News and Information

Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds of responsibilities as popular fisheries begin opening to boating in Grand County

Boating season is ramping up quickly in many areas of Colorado. Several lower-elevation reservoirs have recently opened and more will open in the next few weeks. Although Colorado has not seen a full-blown infestation of quagga and zebra mussels, the possibility continues to threaten the state’s water supply.

Spinney Mountain State Park to open Saturday April 27

Spinney Mountain State Park will open to shore fisherman and boats this Saturday, providing anglers with one of their coveted annual spring fishing rites. Spinney Mountain’s gates will open at 5:39am. The reservoir water level is too low to allow for safe launching from the South boat ramp, so boats will only be allowed to launch at the North boat ramp on opening day.

Boaters encouraged to check Statewide Decontamination Site list for ANS Inspection Hours

Boaters that are interested in boating in various waters throughout Colorado are encouraged to check the Statewide Decontamination Site document for information such as inspection hours and contact information for the various inspection and decontamination sites managed by CPW throughout Colorado.

Beginning May 1, anglers can take all the fish they like from Crystal Creek Reservoir on Pikes Peak

Low water prompts Colorado Parks and Wildlife to order emergency fish salvage at Crystal Creek Reservoir on the North Slope of Pikes Peak as water is being released in preparation for maintenance to the dam. Rather than let the fish die, CPW is offering anglers a unique opportunity to catch and keep as many fish as they like. Anglers must use legal fishing methods and possess a valid state fishing license.

Family Crappie Fishing and Cooking Clinic

Saturday April 27 8:00am to 12:00pm, have you wanted to learn techniques for catching crappie? We have a unique opportunity to fish a lake that is not normally open to the public for crappie. After catching fish we will be showing how to fillet your catch, and cook some fish to eat that day!

Spring Fishing Clinic

Saturday May 4 8:00am to 1:00pm, join experts for a morning of fishing tips and instructional workshops. Free kid-sized fishing rods for the first 100 kids to sign up.
## Stocking Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body of Water</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Report Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnstown Reservoir</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/15/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milavec Reservoir</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/15/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standley Lake</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/15/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketner Lake</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/15/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pericles Pond</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>4/15/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shavano Pond</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>4/15/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgway Reservoir</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>4/15/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hohnholz Lake #2</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lake</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenmere Lake</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Reservoir</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxelder Lake #3</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarryall Reservoir</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mann-Nyholt Lake</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Gravel Lake #3</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Gravel Lake #2</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Justice Center Pond</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig City Ponds</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Isabel Lake</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/16/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora Reservoir</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/17/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Lake</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>4/17/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frantz Lake</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/18/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitou Reservoir</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/18/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside Ponds</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/18/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sands Lake</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/18/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monument Reservoir</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/18/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Lake</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/18/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quail Lake | Southeast | 4/18/2019
Willow Springs Pond #1 | Southeast | 4/18/2019
Willow Springs Pond #2 | Southeast | 4/18/2019
Ridgway Reservoir | Southwest | 4/18/2019
Dowdy Lake | Northeast | 4/19/2019
Rocky Mountain Lake | Northeast | 4/19/2019
Sloans Lake | Northeast | 4/19/2019
Berkeley Lake | Northeast | 4/19/2019

**Catch of the Week**

Matt of Basalt, CO caught this gorgeous 33 inch 17 pound Rainbow Trout on the Blue River!

Have a fish you're 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. Open to boating. Electric trolling motors only. As of 4/24/2019, water temperatures are about 55 degrees. Trout scattered throughout the lake with some nice fish around 18 inches being caught. Yellow Perch and Walleye also scattered but holding in the deeper water around 30 feet. Anglers reporting some success catching walleye on jigs or blade baits. The smallmouth action is expected to increase with slightly warmer water temperatures being reported. For more information, call 303-326-8425. Park hours April 6:00am-8:30pm.

Chatfield Reservoir
This 1,356-acre impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. As of 4/25/2019, water temperatures are sitting in the mid 50's in the afternoons with some water temperatures being seen at 60 degrees on the warmest days. With the warmer water temperatures anglers targeting bass have been able to catch a few along the rocky shorelines. Anglers have started reporting success catching smallmouth on drop shot rigs with a variety of soft plastics. Anglers targeting walleye are still having the most success at night trolling crankbaits in the shallow water. Walleye have been caught on a variety of baits from smaller shad profile baits to larger minnow profile stick baits. Daytime walleye bites are starting to pick up with fish moving off the dam from spawning and spreading out onto their typical summer structures. Fishing for trout has been fair to good off shore, anglers are catching fish with baits such as smaller inline spinners, Kastmasters, or jerk baits.

Cherry Creek
This 881-acre impoundment is located in Cherry Creek State Park, in Aurora. There are two entrances to the park, the east entrance off S. Dayton St. and the west entrance off S. Parker Rd. As of 4/25/2019, water temperatures are being reported in the mid 50's. During the day walleye anglers are trolling deep water in front of the dam focusing on the fish that are feeding out in the open basin of the reservoir. Walleye are slowly starting to transition out of the basin and onto the structure on the southern portion of the reservoir. Fishing for trout has been consistent with anglers catching fish on a variety of lures or baits including casting spoons and in-line spinner baits. There have also been a few reports of anglers catching some crappie in the shallower sections of the reservoir where the water tends to be a bit warmer.

Quincy Reservoir
Opened March 1st. As of 4/24/2019 open to boating. Electric trolling motors only. Bass fishing is getting better as the weather warms and stabilizes using lipless crankbaits. Reminder that the reservoir is restricted to artificial flies or lures only. Only watercraft capable of being launched by hand permitted. Vehicles and trailers are not permitted in the water. The water level is down a few feet from full pool and the clarity is being reported as off color with a visibility about 3 feet. Anglers have had some early success for bass with jerk baits fished slow or finesse jigs along the bottom. For more information, call 303-326-8424. Park Hours April 6:00am-8:30pm.

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir
As of 4/25/2019, there is plenty of open water to shore fish currently. Anglers are reporting success catching some really nice sized trout using scud patterns below a strike indicator. Other anglers are also having success on some smaller trout using spoons and spinner baits fished slowly.

Barr Lake
As of 4/24/2019, water clarity is reported as good. There is some floating debris throughout the lake, boaters are encouraged to use caution while navigating the lake. Water temperatures are slowly increasing which has the fish much more active. Anglers are starting to report success targeting a variety of species. Anglers have reported some success for trout using nightcrawlers or PowerBait off the bottom.
Boyd Lake
As of 4/24/2019, water temperature is in the mid 50’s which has the fishing getting better and better. Anglers have reported success catching trout near the pump house on the south end of the lake using minnows. Walleye seem to be holding in 18 to 20 feet of water. Anglers targeting white bass and crappie are reporting limited success however that should change once the inlets begin flowing. The main boat ramp and Heron Cover (north) ramp are open for launching. Boat Inspectors will be available at the ANS Inspection Station from 7:00am to 7:00pm during the month of April. Decontamination hours are 8:00am to 6:00 pm.

Deckers and Cheesman Canyon
As of 4/26/2019, flows have increased with the releasing of water from Cheesman Reservoir. Look for small midges and emerger patterns to be productive in the open runs and deeper pools. Also try smaller slow riffles in the warming afternoon. Anglers are reporting some dry fly hatches being seen. Mayfly patterns such as blue wing olives have been the best fish producing dry flies.

Eleven Mile Reservoir
As of 4/25/2019, shoreline anglers are catching some nice trout. As more and more shoreline continues to open up anglers have been having success catching trout throughout various areas of the lake. Most of the trout caught seem to be smaller but there have been some nice fish mixed in. Pike anglers are having some success targeting the larger fish that are in the shallows. Fishing is expected to be good again this summer as the reservoir opens to boating.

Jackson Lake
As of 4/22/2019, surface water temperature is approximately 54 degrees. Fishing has been fair to good for crappie, walleye, saugeye and wipers. Anglers are reporting success using curly tail grubs on jig heads for the walleye and saugeye. Crappie have been caught using small tube jigs or crankbaits.

North Sterling Reservoir
As of 4/25/2019, water temp is about 52 degrees. Fishing report - Carp and Drum are fair, for all other species the fishing is slow with only a few reports of them being caught each day. The Reservoir is OPEN to BOATING. The Inlet is ON and the Outlet is OFF.

Tarryall Reservoir
As of 4/24/2019, the majority of the reservoir is open water. Anglers are having luck catching trout throughout the lake on a variety of baits. Pike have also been reported in the shallows as they are spawning. Anglers targeting pike have had some success catching the fish that are actively feeding which would be either the pre-spawn fish or the post-spawn fish.

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River-Below Lake Pueblo
As of 4/26/2019, flows have increased from about 200 CFS to just over 300 CFS. Anglers are reporting success using a wide variety of techniques. Fly anglers are reporting a decent amount of hatch activity which is making the dry fly fishing during the afternoon hours. Spin casting anglers have had success using jerk baits in metallic colors.

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Canon City
As of 4/26/2019, water temperatures are in the mid 40’s in the upper stretches and getting into low 50’s in the lower reaches of this section. The increased water temperatures are kicking the fish’s metabolism into high gear meaning fish are actively feeding more and more each day. There have been some sporadic caddis hatches in the lower stretches with lower flows than a week ago and increased water temperatures. During the warmer parts of the day Blue Wing Olive hatches are starting to be seen.
**Pueblo Reservoir**

As of 4/25/2019, water temperatures are reaching the low 50’s. Anglers are still having some success catching walleye on jerk baits during the day fishing main lake points. If the bite slows anglers have been able to pick up fish jigging soft plastics on top of those same points. Wiper have been caught but are tough to find currently. Anglers are finding warmer water towards the western portion of the reservoir which is where the bass and crappie fishing have been most productive. Look for submerged timber and brush for the crappies and rock ledges for the bass. Be sure to check the [2019 Fishing Brochure](#) for updates on new Pueblo Specific Regulations for 2019. Boat Ramp/Inspection Station hours are currently 5:00am - 11:00pm.

Lake Pueblo State Park

---

**Trinidad Lake State Park**

As of 4/25/2019, the lake is at a surface elevation of 6189.14. Boaters are having excellent success catching trout. Trolling with worms or spinners seems to be the go to rig. Anglers are starting to report success catching walleye and perch now that the temperatures are on the rise. The boat ramp is open, inspection hours are from 8:00am to 4:00pm daily. If there is not an inspector at the ramp, please call the ranger cell phone numbers at 719-859-0480 or 719-989-7194 or the visitor center at 719-846-6951 from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Trinidad Lake

---

**Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado**

**Blue River - Silverthorne**

As of 4/26/2019, being that this section of river is a tailwater it tends to fish very consistently year round, however with that being said the fish in this section tend to be pressured by fisherman more than other water. Because of fishing pressure, fishing is best with light tippet in the 6x to 7x range with small subtle presentations. Anglers have reported fish feeding on midge patterns in a variety of colors as well as some fish being caught drifting mysis shrimp.

**Flows: 95.2 CFS (4/26/2019)**

Blue River

---

**Colorado River - Near Kremmling**

As of 4/26/2019, water temperatures are on the rise! Fly anglers have reported success with stonefly nymphs as well as some midges. Spin casting anglers have continued to report success catching Browns on smaller jerk baits fished slowly in the current or some smaller in-line spinners during the warmest parts of the day when the fish are most active. The recent increase in flows has fish focused on the smaller pockets of slack water behind rocks or in eddies. Anglers are having the most success targeting these areas specifically.

**Flows: 1100 CFS (4/26/2019)**

Colorado River

---

**Delaney Buttes**

As of 4/26/2019, the Delaney’s are starting to open up with some open fishable water. Anglers are reporting some success fishing the open water. These lakes are not yet completely open water but with warm weather coming up these lakes are expected to open up even more and allow more opportunities for fishing.

Delaney Buttes

---

**Harvey Gap Reservoir**

As of 4/24/2019, Trout were stocked 4/4. As the water warms up the fishing is getting better. Anglers have reported success catching trout on a variety of lures such as spoons but most success is still coming from anglers using PowerBait along the bottom.

Harvey Gap State Park

---

**Lake John**

As of 4/26/2019, the ice shelf has started to break away from the shore. There are 10 to 15 feet of open water between the shore and the ice. This is making fishing very difficult at this time with no access to the ice and not enough open water to fish from shore. The warm weather in the forecast is expected to open up water quickly over the next week. Fishing is expected to be very good when there is enough open water to fish with some large trout present in the lake.

Lake John

---

**Vega Reservoir**

As of 4/24/2019, the ice is 40 to 50 feet from shoreline and we have very little snow on the ground. Plateau Creek is opening up as well. The gravel pit area and the south road remain closed. The Visitor Center is open 7 days a week from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Vega State Park
Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir
As of 4/26/2019, the vast majority of the ice that was present is gone, a strong western wind the past few days has opened the lake up and open water is present with no ice remaining. The reservoir is scheduled to open for boating Saturday April 27th boat inspection hours will be 6:00am to 8:00pm 7 days a week, boat launching will be available at the Elk Creek Boat Ramp. Anglers are reporting success from shore catching trout in the warmer water shallow on marabou jigs. For more information contact Curecanti National Recreation Area at 970-641-2337.

Blue Mesa Reservoir

Crawford Reservoir
As of 4/24/2019, fishing remains slow; we have had many anglers, both shore fishing and from boats, but we have not received many reports of success. Remember that there is a lake specific limit on the bass. They must be 18 inches or larger to keep, and you can only keep ONE. Statewide limits pertain to all other species.

Crawford State Park

Navajo Reservoir
As of 4/22/2019, the lake level is 6033.94 and the water temperature at the boat ramp in Arboles is approximately 48 degrees. Water temp at Bancos is 54. The boat ramp is now open daily, and we believe the mud issues have been resolved due to higher water levels. Be careful because there is a lot of debris in the lake due to run-off. There have been a few catfish, pike and bass caught recently. Fishing seems to be better further south where the lake is a little clearer. Crappie are biting in Bancos.

Navajo State Park

Taylor River - Below Taylor Park Reservoir
As of 4/26/2019, flows are still holding relatively low which is on track for this time of year in an attempt to keep water storage in the reservoir. This tailwater section has been fishing well lately. With winter still being felt in the Gunnison area anglers are waiting until the warmest parts of the day to fish as the slightly warmer water temperatures will cause the fish to become more active. Small midge patterns are the most effective throughout the day however anglers are also reporting some success using small Mysis Shrimp patterns as well. Keep in mind extremely light fluorocarbon tippet will help to not spook fish.

Taylor River

Conditions Report - Statewide

Around the state streams, creeks, and rivers are starting to hit prime stages for fishing. This time of the year flows can vary regionally so it is recommended anglers check flows and discharges as part of determining where to fish. We have some areas where the flows are much higher due to recent snow melt on the front side of runoff while other streams are still flowing relatively low more similar to a winter flow. With consistent warm weather we have been having over the last week or so fish are starting to transition into a really consistent spring or early summer feeding and holding pattern. This is the time of year where anglers really have to pay attention to the details when it comes to fishing a river. Paying attention to the details will really give anglers a good idea of what the fish are most likely feeding on. This shoulder season between spring and summer there are a variety of hatches taking place meaning there are a variety of flies and patterns that can work well all within one day.
Tip of the Week

Using shore side indicators to select a fly

Fly anglers have long heard the phrase “match the hatch” meaning the best chance of success comes when anglers are presenting a fly that closely resembles the natural food source that fish are feeding on at that given time. There are a variety of ways to learn about what insects are hatching and present in a system before even wetting a line. A couple of the best are spider webs on shore and back eddies of the river or stream. By looking at spider webs found on shore anglers can quickly get a visual of the recent history of insect activity for that specific location. Once anglers have located a web they can quickly reference the insects stuck in the web and match their presentation to what the fish have been feeding on recently. Eddies of the river are another fantastic place to look for a quick reference, the current and slow moving water that creates the eddie does a great job of gathering the dead adult insects that have fallen back to the water. With a short amount of studying an eddie an angler can quickly be educated as to which insects and life cycles are present and use this information to guide their fly selection.

Have a suggestion or request?
Email us at dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us
We would 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.

DNR Fish Reporter