



# Borah Lake

## Fisheries Fact Sheet

Borah Lake was constructed by the City of Olney in 1954 to serve as a water supply reservoir. Annual boat stickers and City of Olney tournament permits are required.

**Location:** Borah Lake is located in Richland County, approximately 1 mile north of Olney Illinois.

**Area:** Borah Lake has a surface area of 137 acres, a maximum depth of 26 feet, and a mean depth of 11 feet. The lake has 15 miles of shoreline and a watershed of 2,155 acres.

**Status of the Sport Fishery:** The sport fish population in Borah Lake is comprised primarily of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, crappie, and channel catfish. The lake is stocked annually with channel catfish. The lake also contains flathead catfish and yellow bullheads. 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.

**Bass:** The size structure of the largemouth bass population remained good and similar to last year. Average body condition decreased slightly from last year's sample, but remained above the lake management plan target. All size classes of bass met or exceeded the lake management plan goals and electrofishing catch rates remained high. Currently, 25% of the adult bass population exceeds the 14" minimum length limit and 17% of the adult bass are within the 15" – 20" size range. Bass fishing should be fair to good in 2021 with most keeper fish ranging from 14" – 18" in length and weighing 1 – 3 pounds.

**Bluegill/Redear:** Bluegill growth rates remain good and electrofishing catch rates remain high. However, body condition decreased to just below the lake management plan target. Most adult bluegill in the sample were between 5" – 7.5" long. The redear sunfish population in Borah Lake is doing very well. Nearly 40% of the adult redear collected were over 9" long and 30% exceeded 10" in length. Overall, the sunfish populations remain in good shape and should provide some quality fishing for both of these species in the coming year.

**Crappie:** Both black and white crappie are abundant in the lake and the size structure and condition for both of these species are fair. Approximately, 31% of the adult white crappie in this year's sample exceeded 9" in length and 19% were 10" or longer. However, only 6% of the adult black crappie were over 9" long and no black crappie over 10" were collected. Most crappie in 2021 are expected to be between 6" – 9", with some fish exceeding 10" and weighing more than ½ of a pound. Crappie fishing should be good in the coming year. **Harvest of smaller crappie is encouraged.**

**Catfish:** The channel catfish population is in good shape and their body condition is very good ( $Wr = 102$ ). Channel catfish should provide good fishing opportunities in the coming year. Fish in the 1 – 6 pound range should be common, with some fish nearing 10 pounds. A single large flathead catfish was also collected this year (31.5 pounds and 42.5 inches long).

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

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	14"
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25 collectively	None
Channel Catfish	6	None

**Additional Regulations:** City boat stickers and tournament permits are required. Boat stickers are available at Olney City Hall and local bait shops. Tournament permits are available at Olney City Hall.

**Contacts:** Olney City Hall 618/393-2130; IDNR Fisheries 618/393-6732.

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