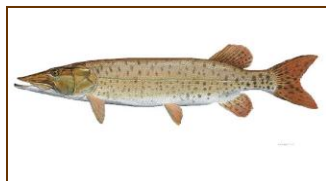




Common Sporting Fish of the Allegheny River

Small and large fish inhabit the fresh waters of the Allegheny Reservoir and Allegheny River, providing many hours of enjoyment for sport fishermen, young and old.



Muskellunge

The mighty Muskie can grow to 50 inches and weigh 40 pounds. They have been caught in the Allegheny Reservoir through ice or during winter on the river. Most fishermen never land a Muskie.



Yellow Perch

Yellow perch are an extremely adaptable fish that can thrive in a great variety of habitats. Yellow perch like clear, cold water such as that you can see at Big Bend.



Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass, a sunfish, shun warm waters and likes a dependable stream flow, rocky river bottoms, streamside shade and modest current such as the Allegheny River before you.



Walleye

This elusive fish will eat almost anything. In summer they feed after sundown. They are prized for their wonderful fish fillets. A 17 lb 9 oz state record walleye was once caught from the Allegheny Reservoir.



Brown Trout

Brown trout prefer cold streams, rivers and lakes. They spawn in the fall and the female lays more than 4,000 eggs. The life of a brown trout in the wild may be 10-12 years.



Northern Pike

Northern pike can weigh 20 pounds and grow to more than 40 inches. They hunt by ambush and take fish, frogs, tadpoles, birds, muskrats, mice, and large aquatic creatures. Ice fishermen catch Northern at Big Bend. The 35 lb state record Northern Pike was caught from the Allegheny Reservoir.



Non-Point Source Pollution

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from a single discharge pipe from an industrial or sewage treatment plant, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. Sources of NPS pollution include:

1. drainage or runoff from resource extraction, abandoned coal mines, oil or gas wells and inadequate erosion control practices during construction and urban runoff;
2. improper agricultural practices (erosion and sedimentation, nutrient management, pesticide application)
3. improper timber harvesting practices;
4. failing on-lot septic systems or other abandoned waste disposal sites;
5. altered hydrology (changing the way water flows through an area.) due to impervious surface area, storm water and floodplain management, riparian buffers, wetlands, natural stream channels.

What are the effects of these pollutants on our waters?

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems. The effects of nonpoint source pollutants on specific waters vary and may not always be fully assessed. However, we know that these pollutants have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

What causes nonpoint source pollution?

We all play a part. Nonpoint source pollution results from a wide variety of human activities on the land. Each of us can contribute to the problem without even realizing it.

What can we do about non-point source pollution?

We can all work together to reduce and prevent nonpoint source pollution. Each individual can play an important role by practicing conservation and by changing certain everyday habits. Contact your local Conservation District for more information.

