

CARLYLE LAKE FISHING PROSPECTS FOR 2015

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LARGEMOUTH BASS – 14" minimum length limit/6 fish per day creel

Overall catch rates for largemouth bass were much lower in the 2014 fall survey than in previous years. Catches dropped from a robust 65 fish/hour in 2013 to a 5 year low of 17 fish/hour in 2014. Size structure of the fish that were collected remained good. Forty five percent of the stock sized fish collected were over 15 inches and should provide good angling opportunity. Eight percent of the stock sized fish were over 18 inches, which should provide some quality sized fish to the fishery. Most of the bass appeared to be in excellent condition due to an abundant shad population. Young of the year bass were collected during the fall survey indicating some degree of spawning success during 2014. Hopefully the low catch rates for largemouth bass were more a reflection of sampling issues than problems with the population. Given the size structure of the fish collected it is likely that is the case. Angling opportunities for 2015 should be fair to good for largemouth bass.

WHITE BASS

White bass remain very abundant and exhibit a good population structure. The overall catch rate was 47 fish/hour of electrofishing, which is consistent with results from the last two surveys. Multiple year classes were collected in 2014 including young of the year. Fifty six percent of the stock is 12 inches or greater in length and should provide an abundance of fishing opportunity. The fish are in good condition, thirteen inch fish should average over a pound in weight. Look for good white bass fishing in 2015 as these fish continue to feed and grow.

CRAPPIE – 10 inch minimum length limit/15 fish per day creel

The crappie population in Carlyle Lake remains in excellent condition. The combined catch of white and black crappie was an impressive 103 fish/hour of electrofishing. Thirty seven percent of the stock sized white crappie and twenty six percent of the stock sized black crappie were over the minimum length limit of 10 inches. These fish should provide an abundance of quality fishing opportunity. Crappie fishing should be good to excellent in 2015 at Carlyle Lake.

CHANNEL CATFISH

The channel catfish population continues to get better every year. Catches of channel catfish in the fall population survey were 22/hour of electrofishing, the highest in the last 5 years. There is an abundance of large fish in the population that should provide excellent angling opportunities. Catfish fishing should be good to excellent in Carlyle Lake in 2015.

BLUEGILL

The Bluegill population at Carlyle remains in relatively poor condition. Catch rates during the fall survey in 2014 were fairly consistent with prior years. Catch rates remain fairly high with 165 fish collected per hour of electrofishing compared to 199 fish per hour in 2013. However the majority of these were small fish. There were only 5% of the stock sized fish larger than 7 inches. These fish will provide limited angling opportunities in the upcoming year. Bluegill fishing should be fair to poor in Carlyle Lake in 2015.