



## IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary Palmyra-Modesto Water Commission Lake

**Location:** Palmyra-Modesto Water Commission Lake is located 1 mile east and 1/2 mile north of Palmyra, IL in northwestern Macoupin County.

**Area:** 35 acres; shoreline length 2.9 miles; watershed 697 acres; maximum depth 31 feet; average depth 12.2 feet

**Lake history and characteristics:** Palmyra-Modesto Water Commission Lake is the water supply for both communities. This water body was constructed in 1965 and is primarily used for recreational fishing. Palmyra-Modesto Water Commission Lake has a trolling motor only motor size limit. There is a single, gravel ramp on the northwest end of the water body. There are picnic facilities across the road to the west at Terry Park. Approximately 13 distinct species reside in this impoundment. This lake receives periodic stockings of 8-10" channel catfish from the IDNR Hatchery.

**Largemouth Bass:** In 2017, 21 Largemouth Bass ranging from 5.9-21.3" were collected. Thirteen Largemouth Bass exceeded 15", and 10 exceeded 18" in 2017. The 2017 CPUE (N=42) was lower than the management goal ( $\geq 60$  bass/hour); however most other structural indices were met or exceeded the management goal. The sample in 2019 yielded a lower catch rate (CPUE=22), but this survey was conducted during late June when bass may have been utilizing deeper water. While numbers may not be high, this bass fishery continues to offer excellent trophy bass fishing opportunities.

**Bluegill:** Bluegill were collected at a catch rate of 228 fish/hour in 2017, and 118 fish/hour in 2019. Bluegill in this lake ranged from 2.0-7.9" collectively between years. In 2017, 4.8% exceeded 7". Similar results were observed in 2019 where 4.3% exceeded 7".

### **Black and White Crappie**

Black and White Crappie are present in this lake; however White Crappie are in higher abundance. In 2017, twenty-three White Crappie were collected ranging from 6.7-7.9". No crappie were collected during the June 27, 2019 survey. This is not alarming. It is likely that these species were utilizing deeper parts of the lake during that summer survey and were outside the effective zone of the sampling gear.

**Channel Catfish:** Four Channel Catfish were collected in 2017, and three in 2019. Collectively between years, fish ranged from 13-21". Channel Catfish were stocked in 2018.

**Other fish species:** Other species collected during recent population surveys included Common Carp, Green Sunfish, Yellow Bass, and Yellow Bullhead.

**Fishing Regulations:** see the Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or [www.IFISHILLINOIS.org](http://www.IFISHILLINOIS.org) for updates.

- Two pole and line fishing only and each pole must not have more than 2 hooks or lures attached while fishing.
- Channel Catfish - 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit
- Largemouth Bass – 15” Minimum Length Limit, 3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit.

**Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:**

- none

**Fisheries Management Activities Completed:**

- Conducted a summer population survey utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (1 – 30 min AC electrofishing run) 6/27/2019. 81 fish were collected, representing 5 species. Water temperature was 81.1F.
- Conducted a spring population survey utilizing a standard sampling protocol. (1 – 30 min AC electrofishing run) 5/17/2017. 178 fish were collected, representing 10 species. Water temperature was 75.2F.
- Hatchery stocked 530 7.1” Channel Catfish on 8/8/2018.