



Mt. Olive Old City Lake Fisheries Fact Sheet

Location: Southeastern Macoupin County, 1 mile northwest of Mt. Olive, IL. The boat ramp can be accessed from Old Reservoir Road.

Area: 30.6 acres; maximum depth 29 feet; length of shoreline 3 miles.

Lake History and Characteristics: This is one of two water supply lakes for the City of Mt. Olive. Water clarity is generally good. Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, and crappie should provide for good sport fishing opportunities.

Largemouth Bass: The Largemouth Bass population in this lake looks healthy. The 2021 electrofishing survey yielded a catch rate of 104 Largemouth Bass/hour of electrofishing which is the second highest catch rate in the past 12 years. The size structure of the bass population looks good with 72% being over 12 inches in length, 28% being over 15 inches, and 2% over 18 inches (based on bass collected that were 8 inches or longer).

Bluegill: The Bluegill population in this lake offers good fishing for fish 7 inches or greater. In our 2021 survey, 26.4% of the catchable Bluegill (Bluegill > 3") exceeded 7" and 11.8% were longer than 8".

Channel Catfish: A Channel Catfish population is maintained in this lake through supplemental stockings from IDNR hatcheries. Channel Catfish are stocked biennially, and the most recent stocking was in July of 2020. No Channel Catfish were captured in the 2021 survey, but this is not unexpected because the electrofishing gear used is not calibrated to target catfish. Two Channel Catfish longer than 20 inches were captured in the 2018 survey.

White Crappie/Black Crappie: In the 2021 survey, 11 White Crappie measuring 9.6 - 13.9 inches and weighing up to 1.3 lbs were collected. Six Black Crappie measuring 9.0 - 13.1 inches and weighing up to 1 lb were also collected. Approximately 1/3 of the crappie captured were longer than 12 inches.

Other fish species: Redear Sunfish and Warmouth were collected in small numbers.

Fishing Regulations:

All Fish – 2 pole and line fishing only

Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass - 15" Minimum Length Limit, 3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Channel Catfish – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect.

For further regulation information, consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Information Booklet available at ifishillinois.org.

Contacts:

IDNR Fisheries Biologist, Eric Ratcliff, 618-931-4217.

City of Mt. Olive, Water Works, (217) 999-2651.