



Centralia Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Centralia Lake was constructed in 1910 to serve as a water supply reservoir for the city of Centralia.

Location: Centralia Lake is located in Marion County approximately 2 miles west and 5 miles south of Salem, Illinois.

Area: Centralia Lake has a surface area of 254 acres, a maximum depth of 23 feet, and a mean depth of 10 feet. The lake has 12.9 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 734 acres.

Status of the Sport Fishery: The sport fish population in Centralia Lake is comprised primarily of largemouth bass, bluegill, white and black crappies, and channel catfish. Other common species include redear sunfish, common carp and yellow bullheads. The fish population is surveyed annually, and summaries below are based on the results of the most recent population survey and four-year trends in the population indices.

Largemouth Bass - The overall size structure of the bass population is excellent. Bass population indices remained relatively stable. The percentage of fish over 15” which has more than doubled since 2011 declined slightly in 2017, but remained good (RSD15 = 32). The catch per effort rose significantly to 147 fish per hour and, body condition remained good for all sizes of bass (avg. Wr = 93). Fishing prospects for the coming year should be very good with most keeper bass ranging from 15” – 20” in length and weighing between 1.8 – 4 pounds.

Bluegill – The size structure of the population remains poor. The number of larger bluegill was well below optimal (RSD8 = 0 and RSD7 = 3). There were however, large numbers of 5” – 6” bluegill and their body condition was excellent (Wr 96). If mortality is low and growth rates remain average these fish should help improve the size structure over the next 2 – 3 years. In 2018, anglers can expect to catch an abundance of fish 5” – 7” in length weighing 0.15 to 0.25 pounds.

Crappie – There was very little change in the size structure of the crappie population. White crappie continued to look good with 25% of the population exceeding 10” in length while the size structure of the black crappie population was poor with few fish exceeding 10” in length. Crappie fishing should be good in the coming year with the best fish ranging between 0.5 - 1.25 lbs.

Channel Catfish – As a result of recent stocking efforts, the channel catfish population density is improving but remains low. The current population exhibits excellent growth rates and body condition (Wr = 96). Fishing in the coming year should be fair to good with the majority of fish ranging from 1 – 5 lbs.

Fishing Regulations: Two pole and line fishing only.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	15”
Channel Catfish	6	

Additional Regulations: City of Centralia boat and tournament permits are required and may be purchased at the City Clerk’s office at 222 S. Poplar, Centralia.

Contacts: Centralia City Clerk’s office 618/533-7625, DNR Fisheries 618/393-6732.

Updated 12/19/17