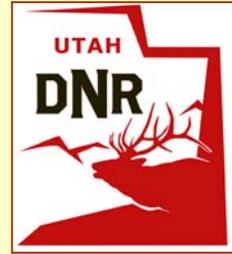


Jordanelle Reservoir

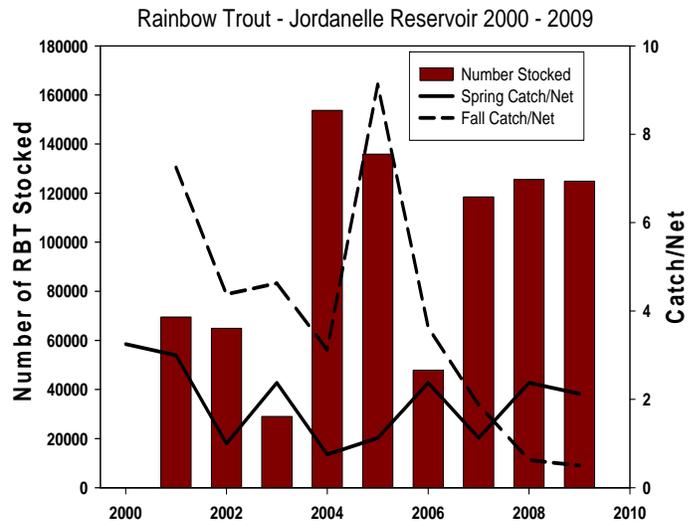
Summary of the 2009 Surveys



Jordan Nielson, Aquatics Biologist, Central Region

Jordanelle Reservoir is actively managed for smallmouth bass and stocked rainbow trout. Other likely sport fish catches in Jordanelle reservoir include cutthroat trout, brown trout, and yellow perch. Trout species are sampled in Jordanelle Reservoir using experimental gill nets set in the same locations at roughly the same time each year in the spring and the fall. Gill net data allow us to determine if the trout stocking rate is adequate for the amount of fishing pressure the trout receive and to adjust accordingly. Smallmouth bass populations are assessed using boat electrofishing, again at roughly the same time each year allowing for year-to-year comparisons. The following data summarizes the annual gill netting and electrofishing surveys performed at Jordanelle Reservoir through 2009.

Rainbow trout stocked into Jordanelle Reservoir are sub catchable and catchable size ranges (6-10 inches) and is the most popular fish in the reservoir among anglers. UDWR stocks approximately 125,000 fish from the hatcheries for anglers on a yearly basis and then monitors the population with gill nets. Spring gill net catch rates have remained fairly stable over the last ten years hovering around two fish per net indicating that several fish are overwintering in the reservoir and available for anglers to catch through the ice and early in the spring. Recently fall catch rates have dropped from rates as high as 9 fish per net to around one fish per net. There are several factors that may contribute to this, however, the rainbow trout fishery remains strong and anglers can expect to continue to see rainbow trout in their creel.



Catch rates of smallmouth bass over the past 10 years have fluctuated between 25 and 175 fish during our electrofishing samples. In 2009, 98 individual fish were sampled, slightly higher than the 10 year average of 84 bass. The average length of bass was also slightly higher than the average of 7.3 inches at 7.5 inches. Currently we are seeing good recruitment in the bass population as indicated by the small average size and slightly higher than average catch rate during sampling. Current fishing regulations allow for six smallmouth below 12 inches in length to be harvested. However, there are also plenty of larger fish for the catch and release angler to go after, and with the increasing average length there should be plenty into the future.

