



PYRAMID STATE PARK – DENMARK AREA – CANVASBACK LAKE

2024 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Pyramid State Park is located south of Pinckneyville in Perry County. Canvasback Lake is a strip cut lake located on the Denmark Section of Pyramid State Park. From State Route 127 head west on Pyatt-Cutler Road. About 7 miles west of Pyramid State Park turn south into the Denmark Section.

DESCRIPTION: Facilities at this 65-acre lake include a concrete boat ramp, dock 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. The most recent survey was completed in 2023, which utilized a combination of electrofishing, trap nets, and gill nets.

Largemouth Bass – During the 2023 electrofishing survey, Largemouth Bass were caught at a high rate of 134/hour. In addition, 50% of bass were over 15 inches, and 27% were over 18 inches. The largest bass collected was 21 inches and weighed 5.6 lbs. Bass anglers should expect quality fishing opportunities in Canvasback Lake.

Crappie – Canvasback Lake is known to harbor a quality fishery for crappies and frequently yields both Black and White Crappies in the 10 to 16-inch range. During the 2023 spring survey, several crappies were collected, ranging from 8 to over 12 inches in length. Multiple brush piles have been sunk in the lake to provide crappie anglers with offshore structure to fish on.

Bluegill Sunfish – Although Bluegill are abundant, the size structure is poor. The majority of Bluegill collected during surveys have been in the 4”-7” range. Very few Bluegill over 7 inches are collected during surveys.

Channel Catfish – A small number of Channel Catfish have been collected during past surveys. Most individuals ranged in size from 2 to 5 lbs.

Muskellunge – Muskie stockings have been discontinued due to limited growth potential, as no Muskies were ever observed over 36 inches in length. However, some stocked Muskies will likely remain in Canvasback Lake over the next decade.

Saugeye - Canvasback Lake is now on the stocking request list for Saugeye fingerlings. Saugeye have been chosen to replace Muskie for stocking due to their success in nearby Mallard Lake, which has a similar size, depth profile, vegetation coverage, and forage base. It is hoped the first year class of Saugeye will be stocked in 2024.

Fishing regulations:

Species	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	None
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	25	None
Crappie	25	None
Channel Catfish	6	None
Muskie	1	48-inch minimum length
Walleye, Sauger, and Saugeye	6	14-inch minimum length
All Fish	2 Pole and Line Fishing Only	

RECREATIONAL USE RESTRICTIONS – Fishing is prohibited from November 1 through the end of February. There are no HP 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.

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