

Perry CCC Trout Creel 2022-2023

Perry CCC is currently the only lake in the North Central Region that ODWC stocks with trout. Trout costs have increased dramatically in recent years, Creel surveys were conducted between November 2022 and March 2023. Creel dates and times were chosen at random, and surveys were conducted in 4-hour periods with pressure counts immediately preceding and following the survey period. Eligible survey participants had to be observed actively fishing and were not surveyed until they had been fishing at least 30 minutes. Survey participants were asked in advance if they wanted to participate, and if they agreed, were asked a set list of questions, and the answers were recorded in Survey123 software. Creel clerks were briefed in advance to standardize survey delivery. The previous creel survey done at Perry CCC was conducted between December 2016 and March 2017.

333 total anglers were surveyed. All 333 anglers reported that they were targeting trout. In 2016, 94.8% of anglers reported targeting trout. 85.8% of anglers surveyed were male and 14.2% were female. There were 49 children under 16 actively fishing. 77 zip codes were represented by anglers in 2022, compared to 59 zip codes represented in the 2016 creel. The average number of boat anglers in the 2022 creel was 1.662, which is not significantly different than the average number of boat anglers in 2016 (0.264). The average number of anglers fishing from the shore in 2022 was 5.971, which was also not significantly different than the average number of shore anglers in 2016 (5.302).

Anglers were asked to rank their satisfaction with their overall experience at Perry CCC between 1 and 5 (1 – Highly Dissatisfied, 2 – Dissatisfied, 3 – Neutral, 4 – Satisfied, 5 – Highly Satisfied). The average response was 4.181 in the 2022 survey. In 2022, the average weekend response was 4.224 and the average weekday response was 4.049. The average satisfaction ranking with the angler's overall experience at the lake on weekends was significantly higher in 2022 than in the 2016 survey (3.841 in 2016), but there was no significant difference in the average response of weekday anglers between 2016 and 2022 (3.970 in 2016).

Survey participants were also asked to rank their satisfaction with the number of trout caught between 1 and 5. The average response was in 2022 was 3.158. The average satisfaction ranking of weekend anglers was 3.053, and the average response of weekday anglers was 3.470 in 2022. Overall satisfaction with the number of trout caught was significantly higher in both weekend and weekday anglers in 2022 than in 2016 (2016 Weekend 2.50; 2016 Weekday 2.84).

Participants were asked to rank their satisfaction with the size of trout caught on the day of the survey between 1 and 5, with 1 being Highly Dissatisfied and 5 being Highly Satisfied. The average angler satisfaction with the size of trout caught at Perry CCC was 3.33. Anglers were also asked to share whether they believed the recent change in the trout limit from 6 to 3 fish was too few fish, too many fish, or just right. 59% of anglers responded that the limit was just right, 40% believed that the limit is too few fish, and <1% of anglers responded that the trout limit was too many fish.