



HORSESHOE LAKE ALEXANDER COUNTY

2017 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Horseshoe Lake is located in Alexander County at the Horseshoe Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area just south of Olive Branch, IL.

DESCRIPTION: Horseshoe Lake is 1890 acres in size with a maximum depth of 5-6 feet. There are numerous boat launching sites around the Lake as well as campgrounds. The Lake resembles a southern swamp with bald cypress and tupelo gum trees growing throughout.

MOTOR RESTRICTION – There is a 10 HP motor limit on Horseshoe Lake. Only trolling motors are allowed in the refuge from October 15 through March 1.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on fish population biennial surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The next survey is planned for spring of 2018. The extensive woody vegetation and shallow nature of Horseshoe Lake make it very difficult to sample.

Largemouth Bass - During the 2016 spring electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 3 fish per hour. Of the five bass collected only 1 (16 inches) was over the 14 inch size limit. LMB fishing for 2017 can only be rated as poor.

Crappie – Of the 17 white crappie collected in the 2016 survey, 45% were over 9 inches in length and 45% were over 10 inches in length. No black crappie were collected in the 2016.

Bluegill Sunfish – Only 10 bluegill were collected during the 2016 survey and none were over 8 inches in length.

Redear Sunfish – No redear sunfish were collected during the 2016 survey.

Channel Catfish – No channel catfish were collected during the 2016 survey.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	
Channel Catfish	6	None
Largemouth Bass	6	14"

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-687-4546. Horseshoe Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area 618-776-5689.