

Fishing Report



Friday February 12th, 2021

News and Information

COVID-19 Response

Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds anglers, hunters, and all other outdoor recreationists that it is your responsibility to research and understand the specific guidance, ordinances, and restrictions in place for any planned local recreation - know before you go. To see specific county health orders, visit: [Colorado Counties Safer at Home Map](#).

Blue Mesa Reservoir lake trout tournament kicks off February 1, 2021

The tournament, sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, is free and no registration is required. The tournament continues through July 31 and everyone who chooses to participate during that time has a chance to win cash prizes. The [goal of the tournament is to maintain adequate kokanee fry survival by limiting predation from lake trout](#); and, in turn, to maintain quality kokanee fishing opportunities. Abundant kokanee are also the key to maintaining excellent lake trout growth and condition to support trophy lake trout opportunities at the reservoir.

Ice Fishing Clinic at North Michigan Reservoir.

Learn to ice fish on North Michigan Reservoir at State Forest State Park. The clinic is for all ages and will take place [Saturday February 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All equipment is provided, you just need a vehicle parks pass](#). Park Passes can be purchased at the Moose Visitor Center and any questions can be addressed by contacting the Moose Visitor Center at 970-723-8366.

Work Scheduled on dam at North Michigan Reservoir

Work to rehabilitate the dam at North Michigan Reservoir (State Forest State Park) will begin this summer. In order to do the work, CPW will begin drawing down North Michigan Reservoir beginning April 1. As water drops below the ice, [ice conditions are likely to become unstable and dangerous. For that reason, beginning April 1, the ice will be off limits for any activities.](#)

Field Notes of a Colorado Sportsman: Looking for the perfect winter sport amid a pandemic? Go ice fishing!

As we continue to confront the demand for social distancing amid the global pandemic, I'm convinced there is no better outdoor winter activity than ice fishing. [As I learned last winter, ice fishing is one of the most solitary sports](#) you can engage in, as you venture out on an ice-covered reservoir, drill a hole, drop your lure and sit in your hut waiting for action.

Updates from the Southeast Sportsman Caucus Meeting

"The Southeast Region Caucus gives all Colorado residents an opportunity to have an active voice in how Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages wildlife," said Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Southeast Regional Manager, Brett Ackerman. "It allows all our [outdoors enthusiasts to participate in statewide debates on Colorado Parks and Wildlife policies, regulations, and resource management decisions.](#)"

	<p>Now you can take the #ColoradoOutdoors anywhere. Follow us on @instagram @coparkswildlife! http://instagram.com/coparkswildlife</p>
	<p>Check out our CPW community on Facebook. Colorado anglers can "like" the CPW Facebook page to get tips, share stories and more. If you love the outdoors, this is the place to be. Before you head out, head for facebook.com/ColoradoParksandWildlife/.</p>
	<p>Fish with us on Twitter Colorado anglers can get updates directly from CPW on Twitter. Follow @COParksWildlife.</p>

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Rifle Pond, South	Northwest	1/25/2021
Old Orchard	Northwest	1/26/2021
Roans Pothole	Northwest	1/26/2021
Corn Lake	Northwest	1/26/2021
Fountain Lake	Southeast	1/27/2021
Runyon Lake	Southeast	1/27/2021
Fruita Red Rocks Lake	Northwest	1/28/2021
Snooks Bottom Lake	Northwest	1/28/2021
Highline Lake	Northwest	1/28/2021
Dillon Reservoir	Northwest	2/1/2021
Parachute Pond	Northwest	2/2/2021

Catch of the Week



While fishing St. Vrain Creek, Tyler Smith hooked into a large colorful trout! Congratulations on a gorgeous Catch of the Week Tyler!

Would you like to be featured in the next CPW Fishing Report's Catch of the Week? Share your photo!
Email dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us and put "Catch of the Week" in the subject line

Conditions Report - Metro

Aurora Reservoir

The reservoir is closed to boating for the season. This closure includes all hand launched watercrafts such as float tubes, kayaks, rafts, and paddle boards. As of 2/4/2021 rangers are recommending shore anglers to call ahead prior to heading to the reservoir. Fishing is slow for trout using crawlers and jigs tipped with meal worms. Ice remains only in the coves and is reported to be 4-6 inches thick. Most of the reservoir still open water. Warm temperatures and windy days can deteriorate ice and conditions can change rapidly. Please use extreme caution when ice fishing. For more information call 303-326-8425.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

As of 2/9/2021, park ranger reports "due to the warm weather and wind our ice conditions are deteriorating. Ice can be found in the North Boat Ramp Cove and from Catfish Flats South to the inlet, on warm days spring conditions exist. Few Walleye and Trout have been taken through the ice. Shore anglers are reporting slow fishing for trout.

[Chatfield Reservoir](#)

Cherry Creek Reservoir

As of 2/12/2021, park staff has been handling a wildfire that broke out last Sunday. The reservoir is closed to boating for the season. For the most up-to-date conditions for Cherry Creek Reservoir, please contact park staff by calling 303-690-1166.

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

Standley Lake

The reservoir is closed to paddle craft use until May 1. Ice fishing is not allowed. Most of the reservoir is still open water. Please call ahead prior to heading to the reservoir to get up-to-date lake and shoreline fishing conditions. Contact park staff at 303-425-1097.

[Standley Lake](#)

Quincy Reservoir

Quincy Reservoir is closed for the season. It is scheduled to reopen March 1st, 2021. For more information call 303-326-8424.

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

As of 1/21/2021, Robby Richardson with *Ice Fish Colorado* reported, "All South Park lakes have been getting an enormous amount of pressure and Antero is no exception! This pressure has made for a tougher bite overall, but there is action to be had! We are seeing steady action most days, the key is to keep moving until you get on traffic. Some nice brown trout, cutbows, and rainbows have been showing up too! Best action has been in 6-12 feet of water and smaller tube jigs, Eagle Claw tungsten jigs, on pink, orange, white, glow, and natural colors. Be sure to tip these presentations with a meal worm or wax worm!"

[Ice Fish Colorado](#)
[Antero Reservoir](#)

Barr Lake

As of 2/12/2021 park staff reports that ice conditions are not good at this time and do NOT recommend ice fishing. There is a lot of open water and some areas with ice measuring only two inches. With temperatures increasing throughout the week and strong winds, ice conditions are predicted to deteriorate.

[Barr Lake](#)

Boyd Lake

As of 2/12/2021, please call Boyd Lake State Park at 970-669-1739 to get the most up-to-date ice conditions. Fishing for large and smallmouth bass has been fair using jigs and artificial plastics in 20-30 feet of water. White bass fishing has been poor, folks are using jigs and deep runners in 20-30 feet of water. Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms from the shorelines. Crappie fishing is fair in the marina using Kastmasters and Rapallas. Trout fishing at Boyd is currently excellent using worms, spinners both in the marina and from shorelines. Walleye fishing in the marina is fair using slow death rig, bottom bouncer with chartreuse spinner and worm harness. Yellow perch fishing is also fair and most have been reportedly caught in the marina.

[Boyd Lake](#)

Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of 2/4/2021, "The *11 Mile Marina* reports the lake is 100% capped. The trout fishing is reportedly fair to good. Action has slowed for many but plenty of nice fish being iced. Stocker action at North Shore should be fun this weekend. 15 to 30 feet of water has been a consistently good depth. Stoll and points West always show promise. Rocky Flats all the way to Corral Cove has also seen fun action. We also like Lazy Boy and Howbert. Witchers Cove is holding some really big fish and it is easy access. Duck Island holds big fish too but access is really a challenge in terms of length of hike. If you work the rock drop-offs there are big surprises. It gets so little pressure and big fish don't go traveling around the lake for the most part. They hold to their spots waiting on you.

Kokanee fishing is reportedly fair. It's either hot or it's not. Fish definitely still being caught. Work big spoons, Swedish Pimple PFO in 3, 4 or 5, Krocrodile in Pearl, RB and Kastmaster in CDY and RB. You need to be able to get down fast if they are deep and you are not. We like to keep a small crappie jig or sparkle tube (because we still have a stash) at about 15 feet for the high cruisers and there always seems to be a few of them. Salmon fishing is more than just luck and it takes effort and practice. Northern Pike fishing is reportedly fair to good. The fun season continues for many. Water Dog is the bait of choice. Find a spot with one big one and there is almost always a second hanging around. We have consistently seen big fish in the Marina area. They always seem to have interest but either don't take the bait aggressively or are extremely cautious and out wait you."

<https://www.11milesports.com/fishing-report>
[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Dillon Reservoir

As of 1/29/2021 reports of arctic char have been landed in multiple location on the reservoir using a variety of spoons and teardrop jigs. Kokanee and Snake River cutthroat were still fishing well in the inlet and ice continues to build further into the lake. Swedish pimple and kastmaster tipped with waxworms are proving to do the trick.

[Dillon Reservoir](#)

Evergreen Lake

As of 1/29/2021 Evergreen continues to have excellent fishing conditions and stable ice conditions. Most areas show ice thickness greater than 9 inches. You will most likely not pull any 20-inch rainbows from this water body but it does provide an excellent opportunity to take the family out or show a new angler the ropes.

[Evergreen Lake](#)

Jackson Lake

As of 2/12/2021, please contact park staff for most up-to-date ice conditions. Park staff can be reached by calling 970-645-2551. Most anglers are accessing the ice from the South Beach parking area. Wipers and walleye fishing is fair using a variety of rubber and metal jibs. Live bait has not been very productive in recent weeks. There are still a large number of waterfowl on the central portion of the reservoir and they are keeping some water open in that area. It is NOT recommended that anglers go toward the center of the reservoir.

[Jackson Lake](#)

St. Vrain State Park

As of 2/12/2021, park staff reports mostly open water on all ponds. Skim ice has been building the past few nights and is expected to continue with sub-zero lows forecasted over the next couple of nights. There is no safe ice at this time, however shore angling is available at the park. Park staff will update when 4-inches of ice is present on ponds for ice fishing. Please contact the park for the most up-to-date conditions by calling 303-678-9402.

[St. Vrain State Park](#)

North Sterling Reservoir

As of 2/12/2021, the ice on the lake is a mess of open water with ice and the thickness is unknown. No anglers have reportedly been on the ice as of recent. Shore melt is also an issue with the warmer temperatures and the lake rising. Contact the park for up to date ice conditions at 970-522-3657.

[North Sterling Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

As of 2/10/2021, *Braden Baker with Ark Anglers* writes, "The upper river is very cold and icy. There are some areas between the Lake Creek confluence and Buena Vista that will still offer limited productivity on the warmer days, but generally you'll find more opportunities further south towards Salida during the winter. For those determined to fish the upper section, deep slow runs or pools that receive ample sunlight are going to offer your best chances at finding active fish. If you can locate a pod of fish in the deeper winter water, it's likely you'll find a concentrated population holding together with a lot of vacant water upstream and downstream. Your window of opportunity will be limited to 11am to 2pm. Midges will be your most important forage to imitate, and pairing a small midge larva or pupa with a large attractor nymph like a stonefly is a great way to cover your bases".

Flows: ICE CFS at Hayden Meadows, 114 CFS and ICY at Granite (2/10/2021)

<http://www.arkanglers.com/>

[Arkansas River](#)

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida

As of 2/10/2021, *Braden Baker with Ark Anglers* writes, "The river looks good this morning following milder nighttime temperatures. Winter cold will limit opportunities far north of Salida, but the river from Big Bend downstream will remain productive throughout the majority of the winter, outside of the coldest days. We've had a few decent reports from north of Brown's Canyon near Buena Vista in areas of the river that enjoy good sunlight and spring seep. This time of year your best window to fish will generally be between 10:30am and 2:30pm, particularly in areas that receive ample solar exposure. Fish have migrated to their usual winter lies such as deep, slow runs and pools where they can retreat to safety, but will actively feed out in the nearby runs and riffles when food is available. While you may still find midge hatches prompting sporadic surface feeding, most of the food in the river will be subsurface for the foreseeable future. Stonefly and other large attractor nymphs will be great anchor flies throughout the day, and you'll want to fish midge larva/pupa and caddis larva as droppers. Nymphing will give you the greatest flexibility to cover a range of water types. Not every pool and run will be productive, so it pays to try to find several areas to fish throughout the day. Usually where you find one fish, you'll find several. Strikes are subtle with the colder weather, so be very proactive in setting the hook on the slightest sign of a take. Try to fish in the sun as much as you can, as the solar radiation can make a big difference in fish activity".

Flows: 230 CFS at Helca Junction (2/10/2021)

<http://www.arkanglers.com/>

[Arkansas River](#)

John Martin Reservoir

As of 2/12/2021, the east and west boat ramps have been closed for the season until March 15th, 2021. Anglers are still able to fish from shore. Park staff reports, "There is a thin layer of ice over a large portion of John Martin Reservoir, but certainly not nearly enough to be safe for ice fishing! Where there is open water, shoreline fishing has been slow. There have been a few anglers out there, and haven't heard of anyone having much luck. The best area to try would probably be the stilling basin below the dam. Fishing will pick up dramatically starting around the end of March or into April when we will begin to see the wiper and white bass become more active."

[John Martin Reservoir](#)

Trinidad Lake

As of 2/4/2021, park staff reports the lake is at 603 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6178.19. The water level is rising slightly. The ice conditions are fluctuating. Warm and windy days have melted the ice. Larger areas of open water are now visible with soggy ice around the shorelines. Ice thickness is unknown at this time. Very nice trout are being caught through the ice.

[Trinidad Lake](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Delaney Lakes

As of 2/7/2021, *Lake John Resort* reports, "roads are open, mostly clear and icy in some spots. Fishing has reportedly been slow to steady the past two weeks. Mainly cutbows and rainbows are being caught on waxworms, mealworms, tube jigs, ice dynamic lures, atomic teasers, and earthworm."

North Delaney is fishing steady for browns, cutbows and rainbows 12 to 18 inches.

South Delaney has seen steady action with cutbows, rainbow, and cutthroat, all mostly catch and release.

East Delaney has seen little to no action.

Cowdrey Lake- "We continue to receive poor feedback. Only one (barely) legal sized fish was caught for the 2021 Ice Fishing Tournament at 16 inches. Roads are open and clear. Fishing depth seems to best at a range between 4-10 feet of water. Current ice thickness is between 17 to 20 inches thick."

Big Creek Lakes, "Lake activity has been steady based on the 5 reports received by this author. Splake, Rainbows, and Cutbows are being reported as most caught, ranging between 10 and 25 inches. One Tiger Musky reported. Sucker meat, waxworms and Atomic Teasers seem to be the ticket for large Rainbows and Tiger Muskies. Dynamic Lures (Ice) are doing very well right now too in the glow (translucent), red dragon and rainbow colors."

[Lake John Resort](#)

[North](#), [South](#), [East Delaney](#)

Granby

Fishing with Bernie Guide, Dan Shannon reported on 2/8/2021, "With the recent snow and inconsistent weather pattern fishing has been up and down depending on the day. Travel on the lake is good, large pressure ridge from Elephant Island to Sunset Point is still an area to avoid and is very dangerous. Rainbow and Brown trout bite has been fair for first few hours after sun up then slows dramatically. Small tubes and ice flies tipped with a wax worm will produce bites. Lake trout bite is fair and are being caught in 50'-70' of water. Key has been to find fish that are willing to bite. Staying mobile and looking for areas that have not been pressured as heavily will help find fish that will bite. Typical baits are working such as spoons, tubes, grubs. Colors with contrast seem to be working best, dark jig head/light body or Glow head/dark body."

[Fishing with Bernie](#)

[Lake Granby](#)

Grand Lake

Fishing with Bernie Guides reported as of 2/8/2021, "Fishing has been slow to fair for all species. Rainbows and Browns are being caught on small spoons and plastics in less than 20' of water. Lake Trout are the being caught on small grubs tipped with sucker between 40' and 80'. Staying mobile and using your electronics is the key to finding active fish."

[Fishing with Bernie](#)

[Grand Lake](#)

Green Mountain Reservoir

As of 2/12/2021, Green Mountain Reservoir reported 11 to 18 inches of ice. Anglers found success with white tube jigs tipped with sucker meat as well as tungsten jigs tipped with mealworms.

[Green Mountain Reservoir](#)

Lake John

As of 2/7/2021, *Lake John Resort* reports "Lake John still has quality fish coming out right now however, the biting continues to be slow since the 2021 Lake John/Cowdrey Lake Ice Fishing Tournament. However, pictures of 20-inch plus Cutbows (primarily) are coming in daily from ice anglers. Best artificial tackle of late has been tube jigs (chartreuse), Dynamic Lures (glow, cutthroat ice & red dragon), atomic teasers (all colors), and jigs set with all types of worms. Road access to the Lake John is open and clear. Access to drive onto the ice are accessible via both North and South boat ramps. Roads around the East side of the lake are impassable due to snow drifts. Fishing in depths of 4-10 feet of water has statistically been the most successful. Current ice thickness is between 17 to 20 inches thick.

[Lake John Resort](#)
[Lake John](#)

Steamboat Lake

As of 2/12/2021, park staff reports the ice is approximately 18 inches thick. Depending on the day and temperatures, the top can get very slushy. The fishing remains good, there have been several good fish pulled out of the lake so far this ice fishing season. Anglers are doing well with light colored jigs (white and pink) and mealworms. Call the visitor center, (970) 879-3922, for up-to-date information on lake conditions, open daily 8am-4pm.

[Steamboat Lake](#)

Vega Reservoir

As of 2/9/2021, according to *conditions contributor Andrew Morlang*, "the fishing at Vega Reservoir has remained steady despite constant heavy pressure from anglers. The ice is still plenty thick for your snowmobiles and is well over 12 inches. Quality fish measuring 14" to 18" have been hitting ice jigs tipped with wax and mealworms in 5-15 feet of water. Another popular bait that seems to be working well are pink tubes (such as a trout magnet) with a slight jigging motion. The bite seems to be good all around the lake, however I have noticed increased fish activity near the dam at fisherman's flats, which in turn is where most anglers set up shop. If you are looking to get away from the weekend crowds, fishing off of any point on the lake in that 5-15 feet range should guarantee you a catch if you are patient. In my opinion, the fish have been rather aggressive and like a steady jigging motion just a few feet off the bottom. I have also had a good amount of success fishing this reservoir after dark. The bite seems to pick up around 4 and carries on well into the night until I get too cold to stay any longer (I have landed multiple nice fish past 7). Once night hits, I like to go up in size in the lure to add a little more thump in the water. Sweedish pimples or similar lures (still tipped with a worm) seem to do the trick after night."

[Vega Reservoir](#)

Williams Fork Reservoir

Fishing with Bernie Guides reported on 2/8/2021 "Fishing has slowed since the start of the season, but the lake trout bite remains fair to good. Best bite for lake trout is early, may have to move a few times to find fish that will bite. Small spoons such as Leach Flutter Spoon tipped with sucker has been working well. Look for rainbows and browns around the inlet area, and in water less than 15' with best bite being at sun up and sun down."

[Fishing with Bernie](#)
[Williams Fork Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Animas River at Durango

As of 1/25/2021, *Duranglers* report, "Snow has moved in and fishing can be sporadic. Overnight lows have dropped so watch the temperatures. Sizes: 16-22 nymphs are preferred, but weight is more important than the fly."

Flows: 100 CFS at Durango (2/11/2021)

[Duranglers](#)
[Animas River](#)

Blue Mesa Reservoir

As of 1/21/2021, Robby Richardson with *Ice Fish Colorado* reports, "Blue Mesa reservoir is completely capped! It froze in several phases and ice thickness varies so use extreme caution! There are some large pressure ridges in Cebolla, around Middle Bridge, West Elk, Soap Creek, and Sapinero so use caution! From the Narrows/Elk Creek eastward has a solid blanket of several inches of snow. From Cebolla west to the dam has patchy snow with 2-4" of drifted snow in the patches and clear black ice in the open areas. Trout fishing remains very good most days, especially along rocky shorelines. We've only heard a few salmon reports and overall the kokanee salmon bite has been fair to slow. If you can find them, the bite can be good! Yellow perch has been about the same...if you can find them, the bite can be good! Lake trout action has been good for smaller fish, but the bigger fish have been very finicky so far. We have been working hard for all of our big fish bites and some days it all comes together!"

[Ice Fish Colorado](#)
[Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

Dolores River

As of 1/25/2021 *Duranglers* report, “The river is going to be mostly frozen until you get close to the dam. The gate is closed so it will be a walk to open water. Midges and small mayfly nymphs are your go-to”.

Flows: N/A Near Slick Rock (2/12/2021)

[Duranglers](#)

[Dolores River](#)

Island Lake

As of 2/9/2021, *conditions contributor Andrew Morlang* reports, “This popular lake on the Grand Mesa hasn't slowed down one bit since people started hitting the ice back late fall. Popular spots include 15-20 feet off the island in any direction, and a majority of the shore line in around 20 feet of water. While the state record Splake was caught in this body of water, don't expect to catch many fish over 13 inches. Fish quality < Fish quantity. Use the smallest jig in your tackle box and tip it with either a wax or mealworm. Make sure to leave plenty of hook point exposed, as these fish are small and will nibble your bait away without you even knowing. If you find a good spot at this lake you can easily catch 10+ fish in a morning of fishing. Most anglers have been catching rainbows, splake and brooke trout. The occasional brown trout has been seen but don't expect many as they seem to be few and far between.”

[Island Lake](#)

Jackson Gulch Reservoir - Mancos State Park

As of 2/12/2021, staff at Mancos State Park report the lake is ice covered and people are fishing it with over 12 inches of ice in most areas along the dam. There may be areas that get suddenly thinner near mid-lake as it was slow to freeze. Look for changes in ice color and check ice as you move. Colorado ice is always highly variable. Use extreme caution when assessing ice condition. Good action for rainbow trout 10-12 inches and yellow perch averaging 5 inches. A few larger rainbows being caught, along with a few perch near 14 inches! Splake (a brook trout/lake trout cross) are also being caught occasionally. For pretty constant action (great for kids new to ice fishing) use a 1/8 oz. lead-head or “teardrop” jig tipped with a small piece of worm or 'crawler. Light line is helpful to keep the line tight with that light jig. A very good setup is a braided line so you can really feel and it doesn't stretch so hooksets are firm, and then run a leader of light, flexible fluorocarbon line about 10 feet or so on the end of your braid. Let that light jig go all the way to bottom and bring it up about 6 to 12 inches. This should produce a pretty constant stream of small perch.

Try larger jigs rigged as above for rainbows and splake. Jigging rapalas, and small spoons also produce.

Water level is very low, so there's a long walk through the snow to the lake edge. Standard ice fishing approached: small teardrop jigs (tipped with crawler, waxworm or mealworm), jigging spoons like the Swedish Pimple, and baithooks with PowerBait, 'crawlers, waxworms, and mealworms will work for both trout and yellow perch. Most yellow perch are small but ice fishing is a great time of year to catch some of the larger perch. We remind you to maintain distance from others while enjoying the fresh air, and to bring your hand sanitizer for using the park's waterless restrooms.

[Jackson Gulch Reservoir](#)

James M. Robb Colorado River

As of 2/12/2021, park staff report that ice conditions are extremely variable across the park. Fishing has been continues to be good using a variety of jigs and lures. Please ensure the responsible and ethical release of fish and properly dispose of fishing line. Remember, the daily limit for trout is four fish per person.

[James M. Robb Colorado River](#) - [Corn, Fruita, and Connected Lakes](#)

San Juan River at Pagosa Springs

As of 1/25/2021 *Duranglers* report, “temps have dropped with recent storms. Below the hot springs, there might be a few warmer fish. Small nymphs and midges will be the go-to.

Flows: 54.8 CFS at Pagosa Springs (2/11/2021)

[Duranglers](#)

[San Juan River](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

Statewide Conditions

Now that we are into the month of February, we notice a shift in fishing conditions. With winter setting in, we see low flows and clear waters. This means anglers must be more careful not to spook the fish when approaching the water. Browns have also finished spawning for the season, so be cautious of redds when wading along the rivers. With most of the waters beginning to ice over, anglers will have to primarily rely on tailwaters, which refer to the waters below dams or any other structure that regulates water flow. The regulated water flow keeps the spots from freezing over and provides warmth for the cold-blooded trout. Even with the warmer conditions of these waters, the fish will still behave sluggishly. Fish diets in the winter are made up primarily of midges and an assortment of small blue-winged olive nymphs and are occasionally supplemented by larger mayflies, annelids, trout eggs, stoneflies, and even caddis larva. Winter fishing typically consists of a lot of nymph fishing since the trout are not overly active due to the cold water temperatures, so try using stonefly nymphs and imitation midges. Remember that the hatches are much smaller in the winter, so keep your flies in the #16 to #20 range. It is also important to be mindful of your split shot usage. With the fish being sluggish, they aren't going to divert too much for food, so making sure those flies drift directly in their path is important. Be sure not to use too much split shot though because the last thing you'll want to do is to have to retrieve a snag in those cold waters. As the trout continue to get a later start, anglers should mirror that and look for ideal times to be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tip of the Week - Ice Safety

Follow these safety tips to prevent a fatal mistake:

- Be aware of ice and weather conditions by checking online or calling ahead. Educate yourself on proper tools and techniques for checking ice conditions. Looks can be deceiving! Always test the ice rather than relying on its appearance
- The buddy-system is best on the ice so try not to go alone. Let someone know your plan and where you're going. If someone is in need of rescue, call 911 for help - attempting a rescue could cause you to also fall through the ice.
- Always wear a life jacket or float coat. Wear a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) over winter clothing. Life jackets provide excellent flotation and protection from the cold.
- Assemble personal safety items, such as ice picks and a whistle, which should be attached to you while on the ice. Other essential equipment includes a rope or throw bag and a cell phone. Keep your cell phone in a secure pocket or waterproof pouch to make it more accessible if calling for help.
- Wait to enjoy alcoholic beverages. Alcohol in your system increases the likelihood of hypothermia and poor choices. Stay hydrated with water and warm liquids.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times. Never allow your pet to run out onto the ice and do not walk your pet near a frozen lake or pond without a leash. If your dog falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue. Call for help.
- Remember: Reach-Throw-Go. If someone falls through the ice and you can't reach the person from shore, throw a flotation device or rope. If you still can't quickly help the person, go or call for help.
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If you fall through the ice, remember these tips:

- Try to Stay Calm. This will help you to conserve as much energy as possible.
- Act slowly and deliberately to conserve heat. Expect a progressive decrease in your strength and ability to move. Make the harder maneuvers at the beginning, while you can.
- Do not try to swim. Swimming will cause your body to lose heat much faster and will use up energy than if you stay as still as possible.
- Try to get your arms onto the ice. Kick your feet as hard as you can to help lift you onto the ice, use your ice picks to grab onto the ice and then roll to safety.
- If you can't get out by yourself, try to keep your upper body above water to conserve body heat. Use your whistle or yell to alert others that you need help.

We love to hear back from our subscribers regarding fishing reports, tips, and requests of material you would like to start seeing more of. Any useful feedback helps us make our fishing reports a "go-to" resource for anglers fishing Colorado's waters. If you would like to report water and/or fishing conditions to be used in the next fishing report, feel free to submit a report to dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us.

DNR Fish Reporter



COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources