condition has declined significantly. Currently 29% of the population exceeds the 14” minimum length limit. This is a 140% increase from the previous year. However, over half of the population is comprised of fish from the 8” – 14” size group and their average body condition is poor (Wr 83). Bass fishing should be fair to good in 2018 with most keeper fish ranging from 14” – 18” in length and weighing 1 – 3 pounds.

**Bluegill/Redear:** The size structure of the bluegill population has improved significantly over the past three years. Bluegill growth rates remain above average and 6% of the population currently exceeds 8” in length. The body condition of all sizes of fish remains good (Wr 92), and the CPUE remains low with only 63 bluegills collected. There are also some very large redear in the lake ranging from 8” – 10” in length and weighing between 0.4 -1.25 pounds. Overall the sunfish population remains in very good shape and should provide some quality fishing for both of these species in the coming year.

**Crappie:** Both black and white crappie are present in the lake and the size structure and condition for both of these species are fair. The CPUE remained low for both species. Survey data indicate 33% of the combined population was greater than 10” in length but their body condition was poor (Wr = 83). Crappie fishing should be fair to good in the coming year.

**Catfish:** The channel catfish population is in very good shape. The CPUE improved significantly, and their condition is excellent (Wr = 106). The size structure of the catfish population remains good and should provide some excellent fishing opportunities in the coming year. Fish in the 2 – 10 pound range should be common.

**Fishing Regulations:**

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	14”
Channel Catfish	6	None

**Additional Regulations:** Two pole and line fishing only. City boat stickers and tournament permits are required. Boat stickers are available at Olney City Hall and local bait shops. Tournament permits are available at Olney City Hall.

**Contacts:** Olney City Hall 618/393-2130; DNR Fisheries 618/393-6732.

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