

## Lake Centralia Overview 2019 - 2020

### Boone La Hood IDNR Fisheries Biologist

#### Current Status:

##### Bass:

- Size structure of the population is very good with all population indices meeting or exceeding their targets.
- Currently 23% of the adult population collected in the survey exceeded 15" in length.
- CPUE improved to 151 fish per hr., and bass body condition improved ( $Wr = 95$ ).
- Reproduction and recruitment are also good with several strong year classes of bass under 15" in length.
- Growth rates are above average and these smaller fish should contribute to the creel in the coming years.
- Fishing should be good in 2020 with most legal fish ranging from 15" – 20" and weighing 1.5 – 4 lbs.

##### Crappie:

- Both black and white crappie are present in Lake Centralia
- The size structure of the white crappie population has improved over the past year and remains good.
- Black crappie are more prevalent than white crappie, but their size structure remains poor.
- Approximately 27% of the adult white crappie in our sample exceeded 10" in length.
- Most black crappie sampled were less than 10" in length.
- Average body condition for both white and black crappie fell just below the target level ( $Wr = 89$ ).
- Anglers should expect most crappies to be 8" – 10" in length.
- Fishing should be good in the coming year with the best fish ranging from 0.5 – 1.25 lbs.

##### Bluegill:

- The size structure of the bluegill population remains fair.
- No 8" fish were collected during the survey and only 3.6% of the adult bluegill were  $\geq 7$ ".
- The catch rate was good (332/hr.), and the body condition of the fish improved ( $Wr = 92$ ).
- Bluegill fishing is expected to be fair in the coming year.
- Anglers can expect to catch an abundance of fish 5" – 7" in length weighing 0.10 to 0.25 pounds.

##### Catfish:

- As a result of recent stocking efforts, the channel catfish population density is improving but remains low.
- The lake will be stocked annually with non-vulnerable ( $\geq 8$ ") fingerlings at a rate of up to 30 per acre.
- Catfish growth rates and body condition remain very good ( $Wr = 98$ ).
- Fishing in the coming year will be fair to good with the majority of fish ranging from 1 – 5 lbs.

**Wr = Relative weight.** It is a mathematical relationship between length and weight used to describe body condition. A score of 90 or above is considered good and a score of 100 and above is excellent. Any score under 90 is considered below optimal.

**CPUE = Catch per Unit Effort.** This is the catch rate and, unless noted otherwise, is the total number collected per hour of electrofishing.