

# 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 better numbers in spring 2019, and these fish exhibited very good quality. The annual electrofishing survey produced 66 bass per hour (goal is 60 per hour). Fifty-four percent were over 12 inches, which exceeded the management plan goal, and 35% were larger than 15 inches, a slight decrease from the previous year. Bass body condition met management goals.

**Bluegill:** Bluegill were collected from West Frankfort Old City Lake in 2019 at a rate of 64/hour of electrofishing. Quality of these fish exceeded the management plan goal, as 42% were larger than 6 inches, and 2% exceeded 7 inches in length. Bluegill body condition was very good.

**Redear:** As usual small numbers of redear were included in the 2019 survey of West Frankfort Old City Lake, compared to bluegill. Sixteen redear were collected per hour of electrofishing. 63% of these fish were 8 inches or larger, and 13% sampled were over 10 inches in length. Redear body condition was still excellent.

**Crappie:** Crappie were less common during spring 2019. White and black crappie were collected at rates of 42 and 6 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. Body condition of both crappie species was substandard, suggesting an overpopulation.

**Channel catfish:** Abundance of channel catfish was good in the 2019 West Frankfort Old City Lake sample, as evidenced by the electrofishing catch rate of 12 fish per hour, and length of these fish ranged from 8 to 24 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