



# Lon Hagler Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Benjamin Swigle - Aquatic Biologist (Fort Collins/Boulder)

ben.swigle@state.co.us / 970-472-4364

**General Information:** Lon Hagler Reservoir (181 acres) is managed for trophy bass, sunfish and seasonal put and take rainbow trout. Anglers most frequently catch trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, catfish, yellow perch, and bluegill. Walleye and common carp are also in the reservoir while tiger muskie are often seen but rarely caught. Although boat fishing is good, this is a great destination for shore anglers and those with younger anglers.

**Location:** Larimer county. From Campion, go 3.3 miles W on CR 21S; then 1.5 miles N.

**Recreational Management:** Colorado Division of Wildlife

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

**Fishery Management:** Warmwater angling, Stock and Take Trout

### Amenities

- Boat Ramp (2)
- Primitive Restroom
- Hiking Trails
- Wildlife Viewing
- Ice Fishing

### Regulations

• **Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass fishing is by catch and release only.**

- Min. size for tiger muskie is 36"; 1 fish limit.
- Only 1 catfish in the bag may exceed 20 inches.
- Statewide bag and possession limits also apply (Trout = 4).
- Wakeless boating only.

### Previous Stocking

#### 2019

- Rainbow Trout
- Wiper
- Black Crappie
- Largemouth Bass
- Channel Catfish

#### 2018

- Rainbow Trout
- Wiper
- Black Crappie
- Largemouth Bass
- Channel Catfish

#### 2017

- Rainbow Trout
- Walleye
- Largemouth Bass
- Black Crappie
- Wiper
- Bluegill
- Tiger Muskie

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Walleye/Saugeye

- Fish the dam when water temps are 40-50°F.
- 12 lb+ walleye are in Lon Hagler but rarely caught. Walleyes this size are always females.

#### Bass

- Best advice, fish the dam with small spinners and senkos.

#### Channel Catfish

- Best baits are chicken livers, night crawlers, and 1" rapalas.

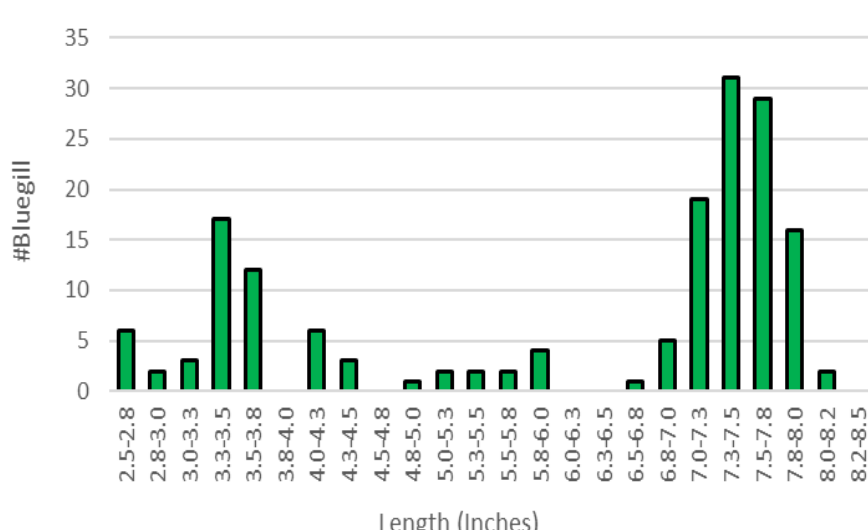
#### Tiger Muskie

- Persistence is the best advice, legal fish routinely cruise the shoreline in 8-10 ft. of water.
- The best lure is a spoon or large rapala tipped with some luck! A trout imitation might not be a bad idea!

### May 2019 - 3 Trapnets Survey Results

SPECIES	Total Catch	Length (inches)		
		Mean	Minimum	Maximum
BLACK CRAPPIE	13	9.24	8.66	10.20
BLUEGILL	163	6.13	2.64	8.07
COMMON CARP	1	23.03	23.03	23.03
LARGEMOUTH BASS	2	7.05	6.14	7.95
RAINBOW TROUT	3	10.73	10.24	11.61
SMALLMOUTH BASS	1	11.18	11.18	11.18
GREEN SUNFISH	11	4.41	3.62	5.75
SPOTTAIL SHINER	3	4.04	4.02	4.09
WHITE SUCKER	3	15.79	14.37	17.17

Length Frequency - Bluegill, May 2019



### July 2018 - 30 Minutes Boat Efish Survey Results

SPECIES	Total Catch	Length (inches)			Weight (lb)		
		Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
BLACK CRAPPIE	1	8.46	8.46	8.46	0.33	0.33	0.33
BLUEGILL	29	5.15	2.17	7.72	0.15	0.01	0.36
GIZZARD SHAD	10	13.03	11.93	13.98	0.69	0.52	0.78
HYBRID SUNFISH	2	5.26	5.20	5.31	0.11	0.10	0.12
LARGEMOUTH BASS	11	7.36	1.69	13.94	0.39	0.03	1.44
RAINBOW TROUT	2	11.28	9.49	13.07	0.54	0.30	0.78
SAUGEYE	1	11.85	11.85	11.85	0.45	0.45	0.45
SMALLMOUTH BASS	26	8.15	3.74	14.13	0.34	0.03	1.48
GREEN SUNFISH	3	5.04	3.82	6.57	0.11	0.03	0.23
PALMETTO BASS (WIPER)	14	9.66	6.57	12.76	0.41	0.11	0.84
WALLEYE	2	8.48	8.35	8.62	0.18	0.17	0.20
WHITE BASS	5	9.85	9.69	10.08	0.40	0.37	0.44
YELLOW PERCH	11	4.12	3.62	4.76	0.03	0.02	0.04

### June 2018 - 4 Gillnets

SPECIES	Total Catch	Length (inches)			Weight (lb)		
		Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
BLACK CRAPPIE	2	8.68	8.58	8.78	0.32	0.32	0.32
BLUEGILL	22	7.26	3.86	7.99	0.30	0.14	0.48
CHANNEL CATFISH	11	22.07	18.11	27.20	3.85	1.49	8.75
COMMON CARP	5	24.13	19.96	27.64	6.25	4.40	8.97
GIZZARD SHAD	6	14.13	12.24	15.79	0.98	0.51	1.59
RAINBOW TROUT	8	12.43	9.41	20.28	0.71	0.26	2.94
RAINBOW X CUTTHROAT	1	9.53	9.53	9.53	0.35	0.35	0.35
PALMETTO BASS (WIPER)	24	10.28	5.75	13.54	0.39	0.11	0.91
WALLEYE	10	16.69	11.65	25.20	2.16	0.35	6.01
WHITE BASS	1	10.87	10.87	10.87	0.34	0.34	0.34
WHITE SUCKER	18	15.12	13.35	17.95	1.50	0.96	2.55
YELLOW PERCH	1	7.87	7.87	7.87	0.19	0.19	0.19



**Above:** Installation of spawning habitat during reservoir drawdown specifically designed to attract both largemouth bass, crappie, and bluegill. Survey results indicate the number of young bass and panfish have increased compared with years prior to the habitat project.

**Rainbow Trout:** The most recent angler survey found that rainbow trout were the most sought after species at Lon Hagler. With such a large proportion of anglers targeting trout and the high return, trout stocking will continue. Anglers should keep in mind, that the "catchable" trout feed aggressively a few days after stocking and are often deep hooked. If you deep hook a trout chances are extremely unlikely such a fish will survive; a perfect opportunity to fine tune your culinary techniques. As of April 2020, more than 13,000 catchable trout have been stocked into Lon Hagler this year.

### Angler Target Species

