

# OKLAHOMA

## Taft Lake

Public Property Reservoir. 52 minutes from home to **35.73673 -95.53358**

Taft Institution Lake is 9.1 miles from Muskogee, in Muskogee County, near Taft, OK.

Taft Lake. The following special rules govern public use at Taft Lake:

- (1) Camping is permitted, but limited to three (3) days. Camping is permitted only in designated camping areas.
- (2) Boats and motors are permitted. All boats and motors must comply with existing state boat regulations and boat operators must obey Oklahoma State Boat Laws. All boats must be operated at no-wake speed (six '6' miles per hour or less) and may not be left on the water or the lake area longer than the limit on camping.
- (3) Water skiing and swimming are prohibited.
- (4) Disposal of trash, refuse and debris is prohibited, except in designated trash containers. This includes organic and inorganic materials.
- (5) Commercial concessions and private development on State property are prohibited. Soliciting, advertising or promoting any commercial or private activity is prohibited. The use of these areas for any commercial operation in any way is prohibited.
- (6) Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.
- (7) Boat houses, ramps, docks and other facilities may not be constructed.
- (8) It shall be unlawful to drive, occupy, or park any motor driven vehicle including automobiles, trucks, mini-bikes, motorcycles, etc., except on maintained roads (unless designated as "no parking zones"), designated parking areas, and designated camping areas. It shall be unlawful to operate any vehicle in a manner to create a public nuisance or to park in a "no parking zone". Operators must be licensed drivers.
- (9) Cutting or defacing of trees and vegetation shall be prohibited. Removal of vegetation, soil, rocks, water or minerals is prohibited.
- (10) Vandalism, theft, and damage to State Property is prohibited.
- (11) No person shall use threatening, abusive, or indecent language, participate in a disorderly assemblage, nor publicly appear nude or intoxicated.
- (12) After 10:00 p.m. and until 5:00 a.m., all areas will be restricted to fishing and fishing related activities only.
- (13) Fishing is permitted under regular fishing rules and regulations of the Department and State Statutes.
- (14) No person may fish with more than two (2) poles or rods.
- (15) Trotlines, throwlines, limblines, juglines, nets, seines, yo-yo's, spearguns, and the taking of fish by noodling or bow fishing and taking of bait minnows by any method is prohibited.
- (16) Firearms, bows and trapping shall not be allowed on the area.

Editorial: Make it on the water by 8:00am. Lots and lots of good water grass to throw into and against. The lake is a lot nicer than expected pretty clear water, not crystal, but not too dirty.

So it begins... no top water bite, no swim bait bite, no spinnerbait bite. Cannot figure these fish out. Finally after throwing



a ton of stuff I hook up on a 1 pounder with a KVD 1.5 square bill black back chartreuse . Then nothing after that. Find a

little bit of brush and start throwing an Ocho  into it, nothing. I think to myself great job picking Taft lake.



Then I think well lots of green grass and moss, and my watermelon swim jig matches it pretty well. I'll give that a shot. BOOM Bass number 2 hits. Then BOOM bass number 3 hits. Okay not a fluke just caught two pretty quick. Then just a few minutes later big mamma hits! Sneaky thing too, doesn't even hit hard just picks it up. When it gets close to the two man I finally realize she is pretty big, and that's when she starts to fight after she gets a good look at me! Get her in, and bust out the Boga's. Its a nice 4 1/2 pound Taft Lake bass!

Catch a few more. for a total of 6 on Taft Lake. Call it a day at 12:00. Not the best day ever by far, but since I caught the 4 1/2 it seemed to me like a really good day and totally worth it.

Saw two other boats out there Talked to one just after catching my 4 1/2 and had to brag about it. They had been skunked so far. I don't mind sharing lure information; I gladly told them what i caught it on. My thought is you still gotta throw in the right place and catch them. What works today doesn't mean it will work tomorrow and of course they don't have the same tackle as me so who knows if they even have that lure, and by the way their responds sounded like they didn't even have much watermelon colors.