News and Information

Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

Colorado Parks and Wildlife invites anglers to discuss key fishing related issues at a public meeting CPW is looking to involve the public in an interactive conversation and invites anglers to participate in a public meeting on May 16. The public meeting will allow interested parties the opportunity to learn more about the status of pertinent reservoir leases as well as the chance to discuss fishing related issues.

Antero Reservoir opened to boating Wednesday May 1
Antero opened for the season on Wednesday May 1, announced Monday by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Denver Water. The aquatic nuisance species inspection station at the south ramp will be open seven days a week from 6:00am to 8:00pm from May 1 to September 30. From October 1 to 31, it will be open from 8:00am to 6:00pm seven days a week.

Fly Fishing Rendezvous
The annual Fly Fishing Rendezvous with many exhibitors from the industry will be taking place this weekend May 4 and 5 at the National Western Complex Expo Hall. Anglers will have the opportunity to discover new products, learn from speakers presenting on a wide variety such as fly tying or the science of fly fishing.

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.

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.

Walleye/Crappie Fishing and Cooking Clinic
Saturday May 18 9:00am to 2:00pm, learn how to target walleye and crappie at one of Colorado’s top reservoirs. This class will be held at Jumbo Reservoir. After catching fish we will be showing how to fillet your catch, and cook some fish to eat that day!

Now you can take the #ColoradoOutdoors anywhere. Follow us on @instagram @coparkswildlife!
http://instagram.com/coparkswildlife

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/.

Fish with us on Twitter
Colorado anglers can get updates directly from CPW on Twitter. Follow @COParksWildlife.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body of Water</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Report Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hudson Town Pond</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/22/2019</td>
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<td>Barr Lake</td>
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<td>Catamount Reservoir North</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/22/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crawford Reservoir</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>4/22/2019</td>
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<td>Dragon Fly Pond</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/23/2019</td>
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<td>Northeast</td>
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<td>Southeast</td>
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<td>4/23/2019</td>
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<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Northeast</td>
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<td>Scott Pond</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Sleepycat Ponds</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Ivies pond</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Parachute Pond</td>
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<td>Rifle Lions Pond</td>
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<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>DeWeese Reservoir</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Northgate Pond #2</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/24/2019</td>
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<td>Windsor Lake</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/25/2019</td>
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<td>Northeast</td>
<td>4/25/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brush Hollow Reservoir</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4/25/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billy Creek Lake</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>4/25/2019</td>
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<td>Ridgway Reservoir</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
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Catch of the Week

Robin with a nice Rainbow Trout caught while fly fishing near Dotsero!

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 5/2/2019, water temp is 47 degrees. Trout fishing is rated as fair to good using PowerBait from the dam. Fly anglers have doing well from the west side of the dam and from boats. A handful of reports of walleye and perch being caught form boats using jigs. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours May 5:30am to 9:00pm. Restricted to electric motors only.

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rainbow Reservoir</td>
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<td>Northwest</td>
<td>4/26/2019</td>
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<td>Pathfinder Park Pond</td>
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<td>Wahatoya Reservoir</td>
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<td>4/26/2019</td>
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<td>Roaring Judy Ponds</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>4/26/2019</td>
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Chatfield Reservoir
This 1,356 acre impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. As of 5/2/2019, 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. The recent few days of cloud cover and cooler weather seem to have slowed the bite slightly. Anglers are reporting catching walleye along the bottom using nightcrawlers. This is a good indication that walleye are stacking up on normal summer pattern structures. The smallmouth bass action has been relatively steady with the fish being in the shallows in different phases of the spawn. Anglers are getting the most success casting jerkbaits. Trout action has also been consistent with most anglers trolling for them or fishing just off the bottom with worms or PowerBait.

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 5/3/2019, 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 having success targeting crappie by fishing the submerged trees in the reservoir.

Quincy Reservoir
Opened March 1st. As of 5/2/2019 bass fishing slow to fair using lipless crankbaits and soft plastics. Reports of smallmouth bass being caught off the dam using jigs. Trout is slow to fair using bright colored spoons and spinners. Restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Only watercraft capable of being launched by hand permitted. Vehicles and trailers are not permitted in the water. For more information call 303-326-8424. Park Hours May 5:30am to 9:00pm.

Antero Reservoir
As of 5/1/2019, with the reservoir open to boating anglers have had nice success catching some real quality trout. The best baits have been spoons fished slowly. Fly anglers are also having success on a variety of patterns with scuds being popular. Fishing has also been productive from shore as the trout are cruising the shallows after a long winter of ice cap.

Barr Lake
As of 4/30/2019, there is some floating debris throughout 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. Anglers are also reporting some walleye being caught by trolling shad bodied baits around the deeper portions of the reservoir.

Boyd Lake
As of 4/30/2019, 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 are having the most success on live bait rigs near the marina cove. 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 6:00am to 10:00pm from May through Labor Day.

Deckers and Cheesman Canyon
As of 5/3/2019, flows have stabilized and this section of river is fishing very well currently. Anglers are reporting consistent blue wing olive hatches as well as some sporadic caddis hatches starting. Some consistent patterns have been flashback pheasant tail nymphs, caddis larva, and blue wing olive dries. Anglers are encouraged to get out and take advantage of some good fishing before run off is in full force over the coming weeks.

Chatfield Reservoir

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Quincy Reservoir

Antero Reservoir

Barr Lake State Park

Boyd Lake State Park

Deckers and Cheesman Canyon
Eleven Mile Reservoir
As of 5/2/2019, shoreline anglers are catching some nice trout. Shoreline anglers are still reporting the most success fishing with bait, either PowerBait or commercially produced salmon eggs. Anglers fishing from boats have reported limited success as the boating season is just getting going. Rapala minnow baits are good lures this time of year, especially the Original Floater or the Original Jointed Rapala.
Eleven Mile State Park

Jackson Lake
As of 5/1/2019, 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.
Jackson Lake State Park

North Sterling Reservoir
As of 5/2/2019, 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.
North Sterling Reservoir

Tarryall Reservoir
As of 5/2/2019, the reservoir is now open for boating. Anglers are having success catching trout on just about anything as the trout remain very active. The pike should soon start transitioning out of the spawn and be looking to feed to replenish the body weight lost during the spawn. Look for some large pike to be caught in the coming weeks.
Tarryall Reservoir

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Adobe Creek Reservoir
As of 5/1/2019, the crappie action is very good currently. Anglers are reporting success catching crappie in various areas of the reservoir mainly targeting submerged brush. Baits and lures that have been consistent producers are small crankbaits in bright colors, small jigs with curly tail grubs, and also minnows fished below a bobber.
Adobe Creek Reservoir

Arkansas River-Below Lake Pueblo
As of 5/3/2019, flows have more than doubled in the last week as releases from the reservoir have been increased in preparation for spring runoff. The high flows are making fishing very difficult. Anglers that are fishing are having success on larger profile lures. Spin casters are throwing jerk baits and doing fair. Fly anglers are bumping up size and weight using stonefly nymphs to have the most success.
Lake Pueblo State Park

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Canon City
As of 5/3/2019, water temperatures are getting to 50 degrees. The flows have increased over the last week but have dropped slightly in the last couple days. With the recent slight drop clarity of the river is getting better. Caddis have been seen hatching with the warming weather and anglers have been having success using caddis. The blue wing olive hatch is still going well during this time of year and anglers have had success catching fish on blue wing olive dry fly patterns.
Upper Arkansas River

Pueblo Reservoir
As of 5/2/2019, water temperatures are reaching the low to mid 50's. With the warming water temperatures the bite for walleye and bass is very good. Anglers have had the most success catching walleye using paddletail swimbait on underwater points. The bass are sliding shallow for the spawn and can be caught currently on a wide variety of baits. Anglers have also reported success targeting crappie in shallow water near submerged brush or trees. 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 5/1/2019, the lake is at 783 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6189.25. Boaters are having excellent success catching trout. Trolling with worms or spinners seems to be the go to rig. Only a few reports of walleye caught in the shallow areas. The walleye fishing should continue to improve as the water warms. Water clarity is slightly off color due to recent snow melt and rain. 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.

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River - Silverthorne
As of 5/3/2019, flows have increased substantially over the last week from only about 100 CFS to near 400 CFS. This is making the fishing tough because the water gets much more technical to read and fish with a dead drift. One thing that benefits anglers with increased flows is breaking insects loose from the substrate which a lot of the times can influence feeding behavior making the bite windows longer. With slightly off colored water anglers are also able to get away with slightly thicker tippet and still not risk spooking fish.


Colorado River - Near Kremmling
As of 5/3/2019, 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.


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.

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.

Steamboat Lake
As of 5/2/2019, creeks are mostly thawed and running quickly but not easy to get to (bring your snowshoes). The coves are partially open but also not easy to get to. The edges of the lake are starting to thaw. We haven’t had any reports of people fishing yet.

Vega Reservoir
As of 4/28/2019 at this time the lake is free of ice and we have no snow on the ground. Fisherman's Flats and the Gravel Pit area are open, however, please use caution if driving near the lake in these areas as it is extremely easy to get stuck. We hope to have the Island boat ramp opened by Friday, May 3rd. All boats must be inspected prior to launching. The ANS inspection station will be opened by Friday May 3rd as well at 8:00am. If you have a valid pre-inspection receipt and seal then you may launch prior to 8:00am The Visitor Center is open 7 days a week from 8:00am to 4:00pm
Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir
As of 5/3/2019, the water level is rising quickly, the reservoir’s surface elevation has increased 12 feet over the last two weeks. The reservoir opened for boating Saturday April 27th boat inspection hours are 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. Boat anglers have reported success catching trout in the shallows as well as catching some lake trout in relatively shallow water. 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 Reservoir

Gunnison River - near Gunnison
As of 5/3/2019, flows are on the rise and the river is starting to fish well after a long winter of being iced up. Brown trout and rainbow trout have been caught using blue wing olive dry flies. Look for larger heavy nymphs to be very productive over the coming weeks as high flows will be the norm with runoff getting going. It is still beneficial for anglers to fish the warmer parts of the day when the trout are feeding most actively.


Gunnison River

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 5/3/2019, 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

With the recent precipitation and warmer weather patterns we have seen flows on most of the rivers, creeks, and streams across the state have increased substantially over the last week. There are some waterways that were flowing really low that have benefited from the bump in flows while others are becoming tough to fish. Anglers are encouraged to check the most up to date flow data before planning an outing. Smaller streams on the Front Range are still flowing at near optimal rates and the fishing has been consistent as we continue deeper into the spring. Other waterways such as waters in the southwest corner of the state are really starting to get high flows that can make wading and fishing very difficult and sometimes dangerous. With increased snowpack compared to this time last year runoff season is expected to last for quite some time with consistent high flow rates. Another good option this time of year is to look towards tailwaters as places to fish that may be flowing at a more manageable rate due to the dams being able to control outflow.
Tip of the Week

Small Details Make a Big Difference

Anglers that learn to pay attention to the smallest details when it comes to fishing are often the most successful. Details as simple as tying your line directly to a lure or using a cross-lock snap can often be the difference between catching fish or not. When using a cross-lock snap the lure is able to move more freely giving it more “action” which can be extremely helpful in triggering more bites when the water warms. Other times when water temperatures are a bit cooler tying directly to the lure can slow down the action which is what those more lethargic fish are looking for, a meal that is easy to catch and not moving around too much. Other small details that can make a world of difference when fishing is the profile of the bait or lures anglers use. There are times of the year or certain bodies of water where the predatory fish such as Bass, Walleye, or Trout will focus in on minnow profile baits which are longer and skinny, oftentimes referred to as “stick baits” while other times of the year those same fish will focus in on feeding on shad profile baits which tend to be much shorter and thicker top to bottom. It is small details such as these few examples that can really make the difference in a day on the water and anglers that are focused on the details and can adjust accordingly are the ones who will catch the most fish.

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