

FACT SHEET

Pigeon Lake Drawdown and Fishery Closure

Why is the drawdown being done?

The drawdown currently underway was initiated to make repairs to the dam structure.

What is the timeframe for the drawdown?

Pigeon Lake is supposed to be refilled between May and October, 2019, but the exact date is unknown.

Why did the Department decide to close the fishery?

As has been observed with other drawdowns, we expect a significant number of the fish will be flushed downstream. However, we do expect some fish will try to remain in the river channel that will flow through the impoundment during the drawdown as well as move upstream into Pfeiffer Lake, the Pigeon River, and its tributaries. All popular sport fish species including largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill, black crappie, and yellow perch have been captured in recent fisheries surveys of the North Branch Pigeon River and South Branch Pigeon River. Habitat conditions in these lakes and rivers are suitable for the survival of fish that move upstream from Pigeon Lake into Pfeiffer Lake or the Pigeon River and its tributaries (e.g., the North Branch Pigeon River and South Branch Pigeon River) during the drawdown.

Given the significance of the drawdown, fish that try to remain in the river channel flowing through the impoundment or move upstream into Pfeiffer Lake and the Pigeon River or one of its tributaries may get concentrated in certain areas, making them highly susceptible to harvest. Furthermore, protecting these fish from harvest and allowing them to recolonize Pigeon Lake once it is drawn up will likely speed up the fishery recovery following the drawdown.

Can I fish during the closure? Is catch and release ok?

You may not fish at all in the waters listed as **Closed to Fishing**

When will the water be back at normal level?

Pigeon Lake is supposed to be refilled between May and October, 2019, but the exact date is unknown.

Will the DNR monitor fish populations in Pigeon Lake After the Drawdown?

Yes. An electrofishing survey is planned for 2019 following the lake being refilled.

Will Pigeon Lake be restocked?

Stocking quotas for large fingerling northern pike and largemouth bass from DNR hatcheries are in place for 2019. Stocking quotas for panfish (bluegill, crappie, and yellow perch) are in place for any surplus fish of these species available from federal hatcheries. The DNR may also move a small number of adult fish from Marion Millpond downstream into Pigeon Lake to aid in the recovery process.

What if I want to work on my shoreline property, (seawall, riprap, Etc.)?

Please contact Scott Koehnke, Water Regulations and Zoning Specialist with the DNR with questions regarding improvements to shoreline property. Scott can be reached at 715-526-4232.

Boundaries and the Timeframe:

The entire lake and Pigeon River including bays and channels from the dam in Clintonville upstream to where the Pigeon River splits to form the North Branch Pigeon River and South Branch Pigeon River. The North Branch Pigeon River from its confluence with the Pigeon River upstream to Knitt Road. The South Branch Pigeon River from its confluence with the Pigeon River upstream to US Highway 45. Also included are all of Pfeiffer Lake and the river that connects Pfeiffer Lake and Pigeon Lake

Area of closure will include:

Upstream boundary: Knitt Road on the North Branch Pigeon River and US HWY 45 on the South Branch Pigeon River

Downstream boundary: The dam in Clintonville

See map below for exact locations. Pink circles represent major road crossing and dams to be used as landmarks. The yellow line encompasses all waters included in the closure.

Time Frame:

Effective: September 21, 2018 upon when signs are posted.

End Date: Until further notice is issued in a Public Notice

**Comments should be addressed to: Jason Breggemann, Senior Fisheries Biologist;
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