



Norris City Reservoir

White County, Illinois.

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Norris City Reservoir is a 28.0 acre impoundment located approximately one half mile east of Norris City. Indian Creek was impounded in 1937 to create the reservoir and provide a public water source. The watershed is comprised of 68% cropland or pasture, 17% commercial, 8.5% residential, 6% water and 0.5% woodland. In 1979 the city converted to well water and the reservoir was no longer used as a primary or secondary water source. Norris City Reservoir has a surface area of 28.0 acres, maximum depth of 22.0 feet, with an average depth of 11.0 feet. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 308.0 acre feet of water and a shoreline distance of 1.5 miles that is primarily rip-rap. Recent survey data suggests Norris City Reservoir is currently supporting a balanced fishery. Fish most commonly sought after by anglers include largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, channel catfish, crappie and occasionally flathead catfish.

Largemouth bass - Largemouth bass population indices are near recommended ranges and a good representation of size structure exists. Bass abundance is good, as measured by catch per unit of effort of electro fishing, as the average number of bass caught in recent surveys is 107 bass per hour. Many fish between 0.5 to 1.5 pounds are present with larger bass sampled and reportedly being caught by anglers. Bass fishing is expected to be good. Currently, there is a 15 inch minimum size limit for bass and the creel limit is 6 fish per day.

Bluegill – Bluegill numbers at Norris City Reservoir are excellent. Abundance as measured by the average catch per unit of effort of electro fishing, in recent samples, is 385fish per hour. Bluegill size structure remains constant as most catchable fish are between 6 and 7.5 inches. Bluegill fishing at Norris City Reservoir is expected to be fair to good. Currently there are no size or creel limits for sunfish at Norris City Reservoir.

Crappie – Black and white crappie are present in Norris City Reservoir and fishing as reported from anglers has been fair. Anglers should target crappie around structure using minnows and jigs. Currently there are no size or creel limits for crappie at Norris City Reservoir.

Channel catfish – Anglers continue to report excellent catches of channel catfish. Many fish reported and collected during electro fishing surveys are 16 inches or better. Fishing prospects for channel catfish are expected to be good to excellent. A daily catch limit of six fish applies.

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.

