



# Barker Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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**General Information:** Barker Reservoir (198 surface acres) is a storage reservoir owned and operated by Boulder Water. Shore angling is allowed at designated areas. Anglers can expect to most frequently catch brown and rainbow trout. Tiger muskie, splake and lake trout are also present.

More Information: <http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/>

**Location:** 15 miles west of Boulder via HWY 119 or ½ mile east of Nederland.

**Owner/Operator:** City of Boulder

**Purchase a Fishing License:** <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/>

**Fishery Management:** Coldwater angling

### Amenities

- Primitive Restrooms
- Hiking Trails
- Shoreline angling

### Regulations

- No watercraft allowed.
- No ice fishing.
- Swimming, wading, and diving are prohibited.
- Min. size for Tiger Muskie is 36" (1 fish).
- Use or possession of live fish as bait is prohibited.

### Previous Stocking

#### 2011

Arctic Grayling  
Brown Trout  
Hofer Strain Rainbow  
Rainbow Trout

#### 2010

Arctic Grayling  
Brown Trout  
Hofer Strain Rainbow  
Rainbow Trout

#### 2009

Arctic Grayling  
Hofer Strain Rainbow  
Lake (Mackinaw) Trout  
Rainbow Trout  
Splake (Lake x Brook)

#### 2008

Native Cutthroat  
Rainbow Trout  
Tiger Muskie

#### 2007

Native Cutthroat  
Rainbow Trout

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Rainbow Trout

- Rainbow trout are stocked at both sub-catchable (3-5") and catchable size (10").

#### Tiger Muskie

- Large tigers are present in Barker; they appear to roam lake-wide.
- Tigers are stocked in relatively low numbers to provided a diversified fishery and control suckers.
- Generally stocked at 8".

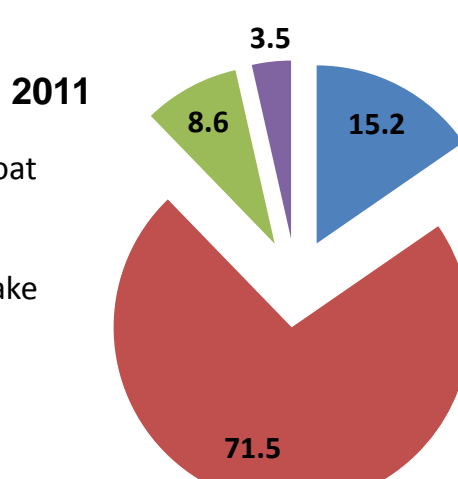
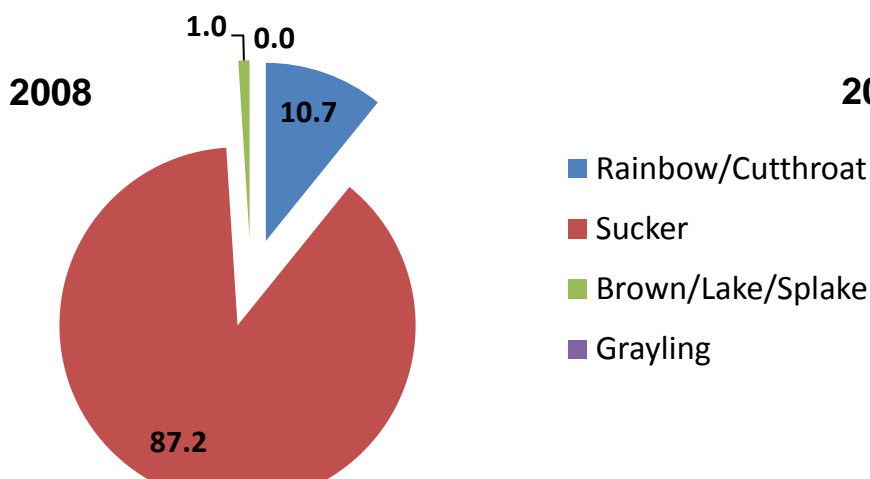
#### Lake Trout/Splake

- New species for 2009.
- Stocked to diversify angling opportunity and reduce sucker population.
- Lakers stocked at 5 inches.
- Splake stocked at 3 inches.

## 2011 Barker Reservoir Survey Summary Completed 9/14/2011

Fall 2011 Survey Species	#Caught (6 gillnets)	% Total Catch	Average Length and (Range) in inches	Average Weight (lbs)
Arctic Grayling	9	3.5%	11.8 (8 - 14)	0.60
Brown Trout	11	4.3%	9.5 (6 - 16)	0.40
Lake Chub	3	1.2%	4.8 (4 - 5)	0.05
Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	9	3.5%	11.0 (10 - 12)	0.38
Longnose Sucker	103	40.2%	9.1 (5 - 13)	0.36
Native Cutthroat Trout	1	0.4%	7.1	0.13
Rainbow Trout	38	14.8%	9.0 (5 - 14)	0.36
Splake (Brook x Lake)	2	0.8%	10.8 (9 - 13)	0.39
White Sucker	80	31.3%	15.2 (14 - 19)	1.78

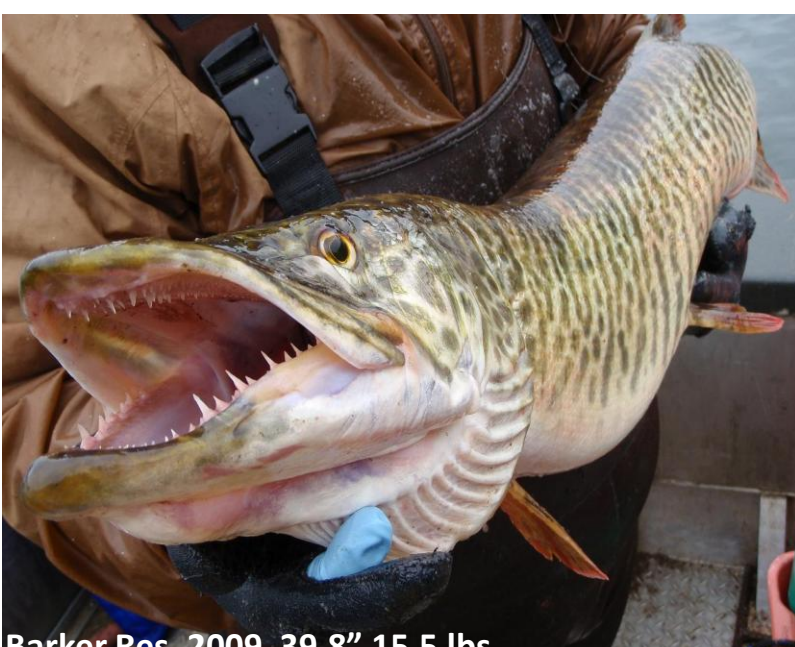
Fall 2010 Survey Species	#Caught (6 gillnets)	% Total Catch	Average Length and (Range) in inches	Average Weight (lbs)
Brown Trout	4	1.1%	19.2 (6 - 31)	4.26
Lake Chub	10	2.7%	4.5 (4 - 5)	0.04
Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	3	0.8%	10.2 (9 - 11)	0.34
Longnose Sucker	129	34.7%	7.6 (4 - 13)	0.26
Native Cutthroat Trout	2	0.5%	10.7 (9 - 12)	0.42
Rainbow Trout	103	27.7%	9.9 (6 - 14)	0.42
Splake (Brook x Lake)	12	3.2%	9.9 (9 - 11)	0.31
White Sucker	109	29.3%	15.2 (14 - 19)	1.59



- Rainbow/Cutthroat
- Sucker
- Brown/Lake/Splake
- Grayling

**Pie Charts Below.** These figures represent the relative abundance by year (2008 vs. 2011) of various trout species, sucker (longnose and white), and grayling. Management plans for Barker Reservoir following the 2008 season have focused to reduce sucker abundance while simultaneously increasing sportfish biomass. Stocking predatory trout species (lake, splake, and brown) combined with switching to a hofer-strain sub-catchable rainbow has partially accomplished these objectives. Splake and lake trout introductions (2009) were successful leading to an increase in predatory species. Longnose and white sucker declined from 87% of the total catch in 2008 to 72% of the catch in 2011.

The process to reduce sucker abundance will not take place over-night. In addition to brown trout stocked 2009-2010, 30,000 brown trout fingerlings are scheduled to be stocked this spring. Arctic grayling collected during 2011 represent adult fish transferred from Joe Wright Reservoir. The grayling were originally stocked in Middle Boulder Creek above Barker, but later filtered down into the reservoir as planned. Besides the adult grayling, nearly 32,000 young fingerlings have been stocked in the reservoir since 2009. Unfortunately, these fish have gone undetected in the survey. Stocking of this species will continue for 2 more years; beyond 2014 will depend on future survey results.



Barker Res. 2009 39.8" 15.5 lbs

**Tiger muskie** have been stocked semi-annually in Barker since 2002 while splake (5,000 @ 3") and lake trout (8,000 @ 5") were stocked in 2009. Should this management plan succeed, future surveys should illustrate a continued reduction in sucker abundance, ultimately settling somewhere closer to 50% of the total catch. This strategy relies on the premise that the predatory splake and lake trout will target prey species in proportion to their abundance. Lake trout and splake caught at Barker (2011) should measure about 12". *Lower left* are 2 splake identified during the survey along with a 31" brown trout (*lower right*) collected near the inlet of Barker Reservoir.

