



Union Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA
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General Information: Union reservoir, formally Calkins lake, is a 800 acre reservoir which provides quality fishing for wiper, catfish, carp, and trout. Anglers can also expect to catch walleye and smallmouth bass. For park hours, fees, and other information:

www.ci.longmont.co.us/parks/park_list/overview/union.htm

Location: Weld county. 7 miles west of I-25 and HWY 66 exit (Lyons).

Recreational Management: City of Longmont (303-772-1265)

Purchase a fishing license: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/>

Fishery Management: Warmwater angling

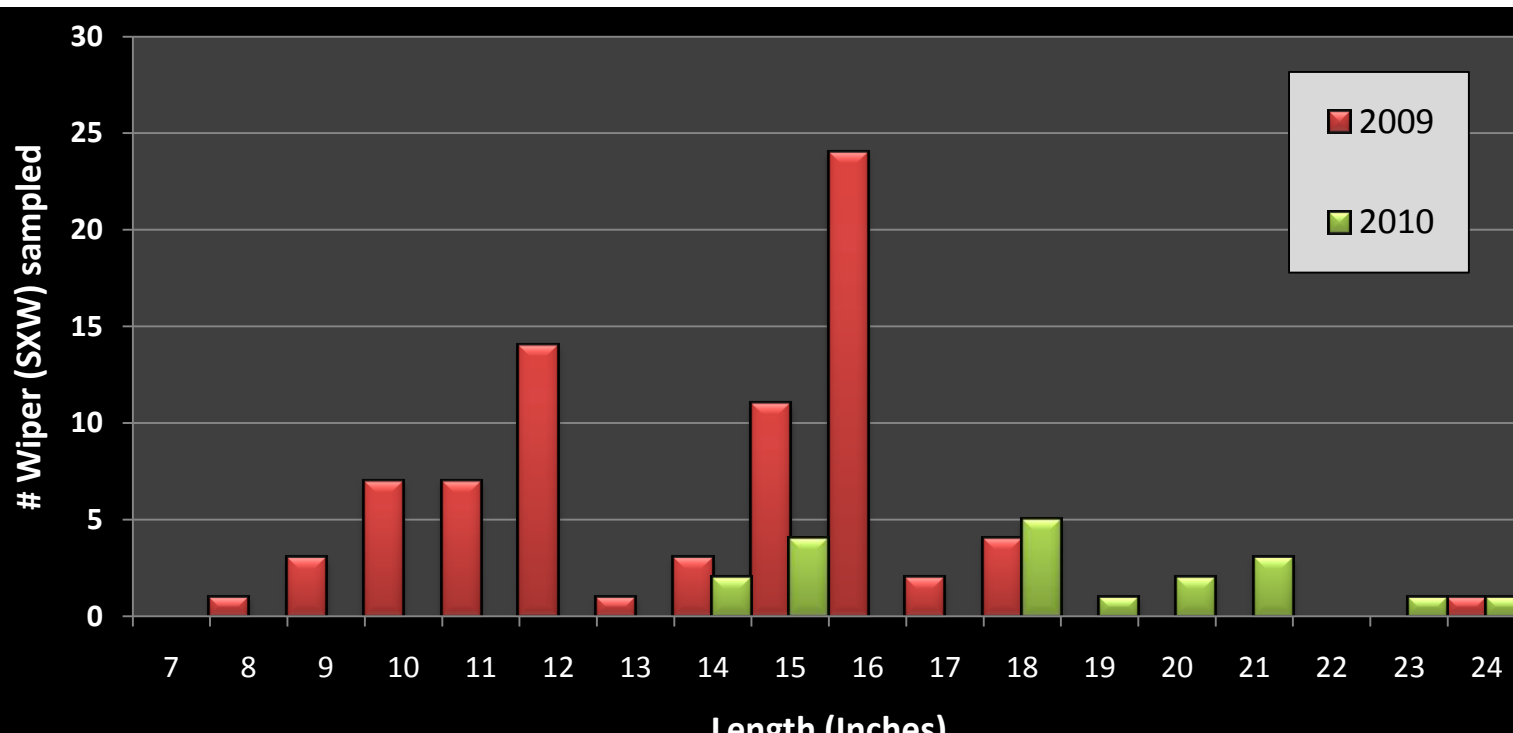
<u>Amenities</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Boat Ramp •Picnic Areas •Modern Restrooms •Swim Beach •Camping 	<p><u>2011</u> Saugeye Channel Catfish Wiper Black Crappie Largemouth Bass Rainbow Trout</p> <p><u>2010</u> Walleye Channel Catfish Wiper Rainbow Trout</p> <p><u>2009</u> Walleye Channel Catfish Black Crappie Rainbow Trout</p> <p><u>2008</u> Wiper Smallmouth Bass Channel Catfish Black Crappie Rainbow Trout</p>	<p><u>Wiper</u> •Wiper often chase schools of bait fish (shad), watch the seagulls! •Shad imitation lures are your best bait.</p> <p><u>Walleye</u> •Fish are difficult to locate (limited structure) but crawler harnesses and small rapalas are good baits.</p> <p><u>Trout</u> •Spring trout fishing is generally awesome using traditional baits.</p> <p><u>Smallmouth</u> •Limited habitat for smallmouth, but any rock outcropping holds this species.</p> <p><u>Common Carp</u> •OK it's carp, but Union has some serious bruisers. Fish May-June in 3-5 ft. of water.</p>



2010 Netting Survey (September 9, 2010)

<u>2010 Survey Species</u>	<u># Caught</u>	<u>% Total Catch</u>	<u>Average Length and (Range) in Inches</u>	<u>Average Weight (lbs)</u>
Wiper (white x striped)	19	5.0%	18.8 (14 - 24)	3.36
Walleye	10	2.7%	17.6 (13 - 28)	2.26
Crappie	17	4.5%	6.4 (5 - 13)	0.21
Rainbow Trout	1	0.3%	14.2	0.9
Black Bullhead	31	8.2%	6.5 (5 - 10)	0.16
Channel Catfish	6	1.6%	22.6 (15 - 25)	5.26
Gizzard Shad	63	16.7%	15.4 (14 - 16)	1.12
Common Carp	29	7.7%	17.3 (11 - 20)	2.15
Smallmouth Bass	17	4.5%	9.5 (7 - 15)	0.57
Largemouth Bass	7	1.9%	8.0 (5 - 11)	0.36
Yellow Perch	161	42.7%	6.7 (5 - 8)	0.14
White Sucker	16	4.2%	11.9 (9 - 15)	0.77

2012 Fishing Forecast



Wiper – Although Union Reservoir is primarily managed as a wiper fishery, the 2010 fall survey would certainly not lead you to this conclusion. Fishing for wiper during 2011 will be slow. The encouraging part is that the wiper remaining in Union are very large. Wiper which are hooked in 2011 will more than likely exceed the 15-inch. Based on the best information available, it appears that wiper stocking in 2010 failed to establish. The fish stocked in 2010 were flown to the Loveland airport by DOW pilots which picked the fish up in Oklahoma. Cool water temperatures at the time of stocking likely precluded quality survival of the 200,000 fry. **Wiper fingerlings were stocked during 2011, but expect fishing to be marginal for this species until this year class becomes established.**

Yellow Perch – In contrast to wiper angling, fishing for yellow perch at Union should be excellent during 2012. We sampled the greatest number of this species in our gill nets in more than a decade. Perch should average about 8 inches. Fishing a small jig 6-inches off the bottom is a good bait to start with. Adding a small minnow will increase your chances of taking walleye in combination with perch.

Walleye – The 2010 gillnet survey indicates walleye fishing at Union should be fair this year. Union reservoir is primarily managed for wiper. Accordingly the gillnet survey exhibits these results. **Because of the reduced availability of wiper (2009-2011), stocking of walleye and saugeye in Union has increased. In total, 12,000 saugeye fingerlings were stocked in May, 2012. I anticipate excellent survival. Fishing for this species may be better than average relative to the recent history for Union.**

Gizzard Shad – Serving as the primary food source for all adult game fish, gizzard shad are the most important prey species in Union Reservoir. Overall abundance of adult shad remains at sufficient levels to grow sport fish such as walleye, wiper, and catfish. Casting or trolling a shad imitation at Union is a good bet!

Catfish – Six channel catfish were collected during the 2010 gillnet survey but anglers routinely catch decent numbers cats at Union. Given the sedentary nature of catfish, the sampling gear used limits our ability of gauge the structure of the catfish population. Since 2006 the DOW has stocked more than 103,000 catfish fingerlings (3”) so catfish anglers should make their own evaluation at Union.

Future Management – Based on the traditional success of wiper and the somewhat lackluster performance of walleye at Union, significantly more wiper than walleye will continue to be stocked in Union in the future. Catchable (10”) rainbow trout will be stocked during the spring and fall to provide an additional angling opportunity. In fact, 6,000 catchable trout were stocked during the fall of 2011. These fish will grow 2-4” before the ice comes off.