

LAKE MURPHYSBORO

2023 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: This lake is located within Lake Murphysboro State Park just west of Murphysboro in Jackson County.

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1950, this 145-acre lake has a shoreline length of 7.5 miles and a maximum depth of 36 feet. All boat motors over 10 HP must operate at no wake speed. There are three campgrounds within Lake Murphysboro State Park.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on annual fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Largemouth Bass – The opportunity to catch bass over 15 inches and weighing 2-3 pounds is excellent in this lake. During the 2022 fall electrofishing survey, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 174 fish per hour with 39% of the bass measuring 15 inches or better. Eleven percent of the bass collected were over 18 inches. The 2021 and 2022 bass surveys were two of the best surveys on record for this lake. Thirteen LMB over 4 pounds were collected in the 2022 survey. The largest bass collected was just shy of 7 pounds. This lake has a tremendous bass population.

Crappie – Lake Murphysboro has a good crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Of the 81 crappie collected in the 2022 fall electrofishing survey, 33% were over nine-inches in length and 5% were over 10 inches in length.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population structure can only be described as average. During the 2022 fall electrofishing survey a few 7+ inch bluegill were collected. No bluegill over 8 inches were collected.

Redear Sunfish – While the bluegill population can only be described as average, the redear population shows a little more promise. While not numerous, RSF over 8 inches are present. A few RSF over 9 inches were also collected.

Catfish – IDNR stocks channel catfish into Lake Murphysboro every year. These annual stockings have produced excellent angling opportunities for 2-5 pound channel catfish. Fourteen channel catfish (12-22 inches) were collected in 2022. Two flathead catfish (30-36 inches) were collected with the largest weighing 23 pounds.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	3	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

FISHING TOURNAMENTS: Tournaments are limited to a maximum of 8 boats.

FISH ATTRACTORS – A map of the Lake Murphysboro fish attractor locations can be obtained via email by sending a request to Shawn.Hirst@Illinois.gov

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION – Lake Murphysboro receives very little recreational boat traffic throughout the year (no swimming is allowed). There are two boat ramps available for use. There are no concessions at Lake Murphysboro State Park. All boat motors over 10 HP must operate at no wake speed.

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. Lake Murphysboro State Park 618-684-2867.