



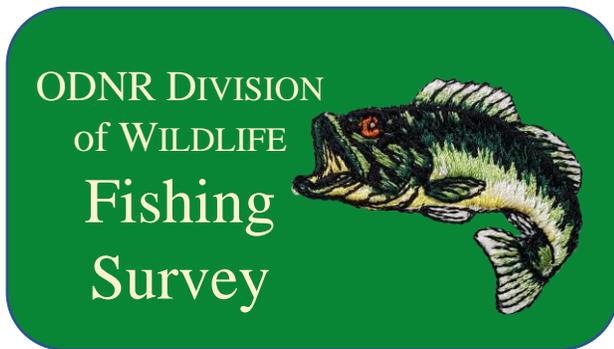
Reservoir Creel Surveys

What is a Creel Survey?:

- The Division of Wildlife uses creel surveys to collect information from anglers about fisheries.
- Creel surveys are conducted at 10 to 20 reservoirs throughout Ohio each year.
- Creel clerks conduct these surveys by counting anglers and interviewing them about their fishing trips, catches, and opinions.
- Surveys are typically conducted on weekends during May through July when reservoir fishing is usually at its peak.
- Fisheries managers supplement these on-the-water surveys using online, post-card, and email surveys.



Creel clerk interviewing a shore angler



What information is collected?:

- Effort (fishing pressure): Number of anglers fishing and hours did they fished per day.
- Species Sought: Types of fish anglers seek to catch and harvest, measured as percentage of those interviewed for each preference.
- Catch: Types and numbers of fish anglers catch are to determined to measure success, reported as catch and harvest of fish per hours fished.
- Fish Size: Measurements of fish lengths indicate the sizes of fish anglers prefer to keep.
- Social Science: Demographics, satisfaction, opinions of anglers provide a better understanding of their fishing preferences and views.

How is the information used?:

- Provides a more complete picture of Ohio reservoir fisheries when combined with fish population assessment data.
- Track angler use, catch, harvest, and preferences across Ohio to allow comparisons among fisheries.
- Helps fishery managers effectively allocate resources, such as where, when, and with what species and sizes of fish to stock.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of fish harvest regulations.
- Better align management strategies with angler expectations and preferences.

Are you interested in seasonal employment with the Division of Wildlife as a creel clerk? Contact one of our five District Offices or three research units to learn more about current and future opportunities.



Creel clerk measuring harvested fish