



# Trinidad Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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**General Information:** Trinidad Reservoir, measuring approximately 1200 acres, offers good fishing for walleye, saugeye, bass, catfish, rainbow trout, and wiper. The reservoir has a State Park on the property. For park hours, fees, and other information: <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/trinidadlake>

**Location:** Las Animas county. Go 2 miles W of Trinidad on HWY 12 and follow the signs to the reservoir.

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

**Fishery Management:** Warm and Cold water species **Annual Survey Data:** (see page 2)

### Amenities

- Boat Ramps (1)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Hiking trails

### Regulations

- **Regulations for walleye/saugeye have changed, effective January 1, 2011.** Daily bag and possession limit for walleye/saugeye is now 5 fish in aggregate with no more than 1 fish over 18 inches in length.
- Min. size for bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted) is 15".
- Bag and possession limits other than walleye/saugeye are listed by the Arkansas drainage in the regulations brochure.

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

### Fish Consumption Advisory

- A fish consumption advisory applies to the walleye and saugeye in Trinidad Reservoir due to mercury contamination. The advisory is posted at the entrance of the reservoir or can be found at the Department of Health web site.

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/FishCon/TrinidadADVISORY.pdf>

### Previous Stocking

#### 2010

Channel Catfish  
Largemouth Bass  
McConaughy Rainbow Trout  
Rainbow Trout

#### 2009

Bluegill  
Channel Catfish  
McConaughy Rainbow Trout  
Rainbow Trout  
Saugeye  
Walleye

#### 2008

Channel Catfish  
McConaughy Rainbow Trout  
Rainbow Trout  
Striped Bass  
Saugeye  
Wiper

#### 2007

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

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Walleye/Saugeye

- These fish are managed to achieve high catch rates and relatively liberal harvest. Best fishing for walleye and saugeye will start in May and run into the early fall. Fish can be found in all locations in the reservoir.

#### Trout

- The trout fishery is a mixture of "put and take" and "put and grow" management strategies. Catch rates for trout are very high in the reservoir and quality of fish is pretty good with fish in the 14 to 18 inch range being pretty common. Trout are caught in all locations in the lake.

#### Other Species

- Trinidad produces some good catches of other species to include channel catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, yellow perch and wipers. More details of these species are available on the next pages of this summary.

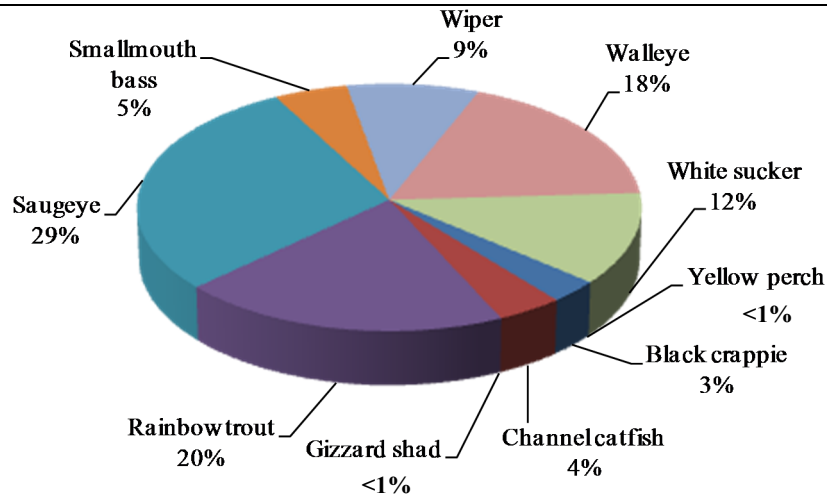


# TRINIDAD RESERVOIR

FISHERIES SURVEYS  
2011 FORECAST



## 2010 Gillnetting Survey



Species	#/net	% of catch	Average length, (range) in inches	Average weight, (range) in lbs.
Black Crappie	1	2.7	8 (7-9)	0.3 (0.1-0.4)
Channel Catfish	1.4	3.8	21 (19-23)	3.5 (2.5-4.9)
Gizzard Shad	0.2	0.5	16 (16-16)	1.8 (1.8-1.8)
Rainbow Trout	7.4	20.3	12 (10-16)	0.5 (0.3-1.3)
Saugeye	10.4	28.6	14 (7-27)	0.9 (0.1-7.5)
Smallmouth Bass	1.8	4.9	10 (0-18)	0.9 (0.2-3.1)
Wiper	3.2	8.8	20 (16-24)	4.9 (2.1-10)
Walleye	6.4	17.6	18 (10-30)	3.3 (0.3-12.6)
White Sucker	4.4	12.1	16 (12-18)	1.9 (0.8-3.2)
Yellow Perch	0.2	0.5	9 (9-9)	0.3 (0.3-0.3)



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## 2011 Fishing Forecast

### WALLEYE/SAUGEYE

The condition of walleye and saugeye has been a concern in Trinidad Reservoir, as anglers have reported seeing very skinny fish. To assess condition, we calculate relative weight, which is the ratio of the actual weight of a fish to what a rapidly growing healthy fish of the same length should weigh. Fish below a value of 80 are considered to be in poor condition, while values approaching 90 and above considered good to great.

Data from 2010 sampling indicated that some 10-15" fish were skinny, but that large walleye still persist (Figure 1). In past years, good stocking and the protection of smaller fish in the reservoir have contributed to declining growth rates and fish condition in the reservoir. A revised walleye/saugeye regulation, effective January 1, 2011 will allow harvest of smaller fish, and combined with a 2010 reduction in stocking, an improvement in the fishery is expected. Good numbers of large fish continue to persist in the reservoir (Figure 2) and anglers can expect to have high catch rates of walleye/saugeye from May through August.

Additionally, anglers can now harvest smaller fish. Please note that there is a fish consumption advisory posted on the reservoir for large walleye and saugeye due to mercury contamination.

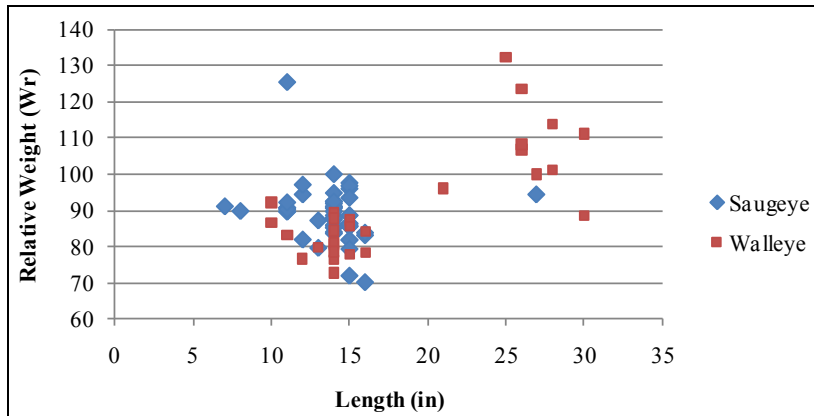


Figure 1. Condition of walleye and saugeye captured in 2010 gill nets, measured by relative weight, where values near and above 90 are considered good, and values below 80 are considered poor condition.

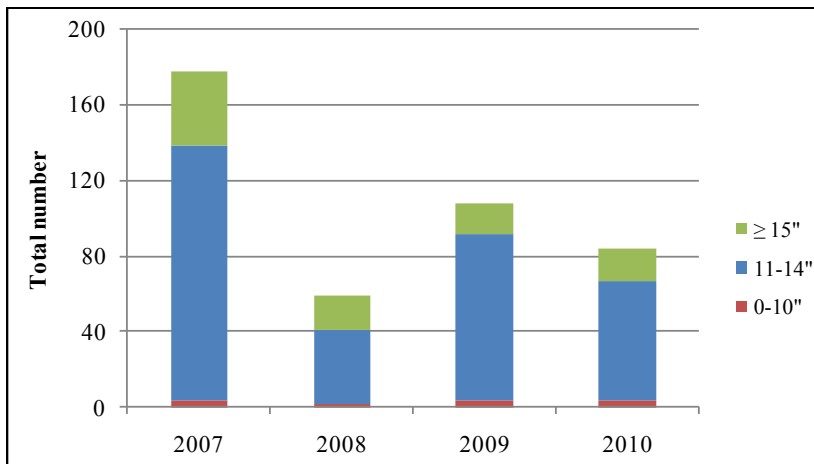


Figure 2. Number and size of walleye/saugeye captured in gill nets, from 2007 to 2010.

### CATFISH

Channel catfish numbers have been fairly stable with high quality fish present. Trinidad catfish appear to cycle up and down over the years depending on stocking and water. The number of catfish caught in 2010 gill nets was higher than in 2009.



Many of the catfish currently in Trinidad are over 20 inches in length. A few anglers seriously chase catfish at Trinidad, but most of the catfish are a result of incidental catch by anglers fishing for other species. Anglers who desire to catch catfish can do very well at Trinidad with traditional methods.



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## 2011 Fishing Forecast

### BASS

Largemouth and smallmouth are typically caught in the reservoir. Few bass were sampled with gill netting gear in 2010, but these species are more effectively sampled using electrofishing gear, which was last used in 2007. However, the reservoir is projected to have a large bass population. Numbers of bass in Trinidad are pretty good with the highest densities being smallmouth followed by largemouth. Many of the bass are below the minimum 15 inch length limit, but some very good quality bass are taken each year. Bass are available to anglers year round with almost all bass fishing techniques.



### TROUT

Trinidad is stocked heavily with “catchable” trout each year and angling for these fish is very good during all open water periods. Some of these fish grow very well and trout in the 14-18 inch range are common. In some cases, trout in the 22-25 inch range have shown up in the catch. Anglers catch trout from the shore with either bait or lures and also from boats trolling.

In 2010, 40,000 2-inch fish were planted in April and almost 58,000 “catchable” trout were planted between April and September, making the number of fish captured in gill nets (and the number available to anglers) high in 2010 (Figure 3). Anglers should be able to catch many of these fish, in addition to new plants, in 2011.

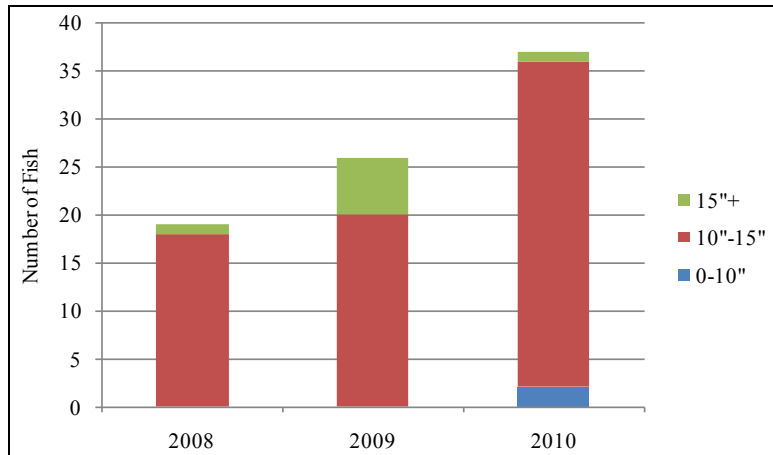


Figure 3. Number and size of trout captured in gill nets, from 2008 to 2010.

### OTHER SPECIES

Trinidad Reservoir also has fishable populations of bluegill, black crappie, wiper and yellow perch. Bluegill and crappie occur at low levels and vary greatly from year to year. Wiper occur at moderate numbers, but are difficult to catch. There are some very nice quality fish to around 10 pounds in the population and anglers have been successful in the past using chicken livers as bait. The yellow perch fishery has been improving over the last few years and anglers have seen some pretty impressive yellow perch catches in the reservoir. It is not uncommon to see yellow perch in the 12 to 14 inch range.

### 2010 MASTER ANGLER AWARDS FOR TRINIDAD RESERVOIR

Dan Lacy	smallmouth bass	18"	Trinidad Lake	June 2010
Curt Hannon	yellow perch	12"	Trinidad Lake	June 2010
Dan Lacy	smallmouth bass	17 ½"	Trinidad Lake	June 2010
J. Monty Tapp	yellow perch	12 ¼"	Trinidad Lake	June 2010
Alan Gaines	saugeye	31 ½"	Trinidad Reservoir	September 2010
Greg Byrd	walleye	26"	Trinidad Reservoir	October 2010
Doug Adams	walleye	29"	Trinidad Lake	October 2010