



# Sam Parr Lake

## Fisheries Fact Sheet

Sam Parr Lake was constructed in Sam Parr State Park near Newton in 1971 through the cooperative efforts of the Illinois Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal funds for construction of the lake were provided through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.

**Location:** Sam Parr Lake is located in Jasper County, approximately 3 miles northeast of Newton Illinois on IL Rt. 33.

**Area:** Sam Parr Lake has a surface area of 180 acres, a maximum depth of 28 feet, and a mean depth of 10 feet. The lake has 9.5 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 3,950 acres.

**Status of the Sport Fishery:** The sport fish population in Sam Parr Lake is comprised of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, white crappie, and channel catfish. The lake also contains common carp and gizzard shad. The fish population is surveyed annually, and summaries below are based on the results of the most recent population survey and four-year trends in the population indices.

**Largemouth Bass** – All of the largemouth bass size structure indices met their lake management plan goals. The electrofishing catch rate decreased from the 2020 survey but remained well above the target. Approximately 27% of the adult bass in the sample were larger than the 14” minimum length limit. Average body condition remained below the lake management plan target, but the body condition of bass over 16” was very good. The discrepancy in body condition is likely a result of the strong gizzard shad population in the lake. Nearly 50% of the gizzard shad collected in recent surveys have exceeded 7” in length and have not been available as a prey source for the smaller bass. In 2022, anglers can expect most keeper bass to be 1.3 – 5 pounds with a few larger fish over 6 pounds.

**Bluegill** – Size structure of the bluegill population remained stable and poor. Average body condition remained above the lake management plan target. The bluegill sample collected in 2021 continued to be comprised almost entirely of fish under 7” in length. The precipitous decline in the quality of the bluegill population coincided with the 2005 appearance of gizzard shad. Anglers can expect most fish to range from 5” – 7” and weigh from 0.1 – 0.22 pounds.

**Crappie** – Sam Parr Lake contains both white and black crappie, but the size structures of the populations are very different. Black crappie have become the more numerous/dominant species in recent years. Black crappie average body condition was at the lake management plan minimum target, while white crappie body condition fell below target. The white crappie sample collected in 2021 was comprised mostly of a few larger and older fish and a strong class of fish below 8”. Nearly 60% of the adult black crappie were in the 8” – 10” size range and 20% exceeded 9”. Anglers can expect to see most fish in the 8” – 10” range, with black crappie being the more prevalent species. However, small fish of both species will also be abundant. Most black crappie caught will likely weigh between 0.25 and 0.5 pounds and larger white crappie may weigh more than 1 pound.

**Harvest of smaller crappie at Sam Parr Lake is encouraged.**

**Channel Catfish** – Catfish remain relatively abundant in Sam Parr Lake and should provide good fishing opportunities in the coming year. Most fish will range from 1 – 4 pounds with a few larger fish over 5 pounds. This lake provides many bank fishing opportunities. The best places to fish include the rip-rap along the dam, the upper ends of the two main arms of the lake, and in the backs of coves.

**Fishing Regulations:** Two pole and line fishing only

<b>Species</b>	<b>Daily Creel Limit</b>	<b>Minimum Length Limit</b>
Largemouth Bass	6	14”
Channel Catfish	6	

**Additional Regulations:** Boats with outboard motors must operate at No-Wake/Idle speed in all parts of the lake, regardless of motor size (no horsepower limit).

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