



Arrowhead Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Arrowhead Lake is a 30-acre city-owned impoundment located on the east edge of Johnston City, Illinois in Williamson County. The lake is partially surrounded by forest, has a lakefront campground, improved boat ramp, and perimeter walking trail.

Largemouth bass: Largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 104 per hour in spring 2017, which was higher than the previous two years, and much higher than the management plan goal of 60 per hour. Percentage of 12-inch and larger bass was higher than the previous 15 years at 54%, and this index achieved the management plan goal for the first time in 10 years. Most bass ranged from 9 to 14 inches in length, but a few were larger than the upper end of the lake's slot limit of 15 inches and one weighed 7.8 pounds. The proportion over 15 inches was 7%, and bass body condition remained slightly substandard.

Bluegill: Bluegill were collected from Arrowhead Lake during the 2017 survey at a rate of 218 per hour, which was higher than that of the previous seven years. Fifty-three percent of bluegill were larger than 6 inches (exceeding the management plan goal), but the proportion larger than 7 inches decreased from 29 to 9%. Bluegill body condition was below the management plan goal range.

Redear: Redear were less abundant than bluegill, as usual, in 2017, and 32 were collected per hour. Eighty-eight percent of redear were larger than 7 inches in length, and 75% were larger than 8 inches, while 38% were over the 9-inch mark. Redear body condition remained very good.

Crappie: Very small numbers of black and white crappie were included in the 2017 Arrowhead Lake sample (14 and 16 collected per hour of electrofishing, respectively). White crappie ranged 6 to 12 inches, while black crappie were 7 to 10 inches in length. Crappie body condition remained substandard.

Channel catfish: Channel catfish were collected at a rate of 12 per hour during the 2017 Arrowhead Lake electrofishing survey, a slight increase compared to the previous year. Channel catfish ranged in size from 13 to 22 inches and were in fair condition. Channel catfish are stocked every other year to sustain the population.

Regulations in effect: Largemouth bass – 12 to 15-inch protective slot, 2 bass per day under 12 inches and 1 per day over 15 inches. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel. Black and white crappie – 15 per day creel. Electric motors only. 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, or by contacting the campground at 618-983-3535.