Sam Parr Lake

Lake Status Summary

Sam Parr Lake was constructed in Sam Parr State Park near Newton in 1971 through the cooperative efforts of the Illinois Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal funds for construction of the lake were provided through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.

Location: Sam Parr Lake is located in Jasper County, approximately 3 miles northeast of Newton Illinois on IL Rt. 33.

Area: Sam Parr Lake has a surface area of 180 acres, a maximum depth of 28 feet, and a mean depth of 10 feet. The lake has 9.5 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 3,950 acres.

Status of the Sport Fishery: The sport fish population in Sam Parr Lake is comprised of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, white crappie, and channel catfish. The lake also contains common carp and gizzard shad. The fish population is surveyed annually, and summaries below are based on the results of the most recent population survey and four-year trends in the population indices.

Largemouth Bass - The size structure of the bass population remains in great shape. The catch per effort (CPE) fell in 2013 but remained good at 66 fish/hr., and the body condition of these fish was excellent (Wr 97). Large fish remain abundant (54% exceeded 15" in length and 20 % exceeded 18"), and should provide some great fishing in the coming year.

Bluegill – Size structure of the bluegill population improved significantly, but remains poor and well below the target range. Body condition is also improved (Wr 94), but the fishery is still comprised almost entirely of fish under 7" in length. The precipitous decline in the quality of the bluegill population coincided with the 2005 appearance of gizzard shad.

Crappie - The white and black crappie populations are both dominated by strong, slow-growing age 3 year classes in the 7"-9" size range. Some larger fish up to 12" in length are also present. Both species were in fair condition, and growth rates were average. Anglers can expect most fish in the coming year to range from 8" – 10" in length.

Channel Catfish – Catfish remain abundant in Sam Parr and should provide good fishing opportunities in the coming year. Most fish will range from 1 – 5 pounds with larger fish exceeding 6 pounds common, and body condition is good (Wr 91). This lake provides excellent bank fishing opportunities. The best places to fish include the rip-rap along the dam, the upper ends of the two main arms of the lake, and in the backs of coves.

Fishing Regulations: Two pole and line fishing only.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	14"
Channel Catfish	6	

Additional Regulations: Boats with outboard motors are restricted to 10 horsepower maximum.

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