

Piney Reservoir Fish Population Survey Results 2017

Piney Reservoir, located in Garrett County, Maryland, is a 120-acre impoundment with a maximum depth of 35 feet. The reservoir is primarily a warmwater fishery although stocked adult trout provide a popular spring and fall fishery. The warmwater gamefish and panfish species found in Piney Reservoir are managed under Maryland's statewide regulations, while the trout fishery is managed as a Put and Take Trout Fishing Area as described in the Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing. No boats are permitted on Piney Reservoir but public fishing access is allowed along the shoreline.

Thirteen fish species were collected in Piney Reservoir during this recent survey. Species targeted by anglers include largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, black crappie, yellow perch, green sunfish, rock bass and rainbow trout. Non-game fish and forage fish species include brown bullhead, white sucker, golden shiner, spottail shiner and bluntnose minnow.

Largemouth bass are the most abundant and sought-after gamefish species in Piney Reservoir. The largemouth bass population is characterized by having diverse size-classes with young-of-year to memorable-size (> 20 inches) fish represented. Growth rates for largemouth bass are considered slightly slower than the statewide average, but typical of western Maryland waterbodies. Largemouth bass reproductive success was considered "excellent" in 2017 and should further enhance this quality bass fishery.



A Piney Reservoir memorable-sized largemouth bass captured in the 2017 survey.

Yellow perch are the most abundant fish species in Piney Reservoir. The population consists of a large percentage of adult fish in the 8 to 12 inch size class. Growth rates for yellow perch in Piney Reservoir are considered normal with these fish reach quality size (8 inches) by age 4. Attempts to improve yellow perch growth rates by stocking predatory fish appear to have been successful. As a result, angler interest in yellow perch has increased.



Yellow perch provide angling opportunities in all seasons in Piney Reservoir.

Piney Reservoir also supports a diverse and abundant panfish fishery including bluegill, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, black crappie and rock bass. Bluegill are the most abundant sunfish species. The size distribution of bluegill shows a diverse size structure with many preferred-size (> 8 inches) fish in the population. A total of 2,000 fingerling tiger muskies were stocked in Piney Reservoir on May 10, 2016. Tiger muskie are stocked every few years depending on availability. Tiger muskie add an additional predatory game fish to reduce the overabundance of panfish species. Encouraging anglers to harvest panfish and stocking tiger muskies as an additional predatory fish has helped balance panfish populations in Piney Reservoir.



Tiger muskie fingerlings being stocked in Piney Reservoir in 2016.