

11. LAKE MOHAVE

History - Lake Mohave came into being in 1951 following the construction of Davis Dam on the Colorado River. The 64 mile long reservoir is subject to fluctuating water levels and exchange flows. The upper 20 miles of the reservoir run cold due to deep-water releases from Hoover Dam. This section lies within the narrow walls of Black Canyon. The remainder of the reservoir is seasonably warm and more open, with the widest section being Cottonwood Basin (4 miles). Lake Mohave is located within the Lake Mead Recreational Area and is administered by the National Park Service out of Boulder City.

Pertinent Information - The 64-mile long reservoir covers approximately 30,000 surface acres to a maximum depth of 120 feet. There are three marinas with launch ramps, two in Arizona (Willow Beach and Katherine's Landing) and one in Nevada (Cottonwood Cove). There is also a launch ramp at Princess Cove on the Arizona side near Katharine's landing.

Camping is available at Cottonwood Cove and Katherine's Landing. Shoreline camping is permitted. Campers should carry out their trash and provide for adequate sanitation. Things to Consider: Summer temperatures can exceed 110° F.

Game fish species include striper, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, bluegill sunfish, crappie, and channel catfish. Nongame fish include carp, razorback sucker, bonytail chub, red shiner and threadfin shad.

The best time of the year to fish for striped bass is April through November with the peak in October. For largemouth bass March through June is generally best and for rainbow trout anytime they are stocked (November through March). Generally, the most productive fishing for striped bass is when the light is low or at night. Using cut bait or lures at these times can be very productive as fish move into shallow water to feed. Day fishing requires trolling or still fishing 40 to 100 feet deep with cut bait or with lures that imitate trout or shad. For largemouth bass, plastic worms, live worms and various lures work best during the spawning season. For the trout, prepared bait works best within 3 to 4 days of a plant.

Two state records have come from Lake Mohave; a 63 pound striped bass was caught in 2001 and a 16 lb 4 oz rainbow trout was caught in 1971. Although not state records, Lake Mohave has also produced a 30-pound 8-ounce carp, an 11-pound largemouth bass, a 26-pound 4-ounce channel catfish, a 2-pound 12-ounce black crappie, a 1-pound 1-ounce bluegill sunfish and an 11-pound 6-ounce cutthroat trout.

Stocking - The Willow Beach area is usually stocked bi-weekly year 'round with 1,000-2,000, 12-inch rainbow trout from the federal hatchery at Willow Beach. The Nevada Department of Wildlife stocks at Cottonwood Cove, Placer Cove, the Aztec Wash area and at times the Willow Beach and Hoover Dam areas. NDOW will stock about 58,000 8 to 12 inch rainbow trout in 2009.



No warranty is made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Regulations - Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night, except in areas as posted. Limit is 10 trout, 6 black bass, 25 catfish and 15 crappie. No limit on striped bass less than 20 inches total length. Daily and possession limit on striped bass 20 inches total length or longer is 20 fish. No limit restriction on other game fish.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 – Anglers will find a bonus in Lake Mohave in 2009. Over 4,000 square feet of fish habitat has been placed in the reservoir by NDOW, AGF, NPS, USBR and volunteers. It was placed in Box Cove, which is immediately north of Cottonwood Cove, Carp Cove, which is on the Arizona side southeast of Cottonwood cove about 2 miles, and Princess Cove on the south end of the lake, north of Katharine's Landing. All habitat structures were placed in less than 25 feet of water and is often visible on a calm day. SCUBA surveys have shown good use by largemouth bass, sunfish and channel catfish. In the evening, these habitats also attract striped bass in search of forage. This project is ongoing and will continue to place fish habitat in Lake Mohave for a number of years. Anglers fishing Lake Mohave should expect lower than usual but still good catch rates for striped bass in 2009. There will be fewer smaller fish (i.e., less than 15 in.) as has been the norm since striped bass became established in Lake Mohave. However the fish should be larger than years past. Most fish will be between 15 to 25 inches. Boaters should have better success than shore anglers by drifting baits such as anchovies and squid. Trolling lures that resemble shad or rainbow trout in conjunction with trout plants can be productive. Striped bass fishing is almost always better in the evening, nighttime and early morning. This is particularly true for shore anglers. Striped bass often move into shallow water in search of food in the evening. When fishing during the bright sun of the day you want to be at least 40 or 50 feet deep. Largemouth bass catch rates are expected to be low to moderate except during the spring spawning period. They generally spawn in coves protected from the wind in water less than 15 feet deep. Some large bass (i.e., 4 plus pounds) are expected to be caught. In the heat of the summer, largemouth will run a little deeper but in the fall they can be found in the shallows. Typically water levels drop in the fall resulting in deep weed beds to be at or near the surface and largemouth bass should find refuge here. The usual assortment of plastic worms, spinner baits and tube lures work on largemouth bass. Rainbow trout fishing should be good in association with stocking, particularly in the Willow Beach, Placer Cove, and Aztec Wash areas. Trout stocking will continued at Willow Beach throughout the year. Fair to good channel catfish action is typically found all around the lake with the exception of the upper 15 miles of the reservoir, which remains cold year round. There are catfish in this area and they tend to be large, but their numbers are lower than in warmer parts of the reservoir.

Boating Regulations - Watch for restricted or prohibited areas around marinas, Davis Dam and in the Black Canyon above Willow Beach.

Access - Travel east out of Las Vegas for approximately 20 miles on Highway (515, 93, 95) towards the town of Boulder City, turning south on 95 to Searchlight (approximately 40 additional miles). At Searchlight, turn east and travel approximately 13 miles to Lake Mohave and Cottonwood Cove. Or to reach Willow beach stay on highway 93 through Boulder City and across Hoover Dam. Twelve miles south of the dam you will find the turnoff to Willow Beach.