

## Lums Pond

189.3 acres

Bear, DE

### ***Fish community***

Lums pond is one of the most heavily fished ponds in the state according to a 2013 statewide survey of anglers that freshwater fish in Delaware. It is Delaware's largest public pond and thus requires some time and effort for anglers to achieve familiarity. Some anglers find this pond a challenge to fish because of its size and the amount of fishing pressure which possibly "educates" the fish.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife conducted an assessment of the fish population via electrofishing during the spring of 2015. Results were similar to those in 2010 when the pond was last sampled. The Largemouth Bass population has remained stable with slightly below average numbers of fish, but the proportion of quality sized ( $\geq 12''$ ) fish are within the target range for a balanced fish community. Fish in the 8-12'' size range are abundant and should provide good angling as they grow into a larger size group. Occasionally, citation sized bass ( $\geq 5$  lbs or  $\geq 20''$ ) are reported to Delaware's Sportfishing Live Release Program (<http://de.gov/livereleaseprogram>) so there is always the potential to catch a lunker especially among the submerged stumps east of the boat ramp. Bluegill are abundant with the proportion of quality sized (6'') fish within the target range for a balanced fish community, although there are few Bluegill  $> 6''$ . This is one of the few public ponds that has both Black and White Crappie. The population has remained stable and a good place to cast a line for crappie is on the deadfalls that occur in small coves in the eastern arm of the pond. Numerous citation sized ( $\geq 1$  lb or  $\geq 12''$ ) crappie have been reported by anglers the past few years. As with Bluegill though, relative weights (measure of condition or 'plumpness') for crappie are poor for most size groups. It is possible that White Perch, which are very abundant in Lums Pond, are competing with these other panfish species. Periodic removal of overabundant white perch has been necessary in the past to maintain a more sustainable level and to minimize competition with other panfish.

Striped Bass x White Bass hybrids have been stocked periodically since 1982 to provide an additional angling opportunity. The hybrids are sterile so the population can only be maintained through stocking. Although occasional individuals have been taken during summer months, most of the citation-size fish ( $\geq 5$  lbs or  $\geq 22$  inches) have been caught in April-May or October-November. These fish prefer cooler water temperatures, so they tend to congregate in the deeper areas of the pond during the warm months. Alewife fingerlings are also stocked periodically as they are a preferred food item for the hybrids. This 'landlocked' population of alewife has a relatively short life span and reaches only a maximum length of about nine inches, making it excellent prey for other species as well. Studies indicate that growth of Largemouth Bass and crappie improve following introduction of alewife.

Other species that occur in the pond include Pumpkinseed, Yellow Perch, American Eel, and Common Carp. Anglers have reported catching citation sized Yellow Perch ( $\geq 1$  lb or  $\geq 12''$ ) which tend to concentrate in the upstream areas of the pond.



*Hybrids have the hard-fighting quality of Striped Bass and the tolerance to conditions in a freshwater impoundment like White Bass.*



## Vegetation

Submersed aquatic vegetation is absent from the majority of this pond, however, there are emergent aquatic plants (grow within the water but above the surface) such as water willow, burreed, and three square, in scattered locations along the shoreline. Also, stands of the invasive species phragmites occur along the shore under the forest canopy and in the upstream cove areas. Planktonic algae, which are single celled plants that become so numerous the water appears to be green, occurs occasionally during the summer. Woody structure is present along much of the shoreline and is productive for fishing during some seasons. There are also tree stumps or remnants of an old pier in the cove to the west of the boat ramp. Caution should be taken in this area when operating a motorized boat, especially when the water is turbid during windy conditions or green from an algae bloom.

## Special Conditions

There is a 15 inch minimum size and two fish per day limit on Striped Bass X White Bass hybrids. Carp may not be taken by bow and arrow because the pond is within the limits of Lums Park State Park. A special Youth Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Section, is generally held in early June in the vicinity of the dog training area. For further information, call 302-739-9913 or check online ([www.fw.delaware.gov](http://www.fw.delaware.gov)).

Because this pond is part of Lums Pond State Park, a daily entrance fee is charged to enter the park or use the boat ramp. An annual pass can also be purchased at the park office. Check online ([www.destateparks.com](http://www.destateparks.com)) or call the park office at (302) 368-6989 for opening and closing of the fee season or for general information. The park has many amenities including: fishing piers, camping sites, hiking trails, picnic areas, boat rentals and nature center. All state parks are “carry in, carry out” areas meaning that all trash must be taken out of the park property.

## Access

The launching ramp, which is maintained by the Division of Parks & Recreation, has a shallow slope so it may be difficult to launch some larger, heavier boats. Shoreline access is available at many locations along the shore in addition to the fishing piers. Fishing within the dog training area (posted onsite and depicted on the map on page 3) is prohibited.



The boat ramp and parking area is located off of Red Lion Road (Rt. 71) in the southern portion of Lums Pond State Park.



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

**When you leave a body of water:**

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



Help us stop the spread of invasive species

**(See Pond Map on next page)**

