

PYRAMID STATE PARK – GALUM AREA - GOLDENEYE LAKE



2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. Goldeneye Lake is a strip cut lake in the Galum Section of the park. The Galum Section is accessed off Panda Bear Road. From State Route 127 head west on Pyatt-Cutler Road. About 6 miles west of Pyramid State Park turn north onto Panda Bear Road.

DESCRIPTION: Facilities at this 140-acre lake include a boat launch, docks, 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 2023, fisheries surveys consisted of a spring community electrofishing and netting survey.

Muskellunge - Stockings of non-vulnerable size (10-14 inches) Muskie have occurred since 2002. Targeted Muskie trap net surveys are conducted on a biennial basis during even years. During the 2022 spring trap net survey, four Muskie were collected. Fish ranged in length from 32 to 39 inches and weighed between 8 and 16 lbs.

Largemouth Bass – Goldeneye Lake remains an excellent bass fishing lake. During the 2023 electrofishing survey, bass were captured at a high rate of 172/hour. About 48% of bass in the sample were over 15 inches, and 10% were over 18 inches. The largest bass was 21 inches and just over 5 lbs. Anglers should expect to find numbers of quality-size bass in Goldeneye Lake.

Black Crappie – Goldeneye Lake has a quality Black Crappie population. During the 2023 spring survey, 40 Black Crappie were collected, ranging from 3 up to 14.2 inches in length. Five fish in the sample were over 1 lb. About half of the sample was made up of individuals under 4 inches, which were likely 1-year old fish.

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish– Although Bluegill are abundant, the size structure is poor. The vast majority of Bluegill in the lake are under 6 inches in length. Redear size structure is slightly better than that of Bluegill, as some Redear in the 2023 sample exceeded 8 inches in length.

Channel Catfish – A small number of Channel Catfish are usually collected during surveys, especially in gill nets. During the 2023 survey, catfish in the sample ranged from 12 to 28 inches, the largest weighing nearly 9 lbs.

Hybrid Striped Bass – A large year class of wipers were stocked during 2021, but insufficient numbers have been available from the state hatchery system for subsequent stockings thus far. Data collected during the 2023 survey suggests that wipers from the 2021-year class are thriving in Goldeneye Lake. A total of 23 wipers were captured in 3 gill net sets. All fish were between 12 and 14.5 inches at 2 years of age. Similar to Redhead Lake, A quality wiper fishery should develop given that fish become available for subsequent stockings.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Crappie	25	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
Muskellunge	1	48-inch minimum length
Hybrid Striped Bass	Unlimited under 17 inches; 3 fish 17 inches or longer	
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 except within the designated area between the boat launch and marker buoy. Legal fishing hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to 2 PM. There are no HP 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.