

Killens Pond

75.1 acres

Felton, Delaware

Fish Community

Killens Pond has a diverse gamefish population with an abundance of Largemouth Bass. Electrofishing surveys conducted by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife in 2014 revealed a growing bass population with a variety of size groups. A large proportion of quality size bass ($\geq 12''$) were observed and it is common for anglers to report catching citation sized Largemouth Bass ($\geq 20''$ or $\geq 5\text{lbs}$)



A variety of size groups is a good indicator of a balanced population

(<http://de.gov/livereleaseprogram>). According to bass tournament statistics for 2013 and 2014, Killens Pond was among the top three ponds in Delaware with the highest catch per angler hour and in 2013 the site of the largest tournament caught bass (7.6lbs). Largemouth Bass with irregular black 'blotches', known as *hyperpigmented melanosis*, are fairly common in Killens Pond. The cause is unknown but thought to be genetic. Bass tend to hang around drop-offs near shoreline cover and near the small island. Deadfalls and brush piles in water deeper than three feet concentrate bass and crappie. The number of Black Crappie has improved within the past five years, but they are still not very abundant and average relative weight (indication of condition or 'plumpness') is low. In the past, crappie in the 5-6" size range became overcrowded and had to be culled to improve growth and condition. Competition from an abundant Bluegill population and predation by bass may also play a role in the low abundance and condition of crappie. The population will be reassessed when sampling is conducted again in 2019. The Bluegill population has increased in the past five years and there is a high proportion of Bluegill $>6''$. The length frequency distribution was typical for a growing population with a peak in the 5-6" size class. Relative weights were good for Bluegill $<6''$ but only fair for larger fish. White perch were the only other panfish species caught during sampling in 2014 and they were not very abundant. Chain Pickerel were also observed in low abundance, but were likely underrepresented in the survey due to their ability to avoid electrofishing gear. Common Carp and American Eel were common throughout the pond with lesser numbers of Yellow Bullhead (white barbels or 'whiskers') and Brown Bullhead (black barbels or 'whiskers'). Carp fishing is excellent at this pond with most of the shoreline suitable for bank fishing. Dough balls and canned corn are the most popular baits.



Vegetation

Aquatic vegetation in Killens Pond is dominated by beds of spatterdock. Planktonic algae, which are single celled plants that become so numerous the water appears to be green, is common in the warm summer months. Mats of filamentous (thread-like) algae also occur at times along the pond edge in many areas, especially in the back of the pond.

Special conditions

Carp may not be taken by bow and arrow because this pond is part of Killens Pond State Park. A daily entrance fee is charged to enter the park or use the boat ramp. An annual pass can also be purchased at the park office. Check online (www.destateparks.com) for the opening and closing of the fee season and general park information or contact the Park Office at (302) 284-4526. The park has

many amenities: nature center, canoe rentals, fishing piers, hiking trails, biking trails, a fitness course, frisbee golf, picnic tables, a swimming complex and campsite and cabin rentals. Camp sites and cabins can be reserved online at the weblink provided or by calling the park office. All state parks are “carry in, carry out” areas meaning that all trash must be taken out of the park property. There is a receptacle near the boat ramp for disposing of used fishing line only (not trash).

Access

Killens pond is surrounded by State Park land and has ample shoreline angling access as well as several fishing piers. The boat ramp off of Killens Pond Road is a good launching site for small boats but the parking lot can only accommodate about 4-5 boat trailers. The ramp is also ‘unimproved’ (sand/silt) with a shallow slope so plan accordingly.



The boat ramp is located off of Killens Pond Rd (CR 384), south of the town of Felton.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Help us prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species

(see Pond Map on next page)

