

Big Country Acres Fishing Regulations

Attention: This private lake and common ground are only for use by RESIDENTS/GUESTS of Big Country Acres. If you meet this requirement, we welcome you. If you are not a resident or their guest, then you are trespassing! Please leave and do not come here in the future.

Species	DAILY LIMITS	Species Daily Limit Notes
Black Bass - 12 inches and under	No Limit	Our lake has an overabundance of largemouth bass, known as a stockpiled bass population. The bass are slow-growing and do not reach a large size because there is not enough food. Ponds with stockpiled bass populations are characterized by numerous 8- to 12-inch bass. The fish obtain enough food to stay alive, but not enough to grow very much beyond those lengths. Many people assume that these are young fish; however, they may be several years old. Most will die of natural causes without ever reaching a desirable size. The practice of releasing these fish to grow bigger only compounds the problem since this condition most often occurs when adequate numbers of smaller bass are not harvested. Additional information is available from the Missouri Department of Conservation: https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/stockpiledbass.pdf
Black Bass – over 12 inches	0	In order for the lake to consistently produce bigger bass, we must protect the bass that have managed to grow bigger than the lake's average population. It's not always fun, but releasing bass over 12 inches will help produce better quality fish and more enjoyable bass fishing in the long run. The lake is currently supplying more than enough bass under 12 inches to provide adequate fillets for a good meal!
Crappie	5	
Channel Catfish	2	
Bluegill	10	
Green Sunfish	No Limit	Please do not return these fish to the lake, and Immediately REMOVE them. Green sunfish were not stocked (they are considered invasive), and they compete with the bass for many food items which compounds the stockpiled bass problem. They fillet and fry up like a bass or bluegill. Identification: The green sunfish has a much larger mouth than a bluegill and their ear flap is black with a whitish or yellowish margin. Their bodies are not quite as rounded as a bluegill's.
Grass Carp	0	Immediately return to the water unharmed

1. Trot or throw lines and spear gun fishing are prohibited.
2. While minnows are allowed for bait, care should be exercised in so far as feasible that live minnows escaping in the lake be held to a minimum and unused supply must be returned and not be released in lake.
3. Nuisance Animals. Muskrats, beavers, and otters are detrimental to the health of our lake. If you see evidence of current activity, please report the sighting to a Lake Committee member. If you see the animal, you are legally allowed to eliminate because it is a nuisance to our homeowners. You may not use the animal unless it is in season as per MDC regulations.

WARNING To prevent death or injury to people, avoid the use of single projectile type firearms, such as a rifle or pistol. These types of bullets should never be used on the water since they can ricochet off the water (in any direction) and travel very long distances.
4. Clean Boating. Please observe the following "clean boating" practices when transporting your boat between waterways to protect against invasive species such as zebra mussels. This also applies to the boat of your guests.
 - a. INSPECT - Thoroughly inspect your boat's hull, drive unit, trim plates, trolling plates, prop guards, transducers, centerboards, rollers, axles, anchor, anchor rope and trailer. Scrape off and trash any suspected mussels, however small. Remove all water weeds hanging from the boat or trailer before leaving any water body. If you find any attached mussels, use HOT (104 F) water, or tow the boat through a do-it-yourself carwash and use the high pressure hot water to "de-mussel" your boat. Do not use chlorine bleach or other environmentally unsound washing solutions.
 - b. DRAIN - Drain water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells and any other water from your boat and equipment while on land before leaving any water body.
 - c. DUMP - Trash leftover bait on land, away from water, before leaving any water body. Leftover live aquatic bait should not be transported.
 - d. RINSE - Before launching your boat into our lake - thoroughly rinse and dry the hull, drive unit, live wells (and live well pumping system), bilge, trailer, bait buckets, engine cooling system and other boat parts that got wet while in others waters; use a hard spray from a garden hose.

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