

# LAKE MURPHYSBORO

## 2025 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 2024 fall electrofishing survey, largemouth bass were collected at a rate of 173 fish per hour with 16% of the bass measuring 15 inches or better. Five percent of the bass collected were over 18 inches. Five bass over 4 pounds were collected in the 2024 survey. The largest bass collected was 6.3 pounds.

**Crappie** – Lake Murphysboro has a good crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Of the 89 crappie collected in the 2024 fall electrofishing survey, 42% were over nine-inches in length and 10% were over 10 inches in length. The largest crappie collected was a 13-inch white crappie that weighed just over 1 pound.

**Bluegill Sunfish** – The bluegill population structure can only be described as average. During the 2024 fall electrofishing survey no bluegill over 7 inches were collected. No bluegill over 8 inches have been collected in previous surveys at this lake.

**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. The largest RSF collected was 10 inches and weighed just over 0.5 pounds.

**Catfish** – IDNR stocks channel catfish into Lake Murphysboro every year. These annual stockings have produced excellent angling opportunities for 2-5 pound channel catfish. Ten channel catfish (13-20 inches) were collected in 2024. Two flathead catfish (25-38 inches) were collected with the largest weighing 28 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](mailto: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.