



# MONEE RESERVOIR

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Monee Reservoir is located in Will County, 2 miles south of Monee off Ridgeland Road and just minutes from Interstate 55.

**DESCRIPTION** – Monee Reservoir is a dug and dammed impoundment constructed in 1916 as a water supply source for steam locomotives. Monee Reservoir was leased and managed by the Izaak Walton League from 1928 through the 1960's. Various lease holders operated the reservoir on a club basis throughout the 1970's. The property was purchased in the 1980's by the Forest Preserve District of Will County. The reservoir was drained, dredged and enlarged in 1990-91 and opened to the public in 1992. Monee Reservoir has a maximum depth of 27.0 feet with an average depth of 9.1 feet and covers 46 surface acres. Monee Reservoir offers diverse habitats, both natural and man-made. The majority of the shoreline is closed to bank fishing and therefore much of the fishery receives modest angling pressure. Boat fishing is restricted to rental boats and watercraft which are available at the site. Electric trolling motors only. An on-site concession stands provide watercraft and motor rentals, bait, tackle, ice, food and soft drinks. Fishing is open daily during open water - ice fishing is not allowed.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Monee Reservoir is surveyed on a biennial basis, incorporated various gear types. Aquatic vegetation is managed by the Forest Preserve District, in cooperation with the IDNR.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** –Monee Reservoir receives annual stockings of 8” to 10” channel catfish. Black crappie have also been recently stocked while the northern pike stocking program was terminated in 2005. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body. *A special mercury advisory is in effect for largemouth bass of all sizes which limits consumption to one meal per week for the most sensitive populations.*

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – In the fall 2017 survey, bass were collected at the rate of 72 per hour of electrofishing and ranged from 2.8” to 16.9”. 52% of this collection was comprised of bass 12” and larger with 12.2% of the collection legal size. Bass 17” and larger were not collected in this survey although site reports indicate larger bass are caught annually.

**BLUEGILL** – During the fall 2017, bluegills were collected at a whopping rate of 270 per hour of electrofishing. This was due to the prevalence of young fish in the collection. Larger bluegills were not common in either the fall survey or early spring trap netting.

**REDEAR SUNFISH** – The collection of redear sunfish in the 2017 fall survey declined by 50% from the previous fall survey. This species did dominate the spring trap netting catch with fish averaging 9.4” and several collected which exceeded one pound.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – IDNR sampling in 2017 showed no improvement in the black crappie population, which has been in decline for several years. The additions of nearly 13,000 fish from 2016-2017 appear to have met with low survival.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Stocked annually, this population provides excellent angling opportunities with fish ranging in size and some exceeding 24 inches. The average size channel catfish collected in the 2017 fall survey measured 23.4” at an average weight of 3.2 pounds.

**YELLOW PERCH** - The result of an unauthorized release, it appears that yellow perch are reproducing and have successfully become established. The 2017 fall survey produced the highest number of perch ever collected in a DNR survey at an average length of 7.7". Several large adults (10"-11") were collected in spring trap netting as well.

**Length of Selected Species Collected in the 2017 Fall Survey (all gear types combined)**

| Species         | Number of Fish Caught in Each Length Group (Inches) |     |      |       |       |       |       |     |       |
|-----------------|---|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
|                 | 0-5   | 6-8 | 9-11 | 12-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30+ | Total |
| Largemouth bass | 22  | 12  | 10   | 35    | 11    | 0     | 0     | 0   | 90    |
| Bluegill        | 305   | 14  | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 319   |
| Redear sunfish  | 4   | 13  | 8    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 25    |
| Black crappie   | 0   | 2   | 1    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 3     |
| Warmouth        | 1   | 10  | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 11    |
| Channel catfish | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 7     | 2     | 0   | 9     |
| Yellow perch    | 1   | 26  | 3    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 30    |
| Golden shiner   | 3   | 1   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 4     |

**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

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15" minimum length limit ; 1 fish daily creel limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 15 fish daily creel limit

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Monee Reservoir: 708/534-8499  
 or visit the Will County Forest Preserve website at <http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>  
 IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.

**Map**

**Monee Reservoir**

