

Carlyle Lake Fishing Fact Sheet

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1967, Carlyle Lake was formed by damming the Kaskaskia River and is the largest manmade lake within Illinois. Carlyle Lake is home to many different species of fish. The primary sport fish include: largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, crappie, white bass, sauger, channel catfish, and flathead catfish. Carlyle Lake provides good fishing for most of these spes. The populations of some of the primary sport fish tend to cycle year to year. Currently the lake supports excellent populations of crappie, catfish, and white bass. Fish population surveys are conducted annually. The lake is located in southwestern Illinois, 50 miles east of St. Louis, principally in Clinton County, with Carlyle being the largest city bordering the water. Fish that are stocked annually include sauger, largemouth bass, and redear sunfish.

Concessions: There are two bait shops located in town and three full service marinas.

Sport Fishing Statistics					
	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	White Bass	Bluegill	Channel Catfish
Biologist Ranking	Fair	Excellent	Good	Fair	Very Good
Fish per Hour	15	34	29	29	11
Average Catch Size (inches)	12-20	6-14	10-16	5-6	15-30

Additional Site Information:

AREA: 24,580 Acres; maximum depth 35 feet; average depth 11 feet.

WATERCRAFT: No outboard motor size limit. Eleven boat ramps are located at various recreational areas around the lake. In addition, there are three boat ramps on the river, one just above and two below the reservoir.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Largemouth or smallmouth bass, 14" minimum length limit, 6 fish per day. White, black, or hybrid crappie, 10" minimum length limit, 15 fish per day. Sauger, walleye, or hybrid, 14" minimum length limit, 6 fish/day. Visit the www.ifishillinois.org website for more information.

AMENITIES: Carlyle Lake offers several camping facilities as well as cottages. Three full service marinas are located around the lake. See the ifishillinois website for more information.