



DONGOLA CITY LAKE

2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Dongola City Lake is located in Union County west of Dongola. From Dongola, head west on Mill Street/Lake Road and turn north onto Howell Lane/Mill Creek Road.

DESCRIPTION: Dongola City Lake is 58 acres in size. There is a single lane boat ramp with dock. There are no restrooms or concessions available.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a summary of sport fish species based on fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Surveys at Dongola Lake are conducted every other year and consist of a 30-minute electrofishing survey and a netting survey. The most recent survey was conducted in 2022.

Largemouth Bass – Dongola City Lake has a very good bass population. During the 2022 fall electrofishing survey, 48 bass were collected (96/hour), of which 17% were over 15 inches, and 6% were over 18 inches. Mean Wr for Largemouth Bass in the sample was 92, which exceeded the goal of 90 and indicates relatively good body condition and growth.

Crappie – The crappie population is poor in Dongola City Lake. During the fall trap net survey, 26 Black Crappie, 1 White Crappie, and 2 Hybrid Crappie were collected. Nearly all were under 8 inches in length except for a 12-inch hybrid and a few fish in the 8”-9” range. Anglers are encouraged to harvest all crappie they catch.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population remains stunted and relatively poor. All Bluegill collected during 2022 were under 7 inches and demonstrated poor body condition. The abundance of Common Carp, Yellow Bass, and other nuisance species is the likely reason for poor Bluegill growth.

Channel Catfish – Dongola City Lake contains a good fishery for Channel Catfish and is supplementally stocked with at least 500 8-inch catfish annually. A total of 27 were collected during the 2022 electrofishing survey and an additional 7 were collected during the fall netting survey. Channel Catfish ranged in length from 8 to 23 inches, the largest weighing 3.5 lbs. Catfish over 8 lbs. have been captured during past surveys. Anglers should expect good opportunities for Channel Catfish in Dongola City Lake. Please note that a 6/day harvest limit on Channel Catfish goes into effect on April 1, 2023.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	1	18”
Channel Catfish	6	none
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Nick Abell - 618-967-0952. City of Dongola 618-827-4343.