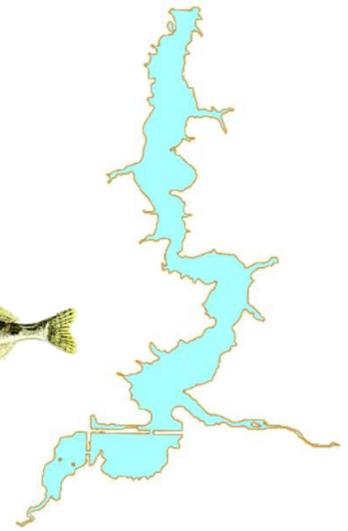




# IDNR – Fisheries

## 2014 Lake Status Summary

### Lake Taylorville



**Location:** Southeast edge of Taylorville, 30 miles SE of Springfield

**Area:** 1286 acres

**Lake history and characteristics:** Lake Taylorville is a shallow lake with an average depth of only 7 feet. Care should be taken when operating water crafts, especially in the upper end of the lake. The lake has a very large watershed, thus has suffered from extreme siltation in the past several decades. The watershed and lake were rehabilitated in the 1990's and a dozen silt retention basins were built to capture sediment before it enters the lake. The Division of Fisheries entered into a formal Cooperative Management Agreement in 1992 with the City of Taylorville to manage the sport fishery. Below is a list of the fish species that are doing well in Lake Taylorville.

**Largemouth bass:** The 2014 fall fish survey, like 2013, showed lower catch rates of largemouth bass than previous years with only 44 fish/hr of electrofishing collected. However, the 2014 survey produced more YOY largemouth bass than the 2013 survey. The emerging trend of low bass density may require attention if the fall 2015 survey doesn't show better numbers. All other population indices were close to or within management goals. The number of fish measuring 15" or greater has increased over the last 3 years and largemouth bass in Lake Taylorville are still in good body condition ( $W_r = 100$  in 2014). Over 45,000 largemouth bass have been stocked into Lake Taylorville between 1993 and 2004 to supplement year class strength. By 2004, the population was stable enough to sustain itself through natural reproduction. Anglers can catch largemouth bass off of points, deadfalls, and stickups in the warmer months of the year with plastic worms, jigs, spinners, crank baits, minnows, crayfish and worms. The biggest bass that has ever been collected while electrofishing in Lake Taylorville weighed 6.7 lbs and measured 22" long.

**White crappie:** The white crappie population continues to be doing great as far as quantity, but seems to be lacking in quality. The 2014 fall fish survey showed the population structure to be skewed towards smaller fish. In 2014, only 18.8% of the catchable fish collected measured over the 9" minimum length limit. The ten year average of fish measuring over 9" is 42%. This data may be reflective of the cyclic spawning activities of white crappie and a missing year class. The 2015 fall fish survey should provide further information. Body condition was at the low end of the management goal ( $W_r = 93$ ), but is normal for this lake (10 year average = 95). Lake Taylorville should continue to provide anglers with excellent fishing opportunities and specifically in 2015 when the large number of 8-9" fish become of legal size. Over 60,000 white crappie have been stocked into Lake Taylorville over the last 20 years to supplement year class strength. By 2003, the population was stable enough to sustain itself through natural reproduction. Anglers can catch white crappie around submerged structures throughout the lake in the spring and fall with spinners, jigs and minnows.

**Channel catfish:** The channel catfish population remains very good, although few fish were collected in the fall 2014 sample. Electrofishing is not the most effective gear to assess the channel catfish population. Gill nets or low frequency, pulsed-DC electrofishing are more appropriate gears, but manpower and time constraints don't allow for the extra effort. Channel catfish >21" are on the contaminant list and it is suggested that no more than one meal per week be consumed. There is no restriction for fish under 21". Contaminant samples of channel catfish >21" (4) were collected in 2013 to assess current contaminant levels. Anglers can catch channel catfish near deadfalls and stickups in the warmer months throughout the lake using bottom fishing techniques with cut bait, shrimp, chicken livers or night crawlers. The largest channel catfish collected by electrofishing in Lake Taylorville measured 28" and weighed over 14 lbs.

**Sauger:** The sauger population remains a problem. They have been stocked annually for 14 years using both fingerling fish from the hatchery and advanced fingerlings from the on-site nursery ponds. Even with this effort we see very few in the population surveys. Eleven sauger were collected in 2.5 hours of electrofishing in 2014. Of the 11 collected, 6 measured less than 8" and 5 measured 12-14.5". Additional evaluations are necessary to determine if further stockings are warranted. Anglers have reported good catches below the spillway in the spring, which indicates spillway escapement. Nice sauger can be caught in the tail-water fishing area at the base of the dam in the spring or fall using minnows, night crawlers, jigs, crank baits, spoons and spinners.

**Bluegill:** Decent numbers of bluegill measuring >7" have been collected since 2010, however no bluegill >7" were collected in the 2013 or 2014 fall surveys. Catch rates of bluegill have quadrupled over the last 2 years from 100/hr to around 400/hr. Additionally, bluegill body condition decreased to the low 90's in 2014. Subsampling bluegill can introduce sampling biases and can affect catch rates from year to year. However, an increase in the density of bluegill and reduced body condition would support the above evidence of a reduction in largemouth bass density. Anglers can catch bluegill on their spawning beds in the spring or near shoreline cover year round with worms, crickets, or night crawlers.

**Other fish species:** A total of 19 fish species have been collected in Lake Taylorville since 1993. While their numbers and potential for successful angling are low, anglers may find themselves catching green sunfish, green sunfish x bluegill hybrid, yellow bullhead, or freshwater drum.

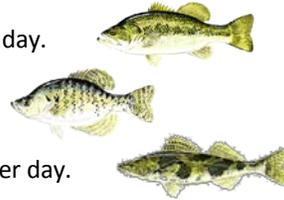
**Fishing Regulations:** see the Fishing Regulation Booklet or IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates

**2 pole and line fishing only**

**Largemouth bass** - 15" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 6 per day.

**Crappie** - 9" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 25 fish per day.

**Sauger** – state wide - 14" minimum length limit with a creel limit of 6 per day.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Management Objectives
<b>Largemouth Bass</b>												
% >12"	74	59	50	60	45	54	53	52.6	60.6	56.1	86	40-60
% >15"	33	31	21	19	25	11	12	25.1	31.3	27.3	16	10-25
% >18"	8	4	2	4	3	1	1	1.6	9.4	4.3	4	1-5
% >20"	-	-	1	0	1	0	0	0	2.4	1.4	2	1-5
condition	99	105	105	102	106	101	97	101	108	105	100	90-110
fish/hr EF	31	73	89	123	41	89	110	105.5	89.2	47	44	>60
<b>White Crappie</b>												
% >8"	39	33	65	79	80	95	85	77.3	91.5	45.7	57.9	50-70
% >9"	22.3	19.4	33.3	51.8	-	63.9	-	49.7	62.3	31.6	18.8	30-50
% >10"	10	12	12	35	14	28	31	32.5	25.2	25.1	8.3	15-30
% >12"	1	0	1	0.3	0	2	1	1.7	1.6	1.9	0	1-5
condition	91	101	98	94	99	93	94	94	95	91	93	90-100
fish/hr EF	128	198	487	203	138	168	116	126.8	145.8	247	201.7	70-120
<b>Channel Catfish</b>												
% >16"	-	-	-	56	67	25	67	100	93.5	80	55.6	50-70
% >18"	-	-	-	22	67	17	56	33.3	77.4	60	44.4	15-30
% >22"	-	-	-	0	50	0	11	0	12.9	20	22.2	5-10
condition	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	92	98	96	95	90-100
fish/hr EF	-	2	1	6	3	6	3	3	7.8	3.3	3	10-15
<b>Sauger</b>												
% >12"	-	29	-	50	-	33	44	25	50	100	83.3	40-60
% >14"	-	0	-	-	-	0	11	0	0	100	16.7	20-40
% >18"	-	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	100	0	10-20
% >20"	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	5-10
condition	-	99	-	93	-	102	87	90	73	105	86	90-110
fish/hr EF	-	5	1	0.7	-	8	5	2.1	1	0.3	5.3	15-25

**Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:** none  
**Fisheries Management Activities Completed:**  
 -stocked 13,580-2" sauger into Lake Taylorville 6/13  
 -conducted 2-1 hr and 1-30 minute pulsed-DC electrofishing surveys 10/16-17

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