



Carter Lake

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General: Carter Lake, an 1100 acre storage reservoir, offers good fishing for trophy walleye and rainbow trout. Anglers occasionally catch lake trout, splake, and largemouth bass. For park hours, fees, boat inspection hours, and other information: <http://www.co.larimer.co.us/parks/carter.htm>

Location: Larimer county. Go 5 miles W of Loveland on HWY 34, then S 2 miles on CR 29, then W 2 miles of CR 18E then follow signage.

Recreational Management: Larimer County Parks and Open Lands (970-679-4570)

Fishery Management: Cold water angling with trophy walleye

Purchase a Fishing License: <https://www.co.wildlifelicenses.com/start.php>

<u>Amenities and General Info.</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat Ramps (3) • Picnic Areas • Camping • Restrooms • Swim Beach • Marina • Hiking trails <p>Fishing Regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All walleye longer than 21 inches must be returned to the water immediately. • Daily bag for walleye is 3 fish 21 inches or <u>LESS</u> in length. • Possession limit is 5 walleye. • No saugeye are present in this lake. • Possession of cleaned fillets onboard a boat is illegal. • No ice fishing. 	<p>2018</p> <p>Hofer Rainbow Trout Rainbow Trout Redear Sunfish</p> <p>2017</p> <p>Black Crappie Cutbow Hofer Rainbow Trout Rainbow Trout</p> <p>2016</p> <p>Bluegill Hofer Rainbow Trout Rainbow Trout</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Black Crappie Cutbow Trout Rainbow Trout Redear Sunfish</p> <p>2014</p> <p>Arctic Char Cutthroat Trout Rainbow Trout</p>	<p>Walleye</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The special walleye regulation gives anglers an opportunity to catch, photograph, and release a trophy, while allowing the DOW to run an egg take operation that, when needed, can supply other Colorado waters with thousands of young walleye. • Naturally reproducing population. • Fish are difficult to locate given the large amount of rock habitat but jigging crawlers and casting rainbow rapalas are good baits. <p>Rainbow Trout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trout fishing is generally fair year round using traditional baits. Walleye have eaten many of the stocked trout. <p>Kokanee Salmon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walleye have eaten the vast majority of the kokanee. • Given the poor survival, kokanee are no longer stocked in Carter.

2018 Gillnetting Survey (10/23/2018); 7 experimental gillnets

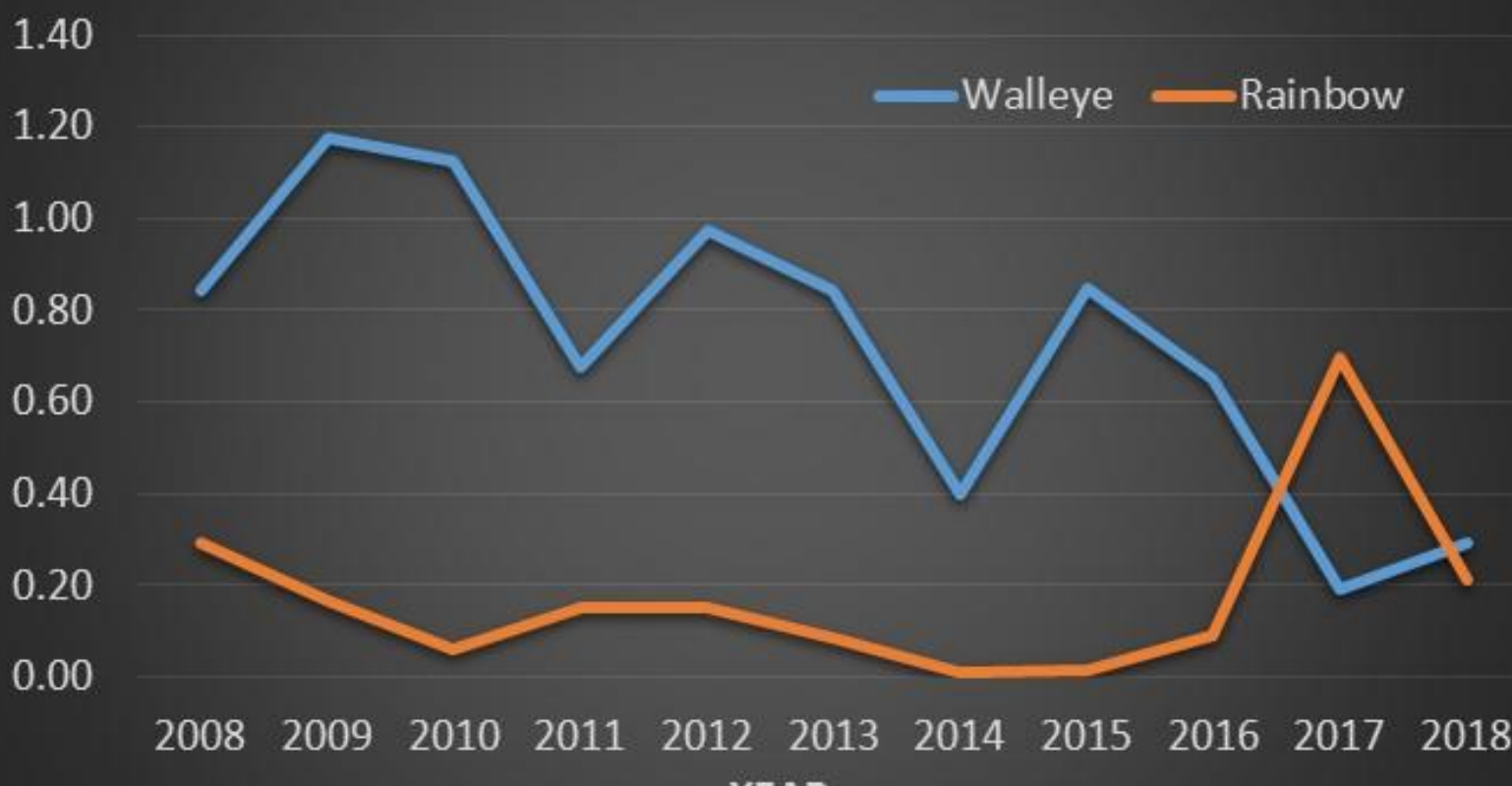
SPECIES	Total Catch	Total Used	Length (inches)			Mean	Weight (lb)	
			Mean	Minimum	Maximum		Minimum	Maximum
BLACK CRAPPIE	1	1	3.03	3.03	3.03	0.01	0.01	0.01
LARGEMOUTH BASS	1	1	14.57	14.57	14.57	1.85	1.85	1.85
LAKE TROUT (MACKINAW)	4	4	23.12	19.09	25.20	4.77	2.32	6.96
RAINBOW TROUT	21	21	12.93	11.06	16.18	0.79	0.49	1.75
RAINBOW X CUTTHROAT	8	8	12.62	11.57	13.78	0.74	0.60	0.86
WALLEYE	40	40	16.09	9.65	30.00	1.72	0.26	12.80
WHITE SUCKER	4	4	15.82	13.62	18.31	1.84	1.04	3.02

2017 Gillnetting Survey (10/31/2017); 7 experimental gillnets

SPECIES	Total Catch	Mean	Length (inches)		Mean	Weight (lb)	
			Minimum	Maximum		Minimum	Maximum
ARCTIC CHAR	1	21.34	21.34	21.34	2.95	2.95	2.95
LARGEMOUTH BASS	1	16.69	16.69	16.69	2.76	2.76	2.76
BROWN TROUT	1	26.46	26.46	26.46	7.63	7.63	7.63
RAINBOW TROUT	88	12.14	7.32	18.62	0.53	0.10	3.11
WALLEYE	24	16.33	9.02	29.17	2.17	0.26	9.37
WHITE SUCKER	4	19.55	17.56	21.97	3.10	2.18	4.22

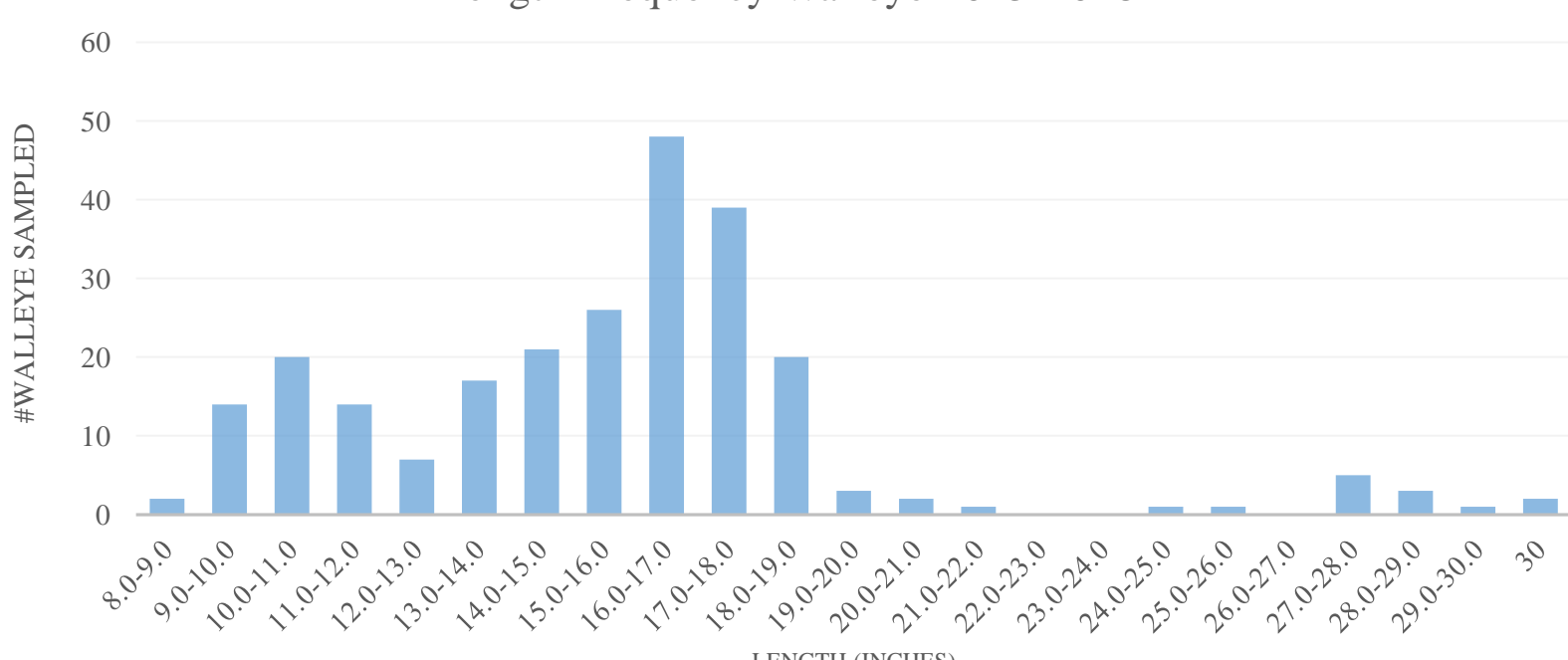
The Carter Lake Fishery: the past decade

Fish Per Net Hour



Graph 1- above: The respective Catch Per Unit Effort (fish per net hour) over the past 10 years. The naturally reproducing walleye population expanded in the 2000's to a point which the reservoir could not naturally sustain. Upon consuming most of the naturally reproducing forage fish (white sucker and perch), walleye began consuming a substantially larger portions of stocked trout and kokanee salmon. Attempts to overcome walleye predation through stocking more trout and kokanee failed miserably. To reduce walleye predation on stocked trout walleye bag limits were increased from 1 to 3 walleye with no walleye over 21 eligible for harvest.

Length Frequency Walleye 2015-2018



Graph 2 – above: The length frequency of walleye from Carter. Fishing regulations for all Colorado waters will be reviewed during the 2020 regulation review cycle.

Trout – Anglers may find trout fishing a little better at Carter during 2019. Each year roughly 15,000 catchable-sized rainbows and cutbows are stocked in Carter.

(Table Right). Results from a 1990 versus 2006 creel survey. During April-June, 1990 15,224 trout were caught, that fell to 1,756 trout during the same period in 2006. If trout fishing is slow, anglers might try Flatiron or Pinewood Reservoirs which are both minutes from Carter.

Creel '90 vs. '06	1990	2006
Angler Hours	23,949	14,417
Angler Days	5,987	4,253
RBT Catch/Hour	0.64	0.25
RBT Catch/Trip	2.56	0.85
Total RBT Catch	15,224	1,756
Total RBT Harvest	14,601	897
Mean RBT Length	11.8	12.3

