

## IDNR and IDOC partner to create fish habitat

- In the summer of 2018, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Department of Corrections developed a partnership to create and install fish habitat in public lakes. The first habitat installation project occurred at Pittsfield City Lake on August 15<sup>th</sup> where 132 'fish attractors' were deployed.
- IDOC provided recyclable materials to construct fish attractors and IDOC staff to coordinate and oversee fish attractor construction. IDNR provided additional materials to construct fish attractors and transported and deployed the attractors into Pittsfield City Lake. The City of Pittsfield also offered assistance with this project.
- Fishermen can find the attractors in two different coves. 52 fish attractors are located on the south side of the lake in the very southwest cove. All were dropped directly below the powerlines in 8-10' of water, making an easy landmark for fishermen to find. An additional 80 attractors were installed in the cove just west of the new handicap fishing dock. This addition of habitat should provide some excellent habitat for fish, particularly crappie species.
- 6 PVC structures were also built and dropped near the new handicap fishing dock on 'catfish point'.
- Questions about this project or the location of the fish attractors, can be directed to Blake Ruebush, IDNR District Fisheries Biologist, at 217-622-7219.