

LAHONTAN RESERVOIR



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION
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General information: Lahontan Reservoir was created in 1915 by the construction of Lahontan Dam, which impounded water from the Carson River and Truckee River (via the Truckee Canal) for farmland irrigation, hydropower, flood control, domestic water, and recreation. The reservoir is eutrophic, which creates a very productive fishery. The prominent sport fishes include White Bass, wipers (White Bass x Striped Bass hybrid), Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Channel and White catfish, White and Black crappie, Yellow Perch, and Walleye. Fingerling wiper and larval Walleye are generally stocked annually. An estimated 7,500 tons of mercury were discharged into the Carson River drainage resulting from Comstock mining practices and, consequently, methylmercury concentrations in all game fishes are above the safe state and federal consumption levels. Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and NDOW advise “No consumption of fish from Lahontan Reservoir, the Carson River below Dayton, and all waters in Lahontan Valley.” Fishing licenses are available at ndowlicensing.com.

Location: Churchill and Lyon counties, NV approximately 20 miles southwest of Fallon on Highway 95. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you.

Size: Lahontan is a large reservoir by Nevada standards, maximum surface area of the reservoir is 14,600 acres with a maximum storage of 319,000 acre-ft (AF). At maximum pool, the deepest point reaches 85 ft.

Management: NDOW manages the fishery as a General Warmwater Fishery with one special regulation for the harvest of wiper which allows “two White Bass or White Bass hybrids (wiper) greater than 15.0 in”. The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District is responsible for water flow into and out of the reservoir.

Amenities and General Info

- Nevada Division of State Parks provides boat launching, camping, electrical hook-ups, bathrooms, and picnic tables.
- Two primary boat launching facilities are at the North Shore Marina and Silver Springs Boat Launch.
- Nearby towns with accommodations include Fallon, Fernley, Silver Springs, and Yerington.

Fishing/Boating Regulations

- The season is open year-round, no special tackle restrictions or closed areas.
- Limits are 5 trout, 10 mountain whitefish, and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass, 5 may be walleye, and two may be white bass or white bass hybrids (wiper) 15 inches in total length or longer.

Last Year Stocking

2022 Lahontan

Walleye	1.26 mil	0.5 inches
Wiper	2,000	9.1 inches

Previous Years Stocking

2021 Lahontan

Walleye	945,000	0.5 inches
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2020 Lahontan

No stocking due to drought

2019 Lahontan

Walleye	835,000	0.5 inches
Wiper	3,000	5.75 inches

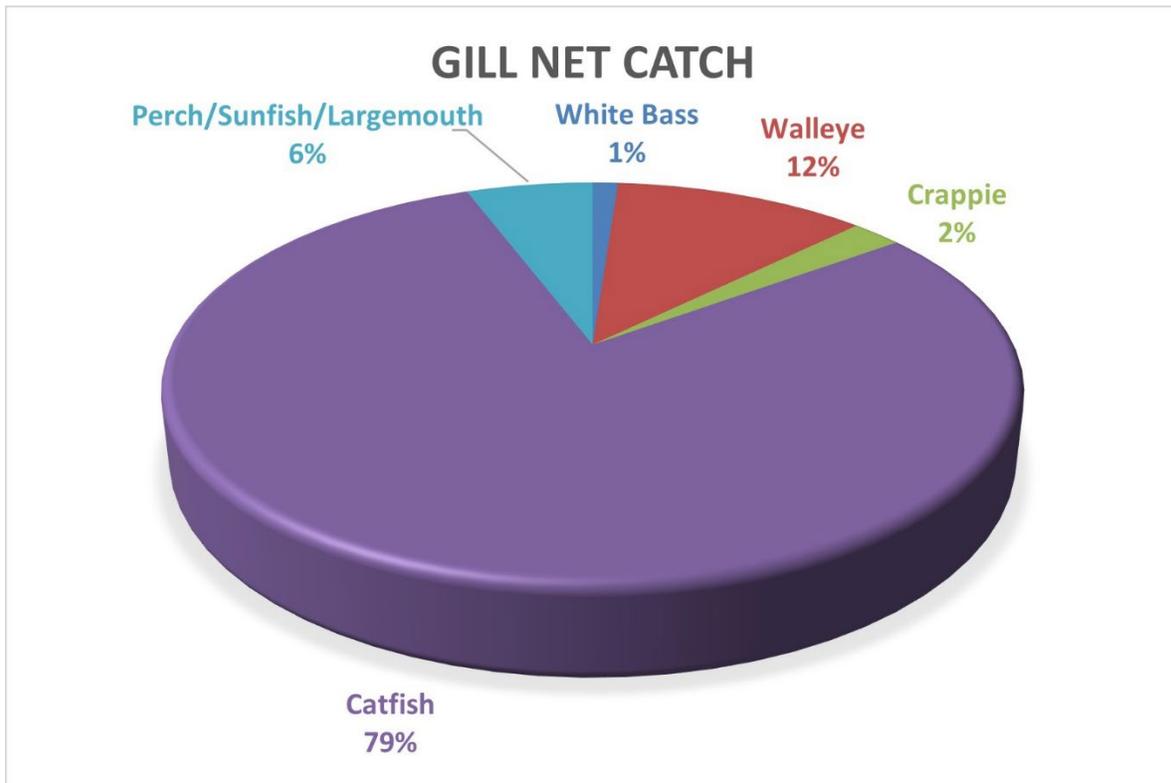
Fishing notes

- Boaters targeting walleye and wiper should use a fish finder to determine the depth fish are occupying, which is usually in the upper 20 feet of the water column during summer, and troll Rapalas, bottom bounders with cut bait, or worm rigs.
- Shore anglers do best for catfish and white bass. Use Power Bait, nightcrawlers, or small spinners like rooster tails and cast out as far as possible.
- Fishing for black bass (smallmouth, largemouth and spotted) usually picks up around April when fish come into shallower water to feed and spawn. Rubber worms, jigs, and crankbaits along the shoreline or off deeper points typically produce nice bass.

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FISHERY SURVEY DATA – 2022
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Angler Creel Contact - Catch Rates and Sizes of Fish

Fishery	Fish/Hour	Fish/Day
April	1.24	3.10
June	0.92	3.06
July	1.24	2.17
September	1.15	3.83

Species	Size Range
White Bass	10-15 inches
Walleye	18-23 inches
Wiper	22-24 inches
Largemouth	13-17 inches

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2023 Fishing Forecast

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Water level- As of March 2023, over 250% of average Snow Water Equivalent (snowpack) has been recorded at SNOTEL sites in the Carson Basin. This is a flood year following three consecutive years of drought. Storage levels will remain high throughout the year and the reservoir should remain fishable throughout most of the season.

Fishery conditions going into 2023

Storage and river flow run the show at Lahontan. Angling will be slow to start this year due to the large amount of cold inflow which will keep temperatures low early on. As temperatures rise during summer, fish will become active and have plenty of habitat to explore. Population numbers for white bass, walleye, and largemouth are low going into the season due to the previous three years of drought; however, angling conditions will be good so anglers will want to be strategic when choosing their location (see fishing notes above). We anticipate good spawning conditions for all species this spring, and thankfully, due to the efforts of TCID and NDOW to ensure adequate water was maintained in the reservoir during the previous two summers of drought to prevent a die-off, there are plenty of broodstock fish to start the rebuilding process.

Don't be a Dirty Boater

Stop at the watercraft inspection stations before launching, and “Clean, Drain, and Dry” your watercraft and equipment before leaving the reservoir.

Lahontan Res NR Fallon, NV

March 16, 2022 - March 16, 2023

Reservoir storage, acre-ft ⓘ

