

Fishing Report



Friday March 13th, 2020

News and Information

Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

Boyd Lake opens to boating; other boat ramps, campgrounds opening soon across Northeast Region

With spring inching closer, some of the warmer-weather outdoor activities will begin to pick-up in the coming days and weeks. [Colorado Parks and Wildlife is issuing an update on projected openings to campgrounds and boating](#) at its Northeast Region parks and state wildlife areas. Learn more about boating, camping or other outdoor activities by visiting cpw.state.co.us. For more information on mandatory aquatic nuisance species inspections, please visit <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/ISP-ANS.aspx>.

Cherry Creek State Park opens to boating Friday (3/13/2020)

[Cherry Creek State Park will open for boating this Friday \(3/13/2020\) at 6 a.m.](#)

Due to early season conditions please keep a lookout for possible floating debris and always be aware that unmarked hazards may exist. If debris or hazards are discovered, please notify park staff. Before boating, check that your vessel has all of the required safety items on board and plugs are in place. Learn more about boating safety by visiting <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/BoatingSafety.aspx>.

All trailered vessels must go through an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) inspection prior to launching. The east boat ramp will be open for ANS inspections 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the month of March. In April, it will be open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and in May 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Highline Lake State Park kicks off the boating season and welcomes safe, clean boats for daytime hours

[Colorado Parks and Wildlife officially opened the boat ramp at Highline Lake State Park on March 4](#), kicking off the warm-weather season. The early open is great news for park visitors as trails and campground facilities continue to warm up under the western Colorado sunshine. Bring your boats, fishing gear, jet skis, water skis, wake boards and wet or dry suits and enjoy a day on the lake.

Boat ramp improvement project begins in Fruita

Thanks to a Colorado Parks and Wildlife project that begins this week, boaters who use the boat ramp at the Fruita section of the [James M. Robb Colorado River State Park will soon be getting an expanded ramp that will be easier](#) for river floaters and power boaters. “The project takes the older, single ramp and creates two separate ramps so that the unique needs of rafters and power boaters will be met,” said Park Manager Pete Firmin. “The ramps will be closed during construction but it will be a great asset for all river users when it reopens.”

	<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
Eleven Mile Reservoir	Northeast	2/27/2020
Eleven Mile Reservoir	Northeast	2/27/2020
Anticline Lake	Southeast	2/25/2020
Arkansas River #3B	Southeast	2/25/2020
Runyon Lake	Southeast	2/26/2020
Fountain Lake	Southeast	2/26/2020
Pueblo West Pond	Southeast	2/26/2020
Corn Lake	Northwest	2/25/2020
Fruita Red Rocks Lake	Northwest	2/26/2020
Highline Lake	Northwest	2/26/2020
Mack Mesa Lake	Northwest	2/26/2020
Hasty Lake	Southeast	3/4/2020
Ordway Reservoir	Southeast	3/4/2020
Boyd Lake	Northeast	3/6/2020
Trinidad Reservoir	Southeast	3/5/2020
Trinidad Central Park Lake	Southeast	3/5/2020
Quail Lake	Southeast	3/6/2020
Prospect Lake	Southeast	3/6/2020
Old Orchard	Northwest	3/5/2020
Parachute Pond	Northwest	3/5/2020

Catch of the Week



Kieyla displaying her beautiful brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) that she caught and released back into Seaman Reservoir!

Have a fish you are proud of? 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

This 762-acre impoundment is located off of E. Quincy Avenue, two miles east of E-470. As of **3/8/2020**, Aurora Reservoir is iced over but conditions are extremely poor! The ranger recommends that no one goes out! There is some open water for shore fishing on the south shore of the reservoir. The reservoir is closed to boating at this time, this includes all hand launched watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, rafts, paddle boards etc. For more information call 303-326-8425.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

This 1,356 impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. As of **3/12/2020**, it is being reported that ice has receded and there is open water around Chatfield Reservoir. With mild temperatures expected across the Front Range, anglers should anticipate a continual transition away from the ice fishing season. Although the reservoir is still not open to boating, check the park website to get the latest updates on the upcoming boating season.

[Chatfield Reservoir](#)

Cherry Creek

This 881-acre impoundment is located in Cherry Creek State Park. There are two entrances to the park, the east entrance off S. Dayton St. and the west entrance off S. Parker Rd. As of **3/10/2020**, park officials have reported that the ice has melted on the reservoir and it will be open to boating starting on Friday, March 13th at 6 am. Park officials also advise boaters to keep a lookout for floating debris or other unmarked hazards.

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

Quincy Reservoir

As of **3/8/2020**, Quincy Reservoir is currently closed to boating due to ice conditions, however, watercrafts capable of being launched by hand are permitted. There have been a handful of reports of anglers catching trout on spoons and spinners. Anglers are restricted to using artificial flies and lures only. Park Hours for March 6:30am-8:00pm. For more information call 303-326-8424

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

As of 3/4/2020, Antero Reservoir continues to have good ice and good fishing. Recent reports estimated ice is measured between 12-20 inches thick and is topped with a couple of inches of snow. To get into fish, anglers have been utilizing spoons, tube jigs, tungsten jigs, ratsos, rat finkes, and kastmasters. One angler recommended attracting fish with a variety of colors, specially pinks, oranges, greens, and whites.

[Antero Reservoir](#)

Boyd Lake

As of 3/13/2020, like several other lakes on the Front Range, the water on Boyd Lake is wide open and park officials have opened the lake to boating. Prior to launch, boats must be registered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. ANS inspection hours are 8am-6pm and Decontamination hours are 9am-5pm. Not only does the open water create new opportunities for anglers, CPW stocked Boyd Lake with over 4,000 rainbow trout on March 6th.

[Boyd Lake State Park](#)

Cheesman Canyon

Report courtesy of Pat Dorsey of The Blue Quill Angler. As of 3/2/2020, fishing has been fair within Cheesman Canyon. Anglers "should prepare themselves for sporadic hatches of midges and look for the occasional fish eating adults in the slower runs, deeper pools, and tailouts." Best fishing is between 11am-3pm by "nymphing with midge larvae and pupae" sizes 24 and 26. Pat recommends the following patterns: #20-24 Medallion Midge, #20-22 Mercury Midge, #22 Jujubee Midge, #22 Minute Midge, #22 Tube Midge, #22-24 Black Beauty, #20-22 Red Larva, #20-22 Manhattan Midge, #20-26 Top Secret Midge, #22-24 Chocolate Foam Wing Emerger, #18 Hot Tail Flash Egg, #20-24 Griffith Gnat, #22-24 Matt's Midge, #22-26 Parachute Adams.

<https://bluequillangler.com/fishing-reports/cheesman-canyon-south-platte/Cheesman Canyon>

Eleven Mile Reservoir

Report from the Eleven Mile Marina Weekly Fishing Report. As of 3/12/2020, reports indicated that the Eleven Mile Reservoir has current ice thickness from 22 to 30 inches across the majority of the lake. Trout fishing has given anglers the best opportunity to land a fish. Kokanee Salmon, however, have shown an increasing willingness to bite. The folks at 11 Mile Sports report that Kastmasters between sizes 1/8th to 3/8th have given anglers the most success.

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

St. Vrain State Park

As of 3/12/2020, warmer weather has melted ice on ponds and reservoirs across the park and park officials have since opened ponds and reservoirs to boating. Most notably, Blue Heron is open and park staff are placing docks and buoys. There are 11 fishable ponds at St. Vrain that are stocked on a regular basis. There are several ponds that are not stocked with trout for more well-rounded anglers: Bald Eagle, Blue Heron, Pelican (this year), and Pintail. Two of which are trophy bass ponds, the other two have pike, respectively; Bass in 'B' ponds, Pike in 'P' ponds. Bald Eagle Pond is artificial flies and lures only.

[St. Vrain State Park](#)

Tarryall Reservoir

As of 3/12/2020, Tarryall Reservoir continues to retain good ice. One angler reported approximately 30 inches of ices along with some snow cover. Fish are active but may be reluctant to bite. Anglers may encounter some success with salmon eggs on pearl or chartreuse tube jigs in shallow water near the shore. Individuals who are targeting pike should consider kastmasters and pink and white/glow jigs that are suspended just above the bottom. Although sometimes a high traffic lake, anglers have indicated that there has been less angler pressure as of late.

[Tarryall Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

Information provided by Braden Baker with Ark Anglers. As of 3/12/2020,

“With winter in full force up north, the upper basin is challenging to fish during the coldest months, especially towards Leadville. Significant ice has developed north of Buena Vista, particularly above the Lake Creek confluence. On warmer days, anglers can find open water near Buena Vista and feeding fish, but the middle basin and lower basin near Salida are going to consistently offer more opportunities and warmer conditions throughout the winter months. The low, clear water can make fish spooky, so approach with caution and be thoughtful in your presentations. Strikes can be subtle with the lower flows and cold temperatures, so bring your A-game! Plan to fish the upper basin mid-day through early afternoon, when sun exposure has had a chance to warm the stream and get bugs and fish active. Midges (#18-20) are the most common food, but stonefly nymphs (#10-12) and caddis larva (#14-18) are also effective imitations. Focus on nymphing deeper runs that get a fair amount of sunlight. It won't be long before we start to see spring blue winged olive hatches on the upper river.”

Flows: 92 CFS at Hayden Meadows with ice reported and 70 CFS at Granite (3/12/2020)

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

[Arkansas River](#)

Arkansas River - Salida to Canon City

Information provided by Braden Baker with Ark Anglers. As of 3/12/2020, Braden noted that “flows are leveling out around 260 cfs below Salida following the reduction of the Twin Lakes' outflow last week. This is an excellent flow for this fishery this time of year, as well as for wade fisherman getting an early start to their spring season. If these lower flows can be maintained throughout the spring months, it will greatly benefit our resident trout population and the fishery itself.” With the river consistently running slower, it should be easier for anglers to “pinpoint likely “winter” holding water. These areas will have slow to moderate current, and can range from 3' to 5' or more in depth.” For fly fishers looking to have some success, “midge larva and pupa (#16-20) are the most prevalent food source in the river these days, and strong midge hatches in recent days are starting to prompt surface feeding from the resident trout (think dry-dropper tactics), but immature stonefly nymphs (#10-12), baetis nymphs (#16-20) and caddis larva (#14-18) are of growing importance. If you turn over rocks in the river you'll likely find them teeming with wriggling blue winged olive nymphs, a sign of the fun to come in the next couple of weeks. Any pheasant tail variation in a #16-18 will get some attention!”

Flows: 267 CFS at Wellsville (3/12/2020)

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

[Arkansas River](#)

John Martin Reservoir

As of 3/13/2020, the John Martin Reservoir has been productive and will continue to fish well as air and water temperatures continue to rise. Water temperature was recorded at 44°F. Anglers have been particularly successful with catfish in water west of Point campground. Lake Hasty, on the east side of the reservoir, was stocked on 3/12/2020 and will provide good fishing opportunities. East and west boat ramps reopen on March 15th.

[John Martin Reservoir](#)

Pueblo Reservoir

As of 3/12/2020, Pueblo reservoir continues to be slow fishing, however, there are reports of some success among patience anglers. When possible, try to meet fish where they're at. When fishing deep within the water column a jig with a worm or leech can successfully attract fish, especially Walleye. Trolling a crankbait or jerkbait in the upper reaches of the water column has been reported to produce mild success. Anglers have specifically recommended trolling a Rapala Shap Rap crankbait.

[Pueblo Reservoir](#)

Trinidad Lake

As of 3/9/2020, anglers along the south shore reported catching trout on jigs tipped with shrimp, corn, or worms. They indicated that the trout they were catching measured 12-15 inches. The boat ramp is now open! Inspections are required before every launch. Hours of inspection are daily from 8AM - 4PM. For an inspection, please call 719-859-0480 or 719-989-7194.

[Trinidad State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River - Silverthorne

Report courtesy of Pat Dorey of Blue Quill Angler. As of 3/2/2020, “the town of Silverthorne is your best bet throughout the winter months. Anglers should prepare themselves for sporadic hatches of midges and look for the occasional fish eating adults in the slower runs, deeper pools, and tailouts. Nymphing with midge larvae and pupae is your best bet. Don’t rule out Mysis Shrimp, the trout are always looking for them. Target the transitional zones that funnel into the deeper runs and pools. Sight fishing is a must on the Blue River as the populations of trout are way down. Concentrate your efforts between Town Hall and the dam.” Pat suggests that fly fishers consider the following flies: #18-20 Mysis Shrimp, #20-24 Medallion Midge, #20-22 Mercury Midge, #22 Jujubee Midge, #22 Minute Midge, #22 Tube Midge, #22-24 Black Beauty, #20-22 Red Larva, #20-22 Manhattan Midge, #20-26 Top Secret Midge, #22-24 Chocolate Foam Wing Emerger, #18 Hot Tail Flash Egg, #20-24 Griffith Gnat, #22-24 Matt’s Midge, #22-26 Parachute Adams.

<https://bluequillangler.com/fishing-reports/blue-river/>

[Blue River](#)

Grand Lake

Report from the Grand County Fishing Report from Fishing with Bernie. As of 3/8/2020, the best fishing on Grand Lake is found in water 20 feet or less, where rainbow and brown trout are found. Small spoons in pink or silver tipped with wax or butter worm are recommended to fish these shallow waters. Fishing for lake trout has been less consistent as they have migrated to suspended locations in deeper water. While it is wise to work across the entire water column, “lake trout are being caught in 50 to 70 feet of water on small one to three inch plastics tipped with sucker meat. Bite has been fair to good in the morning and normally dies off sometime around one or two in the afternoon. Concentrations of fish are being found around structure such as points, drop offs and humps. Most fish are being caught on or near the bottom.” Dan Shannon provided this information, a guide with Fishing with Bernie

www.fishingwithbernie.com

[Grand Lake](#)

Harvey Gap Reservoir

As of 3/12/2020, ice conditions continue to deteriorate across the reservoir. Open water has begun to appear along the shoreline. Due of these changing conditions, fishing has all but stopped. Until the ice recedes and the reservoir opens up, we suggest that anglers check out Rifle Gap Reservoir, due west of Harvey Gap.

[Harvey Gap Reservoir](#)

Lake Granby

Report from the Grand County Fishing Report from Fishing with Bernie. As of 3/8/2020, warm and windy weather has firmed up ice and relieved recent slush issues. Bernie reports that “lake trout have been active in 50-90’ of water. They are suspending over very deep water (150’).” Anglers can go after lake trout by throwing spoons, tubes, and twisters. Otherwise, rainbow and brown trout are “eating small jigs in less than 10’ of water” and should be fished in the early morning hours.

www.fishingwithbernie.com

[Lake Granby](#)

Lake John

As of 3/6/2020, the lake has 22 to 24 inches of ice covered by 0-4 inches of snow ice depending on pockets drifted from wind. Fishing has picked up for some anglers, however, the majority of anglers report slow productivity. Those anglers who are catching fish are catching big fish. The lake has plenty of Stickleback minnows that trout feed on that can make them less inclined to feed on other bait. Finding an area that has fewer minnows is key to getting into fish. The most successful anglers are fishing shallow waters of three feet to six feet of water. Recently, pink, white, black lures have been productive. Meal worms, wax worms, kastmasters, glow in the dark jig heads, tubes with shrimp oil, and HD ice dynamic lures are some of the other frequent items being mentioned by anglers. Cowdrey capped with 18 to 20 inches of ice. Most anglers reporting no fish movement on cameras or anything being caught. Big Creek is only accessible by snowmobile, atv/utv’s with tracks at this point. Recent ice condition reports indicated 18 to 20 inches of ice with two to four inches of snow. Please remember these conditions and ice are changing by the hour with wind, snow and sun.

[Lake John](#)

North, South, and East Delaney Butte Lakes

As of 3/6/2020, each of the Delaney Lakes reported at least 20 inches of ice and two to six inches of snow. North and East Delaney Lakes have not seen productive fishing. South Delaney Lake is the most productive fishery among this triplet. Anglers report catching high numbers of modestly sized fish. The most consistently tackle used includes: white or green Berkeley tubes, HD dynamic ice lures, kastmasters, and spoons. Successful fishing has occurred within 16-20 feet of water.

[North Delaney Butte Lake](#)

[South Delaney Butte Lake](#)

[East Delaney Butte Lake](#)

Rifle Gap Reservoir

As of 3/12/2020, the Rifle Gap Reservoir, unlike its eastern neighbor, Harvey Gap Reservoir, has been fishing well. The eastern end of the reservoir has opened up and the fish have been biting. Rainbow trout have been especially aggressive across the open water. Meanwhile, anglers have had success catching Northern Pike in shallow vegetation. Reports haven't indicated a specific bait is more successful and another, especially for rainbow trout, suggesting that the fish are hungry!

[Rifle Gap Reservoir](#)

Roaring Fork River

Report from the Taylor Creek Fly Shop fishing report. As of 3/12/2020, the ice has pretty much receded from the upper to lower sections of the river. Upstream of Carbondale, fishing is heating up and nymphs are the way to go. Some flies to consider throwing on this section of the river include: "BLMs 18-20, Freestone Emerger 20, Bead Wing Midge 20-22, and Rojo Midge 20-22 patterns." If the upper sections are heating up, "the lower Roaring Fork is on fire! March is a special time around here and this year is no different." With reports of midge hatches, Taylor Creek Fly Shop suggests the following patterns: "Hatching Midge 20-22, HOH CDC Spent Midge 22-24, HOH CDC Midge Adult 24, Morgans Midge 18-20, Sprout Midge 18-20, Skittering Zelon Midge 20-22, Griffiths Gnat 20"

Flows: 482 in Glenwood Springs (3/12/2020)

<https://taylorcreek.com/blogs/roaring-fork-river-report/roaring-fork-river-report-3-12-2020>

[Roaring Fork River](#)

Vega State Park

As of 3/8/2020, the lake is frozen with approximately one to two feet of ice near the dam and the Island. Always use caution when accessing the lake as ice depths can vary. Fishing is excellent with anglers hauling in nice rainbows and cutthroats in the 14 - 17 inch range with ice jigs and mealworms. There is currently one to two feet of snow on the ground around the lake. Vega South Road remains closed at this time. The Visitor Center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., seven days a week.

[Vega State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir

This is a 9000 acre storage reservoir that offers good fishing for kokanee salmon, brown trout, rainbow trout, and lake trout. Blue Mesa Reservoir is located within Curecanti National Recreation Area. As of 3/12/2020, Colorado Fishing Guides reported 16-plus inches at Lake City Bridge and Ioloa Basin. Dry creek and Elk creek recorded 14-plus inches of ice. Both Middle Bridge and Sapinero basin have 8-plus inches of ice. Several pressure ridges were reported in front of the Dillion Pinnacles, West Elk Creek, Soap Creek, and on the south shore line across from the Bay of Chickens. Ice along shorelines has softened with standing water and slush on ice. Be safe and be aware of ice conditions! The Blue Mesa Lake Trout Tournament is ongoing until July 30th. In the month of February, 195 anglers caught 2,024 lake trout. As recent as 3/11/2020, anglers indicate that the lake is still highly productive.

@GSOFishing

[Blue Mesa](#)

East River

Report courtesy of 3 Rivers Resort. As of 3/9/2020, "If you don't mind a snowy walk-in, you could be rewarded with some great fishing. Look for the deep winter runs to nymph, careful to fish the entire run thoroughly from head to tail. If you nymph through a run without a bite, adjust your weight and go through again. The nice thing about early spring fishing is you know where the fish are, just find the slow deep stuff! Good spring flies include stonefly nymphs such as Copper Johns or 20-inchers, paired with a BWO nymph or a midge. Also don't forget to check out the Roaring Judy ponds. Fish will chase down and eat small buggers and leeches. Also fun is fishing midge dries in the inlets. These fish can be picky but if presented correctly you can tempt a few fish to rise to your small dries."

<https://www.3riversresort.com/fishing/fishing-report/>

[East River](#)

Gunnison River

Report courtesy of 3 Rivers Resort. As of **3/9/2020**, “The Gunnison River is starting to ice off with the warmer temps we’ve had this week. Looking at the 10-day forecast it seems like we’re in a pattern of slightly warmer weather for a while... highs in the 40’s and lows in the teens/20’s. Combine those warmer temps with some storm cycles blowing through and that could mean some great opportunities for early spring fishing. As always, be careful about walking out on ice shelves. Wait until the shelf is melted and wade straight into shallow water. Look for the deep, slow pools, and focus on nymphing with a tandem nymph rig. A stonefly nymph is a great attractor in March, as our stoneflies are molting and vulnerable right now. Chartreuse copper johns, or a 20-incher to mimic a freshly molted Stonefly nymph could provide some success. Behind the lead fly, try a midge larva or BWO nymph: Miller’s D-Midge is a great choice in Red or Black.”

[https://www.3riversresort.com/fishing/fishing-report/Gunnison River](https://www.3riversresort.com/fishing/fishing-report/Gunnison-River)

Jackson Gulch Reservoir - Mancos State Park

As of **3/12/2020**, Jackson Gulch Reservoir is transitioning from the ice fishing season to open water. Recent reports suggests “there are still thick areas of ice, but the ice cap is moving due to water entering the lake. That movement is creating fissures, unexpected thin and low quality areas.” At this time, multiple factors can create dangerous conditions for ice fishing on Jackson Gulch Reservoir.

[Mancos State Park](#)

Taylor River

Report courtesy of 3 Rivers Resort. As of **3/9/2020**, “The Taylor River is fishing very well this winter at the C&R. This is due to good flows near 100 cfs, which gives fish more habitat to feed, hide, and soon - to spawn. As the days get longer we will begin to see more rainbows come into the C&R public water to feed and prepare to reproduce. Pre-spawn fish are some of the highest quality fish we encounter all year long on the Taylor. It is important to treat these specimens with respect, as they are the parents of future generations of Taylor giants. Remember to play the fish as quickly as possible, and keep the fish submerged in your net after the fight. Photos should be quick, never removing the fish from the water for more than a few seconds. And remember, we are all anglers here for the same thing - to have fun on the water! If you need help netting a fish, or with a photo, someone around you will be glad to help. A little kindness on the water goes a long way! And lastly, as we see big rainbows moving into shallow spawning redds, please resist any temptation to fish to these spawning beauties. You can find some deeper water or some browns to chase during this time!”

[https://www.3riversresort.com/fishing/fishing-report/Taylor River](https://www.3riversresort.com/fishing/fishing-report/Taylor-River)

Conditions Report - Statewide

Weather conditions across the state appear to be gradually warming and we've begun to see a transition from winter into spring. Lakes across the Front Range and other low elevation bodies of water have thawed and produced hazardous ice conditions and increasing amounts of open water. Meanwhile, many high elevation lakes continue to hold favorable ice fishing conditions. In this transitional period, rivers and streams retain low flows and excellent water clarity before the spring runoff. This is one of the best times for fly fishing in many streams across the state. Direct sunlight on the water will create more active insects and fish. When fish begin looking up, a careful presentation of a midge patterned fly can provide some early dry fly success. If fish are not rising nor midges hatching, nymphing is the best way to get into fish. A dry fly and dropper set up can help anglers better match the dynamic springtime conditions. Flies for anglers to consider include: #22-24 Black Beauty, Griffiths Gnat 20, #10-12 stonefly nymphs, and #14-18 caddis larva.

Tip of the Week - Catching Finicky Fish

During ice fishing season, anglers are presented with many unique opportunities due to some of the limitations that come along with ice fishing. Straight vertical presentations are the name of the game and anglers have the ability to slowly "work" fish that they see on their sonar or on an underwater camera. This is the perfect time for anglers to educate themselves about a variety of fish behaviors such as what attracts a fish closer to investigate a bait or what turns a fish away and scares them. Another fantastic opportunity anglers have is the ability to see when a fish was looking at their bait but just simply would not bite. This allows anglers to make on the fly adjustments to their presentation until they finally dial in what it is the fish want on any given day. One of the best ways to turn those fish that are "just looking" into fish you catch is to downsize your presentation to be more finesse. This is where small tungsten jigs come in to play for many anglers targeting trout or panfish. When the fish are not aggressive enough to bite larger spoons or rattle baits sometimes the ticket to catching fish is being more subtle and a tungsten jig tipped with a waxworm or mealworm fits the bill perfectly for being subtle. The next time you are on the ice and are having trouble getting fish to bite, downsize and catch those fish.

Email us at dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us

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DNR Fish Reporter



COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources