

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE Fishing Report



Friday September 1st, 2017

News and Information

Bag Limits Lifted at Sylvan Lake State Park Starting September 1

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has authorized an [emergency fish salvage](#) at Sylvan Lake State Park, lifting bag limits for all species in the reservoir beginning September 1st, until further notice. A spawning closure will remain in place from the reservoir's inlet to a half mile upstream between September 1st and November 30th. Anglers are prohibited from fishing in this area until December 1st to protect spawning brown and brook trout. Next spring, CPW will drain the lake almost entirely to work on a major construction project to repair and upgrade the lake's dam.

Monitoring Finds Evidence of Quagga Mussel Larvae in Green Mountain Reservoir

State and federal officials have confirmed the presence of [invasive quagga mussel larvae](#), known as veligers, in Green Mountain Reservoir located in Summit County along Hwy 9 between Silverthorne and Kremmling. On August 18th, as part of a state and federal initiative to monitor aquatic nuisance species in the state, specialists with the Bureau of Reclamation first confirmed the presence of the veligers, initially through microscopic analysis followed by DNA testing. An independent laboratory contracted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife confirmed Reclamation's findings. It is unknown if the veligers were dead or alive at the time of detection.

Fly Fishing Basics Class at Mueller State Park, September 2

Learn the difference between fly fishing and spin casting. This event will be held at [Mueller State Park](#) on September 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Guests of all ages are invited to join us. All interested will meet at the Dragonfly Pond.

Crawfishin' Expedition at Eleven Mile State Park, September 3

Join Eleven Mile State Park Interpreter Charlene, for this [crawfishin' expedition](#) to hunt the wily crawdads of Eleven Mile Reservoir. Poles and bait will be provided, as well as a few tasty crawdad recipes! Bring a container for your catch. This event will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and all guests will meet at the North Shore Amphitheater.

2017 Elkhead Reservoir Tournament Results

The 2nd annual [Elkhead Reservoir Fishing Classic tournament](#) took place June 24th through July 2nd. This tournament targeted both smallmouth bass and northern pike, with no bag or possession limits. A total of 332 anglers removed 963 smallmouth bass and 395 northern pike, for a total of 1,358 fish. Smallmouth bass ranged in size from 4 to 19 inches, and northern pike ranged in size from 3 to 41 inches.

Black Crappie Record Broken After 27 Years

Weighing in at 3 lbs. 7.84 oz, and 17.472 inches, the [black crappie](#) caught at the Frank Easement West Pond off Hwy 392 in Windsor has broken a 27 year record. The previous state record fish was caught in La Plata County in 1990 and weighed 3.22 lbs. Northeast region aquatic biologist Ben Swigle was on hand to weigh and measure the fish at the Fort Collins office.



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Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Beckwith Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Brush Hollow Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Casey Pond	Northwest Region	9/1/2017
Catamount Reservoir North	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Catamount Reservoir South	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Clear Creek Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Cottonwood Lake	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Crystal Creek Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Dragonfly Pond	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Fetcher City Pond	Northwest Region	9/1/2017
Fountain Lake	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Green Mountain Falls Lake	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Horseshoe Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Lake O'Haver	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Martin Lake	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Monument Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
North Lake	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Rosemont Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Runyon Lake	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Schryver Park Pond	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Tarryall Reservoir	Northeast Region	9/1/2017
Trinidad Central Park Lake	Southeast Region	9/1/2017
Wahatoya Lake Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/1/2017

Catch of the Week



Justin R. with an 18 inch wiper caught out of Lake Pueblo.

Have a fish you're proud of? [Share your photo](#)

Conditions Report - Metro Area

Aurora Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 70 degrees. The trout fishing has slowed down and is currently rated as slow to fair. The best fishing area has been in the deeper water off the dam using PowerBait and crawlers casted out far from shore with a slip rig. Boat anglers are reporting fair to good success trolling for trout with pop gear, crawlers, and silver bright colored spoons and spinners. We have also received reports from boat anglers doing well for trout when anchoring in 25 to 35 feet of water and dropping down PowerBait and crawlers. The walleye fishing has been up and down lately, but some large walleye over 22 inches are being caught recently. There have been some reports of anglers getting bites trolling with bottom bouncers and jigs tipped with crawlers and leeches. The perch fishing is good using jigs and worms in 20 to 30 feet of water.

Quincy Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 71 degrees and the water level is low while continuing to drop. Aquatic vegetation is heavy along the shoreline. Boat rentals are unavailable due to the low water levels. The trout fishing is slow. The bass fishing is rated as slow to fair for shore and boat anglers. We have received reports of soft plastics, chatter baits, and top water lures working in 10 to 15 feet of water near the weed lines.

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

Anglers are reporting excellent fishing conditions as of recently. The trout are feeding well and anglers are having luck throughout the reservoir. Fly anglers are using streamer and leech patterns when there is no current insect activity. Once the midge and callibaetis start hatching, anglers are having success using bead head nymphs and a chironomid under an indicator. The larger fish have become more difficult to catch as of recently, but trout in the 12 to 16 inch range are being caught consistently.

Boyd Lake

The fishing has been really slow at Boyd Lake this summer. The trout and walleye seem to be the most consistently active fish throughout the lake. It is highly suggested that anglers spend most of their time fishing early mornings and late evenings, for the daytime fishing is very slow. Fishing with aggressive presentations has not been effective for boat anglers trolling and spin anglers casting hard baits. The anglers who are catching a few fish are using subtle presentations such as jigs, plastics, and flies.

[Boyd Lake State Park](#)

Carter Lake

The current water temperature is around 70 degrees and the water level is low. Anglers are having some success catching trout and walleye near the bottom of the lake. Boat anglers are having the most success when trolling bottom bouncers with worm harnesses. The morning and evening are the most productive fishing times. Shoreline anglers are having luck mainly in the evenings using spinners, Kastmasters, and streamers.

Eleven Mile Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 65 degrees and the water clarity is good with a slight green tint. The trout are biting well for anglers fishing from shore or boat, and the fish are averaging 15 inches in length. Spoons, jerk baits, and streamers are working well throughout the reservoir. Anglers are getting the most bites fishing near large boulders and fishing on top of the weed beds in 10 to 15 feet of water. Boat anglers are having some luck trolling in the deeper water for trout. The pike fishing is rated as slow to fair as of recently. Anglers are reporting seeing large pike swimming near the shallows, but the bites have been slow to average. Some anglers are starting to catch kokanee salmon from the shoreline, which means the kokanee are beginning to transition into their staging areas for the annual fall spawn.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Jackson Lake

The current water temperature is around 74 degrees. The water level is still good and the lake is roughly five feet down. The lake is open to boating. The fishing has been good for channel catfish, walleye, freshwater drum, and wiper. The best fishing is often during the early morning and in late evening hours.

[Jackson Lake State Park](#)

North Sterling

The current water temperature is around 78 degrees and the lake is about 22 feet down. The wiper and crappie fishing is starting to pick up at the South Ramp and Balance Rock for anglers using worms, minnow mimics, and mussels. The walleye fishing has been slow as of recently. The catfish are being caught at the West Trailhead and off the South Ramp mainly at night. They are having luck using mussels, chicken liver, and shrimp.

[North Sterling State Park](#)

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

Anglers have been seeing good northern pike fishing at Spinney Mountain Reservoir. The smaller fish in the 20 to 30 inch range are biting really well, but anglers are also catching some big fish. Boat anglers are having the most success fishing near the weed beds with spoons and Kastmasters. Some shore anglers are also having luck using Kastmasters. A metal leader is a must for the pike.

[Spinney Mountain State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River Headwaters

The upper river is in excellent shape and it is currently very easy to wade. We are seeing a lot of caddis and pale morning dun activity through Hayden Meadows down to Granite. Grasshoppers are beginning to become more important as the larger aquatic insect activity in the river slows down. The flows at the middle river section have increased slightly. We are still experiencing good dry fly fishing and the fish are responding to attractor dries imitating grasshoppers and stoneflies. There are red quills and pale morning duns hatching during the day, which is bringing the fish to the surface. At these flows, do not be afraid of tying on smaller patterns. Midges have been productive droppers in the morning and mayfly nymphs sizes 16 to 18 work well through the afternoons. The key to catching fish right now is finding the right water. The fish are beginning to disperse away from the shoreline, so spend more time choosing the right location and adjusting your dropper depth until you find the sweet spot.

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

Clear Creek Reservoir

The trout fishing at Clear Creek Reservoir has been fair as of recently. The size of the rainbow trout being caught by anglers ranged from 8 to 12 inches in length. Both sherbet colored PowerBait or yellow Berkley's Floating Magnum Eggs can be productive for shore fishermen in late August. Casting blue and silver colored Kastmasters from a boat is an effective way to land trout. A few trout were picked up at the southeast part of the reservoir by anglers trolling Mepp's spinners in a size zero. The kokanee salmon fishing remains very slow. A kokanee salmon was caught on a squid tipped with a piece of corn near dawn.

John Martin Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 79 degrees and the reservoir is full. The water clarity is around 4 feet with some stained tint. The fishing is rated as slow to fair. The wiper are biting well for anglers using crank baits and jerk baits. The catfish are being caught near the inlet on a variety of baits and lures. The walleye fishing is very slow as of recently. Anglers are reporting a lot of brush and weeds near the lake bottom where the fish are being caught, so be careful not to lose too many lures.

[John Martin State Park](#)

Lake Pueblo

The current water temperature is around 77 degrees. The fishing has been fair to good lately. Look for the walleye to be in the deeper water. Lindy rigs, grubs, and live bait are producing good walleye bites. The bass fishing is improving and soft plastics, spinner baits, and crank baits will still produce some fish. Top water baits are working well in the early morning. Fishing early and late in the day has been the most productive time for anglers. We have not received many reports on the trout fishing as of recently. The catfish are being caught on the west end of the lake by anglers using chicken liver.

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Lake John

The fishing at Lake John has slowed down a little, but is still rated as fair to good. The water clarity is around 6 feet and fairly clear. The weed beds are getting thick, so anglers should use caution to avoid snags and dragging weeds. Most anglers are catching stocker sized trout in the 9 to 12 inch range. Spinners and spoons have been effective for spin anglers while streamers and dry flies are working well for fly anglers.

State Forest State Park

The fishing conditions are remaining steady at North Michigan Reservoir. Good sized rainbow trout and cutthroat trout are being caught throughout the reservoir. Flies are currently the best option for anglers. Any caddis or attractor dry fly has been working well. The fishing at Ranger Lakes is slow, but some fish are biting worms and PowerBait. The high alpine lakes are fishing great for both spin and fly anglers. Anglers are catching plenty of cutthroat trout in the 14 to 18 inch range on dry flies and spinners.

[State Forest State Park](#)

Vega

The Island boat ramp is open. Early Settlers and Oak Point boat ramps are closed for the season. All boats must have an inspection prior to launching. The fishing has been good with anglers reporting catching some nice rainbows in the 12 to 16 inch range using PowerBait, worms, and spinners.

[Vega State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 75 degrees and the water level is very high. The water still has around 7 feet of visibility, but the algae is creating some green tint to the reservoir. We have not received many reports on the kokanee salmon and trout fishing, but the perch fishing has been excellent. The fish are being found in less than 30 feet of water and they are averaging large in size. Anglers are having luck using small jigs tipped with worms and gulp minnows. Jigging is currently the most effective method, so shore anglers may have some difficulty catching fish.

Navajo Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 70 degrees at Two Rivers Marina. Anglers are reporting good fishing for pike, bass, and catfish. The pike and bass are biting on crank baits and Kastmasters. The catfish are being caught in deeper water on jigs and plastics. Colorado and New Mexico fishing licenses are available at the parks visitor center.

[Navajo State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

Rivers and Creeks

The consistent summer fishing is now reaching the end of the season and anglers should be prepared for changing conditions once we enter autumn. Nighttime temperatures are beginning to drop, creating better fishing opportunities throughout the day. Water levels will stay low and steady until winter, unless we experience some substantial rain storms or snow storms in the high country. The blue winged olives are starting to hatch on some bodies of water, and anglers should expect these hatches to double in size by the end of September. The baetis in Colorado tend to be smaller in size during the fall months compared to the spring months, so anglers should be using smaller dry flies in sizes 18 to 22. Midges will also become a more substantial food choice for the fish as the season continues. Brown trout and kokanee salmon both spawn during the fall and this is a great time of year to start planning a trip for the annual run. Spawning activity is sporadic and difficult to time, so anglers should plan multiple short trips rather than one long trip to a specific location. Streamers are very effective flies for getting territorial strikes from spawning fish. Egg patterns are also very effective for catching fish during the spawn because other fish species will follow the spawning fish upstream to feed on their eggs. Fishing during the early morning and late evening hours will begin to slow down due to cooler temperatures, but anglers can expect good fishing any time of day throughout September.

DNR Fish Reporter



COLORADO

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