



Meredith Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Jim Ramsay - Aquatic Biologist, Lamar Service Center

2500 S. Main St. Lamar CO 81052 (719)336-6607

email: jim.ramsay@state.co.us

General Information: Meredith Reservoir was drained in 2013 and refilled in 2014. The fishery is in a re-building stage, but good numbers of sport fish are available. Meredith is a large, shallow lake, with average depths of less than 10 ft. Frequent wind and wave actions tends to keep the water fairly turbid. Boaters should be cautious of shallow areas.

Location: Crowley County, Travel 3 miles E. of Ordway on Hwy 96, then 1 mi S. on Lane 21 to lake.

Size: 3,300 surface acres, Average Depth: 6 ft.

Management: Colorado Canal Co., Crowley County, and CDOW (recreation mgmt.).

Fall Gillnet Survey Data: P2

<u>Amenities and General Info.</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 cement boat ramp with pier • 1 gravel ramp for use during low-water conditions. • Restrooms available • Free camping, fire pits allowed. • Trotlines and jug fishing permitted. • Facilities and recreation managed by Crowley County. • CPW manages the fishery and wildlife related law-enforcement. 	<p><u>2017</u></p> <p>Black Crappie 1.4”</p> <p>Largemouth Bass 1.3”</p> <p>Largemouth Bass 1.9”</p> <p>Saugeye 0.2”</p> <p>Wiper 0.3”</p> <p><u>2016</u></p> <p>Black Crappie 1.4”</p> <p>Black Crappie 0.7”</p> <p>Largemouth Bass 0.7”</p> <p>Largemouth Bass 0.5”</p> <p>Saugeye 0.2”</p> <p>Walleye 0.2”</p> <p>Wiper 0.2”</p>	<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>Wiper</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer open water areas or near schooling bait fish. Schools are very mobile. • Best months are Apr. - Oct. • Effective lures are shad type crank baits, shiny 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 near submerged trees or habitat structures. • Best fishing occurs during spring as water warms into the mid - 50s (April—May). • Live minnows, small plastic jigs (< 2”, 1/8 oz or less).
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles must remain on roads. • Special Arkansas drainage limits apply for wiper, white bass, and striped bass. Bag and possession limit is 20 in aggregate. • Special Arkansas drainage limits apply for walleye and saugeye: Bag and possession limit is 10 in aggregate. • 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. 		

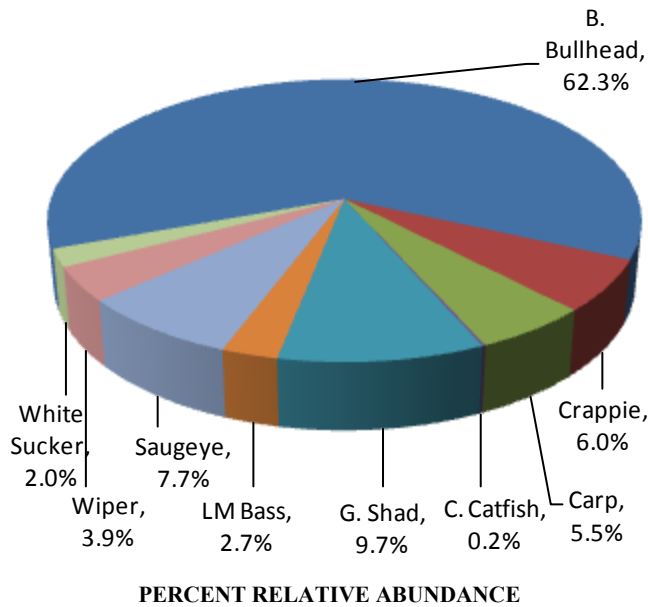


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2017 LAKE SURVEY DATA

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MEAN, MIN. & MAX. VALUES FOR SAMPLED SPECIES

SPECIES	MEAN	MIN.	MAX.
B. BULLHEAD	9.2"	4.7"	13.4"
CARP	16.3"	5.1"	24.2"
C. CATFISH	11.4"	11.4"	11.4"
CRAPPIE	7.8"	6.9"	9.1"
G. SHAD	11.8"	6.9"	15.7"
LM BASS	11.3"	5.7"	16.5"
SAUGEYE	11.4"	7.7"	19.7"
STRIPED BASS	---	---	---
WHITE SUCKER	13.3"	10.2"	15.6"
WIPER	20.0"	14.2"	22.6"

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	
*BULLHEAD		18	3		24	15	31	36	5	3															135	
CARP		1					4	3		1			3	11	4	2	1		4		1					35
C. CATFISH								1																		1
CRAPPIE			1		27	10																				38
G. SHAD			1		15	3	1	1	5	22		12	2													62
LM BASS		1					7	3	3			1	1	1												17
SAUGEYE					2	15	12		1	8		7	1	1		2										49
WIPER												1		1	5	4	7		6	1						25
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		

* Subsample of Total Catch

RELATIVE WEIGHT TABLE

SPECIES	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	AVG
B. BULLHEAD	100.2	80.9	78.3	81.7	76.0	---	---	---	94.7	84.2	83.3	84.9
CRAPPIE	108.5	119.5	103.2	107.7	114.3	---	---	---	123.6	116.6	109.5	112.9
C. CATFISH	114.0	114.9	110.0	100.4	93.9	---	---	---	---	103.1	89.4	103.7
SAUGEYE	104.9	105.1	89.1	93.5	95.0	---	---	---	93.8	99.0	97.5	97.2
G. SHAD	94.4	84.6	80.0	80.2	87.1	---	---	---	111.4	87.7	82.0	88.5
WIPER	103.7	103.7	97.2	102.1	97.7	---	---	---	87.5	109.0	93.1	99.2



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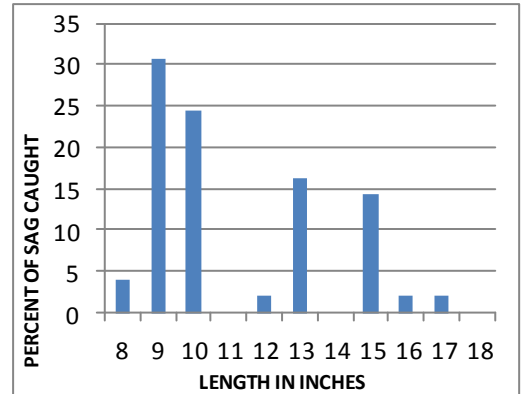
2018 FISHING FORECAST

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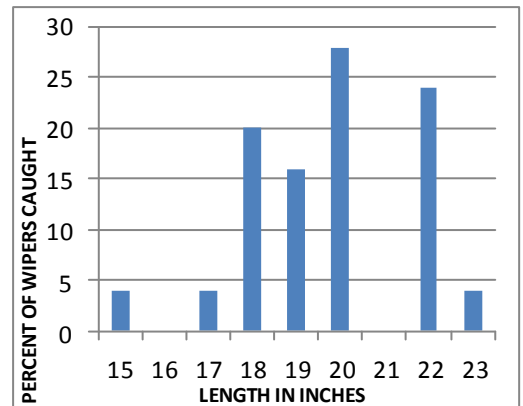
Saugeye:

Fall sampling showed good numbers of saugeye, but not as abundant as in 2016. Recent stocking efforts have been successful, and anglers should enjoy good fishing success. Saugeye can be caught from shore, but boat anglers tend to be more successful. The liberal Arkansas drainage bag limits allow anglers to keep up to 10 fish, regardless of size. Bait anglers catch these fish using live minnows, leaches, and jigs tipped with a worm. Lure fishermen should use shallow running baits due to low average depths in the lake. Small rattle traps, shad imitating plastics, and worm harnesses are good choices. Saugeye fishing should be fair to good in 2018.



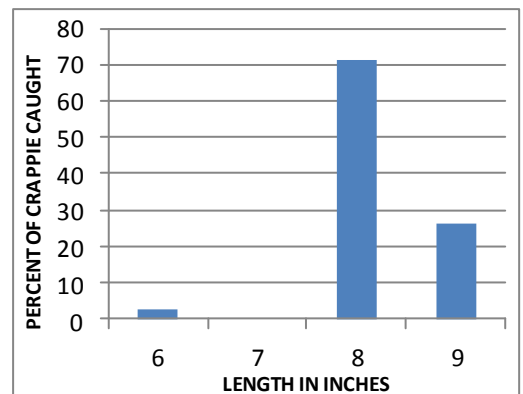
Wiper:

Wiper are the hybrid cross between a male white bass and a female striped bass. These fish have attributes of both parents - tremendous fighting power and potential of attaining very large sizes. Stocking of wipers has resulted in good year classes available. These fish have grown quickly, and 20+ inch fish are common. Wipers are opportunistic feeders, and will hit a variety of tackle. Common wiper lures include: casting lures (rattle traps, kastmaster, etc.), crank baits, shad imitating plastics, jigs, and spinners. Effective baits include minnows, worms, shrimp, and crayfish tails. Wiper fishing is expected to only be very good to excellent in 2018.



Crappie

Historically, Meredith has been an excellent crappie fishing destination. Since the lake refilled in 2014, these fish have been restocked several times. It has taken a few years for the population to rebuild, but fishing for crappie is beginning to improve. Fair crappie fishing will be available in 2018. Many anglers fish around the pilings near the pier and boat ramp, as these structures tend to attract crappie. Submerged trees and brush piles are also good choices for these fish. Typically, these fish begin biting in mid-spring as lake temperatures warm into the mid-50s. Most anglers are successful using live minnows or small jigs (< 2", 1/8 oz.).



Catfish:

Currently, the best catfishing opportunity at Meredith is for the abundant bullhead population. While bullheads are not considered game fish by many anglers, these fish are chunky and plentiful and can provide good action. Larger bullheads can actually provide good table fare. Bullhead meat is similar in taste and texture to other catfish species. Channel and blue catfish have not increased much since the lake refilled. Stocking efforts should increase these species dramatically in the next few years. Common catfish baits include: shrimp, livers, dough baits, crawdad tails, cut shad or carp, or worms. Fishing is expected to be good for bullheads, but only poor to fair for channel catfish in 2017. *Pictured: Nice Meredith Wipers* →

