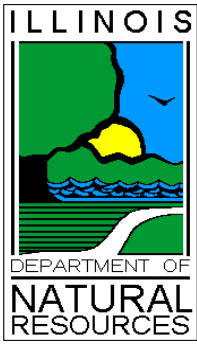


PYRAMID STATE PARK – CRYSTAL LAKE



2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. To reach Crystal Lake, head west on Pyatt-Cutler Road from State Route 127, then turn north into Pyramid State Park at the park entrance. Crystal Lake is directly across from the park office.

DESCRIPTION: Crystal lake is a 5-acre strip cut that has a gravel boat launch and dock on the lake. There are also several benches overlooking the lake at various locations.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a summary of the major sport fish species based on fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Fisheries surveys conducted during 2022 consisted of a nocturnal spring electrofishing survey.

Largemouth Bass – Crystal Lake appears to have a decent bass population. During the 2022 survey, several bass in the 11"-17" range were collected. The largest bass was over 20" and weighed nearly 5 lbs. The lake seems to harbor an abundance of large Gizzard Shad, which is likely driver of good bass growth.

Bluegill – 54 Bluegill were collected during the 2022 survey, of which only 2 were over 7 inches. Crystal Lake harbors an abundance of Gizzard Shad, which compete with Bluegill for the same food sources and often negatively impact their growth.

Channel Catfish – Given the small size of Crystal Lake, it is unlikely that Channel Catfish recruit naturally. Therefore, Channel Catfish have been stocked annually since 2020. None were collected during the 2022 survey. However, electrofishing is not always effective for sampling catfish, especially in deeper lakes like strip cuts.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14" and 1 over 18"	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Channel Catfish	6	None
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS –There are no boat motor restrictions at this lake but the entire lake is a "NO WAKE ZONE" and all sizes of boat motors must operate at no-wake speed.

CONTACT INFO – IDNR Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952, nicholas.abell@illinois.gov. Pyramid State Park 618-357-2574.