



Location

Lake Stone is near Century in northern Escambia County. The lake entrance is on the south side of State Road 4, approximately 1.5 miles west of U.S. Highway 29. A concrete boat ramp with ample parking is located on the northwest end of the lake. A primitive launching site is also located on the northeast shore near the dam. Earthen fishing fingers are available in multiple locations.

Escambia County maintains the Lake Stone Campground. The facilities include public use building, a playground, showers, restrooms, a fishing pier, security lights, electrical and water hookups, a sewage dump station, and picnic areas. For reservations contact (850) 256-5555

Lake Stone

Fish Management Area

Escambia County



Blackwater Fisheries Research and Development Center

8384 Fish Hatchery Road
 Holt, Florida 32564
 (850) 957-6177
 (850) 265-3676
 Florida Fish and Wildlife
 Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com



In 1967, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission constructed an earthen dam across Wiggins Branch to create Lake Stone. The 130-acre impoundment was then opened to fishing in 1969 and boasts premier freshwater fishing opportunities for Northwest Florida. It has an average depth of 6 feet and a maximum depth of 22 feet. The deepest areas are located near the dam and along the old streambed. Plenty of flooded timber and natural structure provides excellent sportfish habitat.

The Florida FWC manages Lake Stone's fishing resources with a variety of different methods:

- **Dewatering (drawdown)** - Exposes and dries the lake bottom, which aerates and consolidates organic muck deposits. This process improves sportfish habitat and increases natural production of flora and fauna. Additionally, it allows for routine maintenance and restructuring of the lake bottom.

- **Fish Stocking** – Various species (channel catfish, bream, bass, and crappie) are stocked periodically to provide unique and exciting sportfishing opportunities.
- **Fish Attractors** – Brush and other materials are placed in the lake to concentrate fish and improve angler harvest.
- **Fertilization/Liming** – Fertilizer stimulates the growth of microscopic plants called phytoplankton. It also discourages the growth of nuisance aquatic plants by shading the bottom. Liming alters the pH, alkalinity, and total hardness, improving conditions for phytoplankton and, ultimately, fish production.

FISH SPECIES

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – Often referred to as “bream,” Lake Stone holds several species of sunfish. Congregating around structure, vegetation, or spawning over bare spots on the bottom, known as “bream beds,” these panfish can provide non-stop excitement for anglers. Crickets, worms, or even jigs fished underneath a cork are effective methods. A small rooster tail spinner or beetle spin can also provide a fun way to catch these feisty fish.

Largemouth Bass – This popular sportfish tends to hang around structure or vegetation. In the springtime, they can be targeted spawning in shallower areas of the lake while they generally seek deeper, cooler water during the summer. Plastic worms, spinner baits, crank baits, and even topwater lures can all be used to catch these aggressive fish.

Channel Catfish – These hard-pulling fish generally inhabit the deeper areas of the lake and tend to become more active after the sun goes down. Catfish use their “whiskers” to locate food, so baits that emit an odor will be the most successful at enticing a bite. Chicken livers, beef livers, worms, and commercial “stink baits” fished on the bottom are the most effective methods.

Black Crappie – Often called “pond perch” or “white perch,” look for these fish to be around structure in deeper areas of the lake. Fish small jigs, spinners, crank baits, or live minnows in these areas to catch this fun, palatable species.

FMA Special Regulations

A fishing license is required for residents, 16-64 years of age, and non-residents, 16 years of age or older, to fish by any method (including cane poles).

Boating and Facilities

- Gasoline powered motors are prohibited, only electric motors are permitted for use.
- No motor vehicles are allowed on the dams, spillways, or fishing fingers.

Daily Bag Limits

- **Largemouth Bass:** Daily bag limit of 5 fish per angler. No minimum size, only one fish may be 16 inches in total length or longer.
- **Channel Catfish:** Daily bag limit of 6 per angler.
- **Panfish:** Daily bag limit of 50 per angler.
- **Crappie:** Daily bag limit of 25 per angler.