



SPRING LAKE SOUTH FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LARGEMOUTH BASS : This lake is characterized by a heavy growth of aquatic vegetation for much of the spring, summer and fall. The largemouth bass population is in transition from many large fish to many young, intermediate sized fish. A common carp spawn in 2011 produced this change in the bass fishery. The Lake is starting to produce a better largemouth bass population as some control of carp spawns has occurred. IDNR is in the process of undertaking management of the weeds to increase bass numbers and sizes available to fishermen. There is a window of opportunity for fishermen to access the fishery from March 15 through April 30 or until the aquatic vegetation becomes too dense to fish. Fishing with surface lures at night has been a traditional method of catching large bass at South Spring Lake. Many organized bass fishing tournaments are held during the weekends at South Spring Lake each year.

A review of the data generated by the 2014 fall fish population sample shows that 15.1 % of the largemouth bass collected were over 15.0 inches in length. The young-adult ratio of the sample showed that a tremendous bass spawn occurred in the spring of 2013 and will be developing into an excellent population in coming few years.

NORTHERN PIKE: SPRING LAKE (SOUTH) – Spring Lake has an excellent population of northern pike and is the state's brood source for this species. It is not uncommon to catch pike of 10-12 pounds early in the spring. These fish are found in the spring seeps adjacent to the bluff on the east side of the lake. Because of the shallowness of the lake (2.9 average depth) northern are well suited to this spring –rich environment. The largest northern pike caught from South Spring Lake was 20 pounds. Crews from Jake Wolf Hatchery catch adult fish from South Spring Lake early each spring in order to take northern pike eggs for the production of the states' supply of fingerling pike. The last population survey showed that the average size of fish caught was 26 inches in length and weight of 5.4 pounds. We were able to catch 12.45 northern per net night of fishing.

There is one access concrete ramp and parking lot that can accommodate up to 50 cars. It is locate off the Spring Lake Blacktop at the south end of the Spring Lake Fish and Wildlife Area, 12 miles south of Pekin. No fuel or services are available, however, camping and food is. There is a 25 horsepower limit at Spring Lake. Tournaments must register at the site office no later than 60 days before the tournament.