



## Smith Reservoir Report 2008

### Introduction

Smith Reservoir is a 295 acre water supply impoundment managed by Stafford County for potable water. A portion of the impoundment lies within Quantico Marine Corps Base. Access is currently limited through the QMCB and anglers are required to purchase a base fishing permit.

### Fishing Opportunities

Largemouth bass are the primary species pursued by anglers visiting Smith Reservoir. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) is relatively high at 94 fish/hr of electrofishing. Historically, largemouth bass size structure has always been poor due to the low productivity of the reservoir (PSD 31, RSD-P 6). As a result Smith Reservoir ranks 17th out of 17 impoundments in the district for Catch Per Effort of Preferred fish (>15") with most bass less than 12". The heaviest concentrations of bass seem to be concentrated on the creek arm adjacent to the main boat ramp/parking area.

The bluegill population at Smith Reservoir remains out of balance with the size structure comprised primarily of young and stock sized fish (PSD 10, RSD-P 0). Bluegills were found up to six inches, with most fish in the two to four inch range. Bream fishing does not have to be complicated. Anglers may use live bait such as worms or crickets with hopes of enticing a strike. Some anglers prefer to use ultra light spinning gear or fly fishing gear to present small lures or flies. Pound for pound, there's not a fish that fights any harder than a scrappy bluegill. Bream are easy to catch which makes them ideal for introducing young children to the sport of fishing.

Anglers interested in panfish should concentrate on black crappie as sampling indicated that fish were present in desirable sizes and numbers (PSD 87, RSD-P 12). Black crappie were most abundant around brush piles, beaver lodges, or other types of woody structure.. Crappie can be successfully caught by a variety of methods ranging from small jigs, spinners, or flies fished with ultra light spinning gear or anglers may desire more traditional tactics such as fishing small minnows with a cane pole and bobber. Remember that crappies are a schooling fish, and once a fish is caught it is likely that several more will be caught with in close proximity.

**Regulations**

Anglers should note that a Quantico MCB fishing permit is required to access Smith Reservoir. MCB regulations and fishing permits are available from the game check station on post.

**Facilities**

Two boat ramps and parking areas are available from the Quantico MCB property. Anglers will need to purchase a Quantico MCB fishing permit prior to fishing Smith Reservoir. A base map and fishing regulations can be obtained from the game check station (703-784-5523/5329).

**More Information**

Contact the Quantico Marine Corps Base @ 703-784-5523/5329 or the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries @ 1320 Belman Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Phone: 540-899-4169

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