



ARGYLE LAKE

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION:

Argyle Lake is situated within the 1,740 acre Argyle Lake State Park. It is located one mile north of Colchester in McDonough County with access off of County Highway 8.

DESCRIPTION :

Argyle Lake is 92.7 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 34.6 feet. The shoreline length is 5.5 miles and a centerline length of slightly over 1 mile. The lake basin is steep-sided, except in the upper two arms where sedimentation has created a flat, shallow bottom. A boat ramp, concession building and boat rentals are located in the northwest arm of the lake. Other facilities provided at Argyle Lake State Park include: camping, picnic areas and hiking trails.

Argyle Lake was constructed in 1949 with funding from the licensed anglers of the state of Illinois.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The lake and its sport fishery are evaluated annually by spring trapnetting and fall electrofishing surveys. These surveys direct the fish stockings, fishing regulations and vegetation treatments.

Largemouth Bass:

In 2020, only fall D.C. electrofishing was used to survey the fish population. The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 154 bass from electrofishing.

The largemouth bass population appears to be defined by a high percentage of fish from 4.0 to 21 inches in length with good average Relative weights. In 2017, the bass regulation for Argyle Lake was changed from a 1 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches and/or 5 fish less than 12 inches daily, to a protected slot length limit from 14 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit. The goal of the new bass regulation is to increase the density of the bass population from 14 to 18 inches.

The 5 year averages from 2011 to 2016 were RSD15 of 35, RSD16 of 19, and RSD18 of 6. And a 5 year average CPUE .9 fish per minute over 8 inches with pulse D.C. eletrofishing.

The 2020 electrofishing survey indicated a size structure that had increased to an RSD15 of 55, RSD16 of 45 and the RSD18 of 26. The average body condition was at a Wr of 96. These values are extremely good! The new regulation will continue to be evaluated to these indices.

The goal of the protected slot length limit is to create a high density bass population that is composed of fish large enough to be efficient predators upon the panfish and gizzard shad population. The benefit to bass anglers will be more fish surviving past 15 inches to catch, and for the anglers wanting to harvest bass will be the opportunity to still harvest fish under 14 inches.

The online IFISH tournament registration and result system was started in 2015. The tournament results showed these anglers spent 336 hours in 2015, 576 hours in 2016, and hours in 2017 on Argyle Lake. They reported 14 legal fish in 2015 for .04 fish per angler hour. They reported 45 legal fish in 2016 for .08 fish per angler hour. They reported 53 legal fish in 2017 for .17 fish per angler hour. They reported 19 legal fish in 2018 for .11 fish per angler hour. They reported 32 legal fish in 2019 for .25 fish per angler hour. No tournaments were registered in 2020.

Bluegill:

The bluegill population was sampled by 73 fish in fall 2020 electrofishing survey. The current bluegill population is rated as average with the larger fish up to 7.0 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in average body condition with a Wr average of 86. The competition with the gizzard shad has reduced the bluegill condition and growth.

Redear Sunfish:

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 7 fish in fall 2020 electrofishing survey. The current redear population is rated as average with the larger fish up to 10.0 inches in length. This population is of very low density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 95.

Crappie:

The white and black crappie populations have been an average rating in recent years. The 5 year averages from 2012 to 2016 were an RSD10 of 25 and RSD11 of 7 for white crappie. The black crappie average was an RSD9 of 33 and an RSD10 of 6. In 2017, the crappie regulation was changed from a 9 inch minimum length limit and 10 fish daily harvest limit, to a 25 fish daily harvest limit with no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10 inches. The goal of the new regulation is to allow the harvest of more of the slower growing black crappie, while maintaining and promoting the population structure of crappie over 10 inches in length.

In 2020, the white crappie population was sampled by 50 fish in fall electrofishing survey. 49 stock size white crappie were sampled with a PSD of 96, RSD9 of 51, RSD10 of 33, and RSD11 of 4. These RSD10 and RSD11 numbers are believed to be biased low in 2020 due to the lack of spring trapnet data.

The black crappie population was sampled by 43 fish in fall electrofishing survey. 43 stock size black crappie were sampled with a PSD of 79, RSD9 of 49, RSD10 of 14 and RSD11 of 2. The RSD9 is now above the pre-regulation average of 33, and the RSD10 is now above the pre-regulation average of 6. These RSD10 and RSD11 numbers are believed to be biased low in 2020 due to the lack of spring trapnet data.

Both species had average WR values of 94 and 89. These indices have all been steady the last 6 years. The new regulation will continue to be evaluated to these indices.

Saugeye:

The saugeye population was sampled by 11 fish in the fall 2020 electrofishing survey. The current saugeye population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 28 inches in length. The CPUE for electrofishing was .43 per minute in 2019, and .08 per minute in 2020. This population is of moderate density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 93. No saugeye were stocked in 2020.

Muskie:

A total of 3 muskie in the fall electrofishing survey in 2020. These fish ranged from 33 to 39 inches long. The body condition of these fish was very good at an average Wr of 112.

A low density of quality size muskie are present. Jake Wolf stocked 96 muskie at 13.5 inches in 2019. No muskie were stocked in 2020 due to Covid brood fish collection work restrictions. A annual stocking is now scheduled to maintain a low density of healthy muskie. In 2017, the muskie harvest regulation was changed from the statewide 1 fish daily harvest at a 36 inch minimum size, to a 42 inch minimum and 1 fish per day harvest limit. The goal of the new regulation is to protect the fish for at least 1 more year from angler harvest.

Channel Catfish:

The channel catfish population was sampled by 23 fish in the fall 2020 electrofishing survey. The current channel catfish population is rated as excellent with the larger fish up to 24 inches in length. This population is of high density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 96. Little Grassy hatchery stocked 3,325 fish at 7 inches in 2018. And Little Grassy hatchery stocked 3,300 fish at 7.7 inches in 2020. An annual stocking of non-vulnerable channel catfish had occurred in the past. These stockings had established a high density population, and the stocking has been adjusted to an every other year stocking starting in 2016. No channel catfish were stocked in 2019.

Rainbow Trout:

In 2020, Crystal Lake hatchery stocked rainbow trout in October. These fish are annually stocked for the catch able trout program. The fall electrofishing survey collected 14 of these fish and they ranged from 9.4 to 13.4 inches in length.

Fishing Regulations:

All Fish - 2 pole and line fishing only.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie:

- 25 Fish Daily Harvest Limit with no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10 inches.

Large or Smallmouth Bass:

- Protected Slot Length Limit from 14 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit.

Muskie:

- 42 inch minimum and 1 fish per day harvest limit.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish:

- 25 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Channel Catfish:

- 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Hybrid Walleye:

- 3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Recreational Use Restrictions:

-All live bait > 8 inch must be rigged with a quick set rig

Trout:

- Fall Closed Season until annual opening in October.

-No horsepower limit with a "no wake" restriction.

-Swimming is not permitted.

CONTACT INFORMATION –

Argyle Lake State Park: (309) 776-5267

IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: (309) 446-9143.

Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>

