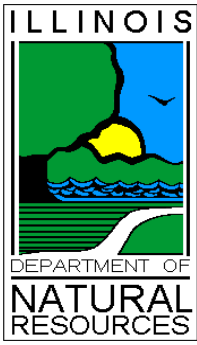


# PYRAMID STATE PARK – CLEAR LAKE



## 2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

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

**DESCRIPTION:** Clear Lake is a 12-acre strip mine lake that has existed since the 1950s. There is a gravel boat launch and dock, in addition to a camping area next to the lake.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – The following is a summary of the major sport fish species based on a 2022 fish population survey conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The fish population survey consisted of a nocturnal spring electrofishing survey and fall netting survey.

**Largemouth Bass** – The Largemouth Bass population in Clear Lake appears to be truncated, with an abundance of small fish under 12 inches and relatively few large fish. A total of 20 bass (171/hour) were collected during the electrofishing survey. The mean relative weight of all bass in the sample was poor at 86 and did not exceed the goal of 90 among any size classes. Although bass growth appears to be limited in Clear Lake, the primary management goal is to create a quality fishery for Bluegill and Redear with ample numbers of fish  $\geq 8$  inches. Therefore, improving bass size structure is not a management concern.

**Bluegill and Redear Sunfish** – A total of 27 Bluegill (231/hour) and 8 Redear (69/hour) were collected during spring electrofishing. The 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 of all Bluegill was 87, below the goal of 90. Mean relative weights declined after Bluegill reached 7 inches in length but rebounded slightly at 7.5 inches. Clear Lake appears to be on the cusp of growing numbers of 8-inch Bluegills, which are often sought by panfish anglers. A daily limit of 25 Bluegill or Redear (aggregate) became effective April 1 of 2024 and should help improve the quality of this fishery.

**Black Crappie** – Only one 9.6-inch Black Crappie was collected during the 2022 survey. Much of Clear Lake is very steep-sided and difficult to sample with trap nets. Angler reports indicate the lake harbors a decent fishery. A daily limit of 25 Crappie became effective April 1, 2024.

**Channel Catfish** – Given the small size of Clear Lake, it is unlikely that Channel Catfish recruit naturally. Therefore, Channel Catfish have been stocked annually since 2020. Four Channel Catfish were collected in fall-set experimental gill nets. Catfish ranged in size from 14-19 inches. Abundance and size structure should continue to improve as older age classes become established.

### **Fishing regulations:**

Species	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill and Redear Sunfish	25	None
Crappie	25	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](mailto:nicholas.abell@illinois.gov). Pyramid State Park 618-357-2574.