



Pueblo Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Pueblo Reservoir, approximately 4000 acres in size, offers good fishing for walleye, wiper, catfish, bass, and rainbow trout. Additional species include bluegill, crappie, yellow perch, and the occasional northern pike. The reservoir has a State Park on the east end and a State Wildlife Area on the west end. For park hours, fees, and other information: <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/lakepueblo>

Location: Pueblo County. Located west of Pueblo. The south entrance is located 5 miles west of Pueblo off of HWY 96 (Thatcher Blvd.). The north entrance is south of HWY 50, and can be located by taking McCulloch Blvd. south from HWY 50 in Pueblo West, and turning south on Nichols Road.

Recreational Management: Division of Wildlife (719-561-5300) or Colorado State Parks (719-561-9320)

Amenities

- Boat Ramps (2)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Swim Beach
- Marinas (2)
- Hiking trails

Regulations

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/RulesRegs/RegulationsBrochures/>

- Daily bag for walleye is 5 fish over 18" in length with no more than 1 fish over 21".
- Minimum size for largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass is 15".
- See the regulations brochure for bag and possession limits of all fish species.
- Underwater spearfishing is *only* allowed for the take of carp, northern pike, gizzard shad, white and long-nose suckers, catfish, and wiper. *See regulations brochure for specific limits and restrictions.*
- **Fishing is prohibited from the dam.**
- Possessing filleted or cleaned fish in a boat on the lake is prohibited.

Previous Stocking

2010

Black Crappie
Channel Catfish
Cuttbow
Largemouth Bass
McConaughy Rainbow Trout
Rainbow Trout
Walleye
Wiper

2009

Channel Catfish
Cuttbow
Flathead Catfish
McConaughy Rainbow Trout
Walleye
Wiper

2008

Channel Catfish
Cuttbow
Largemouth Bass
McConaughy Rainbow Trout
Rainbow Trout
Walleye
Wiper

Sportfishing Notes

Walleye

- Big walleye are present in good numbers because the regulations protect larger fish. This regulation gives anglers an opportunity to catch a trophy fish and allows the DOW to run an egg take operation that supplies other Colorado waters with millions of young walleye.

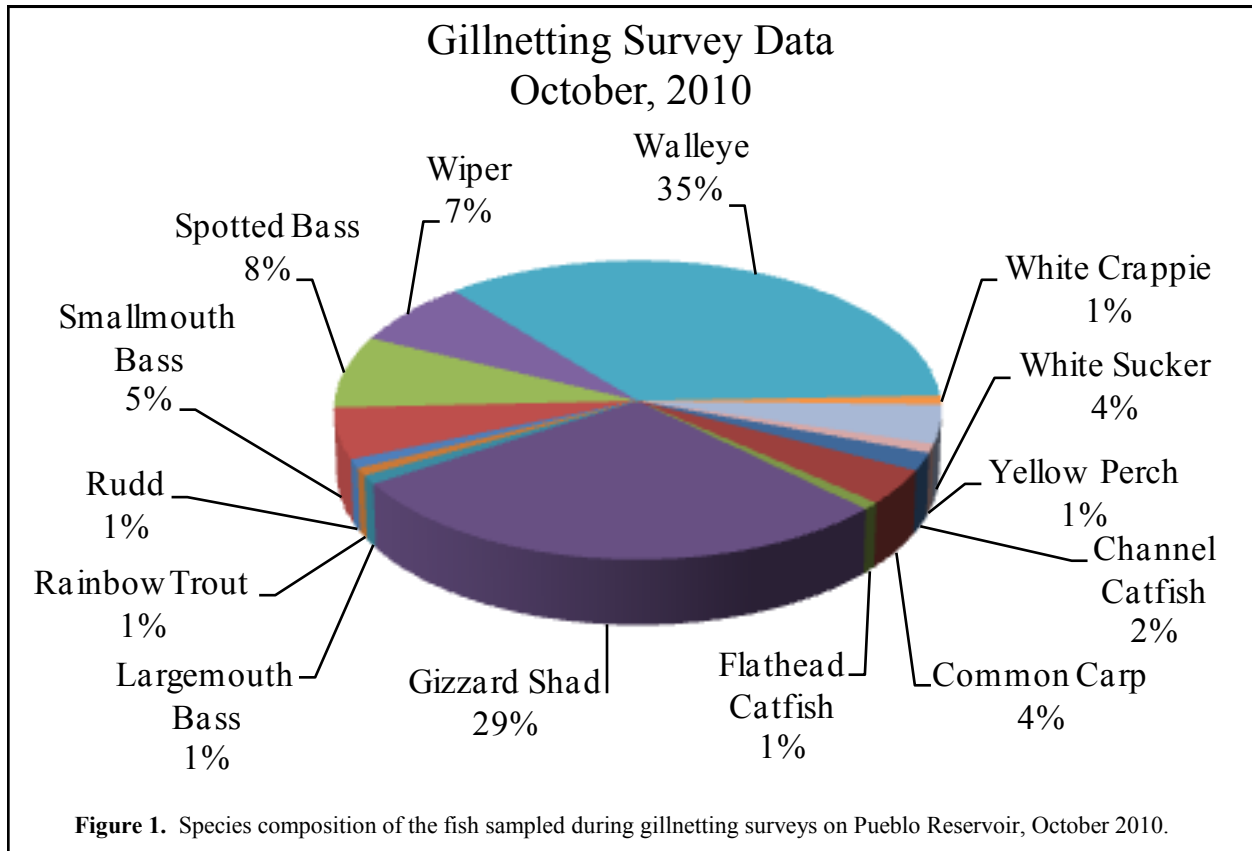
Wipers

- Wipers provide a fishery for quality fish and allow anglers to take fish home for the table. Wiper fishing is spotty and requires adaptability by anglers to catch these fish.

Bass

- Pueblo contains three species of bass: largemouth, smallmouth and spotted. Many techniques are used to catch these fish and all can be caught virtually year round. A minimum size regulation allows some harvest while also protecting young fish and some spawning adults.

Pueblo Reservoir



2010 Gillnetting Survey Data

Species	# Caught	CPUE	Length (in)		Weight (lbs)		PSD	Relative Weight
			Average	Range	Average	Range		
Channel catfish	7	0.8	24.3	(15-27)	5.7	(0.9-8.6)	86	94
Common carp	14	1.6	22.4	(19-26)	5.8	(3.5-9.1)	100	99
Flathead catfish	3	0.3	17.0	(15-21)	2.0	(1.2-3.4)	100	N/A
Gizzard shad	103	11.4	14.0	(10-17)	1.0	(0.3-1.9)	99	89
Largemouth bass	1	0.1	13.0	(13-13)	1.2	(1.2-1.2)	100	109
Rainbow trout	3	0.3	11.0	(8-16)	0.6	(0.2-1.4)	N/A	83
Rudd	1	0.1	13.0	(13-13)	1.2	(1.2-1.2)	100	N/A
Smallmouth bass	20	2.2	11.1	(7-15)	0.7	(0.1-1.6)	56	85
Spotted bass	28	3.1	11.4	(8-15)	0.9	(0.2-1.7)	100	N/A
Walleye	127	14.1	14.6	(7-22)	1.2	(0.1-3.7)	59	93
White crappie	2	0.2	12.5	(12-13)	1.0	(0.9-1.1)	100	85
White sucker	15	1.7	17.1	(15-20)	2.2	(1.7-3.2)	100	99
Wiper	25	2.8	16.4	(8-26)	3.1	(0.2-8.3)	74	95
Yellow perch	1	0.1	6.0	(6-6)	0.1	(0.1-0.1)	N/A	78

2011 Fishing Forecast

Black basses

Pueblo has three species of black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted). Numbers of bass in Pueblo Reservoir are high, although no fish over 15" were found in 2010 fall sampling. However, gillnetting is not the most effective means of sampling bass and does not adequately show the number of large bass in the reservoir. Anglers targeting bass will should be successful in finding large fish in 2011. Smallmouth bass are most abundant in Pueblo Reservoir, followed by Spotted and Largemouth bass. Fishing is particularly good in the spring.

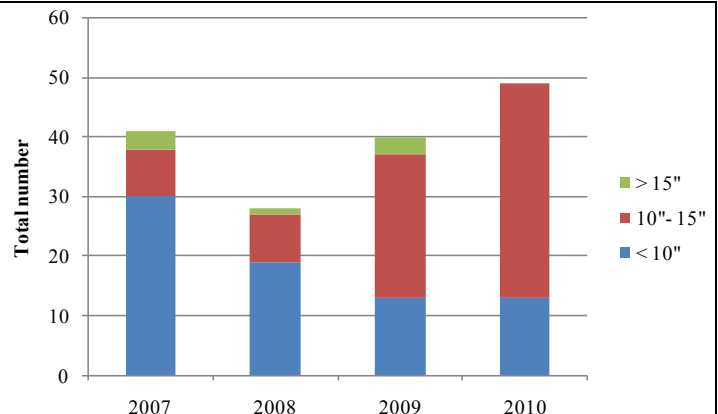


Figure 2. The number of black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted) collected in gillnets from 2007 to 2010.

Catfish

Pueblo has three catfish species (channel, blue and flathead), but stocking of blue catfish was discontinued due to poor survival. Flatheads are stocked at low numbers due to their poor availability. The number of catfish caught during fall sampling appears to be declining slightly, but this decline is probably not significant. Catfish quality is high with many fish in the 20"+ class in the reservoir with more flatheads are being caught. Catch rates for catfish will likely be low, but quality of the fish caught will be very good.

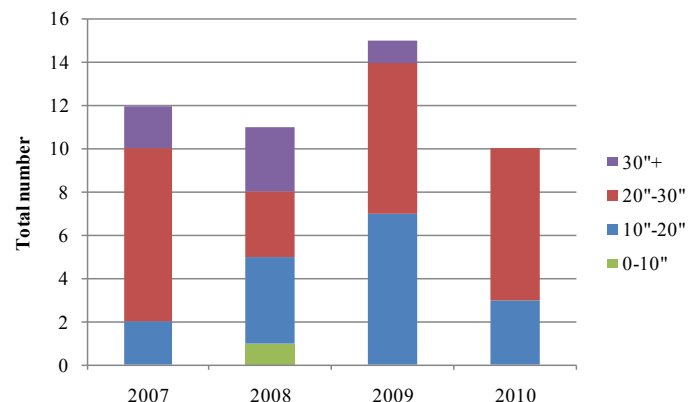


Figure 3. The number of catfish (channel and flathead) collected in gillnets from 2007 to 2010.

2011 Fishing Forecast

Walleye

Walleye numbers in Pueblo were high in 2010, but gillnet samples do not do a good job of assessing the status of larger walleye in the reservoir. Larger walleye will be evaluated during the 2011 walleye spawn operation. These larger walleye, between 18 and 30 inches in length, are numerous but difficult to catch. Average catches of walleye in Pueblo Reservoir yields around 3 to 7 legal fish per 100 fish caught. The highest catch rates for walleye will usually occur from mid-May to the end of June. At this time the fish will be located on the flats and points in shallow water and will be feeding heavily. Anglers looking for larger fish will need to use larger baits and move away from the large schools of small fish. Catch rates will be significantly lower, but quality of fish will be significantly higher.

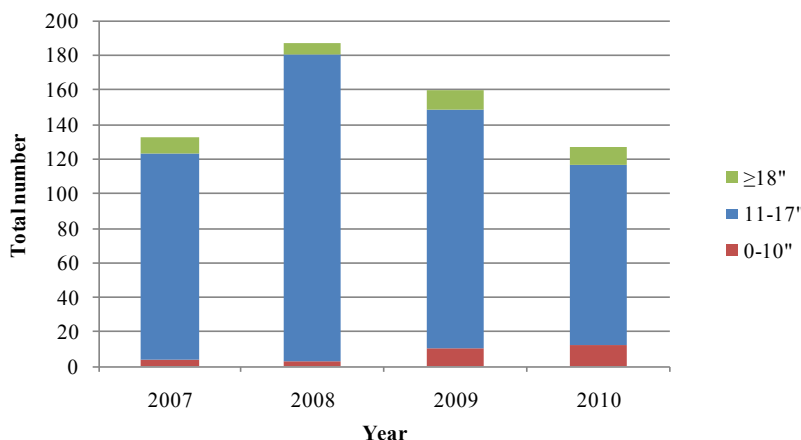


Figure 4. The number of walleye collected in gillnets from 2007 to 2010.

Wiper

Wiper numbers in Pueblo appear to have declined in the past couple of years despite good numbers of fish being stocked annually. In 2010, a good number of small fish were sampled, indicating that there may be a many large adults to catch in 2011. This will add to the good numbers of quality sized adults available in recent years. Fishing for wipers is a sport that requires lots of effort and lots of patience as these fish are very particular about what they eat and when they eat it. Techniques to catch wipers change with the season and availability and size of forage in the reservoir. Wiper anglers must pay attention to the changes and adapt their techniques. Best times to catch wipers include April and May and August through October.

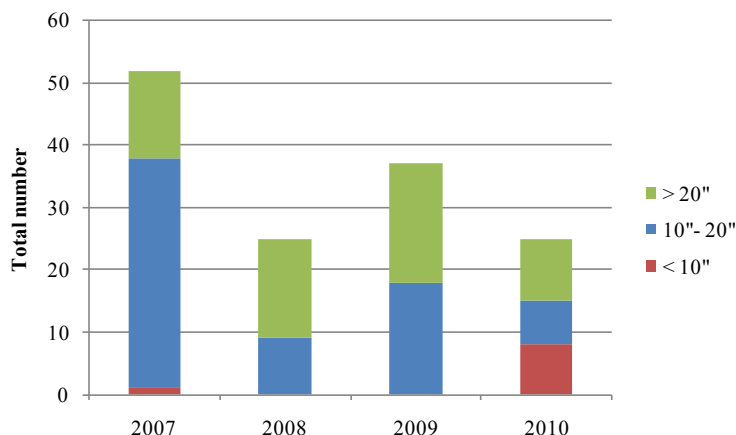


Figure 5. The number of wiper collected in gillnets from 2007 to 2010.

Other Species

Pueblo Reservoir also contains fishable populations of black crappie, white crappie, bluegill, yellow perch and rainbow trout. Both of the species of crappie can be caught year round in the reservoir, but catch rates are low. A number of "catchable" (10") trout are stocked in the North and South marina coves during the early spring. Sub-catchable (3-5") McConaughay rainbow trout are stocked in the summer. Anglers fishing in January through March will catch some rainbows that run from 16 to 24 inches in length and sometimes a fish that will be much larger. Boat anglers can also pick up these better trout by trolling from April through June.

2010 MASTER ANGLER AWARDS: PUEBLO RESERVOIR

Judy Gammill	channel catfish	34"	Pueblo Reservoir	April 2010
Steve Spock	smallmouth bass	19 ¼"	Pueblo Reservoir	April 2010
James Much	bluegill	10 ¼"	Pueblo Reservoir	June 2010
Ryan Maxon	largemouth bass	18"	Pueblo S.W.A.	June 2010
Terry Furney	wiper	31"	Pueblo Reservoir	July 2010
Justin Solverson	largemouth bass	19"	Pueblo Reservoir	July 2010
Justin Solverson	smallmouth bass	18"	Pueblo Reservoir	July 2010
Ross Furney	wiper	28 ½"	Pueblo Reservoir	July 2010
Derrick Maynard	wiper	29"	Pueblo Reservoir	July 2010
Patrick Patton	wiper	30"	Pueblo Reservoir	July 2010
Min James Kim	common carp	32.1"	Pueblo Reservoir	July 2010
Jared McIntyre	walleye	26"	Pueblo Reservoir	August 2010
Matt Vertovec	walleye	29 ½"	Pueblo Reservoir	August 2010
Jason Quintana	wiper	29 ⅝"	Pueblo Reservoir	August 2010
Timothy Cooper	spotted bass	18 ½"	Pueblo Reservoir	August 2010
Bill Shumaker	walleye	26"	Pueblo Reservoir	September 2010
James Porter	channel catfish	31"	Pueblo Reservoir	October 2010
Bill Shumaker	flathead catfish	30"	Pueblo Reservoir	October 2010
Bill Shumaker	wiper	29"	Pueblo Reservoir	October 2010
Justin Solverson	walleye	28"	Pueblo Reservoir	November 2010
Kyle Van Acker	wiper	28 ½"	Pueblo Reservoir	November 2010
Kyle Van Acker	wiper	28"	Pueblo Reservoir	November 2010
Kyle Van Acker	smallmouth bass	19"	Pueblo Reservoir	November 2010
Kyle Van Acker	smallmouth bass	21"	Pueblo Reservoir	November 2010
Kyle Van Acker	wiper	30 ½"	Pueblo Reservoir	November 2010
Thomas Bindel	northern pike	40"	Pueblo Reservoir	November 2010
Ryan Boss	largemouth bass	18 ¾"	Pueblo Reservoir	December 2010