



# KINKAID LAKE

## 2020 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

**LOCATION/DESCRIPTION:** Kinkaid Lake is located in Jackson County three miles northwest of Murphysboro off of State Route 149. There are 3 public boat launching facilities around the Lake. Kinkaid Lake is 2750 acres in size, has a shoreline length of 82 miles, and a maximum depth of 80 feet. The NW portion of the Lake consists of a 3 mile no wake zone.

**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 survey, LMB were collected at a rate of 123 fish per hour. Of the 489 bass collected during the 2019 spring survey, 22% were over the minimum 16 inch size limit and 9% were over 18 inches. Fourteen percent of all largemouth bass collected were between 15-16 inches or just below the minimum length limit. The largemouth bass population continues to look very good.

**Smallmouth Bass (SMB)** - IDNR first stocked SMB into Kinkaid Lake in 2005. The first documented legal-sized SMB ( $\geq 16''$ ) was observed in 2010. During 2012 numerous legal-sized SMB were caught with the largest reported fish measuring 18 inches. IDNR is not aware of any SMB caught during 2019. SMB do not appear to be recruiting in Kinkaid Lake and no additional SMB stockings are planned. If you catch a SMB at Kinkaid Lake please contact IDNR Fisheries Biologist Shawn Hirst at 618-559-5009 or email at [Shawn.Hirst@illinois.gov](mailto:Shawn.Hirst@illinois.gov).

**Crappie** – Kinkaid Lake is known for producing large crappie. Crappie over 2 pounds are caught each year. Blacknose crappie were first stocked in 2010. Legal-sized blacknose crappie were first caught in 2013. Eighty-seven percent of the crappie collected during the spring 2019 survey were over the nine-inch length limit, 76% were over 10 inches, and 13% were over 12 inches. In March 2017 a new state record hybrid crappie was caught at Kinkaid Lake. The crappie measured 18.1 inches in length and weighed 4.55 pounds. **It is the largest documented crappie ever caught in Illinois.**

**Muskie (MUE)** – Kinkaid Lake is one of the premier muskie (MUE) lakes in Illinois. MUE are stocked annually and many are caught each year in excess of 40 inches. During the 2019 spring survey 172 MUE were collected up to 45.5 inches in length. Anglers are encouraged to **NOT** fish for MUE in the warmer summer months as angling mortality is believed to be very high especially for larger MUE. Please report tagged MUE to IDNR Fish Biologist Shawn Hirst at 618-559-5009 or email at [Shawn.Hirst@illinois.gov](mailto:Shawn.Hirst@illinois.gov). Anglers reporting a tagged MUE will receive information on the history of that fish. If the tag number is covered with algae simply remove the algae with your fingernail or a knife. Please provide tag number (5 digits), length of MUE and catch date. Please do not remove the tag.

**Walleye (WAE)** – IDNR annually stocks WAE into Kinkaid Lake. WAE up to 11 pounds have been collected in netting surveys. WAE numbers are not high but trophy-sized fish can be caught. The best areas are in front of the dam and spillway during spring high water events. During 2019 trap netting we collected five WAE with the largest fish measuring 23 inches.

**Catfish** – Kinkaid Lake has an excellent and underutilized channel catfish population. Surveys indicate that a small number of flathead catfish are also present.

**Bluegill Sunfish** – The bluegill population structure can only be described as poor. During the 2019 spring electrofishing survey no bluegill over 8 inches were collected.

**Redear Sunfish** – The redear population is average. Redear sunfish over 8 inches are present in small numbers.

**Fishing regulations:**

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass	3	16”
Muskie	1	48”
White, Black, Hybrid Crappie	25	9”
Walleye	6	14”
Live Bait	All live bait in excess of 8” must be rigged with a quick set rig.	

**FISHING TOURNAMENTS:** Any fishing tournament with 80 or more anglers or 40 or more boats must obtain a permit from the Kinkaid-Reed’s Creek Conservancy District (618-687-1722). No tournaments requiring KRCCD permits are allowed during June-July-August.

**FISH ATTRACTORS** – Maps of 50 permanent Kinkaid 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** – Kinkaid Lake receives a tremendous amount of recreational boat traffic during the hot summer months especially on the weekends and holidays. To avoid the crowd anglers may consider fishing early in the morning and/or during the week. The upper NW portion of Kinkaid Lake is referred to as the Johnson Creek Area. About 3 miles of this area is a no wake zone that gets very turbid for multiple days after heavy rain events. Threadfin shad are stocked into this lake when available as a supplemental forage base.

**PHONE NUMBERS:** IDNR Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. Kinkaid Lake Fish and Wildlife Area 618-684-2867. Kinkaid-Reed’s Creek Conservancy District 618-687-1722.