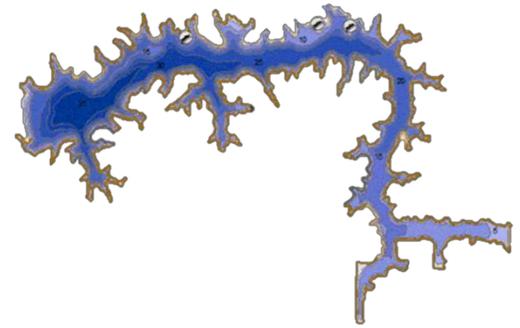




IDNR – Fisheries

2014 Lake Status Summary

Lake Jacksonville



Location: 3 miles south of Jacksonville. 30 miles west of Springfield just off I-72.

Area: 476 acres

Lake history and characteristics: The Division of Fisheries entered into a formal Cooperative Management Agreement with the City of Jacksonville in 1984 to manage the sport fishery. Due to the poor condition of the fishery, the lake was completely drained, rehabilitated and restocked in 1986. This project produced one of the best largemouth bass fisheries in the state. Lake Jacksonville has a maximum depth of 31 feet, an average depth of 12.5 feet, 18.5 miles of shoreline, maintains abundant aquatic vegetation beds, and has a nice double ramp on the north shore. Below is a list of the fish species that are doing well in Lake Jacksonville.

Largemouth bass: Lake Jacksonville is known for its largemouth bass population. Electrofishing catch rates routinely exceed 100 bass/hr of electrofishing (72 bass/hr in 2014). The population structure is excellent with 27% of the bass population measuring over the 15" minimum length limit, 12% over 18", and 4% over 20". The largest bass collected in the 2014 survey weighed 7.5 lbs! Anglers can catch largemouth bass on points, deadfalls, stickups, and along aquatic vegetation beds in the spring and fall with plastic worms, jigs, spinners, crank baits, minnows, crayfish and worms.

White crappie: The 2014 fall fish survey showed a catch rate of 22 crappie/hr of electrofishing. The crappie population was composed mainly 8-11" fish with 45% of the population measuring over the 9" minimum length limit. No crappie less than 6" were collected in 2014. The lack of young crappie may be due to electrofishing bias caused by small crappie hiding in aquatic vegetation or the cyclic spawning nature of white crappie. Anglers can catch white crappie on stickups and submerged structures in the spring and fall using spinners, jigs and minnows. The largest white crappie ever collected during an electrofishing survey measured over 15" and weighed 1.8 lbs.

Channel catfish: The channel catfish population is excellent both in quantity and quality. Channel cats are collected every year weighing 2-10 lbs in good numbers and are in excellent body condition. Anglers can catch channel catfish in the warmer months using bottom fishing techniques near deadfalls, woody debris, and shallow flats with cut bait, shrimp, chicken livers or night crawlers.

Hybrid striped Bass: Hybrid striped bass have been stocked on alternate years since 1988 and have done well. Fish collected in the fall 2012 survey ranged from 5-10 lbs. No hybrid striped bass were collected in 2013 or 2014, however electrofishing gear doesn't effectively sample the population. They are not targeted nearly enough by anglers, but can provide a great fishing opportunity for those looking to diversify their catch.

Bluegill and redear sunfish: The bluegill population is poor in Lake Jacksonville, which is common in a lake with a lot of structural habitat. Only 14% of the bluegill population measures 6-7", while the remainder measures <6". The redear sunfish population is similar to the bluegill population, but shows higher numbers of 7-8" fish than bluegill.

Other fish species: A total of 19 fish species have been collected in Lake Jacksonville since its rehabilitation in 1986. While their numbers and potential for successful angling are low, anglers may catch black crappie, green sunfish, black or yellow bullhead, common carp, or yellow bass.



Fishing Regulations see the Fishing Regulation Booklet or IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates

2 pole and line fishing only

Largemouth bass - 15" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 6 per day.



Crappie - 9" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 15 fish per day.



Hybrid striped bass - 17" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 3 fish per day.



Channel catfish - 6 fish per day creel limit.



	2003	2006	2007	2011	2012	2013	2014	Management Objectives
Largemouth Bass								
% >12"	75.6	74.3	64	70.6	70.3	57.5	51.2	40-60
% >15"	40.6	51.6	38	42	52	31.3	26.5	10-20
% >18"	9.1	19.1	8	15.4	18.9	16.8	12.4	5-10
% >20"	1.5	4.8	4	6.8	4.1	6.7	3.5	1-5
condition	113	105	97	94	98	95	95	90-110
fish/hr EF	255	130	224	122	113	53.2	71.8	60-75
White Crappie								
% >8"	63.5	91.8	78.3	93.8	91.2	92.9	70	30-50
% >10"	39.7	22.4	34.8	37.5	12.2	35.7	25	20-40
% >12"	15.9	2.4	0	6.2	0	10.7	6.7	5-10
condition	91	88	89	86	90	89	91	90-100
fish/hr EF	22	29.2	23	24	128	7	22	70-100
Channel Catfish								
% >16"	84.2	90.6	100	75.9	69.6	66.7	63.6	40-60
% >18"	47.4	78.1	66.7	44.8	52.2	44.4	36.4	10-20
% >20"	26.3	53.1	66.7	27.6	30.4	33.3	27.3	5-10
% >22"	10.5	21.9	33.3	13.8	17.4	22.2	18.2	1-5
condition	110	148	101	97	110	1.3	96	90-100
fish/hr EF	14.8	15.5	3	7.2	11.7	45	2.8	5-15

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment: none

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

- stocked 20,000 – 1.2" largemouth bass 6/27/14
- stocked 2,300 – 1.5" hybrid striped bass 7/1/14
- stocked 7,140 – 7" channel catfish 7/29/14
- conducted 4-1 hr electrofishing surveys 9/17/14

Fish biologist-

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