

Fox River Fishery Fact Sheet – 2021

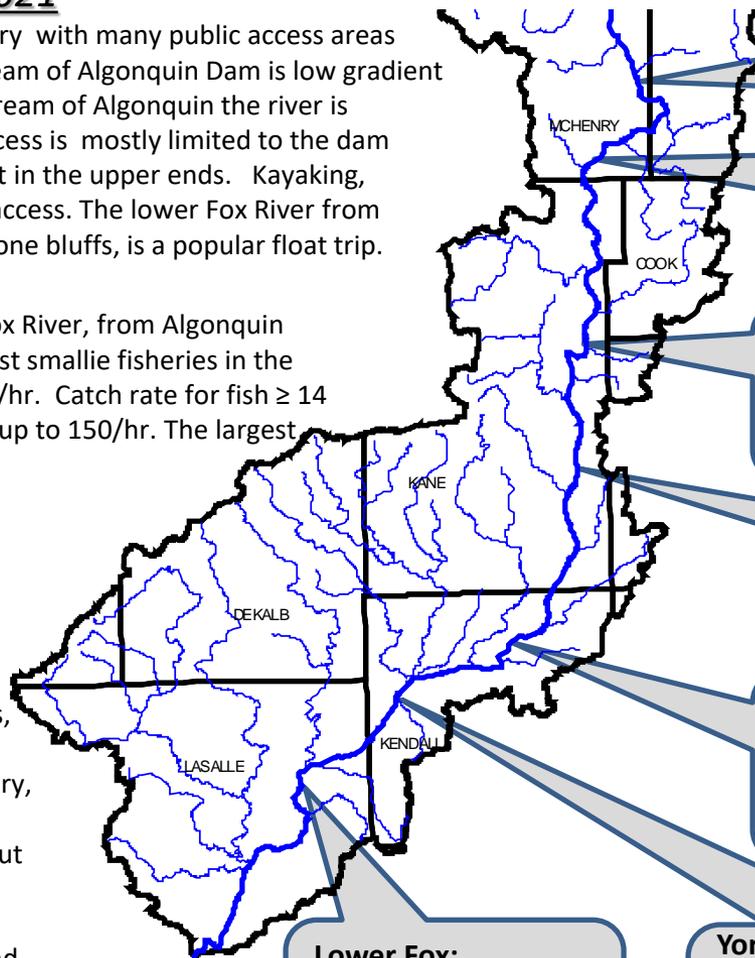
The **Fox River** offers a very diverse sport fishery with many public access areas along it's 115 miles in Illinois. The area upstream of Algonquin Dam is low gradient and can be accessed by motor boat. Downstream of Algonquin the river is shallower and higher gradient, motor boat access is mostly limited to the dam pools, which typically offer poor fishing except in the upper ends. Kayaking, canoeing and wading are the best for fishing access. The lower Fox River from Sheridan to Wedron, with its beautiful sandstone bluffs, is a popular float trip.

Smallmouth Bass: the middle section of the Fox River, from Algonquin Dam downstream to Oswego, is one of the best smallie fisheries in the Region with summer catch rates averaging 60/hr. Catch rate for fish ≥ 14 was 7/hr. Fall catch rates are typically higher up to 150/hr. The largest individual was 19.6 inches. .

Channel Catfish are common throughout the river. Fish over 20 inches are relatively abundant. Hot spots include, South Elgin, St. Charles, Oswego, Yorkville and Wedron.

Flathead Catfish can also be found in many areas, with highest catch rates at Carpentersville, St. Charles and Elgin. Downstream of Montgomery, Yorkville, and Millhurst Dams can also be productive. Fish up to 40 inches are present but not abundant. Fish below 28 inches are quite common. Fox River harvest regulation limits daily harvest to one fish 28 inches or larger and two < 28 inches.

Walleye: IDNR stocks 50,000 fingerlings per year between Montgomery and Silver Springs. Catch rates were highest at Aurora, Hudson Park, and Oswego with up to 20/per hour. Fish averaged 17 inches, with a range from 11 to 18 inches and up to 5 lbs. South Elgin is another hotspot likely escapes from the Fox Chain.



Upstream of Algonquin :

Largemouth Bass: ***
Flathead Catfish: **

Algonquin to Carpentersville:

Smallmouth Bass: ****
Flathead Catfish: ***
Walleye **

South Elgin to St. Charles:

Walleye: ****
Flathead Catfish: ***
Muskie: **

St. Charles to Batavia:

Smallmouth Bass: ****
Walleye: **

Montgomery to Yorkville:

Smallmouth Bass: ****
Flathead Catfish: ***
Walleye: ***
Muskie: **

Yorkville to Silver Springs SP:

Smallmouth Bass: ***
Flathead Catfish: ***
Walleye: **
Muskie: ***

Lower Fox:

Smallmouth Bass: **
Flathead Catfish: **
Walleye: **

Key: Fair** / Good*** / Excellent ****

See reverse side and www.ifishillinois.org for more information.



Fox River Sportfish Catch Rate (no./hr.) by Location

Location	Smallmouth Bass	Bluegill	Channel Catfish	Large-mouth Bass	Walleye	Flathead Catfish
C.O.L. State Prk, Rt. 173	4	12	3	0	0	2
McHenry Dam	4	144	26	30	16	0
Burton's Bridge, Rt. 176	0	22	20	10	1	0
Algonquin Dam	80	11	30	2	1	2
Elgin, I-90	32	27	20	6	2	3
South Elgin, State St	80	32	54	2	22	4
Batavia, Fabyan Park	48	47	16	16	0	2
Aurora, Hurds Island	90	39	8	5	0	1
Oswego, Rt. 34	38	12	26	6	12	5
Yorkville, Rt. 47	15	29	8	3	3	7
Millbrook	18	16	17	0	4	6
Sheridan	23	12	17	3	2	4
Wedron	1	4	18	0	0	8
Dayton Dam	7	16	21	1	6	3
Total	440	423	284	84	69	47
Mean	31	30	20	6	5	3

