

Sesser City Reservoir

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Sesser City Reservoir is a relatively fertile and shallow, 20-acre, city-owned impoundment located just southeast of Sesser, Illinois in Franklin County. Sesser City Reservoir is mostly surrounded by woods and has a gravel boat ramp.

Largemouth bass: Largemouth bass were found in Sesser City Reservoir in lower numbers at the time of the spring 2018 survey, at a rate of 42 per hour of electrofishing, which didn't meet the general management plan goal for the first time since 2014. The proportion of bass larger than 12 inches was higher than the previous year at 79%, and this index easily exceeded the goal. Proportions of larger bass increased markedly. 21% of fish sampled were at least 15 inches, but no fish were sampled over 18 inches. Bass body condition remained within the management plan goal range.

Bluegill: Sesser Reservoir bluegill abundance in 2018, as measured by electrofishing catch rate, increased from the previous year at 90 per hour, but the proportion larger than 6 inches (PSD) drastically reduced to 19%. No bluegill over 7 inches in length (RSD18) were sampled. Bluegill still displayed excellent body condition.

Redear: Redear very scarce in 2018 (3 collected per hour). Because of the small sample, population indices were not calculated.

Crappie: Black and white crappie were both collected at sparse rates of 3 per hour in spring 2018. Crappie were between 4 and 11 inches in length, and body condition was substandard.

Channel catfish: Only two channel catfish was included in the 2018 sampling of Sesser City Reservoir. These fish were 18 and 20 inches in length and displayed excellent body condition. The Sesser City Reservoir channel catfish population is maintained by IDNR stockings every other year.

Regulations in effect: Largemouth bass – 18 inch length limit and 1 per day creel limit. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel limit. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information.

Additional Fisheries Information can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Luke Nelson at 618-364-5381