



MAZONIA STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Monster Lake

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Monster Lake is located within the Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area South Unit, 2 miles northeast of South Wilmington in Kankakee County off West 5000 Road.

DESCRIPTION – Monster Lake is a large impoundment, covering 52.9 surface acres with depths to 60 feet. Siltation and nutrient loading have resulted due to Granary Creek being routed through the lake; Monster Lake acts somewhat as a flood control reservoir. This connection to the stream, which is a tributary of the Mazon River, has diversified the fishery. Monster Lake is open year 'round to sport fishing, the only such water area within the Mazonia complex. Anglers are allowed to use boats powered by gasoline engines with an unlimited horsepower restriction. A no-wake regulation is in effect. Some opportunity for shore fishing exists and a primitive gravel ramp serves as boat access.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Surveys are conducted on Monster Lake on an alternating year basis. A walleye stocking program has been proposed and approved and is scheduled to begin in spring, 2015.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Numbers have been declining in IDNR surveys for the last several years. However, young bass were more prevalent in the 2014 survey and if this proves to be a strong year class, could help improve the population and bass angling success in the future. Less than 10% of the sampled adults were legal size while the average size bass collected measured 7.7", which is slightly larger than the long-term average.

BLUEGILL – Collected in good numbers, bigger bluegills have been a rare commodity in IDNR surveys. That held true in 2014 as bluegills collected averaged 4.4" with very few collected larger than 7".

CRAPPIE – Monster Lake has a good crappie fishery with white crappie most common. Crappie collected in 2014 ranged in size up to 13.4" and over one pound while averaging 9.4".

CHANNEL CATFISH – Completely reliant on natural reproduction, the channel catfish population is average. When gill netting is utilized, channel catfish have only been collected in low number. The 2014 survey yielded fish ranging from 18" to 21". Flathead catfish have also been collected from Monster Lake.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Freshwater drum, carp, rock bass, longnose gar and various sucker species.

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

Boaters - Trolling motor only, except Monster and Ponderosa Lake – gasoline outboards allowed, no wake

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 10 fish daily creel limit on Ponderosa, unlimited elsewhere

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15" minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 10 fish daily creel limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area: 815/237-0063.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.