



Christopher Old City Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Christopher Old City Lake is a very fertile, shallow, 20-acre, city-owned impoundment located just northwest of Christopher, Illinois and north of Route 14 in Franklin County. Christopher Old City Lake is mostly surrounded by woods and has a gravel ramp.

Largemouth bass: The 2017 survey of Christopher Old City Lake produced twice the number of largemouth bass (60 per hour of electrofishing, compared to a goal of 60) as the previous year, but quality dropped slightly. Fifty percent of bass were larger than the 15-inch minimum length limit, and 28% were larger than 18 inches. Bass body condition was excellent, but evidence of natural reproduction was still lacking. Bass fingerlings have been stocked twice in the last four years to boost the population.

Bluegill: Bluegill numbers in Christopher Old City Lake were collected at a significant rate of 879 per hour of electrofishing, but fish smaller than 6 inches in length were the majority. Bluegill body condition was also at the low end of the acceptable range. It is hoped that a stronger largemouth bass population (via recent implementation of more restrictive bass harvest regulations and bass stockings) will also improve quality of bluegill.

Channel catfish: Small numbers of channel catfish (6 per hour) were included in the 2017 Christopher Old City Lake sample, and these fish ranged from 11 to 18 inches in length with good body condition. The Christopher Old City Lake channel catfish population is maintained via supplemental stockings every other year.

Regulations in effect: Channel catfish – 6 per day creel limit. A largemouth bass minimum length limit of 15 inches with a 3-per-day creel went into effect April 1, 2015. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information.

Additional Fisheries Information can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Chris Bickers at 618-993-7094,