

RED FEATHER LAKES STORAGE & IRRIGATION CO

2019 FISHING REPORT

2019 Stocking: Crystal Springs Trout Farm stocked all lakes except Shagwa with 12-15" rainbows as well as 18"+ trophy rainbows during our spring and summer stocking. Spring stocking included 100, 12-17" palominos, 12-14" brook trout in all lakes except Shagwa, 16 – 20" browns stocked in Erie, Apache and Letitia. Aquatics Associates stocked 500 pounds of Donaldson strain rainbows in Shagwa. Our fall stocking of 12-15" rainbows will begin the last week of September for all lakes except Shagwa. We may be adding additional Donaldson rainbows to Shagwa this fall. We stocked our normal quantity of grass carp to help with moss control in June. Walleyes 7-9" were stocked in Apache last Fall.

Member Reports: The Donaldson rainbows stocked in Shagwa have been very well received by our members. Overall, the fishing reports and comments from members have been very positive. Members have caught several 19" plus palominos in all of the lakes as well as a good number of larger trout in all varieties.

Fish Surveys: A fish survey began in 2017 and continued this year for Apache and Nokomis in an effort to determine the effect of perch on both lakes. Data will be analyzed for fish growth comparing a regulated lake with a non-regulated lake. Hopefully, we will be able to determine if the perch population affects the food source for trout and the growth rate of the trout. Results from 89 Apache surveys and 112 Nokomis surveys:

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Trout 12-15"</u>	<u>Trout 16-19"</u>	<u>Trout (20"+)</u>	<u>Trout kept</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Perch</u>
Apache	492	120	17	55	25	37
Nokomis	602	227	9	3	NA	15

We saw a 60% increase in 12-19" trout caught at Apache and a 37% increase in 12-19" trout caught at Nokomis this year compared to 2018. Perch caught increased by 50% at Apache, remained the same at Nokomis as last year. There was an increase in walleye caught at Apache. We will continue the surveys in 2020.

Shagwa: The Board of Directors and fishing members were very excited about returning Shagwa to a productive fishery. As mentioned above the Donaldson rainbows stocked exceeded our expectations in popularity. The Donaldson are a very aggressive fish when feeding and when caught. We will stock additional Donaldson in Shagwa in the future, at this time the only trout variety planned for Shagwa. Our fish Biologist's forage survey this summer determined the fathead minnows, crayfish and insect populations are in great shape. This is good news for the growth of the Donaldson. We conducted surveys this summer to track the growth rate and will continue in 2020. Results from 62 surveys:

LENGTH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	TROUT KEPT
12' – 15"	32	8	14	8	5
16" – 20"	19	48	34	22	