



Highline Lake

FISH MANAGEMENT and SURVEY INFORMATION

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General Information: Highline Lake provides fishing opportunities for black crappie, black bullhead, bluegill, common carp, largemouth bass, channel catfish, and seasonal rainbow trout. The lake is approximately 135 surface acres at full pool, and offers multiple recreational opportunities from March 1 through September 30, weather and lake conditions permitting.

A unique, fish barrier net is suspended within the reservoir near the outlet/spillway to preclude warmwater, non-native fish of Highline Lake from escaping into Mack Wash and the Colorado River downstream. The CDOW manages Mack Wash and the Colorado River for native listed and non-listed fish species.

Location: Mesa County. Drive west on I-70 west from Grand Junction to the Loma Exit, then north onto Colorado Highway 139 for six miles to Q Road. Go west on Q road for 1.2 miles, then turn north onto 11.8 Road for one mile to the park entrance.

Fishery Management: The CDOW manages Highline Lake for mixed fish species (coldwater and warmwater fish species).

CDOW Annual Survey Data: See Page 2

<u>Amenities and General Info.</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat Ramps (2) • Picnic Areas • Swim Beach • Restrooms • Camping with Camper Services • Biking • Hiking • Wildlife Viewing • Handicapped-Accessible Fishing Pier at Mack Mesa Lake 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2003</u></p> <p>Bluegill Largemouth Bass Rainbow Trout</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2004</u></p> <p>Largemouth Bass Rainbow Trout</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2005</u></p> <p>Black Crappie Largemouth Bass Rainbow Trout</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Black Crappie</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglers should focus near the dam and along structure for this species. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Channel Catfish and Black Bullhead</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel catfish and black bullhead concentrate in the north end and east inlet area. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Largemouth Bass</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled anglers are successful catching largemouth in small coves near structure, and along the dam. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rainbow Trout</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchable rainbow trout are stocked in the spring and fall, providing seasonal fishing in the cooler months.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum size for largemouth bass is 15" • Refer to CDOW Fishing Regulations for statewide bag and possession limits 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2006</u></p> <p>Rainbow Trout</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2007</u></p> <p>Rainbow Trout</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2008</u></p> <p>Rainbow Trout</p>	



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2006-2008 Fish Survey Information

Lori M. Martin – Aquatic Biologist

Northwest Region Service Center – Grand Junction

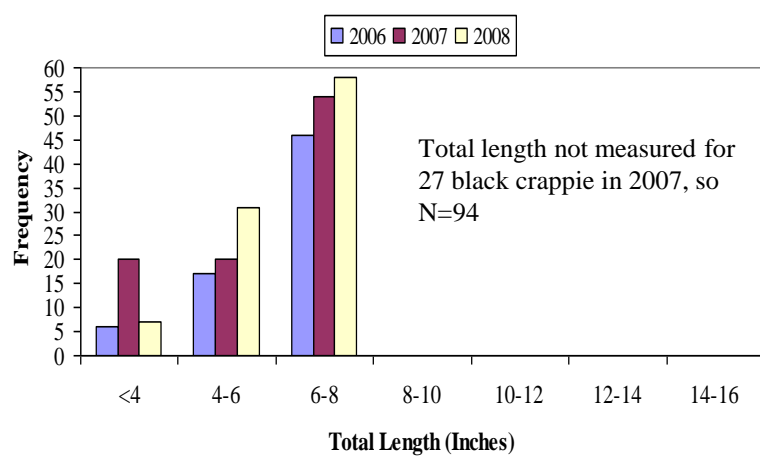


Photo Courtesy of P. Hedrick

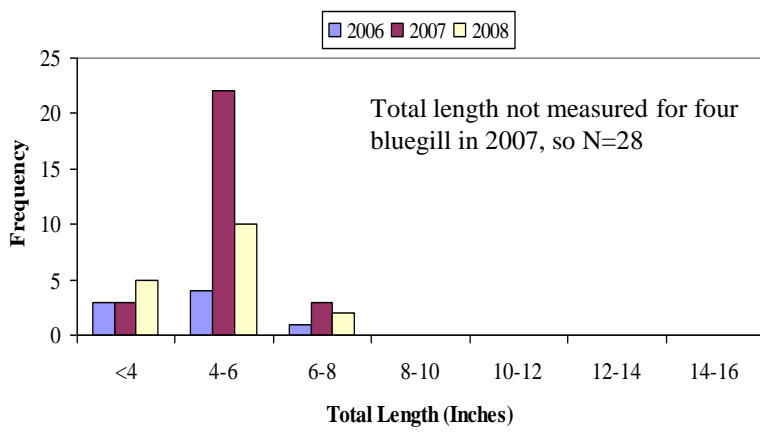
2006 Fall Evening Electrofishing Survey

Fish Species	# Fish Collected	*Average Length and Length Range (Inches)	*Average Weight and Weight Range (Pounds)
Black Bullhead	0	---	---
Black Crappie	69	6.1 (2.8 - 7.9)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.3)
Bluegill	8	4.8 (3.5 - 6.7)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.2)
Channel Catfish	1	16.7 (16.7 - 16.7)	1.6 (1.6 - 1.6)
Common Carp	14	15.1 (4.5 - 20.9)	---
Green Sunfish	1	4.1 (4.1 - 4.1)	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
Largemouth Bass	23	7.2 (2.2 - 19.2)	0.6 (0.0 - 4.7)
Rainbow Trout	4	10.7 (10.4 - 10.8)	0.3 (0.3 - 0.4)
Smallmouth Bass	3	3.8 (2.2 - 5.9)	0.0 (0.0 - 0.1)
White Sucker	13	11.6 (4.4 - 14.3)	0.5 (0.0 - 1.0)
Yellow Perch	26	3.8 (2.6 - 5.7)	0.0 (0.0 - 0.1)

Frequency of Black Crappie Collected by Size Class
Fall 2006, Fall 2007, and Fall 2008



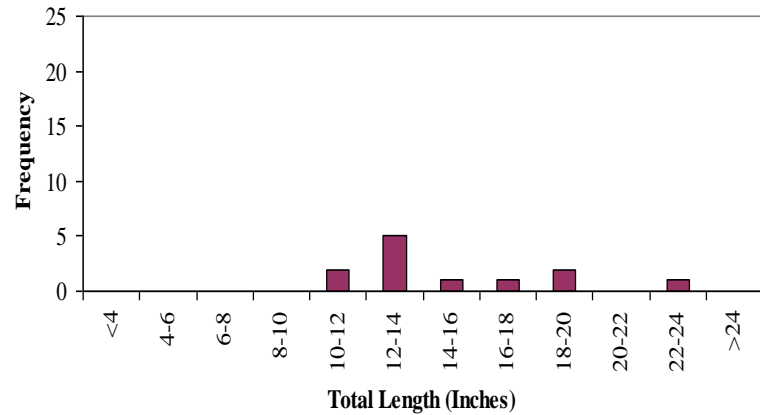
Frequency of Bluegill Collected by Size Class
Fall 2006, Fall 2007, and Fall 2008



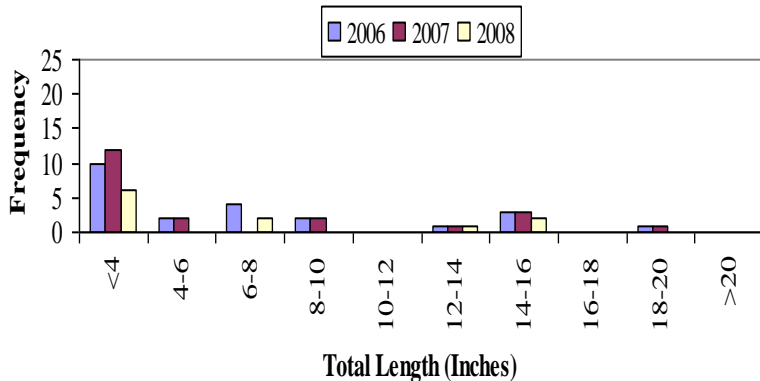
2007 Fall Evening Electrofishing Survey

Fish Species	# Fish Collected	*Average Length and Length Range (Inches)	*Average Weight and Weight Range (Pounds)
Black Bullhead	0	---	---
Black Crappie	121	5.7 (2.5 - 8.0)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.3)
Bluegill	32	5.2 (3.0 - 6.4)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.2)
Channel Catfish	0	---	---
Common Carp	19	13.2 (4.3 - 19.3)	1.5 (0.1 - 2.7)
Green Sunfish	52	4.1 (2.4 - 6.4)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.2)
Largemouth Bass	21	6.8 (1.3 - 19.9)	0.6 (0.0 - 5.8)
Rainbow Trout	20	10.3 (8.5 - 11.4)	0.3 (0.2 - 0.4)
Smallmouth Bass	6	5.1 (3.4 - 9.4)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.4)
White Sucker	35	12.3 (10.2 - 13.7)	0.7 (0.4 - 0.9)
Yellow Perch	27	3.0 (0.0 - 5.3)	0.0 (0.0 - 0.1)

Frequency of Channel Catfish Collected by Size Class
Fall 2008



Frequency of Largemouth Bass Collected by Size Class
Fall 2006, Fall 2007, and Fall 2008



2008 Fall Evening Electrofishing/Netting Survey

Fish Species	# Fish Collected	*Average Length and Length Range (Inches)	*Average Weight and Weight Range (Pounds)
Black Bullhead	1	3.5 (3.5 - 3.5)	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
Black Crappie	96	6.0 (2.2 - 7.9)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.2)
Bluegill	17	4.9 (3.3 - 6.7)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.2)
Channel Catfish	12	15.2 (11.5 - 23.5)	0.9 (0.0 - 6.5)
Common Carp	11	15.7 (3.7 - 21.9)	2.2 (0.0 - 5.3)
Green Sunfish	16	4.6 (2.1 - 8.3)	0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)
Largemouth Bass	11	6.8 (2.6 - 15.2)	0.4 (0.0 - 1.7)
Rainbow Trout	16	10.0 (6.8 - 11.2)	0.3 (0.2 - 0.5)
Smallmouth Bass	4	5.6 (2.7 - 8.9)	0.1 (0.0 - 0.3)
White Sucker	39	12.0 (7.0 - 14.5)	0.6 (0.1 - 1.1)
Yellow Perch	19	4.4 (2.7 - 5.9)	0.0 (0.0 - 0.1)

The CDOW manages Highline Lake for warmwater and coldwater species. Warmwater species include black crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass. Black crappie, bluegill, and largemouth bass reproduce in Highline, sustaining their populations with minimal stocking from the CDOW. Populations of warmwater fish species have not changed significantly from 2006 through 2008. Numerous black crappie can be caught, with most ranging in size from 6-8.” Bluegill, although not as numerous as black crappie, mainly provide forage for largemouth bass, with fewer larger (8”+) bluegill available for anglers. Survey crews often find channel catfish and largemouth bass elusive. Angler reports, however, indicate fish of both species are regularly caught, with memorable-size channel catfish (28”) and largemouth bass (20”) accounted for. Rainbow trout is the only coldwater species that the CDOW stocks in Highline Lake. Rainbows are stocked in early spring and late fall for seasonal, put and take fishing.

The CDOW is working with Colorado State Parks to complete an angler’s survey in 2009 at Highline Lake. Information collected during this survey will assist the CDOW to better manage the fishery within Highline Lake.

Please visit www.wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/Reports for statewide fishing conditions and stocking information.

Information regarding Highline Lake State Park can be found at www.parks.state.co.us/Parks/highlinelake

*Some smaller fish (usually <4”) only counted; some fish not weighed, so average weights may be conservative.