

**ALUM CREEK LAKE – Delaware County, (3,192 acres), unlimited horsepower**

Zebra mussels were discovered in Alum Creek in 1995. If you boat there, please help prevent the spread of this exotic species to other lakes by allowing your boat to thoroughly dry after each use.

**Bluegill** – reasonable numbers, 6-7", try maggots or small worms fished under a bobber. OUTLOOK – FAIR.

**Channel catfish** – excellent population with many fish over 20" and up to 20 pounds. Try traditional catfish baits such as cut shad, shrimp or nightcrawlers. Note: no bag limit, only one fish 28 inches and larger. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** – good numbers, 8-12" crappies congregate in shallow water during spawning season (April and May). In spring, fish jigs and minnows around wood in the northern basin of the lake or on points and drop-offs with woody structure. NOTE: 9" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – fish shoreline cover and bays using crank baits in spring and spinner baits in the fall, try shoreline cover, 12" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Muskellunge** – good population. Catch rates above state average. Growth is good with fish reaching better than 30" in three years. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Saugeye** – good population, first stocked in 1987. Former state record saugeye weighing 12.84 pounds was caught in January 2002. Try fishing along the dam and riprap causeways in early spring with large minnow imitations and drop-offs near points using vertical jigging techniques with jig and minnows just off the bottom. During mid-summer, try jigs with a small piece of nightcrawler fished close to the bottom. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Smallmouth bass** – good population. In the spring, try crank baits and tubes along points and drop-offs with rock or woody structure. 12" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**White bass** – fair population, 9-14". April and May are best. Try fishing north of Howard Rd using minnows, small spinners, or jigs during the spring run. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**ANTRIM LAKE – Franklin County, (37 acres) – managed by the city of Columbus, no boats allowed**

**Channel catfish** – These fish are relatively easy to catch for beginners. Try nightcrawlers or shrimp fished on the bottom. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater.

**Rainbow trout** – yearling catchable stockings (10-12") are planned for March and October. Good place to take beginning anglers. Use spinners, twister tails, corn, cheese, etc. Fishing may be limited to anglers less than 16 years old in some areas of the lake at some times. Check for signs at the lake. NOTE: Daily bag limit for trout is five fish. State fishing license required. For exact dates, check the Division of Wildlife web page (<http://www.ohiodnr/wildlife>).

**BLUE LIMESTONE LAKE – Delaware County (3 acres) – managed by the city of Delaware Park and Recreation Department**

**Rainbow trout** – yearling catchable stockings (10-12") are planned for April and October. Good place to take beginning anglers. Use spinners, twister tails, corn, cheese, etc. NOTE: Daily bag limit for trout is five fish. State fishing license

required. For exact dates, check the Division of Wildlife web page (<http://www.ohiodnr/wildlife>).

**BUCKEYE LAKE – Fairfield County, (2,816 acres), unlimited horsepower**

**Bluegill** – good population, 6-8", vegetated eastern half of lake best. Try using a nightcrawler suspended by a bobber. Ice fishing is effective. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Carp** – good population, best choice in central Ohio to fish for large carp. Try using prepared bait fished on the bottom along brushy areas. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Channel catfish** – excellent population, including some to 20 pounds. Try prepared baits, shrimp or cut bait, especially in July and August. Just after ice-out, try cut bait on the windward side of the lake. Note: no bag limit, only one fish 28 inches and larger. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** – abundant population of both blacks and whites, 7-11". Try shoreline cover in the spring and fall using minnows suspended by a bobber. East end of lake can be best. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Flathead catfish** – improving population. This is the best reservoir in central Ohio to fish for big flatheads, an underutilized fishery. Fishing large chubs, small carp and suckers at night just off the bottom is productive. Note: no bag limit, one 35" and greater. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Hybrid striped bass** – Hybrid striped bass in Buckeye Lake grow to about 6" their first year, to 13" their second year, and to about 18" their third year. Some hybrids have been taken through the ice. Try using chicken livers in all areas of the lake, especially the north shore between Seller's Point and the north boat ramp. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Largemouth bass** – fair population. Fish 11-20" long, good "early" lake due to shallow, fast warming water. Try Cranberry Marsh and canals using crank baits and tubes in the spring, use spinner baits in the fall. 12" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Saugeye** – first introduced experimentally in 1993. Due to good success, annual stockings have continued. Buckeye was second in the state in Fish Ohio awards issued in 2004. Saugeyes can be taken throughout the year. Use a jig tipped with a minnow. Also try casting or trolling minnow imitations or shallow running crank baits. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**CENCI LAKE – Fairfield County, (9 acres) – managed by Lancaster City Parks**

**Rainbow trout** – yearling catchable stockings (10-12") are planned for April. Good place to take beginning anglers. Use spinners, twister tails, corn, cheese, etc. NOTE: Daily bag limit for trout is five fish. State fishing license required. For exact dates, check the Division of Wildlife web page (<http://www.ohiodnr/wildlife>).

**DEER CREEK LAKE – Fayette, and Pickaway counties, (1,287 acres), unlimited horsepower**

**Channel catfish** – good population, try fishing cut shad in the creek channel in the upper end or fish from the dam after ice-out. Note: no bag limit, only one fish 28 inches and larger. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** – excellent population, many fish in 7-10" range, fish downed trees with minnows in April and May. Fall sampling in 2008 showed good numbers over 9". NOTE: 9" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Flathead catfish** – try the tailwater with large baits such as suckers. Note: no bag limit, one 35" and greater. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – decent population, 10-14". Rocky shorelines and points are good, especially in the spring and fall. 12" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Saugeye** – good population, 10-28", strong year classes in 2006, 2007 and 2008, majority caught in the tailwater below the dam after a water release event. Small jigs tipped with twister tails, minnows or both are good. Deer Creek above the lake is good in early spring. Due to a large watershed for its size, Deer Creek Lake is prone to major flooding as experienced in January 2005. Tailwater fishing is best October through March. The former state record was taken in tailwater, January 1989 (9 lbs., 27 inches). OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**White bass** – excellent population, 8-12", try Deer Creek above the lake during their spawning run in late April – mid May. Tick Ridge is good in summer, try spinners. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

#### **DELAWARE LAKE – Delaware County, (1017 acres), unlimited horsepower**

**Channel catfish** – good population of 12-16" fish. Night fishing with cut bait or shrimp most productive, especially in the upper half of lake during July and August. Note: no bag limit, only one fish 28 inches and larger. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Crappie** – great populations of 8-12" whites and blacks. Best crappie fishery in central Ohio for numbers and size. Best fishing is around shoreline cover in April and May. In summer, fish congregate around deep drop-offs containing stumps or other cover. October and early November shoreline fishing has been very productive. NOTE: 9" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Largemouth bass** – good population, up to 20", fish shoreline cover in spring. Drop-offs, tree stumps and submerged creek channels are better later in the year. 12" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Saugeye** – fingerlings were first stocked in June 1986. Due to large watershed, lake is prone to major flooding. Saugeye, a highly migratory fish species, are prone to washing through dams during flooding so population levels and fishing success vary widely from year-to-year. Fish the flats south of Cap Cole Bay in the evening. Best fishing is in the tailwater after large volumes of water have been discharged from the lake. OUTLOOK – FAIR.

**White bass** – fair population, 8-13". Fishing is best in late April through mid-May as spawning white bass move up the Olentangy and Whetstone arms of the lake. Use small spinners, crank baits or jigs for the best results. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

#### **EYMAN PARK POND– Fayette County (4 acres) – managed by the city of Washington Court House Recreation Department**

**Rainbow trout** – yearling catchable stockings (10-12") are planned for late April/early May and October. Good place to take beginning anglers. Use spinners, twister tails, corn, cheese, etc. NOTE: Daily bag limit for trout is five fish. State fishing license required. For exact dates, check the Division of Wildlife web page

(<http://www.ohiodnr/wildlife>).

**FOUNDATION PARK POND– Knox County (7 acres) – managed by the city of Mt. Vernon Recreation Department**

**Rainbow trout** – yearling catchable stockings (10-12”) are planned for October. Trout are stocked in the pond on the left when entering the park. Good place to take beginning anglers. Use spinners, twister tails, corn, cheese, etc. NOTE: Daily bag limit for trout is five fish. State fishing license required. For exact dates, check the Division of Wildlife web page (<http://www.ohiodnr/wildlife>).

**GREENFIELD LAKE – Fairfield County, (12 acres), 10 horsepower limit, no boat ramp**

**Bluegill** – fair population, fish the face of the dam and fallen trees around lake. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Channel catfish** – Good lake for beginning anglers, use nightcrawlers or shrimp. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28” and greater. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – small population. Note: 15” minimum size limit. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**GRIGGS RESERVOIR – Franklin County, (361 acres), unlimited horsepower**

**Carp** – large individuals are observed during electrofishing surveys. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Channel catfish** – excellent population. Night fishing is productive along east shore. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28” and greater. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** – good numbers and sizes. Use minnows near brush on the steep eastern side of the lake. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – very good population. Often in top 10 bass tournament lakes in Ohio. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Saugeye** – good population, 12 - 26”, not heavily fished. Tailwater is particularly good after storm events, especially in winter. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Smallmouth bass** – good population. Fish rocky areas on west side of lake, north of island can be very good in fall. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**HARGUS CREEK LAKE – Pickaway County, (140 acres), electric motors only**

Zebra mussels were discovered in Hargus Creek Lake in 1992. If you boat there, please help prevent the spread of this exotic species to other lakes by allowing your boat to thoroughly dry out after use.

**Bluegill** – good population, most 5-7”, fish with nightcrawlers under a bobber. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Channel catfish** – good population, most fish 12-22”. Reproduction is limited, most fish from hatchery sources. Catfish tournament held weekly during summer. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28” and greater. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Crappie** – fair population, fish in 6-8” range, use minnows around woody cover. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Grass carp** – Over 250 grass carp were stocked in 2003 to reduce vegetation levels. Although they do not readily bite, please release any grass carp caught.

**Largemouth bass** – dense population, many fish in 8-13" range, some larger. Jigs, crank baits and spinners can be productive. Note: 15" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**HERITAGE PARK POND – Franklin County, (5 acres) – managed by the city of Groveport**

**Rainbow trout** – yearling catchable stocking (10-12") is planned for October. Good place to take beginning anglers. Use spinners, twister tails, corn, cheese, etc. NOTE: Daily bag limit for trout is five fish. State fishing license required. For exact dates, check the Division of Wildlife web page (<http://www.ohiodnr/wildlife>).

**HOOVER RESERVOIR – Delaware and Franklin Counties, (2,818 acres), 10 horsepower limit**

**Bluegill** – good population, 6-8", try shoreline cover throughout lake. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Channel catfish** – good population. Anglers fishing north end using cut bait and shrimp are successful. Note: no bag limit, only one fish 28 inches and larger. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** – many year classes available. Try minnows or jigs in the middle and upper basins around shoreline cover. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – underrated population, many good fishing tournaments over the last 10 years, fishing pressure relatively light due to 10 horse outboard motor restriction. 12" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Saugeye** – strong population, fingerlings were first stocked in June 1988. Walleye stockings were discontinued in 1987 due to inconsistent survival. Fish up to 26" long are caught. Fishing flats next to deep drop-offs in early spring and late fall at dawn and dusk can be productive. Good fishery by dam in early spring. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**White bass** – good population, 10-13". Spawning run in late April – mid May up Big Walnut Creek is generally good, use spinners and jigs. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**INDIAN LAKE – Logan County, (5,040 acres), unlimited horsepower**

**Bluegill** – 6-8", good population. Many quality bluegills are taken through the ice using maggots. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Channel catfish** – good population. Under utilized fishery, night fishing in areas with current is especially good during summer months. Tributary streams good immediately after ice-out. Note: no bag limit, only one fish 28 inches and larger. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Crappie** – good number, 7-12". Spring and fall are best using minnows or small jigs around shoreline cover. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – decent population, 12-18", some larger. Channels and vegetated areas are best, riprap with shoreline cover produce well. 12" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Saugeye** – fingerlings have been stocked annually since 1990. Number one lake in the state for Fish Ohio awards in 2004. Try the Moundwood canal feeder during winter and Old Indian Lake area in summer, South Bank is good also. OUTLOOK –

EXCELLENT.

**White bass** – fair population, 10-14". South Bank area is good during April and May. Night fishing with minnows near bridges is popular during the summer months. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Yellow Perch** – small population, try offshore of South Bank or the Old Indian Lake area throughout the year. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**KISER LAKE – Champaign County, (394 acres), no motors permitted**

**Bluegill** – excellent population, 6-8". Shoreline cover produces throughout the year. Try fly fishing with poppers around lily pads in May through July. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Channel catfish** – good population. Use nightcrawlers, shrimp or cut bait on the bottom. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Crappie** – good population, 7-9". April and May are good months to fish the shoreline with wood in the water, deeper water with cover is good in summer. Ice fishing can be very productive. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Hybrid striped bass** – good population. Stocking began in 1992. Some fish now 26" and over 14 pounds. Try chicken livers fished on the bottom. Hybrid striped bass last stocked in 2004. Stocking of stripers began in 2005 to expand number of brood lakes for the hybrid striped bass program. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth Bass** – good number, 12-18". Fishing edges of vegetation good summer and fall. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**KNOX LAKE – Knox County, (481 acres), motors over 10 hp must operate at idle speed only and no wake.**

**Black crappie** – small population, 6-10", reproduction inconsistent, use minnows and jigs around brushy cover. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Bluegill** – fair population, 6-8". Submerged roadbeds fished during the spawning season are most productive, although shoreline cover is good throughout year. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Channel catfish** – good population, fish up to 10 pounds. In summer of 2005 a 39" catfish was caught. Best catches are made by bottom fishing at night with shrimp, nightcrawlers, or cut bait. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Largemouth bass** – very strong population, dominated by 13-18" fish. Woody shoreline cover and vegetated areas are productive. NOTE: 18" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**KOKOSING LAKE – Knox County, (149 acres), 10 horsepower limit**

**Channel catfish** – fair population, try shrimp, nightcrawlers, or cut bait fished on the bottom at night. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** – fair population, 7-8". April and May months best to fish along shoreline brush and fallen trees. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – fair population, occasional large fish up to 20" is caught. Fishing shoreline cover in spring is productive. Try drop-offs and points along old creek channel in summer and fall. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**MAD RIVER – Champaign and Logan counties.**

**Brown trout** – small population is maintained year-round as a result of annual advanced fingerling stockings. A few brown trout up to 10 pounds have been seen in fish surveys. Fly-fishing is popular. Focus your efforts on deep pools especially if wood is present in water. Note: Minimum length is 12", bag limit is 2 trout. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**MADISON LAKE – Madison County, (104 acres), electric motors only**

**Channel catfish** – expanding population. Try nightcrawlers or shrimp fished on the bottom. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** – good population, a lot of fish over 10 inches long in fall sampling nets in 2006. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Largemouth bass** – fair population, some individuals up to 18". OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**MT. GILEAD LAKE – Morrow County (11 acres)**

**Channel Catfish** – fair population. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater.

**Rainbow trout** – yearling catchable stocking (10-12") is planned for April. Good place to take beginning anglers. Use spinners, twister tails, corn, cheese, etc. Fish the lower lake. NOTE: Daily bag limit for trout is five fish. State fishing license required. For exact date, check the Division of Wildlife web page (<http://www.ohiodnr/wildlife>).

**OAKTHORPE LAKE – Fairfield County, (41 acres), electric motors only**

**Carp** – use dough balls or nightcrawlers fished on the bottom. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Channel catfish** – fair population. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** - some fish up to 12 inches, fish cover on deep western shoreline in early spring, move shallower as water warms. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – good population, many fish 14-20". Overlooked lake, fishing deep drop-offs on western side of lake around shoreline cover is productive. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Redear sunfish** – up to 7". Fish for this sunfish as you would bluegills. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**O'SHAUGHNESSY RESERVOIR – Delaware County, (912 acres), unlimited horsepower**

**Bluegill** – good population, 6-7". Anglers fishing shoreline cover throughout lake with maggots or nightcrawlers are successful. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Crappie** – good population, 8-12". Fishing cover along deeper shorelines with minnows or jig and minnow is best in early spring. Move to shallower water as water warms. Good lake for crappies in 2007 and 2008. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – good population, 12-18". Lake is one of top 10 lakes in state for tournament fishing. Brush, stumps and fallen trees along both banks are productive. 12" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Saugeye** – fair population, 12-26". Due to large watershed, lake is prone to flooding. Saugeye, a highly migratory fish species, are prone to washing through dams during flooding so population levels and fishing success vary widely from year-to-year. Try the tailwater after high water events. Twister type baits are popular. OUTLOOK – VARIABLE.

**QUARRY PARK POND – Marion County (10 acres) – managed by the city of Marion Recreation Department.**

**Rainbow trout** – yearling catchable stocking (10-12") is planned for April. Good place to take beginning anglers. Use spinners, twister tails, corn, cheese, etc. NOTE: Daily bag limit for trout is five fish. State fishing license required. For exact dates, check the Division of Wildlife web page (<http://www.ohiodnr/wildlife>).

**ROCK MILL LAKE – Fairfield County, (20 acres), 10 horsepower limit, no boat ramp**

**Bluegill** – fair population. Use worms suspended under a bobber around cover. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Channel catfish** – fair population. Good lake for beginning anglers. Lake receives stockings to supplement population, use nightcrawlers or shrimp. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – moderate population. OUTLOOK – GOOD.

**RUSH CREEK LAKE – Fairfield and Perry counties, (273 acres), 10 horsepower limit**

**Bluegill** – average population with fish up to 8". Use insect larvae, redworms or nightcrawlers. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Channel catfish** – good population. Note: bag limit of 6, only one 28" and greater. OUTLOOK – EXCELLENT.

**Crappie** – large population, most 6-8", use minnows fished in heavy cover. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

**Largemouth bass** – low-density population, most fish are (8-15"). Several very large bass (greater than 6 pounds) were noted in electrofishing survey. NOTE: 15" minimum length limit. OUTLOOK – VERY GOOD.

