



McLeansboro City Reservoir

Hamilton County, Illinois.

Fisheries Fact Sheet

McLeansboro reservoir was dug and dammed in 1912 one mile southwest of the city of McLeansboro in Hamilton County. The reservoir has a surface area of 75 acres and a maximum depth of 23 feet. Shoreline areas are shallow and the reservoir is considered moderately fertile. In the past, the reservoir was a potable water source for the city, but currently the reservoir serves only recreational purposes. Recent survey data suggests McLeansboro City Reservoir is currently supporting a balanced fishery. Fish most commonly sought after by anglers include largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, channel catfish, crappie and occasionally flathead catfish.

Largemouth bass - Largemouth bass population indices are near recommended ranges and a good representation of size structure exists. Bass abundance is fair, as measured by catch per unit of effort of electro fishing, as the average number of bass caught in recent surveys is 63 bass per hour. Many fish between 1.5 to 2 pounds are present with larger bass sampled and reportedly being caught by anglers. Bass fishing is expected to be good. Currently, there is a 14 inch minimum size limit for bass and the creel limit is 6 fish per day.

Bluegill – Bluegill numbers at McLeansboro City Reservoir are good. Abundance as measured by the average catch per unit of effort of electro fishing, in recent samples, is 336 fish per hour. Bluegill size structure remains constant as most catchable fish are between 6 and 6.5 inches. Bluegill fishing at McLeansboro City Reservoir is expected to be fair. Good numbers of bluegill and other sunfish exist, but the average size is less than desirable. Currently there are no size or creel limits for sunfish at McLeansboro City Reservoir.

Crappie – Black and white crappie are present in McLeansboro City Reservoir and fishing as reported from anglers has been fair. Anglers should target crappie around structure using minnows and jigs. Currently there are no size or creel limits for crappie at McLeansboro City Reservoir.

Channel catfish – Anglers continue to report excellent catches of channel catfish. Many fish reported and collected during electro fishing surveys are 18 inches or better. Fishing prospects for channel catfish are expected to be good to excellent. A daily catch limit of six fish applies.

McLeansboro City Reservoir has a two pole and line fishing regulation and a 10 horsepower or less outboard motor restriction. Additional fisheries information can be obtained on the I Fish Illinois web site, <http://www.ifishillinois.org> or by consulting the Illinois Fishing Information booklet or by calling IDNR District Biologist Kurt Daine at 618-949-3432.

