



MONEE RESERVOIR

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Monee Reservoir is located in Will County, 2 miles south of Monee off Ridgeland Road and just minutes from Interstate 55.

DESCRIPTION – Monee Reservoir is a dug and dammed impoundment constructed in 1916 as a water supply source for steam locomotives. Monee Reservoir was leased and managed by the Izaak Walton League from 1928 through the 1960's. Various lease holders operated the reservoir on a club basis throughout the 1970's. The property was purchased in the 1980's by the Forest Preserve District of Will County. The reservoir was drained, dredged and enlarged in 1990-91 and opened to the public in 1992. Monee Reservoir has a maximum depth of 27.0 feet with an average depth of 9.1 feet and covers 46 surface acres. Monee Reservoir offers diverse habitats, both natural and man-made. The majority of the shoreline is closed to bank fishing and therefore much of the fishery receives modest angling pressure. Boat fishing is restricted to rental boats and watercraft which are available at the site. Electric trolling motors only. An on-site concession stands provide watercraft and motor rentals, bait, tackle, ice, food and soft drinks. Fishing is open daily during open water - ice fishing is not allowed.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Monee Reservoir is surveyed on a biennial basis, incorporating various gear types. Aquatic vegetation is managed by the Forest Preserve District, in cooperation with the IDNR.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Monee Reservoir receives annual stockings of 8" to 10" channel catfish. Black crappie have also been recently stocked while the northern pike stocking program was terminated in 2005. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body. *A special mercury advisory is in effect for largemouth bass of all sizes which limits consumption to one meal per week for the most sensitive populations.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In the fall 2015 survey, bass were collected at the rate of 84 per hour of electrofishing and ranged from 2.8" to 21.7", averaging 12.2". 12% of the adult bass sampled were 18" or larger with 27.4% of the collection legal size (15"). Largemouth bass in the 4- to 5-pound class are commonly collected during IDNR sampling and site reports indicate larger bass are caught annually.

BLUEGILL – During the fall 2015, bluegills were collected at the rate of 186 per hour of electrofishing. Bluegills which were 7" and larger comprised nearly 25% of the adults collected. The largest bluegills sampled eclipsed 9".

REDEAR SUNFISH – In a collection nearly identical to the previous survey a total of 57 redear sunfish were collected ranging from 2.0" to 11.0" and 1.1 pound. The average length was 7.1". Generally more difficult to locate than bluegills, redear sunfish are usually larger than their bluegill counterparts.

BLACK CRAPPIE – This species has been in a "down" cycle for the past several years. Only two adults were collected during targeted spring trap netting. The 2015 fall survey yielded equally poor results. Hopefully successful recruitment of stocked fish will help this popular fishery to rebound.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Stocked annually, this population provides excellent angling opportunities with fish ranging in size and some exceeding 24 inches. The average size channel catfish collected in the 2015 survey measured 20.3".

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

Boaters - Trolling motor only

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit ; 1 fish daily creel limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 15 fish daily creel limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Monee Reservoir: 708/534-8499
or visit the Will County Forest Preserve website at
<http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.

Monee Reservoir Map

