



# PYRAMID STATE PARK - CAPTAIN AREA - MERGANSER LAKE

## 2020 FISHERIES FACT SHEET

**LOCATION:** Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. Merganser Lake is a strip cut lake located on the Captain Section of the Pyramid State Park. Merganser Lake is located just south of Cutler off Trico Road.

**DESCRIPTION:** This 25-acre strip cut has a gravel boat launch. There are no docks or bathroom facilities.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – The following is a brief summary of the major sport fish species based on annual fish population surveys conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. All fishery information is based on spring trap netting surveys.

**Largemouth Bass (LMB)** – Electrofishing is the best gear for sampling the LMB population in a lake. Electrofishing was attempted in 2008 but was not effective at sampling the adult LMB population. A nighttime electrofishing survey may be more effective and will be attempted in the future. No LMB were collected during 2019 spring trap netting.

**Crappie** – Merganser Lake has a good crappie population consisting of both black and white crappie. Most crappie in the sample were over 10 inches in length.

**Bluegill Sunfish** – No bluegill were collected during 2019 spring trap netting and none over 8 inches have ever been collected during surveys.

**Redear Sunfish** – No redear sunfish have ever been collected from this lake.

**Channel Catfish (CCF)** – The CCF population appears to be good. CCF have been collected during every survey conducted at this lake.

### **Fishing regulations:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Creel Limit</b>	<b>Minimum Length Limit</b>
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
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	
Live Bait	All live bait in excess of 8” must	be rigged with a quick set rig.

**RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS** – Fishing is prohibited from November 1 through the end of February. 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/CONTACT INFO** – A map of the 23 lakes located on the Arch Portion of Pyramid State Park can be obtained via email by sending a request to [Nicholas.Abell@illinois.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Abell@illinois.gov). IDNR Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952. Pyramid State Park 618-357-2574.