

CHIMNEY RESERVIOR



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION

Brad Bauman- Fisheries Biologist, Winnemucca Field Office
705 E 4th Street. Winnemucca, NV 89445 (775)-623-6565

General information: Chimney Reservoir is managed as a two-tier warmwater fishery. Most species in the reservoir are managed under the Warmwater General Fishery. Wiper and tiger muskie are managed as a Trophy Warmwater Fishery. Walleye, wiper, Crappie, Channel Catfish, and Yellow Perch are the common species in the reservoir. Tiger muskie are at low densities. Only 1 water record has been submitted for Chimney Reservoir: A Channel Catfish 28.6 inches and weighing 12 pounds 10 ounces.

Location: Humboldt County, 52 miles northeast of Winnemucca. There is 22 miles of gravel road to the reservoir. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you, and buy your fishing license at ndowlicensing.com.

Size: At full capacity 2,150 surface acres and 35,000 acre/feet with a maximum depth of 55 feet when full.

Management: Nevada Department of Wildlife manages the fishery. The Bureau of Land Management manages the surrounding lands, and some surrounding lands are private. The Nevada Division of Water Resources manages the water releases from Chimney for irrigation and livestock water. There is a 3,500 acre/feet minimum pool for Chimney Reservoir held by Humboldt County.

Amenities and General Info

- Semi-developed campground
- Concrete 2 lane boat launch
- 22 miles of gravel road to access the reservoir.

Regulations

- Season is open year-round.
- Any hour of the day or night
- Limit is 15 gamefish
- Not more than 5 Walleye
- Not more than 5 Black Bass
- 2 White Bass hybrid (wiper) over 15"
- Tiger muskie is catch and release only. Please report any tiger muskie caught to NDOW 775-623-6565

Previous stocking

2022

Tiger muskie 1,373 5.3 inches

2021

Tiger muskie 8,000 4.0 inches

2020

Tiger muskie 7,016 4.5 inches

2019

Walleye fry 450,000 1/4 inches

Wiper 2,500 3.5 inches

Channel Catfish 2,500 6.0 inches

Tiger muskie 19,000 1.5 inches

Tiger muskie 6,016 4.5 inches

Fishing notes

Water clarity is typically poor at Chimney. Bright colored lures with scent are recommended. Worms and carp cut bait can be effective presentations.

Fishing notes

- For Walleye, trolling worm harnesses, rapalas, and bait fish patterns are common techniques. Tip presentations with a worm. Trolling slow for Walleye can be key (1.5 mph).
- Wipers can be caught by trolling or casting rapalas, soft plastics and other bait fish patterns.
- Buck tails, large rapalas, and other larger baitfish patterns are typical tiger muskie lures. Focus on ambush rocky points.
- Small rubber jigs or plastics tipped with a worm is effective for crappie and other panfish.
- Fishing usually starts getting better in April with warmer weather and last through the summer into early fall.

CHIMNEY RESERVOIR



FISHERY SURVEY DATA - 2022
Brad Bauman – Fisheries Biologist
Winnemucca Field Office



Fish survey species composition 2015-2022 Chimney Reservoir

Species (%) Composition of Gamefish									
	Tiger muskie	White Crappie	Black Crappie	Yellow Perch	Walleye	Channel Catfish	Wiper	Largemouth Bass	LCT
2015	0%	69.78%	3.36%	0%	11.75%	13.91%	0.24%	0.96%	0%
2016	1.27%	68.79%	3.82%	0.64%	15.29%	5.73%	4.46%	0%	0%
2017	1.09%	77.05%	7.65%	4.37%	4.92%	4.92%	0%	0%	0%
2018	0.99%	72.4%	3.3%	12.15%	7.88%	1.64%	1.48%	0%	0.16%
2019	0.09%	69.63%	0.63%	1.17%	19.68%	3.14%	5.66%	0%	0%
2020	0%	88.71%	0.27%	0%	8.33%	0.27%	2.42%	0%	0%
2021	0.59%	59.76%	0%	0%	27.22%	1.78%	10.65%	0%	0%
2022	0.79%	9.52%	0%	0%	67.46%	15.87%	6.35%	0	0
Average 2015-2022	0.60%	64.46%	2.38%	2.29%	20.32%	5.91%	3.91%	0.12%	0.02%

Biologist Forecast for 2023 - Water levels in Chimney are expected to be good in 2023. Fishery surveys in 2022 reveal good relative abundances of Walleye. Walleye over 20 inches represented 49% of the Walleye found during surveys. Tiger muskies have been stocked in the reservoir since 2015, with the intention of growing to large sizes to help control carp abundance. There is a zero limit on tiger muskie (catch-and-release only). The reservoir has catchable size Channel Catfish, Crappie, Yellow Perch, tiger muskie and wipers. The water is typically murky at Chimney Reservoir so using a scented bait or bright presentation can be beneficial. The 2023 fishing forecast for Chimney reservoir is expected to be fair.