



PYRAMID STATE PARK – DENMARK AREA – CANVASBACK LAKE

2022 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. Canvasback 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 65-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. In addition, a targeted trap net survey was conducted for Muskie during early spring.

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, clear, steep-sided nature of the lake, which can limit the efficiency of electrofishing during daylight hours. A total of 46 Largemouth Bass were collected during 30 minutes of electrofishing. Of the bass collected, 48% were at least 15 inches and 17% were over 18 inches in length. Body condition was relatively good for such a clear lake. The largest bass collected was 4.4 lbs.

Crappie – Canvasback Lake is notorious for producing numbers of large crappie. The population consists of both Black and White Crappie. However, only 2 Black Crappie were collected during 2021. Catches of crappie in nets have been sporadic during past surveys. During years when numbers of crappie were collected during surveys, the majority of fish were in the 12 to 15-inch range, with some individuals exceeding 17 inches and 3 lbs. The largest crappie ever collected during a survey was 3.75 lbs.

Bluegill Sunfish – The bluegill population is poor. The majority of Bluegill were in the 4 to 6-inch range.

Channel Catfish – Only 5 Channel Catfish were collected during the fall netting survey. Individuals ranged in size from 2 to 5 lbs. Mean body condition good.

Muskellunge – This lake is stocked annually with Muskie. One Muskie was collected during the fall netting survey that measured 33 inches and weighed 9.6 lbs. Muskie have traditionally been very difficult to sample in this lake.

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
Muskie	1	48 inches
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

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