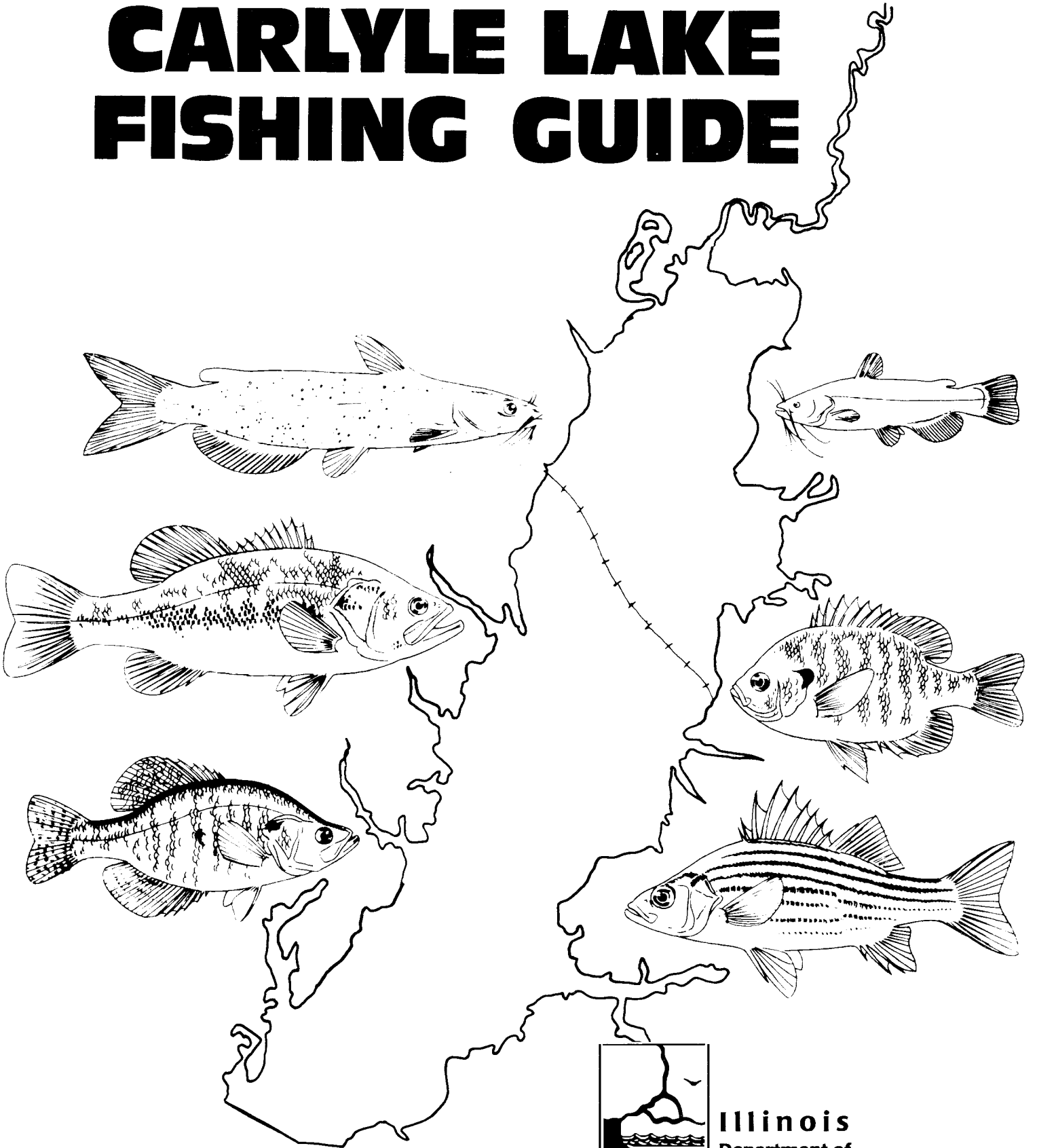
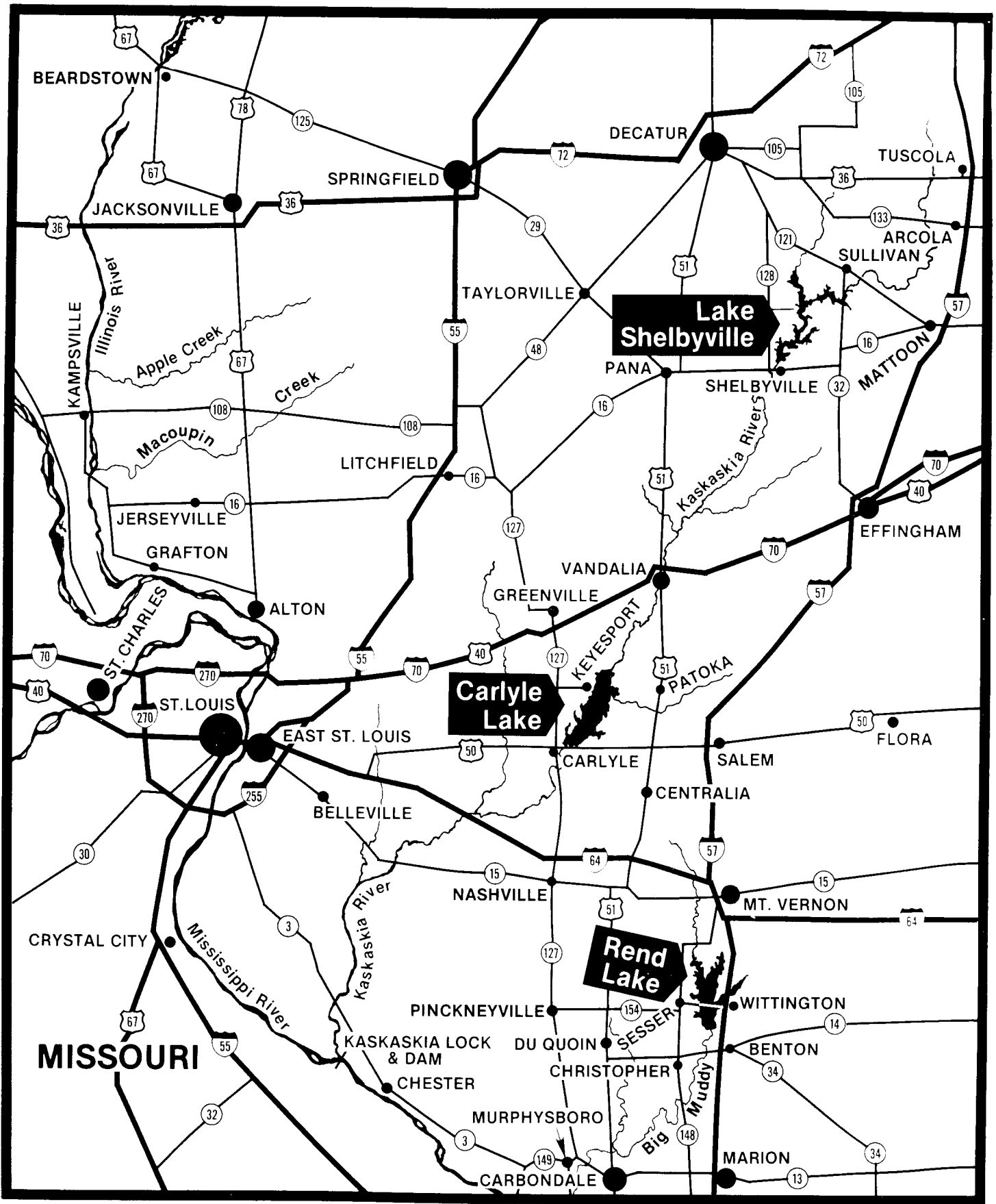


CARLYLE LAKE FISHING GUIDE



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

LOCATION OF THE THREE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS RESERVOIRS IN ILLINOIS



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISHERIES

CARLYLE LAKE FISHING GUIDE

BY

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INTRODUCTION

Although Illinois is known more for its agricultural and industrial production than its recreational attributes, this State offers some very fine sport fishing. Conversely to what one might believe, fishing is as good or better than it was 30 to 50 years ago. Factors contributing towards more and better angling opportunities have been due, in part, to the emphasis on eliminating pollution of lakes, rivers and streams; improved and more diligent use of soil and water conservation techniques; building of numerous water supply ponds, lakes and flood control reservoirs; and improved fish management techniques.

Since the beginning of recorded history fishing has been an important activity of man's life. In the past, fish were sought primarily for food; today, they are still sought for food but the aspects of fishing for sport, pleasure, or relaxation have become equally as important. Regardless of the motive, there are thousands of Illinoisians who want to get outdoors to commune with nature and to "wet a line." It is for these people and their children that this guide is being assembled—that they might know the pleasure and success of catching Illinois fish.

LAKE DESCRIPTION

Carlyle Lake, completed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1966, is the largest manmade lake within Illinois. Formed by damming the Kaskaskia River near Carlyle, the lake is 24,580 acres in size with a shoreline of approximately 85 miles. It is rectangular-shaped, two to three miles wide, and about 15 miles long. Maximum depth is 35 feet, with

an average depth of 11 feet. The land bordering the lake is either flat or gently rolling with partially-timbered shoreline. Therefore, Carlyle Lake is a typical open lake subject to changes in wind velocity or direction.

Carlyle Lake becomes chemically and thermally stratified during the summer months; typical of most Illinois lakes. Generally, from mid-June to September, the dissolved oxygen level becomes quite low or non-existent below 12 feet. Thus, summertime anglers should avoid fishing below this level as few fish are found there during this period.

Winters are occasionally cold enough to put a solid ice cover over the entire lake and when this does occur, some fair to good ice fishing can be enjoyed in coves.

Division between upper and lower parts of the lake is formed by the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks which span the water form the towns of Keyesport to Boulder. The upper area (approximately one-third of the lake) seasonally offers some of the best crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass, bullhead and channel catfish angling found in the lake. This portion of the lake is quite shallow (eight feet or less) with an average depth of about three feet. For the benefit of fishermen and waterfowl hunters, all timber and brush was left standing when the lake filled. Carlyle Lake is also dotted with numerous islands and sand ridges. Besides the inflowing Kaskaskia River, this area has a number of tributaries (Hurricane, Bear, Maggot, East Fork and North Fork Creeks) which offer fine fishing. Two public access areas, Tamalco on the west and Patoka on the east, provide quick and easy entry to the upper lake.

Below the B.N. RR. tracks, (the lower two-thirds) the lake is quite open except for some timber left standing in three of the major bays. The prime fishing bays of the lower lake include West Branch, Burnside Bay, Allen, Peppenhorst, Bond Branch, and Coles, Gibbes and Brewster Creeks. Access areas to this part of the lake include West Access near Carlyle, South Shore State Park, Coles Creek on the East, Elden Hazlet State Park on the west, and Keyesport Acces and Boulder Access at the respective towns. The latter of two areas also offer good access to the upper portion of Carlyle Lake. Some of the better fishing spots are the bays, river and creek channels, points, and around the islands. Good crappie, channel catfish, largemouth bass,

drum, bluegill and white bass fishing can be found in the lower portion of the lake.

The East and West Spillway Access Areas are directly below the Carlyle Lake dam. Another fisherman access area is east of the Kaskaskia River bridge, north of U.S. 50. This site provides easy access to the Kaskaskia River and the old river bed.

Carlyle Lake is 50 miles east of St. Louis, Missouri, approximately a two hour drive from Springfield, three hours from Peoria and six hours from Chicago. Highways 45, 50, 51, 54 and 127 and Interstate Routes 55, 57, 70 and 74 provide easy travel to the lake.

FACILITIES

Recreational and service facilities around Carlyle Lake are quite varied with more being constructed yearly. Table 1 found on the following page provides a quick guide to available public facilities.

The number of camping pads at the various U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Illinois Department of Natural Resources Access Areas are: Hazlet State Park - 336 plus 36 tent only; West Access - 100 plus 25 at an overflow area; Coles Creek - 148 plus 10 tent sites at Coles Creek called lotus group; McNair Campground - 20; South Shore State Park - 33; Boulder - 86.

Commercial campgrounds are found at Keyesport and near the Patoka Access Area.

Two additional boat launching areas on the Kaskaskia River Cox Bridge and Hitogi Accesses are open to the public.

YOU AND YOUR FISHING TRIP

Fishing is a sport enjoyed by young and old, rich and poor alike. It is recognized as one of the most peaceful and contemplative of all recreational activities. One can enjoy learning to be a good fisherman and still have time to savor mother nature's wonders. Fishing also provides the opportunity to rest and meditate away from pressures of the job; which in itself is therapy for body, mind and soul.

But, to be really successful at fishing, one must put forth some effort to learn about fish and their habits, the types of gear and bait to use, and when, where and how to fish for various species. The so-called "lucky fisherman" isn't lucky at all. This individual has taken the time to learn the sport, and in the course of learning, has become successful. If one wants to put fish in the frying pan consistently, a fisherman must learn to be adaptable, determined and observant. Like the weather, fish can be changeable and it's up to the fisherman to change his ways.



**TABLE I
AVAILABLE PUBLIC FACILITIES**

ACCESS AREA	Boat Ramp & Parking	Picnic Table & Grills	Picnic Shelters	Toilets	Water Supply	Playground Equipment	Swimming	Tent Camping	Trailer Camping	Electricity	Dump Station	Showers or Laundry	Boat Dockage & Storage	Boat & Motor Rental	Gas & Oil	Bait & Tackle	Groceries	Bank Fishing	Fish Cleaning Station	Telephone	Cabins
East and West																					
Spillway Access	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	x	x	o	-
West Access	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-
Hazlet State Park	H	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	o	x	x	x	x	x
Keyesport Access	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	x	x	x	x	o	x	-	x	o
Island Horseshoe Access	H	o	o	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	x	-	o	o
Tamalco Access	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	o	x	-	-	-
Patoka Access	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-
Boulder Access	H	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-
Coles Creek Access	H	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	o	o	o	x	x	x	-
So. Shore St. Park	o	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	-	-	-	o	o	o	x	-	o	-
Dam East & McNair Accesses	H	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	x	o	o	-
Hitogi Access	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-
Cox Bridge Access	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-
East/North Fork Accesses	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-

x Available on site
o Available nearby – less than three miles
- Not available
H High water ramp also available on site

**TIPS TO MAKE YOUR FISHING TRIP
MORE ENJOYABLE AND SUCCESSFUL**

- Plan your trip. Be sure to check tackle and equipment prior to going afield; a forgotten raincoat, fouled spark plugs, or a dirty reel can spoil a trip.
- Check with the local fishermen or bait shops regarding what species are hitting, what baits to use and where to fish. Bait shops are in the business to serve you; a customer steered in the right direction is going to come back.
- Fish for the species that are most abundant or for various species. A lake may have a large population of hungry catfish or fat bluegill and one who uses only artificial lures may go home empty-handed. As the season progresses, one must also remember that what's hitting in April may not be in July or August.
- If you fail to catch fish in one spot using various baits and techniques, move to another area or habitat. Many species of fish, such as crappie, largemouth bass, walleye and white bass will move back and forth between shallow and deep water, or range from one area to another.
- As you become knowledgeable and successful, share fishing tips or fishing holes.
- Be courteous and considerate of others. Don't crowd in on another's fishing spot. Don't create big wakes or run closely to, or between other boats.
- Learn the lake regulations, fish and boating laws, and follow them.
- When boating, follow proper boat operational techniques. Don't overload your boat. Do not run your craft at a high rate of speed near the shoreline and bank fishermen.
- Give assistance where needed. A friend in need is a friend indeed.
- Be careful. Use safe and required safety equipment. Don't take chances. Wear your life saving gear.
- Do not litter, treat each area as if it were your own property. Dispose of used fishing line properly.
- Watch the weather, when the lake becomes rough or a storm front is sighted, seek protection of a marina or a sheltered cove.

FISHES

Carlyle Lake offers good fishing for crappie, white bass, largemouth bass, bluegill, channel and flathead catfish, freshwater drum and carp. Other species commonly caught are green sunfish, yellow bass, yellow and black bullheads.

If you like variety, the tailwater area, directly below the lake's spillway, is a fisherman's paradise. Here anglers have caught 32 different species of fishes. The major species caught are crappie, carp, drum, bluegill, buffalo, channel catfish, and white

bass. Other species taken with some regularity are walleye, sauger, yellow bass, largemouth bass, carsucker, paddlefish, bullhead, sucker, gar and bowfin.

The following table will provide a general guide to the major areas providing good fishing for the various species; however, it is up to the individual angler to learn the specific fishing spots within these designated areas. Although many other species will be caught in the same locale, only those species commonly caught in each area are indicated.

Current fishing conditions can be accessed on the Corps of Engineers' Lake Information Recording (618) 594-4637.

A display at the visitor's center at West Access is designed to assist novice anglers or those unfamiliar with Carlyle Lake's fishery.

**TABLE II
SPECIES OFFERING BEST FISHING**

BEST FISHING AREAS	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	White Bass	Channel Catfish	Bullheads	Flathead Catfish	Freshwater Drum	Walleye/Sauger	Carp	Yellow Bass
Bond Branch	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	-
Peppenhorst Branch	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	X
Allen Branch	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-
West Branch	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	X
B.N. RR	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X
Old River Channel	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	X
Duck Ponds (Wildlife Mgt. Area)	X	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-
Kaskaskia River	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Old River Bed Lakes	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
North Fork	-	X	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	-
East Fork	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	-
Coles Creek	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	-
Carlyle Tailwater	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Old River Bed (Tailwater)	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
Mid-Lake Humps	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-

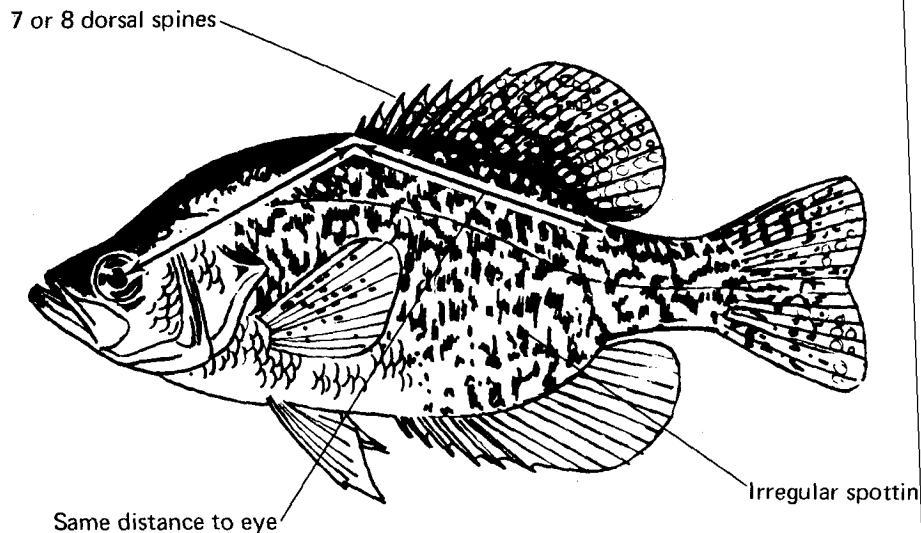
BLACK CRAPPIE

COMMON NAMES:

Calico bass, strawberry bass, crappie, speckled crappie, spotted crappie.

DESCRIPTION:

Anal fin almost the same size as the dorsal fin. Color pattern of irregular dark splotches on a light background. Best method of identification: black crappie has 7 or 8 spines in the dorsal fin.



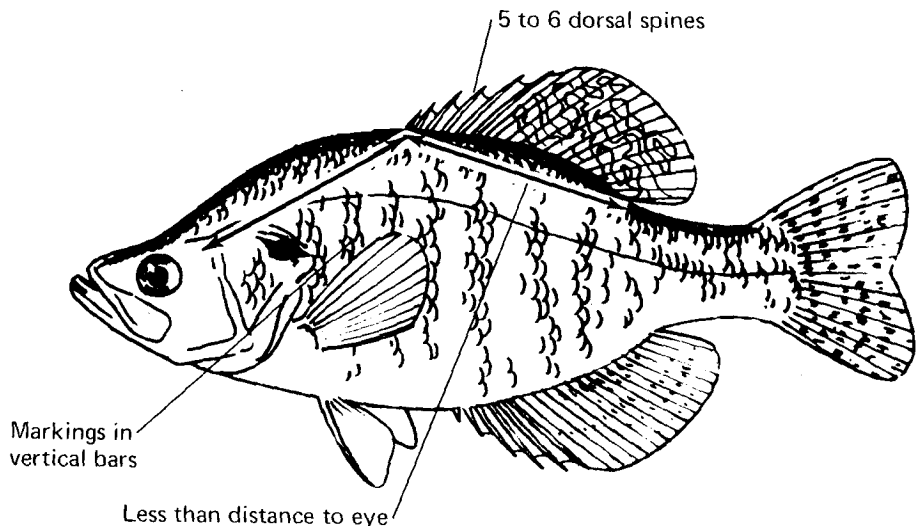
WHITE CRAPPIE

COMMON NAMES:

Crappie, silver crappie, bachelor, newlight

DESCRIPTION:

Anal fin is almost the same size as the dorsal fin. Color pattern of dark splotches arranged in vertical bands on a pale background. Best method of identification white crappie have 5 or 6 spines in the dorsal fin.



Both white and black crappie are found throughout Carlyle Lake. However, it is the bays with stickups, river and creek channels, bottomland lakes, and rock rip-rap areas that generally produce the better catches as they like an abundance of cover that also offers shade. There are no striking differences in the habits of these two species; however, it appears black crappie seem to prefer stump or heavy brush areas more than the white crappie. These species spawn in April and May. Fishing success deteriorates during the summer months as they move into deeper water. Anglers who can locate the crappie in their deeper haunts will find that these fish can be caught even during the summer.

Minnows and jigs, or a combination of the two, are the most popular baits. Both can be fished in a variety of ways. Long shanked wire hooks, No. 6 to No. 2, are the most common sizes used by minnow fishermen. Fiberglass extension poles 8 to 12 feet

long, fly rods, and cane poles are the types of rods generally used. These are rigged with monofilament line, with a tensile strength of 8 to 15 pounds, so crappie can be pulled from the brush upon hooking or so the line is strong enough to pull free from snags by straightening out the wire hook.

Tightlining is a very popular way of fishing for crappie. No bobber (float) is used and one or two split shot sinkers or a small spinner is placed on the line above the hook. In this manner, the bait can be raised and lowered or jigged (slightly moved up and down) more easily to locate the crappie. One of the best crappie fishermen on the lake likes to add a small, thin, rubber beetle-like white body on with the minnow. This frequently catches crappie on the second hit if the minnow is knocked off the hook. Once the depth and type of cover can be established, crappie fishermen will often use either a stationary or sliding-type bobber and proceed to fill their fish basket.

When the water is clear, many fishermen prefer to work yellow, white, pink, or other colored jigs up and down in crappie cover with good results. These same baits are also highly effective when cast towards brush, steep banks, rock rip-rap or over flooded brushy ridges during the spawning season.

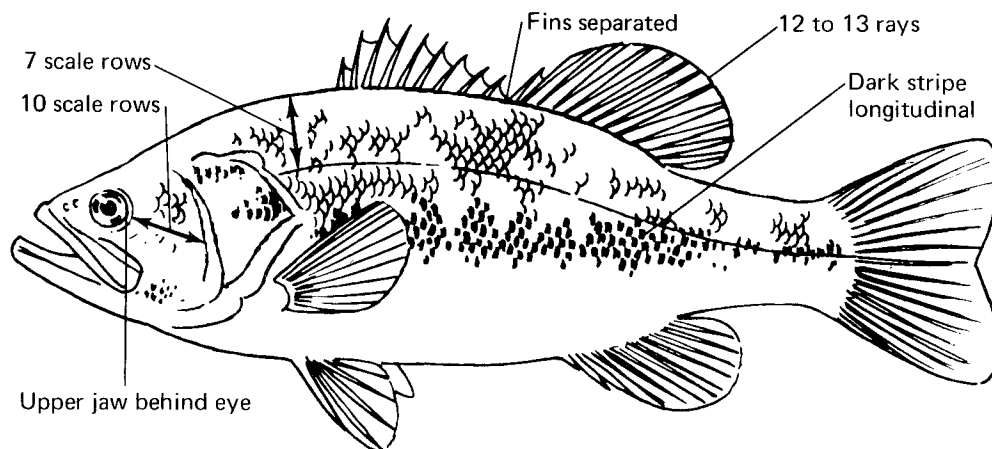
During late spring or early fall, crappie often frequent the open but deeper water of old bottomland lakes and creek channels. When these conditions exist, a jig, beetle spin, or minnow-spinner combination fished in a jerky motion or the slow retrieve can produce some fine crappie action. Spin-casting, spinning, or ultralight tackle is generally used for this type of fishing.

Tailwater fishermen prefer to use small 1/16th or 1/32nd ounce jigs with light rods; retrieving the jigs slowly over the rock rip-rap. At other times, a long cane or fiberglass pole rigged with a minnow or jig and a small bobber is the best way to catch crappie. The bait or lure is allowed to drift with the

current and jigged frequently to entice the fish into hitting.

Crappie fishing is generally best in the lake from mid-March to mid-June and again from mid-September to mid-November. Since crappie are sight feeders, periods of good fishing are usually determined by water turbidity and temperature (50° to mid 70°). In the tailwater, crappie are caught every month of the year except for periods of bitter cold or sweltering heat.

Occasionally, good ice fishing for crappie occurs in the bottomland lakes and creeks north of the B.N. railroad during the winters where there is a solid ice cover of six inches or more. During these chilly times, crappie will usually be found at depths of five feet or less in and around brush. Ice fishing is done with small minnows or larvae of insects (mousies, waxworm, goldenrod grub, corn borer, etc.) usually in combination with an artificial ice fly.



LARGEMOUTH BASS

COMMON NAMES: Largemouth, bass, black bass, bigmouth bass, line side, green bass, lake bass.

DESCRIPTION: The upper jaw with the mouth closed extends well back of the eye. The spiny dorsal or top fin is nearly separated from the soft dorsal by a deep notch. There is usually a dark lateral stripe along the side.

Although a popular sport fish for many years, the number of anglers who now seek the largemouth bass has increased tenfold in the past ten years. This is due in part to its seemingly mystic nature, the formation of bass fishing clubs and improvements in tackle, boats and other electronic equipment such as fish locaters and oxygen meters.

The largemouth bass, a member of the sunfish family, is a creature that prefers to inhabit bays, sloughs and shorelines where there is suitable cover such as weed beds, brush, stumps, fallen trees and rock rip-rap. The largemouth bass is a sight feeder and feeds primarily on insects, crayfish, frogs and other fishes. While young, bass frequently school to feed, but once they reach a

size larger than a pound they appear to be more solitary in nature.

Fishing is best for largemouth bass from May to mid-October in Carlyle Lake, and areas with cover or an abundant food supply are the best fishing spots. This species also seems to prefer water temperatures between 58 and 75 degrees. Periods that provide some of the best fishing are: (1) the initial early spring feeding spree (2) and late spring spawning period, (3) the summer months when they hole up in the cooler waters of the river and creek channels, ridge dropoffs, spring holes and submerged brush, or (4) in the fall when they once again seem to roam widely to feed prior to the winter freeze.

Although it is impossible to describe all the ways to take bass (many books have been written

on this subject), a few may be pointed out that, hopefully, may increase your success. It is difficult to catch this species consistently; however, the largemouth bass can be caught on a greater variety of baits and lures than practically any other fish. Casting with either bait, spincast or spinning tackle is probably the most popular method of catching "Mr. Bigmouth." During the spring, when most lakes have periods of murkiness, the single or tandem spinnerbaits, wobbling and flashing spoons with pork rinds, spinning lures and light colored sub-surface lures are the best artificials to use. As the water becomes somewhat clearer, buzzer baits, sub-surface lures, plastic worms and the diving baits gain in popularity. During the summer months, diving or deep running baits and plastic worms are very productive. If the water is clear, topwater plunker, buzzer, crawler or diving baits fished along shoreline cover, or when bass are feeding on shad schools, frequently produce limit catches. This is also the time to use the fly rod with large poppers, streamers, wet flies or hair bug lures. Some fishermen use stout fiberglass poles with 25-50 pound test line and a plastic worm to jig bass from their hideouts.

During the fall, depending on water turbidity

and temperature, type of cover, and time of day, one can use practically any lure in the tackle box. Bass generally feed best from mid-morning to mid-afternoon during spring and fall months. In the summer, one may find them feeding on shad during the heat of the day or feeding only at early daybreak or sunset.

The fisherman who likes to use live bait such as crayfish, nitecrawlers or minnows can frequently catch more bass than the man with the \$50 rod and reel and large boxes of artificial lures. These natural baits are usually fished around overhanging banks, submerged brush, logs, stumps or on hard mud and sand bottoms. These baits are most effective if they are worked slowly over the bottom, drifted with the wind or current into pockets, holes and riffles or jigged over good cover. Catching bass can be a frustrating, mind-boggling situation because of their temperamental moods and diverse habits. The patient, determined and adaptable bass fisherman is the most successful. Probably the best advice one can give to a budding bass fisherman is to learn all one can about the bass' habits and habitats and go as frequently as possible with someone who has developed a degree of bass expertise.

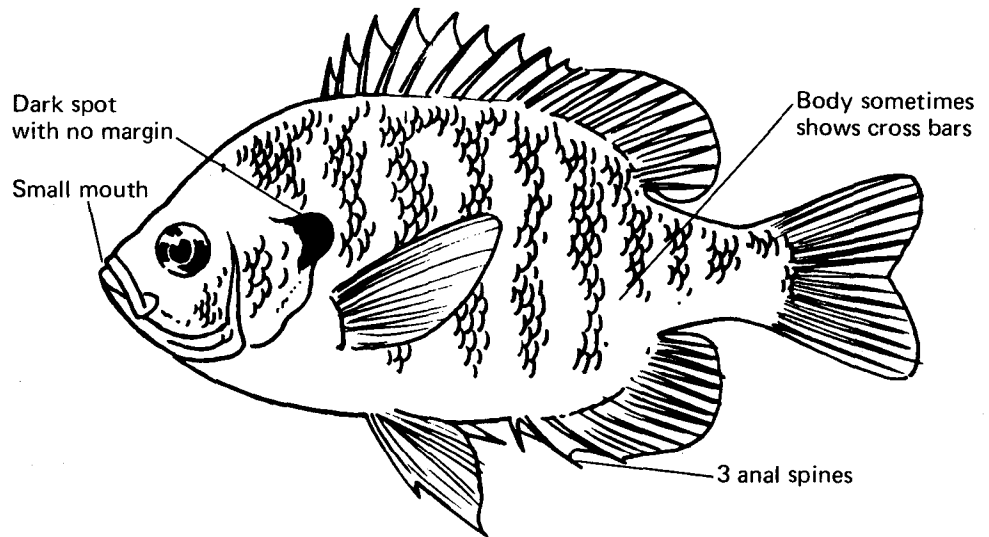
BLUEGILL

COMMON NAMES:

Bream, brim, sunfish, sun perch, prairie perch.

DESCRIPTION:

Has a small mouth and a short gill flap which is tinted black. The lower portion of the gill cover is bluish. A distinct black spot is at the posterior end of the dorsal fin. The throat of the male may be colored orange.



To many anglers, the bluegill is the king of the finny creatures. Generally, he is fairly easy to catch, puts up a scrappy fight, especially on a fly or ultralight rod, and is mighty fine eating. At Carlyle Lake, the best bluegill fishing is from May through mid-June when they are on spawning beds. Later in the summer or early fall, bluegill hide in the rock rip-rap, under floating logs, undercut banks, in stickups, fallen trees, or brush wherever there is good cover offering shade and abundant food.

The key to good spring or early summer fishing is to find where they are spawning. Bluegill generally build nests in colonies in water two to five feet deep, where there is a hard mud or sand bottom. Once these areas are located, an offering of a cricket, roach, hopper, grub, redworm, or small

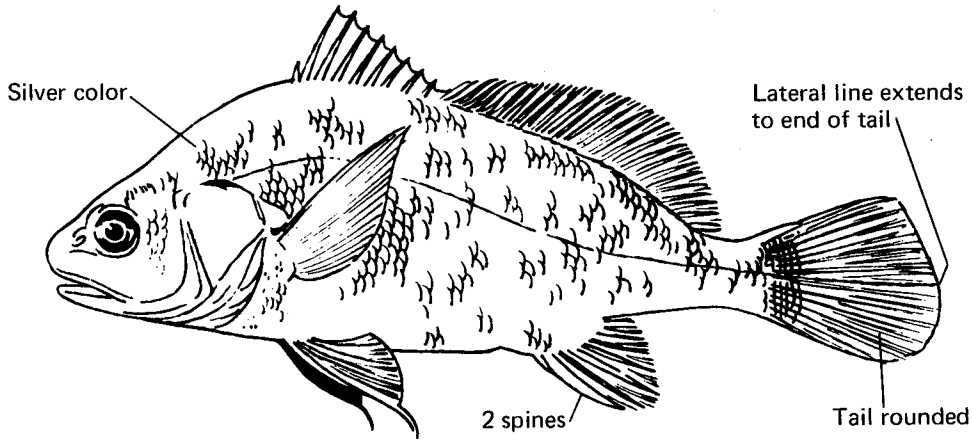
minnow is enough to bring on the action. A cane or fiberglass pole or a fly rod rigged with monofilament line, a small split spot or spinner, and a small bobber and small hooks (No. 10 — No. 8) is all the tackle one needs. If the water is relatively clear, a fly rod with a small popper or a wet or dry fly can also work wonders.

After spawning, the bluegill disperses to shady cover to spend the rest of the summer gorging on insects and their larvae. This is the time to keep the fly rod and poppers or dry flies in action. Bluegill fishermen look forward to the times they can find this species pimplying the water surface at dusk, feeding on an emerging insect hatch.

Bluegill also rate a big plus when it comes to ice fishing. Equipped with standard ice fishing rods

with light line, tiny bobbers and small ice fishing lures baited with tiny redworms, small minnows or the many kinds of insect larvae (mousies, wax worms, golden rod grub, corn borers, blackeyed susan grubs), a warmly dressed fisherman is ready to venture forth. During winter months, bluegill are

generally found in shallow water (2 to 6 feet deep) in and around brush; but they may move into deeper portions of creek beds, bottomland lakes or bays at other times. Once they are located, action generally begins with a little jiggging of a properly presented bait.



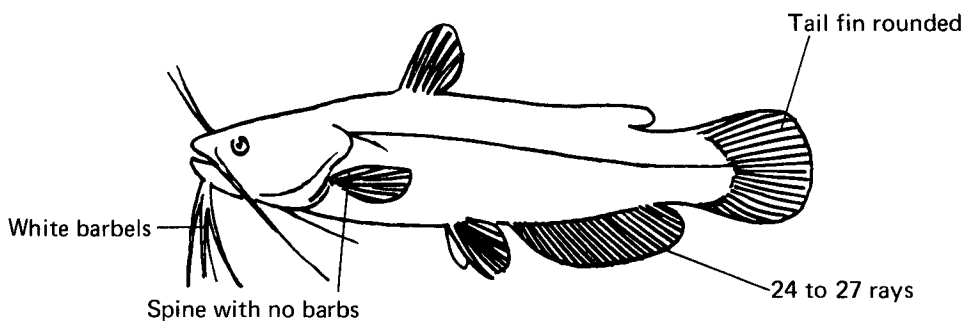
FRESHWATER DRUM

COMMON NAMES: White perch, perch, sheepshead, croaker, grunting perch, drum, gaspergou.

DESCRIPTION: The spiny and soft dorsal fins are continuous, eight or nine spines in the spiny dorsal fins, mouth is located near the bottom of head and the lower jaw is smaller than the upper jaw. Lateral line extends through the tail.

Generally considered a commercial species, the drum is a popular angling species and tasty eating too. This species is abundant in both the lake and its tailwater. The drum is primarily a creature of the bottoms, feeding principally on clams, snails, crayfish, insect larvae and small fishes. Although distributed throughout the lake, anglers generally find better fishing for this species in the river and creek channels, over areas with hard mud and sand bottoms, or along rock rip-rap. Drum can

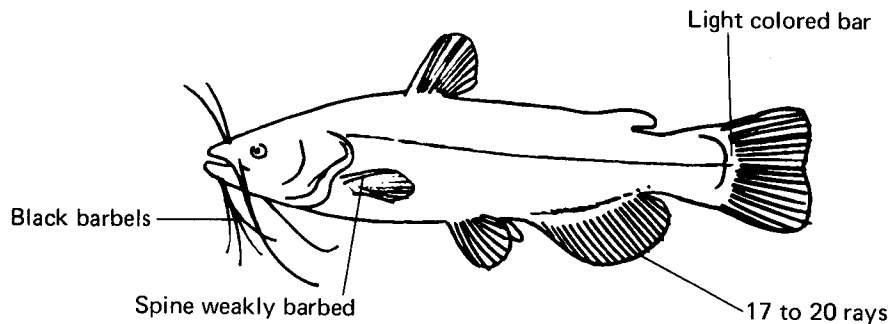
be caught on most natural baits; however, worms, small crayfish, bits of shrimp, or live and dead minnows are considered the best offerings. These baits are generally fished on or near the bottom. During summer months, anglers have also found that a good catch of drum can be made by bumping 1/16 to 1/4 ounce jigs along rock rip-rap of the dam, railroad tracks or in the tailwater. And, to the surprise of many anglers, the drum is capable of putting up a good scrappy fight.



YELLOW BULLHEAD

COMMON NAMES: Yellow-bellied cat, greaser, catfish, white whiskered bullhead.

DESCRIPTION: Body completely devoid of scales, has eight barbels or chin whiskers about the mouth. The anal fin has 24-27 rays and the chin barbels are yellow or white.



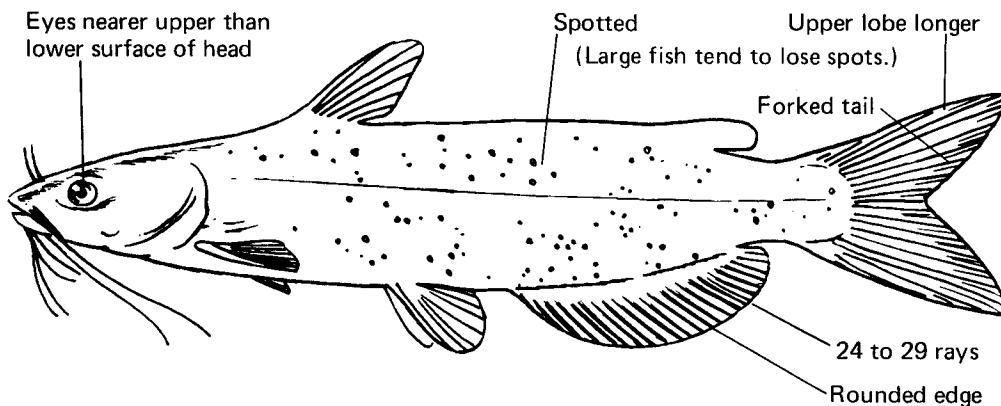
BLACK BULLHEAD

COMMON NAMES: Bullhead, yellow-belly cat, catfish, horned pout.

DESCRIPTION: Body completely devoid of scales, has eight barbels or chin whiskers about the mouth. The anal fin has 17-20 rays and the chin barbels are black.

Due to the bullhead's persistence to take the bait, it is probably one of the easiest fish to catch. Anglers generally have ample time to set the hook when they are hitting. All one need do is rig to bottom fishing with preferably a slip sinker and bait with worms. Most anglers prefer to use bait or spin-casting gear. Bullhead generally begin hitting in late February or early March — after the first

good warm spell. At this time, shallow bays are the best areas to fish; creeks on the rise are also good bets to fish. During the summer months, most bullheads are caught from the river and creek channels or bottomland lakes. Trotline fishermen also catch a considerable number of bullheads on single hook drop lines baited with dead minnows, shad, crayfish, worms or cut bait.



CHANNEL CATFISH

COMMON NAMES: Fiddler, spotted cat, channel cat, catfish.

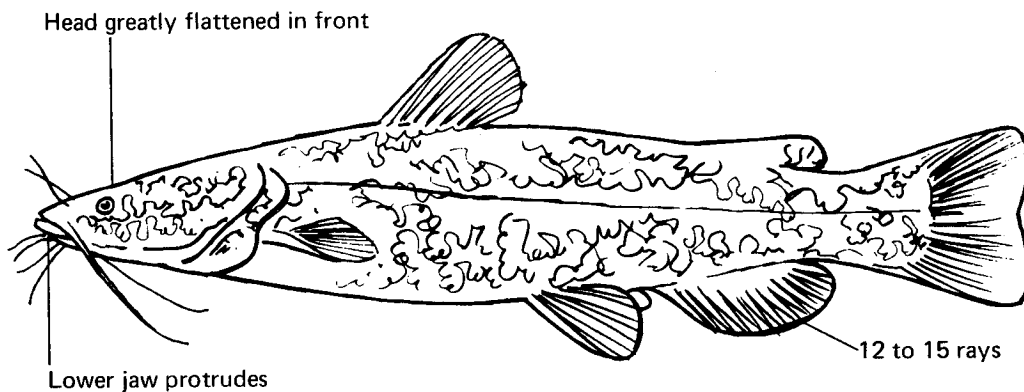
DESCRIPTION: Body completely devoid of scales, has eight barbels or whiskers about the mouth, prominent adipose fin, a single hard spine in the pectoral and dorsal fins and a deeply forked tail. The channel catfish can be distinguished from the blue catfish by its rounded anal fin with 24 to 29 rays. The blue catfish has 30 to 35 rays in a straight edged anal fin.

The channel catfish is one of the more popular species found in Carlyle Lake. From early spring to late fall trotlines are set throughout the lake for the delectable "Mr. Whiskers." Best fishing is usually during May, June, September and October but anytime there is a rise in the pool level, it can bring on a feeding spree. Anyone who has fished for channel catfish knows that this fish can be quite selective in the baits it will take. Preferred baits are large shiners, gizzard shad, crayfish and leeches or cut baits of carp, bowfin, white carp and shad. The areas that produce good catches are also quite variable — from month to month or even week to week — so lines must frequently be moved. River and creek

channels, flooded timber and near shoreline are popular set areas. Other trotliners like to set in the open lake around islands or over the river channel. At other times, open fields above the B.N. railroad produce the best fishing.

Pole and line fishermen usually find the best channel catfishing in the creeks, river channel, bottomland lakes or areas with hard mud or sand bottoms.

In the tailwater, channel catfishing is best during June through September. In addition to the baits mentioned, the cheese or blood stink baits, soured clams and shrimp are productive baits.



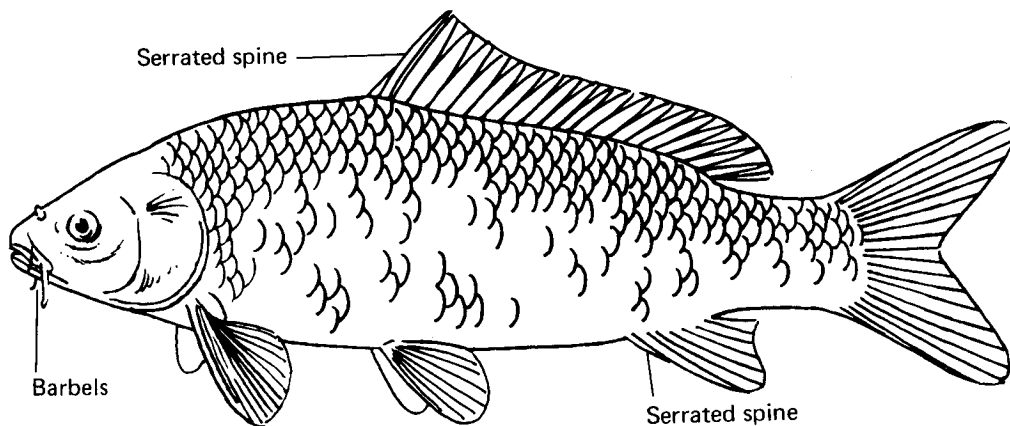
FLATHEAD CATFISH

COMMON NAMES: Mud cat, yellow cat, flathead, and shovelhead cat.

DESCRIPTION: Color is dark to olive-brown with dark brown mottling on the sides. The larger fish are frequently yellowish brown to a dark slate gray. The head is broad and flat. The anal fin is very short with only 15 to 17 rays. The tail is square or slightly notched. The lower jaw is longer than the upper.

Whenever this species is caught, it is generally considered a bonus or trophy fish. Carlyle Lake has a good population of "flatheads" and some anglers specialize in trying to catch this species. Trotlines with big hooks (No. 2.0 to No. 6.0), big baits and strong lines are some basic tackle requirements. Baits range from live green sunfish, bullhead, carp, large shiners and shad to leeches, chicken guts and large hunks of cut baits from bowfin, white carp

or carp. Fishing is best during the months of May through September. Most flatheads are taken in or around the river and its old channel in the lake. The current state record flathead (78 pounds) was caught just a few years ago. This species is occasionally taken by pole and line fishermen while fishing for other species along rock rip-rap areas of the railroad, dam or in the tailwater. Flatheads are frequently caught on jigs, streamers or small spinning lures.



CARP

COMMON NAMES: German carp, European carp, mirrow carp, scaleless carp.

DESCRIPTION: Two pairs of barbels are located near the corners of the mouth, mouth opens downward, has one dorsal fin, and one sawtoothed spine located in dorsal and anal fins.

This is one of the most abundant fish found in the lake. Many anglers overlook real sport when they ignore the carp, especially when fishing is slow for other species. Carp can be caught throughout the lake from late spring to early fall but the better areas are shallow bays, river and creek beds.

Since his biting habit is softer than most fishes, the carp is tricky to catch. A well-presented offering of worms or small chunks of crayfish or shrimp tail

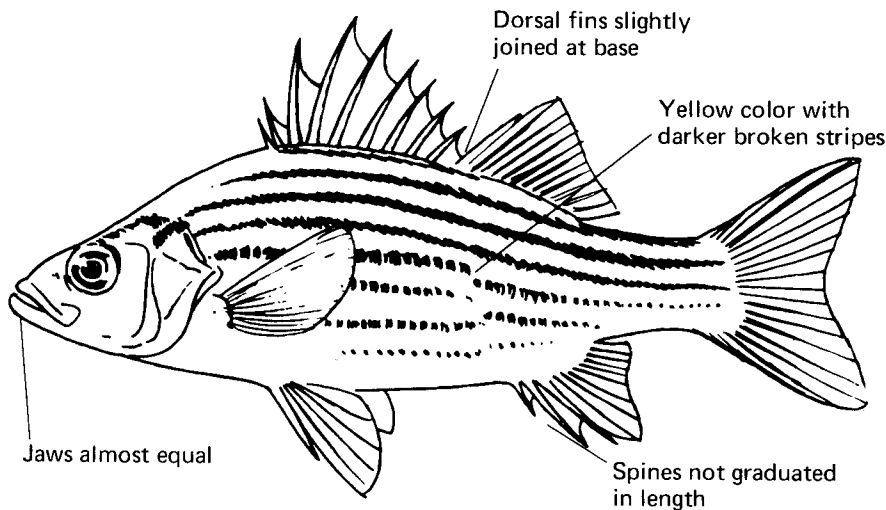
will generally provide good action. The same type of tackle and rigging used for bullheads works equally as well for carp; however, smaller single or treble hooks must be used so the carp can more readily take the bait into his small suckerlike mouth.

Top carp fishing can also be found in the tailwaters. Here, the 101 types of doughbaits are used with great success and tens of thousands of carp are caught annually by tailwater anglers.

More and more anglers are finding that carp are good to eat. Filleted, scored, rolled in cornmeal and cooked in hot deep fat (375°F.), makes carp a tasty fare — with no bones to pick out. Smoking carp is another fine way to prepare them. Another method of preparing carp is to fillet off the carp sides, remove the skin and cut into 1½ to 2 inch chunks. These are then packed tightly into jars with 1 teaspoon each of salt and vinegar per pint, sealed and then pressure cooked for 1 to 1½ hours at 15 pounds pressure. The result is a product that is difficult to distinguish from canned salmon. It contains no bones and is delicious used in salad, chip dip or made into patties.

Pickling is another preparation method gaining

in popularity. The meat is prepared in the same manner as for canning, except the flesh is cut into ½ to ¾ inch cubes. These cubes are then soaked in a brine or one gallon of white vinegar and one cup of canning salt for 10 days, stirring once daily. After the brining period, the cubes are thoroughly rinsed in cold water and drained. The fish cubes are then packed into pint jars, alternating layers of fish and onion rings. Add one teaspoon of pickling spices and cover completely with a solution made of one cup of white vinegar and one cup of sugar (do not cook). Store in the refrigerator. After 10 days, you will have tasty morsels that will be palate pleasing. Although this recipe is given for carp, other species of fish can be prepared in like manner.



YELLOW BASS

COMMON NAMES: Streaker, striped bass, barfish, black-striped bass, gold bass.

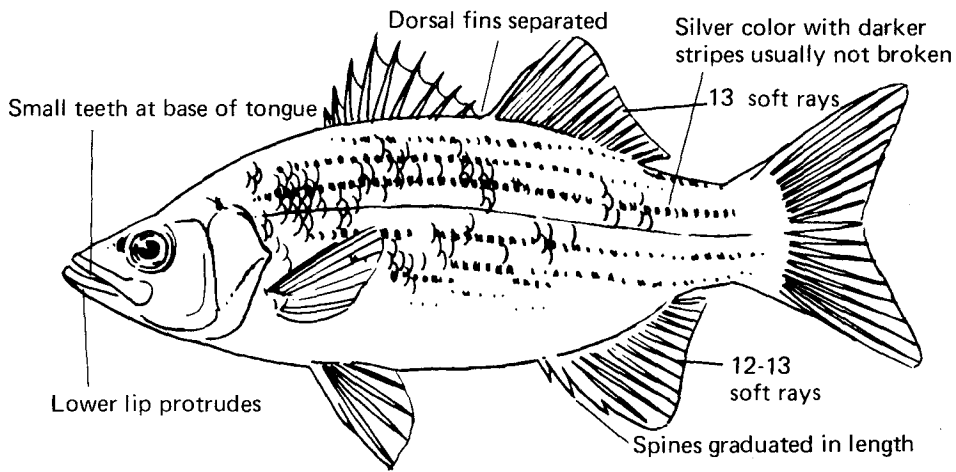
DESCRIPTION: Body has a yellow color, a high dorsal fin and dark lateral stripes broken near the center of body length.

Yellow and white bass are the only native true basses found in Illinois; the largemouth bass and crappies being members of the sunfish family.

Yellow bass generally travel in schools and when one is caught, several can usually be taken before the school moves on. Techniques to catch sport species are the same as fishing for crappie. Best angling occurs during the May spawning period when they congregate along rock rip-rap; islands, flooded brush and timber. Small minnows, worms and jigs are the best baits; however, when a

school of yellow bass are located feeding on minnows or an insect hatch along the shoreline, they can be taken on poppers, flies, small spoons, jigs and spinning lures.

Fishing for yellow bass is usually poor during the summer months but picks up again by late summer. From this period until mid-fall, many anglers frequently make sizeable catches of this species during the early morning or late evening hours when they find them foraging for food over bottom areas of hard mud or sand.



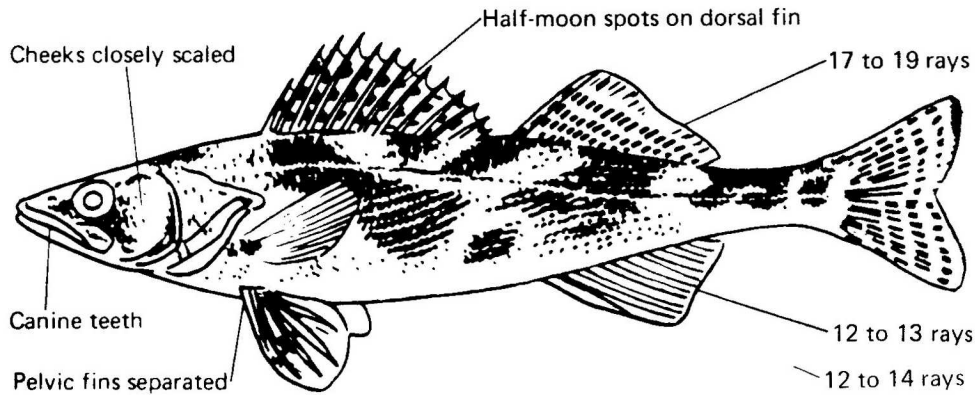
WHITE BASS

COMMON NAMES: Striped bass, streaker, silver bass, silver fish.

DESCRIPTION: Body has a silver color with darker stripes usually not broken. The anal spines are graduated in length.

Since 1974, anglers have been catching good stringers of 1/2 to 1 pound white bass during the late summer and fall months. In the spring, they may be taken from the tributary streams or along rock rip-rap using minnows and jigs. During the summer months, anglers should watch for white bass feeding on surface schools of shad near points or mid-lake humps. When white bass are on a feeding spree, the action is fast and furious – any small spinning lure, jig, or spoon thrown into a fishing school will frequently

produce a fish on every cast. A feeding spree can end with a sudden finality as quickly as it began, requiring more searching or waiting for them to begin hitting again. Fall fishing has been best along rock rip-rap, drop off areas of creek and river channels and around the island near the B.N. railroad. Minnows fished deep or spinning lures and jigs worked slowly in these areas are several ways to catch white bass as the lake cools and this species move into deeper water.



SAUGER

COMMON NAMES: Sand pike, jack fish, jack salmon, river pike, spotfin pike, spotted jack

DESCRIPTION: Large glassy eye. Body with back and sides brown, usually with 4 darker brown bars extending towards belly. Belly white. Spiny dorsal fin marked with roundish black spots.

While sauger are native to the Kaskaskia River, after impoundment only a tiny remnant population of sauger remained in Carlyle Lake to reproduce. This population over the years just barely was able to maintain itself. Since stockings of walleye fry (a close cousin of sauger) made sporadically since 1974 failed to create a fishery, stockings of sauger have been made since 1995. It is hoped that this species will be less likely to emigrate from the lake. It should be more suited to the expanse of open, turbid water characterizing Carlyle Lake's main basin. So far the stocking results have been rather encouraging.

Since sauger have been relatively rare to this point, little can be said about fishing patterns. If they behave as predicted anglers can expect them to be caught in the river channel and along rip-rap in spring, drop-offs, channels and on humps during the summer late and early in the day, and along rip-rap and on points in the fall. Preferred baits and lures are likely to be nitecrawlers; leeches; minnows; jigs; and small spinners, crank baits, and spoons.

FISHING REGULATIONS (subject to change)

Except for the following special regulations, fishing laws for Carlyle Lake are the same as the state-wide regulations:

White or black crappie must be 10 inches long or longer, and only ten (10) may be taken daily, either singly or collectively.

Largemouth Bass must be 14 inches long or longer, and only six (6) may be taken daily.

The daily creel limit on white bass and hybrid striped bass 17 inches long or longer is three (3)

fish. There is no daily creel limit on white bass or hybrid striped bass less than 17 inches.

If one is in doubt about the State fishing regulations, copies can be obtained where fishing licenses are sold or by writing to: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fisheries, Lincoln Tower Plaza, 524 S. 2nd St., Springfield, IL 62706. The local Illinois conservation office should be contacted if one has further questions regarding the various fishing or boating regulations.

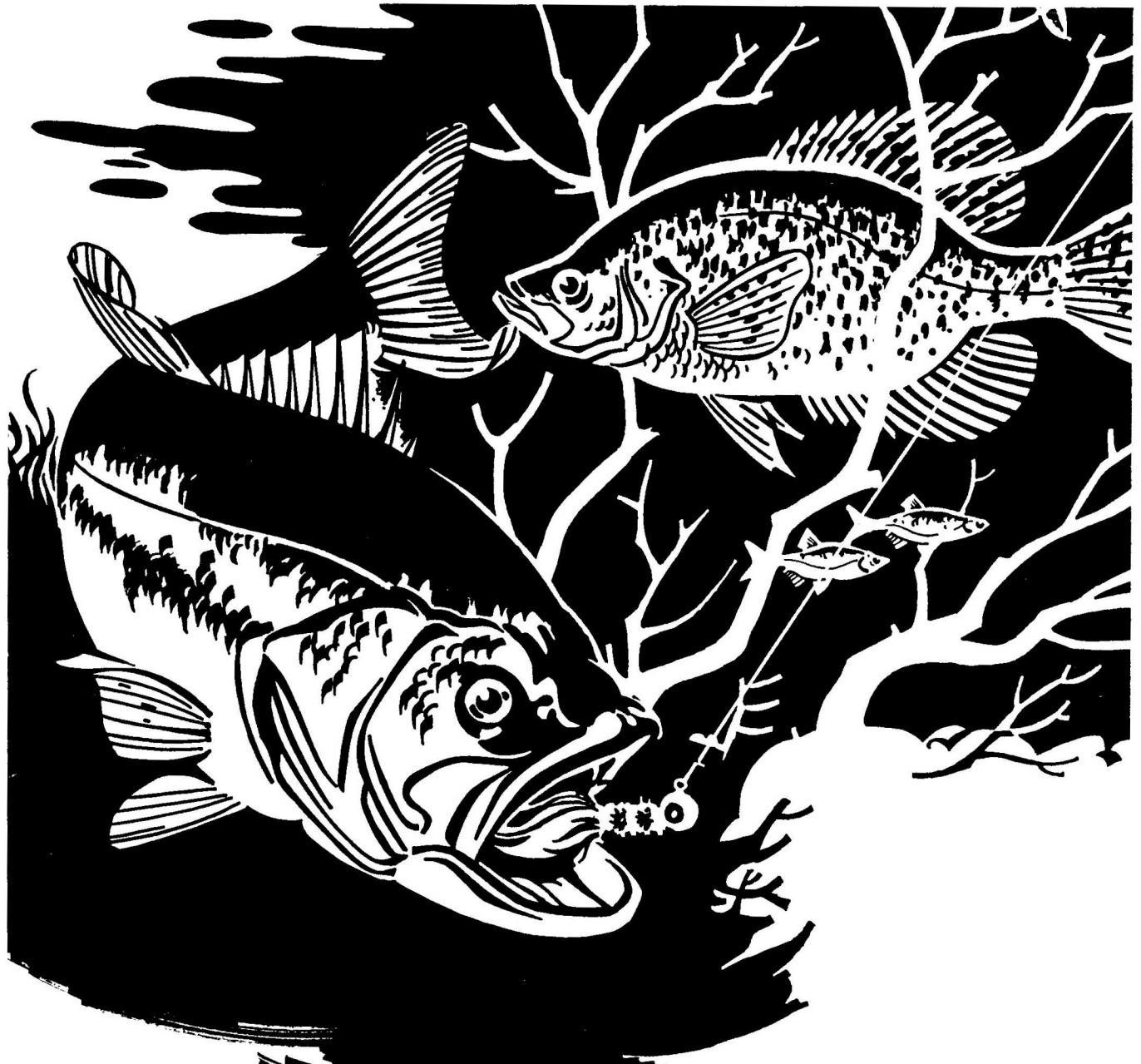
FEDERAL REGULATIONS

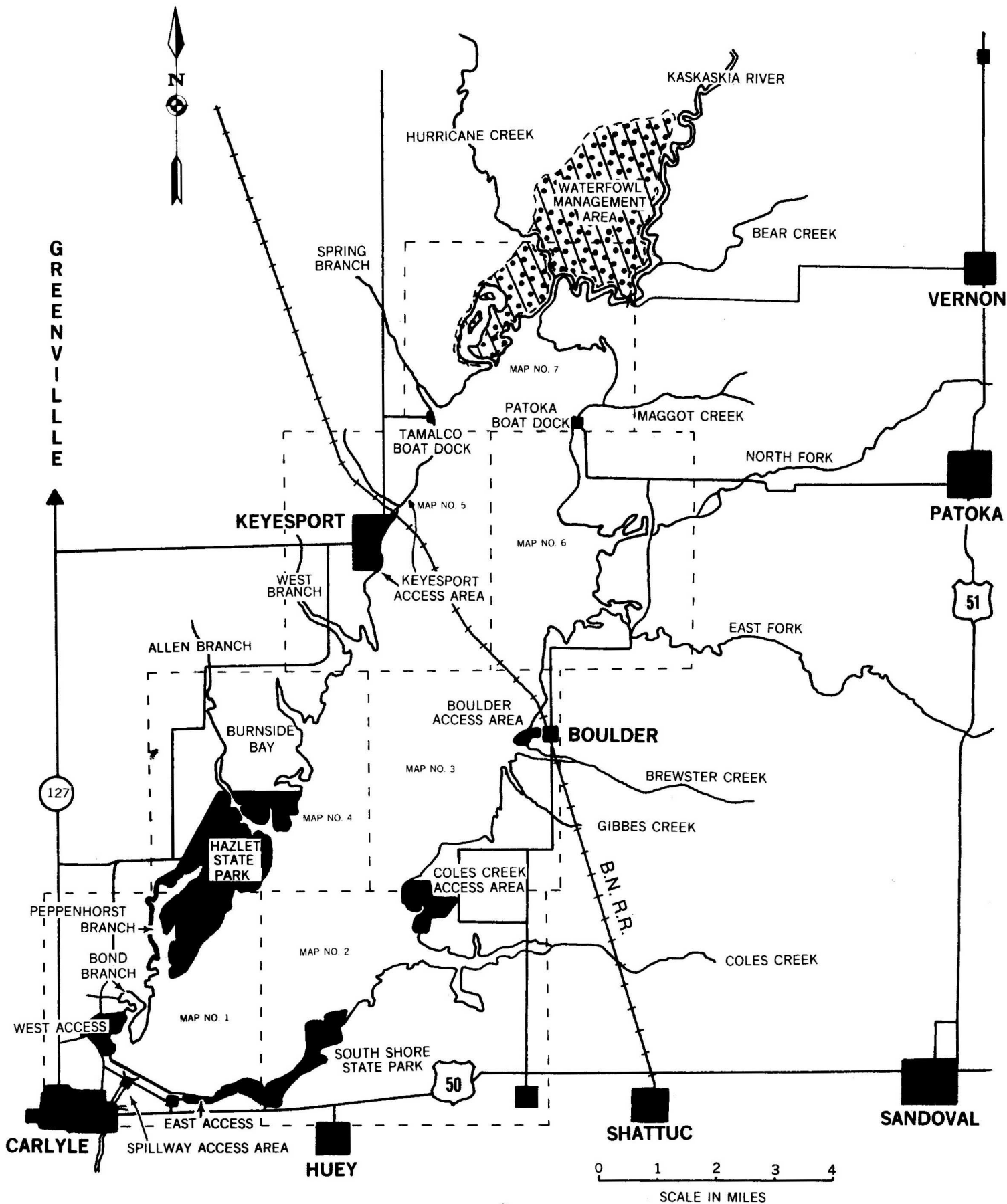
Since Carlyle Lake is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' reservoir, there are a number of federal regulations which must be observed. These regulations are posted on bulletin boards located at all access areas or a copy of these regulations may be obtained by writing to: Carlyle Lake Project Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 801 Lake Road, Carlyle, Illinois, 62231.

BOAT SAFETY

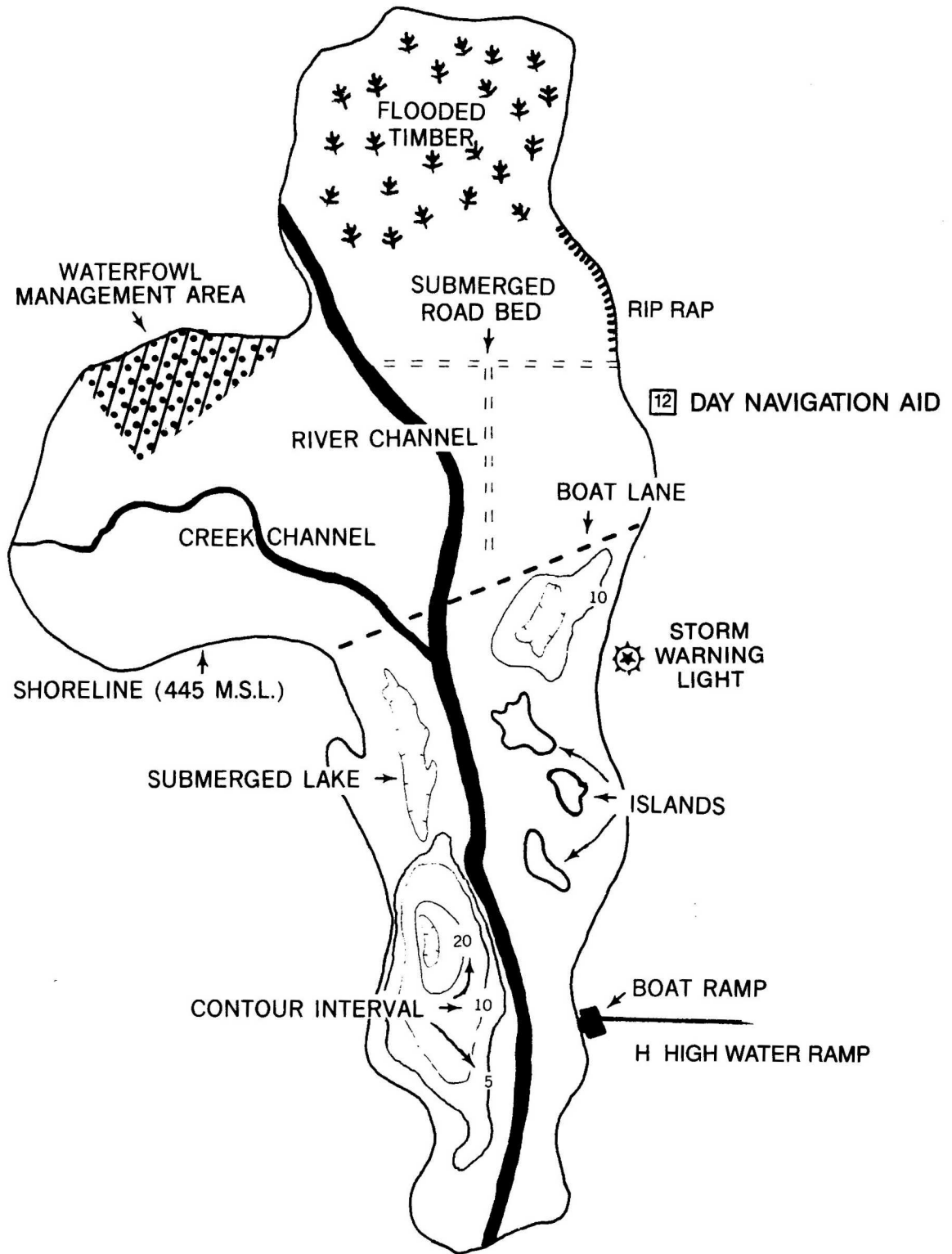
Carlyle lake is a large, wide, body of water and can become quite rough when the wind exceeds 15

m.p.h. All boaters should keep a close eye on the weather. Shallow areas and underwater hazards do exist and one should operate their craft accordingly. Depth maps are excellent guides but they cannot pinpoint floating hazards. Whether boating, fishing, hunting, swimming or camping, "Safety First" is a rule that should be practiced by everyone to insure that their trip is one of happy memories rather than of tragedy. Safety is the responsibility of each individual. Common sense and courtesy should also be a guide to everyone's actions. If each recreationist would follow these simple rules of outdoor etiquette, all trips would be more rewarding, happy and enjoyable experiences — It's up to you!!!





KEY TO SYMBOLS



ALL FOLLOWING MAPS

SCALE = 1 MILE





127

HAZLET STATE PARK

SMALL BOAT RAMP

CAMPING

PEPPENHORST BRANCH

SAILBOAT MARINA

McMILLON LAKE

SHERMAN'S LAKE

BOND BRANCH

WEST ACCESS CAMPING

WEST ACCESS

WEST ACCESS MARINA

CORP ADM. BUILDING

BOAT RAMP

KASKASKIA RIVER CHANNEL

CLUB LAKE

MAP NO. 2 →

CARLYLE

WEST

EAST SPILLWAY ACCESS

BOAT RAMP

OLD RIVER CHANNEL (TAILWATER)

DAM EAST FISHERMAN ACCESS

EAST ACCESS

SOUTH SHORE STATE PARK

BOAT RAMP

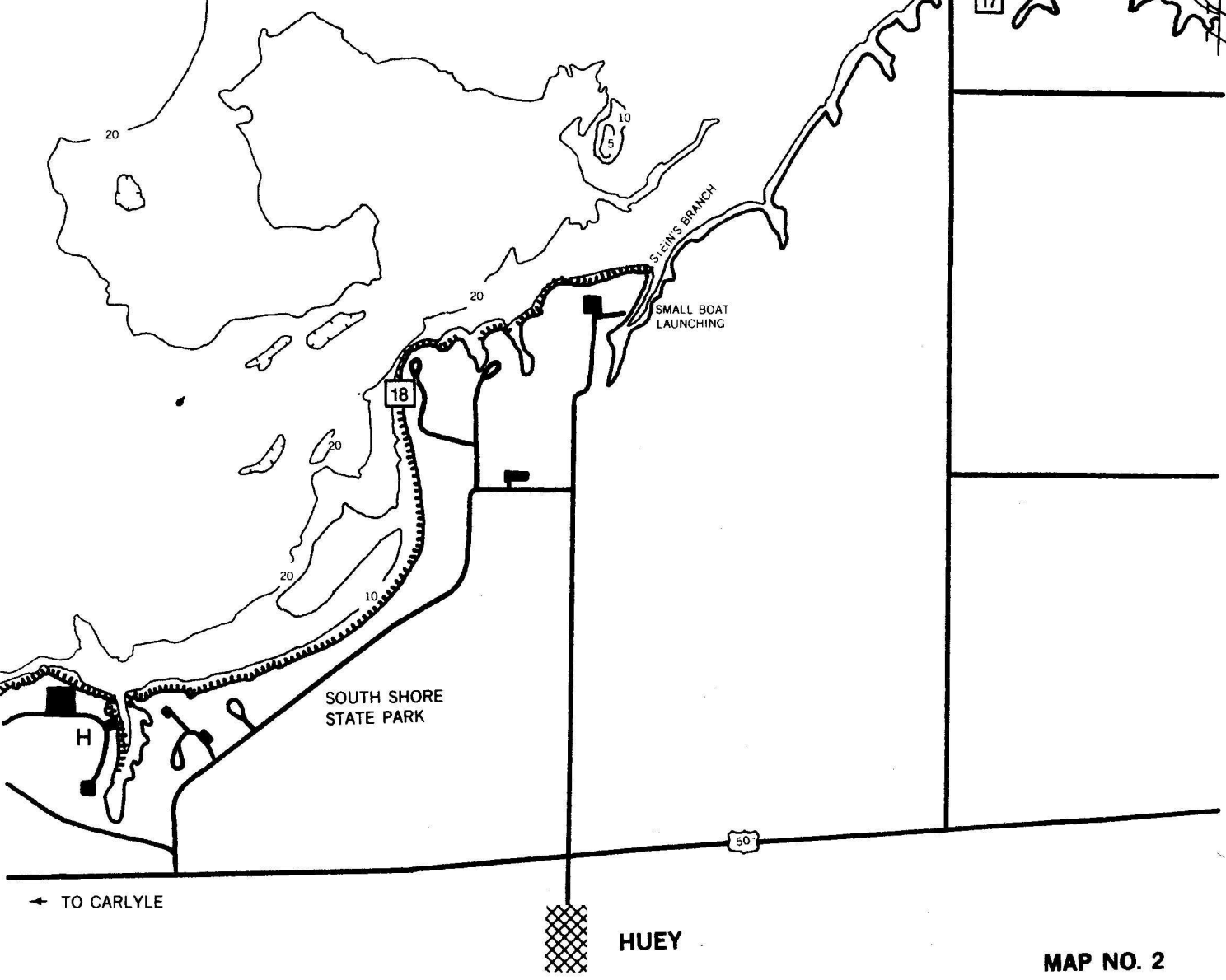
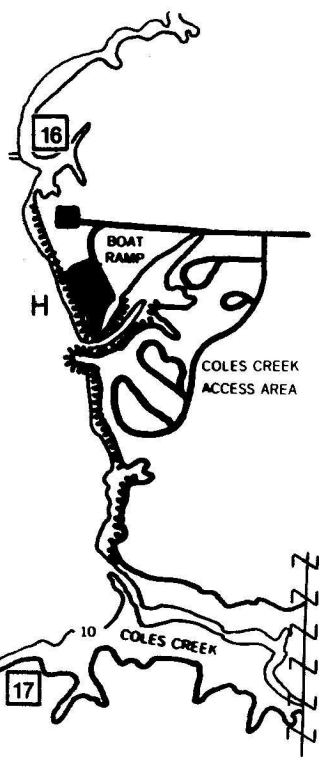
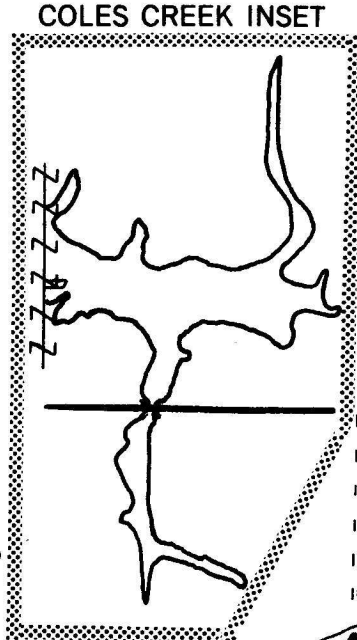
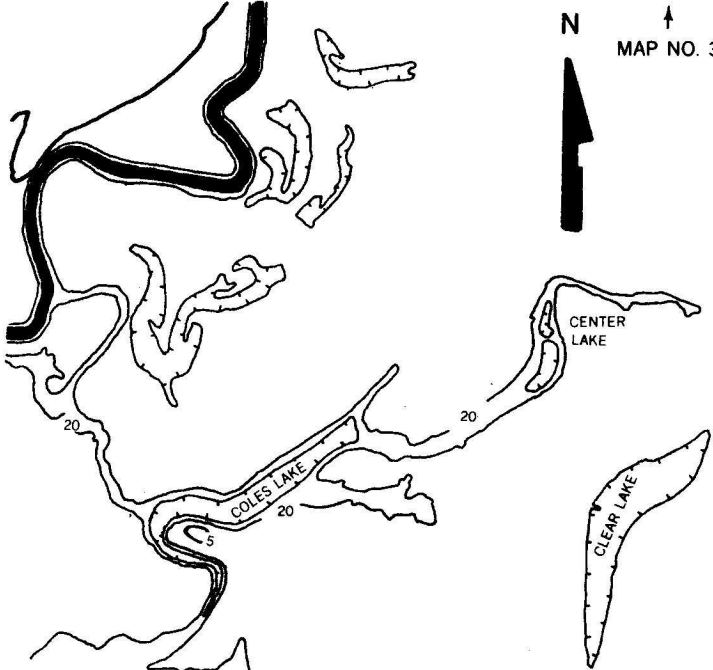
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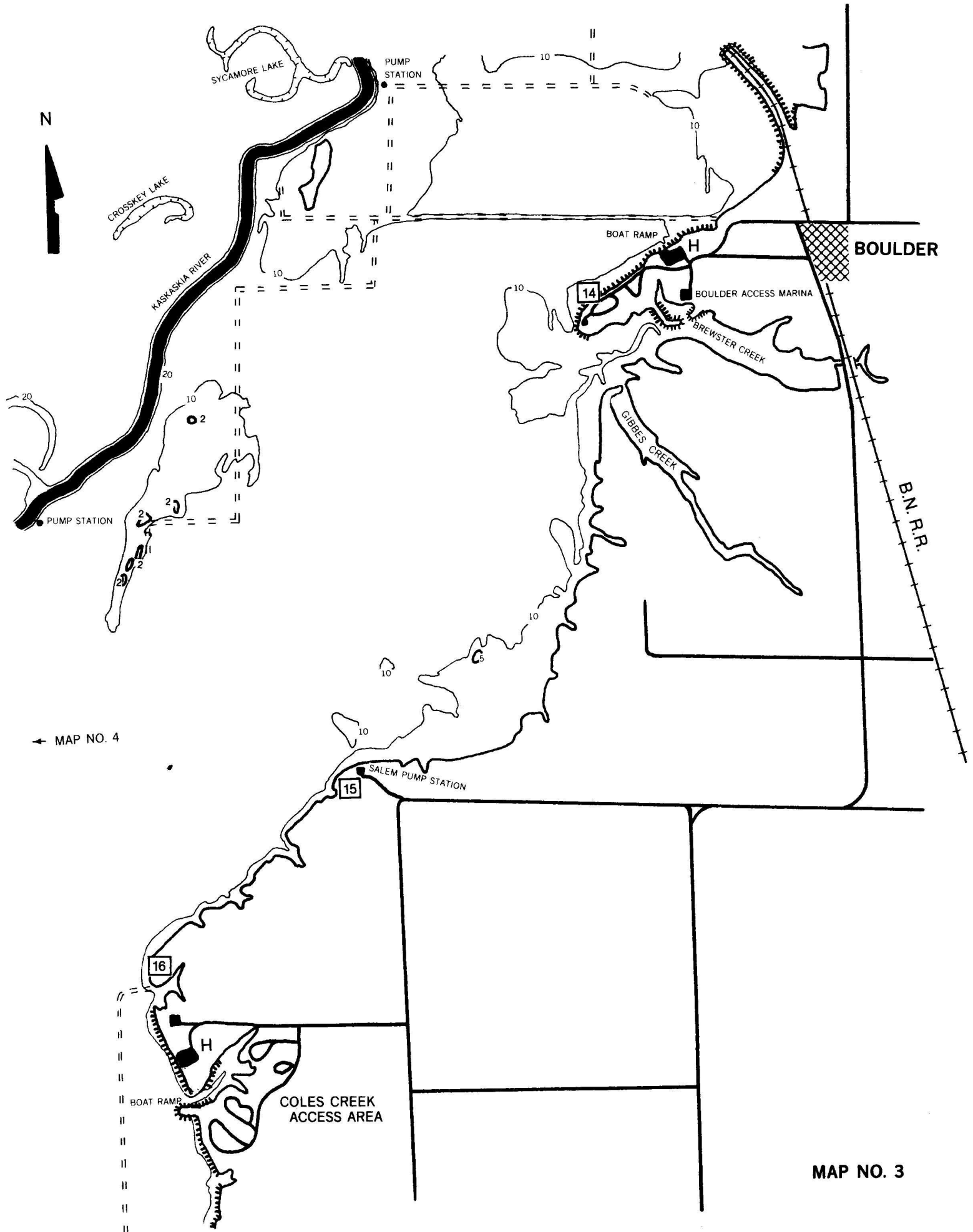
2

1

19

50





← MAP NO. 4

MAP NO. 3

N



MAP NO. 5

6

BURNSIDE BAY

5

PARENT LAKE

PUMP STATION

BOAT RAMP

ALLEN BRANCH

4

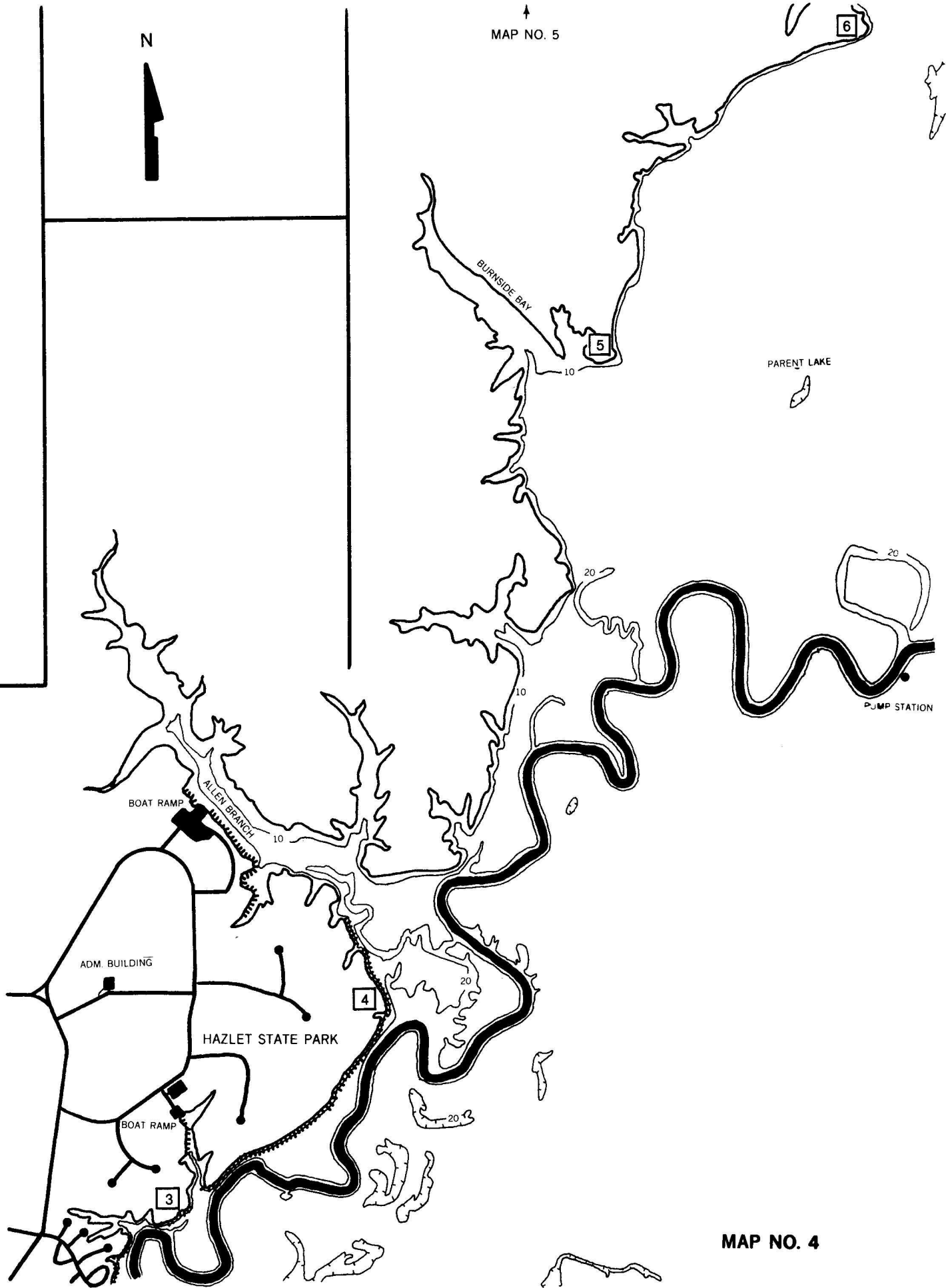
ADM. BUILDING

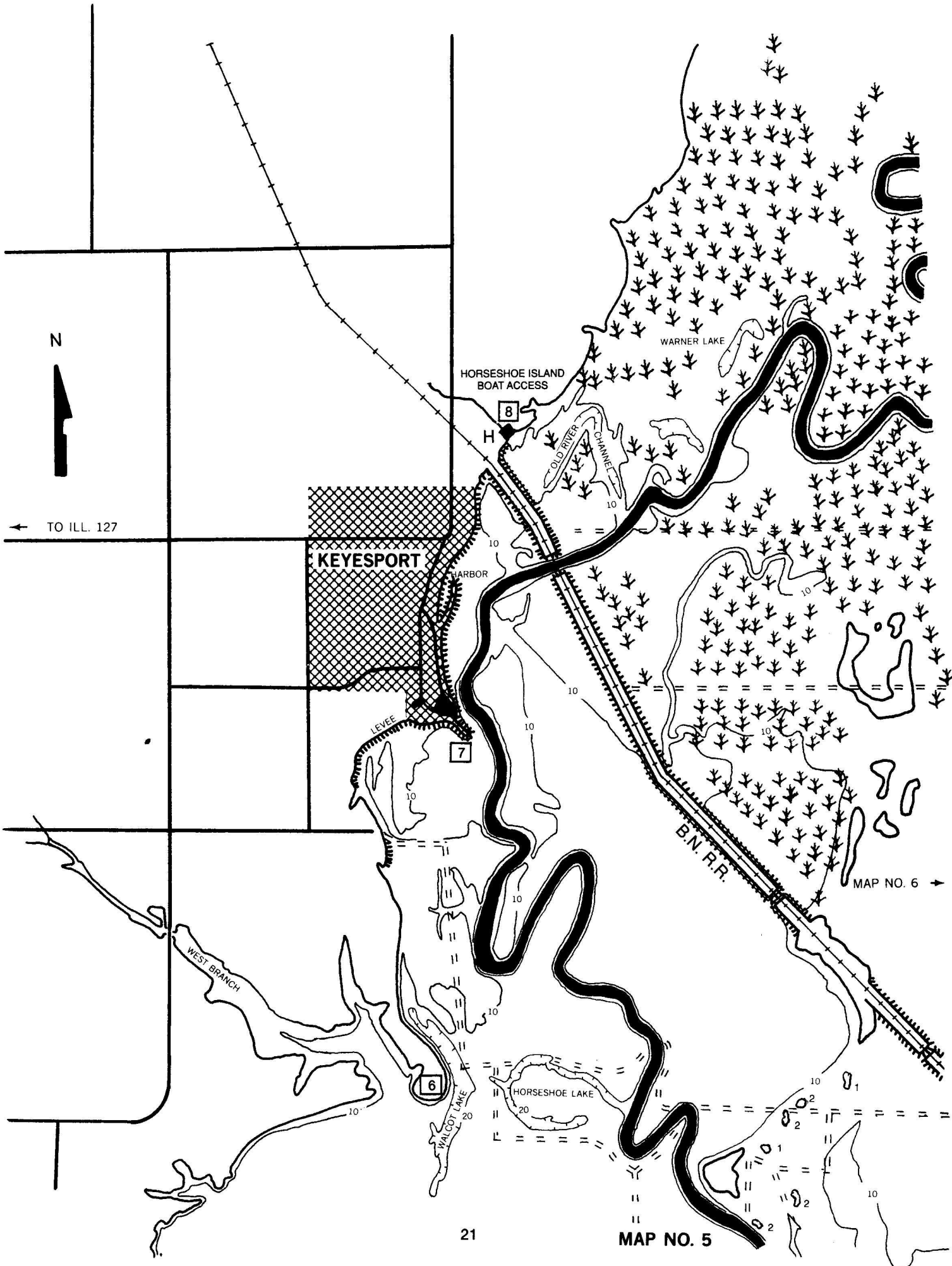
HAZLET STATE PARK

BOAT RAMP

3

MAP NO. 4





N



← TO ILL. 127

KEYESPORT HARBOR

HORSESHOE ISLAND BOAT ACCESS

WARNER LAKE

OLD RIVER CHANNEL

LEVEE

B.N. R.R.

WEST BRANCH

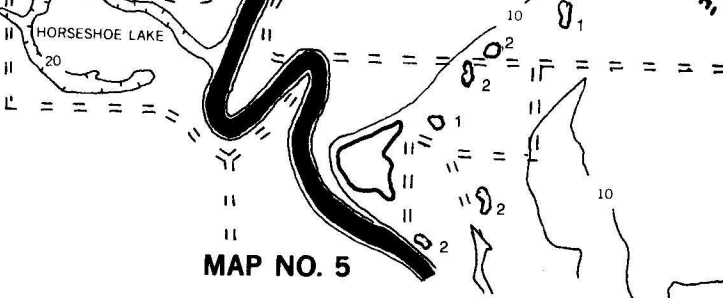
HORSESHOE LAKE

WALCOTT LAKE

21

MAP NO. 5

MAP NO. 6 →



MAP NO. 7



TO PATOKA BOAT RAMP



12

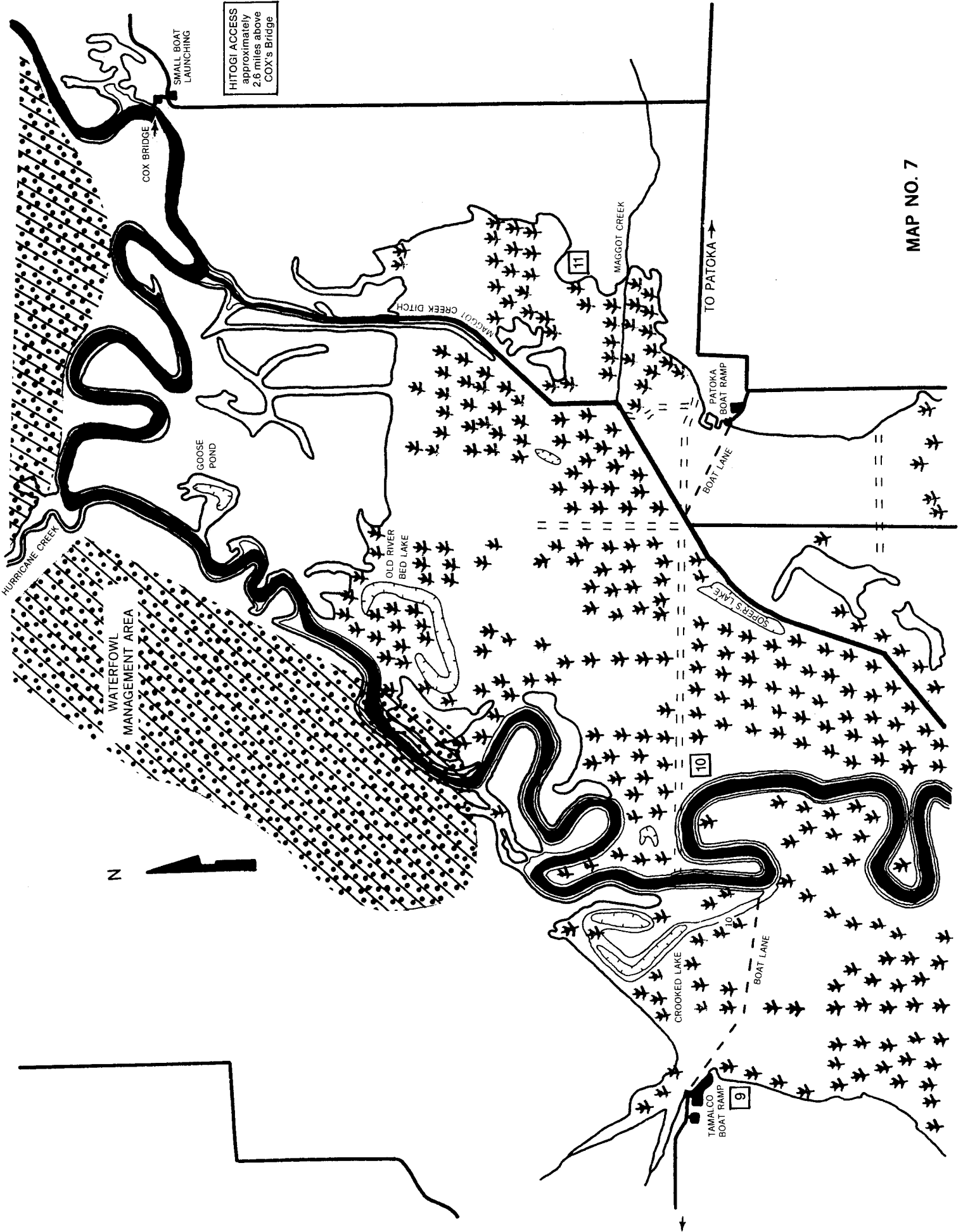
NORTH FORK

EAST FORK

13

TO BOULDER

MAP NO. 6



MAP NO. 7

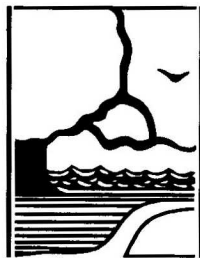


The Sport Fish Restoration Program is a national program that relatively few anglers are aware of. Beginning in 1950 a 10% excise tax was placed on manufacturers of fishing rods, reels, creels, artificial baits, lures, and flies. In 1984 the program was boosted as the tax was extended to tackle boxes and other types of recreational equipment. Additionally a 3% tax was applied to fish finders, electric trolling motors, and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

State resource agencies, such as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, are those benefitted by this program. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the program and reimburses up to 75% of the costs of fisheries management activities for eligible projects. Sport Fish Restoration funds have been used at Carlyle Lake for such activities as:

- Fish stocking
- Rearing of fish in nursery ponds
- Forage fish enhancement
- Fish habitat improvement
- Biological surveys to evaluate past management activities and determine management needs
- Research to solve management problems

This significant infusion of money, coupled with state fishing license revenues, has provided the means for fish management on "Illinois' Largest Lake."



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources received federal financial assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 785-0067 or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor