



# LAKE MURPHYSBORO

## 2021 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

**LOCATION:** This Lake is located within Lake Murphysboro State Park just west of Murphysboro in Jackson County off of State Route 149.

**DESCRIPTION:** Built in 1950, this 145-acre lake has a shoreline length of 7.5 miles and a maximum depth of 36 feet. Lake Murphysboro has a 10 HP motor limit. Within Lake Murphysboro State Park there are three campgrounds adjacent to the Lake.

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

**Largemouth Bass** – The opportunity to catch bass over 15 inches and weighing 2-3 pounds is excellent in this lake. During the 2020 fall electrofishing survey, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 170 fish per hour with 24% of the bass measuring 15 inches or better. Fourteen percent of the bass collected were over 18 inches. The 2020 bass survey was one of the best surveys on record for this lake.

**Crappie** – Lake Murphysboro has an excellent crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Of the crappie collected in the 2020 fall electrofishing survey, 50% were over nine-inches in length and 17% were over 10 inches in length.

**Bluegill Sunfish** – The bluegill population structure can only be described as average. During the 2020 fall electrofishing survey a few 7+ inch bluegill were collected. No bluegill over 8 inches were collected.

**Redear Sunfish** – While the bluegill population can only be described as average, the redear population shows a little more promise. Of the redear collected in the 2020 survey, 64% were over 8 inches in length.

**Catfish** – IDNR stocks 8-10” channel catfish into Lake Murphysboro every year. These annual stockings have produced excellent angling opportunities for 2-5 pound channel catfish. Nine catfish (15-22 inches) were collected in 2020. Two flathead catfish (25-29 inches) were collected with the largest weighing 12 pounds.

### **Fishing regulations:**

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	3	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

**FISHING TOURNAMENTS:** Tournaments are limited to a maximum of 8 boats.

**FISH ATTRACTORS** – Maps of Lake Murphysboro 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 Lake Murphysboro receives very little recreational boat traffic throughout the year. There are two boat ramps available for use. There are no concessions at Lake Murphysboro State Park.

**PHONE NUMBERS:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. Lake Murphysboro State Park 618-684-2867.