

OTTER LAKE
FISHERIES FACT SHEET

Otter Lake is named after Otter Creek which was dammed to provide flood control, water-based recreation, and potable water for surrounding towns. This beautiful central Illinois Lake was built in 1968, and has provided wonderful fishing opportunities since.

Location – 6 miles west of Girard, IL. In north central Macoupin County.

Area – 765 acres ; shoreline length – 39 miles ; watershed size – 12,985 acres ; maximum depth – 51 feet ; average depth – 20 feet.

Description – Otter Lake has a 115 hp motor size limit. There is a single boat ramp at mid-lake on the north side of Palmyra blacktop. The site has a concession stand/bait shop, campground, and picnic areas.

Status of the Sport Fishery – Approximately 20 species occupy this eutrophic impoundment. Otter Lake receives stockings of 10" to 14" Muskie, 4" to 8" Largemouth Bass, and 2" Striped Bass Hybrids. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

Channel Catfish – Our spring 2014 species evaluation sample yielded 115 Channel Catfish ranging from 11.5" to 26.5", and maxing the scale at 8.2 lbs. 26 (22.6%) attained 2 lbs., 6 (5.2%) reached 4 lbs., and 2 (1.7%) exceeded 6 lbs. in total weight.

Muskie – During this survey we boated 11 Muskie measuring from 30.5" to 40.5", and weighing up to 16.5 lbs. 10 (91%) made it to 32", 6 (55%) reached 34", and 1 (9%) topped 36" in total length.

Striped Bass Hybrids – During March of 2014, we captured 119 Striped Bass Hybrids. These individuals started from 16.75" to 27", and topped the scale at 9.8 lbs. 44 (37%) were at least 4 lbs., 14 (11.8%) met 6 lbs., and 5 (4.2%) attained 8 lbs., or better.

White Bass – During our spring field work we collected 13 White Bass which ranged from 13" to 18", and weighed up to 3.1 lbs. 10 (77%) were 14", 7 (54%) measured 16", and 2 (15%) grew to 18" in size.

Fishing Regulations – Site specific angling regulations. All other statewide regulations apply at this water body.

Recreational Use Restrictions – All live bait in excess of 8" must be rigged with a quick set rig.

All Fish – 2 pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

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

Striped, White, or Hybrid Striped Bass – 3 fish 17" or longer; 10 fish daily creel limit.

Muskie – 48" minimum length limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.

Contact Information – Otter Lake Water Commission – 217/965-1566.

