

We have been blessed with a long warm fall this year that has extended our excellent fishing season. I am pleased to report that all of our area lakes are entering the winter in very good condition. The water levels are great and the fish population is healthy, numerous, and bigger than normal. NOAA's weather forecast for the next seven days indicates that fishing conditions will hold, although the temperature will drop somewhat. Bundle up, but expect the fishing to continue to be excellent, especially for trout. With water temperatures falling the trout will be more active. And, this is the time of year to fish for brown trout! Big ones!

Illipah reservoir

Fishing at Illipah has been excellent all year and the best I have seen it fish in the 18 years I have fished it. A couple of days ago I had a chance to fish Illipah for a few hours. The lake is full (the old dam is barely visible under the water), the shoreline was full of fishermen, and everyone was catching fish. Powerbait (rainbow: red, white and blue, and other types) and night-crawlers were working well. Shore fishermen were catching rainbow and browns 10-17 inches. I fished the lake (fly fished) for three and a half hours and caught 25 fish. Five were stockers and the rest were 15-17 inches long, mostly rainbows, some browns. I was using a size 6 Carey Special the entire time. I fished the southwest arm of the lake. The closer I got to the creek end of the lake the more fish I caught, and larger. With the size of the average trout caught being larger than I have ever seen, the numbers of trout, and the water level going into winter, I can't wait to see the fishing next year! We now have had six years of good water levels at Illipah through the summer. And it shows in the catch.

Cave Lake

Fishing at Cave lake has been excellent all summer. The shore fishermen have been successful with night-crawlers and powerbait (especially rainbow and red, white, and blue). Fish are in the 9-13 inch range with a few larger, especially Browns which have been showing up in the catch more frequently in the last few weeks. Lures, spinners and crankbaits have worked well. Fly fishing has been excellent.

Comins Reservoir

Bass fishing has been fair to good, declining as the Bass become more inactive as the water temperature drops. Pike fishing has remained very good with many fishermen catching several pike 20-34+ inches. There appears to be a monster out there that continues to break the wire leaders used by the fisherman you has him staked out! I never imagined that the Pike and Bass fishing would be as great as it has been this year. Maybe NDOW will turn the water back on? Fishermen have been successful for pike using Large Mepps spinners in fl. pink, chartreuse, black/orange. Some have had success using plastic worms and creatures. The lake has been too weedy for other lures such as daredevils.

Sportsworld Fishing report

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Sunnyside lakes

Fishing has remained excellent, as it has throughout the season. At this time Bass fishing is slowing with declining temperatures and rainbow trout fishing has improved, and will continue to, as the temperatures go down. Plastic worms, grubs, and creatures have continued to produce for Bass. Flies, powerbait, spinners, spoons, and night-crawlers have worked well for the trout.

Tight lines, Tom