



HORSESHOE LAKE ALEXANDER COUNTY

2014 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Horseshoe Lake is located in Alexander County at the Horseshoe Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area just south of Olive Branch, IL.

DESCRIPTION: Horseshoe Lake is 1890 acres in size with a maximum depth of 5-6 feet. There are numerous boat launching sites around the Lake as well as campgrounds. The Lake resembles a southern swamp with bald cypress and tupelo gum trees growing throughout.

MOTOR RESTRICTION – There is a 10 HP motor limit on Horseshoe Lake. Only trolling motors are allowed in the refuge from October 15 through March 1.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on fish population biennial surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The next survey is planned for spring of 2014. The extensive woody vegetation and shallow nature of Horseshoe Lake make it very difficult to sample.

Largemouth Bass - During the 2012 spring electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 2 fish per hour. Of the 3 bass collected the largest was 20 inches and weighed 4.5 pounds. LMB fishing for 2014 should continue to be poor.

Crappie – Very few crappie are collected during surveys at Horseshoe Lake. Only 4 crappie were collected in the 2012 spring survey ranging in size from 3-13 inches in length.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population appears to have benefited from the 2011 flood. Of the 37 bluegill collected during the 2012 spring survey, 29% were over 7 inches and 14% were over 8 inches.

Redear Sunfish – Only 2 redear sunfish were collected during the 2012 survey. The largest was 8 inches in length.

Fishing regulations: For further information on Horseshoe Lake site specific fishing regulations please see page 18 of the 2013-2015 Illinois Fishing Information guide.

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	
Channel Catfish	6	None
Largemouth Bass	6	14"

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-687-4546. Horseshoe Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area 618-776-5689.