

LAKE LOU YAEGER

2015-2016 Fisheries Fact Sheet

Lake Lou Yaeger was created by damming the West Fork of Shoal Creek. The lake was constructed in 1964, and completely filled during May of 1966. The predominant uses are boating recreation, sport fishing, and flood control.

Location – Resides near 1 mile northeast of Litchfield, IL. in Montgomery County.

Area – 1,269 acres; shoreline length – 24.9 miles; watershed – 74,550; maximum depth – 31 feet; average depth – 10 feet.

Description – Lake Lou Yaeger has no horsepower motor limit. There is a boat ramp on the southwest shore, and mid-lake on the west side. Restrooms, camping, and picnicking are all available on site.

Status of the Sport Fishery – Approximately 15 fish groups swim in this shallow, fertile water body. At this time, no species are being stocked by IDNR on an annual basis. A rearing pond for Largemouth Bass is functional on City property. For the time being, it has been shut down due to budget constraints. The City does stock 5” to 8” Largemouth annually in an effort to maintain the predator base.

Largemouth Bass – Lake Lou Yaeger has a weak Largemouth Bass population. Numbers are subpar, yet size structure is fairly solid. Our last (2015) sample showed most bass resided in the 10” to 17” length range. The largest bass measured 22”, and topped the scale at 6.2 lbs. The City of Litchfield continues to stock this fish group on an annual basis. If this program remains, this fishery should benefit down the road. If fish are available, 4” Largemouth Bass will be stocked in Lake Lou Yaeger in 2016 via IDNR.

Bluegill – For an impoundment of this size, and competition with younger Bluegill from Gizzard Shad, this fish group does fairly well. We saw good numbers of Bluegill in the 6” to 7” area, and collected this species up to 7.4” in total length. Usually under these conditions, Bluegill struggle to attain 6”. If the predator base strengthens, this fishery could improve even more over time.

White Crappie – White Crappie are doing fairly well in Lake Lou Yaeger. The majority of individuals collected were in the 6” to 11” category. The largest Crappie captured was 13.2”, and weighed 1.1 lbs. Densities are high, and looks as though this group is re-building as smaller fish increase/larger fish decrease in numbers. Continued harvest by the angler should reduce competition, and allow smaller fish to move up through the length range rather quickly.

Channel Catfish – In 2015, we did quite well collecting this species as opposed to 2012. 143 Channel Catfish were caught ranging from 8” to 26.2” in total length, and topping the scale at 8.6 lbs. Natural reproduction is occurring in this lake, which should ensure decent fishing into the future.

Fishing Regulations - Site specific angling regulations. Two pole and line fishing only, and all other statewide rules apply at this lake.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 3 fish per day creel limit.

Contact Information –

City of Litchfield – 217/324-5253

IDNR Fish Biologist – 217/833-2811