



Lake John

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Kurt Davies - Aquatic Biologist (Fort Collins)

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General Information: Lake John (565 acres) is a state wildlife area providing quality fishing for rainbow, cutthroat, and some brown trout. For more information and current fishing conditions, this website is a good resource: http://www.lakejohnresort.com/fishing_report.htm

Location: Jackson County. From Walden, go 1/2 mile west on Hwy 14. Turn right onto CR 12W and go 5 miles. Take the right fork, staying on CR 12W. After 2 mi., take the right fork onto Rd. 7. Go 5 mi. to SWA.

Recreational Management: Jackson County

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling

Annual Survey Data: [scroll down](#)

Amenities

- Boat Ramps
- Restrooms
- Shade Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Private Campground with Electrical Hookups and Dump Station
- Private Cabins

Regulations

- Bag and possession limit for trout is 4.
- Camping in established areas only.
- Waterskiing, sailboards prohibited.
- Entry requires a State Habitat Stamp.
- **No Live Fish** for Bait

Special Note

Lake John will be closed for a renovation from August 8-19, 2011. Fishing will resume in September. See the following pages for more information.

Previous Stocking

2010

Rainbow Trout
Snake River Cutthroat
Cuttbow

2009

Rainbow Trout
Snake River Cutthroat
Cuttbow

2008

Rainbow Trout
Snake River Cutthroat
Cuttbow

2007

Rainbow Trout
Snake River Cutthroat
Cuttbow

Sportfishing Notes

- Fish the edges of the weed beds as they develop in the summer.
- Lake John fish grow fat eating minnows. Try 1 1/2"- 2" imitations like kastmasters, spinners or rapalas fished just above the bottom.
- Fish target midges in early summer. Drop a midge fly pattern several feet below a float.
- When fishing through the ice, water depth is often more important than lure/bait selection.
- As temperatures warm in the summer, trolling in the deeper water is most effective.



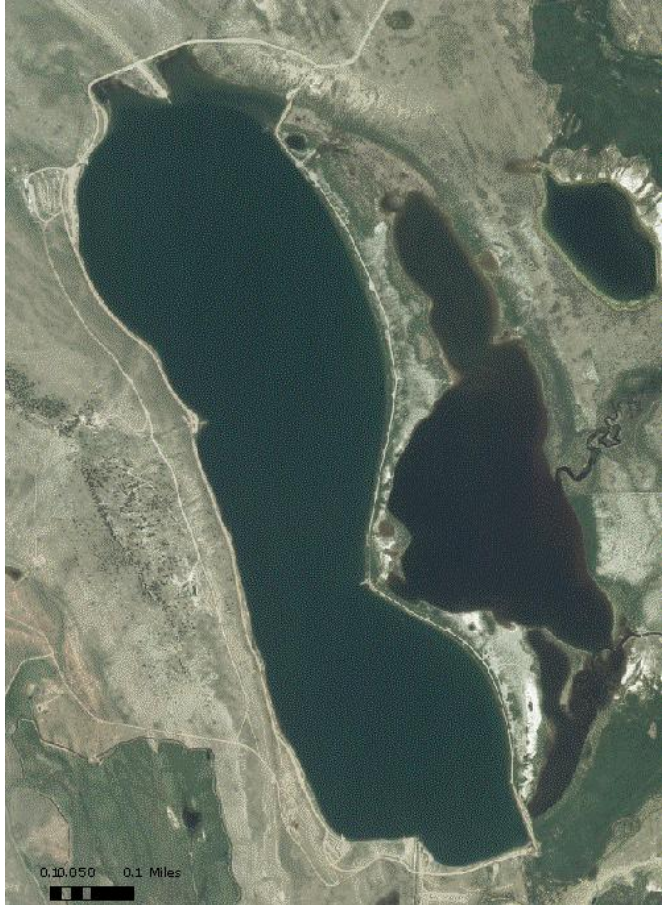
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History



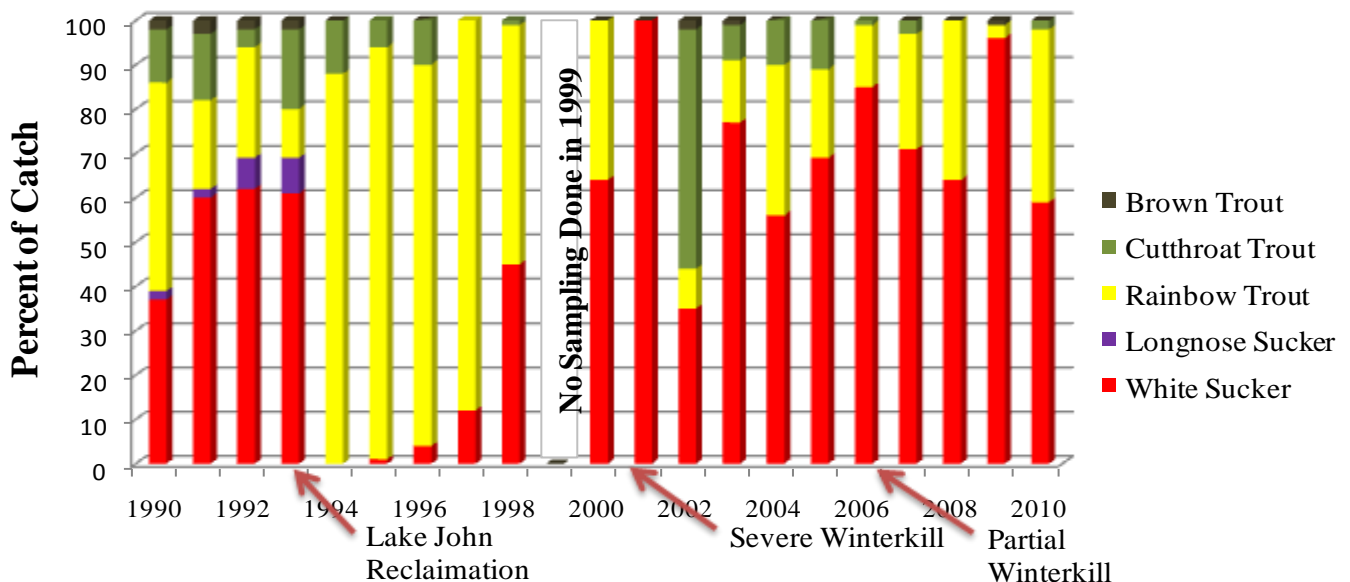
Lake John has been managed by the Division of Wildlife since the 1960's. Since then it has been managed to produce trout. White and longnose suckers have been a challenge to trout management in the lake. They successfully achieve high density and size and compete with trout. The first reclamation was done in 1969 removing yellow perch as well as suckers. The lake was treated with rotenone to remove all fish and a fresh start was made with newly planted trout. Yellow perch were not seen in Lake John again.

Suckers made their way down the ditch feeding Lake John and eventually repopulated the lake. By the 1980's, sucker composition was back over 60%. Another reclamation was suggested but opposition to the idea pushed the project back to 1993. A barrier was constructed on the inlet to prevent reestablishment by the suckers. Unfortunately there was a structural failure with the barrier and white suckers were reintroduced. Longnose suckers have not been sampled since.

As the table below shows, the fishery enjoyed six years before sucker composition was back over 50%. From a fish management perspective, acceptable levels of suckers are at 25% or less.

The current species composition has returned to the historic high levels of suckers and white sucker biomass from gillnetting samples is dominating the lake. As a result, another renovation of Lake John is planned for August 2011.

Sampled Species Composition by % of Catch





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Lake John Renovation Project—August 2011

What Are We Doing?:

Applying **rotenone** to remove undesirable fish (White Suckers) from Lake John.

What is Rotenone:

Rotenone is a naturally occurring substance that inhibits a fish's ability to use oxygen in the water. It breaks down quickly when exposed to sunlight and in the water. At the levels that Lake John will be treated, it has no effect on humans, birds or other wildlife.



Why Are We Doing This:

Lake John is failing to meet its full potential as a great trout fishery. White sucker composition in the lake has averaged 72% since 2003 and competitive interactions are reducing the number of trout in the system. This project will make Lake John a better fishing destination.

How Will the Renovation Work:

On August 9, 2011, we will apply approximately 20,000 pounds of rotenone to Lake John in one day (the lake will be closed to access for two weeks). In the **beginning of September**, after the rotenone has broken down and forage conditions are appropriate, trout will be planted and **the lake will be available for fishing again through the fall into the winter season.**

Timeline:

Early Summer	Begin draining lake
4 th Week of July	Begin salvage operation
1 st Week of August	Prepare equipment
August 8	Assemble crew/project briefing
August 9	Lake Application
August 11	Set test nets / Begin refilling lake
End of August	Monitor chemical concentration and zooplankton levels
Early September	Restore the trout fishery/Begin planting fish



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Lake John Renovation Project—August 2011

What Fish Will Be Planted In September:

Rainbow trout, hybrid rainbow/cutthroat trout, and Snake River cutthroat trout:

250,000	3-5 inch trout
150,000	6-8 inch trout
40,000	10-12 inch trout
2000	3-7 pound brood fish

Based on the previous reclamation, these fish will grow up to 6 additional inches prior to December.



The Future of the Lake:

The lake will still be managed to provide a quality fishing experience where you can expect to catch 16 inch trout with the potential opportunity to land a trophy. The regulations will remain the same and the condition and numbers of fish will continue to be monitored on an annual basis with management adjustments as necessary.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

- The lake will be open for fishing in the fall and for ice fishing.
- The regulations will not change prior to the reclamation but an effort will be made to capture and move trout to Cowdrey and Seymour in the last week of July.
- The limits on the lake will not be changed prior to the renovation.
- Dead fish will not be available for consumption.
- All fish in the lake will be killed by the treatment. The bugs, zooplankton, crayfish and scuds (aka “shrimp”) will be minimally affected by the treatment.
- An improved filter is in place on the inlet that should prevent sucker reintroduction.
- If suckers are introduced illegally, the lake will still have a better fishery for 5-6 years.

Any further questions should be directed to Kurt Davies at the contacts above.