



Douglas Reservoir

Updated April 2022

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Douglas Reservoir (565 acres) is a state wildlife area providing diverse fishing opportunities for both warmwater and coldwater species. For more information call the Fort Collins Service Center (970) 472-4300.

Location: Larimer County. From I-25, go 5.5 miles West on Hwy 1 to CR 15; 1 mile North to CR 60 and turn West. Go 1/4 mile to La Vina Dr. and go North to lake.

Recreational Management: Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)

Fishery Management: Warm and coldwater angling

Purchase a Fishing License: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/>

Amenities

- Boat Ramp
- Restrooms
- Ice Fishing

Regulations

- Waterskiing, sailboards prohibited.
- Wakeless speed only
- Hunting, discharging firearms or bows, fires, and camping prohibited
- Closed, except for fishing, 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise
- No fishing from dock

As of 2012 boat inspections are no longer required. After collecting information for three years on boating usage on this water, the risk level of the lake for ANS introduction has been lowered and resources redirected to higher risk waters. As with all bodies of water, we ask that anglers Clean, Drain and Dry watercraft between every waterbody.

Previous Stocking

2021

Sauger (13.3K @ 1.3")
 Channel Catfish (12K @ 2.8")
 Largemouth Bass (30.8K @ 0.2";
 3.5K @ 1")
 Rainbow Trout

2020

Sauger (49.8K @ 1.3")
 Channel Catfish (15.1K @ 3.3")
 Rainbow Trout

2019

Sauger (10K @ 1.2")
 Channel Catfish (10.5K @ 3.7")
 Rainbow Trout

2018

Sauger (20K @ 1.2")
 Channel Catfish (7.5K @ 3.7")

2017

Rainbow Trout
 Sauger (15K @ 1.4")

2016

Rainbow Trout
 Wiper (5K @ 2.3")
 Sauger (15K @ 1.4")

Sportfishing Notes

Smallmouth Bass

- Smallmouth bass tend to associate with the dam.
- Try rock rip-rap areas with crayfish imitations.

Walleye/Sauger

- Try targeting the dam when water temps are 40-50° F.
- Cast along mud lines caused by windy conditions.

Channel Catfish

- Try cats at night on the shallow flats of the north side of the lake.

Ice Fishing

- When conditions are favorable, ice fishing is allowed. Be sure of your ice thickness as conditions can change quickly.
- Rainbow trout are most common through the ice.
- Many anglers do well targeting panfish like bluegill, crappie, and perch.
- Occasional walleye, sauger, and bass are caught.



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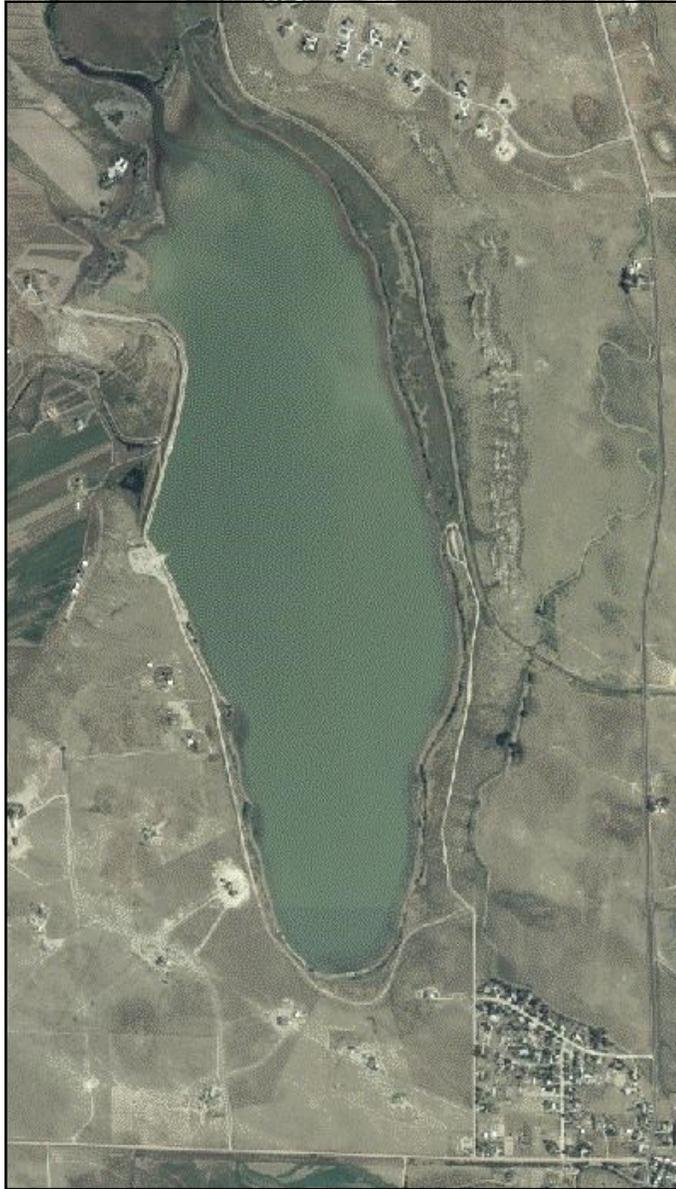
History:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) leased Douglas Reservoir from the Windsor Reservoir and Canal Company in 1993. This lease provides access for fishing only, excluding other recreational activities on the property and is renewed periodically. Colorado Parks and Wildlife does not have control of the water usage or water levels in the lake.

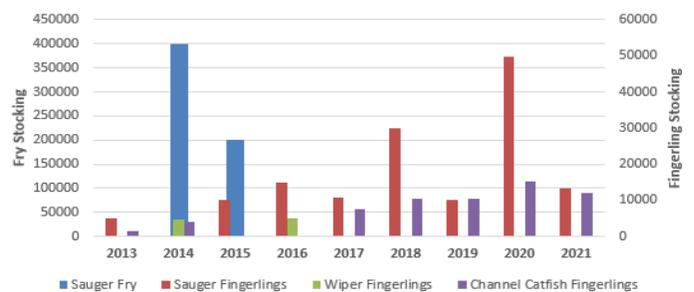
Management Notes

The reservoir has been managed as a coolwater assembly since CPW took over management. Primary game species have been: walleye, wiper (hybrid - white bass x striped bass), channel catfish, smallmouth bass, and rainbow trout. Each year approximately 13,000 catchable (10") rainbow trout are stocked to provide near shore fishing opportunities at Douglas. Other species that have established self-sustaining populations include: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Large-mouth Bass, and Yellow Perch.

Douglas Reservoir met the proper criteria and was selected as a site to establish a sauger brood source for the state. Having a sauger source in Colorado is important as sauger milt can be used with walleye eggs from other reservoirs to make saugeye for the rest of the state. Beginning in 2006, walleye and wiper stocking was suspended to reduce competition and provide sauger the best opportunity to compete for resources. Sauger have taken well and are now abundant in the reservoir. Thus, Wiper were stocked again in 2014 and 2016 and future wiper stocking will be evaluated annually.



Douglas Reservoir: Stocking



Sauger: Note the spots on the dorsal fin, splotchy patches on the body, lack of a white spot on the tail, and lack of a large black spot at the rear of the dorsal fin.



Walleye: Note the black shading (not spotting) on the dorsal fin, the way the body patches form saddles across the back, the white spot on the tail, and large black spot at the rear of the dorsal fin.





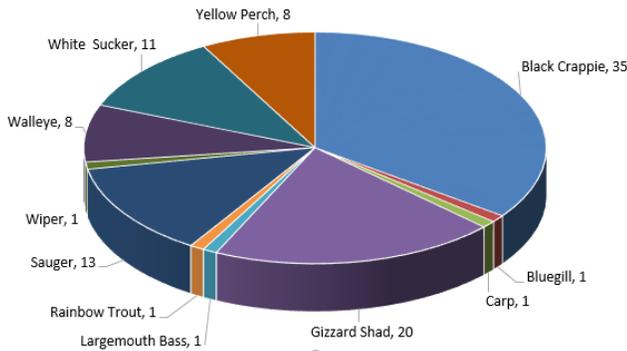
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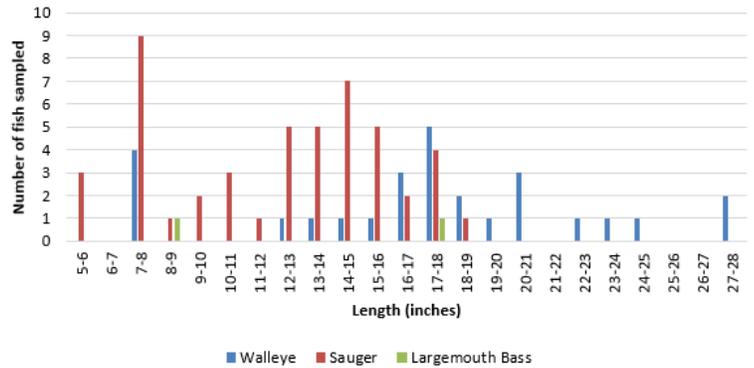
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Douglas Reservoir: 2021 Species Composition By Percent



Douglas Reservoir: 2021 Length Frequency



The two graphics above illustrate some of the results from sampling done at Douglas in 2021 and provide different information and insight into the state of the fishery. The pie chart shows the species composition during standardized netting efforts. The chart on the right is a length frequency histogram of various species in Douglas Reservoir. From the length frequency you can see multiple Sauger year classes were documented, along with some large Walleye. Sauger stocked as 1.3” fish in June 2021 grew to 5-8” by November sampling. You can also see age-1 sauger at 9-12” and subsequent growth rates for previous stocking cohorts. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has not stocked Walleye into Douglas since 2005. It is one of the few locations along the Front Range where walleye naturally reproduce and the Douglas walleye are likely supplemented by private stocking upstream in the ditch network. In 2022, expect fishing to be good at Douglas Reservoir with quality opportunities for walleye and sauger in particular.

Sampling Pictures:

