

Moon Lake

Luzerne County

2016 Warmwater Fish Population Survey

Moon Lake is a 47 acre impoundment located in Plymouth Township, Luzerne County. Moon Lake was part of the Luzerne County Park System for 46 years but, in December 2014, Luzerne County transferred ownership to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Pinchot State Forest.

Area 4 biologists conducted a survey of warmwater fish populations at Moon Lake in 2016. The survey consisted of four days of trap netting during the week of April 11 and a single night of electrofishing on May 25. All gears combined captured 437 fish of 10 different species (Table 1). Largemouth Bass and Panfish numbers were average to below average but their size distributions were very good. Night electrofishing catch rates for Largemouth Bass were: 89.0/hour for total catch; 39.7/hour for Bass \geq 12 inches; and 15.8/hour for Bass \geq 15 inches. Warmwater fish populations in 2016 were very similar to those found during the previous survey in 1990. The only significant difference we noted between the two surveys was that Black Crappies were much more abundant in 2016.

Table 1. Fish species captured at Moon Lake in 2016.

Species	Number Caught	Length Range (Inches)
Black Crappie	73	2.0 to 15.9
Bluegill	48	4.0 to 9.9
Brown Bullhead	4	14.0 to 16.9
Chain Pickerel	24	6.0 to 26.9
Golden Shiner	188	4.0 to 10.9
Hatchery Trout	4	Not Measured
Largemouth Bass	73	7.0 to 21.9
Pumpkinseed	5	5.0 to 8.9
Yellow Bullhead	1	12.0 to 12.9
Yellow Perch	17	5.0 to 13.9

A Largemouth Bass (21.5 inches, 9.0 pounds) captured in a trap net at Moon Lake in April 2016. The fish weighed so much because it was a female laden with eggs that had been feeding on recently stocked Trout.



A 13.9 inch Yellow Perch captured in a trap net at Moon Lake in April 2016.



*Rob Wnuk
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