The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission worked with Central Arkansas Water, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local anglers to place more than 850 artificial fish attractors in Lake Maumelle in May, 2010. Placing brush in the lake is illegal because of water-quality concerns. These PVC shelters will not impact the lake’s drinking water supply, but do attract most species of game fish in the lake, including crappie, bream, catfish, white bass and largemouth and spotted bass. They should improve with time as they attract algae and congregate baitfish. Ten popular fishing locations were improved with 50 shelters each and marked with yellow buoys. The remaining shelter sites were chosen by volunteers and enhanced with 5 to 25 shelters each. These locations do not have physical markers, but GPS coordinates are available on this map and www.agfc.com/resources/Pages/googleEarthMaps.aspx.

Finding unmarked shelters requires use of a GPS and a depth finder, but should provide good fishing opportunities.

Marked Sites

Buoys were deployed in areas that were already known to hold fish. The additional habitat should greatly increase the concentration of fish in these areas. Please don’t tie boats off to the buoys, as there is a risk that a boat could become entangled in the chains attached to them. When anchoring, it’s best to locate the shelters and anchor nearby so the anchor doesn’t become caught in the shelters.

This buoy is in 24 feet of water over an old pond. The water surrounding the pond is much shallower, 10-15 feet deep. Attractors are evenly distributed around the buoy. This area should produce bream, crappie and catfish most of the year.

This buoy is in 12 feet of water over the roadbed of old Arkansas Highway 10. A creek channel runs nearby, and the water gets deeper north and south of the roadbed. Attractors are evenly distributed around the buoy at many depths. This area should hold bream and crappie most of the time, and seasonally attract largemouth, spotted and white bass.

This buoy is in 21 feet of water on a small hump created by a bend in the river channel. Attractors are evenly distributed around the buoy. This area should hold bream, and is an excellent cold-weather crappie hole.

This buoy marks attracted placed in 26 feet of water on channel bends near the east side of Snake Island. This should be one of the better catfish holes on Lake Maumelle.

This buoy is in 17 feet of water on a long point on the south side of Big Island. Attractors are evenly distributed east and the west of the buoy, on both sides of the point. This area should be a great place to catch bream and crappie.

This buoy is in 12 feet of water on a hump surrounded by deeper water. Most of the attractors are directly north of the buoy. This area should provide excellent opportunities to catch bream, crappie and bass in spring and fall, when they are shallow.

This buoy sits in 20 feet of water. About 25 percent of the attractors are between the buoy and the shore; the rest are on the lake-side of the buoy in a line from south to north. This area should hold crappie, spotted bass and saugeye from late spring until fall.

This buoy is in 22 feet of water, with attractors evenly distributed around it. Largemouth and spotted bass should be found in this area during early spring and early summer. Bream and crappie should be abundant during warmer months.

This buoy is in 15 feet of water on the west point of Buoy Island near the river channel. About 20 percent of the attractors are on the island-side of the buoy; the rest are on the slope of the point west, into the main lake. This should be an excellent place to catch spotted bass and bream.

This buoy is in 17 feet of water over an old cattle pond levee. Attractors are on top of the levee and down its sides as the water drops to 25+ feet. This area can hold most species found in the lake at different times of year.