



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 CPW (recreation mgmt.). **Annual Survey Data: P2**

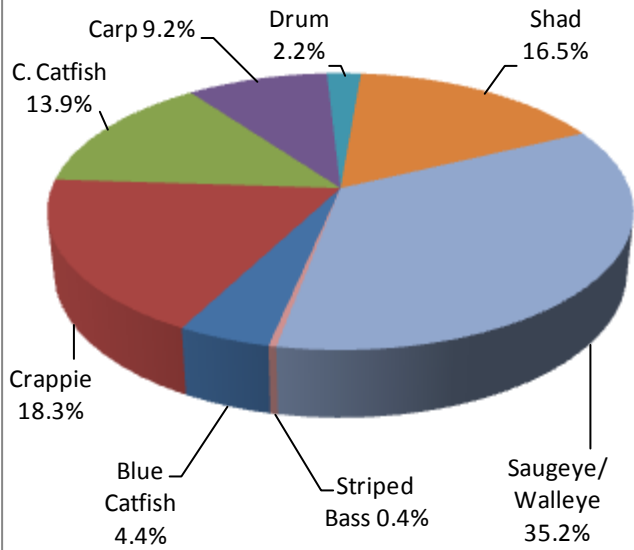
<u>Amenities and General Info.</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Boat Ramps (2 high water, 2 low water). Newly renovated low-water boat ramp. Restrooms available. Primitive camping. Trotlines and jug fishing permitted. Frozen surface of the lake is closed to public use. 	<p><u>2011</u></p> <p>Black Crappie 0.6”</p> <p>Black Crappie 1.8”</p> <p>Blue Catfish 5.5”</p> <p>Channel Catfish 3.0”</p> <p>Saugeye 0.2”</p> <p>Walleye 0.2”</p> <p>Wiper 0.2”</p> <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 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 style="text-align: center;"><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEW in 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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FISHERY SURVEY DATA - FALL 2011

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PERCENT RELATIVE ABUNDANCE



Low Water Ramp Renovation at Adobe Creek Res. 10/11

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	2					1		1				1	4	2										12
CARP			1					2	3	6		2	6	1	1	1	2									25
C. CATFISH							4	3	3		7	5	4	2	4			1	2	1			2			38
CRAPPIE		1	3		1	3	4	29	6	1		1	1													50
DRUM									1	1				1		2	1									6
G. SHAD									1	24	14	3	3													45
SAUGEYE					3	8	1		1	30		28		4	10	1	3		2	4	1					96
STRIPER																				1						1
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	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	11 YR AVG
C. CATFISH	98.9	93.8	80.2	---	90.3	91.8	93.0	98.0	100.3	98.0	94.6	93.9
CRAPPIE	110.1	91.6	90.6	---	104.0	116.4	113.6	101.9	114.0	104.6	91.0	103.8
G. SHAD	105.7	100.0	97.4	---	110.3	98.3	91.5	91.5	89.9	86.8	84.9	95.6
SAUGEYE	104.0	97.7	---	---	84.2	102.1	108.0	105.0	106.8	99.4	94.5	100.2
WHITE BASS	102.9	82.8	---	---	---	---	107.2	101.6	---	---	---	98.6
WIPER	---	80.1	84.8	---	---	---	110.6	98.1	---	---	---	93.4

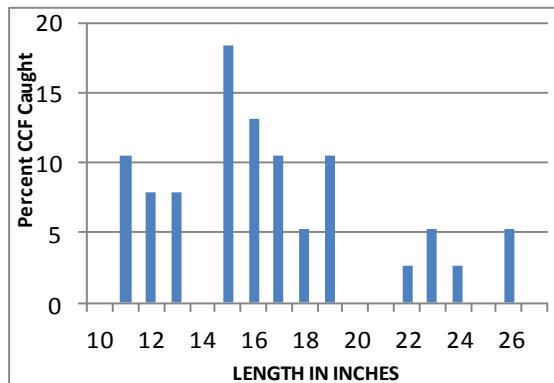


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2012 Fishing Forecast
 Jim Ramsay - Aquatic Biologist
 Lamar Service Center

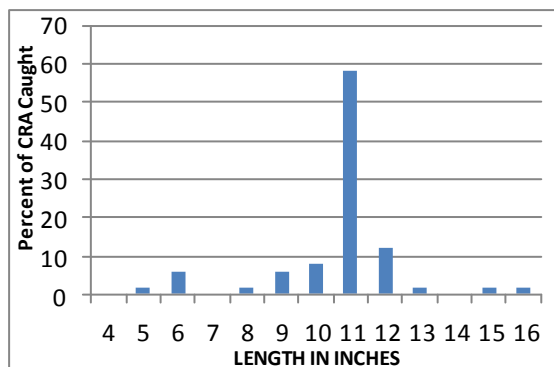
Catfish

Blue Lake has a reputation of being a good catfish destination. Over the years, anglers have enjoyed good catfishing success at Blue Lake. Catfish are much less affected by reservoir draw-downs than other species, making them an ideal sportfish for Blue Lake. Channel and Blue catfish are the 2 species present at Blue Lake. While similar in appearance, these species have different feeding preferences. Channel catfish prefer to feed near the bottom, using the acute senses in their “whiskers” to find food. Blue catfish prefer live offerings suspended in the water column, but will also hit baits on the bottom. Both species can be caught during the day, but tend to be more active at night.



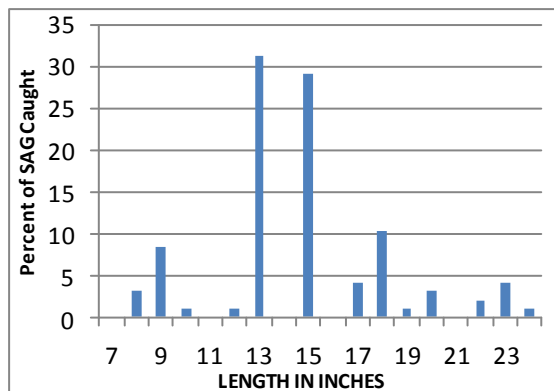
Crappie

It is difficult to say if 2012 will be a repeat of the phenomenal crappie bite we saw in 2011. Crappie are somewhat cyclic, with booms and bust years being common. But all indications point to another good year at Blue Lake. Irrigation water was released early in 2011, which is a negative event for crappie reproduction. Fortunately, large numbers of crappie fry/fingerlings were available for stocking in 2011 (see pg.1). Various habitat projects have benefitted crappie at Blue Lake. Spawning beds and brush piles have been created and have provided valuable habitat for these fish. More of these projects are planned in 2012.



Saugeye

Special regulations govern Walleye/Saugeye fishing at Blue Lake. 5 fish may be caught per day, all must be 15” or greater. The possession limit is 10, so anglers can take home 2 days worth (if the fish cooperate)! These species often get overlooked at Blue Lake in favor of the good catfish and crappie opportunity. Anglers that have tried to catch these fish have found them to be a challenge. Our sampling efforts have shown that a good population exists with plenty of keeper sized fish (see length frequency data, page 2). Often, these fish are easier to catch from a boat, but shore anglers can get them too. Live minnows or jigs tipped with a worm are good choices for bait anglers.



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 some nice 20”+ fish. These fish will not reproduce and were stocked to exploit the abundant shad forage base. Shad provide a good food base for all predatory species. Although not showing up in our sample, some anglers reported catching good numbers of wipers and stripers at Blue Lake in 2011. Fishing for these species is not expected to be exceptional in 2012.