

Craigs Pond

11.0 acres

Seaford

The largemouth bass population exhibited only moderate numbers possibly due to the heavy algae infestations that often occur. Although the biggest group was bass from 8 to 12 inches in 2011, many of these fish should be legal size within the next year. Average weights (plumpness) were within the normal range but on the low side; these sight-feeders have to work a little harder to catch a meal in the dense plant material. In early spring, a good fishing spot is the steep drop-off along the road where bass like to hang.

Very high numbers of bluegill were available with a wide size range up to nine inches. Their weights were excellent. This is a great place to do some bluegill fishing. Black crappie were fewer in number but were dominated by fish between 8 and 11 inches. These fish prefer deeper water in the pond center and the drop-off adjacent to the roadway which makes them accessible to shore anglers.

Other species present included a few common carp, creek chubsuckers, and yellow bullhead. We have both brown and yellow bullheads in our waters but the yellow bullheads seem to be limited to southern Delaware ponds.

VEGETATION

Filamentous algal mats, most often the species called water-net due to its net-like shape, often impede fishing in this relatively small pond. Fishing early in the season would be best to avoid any algae problems. Control efforts have been necessary nearly every year, via the aquatic weed harvester in an effort to keep the pond fishable. Although watermeal, which resembles tiny duckweed, frequently covers the water's surface, it does not preclude fishing.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Shore anglers will find several areas around the pond and parking lot that are good for bank fishing. The drop-off along the road frontage is an ideal location for bass and sometimes crappie during early spring. Extensive shallow areas in the back half of the pond can make boating difficult outside of the channel.

Craigs Pond 2007 Sussex County, Delaware

