

# TOPAZ LAKE



## ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION Kris Urquhart- Fisheries Biologist, Fallon Field Office 380 West B Street. Fallon, NV 89406 (775) 423-3171

**General information:** The CA/NV state line divides the lake about in half. Rainbow trout is the dominant sport fish, but bowcutt trout, brown trout, and occasionally tiger trout are stocked. Smallmouth bass, and to a lesser degree largemouth bass, are also popular for angling. The average size of Rainbow Trout is usually around 12 inches, but they commonly range from 10 to 18 inches. Several five pound or larger fish are caught every year. Most of the property around the northern and eastern shore of the lake is open to the public, please respect the private property owners along the western shore. Fishing licenses are available at [ndowlicensing.com](http://ndowlicensing.com). Persons under 16 years of age are not required to have a fishing license. Anglers 16 years of age and older must have a Nevada fishing license, a Nevada short term fishing permit, or a California fishing license. 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.

**Location:** Douglas County, NV and Mono County Ca. approximately 40 miles south of Gardnerville on Highway 395. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you.

**Size:** Topaz Lake is relatively large with a surface area of 2,410 acres, a length of 3.5 miles, a width of 1.5 miles, and maximum depth of 92 feet

**Management:** NDOW manages the fishery at Topaz as a hatchery supported Quality Cold Water Fishery and also as a General Warmwater Fishery. The Walker River Irrigation District is responsible for water flow into and out of the lake.

### Amenities and General Info

- Douglas County Park provides boat launching, camping, electrical hook-ups, bathrooms, picnic tables, playground, and a fish cleaning station.
- Topaz Marina has a boat launch, fishing boat rentals, boat slips, and food and drinks
- Nearby towns with accommodations include Gardnerville, Topaz, Yerington, and Smith Valley.

### Fishing/Boating Regulations

- The season is open year-round, 1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset, except for the area within the jetties of Topaz Marina, which is closed to fishing.
- Limits are 5 trout, 5 mountain whitefish, and 25 warmwater game fish of which not more than 5 may be black bass.

### Last Year Stocking

#### 2022 Topaz Lake

Rainbow	40,536	10.1 inches
tiger trout	6,420	10.2 inches

#### Previous Years Stocking

#### 2021 Topaz Lake

Rainbow	23,440	9.5 inches
Bowcutt	9,252	9.55 inches
tiger trout	7,018	10.1 inches

#### 2020 Topaz Lake

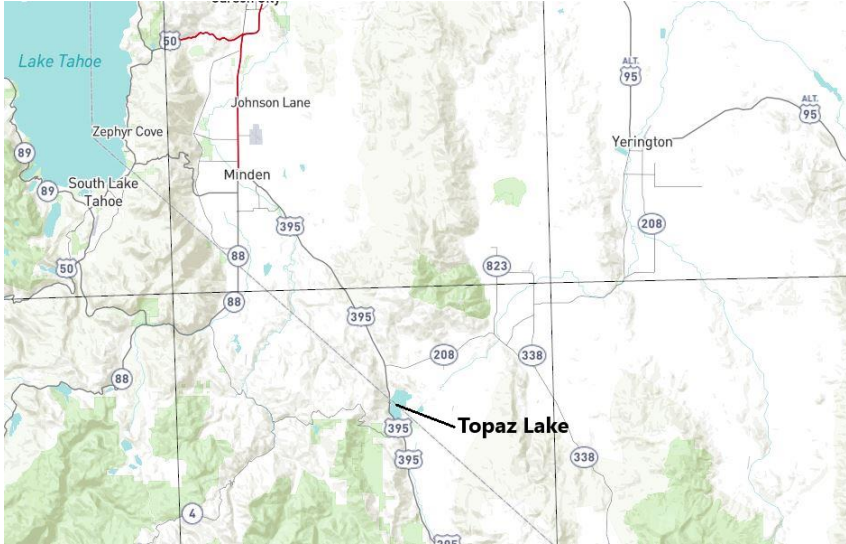
Rainbow	27,125	9.6 inches
Cutthroat	17,374	5.9 inches
tiger trout	3,512	9.0 inches

### Fishing notes

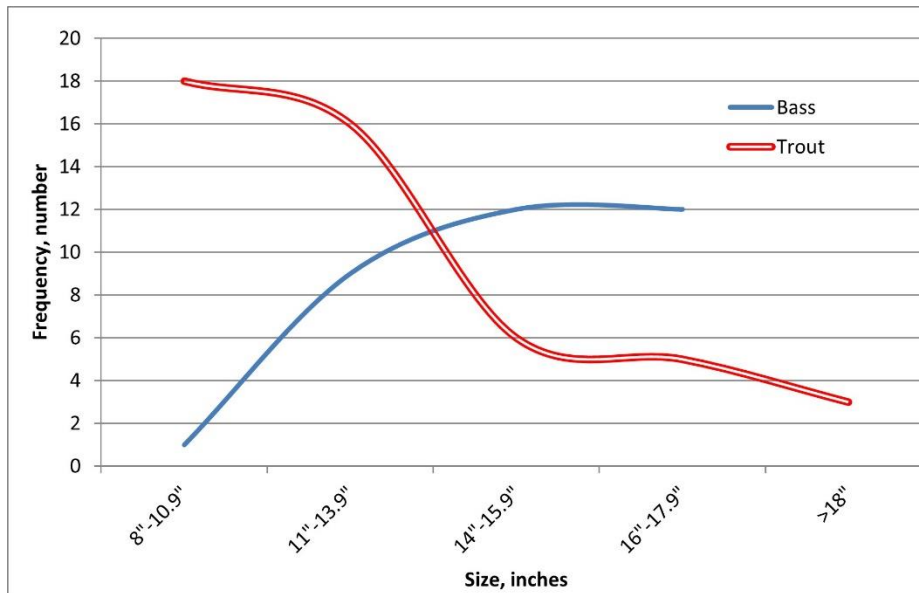
- Boaters targeting trout should use a fish finder to determine the depth fish are occupying, which is usually in the upper 20 feet of the water column, and troll Rapalas or nightcrawlers with flashers.
- Shore anglers do best with Power Bait or nightcrawlers and cast out as far as possible.
- Fishing for Smallmouth usually picks up around April when fish come into shallower water to feed and spawn. Rubber worms, jigs, and crankbaits along the shoreline or off deeper points typically produce nice bass.
- Stop at the watercraft inspection stations before launching, and "Clean, Drain, and Dry" your watercraft and equipment before leaving the reservoir.

# TOPAZ LAKE

FISHERY SURVEY DATA – 2022  
 Kris Urquhart – Fisheries Biologist  
 Fallon Field Office



Length Frequency of Angler Reported Catch.



Angler Creel Contact Catch Rate History

Trout fishery	Fish/hour	Fish/day	Size Rainbow/Bowcutt	Average size (all trout)
2022	0.61	1.96	12.2 / 16.0	12.92
2021	1.06	2.15	13.8 / 17.5	14
2019	0.76	2.08	13.1 / 18.6	14.21
2018	1.12	2.46	13.3 / 17.0	13.87
Bass fishery	Fish/hour	Fish/day	% of anglers targeting bass	Average size
2022	1.13	2.83	10.9	14.9
2021	0.92	4.13	16.1	12.24
2019	1.88	5.55	22.7	11.82
2018	3.31	7.95	21.3	10.25

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## 2023 Fishing Forecast

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**Water level** - As of April, 2023, the Walker Basin SNOTEL sites reported over 300% of average Snow Water Equivalent (snow pack) for the basin. This is a huge water year following three consecutive years of drought. The lake 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 year. Due to the amount of water forecasted to run through the lake, water quality condition should remain good all year. The lake is fully stocked; however, due to temperatures and oxygen levels observed during September 2022, carryover of last year's fish is likely to be limited, so most fish will be in the 12-14 inch range. Over 40,000 Rainbow were stocked prior to January and in anticipation of runoff this year, spring stocking is already underway.

### Topaz Lake NR Topaz, CA

March 14, 2022 - March 14, 2023

Reservoir storage, acre-ft



Current: — Approved — Estimated — Provisional  
Last year: — Approved

### 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 get active which should continue through September. The Smallmouth fishery has stabilized but will fluctuate annually in response to water quality conditions, and all signs point to a productive season. The average size of bass caught has been increasing for the past four years. Water clarity early in the season provides some unique opportunities to sight fish (uncommon in Nevada's typically brown reservoirs). As algae loads increase target areas with brush or rocky substrates.

