Largemouth and smallmouth bass are popular yet underrated species in Hoover Reservoir. Light fishing pressure due to a 10-horsepower outboard motor restriction produces good bass tournament results. A strong population of saugeyes is also present. Hoover Reservoir receives annual fingerling stockings of this walleye-like hybrid. To catch saugeyes, try fishing deep drop-offs in late fall and early spring. In April, try minnow imitating crank-baits for saugeyes along causeways and the dam. Use minnows and jigs fished in areas with brushy cover in the upper end of the lake when seeking crappies. For white bass, try fishing in Big Walnut Creek in May with spinner baits. Hoover Reservoir is also known for its very large buffalo suckers. The current hook and line and bowfishing state record buffalo suckers were caught from Hoover Reservoir. To catch buffalo suckers, try twister tails fished very slowly along the bottom. For channel catfish, use nightcrawlers fished on the bottom.

Methods of Fishing and Best Fishing Sites

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Fish Management Activities

The ODNR Division of Wildlife’s fish management activities include stocking, conducting angler creel surveys, constructing fishing piers, renovating boat ramps and parking areas, and monitoring fish populations with nets, seines, and electrofishing gear. These activities are vital to providing adequate public access and determining the management practices necessary to produce good quality fishing.

Additional Information

The nearest district office is Wildlife District One, 1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, Ohio 43215; telephone 614/644-3925. The Division also has a Web site for information on fishing regulations, tips, maps, and other wildlife related information (www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife). To get other maps or publications call toll free 1-880-WILDLIFE. For additional information on the city of Columbus park facilities at Hoover Reservoir, contact the city of Columbus Watershed Management Group at 7600 Sunbury Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081; telephone 614/645-1721.

Turn in a Poacher

Ohio’s TIP, “Turn In a Poacher,” program is helping to curtail poaching throughout the state. TIP is designed to involve the public in reporting wildlife violations. Citizens who observe wildlife violations should call the TIP toll free hotline, 1-800-POACHER.