



Centralia Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

Centralia Lake was constructed in 1910 to serve as a water supply reservoir for the city of Centralia.

Location: Centralia Lake is located in Marion County approximately 2 miles west and 5 miles south of Salem, Illinois.

Area: Centralia Lake has a surface area of 254 acres, a maximum depth of 23 feet, and a mean depth of 10 feet. The lake has 12.9 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 734 acres.

Status of the Sport Fishery: The sport fish population in Centralia Lake is comprised primarily of largemouth bass, bluegill, white and black crappies, and channel catfish. Other common species include redear sunfish, common carp and yellow bullheads. The fish population is surveyed annually, and summaries below are based on the results of the most recent population survey and four-year trends in the population indices.

Largemouth Bass - The size structure of the bass population is in very good shape and remains well balanced. Currently 35% of the population exceeds 15" in length. This is a 25% increase from the previous year and double the number from 2011. CPUE remained stable at an excellent 104 fish per hr., and bass body condition remained very good (Wr = 98). Reproduction and recruitment are also good with several strong year classes of bass under 15" in length. Fishing should be good in the coming year with most legal fish ranging from 2 – 6 lbs.

Bluegill – The size structure of the bluegill population improved slightly but remains poor. Body condition is excellent (Wr 101) and growth rates are good, but no 8" fish were collected in the most recent survey and only 12% of the population exceeded 7" in length. In 2015, anglers can expect to catch an abundance of fish 5" – 7" in length weighing 0.2 to 0.3 pounds.

Crappie – The size structure of the crappie population has changed very little over the past year and remains good. Both black and white crappies are present in Centralia Lake in near equal numbers. Data collected from the annual population survey indicate 25% of the white crappie are greater than 10" in length and body condition is good (Wr = 91). Most black crappie are less than 10" in length. Fishing should be good in the coming year with the best fish ranging from 0.5 – 1.5 lbs.

Channel Catfish – As a result of poor natural reproduction and recruitment, the channel catfish population density is low. However, the fish exhibit excellent growth rates and body condition (Wr = 107). Fishing in the coming year should be fair to good with the majority of fish ranging from 2 – 10 lbs.

Fishing Regulations: Two pole and line fishing only.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	15"
Channel Catfish	6	

Additional Regulations: Boat and tournament permits are required and may be purchased at the City Clerk's office at 222 S. Poplar, Centralia.

Contacts: Centralia City Clerk's office 618/533-7625, DNR Fisheries 618/393-6732.

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