



Adobe Creek Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

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General Information: Adobe Creek Reservoir provides quality fishing for catfish, crappie, and saugeye. Wiper and white bass also are present, but in fewer numbers. Also known as “Blue Lake”, this reservoir has historically been a favorite for crappie and catfish anglers. As an irrigation storage lake, Blue Lake experiences fluctuation. Typically, the lake starts the year nearly full, and is drawn down as the year progresses. Weather conditions often change quickly and strong winds are common.

Location: Bent and Kiowa Counties, 20 Miles north of Las Animas on County Road 10.

Size: 2,000 - 4,000 surface acres (highly variable), Average Depth 11 ft.

Management: Ft. Lyon Irrigation Co., BLM, and CDOW (recreation mgmt.). **Annual Survey Data:** P2

<u>Amenities and General Info.</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Boat Ramps (2 high water, 1 low water). • Restrooms available • Primitive camping • Trotlines and jug fishing permitted. • Frozen surface of the lake is closed to public use. 	<p><u>2010</u></p> <p>Black Crappie 1.4”</p> <p>Blue Catfish 4.5”</p> <p>Channel Catfish 2.9”</p> <p>Saugeye 0.2”</p> <p>Walleye 0.2”</p> <p>Wiper 0.2”</p> <p><u>2009</u></p> <p>Blue Catfish 4.9”</p> <p>Channel Catfish 3.3”</p> <p>Saugeye 0.2”</p> <p>Wiper 0.2”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Catfish</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable depths, shallow during June/July spawn, good night fishing. • Best months are May–Oct. • Effective baits include: worms, minnows, shrimp, crawdads, cut bait, dough bait, or livers. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saugeye</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer areas with submerged structure, aquatic vegetation, or near schooling bait fish. • Best months are May & June • Effective lures are walleye type crank baits, minnow imitations, and jigs tipped with minnows or worms. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Crappie</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer areas with cover: submerged trees or habitat structures. • Best months are pre-spawn (April—May) • Live minnows, small plastic jigs (< 2”, 1/8 oz or less).
<p><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW for 2011: Daily bag limit for walleye/saugeye = 5, possession limit = 10. All fish must be 15” or larger. • NO ATV’s or OHV’s allowed on the wildlife area. • Closures may exist around endangered bird nesting areas. • Boaters are encouraged to ensure vessels are clean, drained, and dry before launching (at any water in CO) to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers. 		

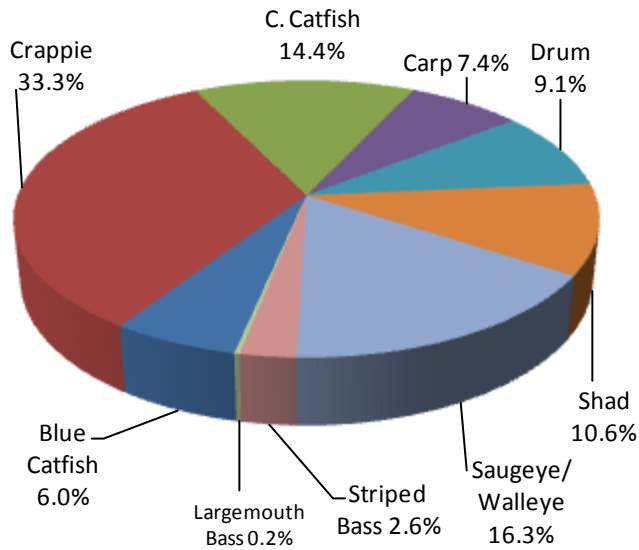


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2010 LAKE SURVEY DATA

Jim Ramsay - Aquatic Biologist

Lamar Service Center



PERCENT RELATIVE ABUNDANCE



2009 Aerial Photo Showing A.C. Res. at Approx. 3400 Surface Acres

LENGTH FREQUENCY TABLE

INCHES	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	T	
B. CATFISH		1	5	6			1		6				6												25	
CARP	2	3	1	1		2	2		9	1		3	1	1	1	2								1	1	31
C. CATFISH		1	1	1		2	2	1	5	12		5	3	4	3	2		1	4	2	5			2	4	60
CRAPPIE	7		17	8			37	67	3																	139
DRUM		27	3							1		3	2		1			1								38
G. SHAD		2							3	25		10	1	2		1										44
LM. BASS									1																	1
SAUGEYE				1		16	19					6	14	3		1		1	1	2						64
STRIPER															1		5	4	1							11
WALLEYE													1								3					4
CENTIMETERS	10	13	15	18	20	23	25	28	30	33	35	38	40	43	45	48	50	53	55	58	60	63	65	68		

RELATIVE WEIGHT TABLE

SPECIES	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11 YR AVG
C. CATFISH	96.1	98.9	93.8	80.2	---	90.3	91.8	93.0	98.0	100.3	98.0	94.0
CRAPPIE	112.2	110.1	91.6	90.6	---	104.0	116.4	113.6	101.9	114.0	104.6	105.8
G. SHAD	101.8	105.7	100.0	97.4	---	110.3	98.3	91.5	91.5	89.9	86.8	97.3
SAUGEYE	114.7	104.0	97.7	---	---	84.2	102.1	108.0	105.0	106.8	99.4	102.2
WHITE BASS	109.2	102.9	82.8	---	---	---	---	107.2	101.6	---	---	100.7
WIPER	---	---	80.1	84.8	---	---	---	110.6	98.1	---	---	93.4

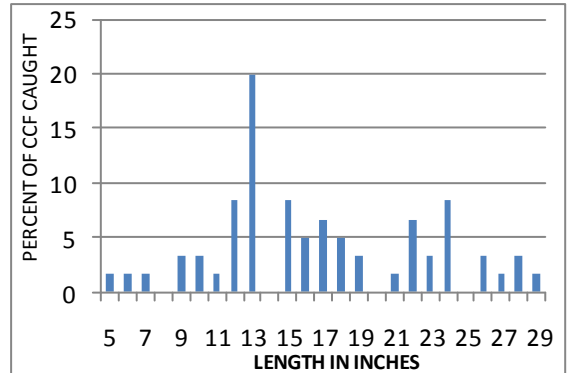


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2011 Fishing Forecast
 Jim Ramsay - Aquatic Biologist
 Lamar Service Center

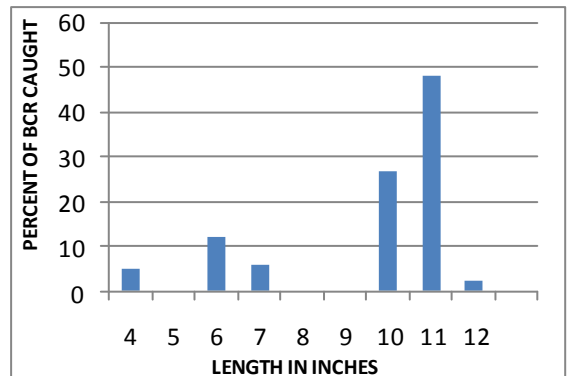
Catfish

Blue catfish and channel catfish are the two species of catfish present at Adobe Creek Res. Both species can grow to large sizes. Anglers consistently catch these fish from shore, with many using large surf-casting type rods that can reach great distances. Popular baits include water dogs, large minnows, cut bait, crayfish, shrimp, dough bait, and worms. Blue catfish prefer live bait suspended in the water column, while channel cats tend to take baits near the bottom. 2010 was a good year for catfishing at Blue Lake, and all indications point to another good year in 2011. Fall sampling indicated good numbers and sizes of catfish available at Blue Lake.



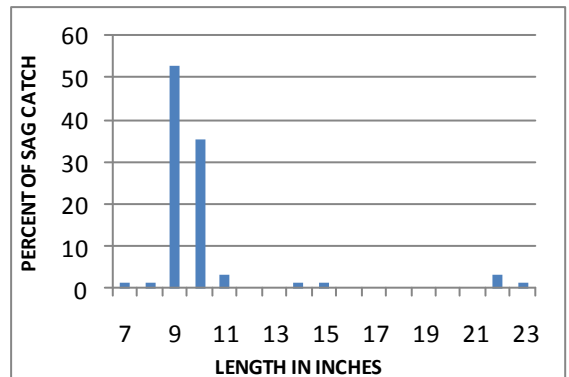
Crappie

Crappie have made a nice comeback at Blue Lake. Fall inventory sampling revealed that large numbers of fish in the 10 inch range are present. Anglers usually begin catching good numbers of crappie in late April - early May. The spring bite can last until June, when warmer water moves the fish deeper. Popular baits for crappie include live minnow rigs and small jigs (2 inches or smaller, 1/8 oz. or lighter). Boat anglers tend to fish near the many submerged tamarisk trees or drift in shallow water areas. Shore anglers often prefer to fish near submerged tamarisk or in the outlet canal.



Saugeye

The saugeye population continues to thrive at Blue Lake, with very few anglers targeting this popular sportfish. The average size saugeye in our fall sample was 12-1/2 inches and weighed almost 1 lb. All saugeye must be 15 inches to keep, and many of the saugeye in the lake should be in this range for 2011. Most walleye baits work well for saugeye; with worm harnesses, jigs tipped with bait, or shad crank baits being the most popular. Spring is an excellent time of year to fish for saugeye, but these fish will bite throughout the summer, especially before the shad hatch. Fishing can slow down when forage is abundant.



Striped Bass, White Bass, Wiper

White bass and wiper numbers have been low in recent years at Blue Lake. Stocking rates have been intentionally reduced to favor crappie. Striped bass stocking from 2007 and 2008 has resulted in good numbers of 20"+ fish. These fish were bonus fish, stocked to exploit the abundant shad population. These fish should not reproduce, but will provide excellent angling as long as they last. Anglers often catch these fish by trolling crank baits, spinners, or jigs. Crappie fishermen are often surprised by a striper that hits their offering.

