



Meredith Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

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General Information: Meredith Reservoir offers good fishing for crappie and catfish (channel and bull-head). Wiper and saugeye populations are increasing and provide good angling opportunity as well. Meredith is a large, shallow lake, with average depths of less than 10 ft. Frequent wind and wave actions tends to keep the water fairly turbid. Boaters should be cautious of shallow areas.

Location: Crowley County, Travel 3 miles E. of Ordway on Hwy 96, then 1 mi S. on Lane 21 to lake.

Size: 3,300 surface acres, Average Depth: 6 ft.

Management: Colorado Canal Co., Crowley County, and CDOW (recreation mgmt.) **Survey Data: P2**

| <u>Amenities and General Info.</u> | <u>Previous Stocking</u> | <u>Sportfishing Notes</u> | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 cement boat ramp with pier 1 gravel ramp for use during low-water conditions. Restrooms available Free camping, fire pits allowed. Trotlines and jug fishing permitted. | <u>2010</u> | <u>Catfish</u> | |
| | Channel Catfish 3.0" | <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. | |
| | Hybrid Grass Carp 6.5" | | |
| Saugeye 0.2" | | | |
| | Wiper 0.2" | <u>Saugeye</u> | |
| | <u>2009</u> | <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. | |
| | Channel Catfish 3.3" | | <u>Crappie</u> |
| | Saugeye 0.2" | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prefer areas near submerged trees or habitat structures. Best fishing occurs during spring as water warms into the mid - 50s (April—May). Live minnows, small plastic jigs (< 2", 1/8 oz or less). |
| | Walleye 1.3" | | |
| | Wiper 0.2" | | |
| | <u>2008</u> | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles must remain on roads. Special Arkansas drainage limits apply for wiper, white bass, and striped bass. Bag and possession limit is 20 in aggregate. Special Arkansas drainage limits apply for walleye and saugeye: Bag and possession limit is 10 in aggregate. 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. | Channel Catfish 2.4" | | |
| | Saugeye 0.2" | | |
| | Saugeye 1.5" | | |
| | Wiper 0.2" | | |
| | Wiper 1.3" | | |

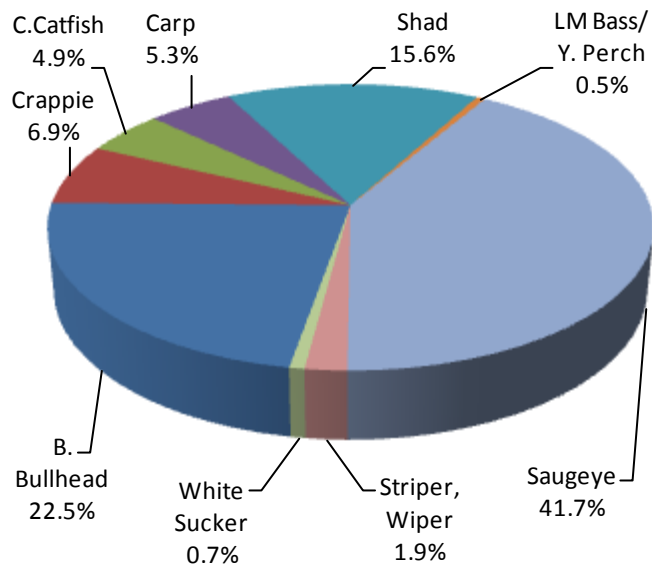


Meredith Reservoir

2010 LAKE SURVEY DATA

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MEAN, MIN. & MAX. VALUES FOR SAMPLED SPECIES

| SPECIES | MEAN | MIN. | MAX. |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| B. BULLHEAD | 7.6" | 5.1" | 11.2" |
| CARP | 14.6" | 4.1" | 23.6" |
| C. CATFISH | 17.7" | 7.5" | 25.0" |
| CRAPPIE | 10.7" | 5.3" | 12.2" |
| G. SHAD | 12.6" | 9.4" | 16.3" |
| LM BASS | 11.8" | 6.7" | 16.9" |
| SAUGEYE | 8.6" | 7.1" | 15.7" |
| STRIPED BASS | 20.9" | 20.1" | 21.5" |
| WHITE SUCKER | 14.2" | 13.6" | 15.4" |
| WIPER | 16.4" | 15.7" | 16.7" |

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 | |
|--------------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|---|-----|
| BULLHEAD | | 3 | 16 | 87 | | 19 | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 128 |
| CARP | 1 | 3 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 5 | | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 30 |
| C. CATFISH | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 28 |
| CRAPPIE | | 3 | | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 22 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 39 |
| G. SHAD | | | | | | | 3 | 22 | 32 | 17 | | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 89 |
| LM BASS | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| SAUGEYE | | | | 118 | | 87 | 16 | | | 2 | | 13 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 237 |
| STRIPED BASS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | | 5 |
| WIPER | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 |
| Y. PERCH | | | | | | | 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 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | AVG |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| B. BULLHEAD | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 100.2 | 80.9 | 78.3 | 81.7 | 85.3 |
| CRAPPIE | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 108.5 | 119.5 | 103.2 | 107.7 | 109.7 |
| C. CATFISH | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 114.0 | 114.9 | 110.0 | 100.4 | 109.8 |
| SAUGEYE | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 104.9 | 105.1 | 89.1 | 93.5 | 98.2 |
| G. SHAD | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 94.4 | 84.6 | 80.0 | 80.2 | 84.8 |
| WIPER | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 103.7 | 103.7 | 97.2 | 102.1 | 101.0 |



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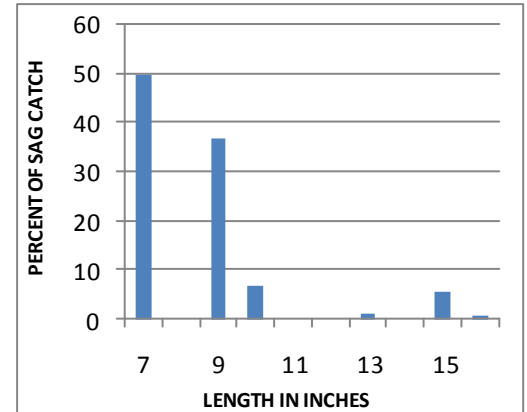
2011 FISHING FORECAST

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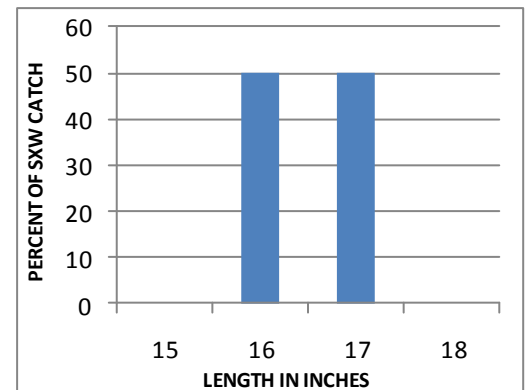
Saugeye:

Good populations of saugeye are available at Meredith. These fish can be caught in open water areas near schools of bait fish. These fish also will orient around structure, especially the many submerged tamarisk trees in the lake. Typical saugeye lures are jigs tipped with a worm or minnow, worm harnesses, shad-imitating crank baits, or live bait. Bag limits are very generous for these species, with up to 10 saugeye and 20 wipers per angler allowed. There are no size restrictions for saugeye at Meredith. Saugeye are abundant in the lake, although the average size may be on the small side in 2011.



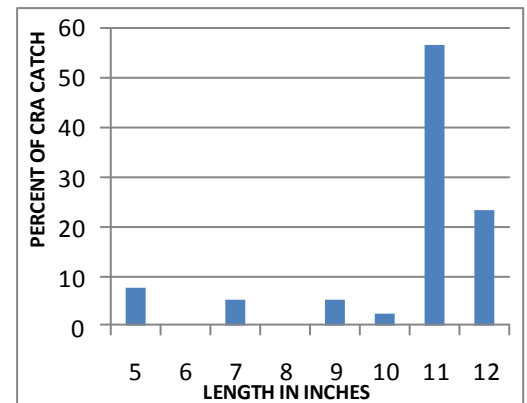
Wiper:

Wiper are the hybrid cross between a male white bass and a female striped bass. These fish have attributes of both parents - tremendous fighting power and potential of attaining very large size. Summer creel survey data showed large numbers of wipers were caught by anglers in 2010. 2011 should be another good year for wiper fishing at Meredith. Wipers are opportunistic feeders, and will hit a variety of tackle. Common wiper lures include: casting lures (rattle traps, kastmaster, etc.), crank baits, shad imitating plastics, jigs, and spinners. Effective baits include minnows, worms, shrimp, and crayfish tails.



Crappie

2010 was a good year for crappie fishing at Meredith. A creel survey conducted in 2010 showed good crappie fishing success with numerous anglers participating. During peak crappie fishing periods, anglers tended to crowd the pier next to the ramp. Many good catches of 10"+ fish were taken from this pier. Efforts will be made in 2011 to create other crappie holding areas that can be easily accessed from shore. Boat anglers should try finding crappie around the many submerged tamarisk trees around the lake. 2011 should be another good year for crappie fishing at Meredith. Typically, these fish begin biting in mid-spring as lake temperatures warm into the mid-50s. Anglers often use live minnows and small jigs.



Catfish:

Channel catfish is another species that is gaining popularity at Meredith. These fish are becoming abundant and are showing up in creels more often. Larger fish are becoming more common. All of the typical catfish baits should be effective at Meredith. Bullheads are another abundant catfish species that are plentiful at Meredith. Although many anglers consider bullheads to be a nuisance species, there are plenty of fishermen that come to Meredith to catch these plump catfish. Bullheads over 10 inches are common and can provide good table fare for anglers willing to spend the time. A simple bottom rig baited with a nightcrawler is a very effective way to catch these fish.

