

# **Deep Creek Dam**

## **Montgomery County**

### **2011 Trap Net Survey**

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) conducted a channel catfish fingerling stocking evaluation in Deep Creek Dam from July 5 to 6, 2011. Deep Creek Dam is a small (25 acres), shallow (average depth of 6 feet) impoundment located in Green Lane Park of Montgomery County. The PFBC stocked Deep Creek Dam with 6,499 channel catfish fingerlings from 1999 to 2004 and another 1,000 fingerlings in 2010. The gap in stocking was planned so that agency biologists could evaluate channel catfish reproductive success.

Four trap nets were set throughout the impoundment on July 5 at water depths ranging from 6 to 10 feet. The nets were tended and removed from the impoundment on July 6. The majority of fish captured were identified, counted, measured, and released.

No juvenile channel catfish were collected, indicating that little natural reproduction is occurring. Six adult channel catfish were captured, ranging in size from 17 to 31 inches. The catch rate of adults was low (0.06 fish/hour), but not surprising, since the last stocking capable of producing adult size catfish occurred in 2004. The collection of smaller adult catfish (17 inches) combined with the rapid growth rates typically observed in southeastern Pennsylvania suggests that some natural reproduction is occurring, but not enough to sustain the fishery without stocking. This finding is consistent with the results of the trap net survey conducted by PFBC in 1998. A summary of the fish species collected is presented in Table 1.

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**Table 1. Summary of fish species collected in Deep Creek Dam from July 5 to 6, 2011.**

<b>Fish Species</b>	<b>Number Collected</b>	<b>CPUE (fish/hr)</b>	<b>Size Range (inches)</b>
Black Crappie	35	0.38	4 - 10
Bluegill	399	4.27	2 - 8
Channel Catfish	6	0.06	17 - 31
Common Carp	4	0.04	-
Flathead Catfish	3	0.03	24 - 38
Golden Rainbow Trout	1	0.01	-
Golden Shiner	1	0.01	-
Largemouth Bass	6	0.06	12 - 22
Pumpkinseed	5	0.05	4 - 6
White Crappie	23	0.25	4 - 10

Three [flathead catfish](#) were also captured, which was the first documentation of this species in Deep Creek Dam. The largest flathead catfish captured was 38 inches.



*Area 6 Fisheries Manager Mike Kaufmann (left) with a 24 inch flathead catfish and Area 6 Fisheries Biologist Greg Murphy (right) with a 38 inch flathead catfish captured in Deep Creek Dam. Photo courtesy of Montgomery County Parks.*

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Although trap nets are not a good gear type for evaluating largemouth bass populations, several nice size bass were captured, ranging up to 22 inches.

Please see the [Montgomery County Parks website](#) if you plan on fishing Deep Creek Dam. The impoundment offers plenty of shoreline access, boat rentals, and a boat ramp. No permit is required by Montgomery County for use of the boat ramp. Only electric motor use is permitted.

***Greg Murphy***  
***Area 6 Fisheries Biologist***