

What's the biggest fish in the lake and what type of fish are in the lake?

The largest fish in the lake is probably a catfish, closely followed by large mouthed bass. It has been awhile since I have seen a catfish caught in Boronda Lake, so they are fairly uncommon. There is seldom a week that goes by when I do not see a fisherman catch a bass or perch.

From ask the ranger question #16 "What type of fish are in the park?"

There are large mouthed bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), red cheeked perch (*Perca sp.* there are many species of perch native to the United States), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) and crayfish (unknown species and genus, it's the thing that looks like a mini lobster – there are over 330 species in the United States alone that are in several families).

Most of the fish in Boronda are left overs from the last time the lake was stocked more than 10 years ago. From what we can tell from talking with fisherman we have a relatively stable population of these fishes. The mosquito fish were probably put in the lake by Santa Clara County Vector Control to keep levels of mosquitoes down (their favorite food is mosquito larvae). It is uncertain where the crayfish (also the assorted other fish, bullfrogs and other amphibians) came from; many were probably dropped off by park visitors trying to find home for their overgrown or unwanted pets.

We try to discourage the introduction of pets into wild ecosystems. Often they cause a great deal of harm to native populations that may be endangered to begin with (for instance bullfrogs eat red legged tree frogs (protected by the Endangered Species Act since 1996)).