



Jones Lake

Saline County Fish and Wildlife Area

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Glen O Jones Lake is found in the Saline County Fish and Wildlife Area about 5 miles southeast of Equality in southeastern Illinois. The site contains 1,248 acres including the lake which is approximately 105 acres. Jones Lake has a shoreline distance of 2.7 miles and a maximum depth of 33 feet. Anglers can fish from shore or boat as the site has two fishing piers, ample shoreline access and a newly updated boat ramp. Sportfish populations found in Jones Lake include largemouth bass, black crappie, channel catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish.

Largemouth bass – In the late 1990's a slot size limit of 14 to 18 inches was implemented to address an over abundance of bass less than 14 inches in total length. The slot limit regulation requires anglers to harvest 5 fish under 14 inches and only one fish greater than 18 inches. All bass between the slot size limit of 14 to 18 inches must be released immediately. The average catch per unit of effort of electro fishing for bass in recent years is 232 fish per hour. Survey results indicate largemouth bass range in size from 4 to 18 inches. The vast majority of bass in Jones Lake still remain under 14 inches, and anglers are encouraged to harvest fish 14 inches or less to help improve largemouth bass growth rates. Fishing for largemouth bass less than 14 inches is expected to be excellent. Fishing for bass greater than 14 inches should be fair as 9 percent of stock size fish are greater than 14 inches.

Bluegill – High densities of largemouth bass tend to maintain quality populations of sunfish in Jones Lake. The average catch per unit effort, as measured by electro fishing in recent years, is 94 fish per hour. Keeper size bluegill are between 6.5 and 7.5 inches with some individuals reaching 8 inches. Fishing for sunfish is expected to be good to excellent.

Black crappie – Good numbers of crappie are frequently reported from anglers at Jones Lake. Crappie collected in electro fishing surveys ranged in size from 6 to 12 inches. Anglers should expect good results around fallen trees on the south side of the lake and around fish attractors placed on the north side of the lake.

Channel catfish – Catfish collected during population surveys range in size from 12 to 18 inches. The channel catfish population is enhanced by frequent stocking of non-vulnerable channel catfish. As a result excellent fishing opportunities are expected at Jones Lake. A six fish per day creel limit applies for channel catfish.

Jones 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.

