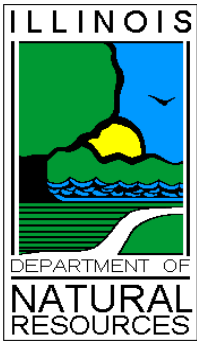


PYRAMID STATE PARK – HERON LAKE



2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. To reach Heron Lake, head west on Pyatt-Cutler Road from State Route 127, then turn north into Pyramid State Park at the park entrance. Heron Lake is located west of the park office.

DESCRIPTION: Heron lake is a 5-acre strip cut that has a gravel boat launch and dock. This lake tends to grow an abundance of filamentous algae, which can be a nuisance for anglers.

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

Largemouth Bass – All bass collected during the 2022 survey were under 13 inches. Mean relative weight (plumpness) was poor at 85. Poor bass growth is likely a consequence of low lake fertility and an absence of Gizzard Shad in the lake.

Bluegill – Several Bluegill over 7 inches were collected during the 2022 survey, the largest being 7.7 inches in length.

Black Crappie – Several Black Crappie in the 8"-10" range were collected during the electrofishing survey.

Channel Catfish – Given the small size of Heron Lake, it is unlikely that Channel Catfish recruit naturally. Therefore, Channel Catfish have been stocked annually since 2020. None were collected during the 2022 survey. However, electrofishing is not always effective for sampling catfish, especially in deeper lakes like strip cuts.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	5 under 14" and 1 over 18"	14-18 inch protected slot (no possession)
Channel Catfish	6	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.

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