

NESBITT RESERVOIR



ANGLER AND FISH SURVEY INFORMATION

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General information: The sport fishery comprises Blue Gill, Largemouth Bass, Black Bullhead, and some Black Crappie. Anglers catch Blue Gill averaging about 8 inches and largemouth bass about 10 inches. Anglers generally use, although lures and flies work equally well. Blue Gill take small worms, flies, and jigs. Largemouth can be caught with spinner baits, crank baits, and soft plastics. Black bullhead anglers use worms and some prepared catfish baits.

Location: Lincoln County, Key Pittman is located one mile north of Hiko on highway 318. Use our FishNV tool (<https://fish.wildlifenv.com/>) to find waters near you, and buy your fishing license at ndowlicensing.com.

Size: Nesbitt Lake covers approximately 200 surface acres to a maximum depth of 10 feet.

Management: Nevada Department of Wildlife manages the fishery as a general Warm Water Fishery. Bureau of Land Management manages the surrounding land. There is **no** camping or fires allowed in the management area.

Amenities and General Info

- Restroom
- Boat ramp
- Float tube and pontoon boats recommended

Fishing/Boating Regulations

- Season is year around any hour day or night.
- Limit is 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 10 may be black bass. No limit on Black Bullhead.
- Vessels must be operated at speeds that leave a flat wake.

Previous stocking

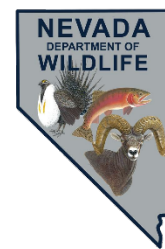
The fishery is self-sustaining, and no stocking is needed.

Fishing notes

- Best fishing typically occurs February through June.
- Striping wholly buggers, leach patterns, and bead head nymph patterns is usually successful.
- Crank baits, soft plastics for bass and small jigs for crappie and Blue Gill.
- Spoons, Rapalas, and spinners is a productive way from a small boat. These lures can also be casted from shore with success while the water level is up.

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FISHERY SURVEY DATA – 2017-2023
Mark Beckstrand – Fisheries Biologist
Pioche Field Office



Average size of fish in Nesbitt Reservoir (inches)			
Year	Blue Gill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie
2017	7.7	13.2	No data
2018	7.3	12.0	No data
2019	7.2	No data	No data
2020	7.8	No data	9.0
2021	8.0	No data	No data
2023	8.1	No data	No data

ANGLER CATCH RATES Nesbitt Reservoir	
Year	fish/hour
2017	8.8
2018	8.3
2019	18.0
2020	12.0
2021	9.6
2023	3.5
Average	10.0

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2025 Fishing Forecast Mark Beckstrand – Fisheries Biologist Pioche Field Office

Water level - The water level should be high in the spring, but it will begin dropping in early summer and into fall. Fishing for Blue Gill and bass will be slow this year due to the fish re-populating from a die off three years ago. Warmwater species generally spawn successfully every year; therefore, fishing should start getting better, especially for pan-sized Blue Gill in May. Anglers can also expect to catch 8-to-10-inch Largemouth Bass.

Blue Gill

Blue Gill in Nesbitt Reservoir have a self-sustaining population. Blue Gill are the most sought-after species in the reservoir and represented 80% of the angler catch in 2023. The most common size class of Blue Gill caught by anglers in 2023 was from 7"-8.9". Overall, the Blue Gill population numbers are low with smaller size classes. Blue Gill catch rates in 2025 are expected to be below 1.0 fish per hour with the average fish measuring 7"-8.9" in length.

Largemouth Bass

Largemouth Bass in Nesbitt Reservoir were plentiful but are low in numbers due to a die off three years ago from low water levels. The most common size class are fish in the 8–10-inch range. Largemouth bass catch rates are expected to be below the 1.0 fish per hour rate until the fish can re-populate. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch and release to help facilitate re-population of the reservoir.