



Raccoon Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Raccoon Lake was constructed in 1942 to serve as a water supply reservoir for the city of Centralia. Annual boat stickers and City tournament permits are required.

Location: Raccoon Lake is located in Marion County on the East side of Centralia, Illinois approximately 1 mile north of rt. 161.

Area: Raccoon Lake has a surface area of 970 acres, a maximum depth of 17 feet, and a mean depth of 3.9 feet. The lake has 16.4 miles of shoreline.

Status of the Sport Fishery: The sport fish population in Raccoon Lake is comprised primarily of largemouth bass, bluegill, white and black crappies, and channel catfish. Other common species include 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 size structure of the bass population remained relatively stable and balanced over the past year. Data from the most recent population survey show all of the population indices met or exceeded the target goals, and the condition of all sizes of fish remains very good ($Wr = 97$). Currently 35% of the bass exceed the 15" minimum length, a 35% increase from last year. Poor bass reproduction and recruitment continue to be a major concern in this lake. Following significant improvement in 2012 and 2013, bass CPUE plummeted in 2014 to 37/hr. and had remained below the target of 60/hr. ever since. To help improve numbers, over 35,500 largemouth bass fingerlings were stocked in the lake in June of 2016. This helped the 2017 CPUE improve to 78/hr., well above the target level for the first time in 5 years. However, the catch rate in 2018 was back down to 31 fish per hour. For 2019, most keeper fish will range from 15" – 20" and weigh from 1.8 – 5 lbs.

Bluegill: The size structure of the bluegill population is stable and fair at best. For the seventh consecutive year none of the bluegill collected were ≥ 8 " in length. Currently 43% of the adult bluegills exceed 6" in length but only 4% exceed 7" in length. In spite of the poor size structure growth rates remain good and condition is very good ($Wr = 101$). If these fish continue to grow in the coming years the size structure of the bluegill population should show some improvement. Anglers can expect to catch an abundance of fish 5" – 7" in length weighing 0.1 to 0.3 pounds.

Crappie: Both black and white crappies are present in Raccoon Lake but white crappies comprise over 90% of the population. Data collected from the annual population survey indicate 11% of the adult population still exceeds 10" in length and an additional 17% of the population is between 8" - 10" in length. Currently, 88% of the adult population is between 6" – 9" in length. Condition is good ($Wr = 92$) and growth rates are average. Catch rate increased again for the third straight year to 150 per hour. This lake should provide some good crappie fishing in the coming year.

Channel Catfish: Catfish in Raccoon Lake should provide fair fishing opportunities in the coming year. Numbers remain low (CPUE = 9/hr.). Most fish in the population are older and will range from 3 – 5 pounds. The body condition of the population is good ($Wr = 92$). Stocking of channel catfish fingerlings this year will hopefully increase population numbers in coming years and improve fishing opportunities.

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 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; IDNR Fisheries 618/393-6732

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