



PYRAMID STATE PARK – DENMARK AREA - MALLARD LAKE

2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Mallard Lake is located in the Denmark Unit of Pyramid State Park, south of Pinckneyville, IL. The Denmark Section is accessed off Pyatt-Cutler Road. From State Route 127 head about 7 miles west on Pyatt-Cutler Road and turn south into the Denmark Section.

DESCRIPTION: Facilities at this 65-acre lake include a boat launch, dock, and bathrooms.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The following is a summary of sport fish species based on fish population assessments. During 2023, population assessments consisted of a spring community electrofishing and netting survey, in addition to a targeted fall electrofishing survey for Walleye and Saugeye.

Largemouth Bass – Mallard Lake is known to harbor a high-quality bass fishery. Past surveys have yielded good numbers of Bass between 15 and 20 inches. However, the 2023 survey yielded a much smaller number of bass than past years, which was not likely representative of the population. Just prior to the 2023 spring survey, the spillway structure partially collapsed, leading to water levels in the lake dropping rapidly by about 2 to 3 feet. This likely impacted our survey results, as the warmest water at the surface was flushed out of the lake, leaving colder water in its place and affecting bass catchability during our survey. A repeat fish survey will be completed during 2025.

Crappie – Crappie have been very difficult to sample in Mallard Lake due to the steep banks and limited shallow water. Although little data has been collected, anglers report that a quality fishery exists.

Bluegill – The Bluegill population size structure is poor. Very few Bluegill over 7 inches have been collected. Most collected during surveys are between 4 and 7 inches.

Channel Catfish – A low density population of Channel Catfish is present in the lake. A small number are usually collected during population surveys.

Walleye/Saugeye – Saugeye have been stocked in Mallard Lake since 2021, before which Walleye were stocked during 2019 and 2020. Catch rates of Saugeye/Walleye during targeted electrofishing surveys have exceeded management goals each year, indicating a desirable survival rate of stocked fingerlings. Saugeye/Walleye captured during the 2023 targeted survey ranged from 12 to 19 inches in length. Anglers can expect to find good numbers of legal-size (>14") fish present.

White Bass – White bass have been collected in Mallard Lake up to two lbs.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Crappie	25	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
Walleye/Saugeye	6	14 inch minimum length
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS – From November 1 through the end of February fishing is allowed in designated areas only, and fishing hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to 2 PM. There are no horsepower restrictions, but the entire lake is a no wake zone.

MAPS/CONTACTS – CONTACT INFO – IDNR Fish Biologist – Nick Abell 618-967-0952, nicholas.abell@illinois.gov. Pyramid State Park 618-357-2574.