



2010 Fishing Forecast

Buckeye Lake

Fairfield, Licking, and Perry Counties
2816 Acres- Unlimited HP, Fishing



Compared to Other Inland Lakes and Reservoirs

Species	FISH POPULATION STATUS			Stocked	Anglers Seeking(%)
	Overall Numbers	This size or Larger	Largest Sampled		
Largemouth Bass	Fair	12"	18.8"	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.8
Crappie	Excellent	8"	13"	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.2
Saugeye	Poor	15"	25.3"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17.1
Channel Catfish	Good	16"	23.5"	<input type="checkbox"/>	19.3
Sunfish	Excellent	6"	8.1"	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.8
Hybrid Striped Bass	Poor	12"	18.7"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.1

Largemouth Bass

OUTLOOK: FAIR

The catch rate for largemouth bass in the 2009 spring electrofishing survey was the highest since 2003. Twenty five percent of the fish captured were 12 inches or longer. A large year class in 2008 should sustain the fishery for the coming years. These fish could grow to 12 inches long in 2010. Good "early" lake due to shallow, fast warming water. Fishing the canals and around Cranberry Marsh is popular.

Crappie

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Fall trap netting in 2007 revealed an old population of large fish. Fifty eight percent of the crappie were black crappie, with nearly 72% of these fish 8 inches or greater and 42% at least 10 inches long. 86% of white crappie were 8 inches or longer and 53% were longer than 10 inches. Fishing shoreline cover with a jig and minnow can be productive. Most crappie were found in the east half of the lake.

Saugeye

OUTLOOK: GOOD

The 2008 fall gill netting surveys indicated stocked saugeye of that year survived their first summer very well. 65% of the fish captured were less than 11 inches long. 17% of saugeye were 15 inches or longer. 2010 should also be very good with these fish now approaching 14+ inches. Jigs tipped with a minnow or shallow running crank baits are productive. Ice fishing for saugeye is also popular.

Channel Catfish

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Good population of channel catfish with fish up to 27 inches. Just after ice-out, try cut shad on the windward side of the lake. Try prepared baits, shrimp or cut bait, especially in July and August.

Sunfish

OUTLOOK FAIR

Spring electrofishing surveys showed a fair population of sunfish up to 8 inches long. Try fishing the vegetated eastern half of the lake. Night crawlers, maggots, and red worms suspended by a bobber can be effective. Bluegills are also taken while ice fishing.

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Hybrid Striped Bass

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Fall gill netting in 2008 indicated that stocked hybrid striped bass did very well that year. Nearly 84% of the fish captured were stocked that spring. These fish are now approaching 15 inches and still growing fast. Fishing chicken livers just off the bottom can be effective, especially between Seller's Point and the RT. 79 boat ramp. Good population of larger fish around 18 inches long.