

West Frankfort Old City Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

West Frankfort Old City Lake is a relatively shallow, 147-acre, city-owned impoundment located approximately 4 miles east-southeast of West Frankfort, Illinois and one mile south of Route 149 in Franklin County. The lake is mostly surrounded by woods and has one boat ramp.

Largemouth bass: Largemouth bass were found in West Frankfort Old City Lake in lower numbers in spring 2018, but these fish exhibited very good quality. The annual electrofishing survey produced 24 bass per hour (goal is 60 per hour). Eighty-nine percent were over 12 inches, which exceeded the management plan goal, and 56% were larger than 15 inches, which was better than the previous year. Bass body condition met management goals.

Bluegill: Bluegill were collected from West Frankfort Old City Lake in 2018 at an astonishing 854 per hour of electrofishing, which over double the previous year. Quality of these fish exceeded the management plan goal, as 59% were larger than 6 inches, and 20% exceeded 7 inches in length. Bluegill body condition was very good.

Redear: As usual small numbers of redear were included in the 2017 survey of West Frankfort Old City Lake, compared to bluegill. Forty-four redear were collected per hour of electrofishing. 22% of these fish were 8 inches or larger, but no redear were sampled over 10 inches in length. Redear body condition was still excellent.

Crappie: Crappie were less common during spring 2018. White and black crappie were collected at rates of 70 and 2 fish per hour of electrofishing, respectively. However, many of these fish were 6 to 8 inches in length, and none of these were over 9 inches. Twenty-three percent of white crappie were larger than 8 inches. Body condition of both crappie species was substandard.

Channel catfish: Abundance of channel catfish doubled in the 2018 West Frankfort Old City Lake sample, as evidenced by the electrofishing catch rate of 20 fish per hour, and length of these fish ranged from 17 to 26 inches. Body condition was excellent. The channel catfish population of West Frankfort Old City Lake is maintained through supplemental stockings accomplished every other year.

Regulations in effect: Largemouth bass – 15" length limit and 3 per day creel limit. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel limit. 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