



Jumbo Reservoir

LAST UPDATED: FEBRUARY 2022

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Mandi Brandt - Aquatic Biologist (Brush)

mandi.brandt@state.co.us

General Information: Jumbo Reservoir is a 1,578 acre water (at full capacity) located on the Jumbo State Wildlife Area. Anglers can expect excellent fishing for Walleye and Crappie, and quality fishing for Channel Catfish, Smallmouth Bass, and Bluegill. Fishing pressure is moderate to high.

Location: Logan and Sedgwick Counties. From I-76 take Exit 155 and head 3 miles north to Hwy 138. Take Hwy 138 1 mile northeast to CR 95. Take CR 95 2 miles north to the reservoir.

Recreational Management: Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Fishery Management: Warmwater angling

Purchase a Fishing License: <http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/Fishing.aspx>

Amenities

- Lighted boat ramp
- Picnic areas
- Primitive restrooms
- Non-designated camping areas
- Fishing (open water and ice)
- Small game hunting
- Wildlife viewing

Regulations

- Min. size for Walleye and Saugeye is 15" (only 1 can exceed 21").
- Min. size for Wiper is 15".
- Min. size for Crappie is 10".
- Statewide bag and possession limits also apply.
- Boats prohibited within 50 ft of outlet structure
- Anyone ages 18-64 must purchase an annual access permit to enter the property, unless he/she has a valid Colorado annual fishing or hunting license.

Previous Stocking

2021

Walleye
Channel Catfish
Black Crappie
Bluegill

2020

Black Crappie
Bluegill

2019

Walleye
Channel Catfish
Black Crappie
Bluegill
Rainbow Trout

2018

Walleye
Channel Catfish
Black Crappie
Bluegill
Rainbow Trout

2017

Walleye
Saugeye
Black Crappie

Sportfishing Notes

Walleye

- During early months fish are typically scattered. Try using a crawler harness, bottom bouncer, or jig.
- During later months, when water temperatures rise, try casting shad raps.

Crappie

- Fishing near the outlet, the east dam, and near the inlet is recommended.

Channel Catfish

- Cut shad, cut carp, or crayfish as bait work well.
- The west end of Jumbo is weedy, but it tends to produce more Channel Catfish.

Rainbow Trout and Cuttbow

- Shore and ice anglers do well using night crawlers.
- Boat anglers do well using small shad raps near the two concrete dams along the south shore.



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About the Reservoir...

Similar to all northeastern plains reservoirs, Jumbo (Julesburg) Reservoir was constructed to store irrigation water for agricultural use. Water used to fill the reservoir is diverted from the South Platte River between the towns of Proctor and Crook, and flows through a 22-mile earthen inlet canal before reaching the reservoir. First filled in 1907, Jumbo Reservoir is 115 years old.

Since the primary function of Jumbo Reservoir is to store irrigation water, water levels routinely drop during the irrigation season. During a typical year, water levels are drawn down by approximately 15 feet (Figure 1). During dry years more water is needed for agricultural purposes, drastically reducing water levels and creating many fish management challenges.

Due to severe drought conditions, the reservoir was completely drained in the early fall of 2006. Severe drought conditions returned in 2012, reducing the water level to a maximum depth of three feet. In anticipation of extremely low water levels and the potential for a summerkill, Colorado Parks and Wildlife initiated a public fish salvage which excused the length, bag, and possession limits for all species in the reservoir. Several thousand fish, the majority being walleye, were salvaged by anglers. The reduction in fish biomass, along with a steady stream of water running through the reservoir from the inlet to the outlet, likely aided in the survival of the remaining fish and fortunately the reservoir did not experience a summerkill. Colorado Parks and Wildlife crews rebuilt the fishery by restocking millions of Walleye and thousands of other sportfish species. By 2015, the Walleye and Crappie fisheries were booming and the Smallmouth Bass, Channel Catfish, and Bluegill fisheries were also doing very well. Unfortunately, in 2020 the reservoir was once again drawn down to a maximum depth of four feet, and another public fish salvage was enacted. However, water levels were already too low for anglers to launch boats once the public salvage began and anglers had a difficult time salvaging fish from shore. Fortunately, most of the fish survived the poor conditions and populations of all species are doing well.

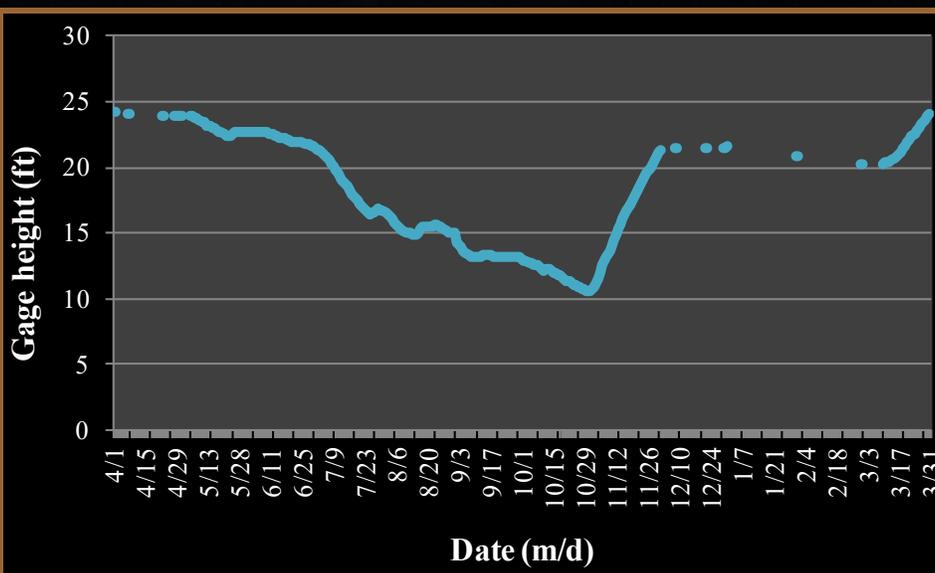


Figure 1. Water level fluctuation at Jumbo Reservoir during a typical year. Prior to the irrigation season, which usually starts in May, the reservoir is at full capacity. During the irrigation season (May-October) the reservoir is routinely drawn down, often to $\leq 50\%$ of its capacity. Refilling usually begins near the end of October, is suspended during the winter months (December-February), and resumes again in the spring (March).



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About the Fish...

Tables 1-2. Data collected on fish captured during 151.81 hours of netting with four Colorado Parks and Wildlife warmwater gill nets and four American Fisheries Society warmwater gill nets during the 2021 fall survey.

Mean, Minimum and Maximum Length and Weight										
Species	Total Catch	Min cut inch	Max cut inch	Total Used	Length (inches)			Weight (lb)		
					Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
BLACK BULLHEAD	3			3	11.02	7.68	13.03	0.69	0.22	1.09
BLACK CRAPPIE	5			5	10.57	7.01	13.82	1.14	0.18	1.74
BLUEGILL	3			3	5.58	4.88	6.93	0.15	0.07	0.29
CHANNEL CATFISH	19			19	18.64	9.65	28.74	2.40	0.24	7.66
COMMON CARP	6			6	19.59	8.07	30.16	4.62	0.27	13.28
FRESHWATER DRUM	15			15	16.36	5.63	18.94	2.27	0.07	3.25
GIZZARD SHAD	777			777	5.91	4.80	11.22	0.07	0.02	0.20
LARGEMOUTH BASS	7			7	6.93	5.71	8.07	0.20	0.09	0.34
SHORTHEAD REDHORSE	11			11	18.44	16.93	21.89	2.60	1.82	3.31
QUILLBACK	143			143	18.22	6.73	24.09	3.41	0.15	7.85
RIVER CARPSUCKER	29			29	17.45	10.08	25.39	3.65	0.53	10.82
SAUGEYE (WALLEYE X SAUGER HYBRID)	2			2	18.01	15.59	20.43	2.15	1.22	3.08
SMALLMOUTH BASS	8			8	10.73	5.71	14.21	0.93	0.09	1.75
PALMETTO BASS (WIPER)	3			3	21.80	20.91	22.44	5.36	5.33	5.43
WALLEYE	223			223	17.75	7.17	27.20	2.47	0.08	7.20
WHITE CRAPPIE	3			3	7.77	7.64	7.99	0.21	0.20	0.23
WHITE SUCKER	10			10	16.60	15.04	18.70	1.96	1.49	2.55
YELLOW PERCH	132			132	7.38	5.63	11.85	0.19	0.04	0.91

Relative Abundance and Catch/Unit Effort										
Species	Total Catch	Min.Cut inch	Max.Cut inch	Total used	Weight Lbs	Percent		Catch per Unit Effort		
						Number	Weight	Number/Effort	Lbs/Effort	
BLACK BULLHEAD	3			3	2.07	0.21	0.15	0.02	0.01	
BLACK CRAPPIE	5			5	5.68	0.36	0.40	0.03	0.04	
BLUEGILL	3			3	0.45	0.21	0.03	0.02	0.00	
CHANNEL CATFISH	19			19	45.51	1.36	3.21	0.13	0.30	
COMMON CARP	6			6	27.75	0.43	1.96	0.04	0.18	
FRESHWATER DRUM	15			15	34.12	1.07	2.41	0.10	0.22	
GIZZARD SHAD	777			777	52.16	55.54	3.68	5.12	0.34	
LARGEMOUTH BASS	7			7	1.40	0.50	0.10	0.05	0.01	
SHORTHEAD REDHORSE	11			11	28.64	0.79	2.02	0.07	0.19	
QUILLBACK	143			143	487.96	10.22	34.44	0.94	3.21	
RIVER CARPSUCKER	29			29	105.97	2.07	7.48	0.19	0.70	
SAUGEYE (WALLEYE X SAUGER HYBRID)	2			2	4.30	0.14	0.30	0.01	0.03	
SMALLMOUTH BASS	8			8	7.48	0.57	0.53	0.05	0.05	
PALMETTO BASS (WIPER)	3			3	16.08	0.21	1.14	0.02	0.11	
WALLEYE	223			223	551.71	15.94	38.94	1.47	3.63	
WHITE CRAPPIE	3			3	0.62	0.21	0.04	0.02	0.00	
WHITE SUCKER	10			10	19.64	0.71	1.39	0.07	0.13	
YELLOW PERCH	132			132	25.17	9.44	1.78	0.87	0.17	



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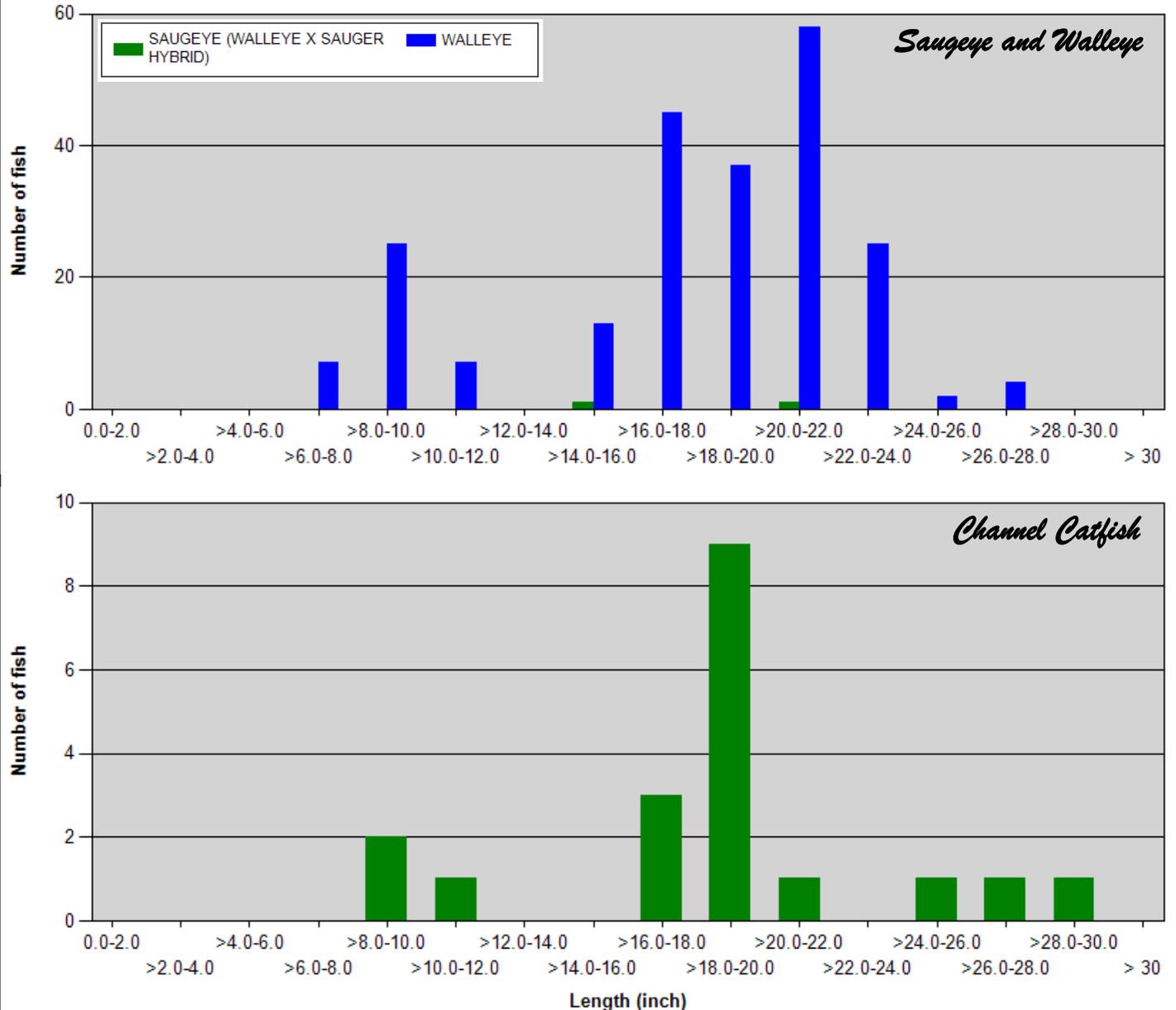


Figure 2. Length frequency histograms of Saugeye and Walleye (top) and Channel Catfish (bottom) caught during the 2021 fall survey. The survey included 151.81 hours of netting with four Colorado Parks and Wildlife warmwater gill nets and four American Fisheries Society warmwater gill nets.



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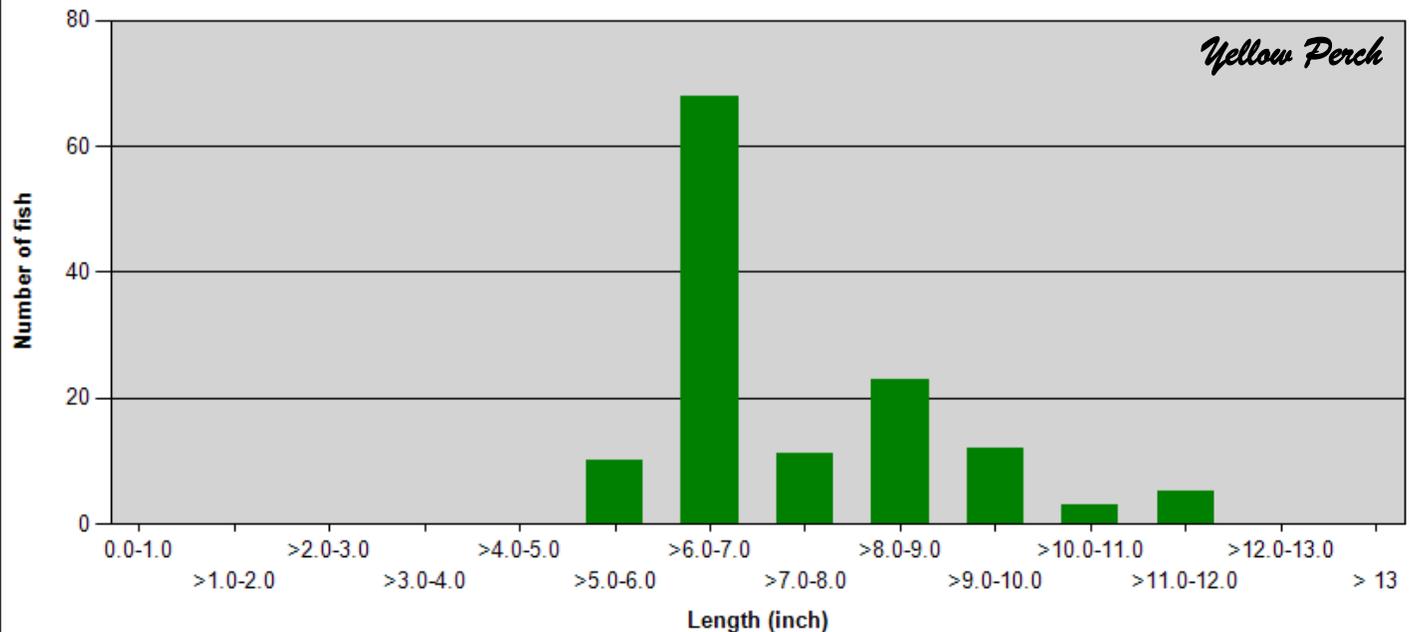


Figure 3. Length frequency histogram of Yellow Perch caught during the 2021 fall survey. The survey included 151.81 hours of netting with four Colorado Parks and Wildlife warmwater gill nets and four American Fisheries Society warmwater gill nets.

