



John Martin Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Jim Ramsay - Aquatic Biologist, Lamar Service Center

2500 S. Main St. Lamar CO 81052 (719)336-6607

email: jim.ramsay@state.co.us

General Information: John Martin Reservoir provides quality fishing for saugeye, wiper, white bass, crappie and catfish. Good populations of largemouth and smallmouth bass are present as well. This large reservoir is subject to drastic fluctuations. John Martin is a popular destination for early spring crappie anglers.

Visit the state park website at: <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/JohnMartinReservoir>

Location: Bent County. Exit US Hwy 50 at Hasty, CO and travel 2 miles south to reservoir.

Size: 2,000 - 17,000 surface acres (highly variable), Average Depth 5 -10 ft., (30 - 50 ft. near dam)

Management: US Army Corps of Engineers (owner), Colorado State Parks, and CPW (recreation mgmt.)

Annual Survey Data: Page 2

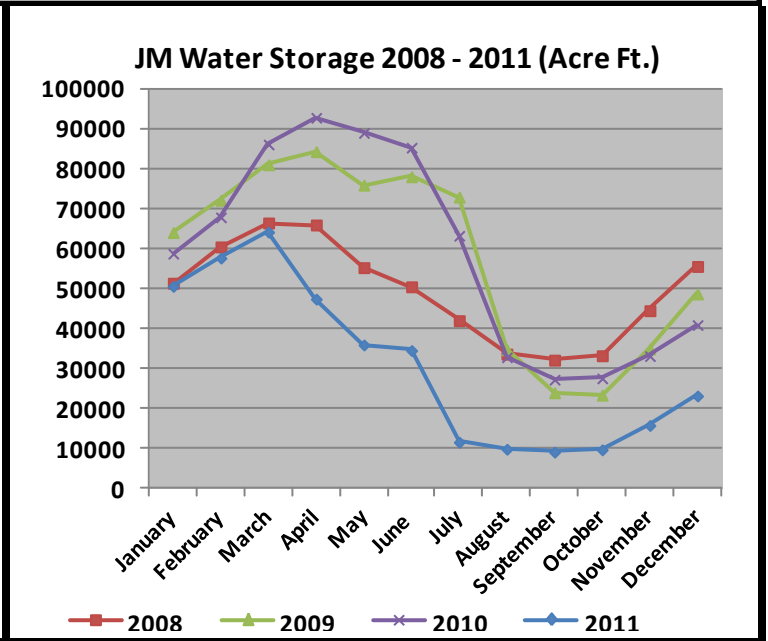
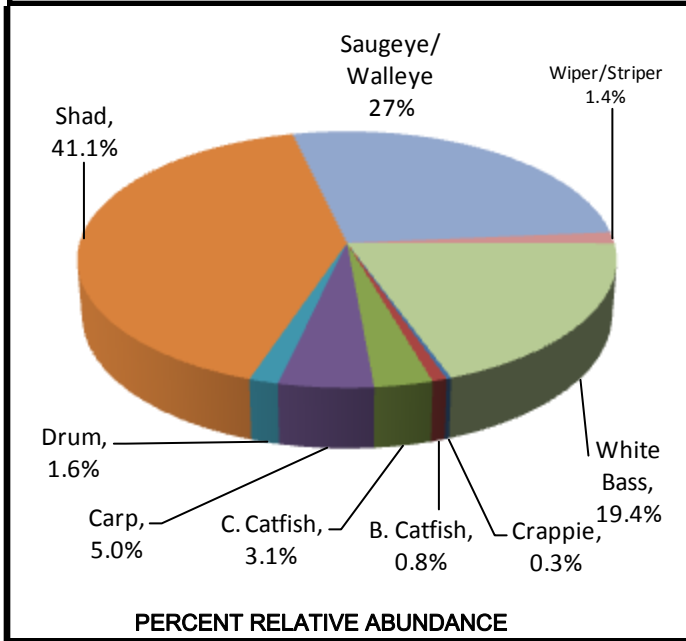
<u>Amenities and General Info.</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 large boat ramps within the state park, 1 small ramp on the SWA at Rd. 19 (high water). • Picnic Sites • Restrooms available • 2 Camp Grounds • 4.5 mile Red Shin Hiking Trail • Swim beach at Hasty Lake (below John Martin Dam) • Handicapped accessible fishing pier available at Hasty Lake • Staffed visitor's center 	<u>2011</u>												
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO ATV's or OHV's allowed on the wildlife area • Closures may exist around endangered bird nesting areas. • Seasonal closures for waterfowl hunting season. Limited access: Nov. 1 - last day of waterfowl season. • Walleye/Saugeye (aggregate) daily bag limit 5, possession limit 10 (must be 15" or greater). Ark. basin regs. apply in spillway and Hasty Lake. (10 fish, no size restriction). 	<u>2010</u>												
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FISHERY SURVEY DATA - FALL 2011

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LENGTH FREQUENCY TABLE

INCHES																				T					
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		23	24	25	26	27+
BULLHEAD														1		2	2		1						6
C. CATFISH							1		2	1		1		3			2		1	3	2	2	4	2	24
CRAPPIE								1	1																2
DRUM									1				2	1	2	5	1								12
G. SHAD	2	30	2									2	6	18	24	1									86
SAUGEYE						2			1	58		58	6	13	26	11	7			1	1				184
STRIPER																					2				2
WALLEYE										9		5	2	2	4	3	2								27
WHITE BASS							5	65	42	9		10	15	4											150
WIPER								1						1		3	3					1			9
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	88.0	90.3	88.7	106.3	91.8	94.0	97.4	95.8	97.5	107.4	98.2	95.9
CRAPPIE	95.8	95.9	—	—	101.3	97.9	97.5	97.9	103.1	98.7	93.4	97.9
G. SHAD	81.3	83.6	88.4	97.3	89.6	92.2	91.1	95.5	96.0	95.8	94.2	91.4
SAUGEYE	101.3	96.4	101.1	102.8	91.5	100.8	102.4	99.7	100.1	98.0	97.5	99.2
WHITE BASS	104.8	94.3	94.9	92.1	102.1	104.4	108.5	107.8	106.3	102.7	102.0	101.8
WIPER	91.7	88.9	87.6	80.7	111	86.1	102.5	99.5	97.7	98.0	91.2	94.1



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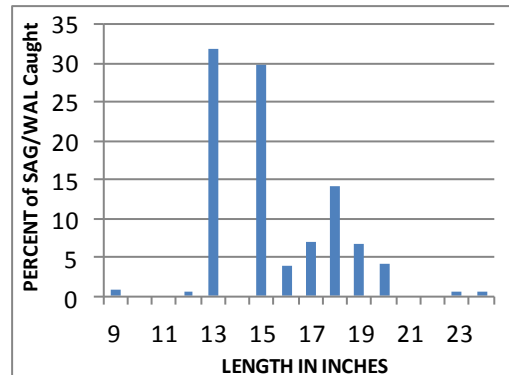
2012 FISHING FORECAST

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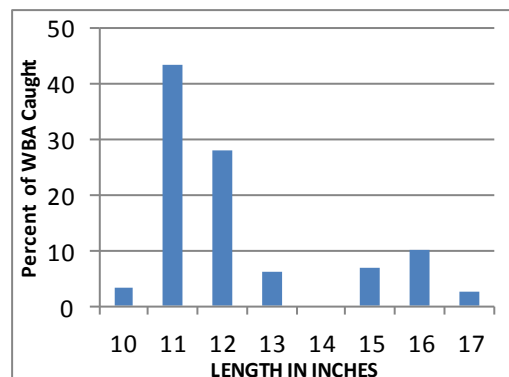
Walleye/Saugeye :

2011 was a very good year for walleye/saugeye fishing at John Martin. Fall inventory sampling data shows that a good percentage of the walleye - saugeye population is comprised of keeper sized fish (see graph →). Regulations at John Martin allow anglers to keep up to 5 walleye/saugeye per day. All fish must be at least 15". Fishing for walleye/saugeye in 2012 should be good to excellent, provided water levels remain sufficient. As an irrigation storage reservoir, John Martin can get very low, especially during dry years. Permanent pool water provided by Colorado Parks and Wildlife helps to sustain the fishery during these periods.



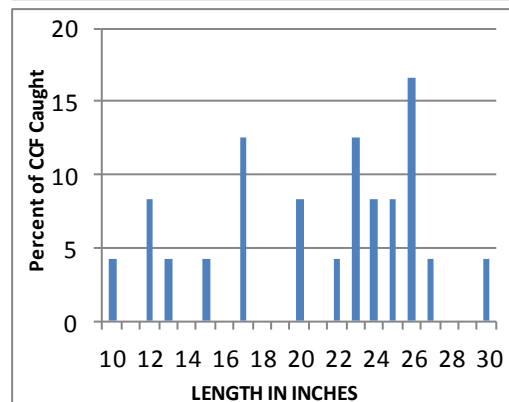
White Bass:

White bass fishing was very good in 2011, with larger fish being more common. White bass seem to do exceptionally well at John Martin in this current low-water cycle. Limits of these fish are very generous, with 20 fish allowed per day. Anglers often reach this limit, with fish over 15" being common. Boat anglers are often more successful, but these fish can be caught from shore as well. Offerings of worms or minnows can be effective for bait fishermen, while lines rigged with twister-tail grubs, rattle-traps, spinners, and kastmasters can be effective for lure anglers. These fish can be caught throughout the summer, but spring and fall are best, with morning and evening hours providing the most action.



Catfish:

3 species of catfish are stocked by Colorado Parks and Wildlife at John Martin: channel, blue, and flathead. While channel catfish are the most abundant and popular of the 3, blues and flatheads provided good angling action in 2011. These fish have tremendous growth potential, but currently are average size at John Martin. Catfish can be caught throughout the lake, but the more popular spots include the rocky points at the west end (as water levels allow) and the spilling basin immediately below the dam. Channel catfish can be caught on a variety of baits including worms, livers, dough baits, crayfish, and shrimp. Flatheads and blues will hit these baits as well, but more often prefer live offerings such as minnows or water dogs.



Crappie:

Fishing for crappie made a bit of a comeback in 2011 at John Martin. Anglers enjoyed higher success rates with larger fish being more common. Recent years had shown a decline in crappie fishing, but hopefully 2011 was the start of an improving trend. Unfortunately, the water storage cycle at John Martin is not always conducive to successful crappie spawning. During dry years, nest sites are often dewatered before young fish have a chance to mature. Large numbers of crappie fingerlings were stocked by CPW in 2011. These fish should help boost any successful reproduction. Crappie anglers begin targeting these fish during mid-spring as water temps. reach the mid 50s. The rocky dam, railroad trestle, and north coves are good areas to try for these fish.