



Adobe Creek Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

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General Information: Adobe Creek Reservoir provides quality fishing for several warm water species. Known locally as “Blue Lake”, this reservoir has historically been a favorite for crappie and catfish anglers. As an irrigation storage lake, Blue Lake can experience fluctuation. Boat ramps are available at high and low water levels. Access road conditions can deteriorate rapidly during rain storms.

Location: Bent and Kiowa Counties, 15 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>2021</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 60%;">Black Crappie</td><td style="text-align: right;">1.3”</td></tr> <tr><td>Blue Catfish</td><td style="text-align: right;">2.1”</td></tr> <tr><td>Channel Catfish</td><td style="text-align: right;">2.5”</td></tr> <tr><td>Largemouth Bass</td><td style="text-align: right;">0.2”</td></tr> <tr><td>Saugeye</td><td style="text-align: right;">0.3”</td></tr> </table> <p><u>2020</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 60%;">Black Crappie</td><td style="text-align: right;">1.4”</td></tr> <tr><td>Blue Catfish</td><td style="text-align: right;">3.0”</td></tr> <tr><td>Channel Catfish</td><td style="text-align: right;">3.0”</td></tr> <tr><td>Largemouth Bass</td><td style="text-align: right;">0.3”</td></tr> </table>	Black Crappie	1.3”	Blue Catfish	2.1”	Channel Catfish	2.5”	Largemouth Bass	0.2”	Saugeye	0.3”	Black Crappie	1.4”	Blue Catfish	3.0”	Channel Catfish	3.0”	Largemouth Bass	0.3”	<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 in the spring as water temps warm into the upper 50s (April—May). • Live minnows, small plastic jigs (< 2”, 1/8 oz or less).
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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. • 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. • All walleye and saugeye limits are subject to the Arkansas Valley regulation. 10 fish limit with no size restrictions. 																				

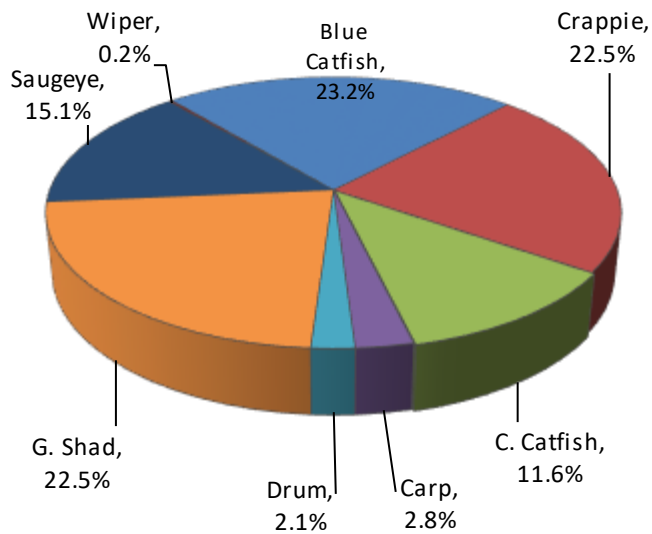


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FISHERY SURVEY DATA - FALL 2021

Jim Ramsay - Aquatic Biologist

Lamar Service Center



4 Nice channel catfish. Sampled with trot-lines and released.

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	1			1	5	6	2			1	16	32	28	5	1		1							100
CARP							1					3	1	2	2	1	1		1							12
C. CATFISH						4		8	12	4		1	5	6	2	1	1			2	1	1	2			50
CRAPPIE	1	1	3			1	22	69																		97
DRUM						1		2		2				4												9
G. SHAD	1	6				1				2		11	25	40	11											97
SAUGEYE						23	30	1						2		1				4	4					65
W. BASS																										0
WIPER															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	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	11 YR AVG
C. CATFISH	94.6	85.1	85.9	87.6	100.8	98.1	98.8	93.1	87.7	90.2	87.5	91.3
CRAPPIE	91.0	78.8	79.7	103.3	117.1	104.9	96.2	93.4	85.7	92.4	93.1	94.1
G. SHAD	84.9	84.9	76.0	80.9	89.2	93.2	92.0	86.7	82.7	87.5	85.8	86.0
SAUGEYE	94.5	94.0	101.2	99.6	105.0	95.3	92.0	88.4	98.8	91.7	94.7	96.0
B. CATFISH	97.7	102.2	85.9	110.8	126.9	118.6	115.7	104.8	99.1	99.5	110.8	106.5
WIPER	---	80.9	---	---	---	98.7	96.2	87.5	93.7	96.4	98.6	93.1

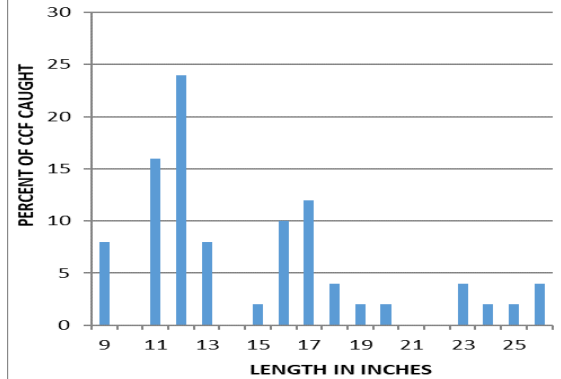


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2022 Fishing Forecast
 Jim Ramsay - Aquatic Biologist
 Lamar Service Center

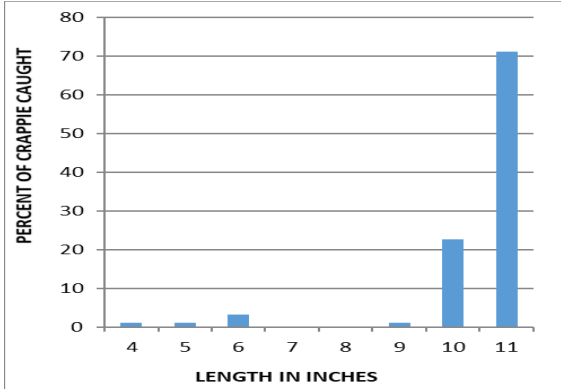
Catfish

Blue catfish populations are very healthy at Adobe Creek Res. Blues are acquired through trades with other states, and are available most years. Channel catfish are doing well also, and are brought in through trades and grown to stockable sizes at our Las Animas Hatchery. Natural reproduction also benefits the population through the use of the numerous catfish spawning containers that have been placed and maintained by CPW crews. Both species (channel and blue) can be readily caught at Blue Lake. Techniques can vary for each species. Channel catfish are primarily bottom feeders while blue cats sometimes prefer a suspended live bait. Fishing should be excellent for catfish in 2022.



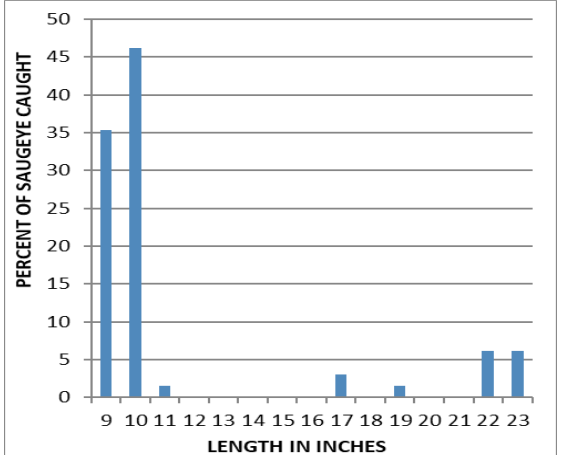
Crappie

Crappie and catfish are the featured species at Blue Lake. Crappies are plentiful, with the majority of the fish averaging 10" - 11". Anglers should have no trouble locating schools of crappie throughout the lake. Fishing is expected to be very good in 2022. Anglers can harvest up to 20 fish, and limits are common, but anglers are reminded to obey the possession limit as well. It can be easy to over-bag crappies when the bite is on. Low - water boat ramps will be in service to begin the season, as the lake didn't fill enough during the winter to put the high-water ramps into service. Good baits for crappie include: live minnow rigs, small jigs, swim baits, spinners, or small shad - imitating crank baits.



Walleye/Saugeye

Good numbers of saugeye were available to stock at Adobe Creek Res. in 2021, after a 1-year stocking hiatus; caused when the pandemic forced spawning operations to shut down in 2020. The one missing year class should have little effect on the fishery. Numbers of smaller fish appear to be improving, and should result in better fishing in the near future. Walleye/saugeye fishing is expected to be fair in 2021, although the average sizes may be small. Some larger fish (19"+) are available. Boat anglers can be successful slow-trolling worm rigs, walleye-style crank baits, and jigs. Shore anglers can have success casting shad-imitating lures, jerk baits, jigs, and live bait rigs.



White Bass / Wiper

Wiper numbers are intentionally kept low at Blue Lake, in favor of the crappie and catfish. Wipers are used to exploit the large gizzard shad population. Shad are very prolific and can produce more forage than can be used by sport fish in a given year. Wipers and white bass (known as "true bass") are efficient predators and can help keep shad numbers in check. White bass can successfully reproduce at Blue Lake, while wipers are a sterile hybrid. Although relatively low in number, schools of these fish can provide exciting action. Shiny casting lures, shad imitating crank baits, and jigs can provide good results. Bait anglers favor worms, minnows, shrimp, crawdad tails, or mussels to catch these fish.



Catfish Spawning Containers Used to Promote Natural Reproduction