

Colyer Lake

Centre County

October 2017 Night Electrofishing Survey



photo courtesy of PFBC engineering staff

Colyer Lake is a 77-acre impoundment owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is managed by the Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) for public fishing and boating. The lake is located about 10 miles east of State College, PA right off US Route 322. Colyer Lake was drawn down to fix structural components of the dam and re-filled in 2015. While the lake was drained, the lake bed was limed and numerous habitat improvements were made including addition of logs, recycled Christmas trees, post clusters, and other devices. Stocking of Fathead Minnows, Golden Shiners, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, and Bluegill began in 2016 by the PFBC to re-establish forage and sportfish populations. In addition, Colyer Lake has been placed under the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Catch and Release Lakes Program while fish populations begin to develop.

On the night of October 17, 2017 PFBC staff conducted a night boat electrofishing survey on the lake to evaluate the success of our stocking program. Two sample sites were surveyed for a total of 20 minutes electrofishing time. All fish species were captured and were recorded into 1-inch length groups. Nine fish species were captured including; Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Chain Pickerel, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, Brown Bullhead, Golden shiner, and White Sucker (Table 1).

Table 1: Length frequency distribution of fish captured from Colyer Lake on October 17, 2017.

Species	Number Caught	Size Range (inches)
Largemouth Bass	65	2 - 14
Bluegill	145	1 - 6
Pumpkinseed	21	2 - 5
Chain Pickerel	54	7 - 19
Black Crappie	6	1 - 9
Yellow Perch	11	2 - 3
Brown Bullhead	5	6 - 12
Golden Shiner	8	Not Measured
White Sucker	2	Not Measured

Following dam repairs, habitat improvements, and re-stocking, Colyer Lake is once again providing excellent angling opportunities for Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel, and Panfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, and Brown Bullhead). The lake will be monitored periodically in the future to further evaluate the success of stocking and angling regulations.



A typical Largemouth Bass from Colyer Lake



An average size Chain Pickerel from Colyer Lake

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