



2010 Fishing Forecast

Salt Fork Lake

Guernsey County

3,106 Acres- Unlimited Horsepower



Compared to Other Inland Lakes and Reservoirs

Species	FISH POPULATION STATUS			Stocking	Anglers Seeking(%)
	Overall Numbers	This size or Larger	Largest Sampled		
Largemouth Bass	Fair	8"	19.5"	<input type="checkbox"/>	29.5
Smallmouth Bass	Good	7"	16.5"	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Crappie	Good	8"	13.2"	<input type="checkbox"/>	24.2
White Bass	Good	6"	14.3"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<1
Saugeye	Good	9"	28.0"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.2
Channel Catfish	Good	11"	27.6"	<input type="checkbox"/>	9.8
Bluegill	Good	6"	9.8"	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.5
Muskellunge	Good			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.8

Largemouth Bass

OUTLOOK: FAIR

Overall numbers of largemouth bass were somewhat low compared to other lakes in Ohio. Most fish are 15-inches or less in length. During the 2008 electrofishing survey, 41% of the largemouth bass captured were 12-inches or larger; 15% were 15-inches or larger.

Smallmouth Bass

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Smallmouth bass are found in lower numbers compared to largemouth bass but compared to other inland lakes statewide, the smallmouth bass population at Salt Fork is rated good based on numbers caught. In the 2008 survey, 35% of the smallmouth bass captured were 11-inches or larger; 12% were 14-inches or larger.

Crappie

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Both white crappie and black crappie are present in Salt Fork Lake but white crappie are most common. During the 2008 trapnet survey, 30% of the fish captured were eight-inches or larger. Fishing is good in the spring along brushy shorelines, beaver lodges, and near sunken brushpiles.

White Bass

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Compared to other inland lakes throughout Ohio, white bass numbers are good. During the 2009 gillnet survey, 86% of the white bass captured were nine-inches or larger. White bass make spawning runs in the early spring. Fishing near larger tributary streams entering the main lake should produce good results.

Saugeye

OUTLOOK GOOD

The saugeye population continues to do well at Salt Fork Lake. In 2009, 75% of the fish captured were 14-inches or larger. In the early spring, many saugeye can be caught near the beach areas. In the summer, better fishing can be found near the dam area. Twisters, stickbaits, and blade baits are popular with anglers.

Salt Fork Lake

Channel Catfish

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Good numbers of channel catfish are found at Salt Fork Lake. Fish up to 27-inches were captured during the 2009 gillnet survey. During this same survey 27% of the channel catfish sampled were 16-inches or larger. Shore fishing throughout the lake is popular as well as fishing near the creek channels in the upper ends of the reservoir with a boat.

Bluegill

OUTLOOK: GOOD

A variety of sunfish can be found at Salt Fork Lake though bluegill are most plentiful. During the 2008 electrofishing survey, 38% of the fish captured were six-inches or larger.

Muskellunge

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Muskellunge are not targeted for sampling by Division of Wildlife crews. However, catches reported by muskie anglers through the Muskie Angler Log (MAL) indicates a strong population. Fishing picks up in early spring where fish can be found shallow. Trolling throughout the summer with crankbaits is popular as well.

NOTES:

Multiple launch ramps are available for boaters.