



# Lon Hagler Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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**General Information:** Lon Hagler Reservoir (181 acres) is managed for trophy bass, sunfish and seasonal put and take rainbow trout. Anglers most frequently catch trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, catfish, yellow perch, and bluegill. Walleye and common carp are also in the reservoir while tiger muskie are often seen but rarely caught. Although boat fishing is good, this is a great destination for shore anglers and those with younger anglers.

**Location:** Larimer county. From Campion, go 3.3 miles W on CR 21S; then 1.5 miles N.

**Recreational Management:** Colorado Division of Wildlife

**Fishery Management:** Warmwater angling, Stock and Take Trout

### Amenities

- Boat Ramp (2)
- Primitive Restroom
- Hiking Trails
- Wildlife Viewing
- Ice Fishing

### Regulations

• **Minimum size for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 18" inches long.**

• **Bag and possession limit for bass is 1 fish.**

- Min. size for tiger muskie is 36"; 1 fish limit.
- Statewide bag and possession limits also apply (Trout = 4).
- Wakeless boating only.
- No fishing in the inlet structure.

### Previous Stocking

#### 2011

- Black Crappie
- Channel Catfish
- Largemouth Bass
- Rainbow Trout
- Saugeye
- Smallmouth Bass

#### 2010

- Black Crappie
- Channel Catfish
- Largemouth Bass
- Rainbow Trout
- Yellow Perch
- Wiper

#### 2009

- Black Crappie
- Channel Catfish
- Rainbow Trout
- Smallmouth Bass
- Walleye

#### 2008

- Black Crappie
- Channel Catfish
- Rainbow Trout
- Tiger Muskie

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Walleye/Saugeye

- Fish the dam when water temps are 40-50°F.
- 12 lb+ walleye are in Lon Hagler but rarely caught. Walleyes this size are always females.

#### Bass

- Best advice, fish the dam with small spinners and senkos.

#### Channel Catfish

- Best baits are chicken livers, night crawlers, and 1" rapalas.
- West end of the lake is best.

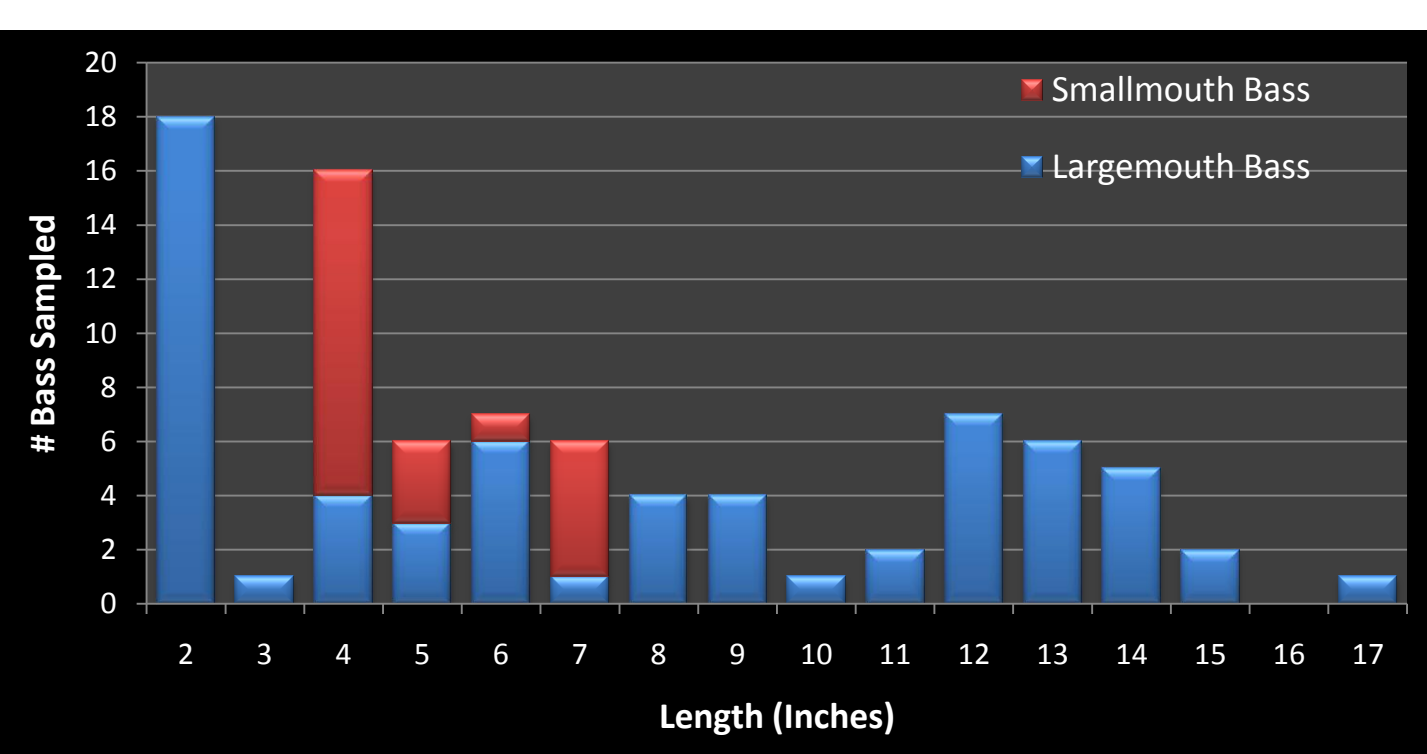
#### Tiger Muskie

- Persistence is the best advice, legal fish routinely cruise the shoreline in 8-10 ft. of water.
- The best lure is a spoon or large rapala tipped with some luck! A trout imitation might not be a bad idea!

2011 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Average Length (Range) Inches	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	22	6.7	5.5 (5 - 13)	0.11
Bluegill	28	8.5	4.6 (2 - 6)	0.08
Channel Catfish	55	16.8	15.6 (4 - 25)	1.49
Common Carp	12	3.7	22.7 (10 - 27)	3.98
Gizzard Shad	54	16.5	8.1 (6 - 15)	0.24
Largemouth Bass	44	13.4	8.0 (2 - 19)	0.54
Smallmouth Bass	21	6.4	6.6 (4 - 14)	0.26
Walleye	15	4.6	19.2 (11 - 31)	2.96
White Bass	2	0.6	13.7 (12 - 17)	1.21
White Sucker	15	4.6	14.2 (13 - 17)	1.15
Wiper	11	3.4	6.2 (5 - 10)	0.13
Yellow Perch	49	14.9	4.5 (3 - 9)	0.05

2010 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Average Length (Range) Inches	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	1	0.3	3.1	0.01
Bluegill	83	27.9	4.5 (2.6 - 6.7)	0.06
Channel Catfish	36	12.1	15.4 (7.2 - 24.3)	1.47
Common Carp	4	1.3	22.7 (21 - 25)	5.07
Green Sunfish	14	4.7	3.8 (2 - 5)	0.04
Gizzard Shad	1	0.3	16.1	1.12
Largemouth Bass	65	21.9	7.2 (2 - 17)	0.41
Rainbow Trout	2	0.7	14.7 (14 - 15)	1.17
Smallmouth Bass	21	7.1	4.6 (4 - 7)	0.05
Walleye	18	6.1	18.1 (10.1 - 29.8)	3.59
White Sucker	10	3.4	14.1 (10 - 19)	1.15
White Bass	2	0.7	15.8 (15.4 - 15.6)	1.69
Yellow Perch	40	13.5	4.1 (3.3 - 9.7)	0.04

Left: The summary of all fish sampled at Lon Hagler Reservoir using 5 gillnets (overnight sets) and 30 minutes of electrofishing on July 26, 2011 (top) and July 14, 2010 (bottom). The average length of largemouth bass is skewed to the smaller side because young of year fish were sampled in good numbers each year.



**Above:** The length-frequency distribution for smallmouth and largemouth bass collected from Lon Hagler Reservoir in July, 2010 (nets + electrofishing). The existing population of bass in Lon Hagler Reservoir is dominated by 10-14 inch largemouth bass, most of which are not sexually mature at their current size. Age at length studies indicate largemouth bass spawn in Colorado for the first time at roughly 15 inches or 4 years of age. With so few bass exceeding 15 inches, the parent (brood-stock) population of bass in Lon Hagler is rather small. Although the creel survey (see below) found that anglers release most bass greater than 15 inches, a new regulation implemented January 1, 2011 will protect bass up to 18-inches thus allowing bass to spawn naturally for 2 or more seasons before being susceptible to legal harvest by the angler.



**Above:** Installation of spawning habitat during August 2010 (reservoir drawdown) specifically designed to attract both largemouth bass and crappie. A female largemouth carries approximately 4,000 eggs per pound of body weight. The 18-inch minimum length regulation change for largemouth bass will protect more of the brood females from harvest, while the habitat installation project will substantially increase the substrate bass and crappie prefer for reproduction. The Loveland Fishing Club provided funding for the gravel/cobble AND volunteer labor. Rocky Mountain National Park donated the timber for this project.

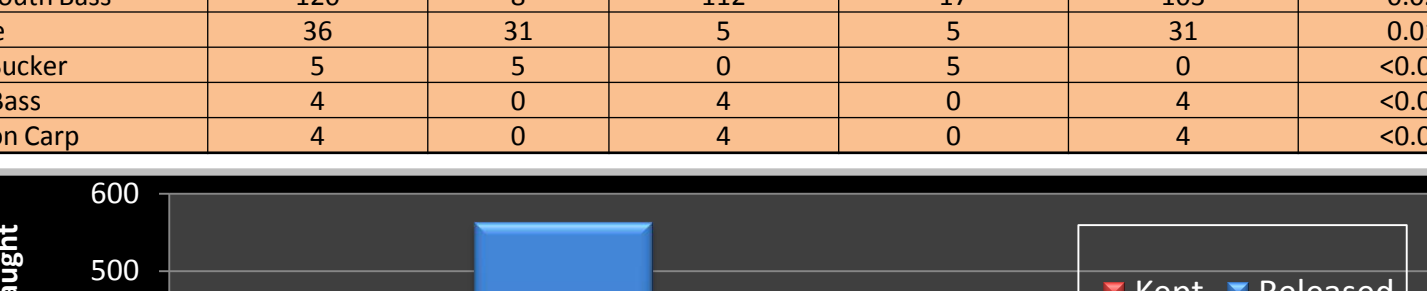
**Below:** A spawning plot one year after installation. The spawn plots were submerged for 11 full months with none of the structures moving or silting in. The timber material remained in great condition, offering an additional substrate for insect development. Visual evidence of fish using these structures was evident by numerous "divots" in the gravel material. The divots are nests cleared out by female bass, crappie, or bluegill. Evidence of young of year fish production was not exactly evident based on the electrofishing survey results. Although black crappie abundance appears to be trending upward, the number of young bass and bluegill collected during 2011 was not strikingly different compared to the 2010 survey (it actually decreased). This project needs at least 3 or 4 full spawn years to be fully evaluated.



**2010 Creel Survey:** Many of you provided detailed information regarding hours fished and the number of each species caught between May 1 and July 31, 2010 at Lon Hagler. A summary of the estimated number of fish caught, kept, and/or released. To learn more about creel surveys go here:

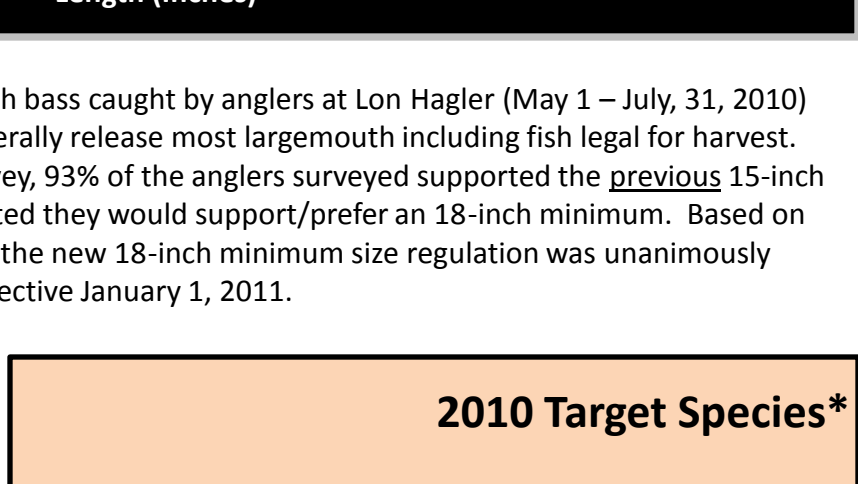
<http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/Reports/ManagementandSurveys/Pages/FisheryWaterSummaries.aspx>

Species	Total Caught	# Kept	# Returned	# Caught Shore	# Caught Boat	catch/hour
Rainbow Trout	3627	2035	1592	2239	1388	0.37
Largemouth Bass	1460	32	1428	268	1192	0.21
Yellow Perch	476	206	270	111	365	0.07
Crappie	187	146	41	0	187	0.03
Bluegill	149	70	79	136	13	0.01
Channel Catfish	145	114	32	31	114	0.02
Smallmouth Bass	120	8	112	17	103	0.02
Walleye	36	31	5	5	31	0.01
White Sucker	5	5	0	5	0	<0.01
White Bass	4	0	4	0	4	<0.01
Common Carp	4	0	4	0	4	<0.01

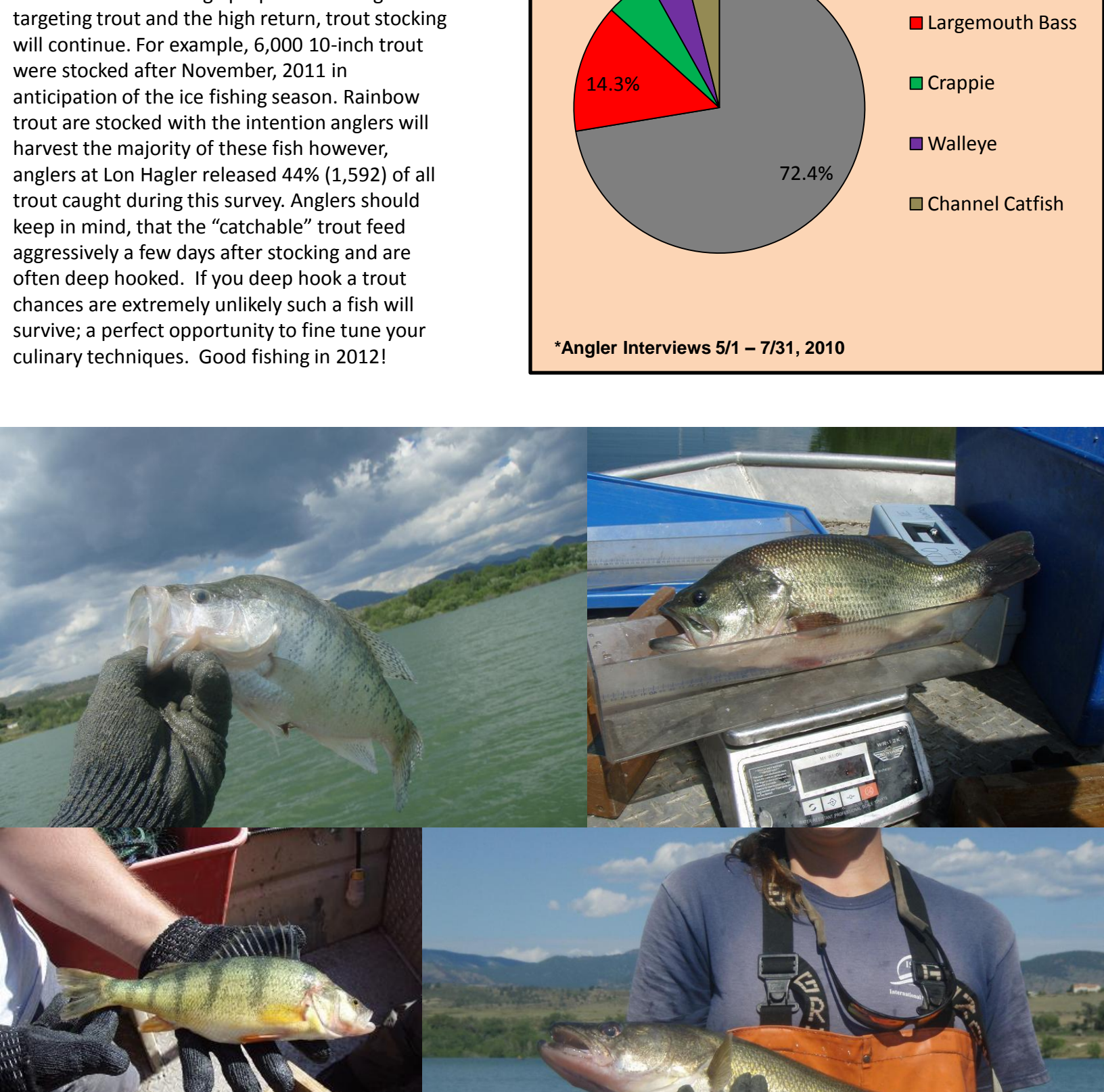


**Above:** A summary of the estimated number of largemouth bass caught by anglers at Lon Hagler (May 1 - July 31, 2010) grouped by length. Contrary to popular belief, anglers generally release most largemouth including fish legal for harvest. Based on social information provided during the creel survey, 93% of the anglers surveyed supported the previous 15-inch minimum length limit for bass while 98% of anglers indicated they would support/prefer an 18-inch minimum. Based on the combination of biological and social data (your input), the new 18-inch minimum length was unanimously approved by the wildlife commission. This regulation is effective January 1, 2011.

**Rainbow Trout:** The 2010 creel survey found that the most creel survey found that the most sought after species at Lon Hagler. Based on the number of trout stocked at the beginning of this survey (4,000 fish), anglers hooked 91% of the stocked 10-inch trout. With such a large proportion of anglers targeting trout and the high return, trout stocking will continue. For example, 6,000 10-inch trout were stocked after November, 2011 in anticipation of the ice fishing season. Rainbow trout are stocked with the intention anglers will harvest the majority of these fish however, anglers at Lon Hagler released 44% (1,592) of all trout caught during this survey. Anglers should keep in mind, that the "catchable" trout feed aggressively a few days after and are often deep hooked. If you deep hook a trout chances are extremely unlikely such a fish will survive; a perfect opportunity to fine tune your culinary techniques. Good fishing in 2012!



\*Angler Interviews 5/1 - 7/31, 2010



Fish Photos: A few individuals sampled during the 2011 survey at Lon Hagler Reservoir.