

Fishing Report



Friday May 8th, 2020

News and Information

Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

COVID-19 Update - 5/5/20 7:30 a.m.

Update May 4, 2020: Colorado Parks and Wildlife campgrounds will **remain closed until further notice**. Agency staff is working on a reopening plan, but ask visitors to State Parks to remain flexible in their travel plans as we navigate a very uncertain time. CPW is extending its closure of all campgrounds and camping facilities (including yurts and cabins) at Colorado's state parks and state wildlife areas. This action has been taken based on the [Safer At Home Order](#) from Colorado Governor Jared Polis and the [advice of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#) (CDPHE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Reservations through May 11 have been canceled for a full refund - no action is needed by these customers. See [State Park Operations section](#) below for additional details.

Up-to-date COVID-19 Information found here:

https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/COVID-19-Response.aspx?utm_source=CPW-Web&utm_medium=Slider1&utm_campaign=2020_COVID-19_Coronavirus_Info

CPW Commission requires a valid hunting or fishing license to access all State Wildlife Areas and CPW-leased State Trust Lands

"By policy, state wildlife areas are acquired with hunter and angler dollars, and are intended specifically to provide wildlife habitat and wildlife-related recreation," Southeast Regional Manager Brett Ackerman told the commission at its meeting. "This rule is aimed at curtailing non-wildlife-related use of these properties."

CPW Ranger finds woman in Lake Pueblo

A Lake Pueblo State Park ranger on patrol Wednesday evening was flagged down by park guests who reported a woman [fishing from the shore had fallen in the water in the North Picnic area of the park](#). The ranger responded immediately, and found a woman in chest-deep water and pulled her to shore. It was about 6:30 p.m. The ranger observed the woman was unconscious and not breathing and began performing CPR. Other Colorado Parks and Wildlife rangers and a wildlife officer also responded to the scene.

	<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
Union Reservoir	Northeast	4/21/2020
Wetherill Pond	Southwest	4/20/2020
Ridgway Reservoir	Southwest	4/20/2020
Confluence Lake	Southwest	4/22/2020
Uncompaghre Reservoir	Southwest	4/22/2020
Shavano Pond	Southwest	4/22/2020
Centennial Lake	Northeast	4/23/2020
Ehrlich Lake	Northeast	4/23/2020
Pathfinder Park Pond	Southeast	4/20/2020
Monument Reservoir	Southeast	4/20/2020
Huerfano River #2	Southeast	4/21/2020
Rampart Reservoir	Southeast	4/21/2020
South Platte River #3A	Northeast	4/22/2020
San Isabel Lake	Southeast	4/23/2020
Clear Creek Reservoir	Northeast	4/22/2020
Manitou Reservoir	Southeast	4/23/2020
Pine Valley Ranch Lake	Northeast	4/23/2020
Prospect Lake	Southeast	4/20/2020
Quail Lake	Southeast	4/20/2020
Cherry Creek Reservoir	Northeast	4/21/2020
Quincy Reservoir	Northeast	4/21/2020
Harper Lake	Northeast	4/23/2020
Waneka Lake	Northeast	4/23/2020
Main Lake	Northeast	4/24/2020
Bear Creek Reservoir	Northeast	4/24/2020
Mountain Home Reservoir	Southwest	4/24/2020
Stabilization Reservoir	Southwest	4/24/2020

Wonderland Lake	Northeast	4/28/2020
Boulder Kids Pond	Northeast	4/28/2020
Viele Lake	Northeast	4/28/2020
Roaring Judy Ponds	Southwest	4/27/2020
McCall Lake	Northeast	4/29/2020
Purdy Mesa Reservoir	Northwest	4/28/2020
Juniata Reservoir	Northwest	4/28/2020
Ridgway Reservoir	Southwest	4/29/2020
Arkansas River #3B	Southeast	4/27/2020
Anticline Lake	Southeast	4/27/2020
Pueblo City Park Lake	Southeast	4/27/2020
Ordway Reservoir	Southeast	4/28/2020
Northgate Pond #1	Southeast	4/28/2020
Northgate Pond #2	Southeast	4/28/2020
Northgate Pond #3	Southeast	4/28/2020
Berkely Lake	Northeast	4/29/2020
Rocky Mountain Lake	Northeast	4/29/2020
Smith Lake	Northeast	4/29/2020
South Platte River #1A	Northeast	4/30/2020
Eaglewatch Lake	Northeast	4/30/2020
Summit Reservoir	Southwest	4/30/2020
Jackson Gulch Reservoir	Southwest	5/1/2020
Hohnholz Lake #1	Northeast	5/1/2020
Sloans Lake	Northeast	5/1/2020
Centennial Lake	Northeast	5/1/2020

Catch of the Week



Taylor caught this 20-inch Cutbow while fishing the Eagle River!

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

As of 5/2/2020, water temperature at Aurora Reservoir was recently recorded as high as 53 degrees in some areas. One angler reported some success fishing with both flies and lures. They specifically pointed out their success using a minnow imitation to attract fish from shore. For more information, call 303-326-8425. Park Hours 6:00am-8:30pm. Aurora Reservoir is open to boating but restricted to electric motors only and portable gas tanks must be removed.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

This 1,356 impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. As of 5/8/2020, Chatfield Reservoir is experiencing high rates of visitation. Despite high rates of visitors, there is little information reported about current fishing conditions. Park staff have been practicing safe social distancing and have been unable to talk to anglers about what is or is not working. At this time of year, anglers should find walleye closer to shore. Anglers casting from shore should have the ability to reach some walleye that are ready to eat.

[Chatfield Reservoir](#)

Cherry Creek Reservoir

As of 5/2/2020, anglers report that fishing has been good at Cherry Creek Reservoir. Water temperatures appear to be rising, recent measurements recorded water temperature consistently above 60 degrees. One angler measured the water temperature as high as 63 degrees. While fishing was good, one angler noted that they had success by moving around and fishing many spots throughout the day. Fishing became slow once sitting in the same spot for too long.

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

Quincy Reservoir

As of 5/7/2020, several anglers reported having success targeting both bass and trout at Quincy Reservoir. Similar to other bodies of water within the Denver metro area, there has been high pressure on fish. The reservoir is restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Only watercraft capable of being launched by hand are permitted. Vehicles and trailers are not permitted in the water. *Please note: **Quincy has been experiencing higher than normal visitation and has been hitting capacity often on weekends. When this happens, visitors that walk in will not be permitted in Quincy.** Park Hours: 6:00am-8:30pm. For more information, call 303-326-8424.

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Boyd Lake

As of 5/1/2020, staff at Boyd Lake State Park report that fishing has heated up for a couple of species on the lake. Fishing for Blue Gill has been reported to be good, however, trout has continued to be excellent. Reports indicate that a combination of small tungsten jigs with waxworms and spoons have been especially productive. Anglers have been successful while targeting trout near the pump house, marina inlet, and Heinrich inlet. There have been few reports of catching other species in the lake; however, there are some reports of walleye suspended in deep water near the marina.

[Boyd Lake](#)

Eleven Mile Reservoir

This conditions report is brought to you by 11 Mile Marina. As of 5/7/2020, "trout fishing is good to very good. Lots of great catching happening so far this spring. Shore or boat, bait, lure or fly, all are working well. So far, Kastmaster have been the most productive piece of hardware. BKT and GNR patterns have been particularly good. Long line on the troll or cast from shore. Everyone has their favorite. Rapala and Tasmanian Devils have also worked well. Shore angling best at sunrise and sunset. There is a decent midmorning bite too. Boaters have had action throughout the day. Night anglers use the old Dr. Pepper timetable. 10-2-4. First good bite at 10PM then 2:00AM and finally 4:00AM." Northern Pike fishing was reported as poor, "...they just have not turned on yet. There are more being caught than a week ago but nothing to write home about. In spring we like 3 to 5 feet of water with windy conditions. Big sticks or spoons. Large tubes can also be successful. On shore take ten casts walk ten yards and do it again and again. From boat, troll large sticks in shallow water less than 12 feet. Points West seeing more action than East.

<https://www.11milesports.com/fishing-report>

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

North Sterling Reservoir

As of 5/3/2020, staff at North Sterling Reservoir reported that "water temperature has varied between the upper 50's to low 60's on the lake. There has been an overall trend of warming water temperatures. Fishing for walleye and crappie has been fair but anglers have reported varied results. No anglers have indicated success while fishing from shore. Some anglers had good luck catching drum. Usually drum is what is biting when you are fishing for walleyes. Few reports of success catching wiper from shore, however, not many anglers have targeted them. The Reservoir is OPEN to BOATING. The Inlet is ON and the Outlet is ON."

[North Sterling Reservoir](#)

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of 5/8/2020, Spinney Mountain Reservoir opened to boating 4/29/2020. Anglers report success catching 20+-inch trout on a variety of lures and baits including tubes, Kastmasters, and Rapalas.

[Spinney Mountain Reservoir](#)

St. Vrain State Park

As of 5/7/2020, recent warm weather has only increased the fishing action among warm water species in the ponds at St. Vrain State Park. One angler noted that they found both crappie and walleye were hanging at depths of about eight feet deep around rocks and boulders. They indicated that they were successful using both twisters and swimbaits in white. Trout fishing continues to remain good at St. Vrain State Park. Established areas for walking, biking, and fishing remain open to the public. Parking is limited on the north side of the park. More parking is available at the south end of the park.

[St. Vrain State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

Information provided by Braden Baker with Ark Anglers. ***Please note: "Chaffee County has restricted tourism and leisure traffic to the county. County locals are encouraged to recreate responsibly, but anyone outside of the county is encouraged to stay home under the current circumstances."** As of 5/7/2020, "the river is quite dirty due to increases in low elevation snow melt and the Twin Lakes' release. Usually the major runoff does not begin until later in May, but you see periods like this early on where the river temporarily dirties up. Typically, the plugs of discoloration are short-lived and easy to work around, but each day is different. During periods of dirty water, focus on fishing the edges with large, high contrast streamers and stonefly nymphs. We are getting some reports of good blue winged olive activity in the afternoons, which should continue into May. Activity to the north is a couple weeks behind the action in Salida, and the upper basin sees less angling traffic in the spring because of this. Good searching rigs through the day would be a stonefly nymph/midge pupa combo in the morning and an attractor nymph/mayfly nymph combo in the afternoons, subsurface unless you are seeing fish feed on the surface. Fish are definitely moving out to occupy pockets and riffles, as food is available there. Hatching blue winged olives are typically #16-18."

Flows: 267 CFS at Hayden Meadows, 572 CFS at Granite (5/7/2020)

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

[Arkansas River](#)

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida

Information provided by Braden Baker with Ark Anglers. ***Please note: "Chaffee County has restricted tourism and leisure traffic to the county. County locals are encouraged to recreate responsibly, but anyone outside of the county is encouraged to stay home under the current circumstances."** As of 5/7/2020, Braden notes, "Caddis are definitely hatching above Salida, up to Hecla Junction! This seems to be the leading edge of activity with the hatch spread down into Bighorn Sheep Canyon. Hatches and mating flights are a sight to see, with the former providing some outstanding dry fly fishing opportunities. Egg-laying behavior after 5 or 6pm will also bring fish back to the surface. There is lots of food subsurface right now, and if fish seem to ignore topwater offerings, try caddis pupa as a dropper or on the swing. Caddis are usually in the #14-18 range, with #16 being the sweet spot. Putergbaughs Foam Caddis, Elk Hair Caddis, Furimsky Foam Caddis, Sparkle Pupa, Graphic Caddis, and Soft Hackle Caddi spupa are all excellent ammo for this hatch. The warmer weather has also caused a significant rise in flow on the river, from low-elevation snowmelt surging through tributaries, to an increase in the release from Twin Lakes. The river is very dirty today. Usually the little plugs of discoloration in early May are easy to avoid, but each day is a little different. Usually the big time runoff doesn't begin until later in May. During periods of dirty water, focus on fishing the edges with large, high contrast streamers and stonefly nymphs. The middle basin is also seeing considerable blue winged olive activity most days in the afternoons between 1-3pm, with the strongest hatches on cloudy days. Sometimes the caddis can mask the mayfly activity, see keep your eyes open for signs of multiple hatches simultaneously. With the availability of food, low flows and ideal water temperatures, you'll find fish are able to spread out and occupy much of the river, in stark contrast to the isolated holding areas you'll see in the winter months. Outside of a hatch scenario, pheasant tail variations in a #16-18 will consistently get some attention as imitations of baetis nymphs, especially in or near riffled water in the afternoons. If you find yourself in an afternoon hatch, you'll want to be armed with some dun and emerger patterns (Parachute Adams, Gulper Special, Sprout Baetis, Bat-wing Emergers, Barr Emergers, Jujubaetis, etc. in #16-18). Immature stonefly nymphs (#10-12), caddis larva (#14-18), and midge larva/pupa (#18-20) are especially effective in the morning before any hatch activity takes place. If we are lucky, we'll see some caddis hatches up above Salida in the next week or so."

Flows: 824 CFS at Hecla Junction (5/7/2020)

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

[Arkansas River](#)

John Martin Reservoir

As of 5/6/2020, the water at John Martin Reservoir was recently recorded at 59 degrees with mild to poor water clarity. Fishing on the reservoir is picking up as of late. Anglers have reported catching wiper, whitebass, and crappie.

[John Martin Reservoir](#)

Lake Pueblo

As of 5/8/2020, consistently warmer weather has aided in increase fish activity. Water clarity has also been reported to be fair, in some areas visibility of about 2-3 feet. When the fishing is good, anglers have reported having the best luck fishing near the dam with jigs and jerkbaits. A new [Fish Survey and Management Data](#) was published recently showing fishing sampling data for Pueblo Reservoir.

[Pueblo Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Colorado River

As of 5/1/2020, the folks at Taylor Creek Fly Shops report that “like the lower Roaring Fork, the Colorado is pretty darn spectacular. Blue Wings are hatching heavily now and we are seeing blanket caddis hatches. Streamers and nymphs have been deadly, and if you can find some soft water midday, you'll find some risers here and there. This week fishing in the sun has been better than the shade, although usually we say the opposite. If you don't float, check out the wade fishing accesses in Glenwood Springs and Dino Boat Ramp. We are warming up quickly around here, so get after it while it lasts!”

They suggest anglers consider the following flies: DRIES: Pearl and Elk Caddis #14-18, Lawson's EZ Caddis #16-18, Parachute Adams #18-20, Red or Yellow Humpy #16-18, CDC Transitional Midge #20-22, Griffiths Gnat #18-22, Sprout Midge #20-22, HOH Spent Midge #20-22, Hatching Midge #20-22. NYMPHS: Prince #16-18, BLMs #18-20, San Juan Worm #10, Tung Bead Baetis #18-20, Biot Baetis #18-20, RS2s #20, Polywing Emerger #18-20, Imposters #20-22, Assassins #20-22, Freestone Emerger #20, Biot Midge #20-22, Copper John Red #14-18, San Juan Worm #10.

Flow: 5210 CFS in Glenwood Springs (as of 5/7/2020)

<https://taylorcreek.com/blogs/colorado-river-report>

[Colorado River](#)

Upper Roaring Fork - Aspen to Basalt

As of 5/1/2020, the folks at Taylor Creek Fly Shops report that, “dry fly action is picking up, and streamer fishing and nymphing has also been quite productive. Small worms, stones and princes make great lead flies and follow them up with RS2s or various midge larva.” They suggest the following flies, DRIES: Pearl and Elk Caddis #14-18, Ethawing Caddis #16-18, Perfect Baetis #20-22, No Hackle BWO #20-22, Morgan's Para Midge #20-22, HOH CDC Midge Adult #24, HOH CDC Spent Midge #22-24, Sprout Midge #20-24, Skittering Z Lon Midge #20-22. NYMPHS: BLM #18-20, Tungsten Bead Baetis #20, BTS Baetis #20-22, Sparklewing RS2 #20-22, Freestone Emerger #20, Kingrey's Cap'n Hook #20-22, Bead Wing Midge #20-22, Rojo Midge #20-22, Spanflex Stone #10-12, Tungsten Split Case PMD #16-18, PMD Halfback Emerger #14-18. STREAMERS: Autumn Splendor #6, Zuddler #6, Slumpies #6-8.

Flow: 40 CFS below Maroon Creek (5/1/2020)

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

[Roaring Fork River](#)

Lake John

As of 5/3/2020, the water temperature at Lake John was recorded at 50 degrees. One angler noted that they had mild to good success fishing among and around the weeds. They stated that they were able to get fish on the line with a green tube jig. It was also reported that no fish were rising to feed off the surface. Anglers must get their hardware lower in the water column to attract fish.

[Lake John](#)

Steamboat Lake

As of 5/1/2020, park staff reported that the ice is still close to 2 feet thick on most of the lake. The shoreline is breaking up and has receded 10-50 feet depending on the location. We have not had any reports from fisherman but the cars we have seen parked along the road near the creeks do not stay long, so our guess is that the fish have not started moving up the creeks yet. Nearby creeks have begun to open up and may be fishable, however, accessing creeks may be difficult. Anglers in the Steamboat Springs area looking to do some fishing before the lake opens up can head up Hwy 129 for public fishing access south of the Red Dirt Trail head on the Elk River.

[Steamboat Lake](#)

Vega Reservoir

As of 5/4/2020, the lake is free of ice and open to boating at this time. The Island boat ramp is open. Early Settlers and Oak Point boat ramps remain closed. The ANS boat inspection station is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[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. *Please note, Gunnison County has implemented travel restrictions that may limit your ability to access the reservoir. See the county's [website](#) for more information before planning your fishing trip. As of 5/8/2020, the National Park Service notes that they are working on a plan for a phased reopening within the next two weeks. Plans include to safely open boating at Blue Mesa and other reservoir areas and areas in Black Canyon. Visit the Curecanti Nation Recreation Area's [website](#) for the latest details. Blue Mesa Reservoir remains open for hiking and shore fishing opportunities for Gunnison County residents only.

[Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

Crawford Reservoir

As of 5/1/2020, the Iron Creek boat ramp is open with inspectors on duty. Park staff stated that the water level has been rising, however the reservoir is still about 8 feet below full pool. There are few reports of fishing activity because few boats have gotten on the water this season. Although, one angler reported that water clarity was good, however, they did not have much luck.

[Crawford Reservoir](#)

Jackson Gulch Reservoir - Mancos State Park

As of 5/7/2020, staff at Jackson Gulch Reservoir at Mancos State reported that "the lake is fully open for fishing, although the water level is relatively low. 4000 catchable-sized rainbow trout have been stocked so far this year. Trout are occasionally rising and can be caught with small jigs and streamers. Standard baits under a float: PowerBait, 'crawlers, waxworms, and mealworms will work for both trout and yellow perch. Try a small ice fishing jig, tipped with bait about 4 ft under a float or slightly deeper below a slip bobber. Most yellow perch are small but this can be a great time of year to catch some of the larger perch."

[Jackson Gulch Reservoir](#)

James M. Robb Colorado River State Park

There are approximately 100 surface acres of water providing a variety of opportunities for anglers. Several of those lakes are stocked in the spring months. As of 5/5/2020, all lakes within the park reported fishing well. Staff reported that there was not a specific bait that gave anglers more success but all types of bait were getting anglers into fish.

[James M. Robb Colorado River State Park](#)

Navajo Lake

As of 5/4/2020, anglers have had only occasional success on the lake. Water temperature at the lake was recently recorded at 56 degrees. Reports indicate that anglers have had mild to good results attracting a variety of species, including crappie small mouth bass, catfish, and northern pike. While the Colorado side of the Lake is open for day use only, the New Mexico side of the lake remains closed until further notice. This closure is applicable at the Colorado/New Mexico state line. Check New Mexico's [Lake Navajo Lake State Park](#)'s official website to receive up to date information regarding the park's closure.

[Navajo Lake](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

The rivers and streams across the state are at various stages of the spring transition. Reports from lower elevation rivers such as the stretches of the Arkansas and Colorado indicate that they have begun to become dirty in color with higher flows. In such circumstances, anglers can still find some success by concentrating on fishing the edges with larger nymphs and stoneflies. Meanwhile, high elevation streams continue to thaw and shed the winter snow and ice, producing crystal clear water. When able to reach these upper stretches, anglers can fish the open streams with smaller nymphs. There have been reports of good fishing, including dry fly action, on rivers and streams in the high country that have been free of ice but not yet experiencing high and dirty flows associated with the runoff. Among these rivers and streams anglers have reported success with midge, BWO, and the occasional caddis fly pattern. Lakes across the state follow a similar pattern, however, fishing on lower elevation lakes has begun to heat up. As water temperatures rise into the 50's in many lakes, fish have become more active. Meanwhile, high elevation lakes have moved on from ice fishing season but not all lakes have completely opened up.

Tip of the Week - Casting in Tight Spots

It is always best to try meet fish where they are. However, fish are not always in the most convenient spots. Whether fishing small mountain streams or the banks of a large lake, anglers often find themselves needing to throw their lures or flies under brush, overhang, or branches. If you have faced this situation before, you have probably seen evidence that a furious fisher had to cut their lure loose (hopefully they prepared with another lure). Fortunately, there are several techniques that can help anglers avoid sticking their hooks. Consistent among all of these techniques is the ability to keep your lures or flies low and travel parallel to the water surface. Fly anglers have developed several technical casts meant to avoid this issue. The most basic of these is a tradition side arm cast where an overhead cast rotated 90 degrees. When you do not have adequate space to make a full side arm cast, anglers can try a number of other options. My favorite cast to use while confined between brush in front and behind me is the bow and arrow cast. Although the bow and arrow does not generate a lot of distance, it can help insert the fly just about anywhere. Grab the line and pull back enough to bend your rod in front of you, release the line and let the rod flex back to straight, the released tension on the rod will snap the line out in front. Keeping the rod low and parallel to the water surface will keep the fly low and away from branches overhanging from above. Spin casters also find themselves trying to place their lure under the overhang of branches, brush, and docks. In this case, anglers can use a skip cast to place their lure within those tight spots. Consider your lure to be like a skipping stone that will travel parallel to the water and eventually skip a couple times across the water before coming to a stop. The most important aspect of the skip cast is to have horizontal momentum that will prevent the lure from breaking the surface tension. The more horizontal force applied will determine whether the lure will travel several inches or feet beneath the cover. The ability to place your fly or lure deep beneath overhang can help you attract the fish that are hiding out.

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

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DNR Fish Reporter



COLORADO
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