



McCall Lake

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: McCall Lake is a 35 acre impoundment offering great shoreline access. Anglers can expect to catch bass, crappie, bluegill, catfish, wiper, and catchable trout. In my opinion warm water angling at this lake can be improved; changes are in the mix.

Location: 7 miles west of I-25 and HWY 66, or 3 miles east of Lyons on HWY 66

Fishery Management: Warmwater Angling

Recreational Management: City of Longmont

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

<u>Amenities</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Primitive restroom •Good shoreline access 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2011</u></p> Black Crappie Channel Catfish Largemouth Bass Rainbow Trout White Bass	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rainbow Trout</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Spinners, bait (powerbait & nightcrawlers), and flies are all productive tools. Fishing is typically good April-June; and after September.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Daily trout limit is 4. See regulation brochure for more information. •Minimum length for crappie is 10 inches. •Minimum length for bass is 15 inches. •No kayaks, carry-on boats, or inner tubes are permitted. <p>Multi-chambered belly boats are allowed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2010</u></p> Black Crappie Channel Catfish Largemouth Bass Rainbow Trout Wiper Yellow Perch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •At times the rainbows are so aggressive they often deep hook themselves while attacking bait. Anglers who encounter a deep hooked trout are highly encouraged to keep these fish. Trout hooked in this fashion will not survive.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2009</u></p> Black Crappie Channel Catfish Rainbow Trout	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wiper</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gizzard shad are plentiful; casting a shad imitation is a good start.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2008</u></p> Black Crappie Channel Catfish Rainbow Trout Largemouth Bass Wiper	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2007</u></p> Channel Catfish Largemouth Bass Rainbow Trout	

2011 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Average Length (Range) Inches	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	3	2.5	6.4 (6 - 7)	0.14
Bluegill	8	6.6	5.0 (4 - 6)	0.08
Channel Catfish	13	10.7	13.7 (7 - 32)	1.80
Common Carp	18	14.9	18.0 (4 - 26)	3.32
Gizzard Shad	55	45.5	10.8 (3 - 17)	0.68
Green Sunfish	1	0.8	3.1	0.05
Largemouth Bass	16	13.2	7.0 (2 - 14)	0.25
Wiper	4	3.3	10.2 (9 - 13)	0.52
Yellow Perch	3	2.5	5.7 (5 - 6)	0.07

Left: The summary of the 2011 survey (3 gillnets and 20 minutes electrofishing) and the 2009 survey (4 trap nets and 2 gillnets). Substantial gizzard shad abundance lead to the stocking of wiper to reduce shad. Shad directly compete with crappie which has led to poor growth and abundance despite the special regulation which potentially allow crappie to spawn 1-2 season prior to harvest. If predatory species can become established in better numbers wiper, crappie fishing will eventually improve.

2009 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Average Length (Range) Inches	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	10	6.8	7.7 (5-18)	0.40
Bluegill	26	17.8	4.4 (4 - 6)	0.05
Channel Catfish	20	13.7	12.9 (8 - 23)	1.29
Common Carp	3	2.1	20.0 (19 - 20)	3.39
Gizzard Shad	47	32.2	9.9 (5 - 17)	0.46
Largemouth Bass	5	3.4	7.0 (2 - 14)	0.39
Rainbow Trout	2	1.4	11.1 (11 - 12)	0.38
Golden Shiner	3	2.1	7.1 (6 - 8)	0.17
Wiper	21	14.4	8.7 (8 - 10)	0.27
White Sucker	1	0.7	17.3	1.83
Yellow Perch	8	5.5	5.7 (5 - 7)	0.09

Below: 2009 Creel Survey Results

Water Code: 53227 Water Name: McCALLS LAKE Year: 2009

Report	Estimates			
	Shore	Boat	Other	All
FISHERMAN-HOURS	9243.33	0	0	9243.33
FISHERMAN	3958.39	0	0	3958.39
TOTAL CATCH	5817.38	0	0	5317.38
KEPT CATCH	1030.28	0	0	1030.28
RETURNED CATCH	4786.1	0	0	4786.1
TOTAL CATCH/HR	0.68	0	0	0.68
KEPT CATCH/HR	0.13	0	0	0.13
RETURN CATCH/HR	0.55	0	0	0.55
AVERAGE FISH LENGTH (INCH)	7.29	0	0	7.29

Species	Total Catch	Kept Catch	Returned Catch	Total Catch/hour
Bluegill	2,323	493	1,830	0.29
Channel Catfish	652	238	412	0.08
Common Carp	74	20	54	0.02
Crappie	471	0	471	0.04
Largemouth Bass	1,030	10	1,020	0.12
Rainbow Trout	798	269	530	0.07
Yellow Perch	469	0	469	0.06
Summary	5,817	1,030	4,786	0.68

To learn more about creel surveys go here:
<http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/Reports/ManagementandSurveys/>

Based solely on information provided by anglers fishing McCall Lake, nearly 4,000 anglers visited the lake between June 1 and August 31, 2009. Anglers caught a total of 5,817 fish but kept less than 20% of the catch. A total of 471 crappie were caught with none being harvested; this is directly related to poor crappie growth as crappie cannot be harvested unless they are longer than 10 inches. To increase growth of both bluegill and crappie, gizzard shad will be removed using electrofishing and the stocking of additional wiper and bass will continue to increase predation.

Questions we asked anglers:

- Do you keep trout from this lake? **Yes: 55% No: 45%**
- If No, why not?
- 0% trout are too small
 - 1% don't like to clean fish
 - 0% can't keep enough
 - 23% fishing for other species
 - 0% don't eat trout
 - 76% other (fishing to relax, fishing to enjoy nature, fishing to be with family)

Based on information collected from the creel survey we will boost trout stocking thereby increasing catch rates and accommodating fishing pressure (12,000 10-inch trout annually). Trout will be stocked April-May and after September 15 of each year.

The biggest hurdle to improving warmwater angling at McCall lies in reducing the shad population.

Adult yellow perch (8-12 inches) were stocked during the spring of 2011 ahead of the shad spawn. Bass and wiper are generally not available for stocking until September at point at which they are the same size as the young shad and incapable of reducing their numbers. **Given the lackluster performance of wiper in McCall, white bass were stocked in May 2011.** White bass target shad and the timing of the stocking occurred before the 2011 shad hatch. Unfortunately we did not detect this species in the fall survey but this is not an end-all conclusion that this stocking failed. We'll evaluate this again in 2012.

Finally, thanks to all of you who responded to creel interviews. We interviewed nearly 1,000 individuals. It should be noted that the vast majority of anglers do indeed comply with angling regulations at this lake which was evident from the creel data. Scientific studies have proven regulation compliance must exceed 85% for such regulations to biologically work.

Shad cycle

