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## **[Food Habits of Adult Predators during Winter Drawdown in Norris Reservoir](#)**

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Data collection was completed to determine food habits of adult predators (black bass, striped bass, walleye, catfish) during the winter drawdown periods of 1995-96 on Norris Reservoir to see if there was predation on y-o-y game species while they are crowded together. Stomachs from 602 black bass, 85 striped bass, 203 walleye/sauger, and 50 catfish (17 channel/ 33 flathead) were examined for preferred food items. Gut contents indicated clupeids (threadfin/gizzard shad, alewife) and centrarchids (bluegill) were the majority of items ingested by all predator groups. Over 99% of fish eaten by striped bass were alewives and threadfin/gizzard shad; one bluegill was the only other fish identified as a food item. Juvenile crappie were consumed by largemouth and smallmouth bass (2% of all items), sauger (3%), and channel catfish (1%). Crayfish were a substantial item in the diets of black basses.

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