

**Moores Lake**  
27.2 acres  
Dover, Delaware

**Fish Community**

The Largemouth Bass population in Moores Lake has experienced variability the last few years. Fish community sampling via electrofishing and seining by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in 2013 and 2014 revealed a low density bass population with noticeable gaps in size distribution. Catch rates were low for all size groups but highest for quality length bass (12-15"). Although some reproduction has occurred the past few years, there was a decline in the overall abundance of fish <6". In August of 2014, 700 Largemouth Bass fingerlings (average 3" total length) were stocked to supplement the population. These fish should grow into catchable size fish in a few years.



*Seine sampling at Moores Lake to assess fish reproduction*

A variety of panfish are present in Moores Lake including Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Black Crappie, White Perch and Yellow Perch. The panfish community is dominated by Bluegill with the majority in the 5-7" range. This dominant size group should produce some fairly nice size fish in a few years. The Black Crappie population is variable with low abundance, gaps in size distribution, and low relative weights (indication of condition or 'plumpness'). It is likely difficult for Black Crappie to compete in a pond with this number of other panfish species. Common carp and Gizzard Shad were more numerous than any other species, although a winter kill of Gizzard Shad in 2015 should have reduced the population, at least temporarily. Other species observed include American Eel, Golden Shiner, Blueback Herring and Brown Bullhead.



**Vegetation**

Spatterdock beds form the bulk of the available aquatic weeds in this pond although abundance has decreased since original surveys were conducted in 1966. High turbidity (muddiness) and deepening as a result of dredging during the early 1990s has prevented re-establishment of many other aquatic plants. Planktonic algae, which are single celled plants that become so numerous the water appears to be green, is common in the warm summer months.

**Special Conditions**

A fish ladder to facilitate upstream passage of anadromous fish species (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.

A fish consumption advisory has been in place since 1999 to limit angler exposure to contaminants in the entire St. Jones watershed, including Moores Lake. The advisory suggests that no more than twelve 8-oz meals of fish (all finfish species) are eaten per year. This is based on long-term health risks associated with eating certain quantities of fish from these areas. The contaminant of concern is PCBs. For more information go to the Division's Fish Consumption Advisory webpage at: <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Fisheries/Pages/Advisories.aspx>.

### **Access**

There is a boat ramp that can accommodate small boats, and several boat trailers can be parked in the parking area. Shoreline angling is available from the ramp to the dam and also downstream of the dam along Issac Branch. The majority of the pond is surrounded by private property and there is no shoreline access in those areas.



*The boat ramp at Moores Lake is conveniently located off of South State Street in Dover*



**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 prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species*

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

# Moores Lake 2014

# Kent County, Delaware



**Legend**

- Boat Ramp
- Parking
- Vegetation
- Flow

Max. Depth - 4 feet  
Surface Acres - 27.2

Depth contours are 1 ft intervals - significant changes are labeled

The boat ramp and parking area can be accessed from South State Street

