

SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE FISHERIES SURVEY

Dalton, Lawrence County

MCE-Lake-3-000

2025

Lake Information

Name: Dalton
County: Lawrence
Surface Area: 2 Acres

Surveys and Investigations

Survey methods used by gear type, date, and effort.

Gear	Date	Effort
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Jun 24, 2025	4 net-nights
minnow trap	Jun 24, 2025	4

Common Fish Species Present

Rainbow Trout

White Sucker

Golden Shiner

Brook Trout

Terminology

Catch per unit effort (**CPUE**) refers to the relative abundance of a species. It is defined as the number of fish captured per unit of effort (i.e., number of fish captured per net-night or number of fish captured per hour electrofishing). In this report CPUE is typically given for only stock-length fish (see length categories table for stock lengths).

A statewide effort to help make netting efforts comparable to all waters sampled across the state, occurred in 2017, with a switch to American Fisheries Society gill nets. Past gill netting efforts were completed with different style/types of nets and are not comparable side by side.

- **AFS std gill net** – 80 ft experimental gill net containing eight panels (10 ft each) of varying monofilament meshes of 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2.00, 2.25 and 2.50 inches.
- **std experimental gill net for non-Missouri River waters** - 150 ft experimental gill net containing six panels (25 ft each) of varying monofilament meshes of 0.5, 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50 and 2.00 inches.
- **std experimental gill net for Missouri River reservoirs** – 300 ft experimental gill net containing six panels (50 ft each) of varying multifilament meshes of 0.5, 0.75, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50 and 2.00 inches.

$$CPUE = \frac{\text{number of fish}}{\text{effort}}$$

Population size structure is quantified using the indices proportional size distribution of quality-length fish (**PSD**) and proportional size distribution of preferred-length fish (**PSD-P**). These indices indicate the proportion of stock-length fish that are equal to or greater than a given length. Minimum lengths for stock, quality and preferred length fish are given in the length categories table.

$$PSD = \left(\frac{\text{number of fish} \geq \text{quality length}}{\text{number of fish} \geq \text{stock length}} \right) \times 100$$

$$PSD - P = \left(\frac{\text{number of fish} \geq \text{preferred length}}{\text{number of fish} \geq \text{stock length}} \right) \times 100$$

Relative weight (**Wr**) is used to quantify fish plumpness. Relative weight is the ratio of what a fish weighs (W) compared to a length-specific standard weight (Ws) multiplied by 100. Relative weight values of 95-105 are commonly cited as optimum values, but values in the 80s are common during summer sampling in South Dakota.

$$Wr = \left(\frac{W}{W_s} \right) \times 100$$

Confidence intervals (**CI**) are provided for many of the estimates calculated in this report. The confidence interval provides a range in which the true mean is expected to fall. For example, with an 80% CI we are 80% confident that the interval contains the true value.

Length categories include stock (**S**), quality (**Q**), preferred (**P**), memorable (**M**) and trophy (**T**). Length categories for most species have been defined based on a percentage of the world record length for that species. Some species mentioned in this report do not have defined length categories. Length categories for species used in this report are provided in the following table. Measurements are the minimum total length for each category and are reported in inches (in) and centimeters (cm).

Species Name	Stock		Quality		Preferred		Memorable		Trophy	
	(in)	(cm)	(in)	(cm)	(in)	(cm)	(in)	(cm)	(in)	(cm)
Black Bullhead	6	15	9	23	12	30	15	38	18	46
Black Crappie	5	13	8	20	10	25	12	30	15	38
Bluegill	3	8	6	15	8	20	10	25	12	30
Brown Trout	8	20	12	30	16	40	20	50	18	46
Channel Catfish	11	28	16	41	24	61	28	71	36	91
Freshwater Drum	8	20	12	30	15	38	20	51	25	63
Lake Trout	12	30	20	50	26	65	31	80	39	100
Largemouth Bass	8	20	12	30	15	38	20	51	25	63
Muskellunge	20	51	30	76	38	97	42	107	50	127
Northern Pike	14	35	21	53	28	71	34	86	44	112
Pumpkinseed	3	8	6	15	8	20	10	25	12	30
Rainbow Trout	10	25	16	40	20	50	26	65	31	80
Rudd	6	15	10	25	12	30	15	38	19	48
Sauger	8	20	12	30	15	38	20	51	25	63
Smallmouth Bass	7	18	11	28	14	35	17	43	20	51
Walleye	10	25	15	38	20	51	25	63	30	76
White Bass	6	15	9	23	12	30	15	38	18	46
White Crappie	5	13	8	20	10	25	12	30	15	38
Yellow Bullhead	4	10	7	18	9	23	11	28	14	36
Yellow Perch	5	13	8	20	10	25	12	30	15	38

Catch Summary of Stock Length Fish

Catch per unit effort (CPUE), proportional size distribution (PSD), proportional size distribution of preferred length fish (PSD-P), and relative weight (Wr) for species sampled in survey with 80% confidence interval (CI-80).

* Methods/Species that ignore stock length

			Abundance		Stock Density Indices				Condition	
Gear	Species	Sample Size (n)	CPUE	CI-80	PSD	CI-80	PSD-P	CI-80	Wr	CI-80
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Brook Trout	21	0.0	0.0						
	Golden Shiner	174	0.0	0.0						
	Rainbow Trout	22	4.8	5.2	0		0		89	3
	White Sucker	1	0.3	0.4	100		100		95	

10-Year Catch Per Unit Effort by Gear and Species

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) and average (Avg) of species across 10 years using different gear types.

*** Methods/Species that ignore stock length**

		CPUE										Avg
Gear	Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
frame net (1/4 inch)	Brook Trout	0.0										0.00
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Brook Trout	0.0									0.0	0.00
	Golden Shiner	0.0									0.0	0.00
	Rainbow Trout	0.3									4.8	2.55
	White Sucker	0.0									0.3	0.15
std exp gill net	Brook Trout	0.0										0.00

10-Year Size Structure and Condition Statistics by Gear and Species

Species proportional size distribution (PSD), proportional size distribution of preferred length fish (PSD-P), and relative weight (Wr) collected by different gear types across 10 years.

			Year									
Gear	Species	Index	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
frame net (std 3/4 in)	Rainbow Trout	PSD	0									0
		PSD-P	0									0
		Wr	56									89
	White Sucker	PSD										100
		PSD-P										100
		Wr										95

Fish Stocking

Number of fish stocked by year, species, and size.

Year	Species	Size	Number
2014	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Catchable 11"	1,397
2015	Rainbow Trout (Erwin x Arlee)	Catchable 15"	40
2015	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Catchable 11"	1,220
2016	Rainbow Trout (Ennis)	Catchable 15"	40
2016	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Catchable 11"	1,495
2017	Rainbow Trout (Erwin x Arlee)	Catchable 15"	503
2017	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Catchable 11"	796
2018	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Catchable	1,200
2019	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Catchable 11"	1,409
2019	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Catchable 15"	575
2020	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Adult	503
2020	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Catchable 15"	874
2021	Rainbow Trout (Arlee)	Adult	1,296
2021	Rainbow Trout (Gerrard)	Adult	573
2021	Rainbow Trout (Shasta)	Adult	180
2021	Rainbow Trout (Trout Lodge)	Adult	765
2022	Rainbow Trout (Arlee)	Adult	1,346
2022	Rainbow Trout (Gerrard)	Adult	1,101
2023	Rainbow Trout	Adult	2,020
2024	Rainbow Trout	Adult	2,374
2025	Rainbow Trout	Adult	1,064