

Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area – Island Lake

2025 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

LOCATION: Island Lake is located in Jackson County at the Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area just east of DeSoto, IL. There is a single-lane gravel boat ramp at this lake. Gas motors are allowed but must operate at no wake speeds.

DESCRIPTION: There is a single lane gravel boat ramp at this 216 acre lake. All fishing at Island Lake and the entire site is closed from November 1 through the end of February.

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

Lake History – This lake is connected to the Little Muddy River and contains all the fish you would find in the Little Muddy River. Of the 60 total fish collected in the survey, 33 were smallmouth buffalo (11-16 inches). Asian carp were also observed but not collected. The connection to the Little Muddy River severely limits fisheries management activities at this lake.

Largemouth Bass – The largemouth bass population in this lake is poor. During the 2024 spring electrofishing sample, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 15 fish per hour. Of the 5 bass collected, 2 were over 15 inches and 1 was over 16 inches. No bass over 18 inches were collected. The largest bass collected in the 2024 survey weighed 2.6 pounds.

Crappie – One black crappie was collected and measured 10 inches and 0.6 pounds. No white crappie were collected during the survey.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is stunted and no bluegill over 7 inches were collected.

Redear Sunfish – No redear sunfish were collected in the 2024 spring survey.

Catfish – No catfish were collected in the survey. There have been reports of angler catches of both channel catfish and flathead catfish.

White Bass – Two white bass (12-14 inches) were collected in the survey.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14” and 1 over 18”	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Channel Catfish	6	None
Crappie	25	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	Bow Fishing is Allowed

CLOSED FISHING SEASON – No fishing from November 1 through the end of February.

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Shawn Hirst 618-559-5009. Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area 618-521-8873.