



PYRAMID STATE PARK – DENMARK AREA - MALLARD LAKE

2022 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. Mallard Lake is located on the Denmark Section of Pyramid State Park. The Denmark Section is accessed off of Pyatt-Cutler Road. From State Route 127 head west on Pyatt-Cutler Road. About 7 miles west of Pyramid State Park turn south into the Denmark Section.

DESCRIPTION: Facilities at this 65-acre lake include a boat launch, dock, and bathrooms.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a summary of the major sport fish species based on fish population surveys conducted by IDNR. During 2021, fisheries surveys consisted of a spring nocturnal electrofishing survey and a fall netting survey. Both trap nets and gill nets were utilized in the fall netting survey. In addition, a targeted nocturnal electrofishing survey was conducted for Walleye and Saugeye during November.

Largemouth Bass – Electrofishing is now a suitable sampling tool at this lake thanks to modernized equipment that can effectively stun fish in high conductivity water. Therefore, an electrofishing survey was conducted during April of 2021. The survey was conducted at night due to the deep, steep-sided nature of the lake, which can limit the efficiency of electrofishing during daylight hours. Results of the survey indicate a quality bass fishery in Mallard Lake. A total of 46 Largemouth Bass were collected during 30 minutes of electrofishing. Of the bass collected, 43% were at least 15 inches and 11% were over 18 inches in length. Body condition generally increased with length, likely due to the abundance of large shad in the lake. The largest bass collected was 4.3 lbs.

Crappie – Very few crappie have ever been collected from Mallard Lake. This lake is very steep-sided which limits the effectiveness of trap nets, which are considered the best gear for sampling crappie. Although little data has been collected, anglers have reported that a quality fishery exists.

Bluegill – The Bluegill population size structure is poor. Very few Bluegill over 7 inches were collected.

Channel Catfish – A low density population of Channel Catfish exists in the lake. Five were collected during the fall netting survey, ranging in size from 2 to 6.5 lbs.

Walleye/Saugeye – Walleye were stocked in Mallard Lake during 2019 and 2020, while Saugeye (Walleye x Sauger Hybrids) were stocked during 2021. During the fall targeted electrofishing survey, 6 Walleye and 10 Saugeye were collected. Walleye ranged in length from 12 to over 18 inches, while young-of-year Saugeye were generally 7 to 8 inches in length. Saugeye (Walleye x Sauger Hybrids) will continue to be stocked to determine if they are a better option than Walleye for stocking in this lake. As hybrids, Saugeye generally demonstrate faster growth and greater tolerance of warm water in comparison to Walleye.

White Bass – White bass are present in this lake. Six were collected during the fall netting survey, ranging in length from 7 to 16 inches. The largest White Bass collected was 2.1 lbs.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14" and 1 over 18"	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Crappie	25	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
Walleye/Saugeye	6	14 inches
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS – From November 1 through the end of February fishing is allowed in designated areas only, and fishing hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to 2 PM. There are no HP 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.

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