

West Frankfort New City Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

West Frankfort New City Lake is a 214-acre city-owned impoundment located approximately 5 miles east of West Frankfort, Illinois and just south of Route 149 in Franklin County. The lake is mostly surrounded by homes and has an improved boat ramp.

Largemouth bass: Largemouth bass were found in West Frankfort New City Lake in better numbers in spring 2018 (60 were collected per hour of electrofishing), and body condition of these fish was excellent. Sixty-one percent were larger than 12 inches, 54 percent were over 15 inches, and 25 percent exceeded 18 inches in length. Other than abundance, population indices met or exceeded the management plan goal for largemouth bass in West Frankfort New City Lake.

Bluegill: Bluegill abundance in West Frankfort New City Lake in 2018 was high and higher to the previous year, as evidenced by a catch rate of 934 per hour of electrofishing. Quality of these fish was good with 41% larger than 6 inches and 2% larger than the 7-inch mark. Bluegill body condition remained good.

Crappie: Poor numbers of white crappie (34 per hour) were included in the 2018 West Frankfort New City Lake sample. 24% of these were larger than 8 inches, and 6% were ten inches or larger. Average body condition was substandard, an indication of an overcrowded condition relative to the available food supply. No black crappie were collected in 2018.

Channel catfish: Numbers of channel catfish have been on a startling incline since 2014, and the spring 2018 sample reflected this trend. (120 per hour, up from 56 per hour the previous year), and sizes ranged from 13 to 24 inches with very good body condition. The channel catfish population of West Frankfort New City Lake is maintained by supplemental stockings accomplished every other year.

Yellow bass: Yellow bass were collected in West Frankfort New City Lake in spring 2018, and these fish compete for food with sunfish and other small predators. In order to reduce the yellow bass population, anglers are encouraged to remove any that are caught.

Regulations in effect: Largemouth bass – 15 inch length limit and 3 per day creel. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information.

Additional Fisheries Information can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Luke Nelson at 618-364-5381