

PYRAMID STATE PARK – LOST LAKE



2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. To reach Lost Lake, head west on Galum Church Road from State Route 127, then turn south onto Pyramid Park Road.

DESCRIPTION: Lost Lake is an 8-acre strip mine lake that has existed since the 1950s. There is a gravel boat launch and dock at this lake.

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 and fall netting survey.

Largemouth Bass – The Largemouth Bass population in Lost Lake contains an abundance of small fish under 12 inches and relatively few large fish. A total of 17 bass were collected during the electrofishing survey (170/hour), of which 18% were over 15 inches. The mean relative weight of all bass in the sample was poor at 84 and did not exceed the goal of 90 among any size classes. However, the primary management goal in Lost Lake is to create a quality fishery for Bluegill and Redear with ample numbers of fish ≥ 8 inches. Therefore, improving bass size structure is not a management concern.

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – A total of 28 Bluegill (280/hour) and 10 Redear (100/hour) were collected during spring electrofishing. Lost Lake contains an abundance of Bluegill in the 7”-7.9” range and some Redear over 8 inches. However, no Bluegill exceeded 8 inches in length. Mean relative weight (plumpness) of all Bluegill was 86, below the goal of 90. Mean relative weights declined after Bluegill reached 7 inches in length, indicating the size at which growth begins to stunt. In summary, Lost Lake appears to be on the cusp of growing numbers of 8-inch Bluegill, which are often sought by panfish anglers. Unlike many other lakes within Pyramid, Lost Lake does not appear to have Gizzard Shad, meaning that Bluegill growth potential should be relatively high in Lost Lake. Bluegill and Redear growth may increase if herbicide treatments are performed to reduce the density of aquatic plants in the lake, which make it more difficult for bass to thin the Bluegill population. If adequate herbicide can be obtained, treatments will begin during 2023.

Black Crappie – A total of 7 Black Crappie (3.5/net night) ranging from 9-11 inches were collected in fall-set trap nets. Anglers should expect to find good angling opportunities for Black Crappie in Lost Lake.

Channel Catfish – Given the small size of Lost Lake, it is unlikely that Channel Catfish recruit naturally. Therefore, Channel Catfish have been stocked annually since 2020. Seven Channel Catfish were collected in fall-set experimental gill nets. Catfish ranged in size from 12-18 inches. Abundance and size structure should continue to improve as older age classes become established.

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.