

MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA FISHING PONDS

History - The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) is located in north Mason Valley in Lyon County, seven miles north of the town of Yerington. The property was purchased by the state in 1955 with the priority of waterfowl management and wetland development. As the wetlands developed, ponds and sloughs were created that were ideal for the production of warmwater fish such as largemouth bass and catfish. With the completion of the Mason Valley Hatchery in 1990, a constant supply of quality water was ensured, which led to the expansion of the fish series ponds on the MVWMA.

Pertinent Information - The fish series ponds include Hinkson Slough, Bass Pond, Crappie Pond and North Pond. The size of the ponds are 15 acres for Crappie Pond, 26 acres for Hinkson Slough, 40 acres for Bass Pond and 200 acres for North Pond. The average depth for most of the ponds is 3 to 4 feet, although North Pond is 13 feet deep off the main dike. Management emphasis is toward trophy, quality largemouth bass angling and put-and-take trout angling in North Pond. Largemouth bass are the primary target for anglers, but trout are stocked into and captured out of North Pond and Hinkson Slough. Trout species include bowcutt (rainbow trout x cutthroat trout hybrid), rainbow trout and brown trout. Channel catfish and bluegill also are present, but provide little input to the creel, although a 1 pound 4 ounce 11-inch bluegill was captured out of Hinkson in 2007. For Hinkson Slough in 2008, drop-box creel survey showed anglers averaged 1.64 fish per hour and 8.57 fish per angler day. Early spring is the best time to catch trout, while late spring and summer is the best time to capture largemouth bass. Trophy Book entries include an 8-pound 4-ounce largemouth bass, an 18-pound channel catfish, and a 5-pound 5-ounce rainbow trout. Facilities: North Pond has an improved boat ramp, outhouses and paved parking. Primitive camping is only allowed at one location, Sandridge Campground, on the management area.

Stocking – Hinkson Slough will be stocked with 1,500, 9-inch rainbow trout in the spring and 1,500, 9-inch rainbow trout in the fall. North Pond will be stocked with 4,000 9-inch rainbow trout in late winter and early spring and may receive channel catfish in early summer. Warmwater fish are, for the most part, self-sustaining and require only limited stocking.

Regulations - The fishing series ponds are open from the second Saturday in February to September 30. Largemouth bass can be kept between the sizes of 11 to 14 inches, with a possession limit of 2 fish. Limit on trout is 5 per day and in possession. Hinkson Slough has a special limit on trout of 2 with a minimum size of 16 inches, artificial lures only. Limit on other warmwater fish (catfish, bluegill, crappie, etc.) is 15 fish per day and in possession.



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.

Boating Regulations – Vessels must be operated at a speed that leaves a flat wake, but in no case may a vessel be operated at a speed in excess of 5 nautical miles per hour. However, all vessels are prohibited from February 15 through August 15 of each year; except on Hinkson Slough; Bass Pond; Crappie Pond; Beaver Slough; the Walker River; and North Pond. Please see the ‘Boating Restrictions in Wildlife Management Areas’ section of the ‘Nevada Fishing Seasons and Regulations’ for more details.

Biologist Prediction for 2009 - Fishing for trout in Hinkson Slough should be good from late February through June. Hinkson Slough was chemically treated in the fall of 2001, then stocked with rainbow, bowcutts and largemouth bass. Bass fishing on Bass Pond and Crappie Pond should be fair throughout the summer. North Pond was dried in 2004 to eliminate carp and anglers now are catching largemouth bass greater than 12 inch. Several ponds (Eastside Waterfowl Series Ponds) within the Mason Valley complex were opened to fishing for the first time in 2002.

Access - MVWMA is located 75 miles southeast of Reno and 60 miles south of Carson City off U.S. 95A. The main entrance is located on Miller Lane, 2.5 miles east of U.S. 95A. Follow signs to the pond entrance.