



PYRAMID STATE PARK – DENMARK AREA – BLUE WING LAKE

2022 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. Blue Wing Lake is a strip cut lake located on the Denmark Section of Pyramid State Park. 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 46-acre lake include a concrete boat ramp, 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.

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. A total of 18 Largemouth Bass were collected during 20 minutes of electrofishing. Of the bass collected, 28% were at least 15 inches in length, but none were over 18 inches. Based on sampling results, the bass population is not as good as those in many other lakes in the park. The influence of riverine fishes coming in from Pipestone Creek may have a direct negative effect on the bass population in this lake.

Crappie – Blue Wing Lake appears to have a very good crappie population consisting of both Black and White Crappie. During the fall netting survey, 21 Black Crappie and 6 White Crappie were collected. Of the 27 crappie collected, 41% were at least 10 inches in length.

Bluegill – The bluegill population is poor. Nearly all fish collected were under 7 inches in length.

Channel Catfish – Only 5 Channel Catfish were collected during the fall netting survey. Individuals ranged in size from 1 to 2.5 lbs. Mean body condition was relatively poor.

White Bass – A total of 5 White Bass were collected during the fall netting survey. Individuals ranged in length from 14 to 17 inches. The largest White Bass weighed 2.7 lbs. White Bass in this lake likely come from Pipestone Creek, which bisects the lake and runs year-round.

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
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.