



# CEDAR LAKE

## 2020 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

**LOCATION:** Cedar Lake is located five miles southwest of Carbondale in Jackson County. The City of Carbondale boat access area is located at the end of Cedar Creek Road off of Old Route 51 South. Another boat access area can be found south of Murphysboro off of State Route 127. There is a 10 HP motor limit on Cedar Lake.

**DESCRIPTION:** Cedar Lake is 1750 acres in size with a maximum depth of 60 feet. The northern half of the shoreline is owned by the City of Carbondale. The southern half of the shoreline is surrounded by Shawnee National Forest which is owned by the US Forest Service. There is no marina on Cedar Lake.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based the Illinois Department of Natural Resources annual fish population surveys.

**Largemouth Bass (LMB)** - During the 2019 spring electrofishing sample LMB were collected at a rate of 145 fish per hour. **Anglers are encouraged to keep their daily limit of 5 LMB under 14 inches to help thin out the smaller LMB at Cedar Lake.** This will increase growth rates, allow more LMB to reach the protected slot limit, and lead to more trophy-sized LMB in the future. Of the 579 LMB collected during the 2019 survey, 14% were over 18 inches in length and 48% were within the protected slot limit. This represents the highest number and percentage of bass within the protected slot limit on record. Cedar Lake has one of the best LMB populations of any lake in Illinois with respect to the total number of LMB and LMB over 18 inches.

**Striped Bass (STB)** - IDNR stocks STB into Cedar Lake when available. Striped bass were last stocked in November 2019 (584 fish averaging 14.5 inches). No STB were stocked in 2016-2018. Anglers have reported catching STB in excess of 20 pounds. In the spring of 2013 IDNR collected a STB during an electrofishing survey for the first time. This STB measured 31 inches in length and weighed 18 pounds. During the 2019 survey one STB was caught that measured 23 inches and weighed 5.4 pounds. Many of the reported STB are caught by anglers fishing for largemouth bass.

**Crappie** – Cedar Lake has an excellent crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Crappie over 2 pounds are caught each year. Of the 189 crappie collected in the 2019 spring survey, 87% were over 9 inches, 81% were over 10 inches, and 52% were over 12 inches. Seventy-four percent of the crappie collected were white crappie.

**Bluegill Sunfish** – Despite the high density largemouth bass population, the bluegill population structure can only be described as average. A few bluegill over 8 inches were collected in the 2019 spring survey.

**Redear Sunfish** – While the bluegill population can only be described as average, the redear population is outstanding for a larger lake. Fifty-two percent of the redear sunfish collected during the 2019 spring survey were over 8 inches. Seventy-nine percent were over 7 inches, and 10% were over 10 inches.

**Catfish** – Two channel catfish (18-23 inches) were collected in the 2019 survey. No flathead catfish were collected in the 2019 survey. Neither catfish species have ever been collected in great numbers in previous surveys.

**Fishing regulations:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Creel Limit</b>	<b>Minimum Length Limit</b>
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14” and 1 over 18”	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Striped, White or Hybrid Bass	3	17”
White, Black, Hybrid Crappie	25	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

**FISHING TOURNAMENTS:** Permits for fishing tournaments are required from the City of Carbondale and can be obtained by contacting the City of Carbondale/Lake Manager – Cedar Lake 618-549-8441 beginning on January 1 of each year. No IDNR fish tournament permits will be issued until a City of Carbondale permit is obtained. Tournaments are limited to a 20 boat maximum with one tournament per day per ramp.

**FISH ATTRACTORS** – Maps of 30 permanent Cedar Lake fish attractor locations can be obtained via email by sending a request to [Shawn.Hirst@Illinois.gov](mailto:Shawn.Hirst@Illinois.gov)

**GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION** – With a 10 HP motor limit and no swimming allowed (except at a designated beach), Cedar Lake receives very little recreational boat traffic throughout the year. However, parking at the two boat ramps can be a problem during peak fishing months in the spring and fall. Threadfin shad are stocked into this lake when available as a supplemental forage base.

**PHONE NUMBERS:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. City of Carbondale/Lake Manager – Cedar Lake 618-549-8441.