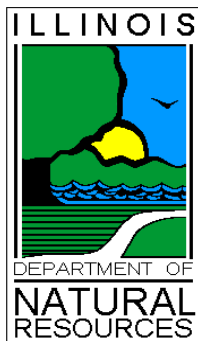


PYRAMID STATE PARK – GALUM AREA - RINGNECK LAKE



2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Ringneck Lake is in the Galum Section of Pyramid State park in Perry County. From State Route 127 head about 6 miles west on Pyatt-Cutler Road and then turn north onto Panda Bear Road.

DESCRIPTION: Ringneck Lake is 25-acres and is very deep and clear. Submerged aquatic vegetation is abundant. There is a gravel boat launch, but no docks or bathroom facilities.

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 2022, fisheries surveys consisted of a community spring electrofishing survey and a fall netting survey.

Largemouth Bass – Results from the 2022 electrofishing survey suggest that Ringneck Lake harbors an abundance of small bass with relatively few large fish. A total of 47 bass (282/hour) were collected during the 10-minute electrofishing survey, of which all but 3 were under 12 inches in length. Mean relative weight (plumpness) of all bass in the sample was poor at 83. Mean relative weights were poor among all size classes except for bass over 20 inches. Poor bass growth in Ringneck Lake is likely driven by the density of aquatic vegetation, low fertility, and lack of Gizzard Shad. However, management goals at Ringneck Lake should focus on maintaining a quality fishery for Bluegill and Redear. Therefore, poor bass growth and size structure is not a concern, as a dense stock of small bass is needed to thin out panfish and drive up growth rates.

Bluegill – Ringneck Lake appears to harbor a quality Bluegill fishery. A total of 17 Bluegill (204/hour) were collected during the spring electrofishing survey, of which 3 (18%) were at least 8 inches. Mean relative weight of spring-sampled Bluegill was low at 83 but did not result in poor size structure. Mean relative weights appeared to improve as Bluegill reached 6 inches in length. The quality of the Bluegill population in Ringneck Lake is likely driven by the abundance of small bass, which act to thin Bluegill abundance and improve growth rates. The absence of Gizzard Shad is also a factor that is normally correlated with good Bluegill growth.

Redear Sunfish – Ringneck Lake harbors a good Redear fishery. A total of 29 Redear (348/hour) were collected during spring electrofishing, of which 21% were at least 8 inches, and an additional 12 were captured in fall-set nets. The largest Redear collected was captured in a gill net and measured 10.7 inches. Mean relative weight of spring-sampled Redear was low at 82 but did not result in poor size structure. Mean relative weights were consistently below 90 among all size classes. The quality of the Redear population in Ringneck Lake is likely driven by the abundance of small bass, which act to thin Redear abundance and improve growth rates.

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	
Live Bait - All live bait in excess of 8" must be rigged with a quick set rig.		

RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS – From November 1 through the end of February, fishing is prohibited. There are no boat motor restrictions, 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.