



DOLAN LAKE

HAMILTON COUNTY FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA.

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Dolan Lake is located approximately eight miles southeast of Mcleansboro off State Route 14 in Hamilton County. In 1962, an earthen dam was constructed impounding approximately 75 acres of water. The lake has a shoreline distance of 3 miles and a maximum depth of 18 feet. Due to poor fishing and an abundance of undesirable fish species the lake was drained and restocked with sportfish in 2005. Currently, the lake is doing very well and has catchable populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, crappie and redear sunfish.

Largemouth bass – A strong and well balanced bass population exists at Dolan Lake. Size structure is excellent with fish ranging from young of the year to greater than 18 inches. Bass abundance is extremely good as the average number caught in recent samples is 216 bass per hour of electro fishing. The current bass fishing regulation of one fish per day over 18 inches in total length will continue to protect this growing fishery. Improvement in bass size structure should continue as the bass population develops and excellent bass fishing opportunities are expected at Dolan Lake.

Bluegill – Dolan lake bluegill abundance as measured by the average catch per unit of effort of electro fishing in recent years is 257 fish per hour. Bluegill size structure continues to improve and fish are 7 to 8 inches in length with some individuals exceeding eight inches. Bluegill fishing at Dolan Lake is expected to be good to excellent. A daily catch limit of 25 bluegill or redear sunfish applies.

Crappie – Crappie abundance at Dolan Lake continues to improve. Nine to ten inch crappie are common with some individuals exceeding 12 inches in total length. Crappie fishing at Dolan Lake is expected to be good to excellent. Anglers should be aware of a new crappie regulation at Dolan Lake. A 25 fish creel limit applies with only 10 fish over 10 inches allowed.

Channel catfish – Anglers continue to report excellent catches of channel catfish. Many fish reported and collected during electro fishing surveys are 20 inches or better. Fishing prospects for channel catfish at Dolan Lake are expected to be very good to excellent. A daily catch limit of six fish applies.

Dolan Lake has a two pole and line fishing regulation and a 10 horsepower or less outboard motor restriction.

Additional fisheries information can be obtained on the I Fish Illinois web site, <http://www.ifishillinois.org> or by consulting the Illinois Fishing Information booklet or by calling IDNR District Biologist Kurt Daine at 618-949-3432.