

## **COFFEEN LAKE**

### **FISHERIES FACT SHEET**

Coffeen Lake is under a management agreement between The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and AmerenUE for outdoor recreation, and conservation purposes. IDNR entered into an agreement with the utility company in the 1980's to provide public access for fishing, and day use on Coffeen Lake. The lake is a cooling facility for Ameren's coal-fired power station.

**LOCATION** – Resides in southeast Montgomery County, seven miles southeast of Hillsboro, IL.

**AREA** – 1,102 acres ; shoreline length 47.9 miles ; watershed 11,001 acres ; maximum depth 58 feet ; average depth 18.7 feet.

**DESCRIPTION** – Coffeen Lake has a 25 hp out-board motor limit. There are two concrete boat ramps, with one at the far north end of the lake, and the main ramp near the site office. There is no concession stand on the site, but gear can be acquired at a private business just west of the site office.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Approximately 20 species have been collected on this water body. Coffeen Lake now receives periodic stockings of Black Crappie, and the pure Striped Bass stockings have been discontinued due to an increase in water temperatures. Below are species which thrive in this impoundment.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Coffeen Lake has an improving trophy Largemouth Bass Fishery. Conversely, smaller fish are disappearing due to over-harvest, or thermal stress. For this reason, the regulation in place may change to a 15", 3 per day limit, if approved. In 2014, 268 Largemouth Bass were collected via 5 hours of day time electrofishing effort. These fish ranged from 2.5" to 21.25", and weighed up to 4.7 lbs. 114 (42.5%) were at least 15", 39 (14.6%) topped 18", and 5 (1.9%) exceeded 20" in total length.

**CRAPPIE** – The overall Crappie population looks tremendous at this time. Numbers are not real high, but quality is exceptional! During the 2014 fall survey 177 Crappie were captured through 5 hours of day time shocking that measured from 3.75" to 15.25", and topped the scale at 2.1 lbs. 87 fish (49%) were a minimum of 10", 55 (31%) were at least 12", and 15 (9%) topped 13" in size.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – During our fall 2014 sample we collected 8 Channel Catfish ranging from 10.5" to 20", and weighed up to 2.3 lbs. Of the fish found 3 (38%) were at least 1 lb., and 2 (25%) topped the 2 lb. mark.

**FLATHEAD CATFISH** – I'm not certain of the numbers of this fish group in Coffeen Lake. We capture several 20 to 50 pound individuals each year. From talking to anglers and reading articles, good numbers of this species are caught, with some much larger than 50 pounds.

**FISHING REGULATIONS** – Site specific angling regulations. All other statewide regulations apply at this water body.

Channel Catfish – All jugs must be attended at all times while fishing.

Largemouth Bass – 1 fish > or equal to 15" and 2 fish < 15" per angler daily. (May change).

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 10 fish daily creel limit per angler and 10" minimum length limit.

Striped, White, or Hybrid Striped Bass – 17" minimum length limit and 3 fish daily creel limit per angler.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Coffeen Lake- 217/537-3351. IDNR Fish Biologist- 217/833-2811.

