

McColley Pond
49.0 acres
Frederica, Delaware

Fish Community

The Division of Fish and Wildlife evaluated the fish community in 2013 via electrofishing. Results indicated that the fish community was balanced and should provide satisfactory fishing. Although the overall catch rate of Largemouth Bass declined from 2008 when the pond was previously sampled, the proportion of legal-length and larger fish (up to 15") remained fairly high. A wide size range of bass was observed and relative weights (indication of body condition or 'plumpness') were good. Another predatory species, Chain Pickerel, were present in fairly good numbers. Citation size Largemouth Bass (≥ 5 lbs or ≥ 20 "), Crappie (≥ 1 lb or ≥ 12 ") and Chain Pickerel (≥ 4 lbs or ≥ 24 ") were reported to Delaware's Sportfish Tournament Program (<http://de.gov/livereleaseprogram>) by anglers during the past few years.

Bluegill and Black Crappie continue to be abundant and catch rates were above the average observed in other ponds located in Kent County. The size distribution of Bluegill has improved since 2008 and relative weights were good. The majority of the Black Crappie population was 5"-10" and relative weights were fair to poor. This is consistent with long-term trends of low relative weights for Black Crappie in most Delaware ponds.



Citation- sized crappie caught during Division sampling

A wide variety of other fish species are present in the pond, including: Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Golden Shiner, Brown Bullhead, Yellow Bullhead, and American Eel. Common Carp and Gizzard Shad were quite abundant and adult river herring were observed near the dam. A White Catfish, a species which had never been documented in McColley Pond, was captured in 2013. The origins of its presence are unknown, but could have been due to an unauthorized stocking.

Vegetation

The majority of the shoreline around the pond is undeveloped with dead falls and other woody debris that provide good structural habitat. Beds of spatterdock are scattered throughout the pond along the shore and in the open water. During some years bands of floating filamentous algae occur throughout the pond. Also, planktonic algae, which are single celled plants that become so numerous the water appears to be green, occur occasionally during the summer.

Special Conditions

A fish ladder to facilitate upstream passage of anadromous fish species (target species are: Alewife, Blueback Herring, and American Shad) was installed on the dam in the 1990s. It is unlawful for any person to fish within ten feet of the entrance or exit of a fish ladder or remove fish from any ladder between March 15 and May 30.

Access

There is no public boat ramp at this pond and shoreline access is limited primarily to the area along the dam. A private boat ramp previously used by the public in exchange for a small fee is currently closed.

(See Pond Map on next page)

