



WASHINGTON COUNTY STATE LAKE

2022 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Washington County State Recreation Area, 18500 Conservation Drive, is located 4 miles south of Nashville on Route 127.

DESCRIPTION: This scenic 248-acre lake contains a good percentage of woody habitat which is great for attracting and holding fish. There is a concrete boat ramp and plenty of parking in the blacktopped parking lot. There is also a gravel boat ramp for small watercraft. Shore angler access is available at many areas around the lake and there is a 10 hp limit for boat motors.

CONCESSION: Got-a-Bite is open from 8am-8pm daily from April 1st through October 31st. They offer daily food specials, a variety of beverages, camping supplies, ice, firewood, fishing tackle, bait, kayak, paddle, and Jon boat rentals. For more information, visit them on Facebook or call 618-314-1748.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: During the 2021 fall electrofishing survey, Largemouth Bass were collected at a rate of 54 fish per hour. The size distribution of Largemouth Bass in this lake is good. Of the 54 bass collected, 39% were over 14 inches, 33% were over 15 inches, and 19% were over 18 inches. Two bass were over 20 inches. The IDNR stocks this lake annually with Largemouth Bass.

CRAPPIE: Fifteen Black Crappie (8-11 inches), and 3 White Crappie (12-14 inches) were collected in the 2021 survey. Sixty percent of the Black Crappie were 10 inches or over.

BLUEGILL: Bluegill were collected at a rate of 520 fish per hour in the 2021 survey. Although 31% of the Bluegill were over 6 inches, only 6% of the Bluegill were over 7 inches, and none were over 8 inches. Competition for food and resources with the abundant Gizzard Shad population is probably negatively impacting Bluegill size.

CHANNEL CATFISH: Fifteen Channel Catfish ranging from 14 to 27 inches were collected in the 2021 survey. The IDNR stocks this lake annually with Channel Catfish.

OTHER SPECIES: Warmouth, Common Carp, Golden Shiner, Redear Sunfish, Yellow Bullhead, Black Bullhead, Yellow Bass, and Green Sunfish were collected in low numbers during the 2021 survey. Gizzard Shad were collected in high numbers which is expected for a forage species.

FISHING REGULATIONS:

Species	Creel Limit	Length Limits
Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass	2 under 14" and 1 over 18"	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Channel Catfish	6	None
Striped, White or Hybrid Bass	3	17 inch minimum
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS: Swimming, wading, and waterskiing are prohibited.

FISH ATTRACTORS: A map of the 11 Washington County State Lake fish attractor locations can be obtained via email by sending a request to eric.ratcliff@illinois.gov.

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist Eric Ratcliff: 618-931-4217. Washington County State Recreation Area: 618-327-3137.