

Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION
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General information: The Fish Series Ponds include Hinkson Slough, Bass Pond, Crappie Pond, and North Pond and are the primary ponds that anglers fish. Largemouth Bass are the primary species targeted here, however, trout can be caught in Hinkson and North Pond and include bowcutt (rainbow trout x cutthroat trout hybrid), Rainbow, and Brown trout, with Hinkson Slough producing trophy-sizes. Channel Catfish and Bluegill are also present. The Eastside Waterfowl series ponds are open to fishing during late summer and occasionally produce some good bass fishing. The capture, possession, or use of baitfish, whether dead or alive or the parts thereof, other than preserved salmon eggs and commercially prepared and preserved baitfish is prohibited and there are size and bait restrictions for bass and trout which vary depending on location so be sure to read the regulations before you head out there. Fishing licenses are available at ndowlicensing.com

Location: Lyon County, NV. approximately 5 miles north of Yerington on Lux Lane. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you.

Size: The ponds range from 15 to 200 acres and depths are generally less than five to eight feet deep, although North Pond is 13 feet deep.

Management: Management emphasis is generally toward quality Largemouth Bass angling; however, trout are stocked in North Pond and Hinkson Slough which can produce trophy sized fish.

Amenities and General Info

- North Pond has an improved boat ramp, and paved parking, and Bass Pond and Hinkson Slough have a padded and gravel boat ramp, respectively.
- Restrooms are placed throughout the management area and at North Pond and Hinkson Slough.
- Camping is only allowed at Sandridge and North Pond campgrounds on the management area.

Fishing Regulations

- Season is open the second Saturday in February through September 30, (for the Eastside Waterfowl Series Ponds season is open August 16 through September 30).
- Limit is 5 trout and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 2 may be black bass. Minimum size for black bass is 14 inches.
- Additional Hinkson special regs: limit is 2 trout and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 2 may be black bass. Minimum size for black bass is 14 inches total length. Minimum size for trout is 16 inches total length, artificial lures only.

Stocking History 2021-22

Hinkson Slough

Rainbow	12,443	10.4 inches
Cuttbow	1,518	9.7 inches
Brown	4,562	9.8 inches

North Pond/Bass Pond

Rainbow	3,354	9.0 inches
Channel Cats	1,000	10.0 inches
Largemouth	398	6.0 inches
Bluegill	2,306	4.0 inches

Fort Churchill Cooling Pond

Rainbow	4,025	9.4 inches
Channel Cats	1,000	10.0 inches

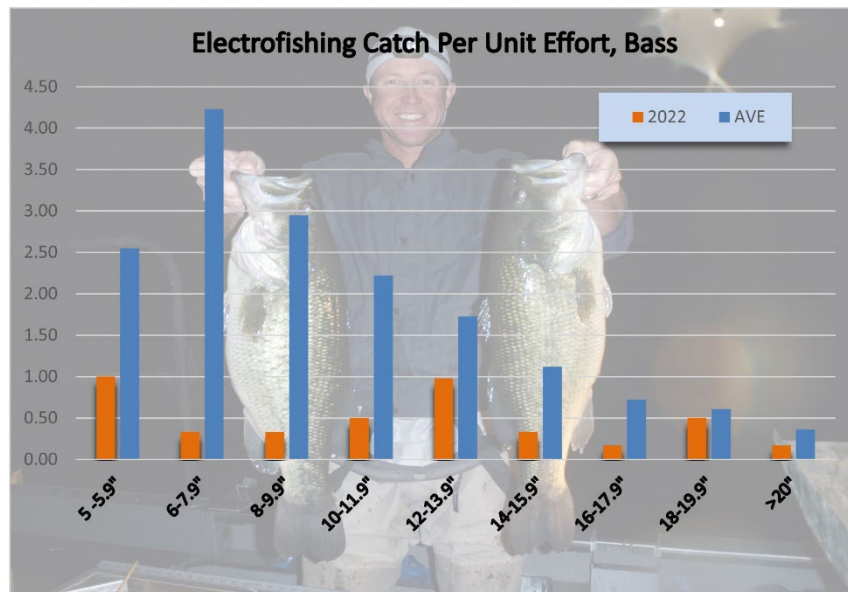
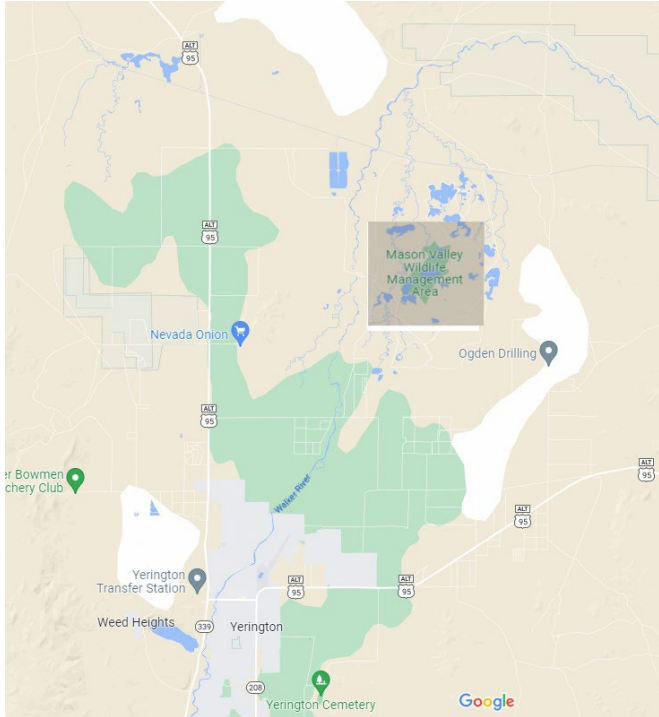
Fishing notes

- Anglers targeting trout at Hinkson are most successful using fly rods with nymph patterns from float tubes early in the season (Feb-April)
- Anglers targeting bass at Hinkson are most successful tossing Rapala's or swim baits.
- At North and Bass ponds anglers should find some underwater structure or change in bottom topography early in the year, topwater action can be good when temps rise later in year.
- Channel Catfish at North and Cooling Ponds can be fished at night with worms with good success or during the day with typical gear, or even bass setups.

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FISHERY SURVEY DATA – 2022
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Angler Drop Box Information

MVWMA	Fish/Day	Fish/Hour	No. Anglers
2022 Hinkson	13.14	2.83	37
10 yr average	14.78	3.06	51
2022 North Pond	0.03	0.11	3
10 yr average	3.5	0.96	17
2022 FCCP	4.84	0.98	25
10 yr average	4.9	1.30	36

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2023 Fishing Forecast
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Water level- As of March 14, 2023, over 250% of average Snow Water Equivalent (snowpack) was recorded at SNOTEL sites in the Walker Basin. This is a huge water year following three consecutive years of drought. The ponds should remain fishable throughout most of the season.

Trout fishery

Trout fishing has been good so far this year and should remain productive throughout most of the spring. The ponds are fully stocked; however, due to water quality issues, namely temperature, clarity, and lack of aquatic invertebrates observed the past few years, carryover of trout has been limited. Habitat restoration projects are underway, and more are planned for Hinkson during 2024. The Slough will be drained, carp removed, outlet structure repaired, and refilled, therefore trout fishing will be hitting the reset button soon.



Bass fishery

Warmer temps will bring on the bite for bass, which may be starting a bit later than usual. Hopefully by mid-May bass will get active which should continue through September. The Largemouth fishery has struggled over the past couple years, but a few fish over 5 lbs are still being reported at Hinkson and FCCP. North Pond is on the mend, bass were restocked last year and should be in the 12–14-inch range this summer. Similar to the trout fishery in Hinkson, the bass fishery will also be hitting the reset button during 2024 so get it while the getting's good there.

Figure 2. FCCP Drop-Box Largemouth Bass Size Frequency (total number).

