



Mermet Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Mermet Lake is a shallow, 452-acre, IDNR-owned impoundment located in Massac County approximately 10 miles north of Metropolis. Mermet was originally built as a water supply for flooding adjacent wetland compartments for waterfowl hunting, but sport fish flourished when stocked, and the lake has been managed for fishing for more than 50 years. Curlyleaf pondweed, an exotic aquatic plant, invaded Mermet in 1999, and has caused occasional summer fish kills since then, but annual herbicide treatments have generally been successful at controlling the impacts of this plant in recent years, allowing the sport fish population to slowly recover.

Largemouth bass: Largemouth bass were collected at an acceptable rate of 69 per hour in fall 2014, and 52% were larger than 12 inches, 48% were also longer than the 14 inch minimum size limit, and 24% exceeded 16 inches in length. Bass condition remained excellent.

Bluegill: Bluegill were very abundant in 2014 (443 collected per hour of electrofishing), especially in the 2-3 inch range, but of those larger than 3 inches, 25% were larger than 6 inches and 18% exceeded 7 inches. Bluegill were also in great condition.

Redear: Relatively small numbers of redear were collected in fall 2014, but these fish were up to 9 inches in length and in excellent condition.

Crappie: Black crappie were collected at a rate of 36 per hour of electrofishing in 2014, which was higher than the previous two years. Black crappie ranged in size from 4 to 15 inches--85% were larger than 8 inches, and 30% exceeded 10 inches in length. White crappie were less abundant than black crappie, as 16 were collected per hour. The size range of these fish (3 to 9 inches) was also smaller than that of black crappie. Crappie weighing more than 2 pounds are regularly reported by Mermet Lake anglers.

Channel catfish: Channel catfish are generally not a large component of the annual electrofishing sample, and 2014 was no exception. In fact, only three were collected, but these fish were in excellent condition and ranged from 23 to 25 inches in length. Annual channel catfish stockings help support a fishery which is very popular with the angling public.

Regulations in effect: Largemouth bass – 14” minimum length limit, 6 per day creel. Black and white crappie – 25 per day creel. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel. Outboard motor limit is 10 hp, but boats with larger outboards are allowed to operate at no-wake speed. Mermet Lake is closed to fishing during the duck season. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information.

Additional Fisheries Information can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Chris Bickers at 618-993-7094, or by contacting the site at 618-524-5577.