



# COFFEEN LAKE

## FISHERIES FACT SHEET

Coffeen Lake is under a management agreement between The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Vistra Energy for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. IDNR entered into an agreement with the utility company in the 1980's to provide public access for fishing and day use on Coffeen Lake. The lake is a cooling facility for Vistra Energy's coal-fired power station.

**LOCATION:** Coffeen Lake is in Montgomery County, seven miles southeast of Hillsboro.

**DESCRIPTION:** This 1,102 acre lake has 48 miles of shoreline. There are two concrete boat ramps, one at the north end of the lake and the main ramp near the site office. The main ramp has handicapped access facilities. This lake has lots of submersed aquatic plants, primarily coontail and milfoil. Shore angler access is available near the boat ramps. There is 25 HP limit for boat motors.

**CONCESSION:** There are no concessions available on site but bait and supplies are available in nearby Hillsboro or Greenville.

**HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY:** The IDNR Division of Fisheries annually monitors the status of the fishery of Coffeen Lake. Black crappie and blue catfish have been stocked in the lake in recent years.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** - This lake has an excellent largemouth bass population. The bass numbers and size quality has been consistently good for many years. Natural reproduction and recruitment also appears to be consistently good. The 2018 survey showed 45% of the adult bass collected were over 15 inches and 8% were over 18 inches. Largemouth bass fishing is good year round due to the power plant's warm water discharge. This lake has earned a reputation as one of the best bass fishing lakes in the state and hosts many bass tournaments.

**CRAPPIE** - The crappie population supports another very popular fishery at this lake. Crappie numbers are not high but the size quality and condition are excellent. The 2018 showed 70% of the adult black crappie collected were over 10 inches and 22% were over 12 inches.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – This lake supports a good population of channel catfish although few are collected in our surveys. The channel catfish collected in the 2018 survey ranged from 15-20 inches with an average weight of 1.4 lbs.

**BLUE CATFISH AND FLATHEAD CATFISH** – This lake has a few flathead catfish and the ones we see in our surveys are always large (20-50 lbs.). Blue catfish have been stocked in recent years and they seem to be surviving and growing well. Several over 15 inches have been caught by anglers.

### **FISHING REGULATIONS:**

**All jugs must be attended at all time while fishing**

**Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass - 15" Minimum Length Limit**

**Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass – 3 Fish Dailey Creel Limit**

**Black and/or White Crappie – 10" Minimum Length Limit**

**Black and/or White Crappie – 10 Fish Daily Creel Limit**

For more information contact Coffeen Lake IDNR Office 217-537-3351 or IDNR Fisheries Biologist 618-931-4217