

# Leaser Lake

## Lehigh County

### 2024 Trap Net Evaluation



*Photo of a Pennsylvania-style trap net set in Leaser Lake*

Located in northwestern Lehigh County, Leaser Lake is a 117-acre impoundment managed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). Following extensive dam rehabilitation and repairs, Leaser Lake was refilled in 2015. Since that time, biologists from the Area 6 Fisheries Management Office have surveyed Leaser Lake several times to monitor and manage the sportfish populations. Results of those surveys suggested that fish populations in Leaser Lake could sustain some harvest. As such, Leaser Lake was added to the [Big Bass Program](#), [Panfish Enhancement Program](#) for Yellow Perch

*Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Biologist Report*

and Crappie, and [Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing Program](#) in 2022. Area 6 biologists visited Leaser Lake during spring 2024 to conduct a trap net survey to determine the status of the panfish populations.

From April 23-25, eight Pennsylvania trap nets were set at sites throughout the lake to ensure all available habitat types were sampled and nets were allowed to fish for approximately 24 hrs. Eleven species were captured during that included Black and White crappies, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, Chain Pickerel, Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed, sunfish hybrids, tiger muskellunge, Yellow Bullhead, and Yellow Perch (Tables 1 and 2). All fish were counted, measured, and released.

Table 1. Species, number(n), and length range (in.) of fish species captured during the 2024 Leaser Lake trap net survey.

Species	n	Length Range (in)
Yellow Bullhead	3	8-12
Brown Bullhead	49	13-16
Chain Pickerel	11	19-27
tiger muskellunge	1	40
hybrid sunfish	2	7-8
Pumpkinseed	6	4-8
Bluegill	209	3-8
Largemouth Bass	1	4
White Crappie	28	9-14
Black Crappie	67	3-11
Yellow Perch	41	8-12

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Biologist Report

Table 2. Length-frequency distribution by species of fish caught in the trap net survey at Leaser Lake, Lehigh Co.

Length (in)	Species										
	Yellow Bullhead	Brown Bullhead	Chain Pickerel	tiger muskellunge	hybrid sunfish	Pumpkinseed	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	White Crappie	Black Crappie	Yellow Perch
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	0	0	1	0
7	0	0	0	0	1	2	120	0	0	4	0
8	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	0	16	1
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	32	15
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	11	12
11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1	12
12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	1
13	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
15	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
//	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	49	11	1	2	6	209	1	28	67	41

Of the 418 fish captured, exactly half (209 fish) of the catch was comprised of Bluegill. Bluegill catch was lower than 2021 (n=318); however, the size structure shifted towards larger fish. In 2021, only 2% of Bluegill were  $\geq 7$  inches, whereas 60% of Bluegill were  $\geq 7$  inches in the 2024 sample. The number of Black and White crappies in 2024 was more than double the number encountered in 2021, but large

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crappies ( $\geq 9$  inches) were caught at similar rates (64% vs 63% of the sample, respectively) between surveys. Leaser Lake continues to support robust Brown Bullhead and Chain Pickerel populations, comprised primarily of large individuals.

The results from this survey suggest that Leaser Lake continues to support attractive sportfishing opportunities. For those planning to make a trip to Leaser Lake, there are numerous shoreline fishing areas along with three boat ramps to access the lake. It should also be noted that Leaser Lake is an electric motor only lake.

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