



Sandy River Reservoir 2009

Sandy River Reservoir is a 740-acre impoundment located just east of Farmville in Prince Edward County, Virginia. The impoundment was created in 1994, and opened to public fishing in 1996. The lake is owned by Prince Edward County but the fishery is managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). The lake provides a warmwater fishery for largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, chain pickerel, and channel catfish.

Sandy River Reservoir continues to be one of the best fishing destinations in Southside Virginia, or the entire state. Fishery surveys in 2008 confirm this reservoir's status as an excellent destination for great fishing - especially for largemouth bass. The bass fishery continues to improve and has responded very well to the implementation of a 14-20 inch slot limit (only 2 fish over 20 inches) in 2004. Numbers of bass sampled in that protected slot have doubled since its inception in 2004 and numbers of fish over 20 inches continue to climb. Reproductive rates of largemouth bass are also among the highest in the state which should help to ensure a great largemouth bass fishery into the next several years. Largemouth bass continue to be the most popular species to fish for at Sandy River Reservoir with over 68% of all fishing pressure concentrated on bass. The best places to catch a lunker continue to be in the standing timber on either end of the lake, especially in April and May.

The black crappie fishery continues to be an average fishery at Sandy. Most fish captured in our samples and by anglers are less than 8 inches but a few fish up to 13 inches were caught in 2008. Black crappie were second only to largemouth bass in angler effort in 2008 and while angler catch was up compared to previous years, number of crappie kept was only half what it had been. The crappie fishery at Sandy River shows no signs of drastic change so anglers will have to settle for an average crappie fishery on this particular impoundment.

Another fishery of note at Sandy is the channel catfish fishery. This is one of the best channel catfish fisheries in the area and it receives a significant portion of the fishing pressure. Most catfish caught at Sandy are in the 2-5 pound range but fish up to 30 inches and 10 pounds are found here. Most fish caught by anglers are in the 16-20 inch range but bigger fish are definitely landed at Sandy. In the next two years it is likely that a size limit will be imposed on this fishery to help protect the smaller stocked fish and hopefully increase the numbers of big catfish in the reservoir.

Bluegill and redear sunfish, aka shellcracker, round out the most highly sought game species at Sandy River Reservoir. More sunfish are caught and harvested at Sandy than any other species. Fish up to 11 inches are caught but most are in the 7-9 inch range. The best places to catch good numbers of sunfish at Sandy are around beaver lodges, tree tops in the water, and off of points in the spring. Sunfish are one of the best species to fish for to get kids hooked on fishing as success rates are usually very high and gear to fish for bream is relatively inexpensive. There is an excellent handicapped

accessible fishing pier located at Sandy River Reservoir to provide safe and convenient fishing access to anyone wishing to spend a great day fishing.

Other species that you can catch at Sandy include chain pickerel, warmouth and green sunfish. Sandy River Reservoir is an excellent destination for devoted bass anglers or parents of young children alike. The reservoir is open to fishing 24 hours a day and facilities include a two lane, concrete boat ramp with courtesy pier; handicap accessible fishing pier; lit parking lot; and handicap accessible restroom facilities. Bank fishing is available near the boat ramp parking lot and at other areas around the lake. Boaters are restricted to 10 hp motors or less. The lake can be reached by taking 460 east out of Farmville and turning south on state rout 640 (Monroe Church Road). Take the first left after turning onto Rt. 640 and follow this to the ramp.