

West Frankfort New City Lake

Fisheries Fact Sheet

West Frankfort New City Lake is a 214-acre city-owned impoundment located approximately 5 miles east of West Frankfort, Illinois and just south of Route 149 in Franklin County. The lake is mostly surrounded by homes and has an improved boat ramp.

Largemouth bass: Largemouth bass were found in West Frankfort New City Lake in slightly lower numbers in spring 2021 (46 were collected per hour of electrofishing), but body condition of these fish was excellent. Eighty three percent were larger than 12 inches, 65 percent were over 15 inches, and 48 percent exceeded 18 inches in length. Population indices met or exceeded the management plan goal for largemouth bass in West Frankfort New City Lake.

Bluegill: Bluegill abundance in West Frankfort New City Lake in 2021 was high, as evidenced by a catch rate of 462 per hour of electrofishing. Quality of these fish was good with 36% larger than 6 inches. Bluegill body condition remained good.

Crappie: Good numbers of white crappie (104 per hour) were included in the 2021 West Frankfort New City Lake sample. Average body condition was substandard, an indication of an overcrowded condition relative to the available food supply. Black crappie were collected at a low rate of 14/hr in 2021.

Channel catfish: Numbers of channel catfish sampled slightly increased in 2021 (56 per hour), and sizes ranged from 12 to 22 inches with very good body condition. The channel catfish population of West Frankfort New City Lake is maintained by supplemental stockings accomplished every other year.

Yellow bass: Yellow bass were collected in West Frankfort New City Lake in spring 2021, and these fish compete for food with sunfish and other small predators. In order to reduce the yellow bass population, anglers are encouraged to remove any that are caught.

Regulations in effect: Largemouth bass – 15 inch length limit and 3 per day creel. Channel catfish – 6 per day creel. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information.

Additional Fisheries Information can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Luke Nelson at 618-364-5381