



# MAZONIA STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

## Monster Lake FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Monster Lake is located within the Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area South Unit, 2 miles northeast of South Wilmington in Kankakee County off West 5000 Road.

**DESCRIPTION** – Monster Lake is a large impoundment, covering 52.9 surface acres with depths to 60 feet. Siltation and nutrient loading have resulted due to Granary Creek being routed through the lake; Monster Lake acts somewhat as a flood control reservoir. This connection to the stream, which is a tributary of the Mazon River, has diversified the fishery. Monster Lake is open year 'round to sport fishing, the only such water area within the Mazonia complex. Anglers are allowed to use boats powered by gasoline engines with an unlimited horsepower restriction. A no-wake regulation is in effect. Some opportunity for shore fishing exists and a primitive gravel ramp serves as boat access.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Surveys are conducted on Monster Lake on an alternating year basis. A walleye stocking program was initiated in 2016. Walleyes stocked are restricted to Kankakee River strain and the focus of this stocking program is to produce a walleye population which could be utilized as a back-up source should spring-time river conditions prevent the safe collection of adult broodstock. Once established, it is anticipated that walleye harvest regulations will be somewhat stringent in order to provide a higher density population of adult fish which can be used as brood fish.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** –*No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.*

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – The largemouth bass collection, which reached record highs in 2016, declined by 65.0% from that high point in 2018. The number of stock size (8") and larger bass fell to its lowest number in many years, which is puzzling given the large number of those fish just two years prior. There were also many conspicuous gaps in length frequency distribution, which could indicate recruitment issues although the drastic decline in number may be more of a sampling anomaly. Electrofishing catch rates fell below the long-term average while other population structural metrics slightly exceeded the long term averages. Legal-size and larger bass continued to increase to their highest since 2010.

**BLUEGILL** – The bluegill collection rebounded from the poor collection in 2016 but consisted primarily of smaller fish. Only 12% of all bluegills which were at least 3" long were 6" and larger; the average size fish collected in the 2018 fall survey was 4.1" Spring trap netting also failed to yield larger fish. The abundance of gizzard shad in Monster Lake compromises this population.

**CRAPPIE** –The 2018 fall survey results were improved over the previous survey, although the total number of crappie collected remained below target numbers. Spring trap netting has generally failed to produce results which could be considered an improvement over the fall survey. The average size for crappies collected in the 2018 fall survey was 9.4" with fish up to 13" collected.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Completely reliant on natural reproduction, the channel catfish population is average. When gill netting is utilized, channel catfish have only been collected in low number. Flathead catfish have also been collected from Monster Lake.

**WALLEYE** - Based three stockings several walleyes were collected in 2018. These fish ranged from 13” to 18.1” at an average length of 15.1”, suggesting survival from each of these initial stockings. Several more years of stocking will be required to determine if the program will be successful but based upon these early returns it would appear so.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:** Freshwater drum, carp, rock bass, longnose gar and various sucker species.

## 2018 IDNR Fall Survey Results

Species	Number of Fish Collected in each Length Category (Inch)								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total
Largemouth Bass	37	25	8	9	6	1	0	0	86
Bluegill	46	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
Crappie	2	10	42	1	0	0	0	0	55
Walleye	0	0	0	6	3	1	0	0	9

**FISHING REGULATIONS** – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

Boaters - Trolling motor only, except Monster and Ponderosa Lake – gasoline outboards allowed, no wake

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 10 fish daily creel limit on Ponderosa, unlimited elsewhere

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 10 fish daily creel limit

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area: 815/237-0063.  
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.