



Trinidad Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Trinidad Reservoir, measuring approximately 800 acres, offers good fishing for walleye, saugeye, bass, catfish, rainbow trout, black crappie, yellow perch and wiper. The reservoir is located within Trinidad Lake State Park. Visit <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/trinidadlake> for park hours, fees, and other information.

Location: Las Animas county. Go 3 miles W of Trinidad on HWY 12 and follow the signs to the reservoir.

Recreational Management: Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Trinidad Lake State Park (719-846-6951); area wildlife office (719-561-5300) [click here to buy a fishing license](#)

Fishery Management: warm and cold water species **Annual Survey Data:** (see following pages)

Amenities

- Boat Ramps (1)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Hiking trails

Regulations

- Daily bag and possession limit for walleye/saugeye is 5 fish in aggregate with no more than 1 fish over 18 inches in length.
- Bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted) must be a minimum of 15 inches in length to be kept.
- Bag and possession limits other than walleye/saugeye are listed by the Arkansas drainage in the regulations brochure.

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/RegulationsBrochures.aspx>

Fish Consumption Advisory

- There is a fish consumption for walleye, saugeye, and smallmouth due to mercury contamination. The advisory is posted at the reservoir or can be found at the Department of Health web page: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-fish-consumption>

Previous Stocking

2019

Black Crappie
Channel Catfish
Largemouth
Rainbow Trout
Saugeye
Walleye
Wiper

2018

Black Crappie
Channel Catfish
Largemouth Bass
Rainbow Trout
Saugeye
Walleye
Wiper

2017

Black Crappie
Channel Catfish
Largemouth Bass
Rainbow Trout
Saugeye
Walleye
Wiper

Sportfishing Notes

Walleye/Saugeye

These fish are managed to achieve high catch rates and relatively liberal harvest. Best fishing for walleye and saugeye will start in May and run into the early fall. Fish can be found in all locations in the reservoir.

Trout

The trout fishery is a mixture of “put and take” and “put and grow” management strategies. Catch rates for trout are very high in the reservoir and quality of fish is pretty good with fish in the 14 to 16 inch range being fairly common. Trout are caught in all locations in the lake.

Other Species

Trinidad produces some good catches of other species including channel catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, and wipers. Additional information is found in the following pages.

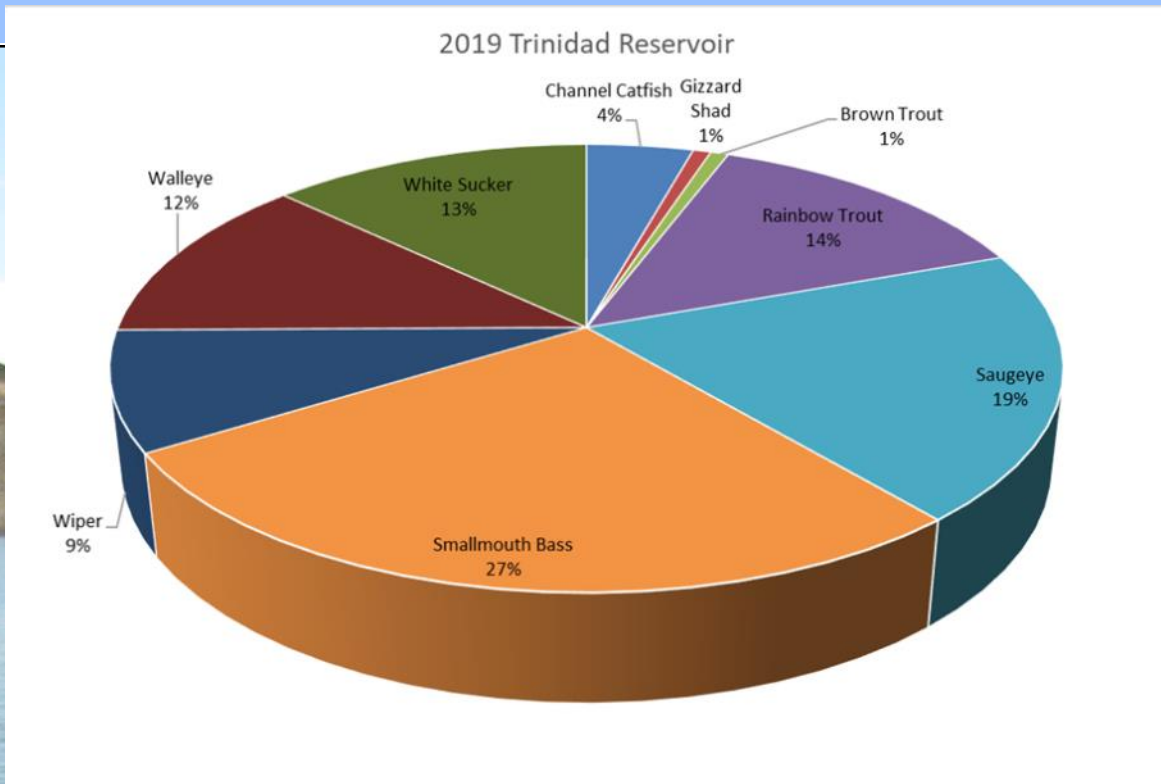


TRINIDAD RESERVOIR

FISH SURVEY DATA



2019 FALL SAMPLING



Fall sampling, completed in October, involved the use of five gillnets, set overnight.



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FISH SURVEY DATA AND 2020 FISHING FORECAST

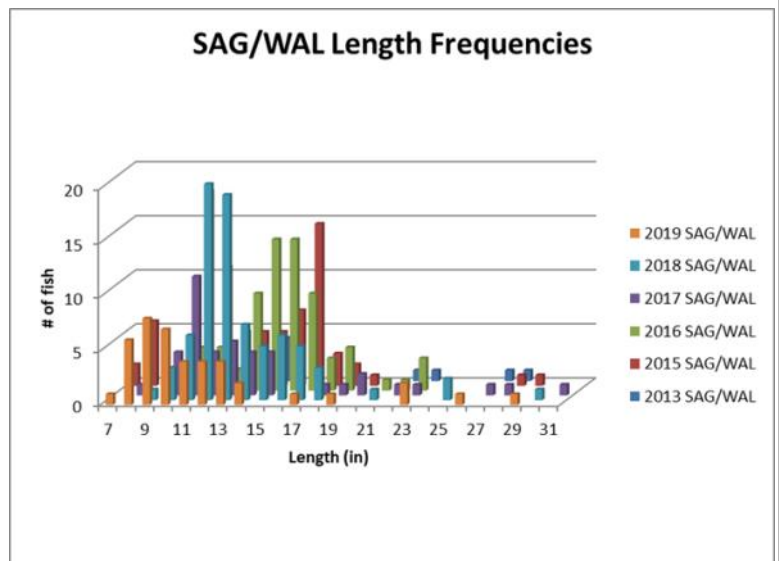
FISH SURVEY RESULTS 2019

	# Caught	CPUE Fish/net	Length (in)		Weight (lb)		PSD	Relative Weight
			Average	Range	Average	Range		
Channel Catfish (CCF)	6	1.2	22.3	(17.95-31.3)	5.98	(2.18-17.67)	100	119.9
Gizzard Shad (GSD)	1	0.2	15.8	(15.8-15.8)	2.16	(2.16-2.16)	100	130.4
Brown Trout (LOC)	1	0.2	18.5	(18.5-18.5)	2.06	(2.06-2.06)	100	84.9
Rainbow Trout (RBT)	19	3.8	13.1	(9.8-16.4)	0.83	(0.31-1.54)	5.3	79.5
Saugeye (SAG)	27	5.4	12.6	(9.1-25.3)	0.76	(0.19-6.90)	22.2	83.4
Smallmouth Bass (SMB)	38	7.6	12.2	(7.8-17.95)	1.11	(0.19-3.06)	57.9	90.1
Wiper (SXW)	12	2.4	17.0	(11.2-25.7)	3.25	(1.58-8.74)	83.3	149.3
Walleye (WAL)	17	3.4	16.7	(10.4-31.3)	2.59	(0.35-11.19)	40	85.0
White Sucker (WHS)	18	3.6	16.3	(8.9-18.7)	2.48	(1.66-3.18)	94.12	164.6
TOTALS	139	27.8						

WALLEYE AND SAUGEYE

Data from 2019 sampling indicated healthy fish that were in good condition. The population is composed of many fish in the mid-sized range and a few large fish (see figure below). Gizzard shad were stocked in 2016, to help provide an additional forage base for sportfish. This should help keep fish in good condition.

In 2020, anglers can expect to catch high quality walleye and saugeye, particularly between May and August. Please read the mercury advisory for walleye and saugeye over 15" in length.



CHANNEL CATFISH

Catfish numbers have been fairly stable over the years, with high quality fish present. Trinidad catfish appear to cycle up and down over the years depending on stocking and water levels. In 2019, 8 channel catfish were captured via trotlining with an average length and weight of 27.4" and 10.09 lbs, with the largest being 33.9" and 18.81 lbs. Most of the catfish in Trinidad are over 20 inches in length. Anglers who desire to catch catfish can do very well with traditional methods in 2020; focus efforts towards the west end.





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FISH SURVEY DATA AND 2020 FISHING FORECAST

BLACK BASS

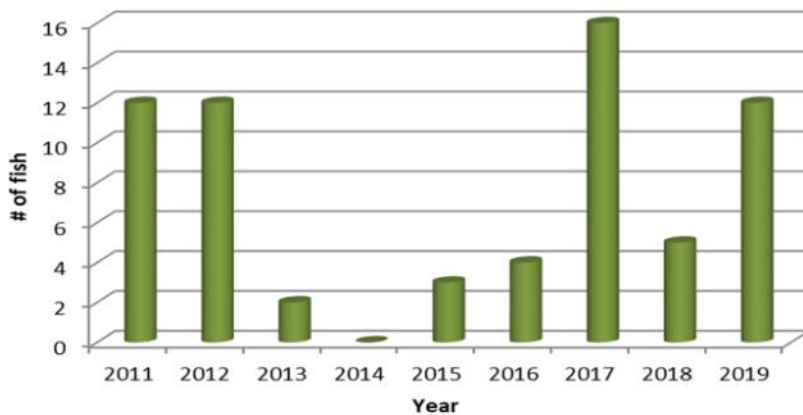
Largemouth and smallmouth are typically caught in the reservoir. Thirty-eight smallmouth bass were sampled with gillnets in 2019. Numbers of bass in Trinidad are pretty good with smallmouth being more abundant than largemouth bass. The smallmouth sampled in 2019 ranged in size from 7.8 to 18 inches and ranged in weight between 0.2 to 3 pounds. Many of the bass are below the minimum 15 inch length limit, but some very good quality bass are taken each year and are caught during bass tournaments on the reservoir. Bass are available to anglers year round with almost all bass fishing techniques.



PANFISH AND WIPER

Trinidad also has good numbers of bluegill, black crappie, wiper and yellow perch. Bluegill and crappie occur at low levels and vary greatly from year to year. Black crappie are stocked and fishing should be very good. Wiper occur at moderate numbers and can be difficult to catch. There are some very nice quality wipers in the population and anglers have been successful in the past using chicken livers as bait. Wipers have been stocked since 2014.

Wipers Caught per Year



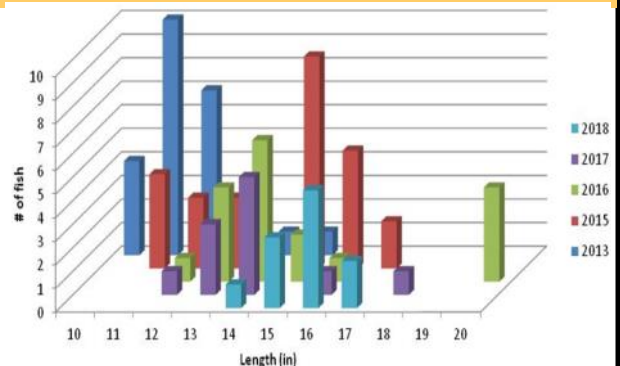
The number of wipers sampled in 2017 was the highest number in the last seven years, but 2018 saw a decrease in the number of fish sampled. Wiper numbers were up again in 2019.

The yellow perch fishery has been improving over the last few years and anglers have caught some impressive perch in the reservoir. Several master angler-size perch were caught in the past four years.

RAINBOW TROUT

Rainbow trout are a staple at Trinidad Reservoir. Fish typically are stocked monthly between February and September, depending on availability and weather. Trout survive and grow well at Trinidad Reservoir, and anglers have the most success catching trout between May and September. However, trout fishing can be productive any time of year and fish that reach 15" in length are fairly common, with larger fish present.

Fishing in 2020 should continue to be good for trout, particularly in the spring and fall. Traditional trout fishing methods should work well.





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MASTER ANGLER AWARDS

The Master Angler Recognition Program is designed to recognize anglers for success in their sport, as well as to promote the conservation of fishery resources and quality fishing by encouraging the careful release of trophy-size popular sport species. The program offers Master Angler award certificates in two general categories: fish caught and released, and fish caught and kept. Awards are based on fish length rather than weight. See <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/MasterAngler.aspx> for more information.

2019 Master Angler Awards

Name	Species	Length	Location	Month	Year	Status
Daisy Ellison	walleye	26"	Trinidad Reservoir	April	2019	Kept
Ranger Parton	smallmouth bass	19"	Trinidad Reservoir	June	2019	Released
Aiden Komaroski	saugeye	28 1/2"	Trinidad Reservoir	May	2019	Kept

2018 Master Angler Awards

Name	Species	Length	Location	Month	Year	Status
Jordan Tateyama	yellow perch	13 1/4"	Trinidad Reservoir	May	2018	Kept
Dale Goodrum	yellow perch	12 1/2"	Trinidad Reservoir	June	2018	Kept
Ken Huff	yellow perch	12 1/2"	Trinidad Reservoir	July	2018	Kept
Garry Byrd	yellow perch	12 1/4"	Trinidad Reservoir	July	2018	Kept
Marty R. Martinez	yellow perch	12 7/8"	Trinidad Reservoir	September	2018	Kept
Marty R. Martinez	yellow perch	13"	Trinidad Reservoir	September	2018	Kept
Royce Wheeler	yellow perch	12 1/2"	Trinidad Reservoir	October	2018	Kept
Francis Ackley	yellow perch	13"	Trinidad Reservoir	October	2018	Kept

