



Reservoir Number Two (Peters Lake Reservoir #2), Washington County

2025 Night Boat Electrofishing and Trap Net Survey



A nice Channel Catfish captured during our survey at Peters Lake Reservoir #2.

Introduction

Peters Lake Reservoir #2 is a 40-acre impoundment that acts as the focal point of the 189-acre Peters Lake Park, four miles east of Canonsburg, PA. The lake features a fishing pier and a primitive boat ramp for unpowered boats to use. A walking trail circumnavigates the lake offering access for fishing around the lake except for a small 5-acre wildlife sanctuary on the east end of the lake where fishing is prohibited. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) manages the lake with [Big Bass Program Special Regulations](#) for bass, [Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations](#) for crappies, and statewide regulations for all other fish species. Supplemental stocking of Channel Catfish occurs

annually at Peters Lake Reservoir #2 to provide additional fishing opportunities at this impoundment (Table 1).

Biologists from the PFBC Fisheries Management Area 8 office surveyed the lake in April 2025. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the lake’s naturally reproducing gamefish and panfish populations as well as update management plans for the lake.

Table 1: Year, species, life stage, and total number stocked of warm water/ cool water stockings at Peters Lake Reservoir #2 since 2015.

Year	Species	Life Stage	Total Stocked
2025	Channel Catfish	Yearling	1,400
2024	Channel Catfish	Yearling	1,400
2023	Channel Catfish	Yearling	700
2021	Channel Catfish	Fingerling	1,450
2020	Channel Catfish	Fingerling	1,450
2019	Channel Catfish	Fingerling	1,450
2018	Channel Catfish	Fingerling	1,450
2018	Channel Catfish	Yearling	720
2017	Channel Catfish	Fingerling	1,450
2017	Flathead Catfish	Adult	20
2016	Channel Catfish	Fingerling	1,450
2015	Channel Catfish	Fingerling	2,950
2015	Flathead Catfish	Adult	25

Methods

Pennsylvania-style trap nets and night electrofishing were used to sample the fish populations in Peters Lake Reservoir #2 in April 2025. Six trap net sets for 115.5 hours of effort were used to assess the panfish and catfish populations and three night electrofishing runs totaling 1.27 hours of effort were used to assess the Largemouth Bass population.

Results

A total of 492 individuals representing eight different species were captured in trap nets in 2025 (Table 2). Bluegills were the most abundant species captured with 157 individuals. Of the 157 Bluegills captured during the 2025 trap net survey, 38% were ≥ 7 inches long. In comparison to past surveys in 1999, 2010, and 2017, the catch rate or catch per unit effort (CPUE) for total Bluegills and Bluegills ≥ 7 inches long, has not changed considerably (Figure 1).

Table 2. Species, number caught, and length range for the 2025 trap net survey on Peters Lake Reservoir #2.

Species	Number	Length (in.)
Gizzard Shad	12	Not measured
Common Carp	1	Not measured
Channel Catfish	18	5 - 29
Pumpkinseed	2	6 - 7
Bluegill	157	1 - 7
Black Crappie	152	3 - 14
White Crappie	146	4 - 12
Yellow Perch	4	8

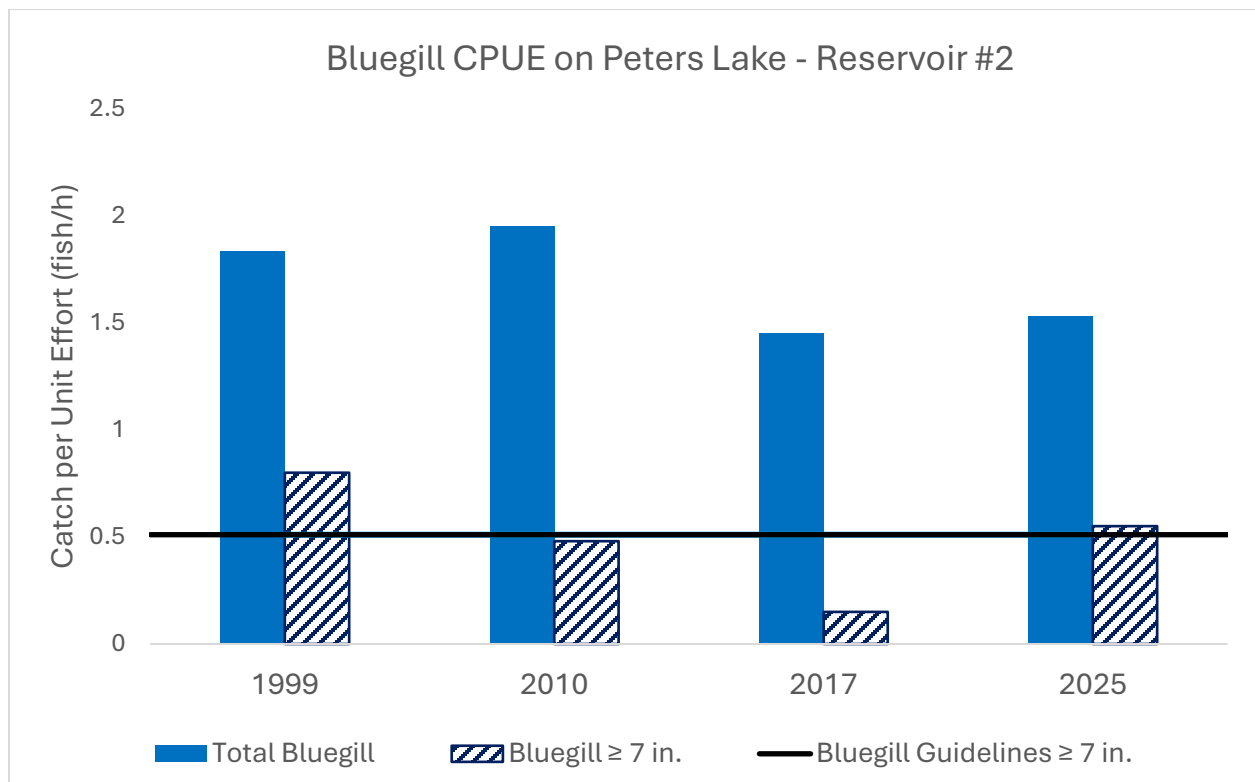


Figure 1. Trap net catch rates of Bluegills (solid blue bars) and Bluegills seven inches long and longer (diagonal-hashed bars) during 1999, 2010, 2017, and 2025 surveys at Peters Lake Reservoir #2. Solid black line represents catch rate guidelines (0.5 fish/h) for fish seven inches and longer in quality Bluegill populations.

Black Crappies and White Crappies were comparatively abundant to Bluegills and were close to being equally distributed with 152 Black Crappies and 146 White Crappies captured during the survey. The total CPUE of crappies was the highest of any survey at 2.88 fish/h. Catch rate of crappies ≥ 9 inches increased from the 2017 survey and exceeded the statewide panfish guidelines (Figure 2). The statewide panfish guideline for a quality crappie population is 0.25 crappie ≥ 9 inches per hour of trap netting.

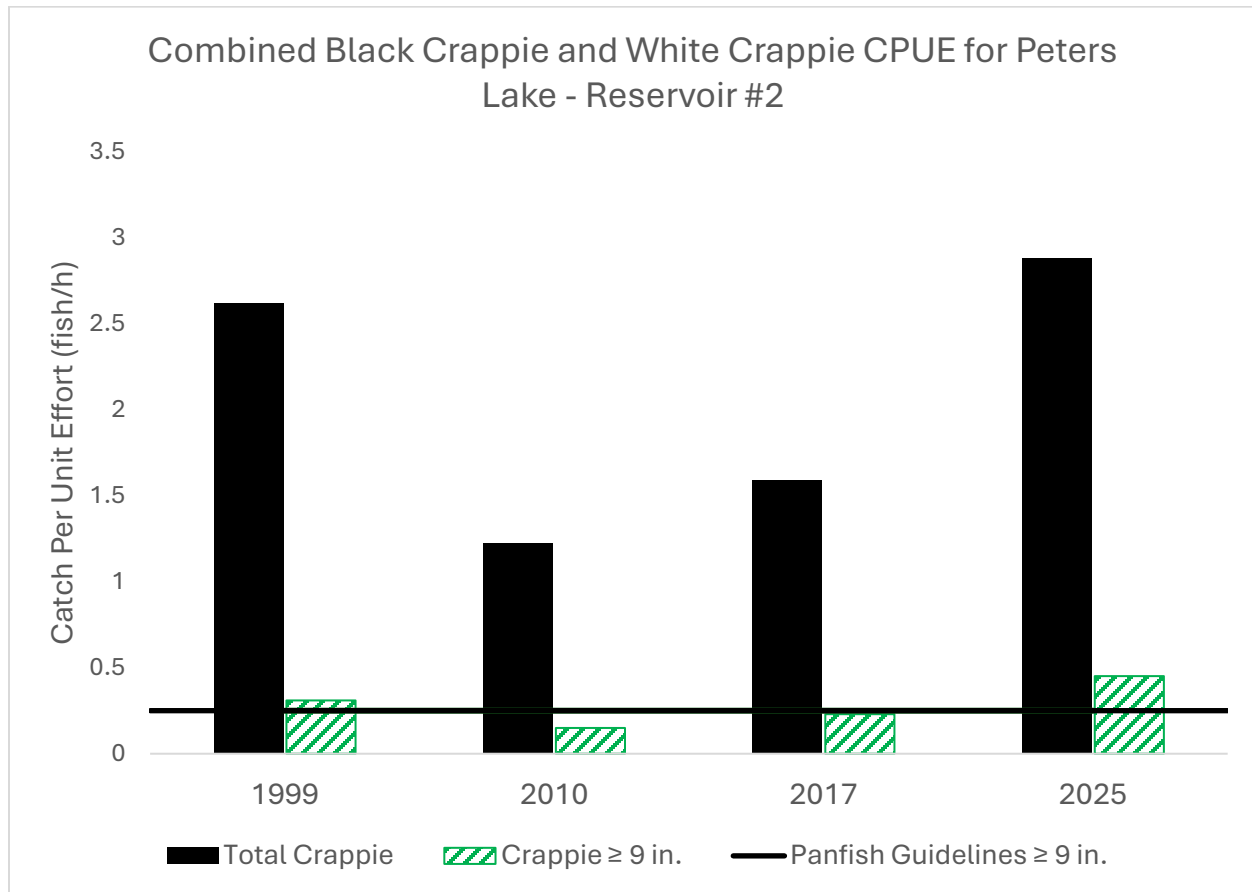


Figure 2. Trap net catch rates of crappies (solid black bars) and crappies nine inches long and longer (diagonal-hashed bars) during 1999, 2010, 2017, and 2025 surveys at Peters Lake Reservoir #2. Solid black line represents catch rate guidelines (0.25 fish/h) for fish nine inches and longer in quality crappie populations.

Peters Lake Reservoir #2 has been stocked with Channel Catfish since 2000, with annual stockings in all but one year since 2012. Channel Catfish were first captured in the lake during the 2017 survey with a total CPUE of 0.02 fish/h. The 2025 survey saw an increase in catch rates with a total CPUE of 0.16 fish/h. Of the 18 Channel Catfish captured, four were nice, healthy individuals over 20 inches. A majority of the Channel Catfish captured had stomachs full of Gizzard Shad.



Fisheries Biologist Aide Darby Byington with a large Black Crappie from Peters Lake Reservoir #2.



Fisheries Biologist Mike Depew with one of the larger Channel Catfish captured during the survey.

Three night electrofishing runs were completed on Peters Lake Reservoir #2 to survey the Largemouth Bass population. The three runs produced 127 bass ranging in size from 4 inches up to 21 inches.. The size structure was heavily skewed towards smaller fish with 6% of the captured fish being 12 inches long and longer and 3% being 15 inches long and longer. In comparison to previous surveys, the total CPUE was the lowest of any survey at 108.9 fish/h, as was the CPUE of fish 12 inches long and longer, at 5.51 fish/h. The CPUE of fish 15 inches long and longer was comparable to the CPUE of fish 15 inches long and longer from the 2010 and 2017 surveys (Figure 3).

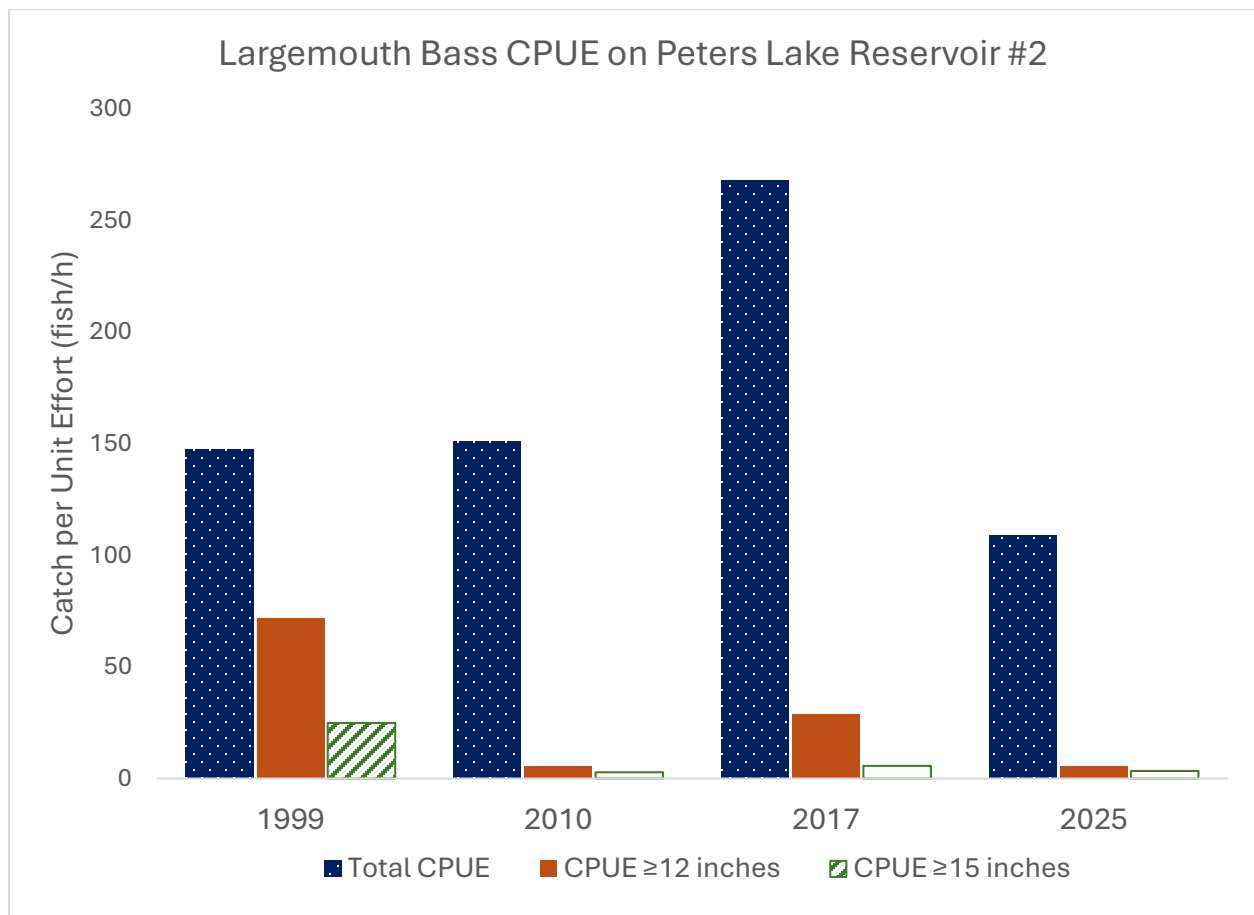


Figure 3. Largemouth Bass night-time boat electrofishing total catch per unit effort (dotted blue bars), catch per unit effort for fish 12 inches long and longer (solid orange bars), and fish 15 inches long and longer (diagonal-hashed bars) at Peters Lake Reservoir #2 during 1999, 2010, 2017, and 2025 surveys.



Fisheries Biologist Aide Shane Ross with a 21" Largemouth Bass captured night electrofishing at Peters Lake Reservoir #2.

Discussion

The results from the 2025 trap net and night electrofishing surveys on Peters Lake Reservoir #2 showed similar catch rates to previous surveys in 2010 and 2017. Crappies were abundant with some larger, legal fish present. Unfortunately, the Largemouth Bass population consisted of primarily smaller individuals. The highlight of the survey was the Channel Catfish population, which is on the rise with larger individuals enjoying fattening meals of Gizzard Shad. While the presence of Gizzard Shad in the lake, which were first detected in the 2010 survey, may be beneficial for the Channel Catfish population, it is likely having an opposite effect on the panfish population as they compete for food, thus slowing panfish growth rates.

Fisheries Management Area 8