



Lake Anna State Park Pond 2009

Lake Anna State Park Pond is a 1.5-acre impoundment located near the visitor center on the shores of Lake Anna in Spotsylvania County. This small pond is managed for children and handicapped persons with the hopes of providing a quality angling experience. The pond was renovated and restocked in 1993 with largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, and channel catfish. The pond was subsequently re-opened to fishing in May 1996 under restrictive regulations which includes the following creel and size limits: largemouth bass - 15 inch minimum size limit and 1 fish/day, bluegill/redear sunfish - no size restriction and 10 fish/day, and channel catfish – no size restriction and 3 fish/day. Angling is allowed year-round, from 8:00AM – Sunset by children 3 – 15 years old or handicapped anglers. Anglers are limited to one pole with hook and line.

DGIF fisheries biologists sample the fishery approximately every 3-5 years. Most recently, an electrofishing sample was conducted in May 2008. Biologists employ numerical descriptors of length-frequency data such as Proportional Stock Density (PSD) and Relative Stock Density (RSD) when evaluating fish populations. Proportional Stock Density is calculated by dividing the number of fish > minimum quality length by the number of fish > minimum stock length x 100. Quality length is defined as the minimum size of fish most anglers like to catch. Stock length is the minimum length at which a fish provides recreational value. Relative Stock Density (RSD) is simply the percentage of any designated length group found within a population. RSD is calculated by dividing the number of fish > specified length by the number of fish > minimum stock length x 100.

Electrofishing yielded a CPUE of 81 fish/hr. The population structure of largemouth bass declined, with Proportional Stock Density (PSD) values decreasing (PSD 13) over the previous samples in 2003 (PSD 21). Relative Stock Density of “Preferred” fish (RSD-P) greater than 15” slightly decreased to 4 in 2008 from the 2003 sample (5). Anglers should experience good success for largemouth bass, but unfortunately most fish will be smaller than 12 inches.

Currently, the bluegill and redear sunfish population are extremely low (CPUE 16 fish/hr; 20 fish/hr.) which is probably due to high largemouth bass numbers and excessive predation. During the course of our spring sample, two black crappies were collected and removed from the pond. Crappies are not recommended for stocking in small ponds due to their prolific nature. In many cases, crappie stocked into small ponds stunt and offer a very poor fishery while competing with more desirable game fish for limited food resources. Anglers are encouraged to remove any and all crappie caught.

The Department will continue to stock 100 channel catfish per year in order to maintain that fishery. Fisheries biologists have also been treating the hydrilla infestation by a combination of herbicide treatment and stocking of triploid grass carp. Monitoring will continue to evaluate the efficacy of those treatments. Largemouth bass size structure should improve as vegetation density decreases.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation manages Lake Anna State Park and are responsible for access, maintenance, and law enforcement on the area. Additional regulations set by DCR may be in effect and are posted at the pond. Lake Anna State Park offers a variety of other activities, which includes a day use park with swimming, picnicking, boat rentals, and hiking.

More information is available from the following:

Lake Anna State Park
6800 Lawyers Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
540-854-5503

VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries
1320 Belman Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-899-4169