



ARGYLE LAKE

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION:

Argyle Lake is situated within the 1,740 acre Argyle Lake State Park. It is located one mile north of Colchester in McDonough County with access off of County Highway 8.

DESCRIPTION :

Argyle Lake is 92.7 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 34.6 feet. The shoreline length is 5.5 miles and a centerline length of slightly over 1 mile. The lake basin is steep-sided, except in the upper two arms where sedimentation has created a flat, shallow bottom. A boat ramp, concession building and boat rentals are located in the northwest arm of the lake. Other facilities provided at Argyle Lake State Park include: camping, picnic areas and hiking trails.

Argyle Lake was constructed in 1949 with funding from the licensed anglers of the state of Illinois.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The lake and its sport fishery are evaluated annually by spring trapnetting and fall electrofishing surveys. These surveys direct the fish stockings, fishing regulations and vegetation treatments.

Largemouth Bass:

In 2019, spring trapnetting and fall D.C. electrofishing were used to survey the fish population. The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 251 bass from electrofishing.

The largemouth bass population appears to be defined by a high percentage of fish from 4.0 to 19.3 inches in length with good average Relative weights. In 2017, the bass regulation for Argyle Lake was changed from a 1 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches and/or 5 fish less than 12 inches daily, to a protected slot length limit from 14 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit. The goal of the new bass regulation is to increase the density of the bass population from 14 to 18 inches.

The 5 year averages from 2011 to 2016 were RSD15 of 35, RSD16 of 19, and RSD18 of 6. And a 5 year average CPUE .9 fish per minute over 8 inches with pulse D.C. eletrofishing.

The 2019 electrofishing survey indicated a size structure that had increased to an RSD15 of 51, RSD16 of 44 and the RSD18 of 23. The average body condition was at a Wr of 96. These values are very good! The new regulation will continue to be evaluated to these indices.

The goal of the protected slot length limit is to create a high density bass population that is composed of fish large enough to be efficient predators upon the panfish and gizzard shad population. The benefit to bass anglers will be more fish surviving past 15 inches to catch, and for the anglers wanting to harvest bass will be the opportunity to still harvest fish under 14 inches.

Bluegill:

The bluegill population was sampled by 14 fish in spring trapnets and 209 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current bluegill population is rated as average with the larger fish up to 7.0 inches in length. This population is of moderate density and in average body condition with a Wr average of 85. The competition with the gizzard shad has reduced the bluegill condition and growth.

Redear Sunfish:

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 0 fish in spring trapnets and 7 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current redear population is rated as average with the larger fish up to 10.0 inches in length. This population is of very low density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 91.

Crappie:

The white and black crappie populations have been an average rating in recent years. The 5 year averages from 2012 to 2016 were an RSD10 of 25 and RSD11 of 7 for white crappie. The black crappie average was an RSD9 of 33 and an RSD10 of 6. In 2017, the crappie regulation was changed from a 9 inch minimum length limit and 10 fish daily harvest limit, to a 25 fish daily harvest limit with no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10 inches. The goal of the new regulation is to allow the harvest of more of the slower growing black crappie, while maintaining and promoting the population structure of crappie over 10 inches in length.

In 2019, the white crappie population was sampled by 36 fish in spring trapnets and 107 fish in fall electrofishing survey. 99 stock size white crappie were sampled with a PSD of 94, RSD9 of 32, RSD10 of 26, and RSD11 of 16. The RSD11 has increased from the pre-regulation average of 7.

The black crappie population was sampled by 24 fish in spring trapnets and 58 fish in fall electrofishing survey. 82 stock size black crappie were sampled with a PSD of 89, RSD9 of 28, RSD10 of 5 and RSD11 of 4. The RSD9 has remained below the pre-regulation average of 33, and the RSD10 is below the pre-regulation average of 6.

Both species had average WR values of 94 and 85. These indices have all been steady the last 6 years. The new regulation will continue to be evaluated to these indices.

Saugeye:

The saugeye population was sampled by 9 fish in spring trapnets and 51 fish in the fall electrofishing survey. The current saugeye population is rated as good with the larger fish up to 28 inches in length. The CPUE for trapnets was at .45 fish per net night in 2019. This population is of moderate density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 93. Lasalle hatchery stocked 18,181 fish at 1.4 inches long in 2019.

Muskie:

A total of 29 muskie were sampled by the spring trapnet survey and 1 in the fall electrofishing survey in 2019. These fish ranged from 14.2 to 47.5 inches long. The body condition of these fish was very good at an average Wr of 110.

A low density of quality size muskie are present. Jake Wolf stocked 96 muskie at 13.5 inches in 2019. A annual stocking is now scheduled to maintain a low density of healthy muskie. In 2017, the muskie harvest regulation was changed from the statewide 1 fish daily harvest at a 36 inch minimum size, to a 42 inch minimum and 1 fish per day harvest limit. The goal of the new regulation is to protect the fish for at least 1 more year from angler harvest.

Channel Catfish:

The channel catfish population was sampled by 30 fish in spring trapnets and 50 fish in fall electrofishing survey. The current channel catfish population is rated as excellent with the larger fish up to 24 inches in length. This population is of high density and in good body condition with a Wr average of 99. Little Grassy hatchery stocked 3,325 fish at 7 inches in 2018. An annual stocking of non-vulnerable channel catfish had occurred in the past. These stockings had established a high density population, and the stocking has been adjusted to an every other year stocking starting in 2016. No channel catfish were stocked in 2019.

Rainbow Trout:

In 2019, Crystal Lake hatchery stocked 6,640 rainbow trout in October. These fish are annually stocked for the catchable trout program. The fall electrofishing survey collected 10 of these fish and they ranged from 8 to 14.5 inches in length.

Fishing Regulations:

All Fish - 2 pole and line fishing only.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie:

- **25 Fish Daily Harvest Limit with no more than 10 fish greater than or equal to 10 inches.**

Large or Smallmouth Bass:

- **Protected Slot Length Limit from 14 to 18 inches with 3 fish daily harvest limit.**

Muskie:

- **42 inch minimum and 1 fish per day harvest limit.**

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish:

- 25 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Channel Catfish:

- 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Hybrid Walleye:

- 3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Recreational Use Restrictions:

-All live bait > 8 inch must be rigged with a quick set rig

Trout:

- Fall Closed Season until annual opening in October.

-No horsepower limit with a "no wake" restriction.

-Swimming is not permitted.

CONTACT INFORMATION –

Argyle Lake State Park: (309) 776-5267

IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: (309) 446-9143.

Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>