



PINCKNEYVILLE CITY LAKE

2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pinckneyville City Lake is located in Perry County about 3 miles northwest of Pinckneyville off Route 127 North. Turn west onto Lake Road.

DESCRIPTION: Facilities at this 165-acre lake include a concrete boat launch, floating dock, and bathrooms. There is a 10 HP motor limit on this lake. All boats must be operated at no wake speeds.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Pinckneyville City Lake supports excellent fisheries for Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish. However, Bluegill and Crappie growth is generally stunted, with few quality-size fish present. Saugeye (Walleye x Sauger Hybrids) were introduced to the lake in 2022 to prey on Gizzard Shad and small panfish, which should assist in balancing the fish community. Fish community surveys at Pinckneyville City Lake are now completed on a biennial bases, with additional targeted surveys (single species) occurring as needed. The following is a summary of game fish populations based on fisheries surveys conducted by IDNR during 2022 and 2023.

Largemouth Bass – Pinckneyville City Lake possesses an excellent Largemouth Bass fishery. During the 2022 electrofishing survey, 122 Largemouth Bass were collected during 1 hour of electrofishing. Of the bass collected, 61% were over 15 inches and 23% were over 18 inches. The largest bass collected was nearly 22 inches and weighed 7.2 lbs. Bass body condition was very good with a relative weight of 104, greatly exceeding the goal of 90. Anglers should expect to find quality bass fishing opportunities at this lake.

Crappie – Pinckneyville City Lake contains both Black and White Crappie. During the 2022 survey, a total of 90 White Crappie and 126 Black Crappie were collected. The crappie population can be described as overabundant and stunted. Less than 10% of crappie collected during 2022 were over 9 inches in length, the vast majority being between 6-8 inches. All crappie collected in fall trap nets were retained for otolith extraction and aging. Black Crappie growth was ubiquitously poor, as fish generally did not reach 8 inches until age-9. The largest Black Crappie was just under 9 inches and was very old at age-11. White Crappie growth rates were more variable, as some fish grew quickly and exceeded 10 inches by age-3, while others grew slowly and were still under 10 inches after 7 to 11 years of growth.

Bluegill – The Bluegill population is relatively poor regarding size structure and growth. Of the 253 Bluegill collected during 2022, only 7% were over 7 inches and none were over 8 inches. Bluegill growth is generally stunted, likely due to the abundance of competing species like Gizzard Shad, Common Carp, and small crappie.

Channel Catfish – Pinckneyville City Lake harbors a very good Channel Catfish population that demonstrates impressive growth potential. Channel Catfish over 15 lbs. have been collected in the past. During 2022, 25 Channel Catfish were collected in two experimental gill nets set overnight. Catfish in the sample ranged in length from 14 to over 31 inches. The largest catfish collected was 31.7 inches and weighed 12 lbs. Non-vulnerable Channel Catfish ($\geq 8''$) are stocked when surplus fish are available from Little Grassy Fish Hatchery to supplement natural recruitment.

Saugeye – Due to the abundance of Gizzard Shad and stunted panfish, an initial year class of 11,000 Saugeye (Walleye x Sauger Hybrids) fingerlings were stocked in 2022. However, insufficient numbers were available from state hatcheries for a repeat stocking in 2023. During November of 2023, a 30-minute nocturnal electrofishing survey yielded a Saugeye catch rate of 12/hour, which exceeded the management goal of 10/hour despite the absence of young-of-year Saugeye. Fish collected during the survey ranged from 13 to 16 inches in length. All were from the 2022 stocking, and thus were pushing 2 years old at the time of the survey. Additional year classes of Saugeye will be stocked if adequate numbers are available from the state hatchery system.

Site-Specific Fishing Regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	1	18''

PHONE NUMBERS: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952.