COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Fishing Report

Friday May 21st, 2021



News and Information

COVID-19 Response

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

Take a Friend Fishing contest is back in action and accepting applications!

For the third consecutive year, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and our partner Colorado fishing companies are encouraging <u>anglers to take a friend fishing</u>. As a reward for sharing your expertise and love of fishing, we've created a contest for mentors who take the time to pass on their knowledge.

Blue Mesa Reservoir lake trout tournament continues through July

The 2nd Annual Blue Mesa Reservoir Lake Trout Tournament at Blue Mesa Reservoir is in full swing and anglers have plenty of time to fish for \$10,000 in prize money. The reservoir is located near Gunnison in western Colorado.

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

Free Fishing Weekend June 5 to June 6, 2021

The fish are starting to bite at waters all around the state. To give everyone an opportunity to get out and get some hits, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is inviting resident and nonresident anglers of all ages to participate in its annual Free Fishing Weekend on June 5 to 6. The free fishing weekend is a great way to get outside with family and friends and take advantage of Colorado's extensive opportunities to fish for a myriad of cold and warm water fish species.

Tips & Hotspots

There are many resources that Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers to help those interested in fishing throughout the state:

- Fishing Report- This report offers a weekly fishing report from lakes all around Colorado
- Fishing Atlas- This is an interactive map that shows the many waters people can fish in Colorado
- 101 Places to Take a Kid Fishing- this webpage has an interactive map showing all of the possible places to take a kid fishing
- <u>Stocking Report</u>- The stocking report shows lakes, ponds, and rivers that have been stocked with catchable (9 to 12 inch) trout in Colorado.



Now you can take the <u>#ColoradoOutdoors</u> anywhere. Follow us on <u>@instagram @coparkswildlife!</u> 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 <u>@COParksWildlife</u>.

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Houts Lake	Northeast	5/4/2021
Lake San Cristobal	Southwest	5/3 & 5/4/2021
Rodeo Pond	Northwest	5/4/2021
Old Pond	Northwest	5/4/2021
Mckee Lake	Northwest	5/4/2021
Beaver Lake	Northwest	5/4/2021
Seymour Reservoir	Northeast	5/5/2021
Clear Creek Reservoir	Southeast	5/5/2021
<u>Dragonfly Pond</u>	Northeast	5/7/2021
Flatiron Reservoir	Northeast	5/7/2021
Pinewood Reservoir	Northeast	5/7/2021
DeWeese Reservoir	Southeast	5/3/2021
Beckwith Reservoir	Southeast	5/3/2021
Catamount Reservoir South	Southeast	5/4/2021
Lake Isabel	Southeast	5/4/2021
Chipeta Park Pond	Northeast	5/4/2021
Memorial Park Pond	Southeast	5/4/2021
Schryver Park Pond	Southeast	5/4/2021
<u>Dragonfly Pond</u>	Southeast	5/4/2021
Rampart Reservoir	Southeast	5/4/2021
Arvada Reservoir	Northeast	5/3/2021
Standley Lake	Northeast	5/3/2021
Waneka Lake	Northeast	5/4/2021
Harper Lake	Northeast	5/4/2021
Thomas Reservoir	Northeast	5/4/2021
Quail Lake	Southeast	5/5/2021
Willow Springs Pond #1	Southeast	5/5/2021
Willow Springs Pond #2	Southeast	5/5/2021

Pikeview Reservoir	Southeast	5/6/2021
Palmer Lake	Southeast	5/6/2021
Monument Lake	Southeast	5/6/2021
Rocky Mountain Lake	Northeast	5/7/2021
Berkeley Lake	Northeast	5/7/2021
<u>Tabor Lake</u>	Northeast	5/7/2021
Yampa River	Northwest	5/5/2021
Catamount Lake	Northwest	5/6/2021
Echo Canyon Reservoir	Southwest	5/5/2021
<u>Vallecito Reservoir</u>	Southwest	5/6/2021
<u>Dowdy Lake</u>	Northeast	5/10/2021
West Lake	Northeast	5/10/2021
Casey Pond	Northwest	5/11/2021
Fetcher City Pond	Northwest	5/11/2021
Nofstger Reservoir	Northwest	5/11/2021
Yamcolo Reservoir	Northwest	5/12/2021
Cowdrey Lake	Northwest	5/10/2021
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	5/12/2021
<u>Vallecito Reservoir</u>	Southwest	5/12/2021
Columbia Reservoir	Northeast	5/11/2021
Davis Pond #1	Northeast	5/11/2021
Davis Pond #2	Northeast	5/11/2021
Fairplay Kids Pond	Northeast	5/11/2021
Skaguay Reservoir	Northeast	5/11/2021
<u>Chalk Creek Lake</u>	Southeast	5/12/2021
Twin Lakes	Southeast	5/12/2021
Wrights Lake	Southeast	5/12/2021
Runyon Lake	Southeast	5/10/2021
Pueblo West Pond	Southeast	5/10/2021
Ordway Reservoir	Southeast	5/10/2021

Aurora Reservoir	Northeast	5/11/2021
Quincy Reservoir	Northeast	5/11/2021
Mann-Nyholt Lake South	Northeast	5/12/2021
Webster Lake	Northeast	5/12/2021
Brighton City Park Lake	Northeast	5/12/2021
North Naturita Town Pond	Southwest	5/13/2021
South Naturita Town Pond	Southwest	5/13/2021
Enoch Lake	Northwest	5/13/2021
Palisade Pond	Northwest	5/13/2021
Fruita Reservoir #3	Northwest	5/13/2021
<u>Sylvan lake</u>	Northwest	5/13/2021
Sweetwater Lake	Northwest	5/13/2021
Seymour Reservoir	Northeast	5/12/2021
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	5/14/2021
Smith Lake	Northeast	5/13/2021
Centennial Park Lake	Northeast	5/13/2021
Bear Creek Reservoir	Northeast	5/13/2021
Chatfield Reservoir	Northeast	5/14/2021
Eaglewatch Lake	Northeast	5/14/2021
Glenmere Lake	Northeast	5/13/2021
Riverside Park Lake	Northeast	5/13/2021
North Lake Park Pond	Northeast	5/13/2021
North Lake	Southeast	5/13/2021
Rampart Reservoir	Southeast	5/13/2021
Green Mountain Falls Lake	Southeast	5/14/2021

Catch of the Week



Teamwork makes the dream work. Andrea Amaro holding her brother's (Aron Amaro) 20inch trout caught at Antero Reservoir.

Friendly reminder, Free Fishing Weekend is June 5 to June 6, 2021.

Find more information here.

Would you like to be featured in the next CPW Fishing Report's Catch of the Week? Share your photo!

Email dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us and put "Catch of the Week" in the subject line or submit through the CPW Fishing App.

Conditions Report - Metro

Aurora Reservoir

Park Rangers report as of 5/21/2021, trout fishing is fair with few good reports using PowerBait off the dam. Fly anglers are reporting fair to good success using olive leech patterns. There have been some reports of walleye and smallmouth bass being caught using jigs from watercraft. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours for April 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Aurora Reservoir

Chatfield Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021**, the park ranger reports fishing is starting to pick up for all species and action should continually pick up with warmer temperatures. A large variety of lures are working for bass, walleye, and trout. Some anglers reported success bait-fishing the bottom.

Chatfield Reservoir

Cherry Creek Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021** no new reports on any other species at this time. For more information please call (303) 690-1166. Cherry Creek State Park

Standley Lake

The lake was recently stocked on **5/3/2021**. Please call ahead prior to heading to the reservoir to get up-to-date lake and shoreline fishing conditions. Contact park staff at 303-425-1097. Standley Lake

Quincy Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021**, bass fishing is starting to pick up with warmer weather. Some reports of largemouth bass being caught in the East cove using jigs and lipless crankbaits fished slowly. A few reports of smallmouth bass being caught off the dam using jigs. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Only watercraft capable of being launched by hand is permitted. Trailers and vehicles are not permitted in the water. Park hours for April are 6:00 am to 8:30 pm. For more information call 303-326-8424. Quincy Reservoir

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021**, the ANS inspection station is located at the south boat ramp. Both boat anglers and shore anglers are reporting success catching trout on a variety of lures.

Barr Lake

As of **5/21/2021** park staff reports the lake is now full. There have been some nice-sized wipers being caught by boat. Walleyes are starting to bite, and trout are being caught from the shoreline. For the most current conditions, please contact park staff by calling 303-659-6005.

Barr Lake

Boyd Lake

As of **5/21/2021**, park staff reports Boyd Lake is OPEN to boating. Fishing is picking up and there are reports of anglers catching white bass and some walleyes. There is no fishing permitted from marina slips or docks. Please call Boyd Lake State Park at 970-669-1739 to get the most up-to-date ice conditions.

Boyd Lake

Cheesman Canyon

As of **5/21/2021**, Cheesman has been fishing well with deeper nymphing working in the early mornings. Baetis, BWO, and midges are regularly hatching leading to plenty of fish surfacing in the late mornings early afternoons, and evenings. With current flows, be sure to cover as much water as you can, if you are not seeing action, keep moving.

Flows: 158 CFS above Cheesman Lake (5/21/2021)

Cheesman

Douglas Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021**, bass fishing has picked up over the past two weeks and there have also been more reports of anglers having success catching trout and a handful of wipers as well.

Douglas Reservoir

Dream Stream - South Platte

As of **5/21/2021**, with low flows and extremely clear waters, the Dream Stream has been producing some technical fishing the last week. Targeting deeper pools and slower riffles are key as well as making smart approaches to the water to not spook the fish. Anglers have reported success with Pheasant Tails, a variety of egg colors, and leech patterns.

Flows: 51.1 CFS above Eleven Mile (5/21/2021)

Dream Stream

Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of 5/21/2021, The 11 Mile Marina reports "Trout fishing is reportedly very good. Opening saw a blustery windy day but the action was good from shore and boat. It is a good time of year for Jointed Rapala. Lots of different baits are working. Shore action remains strong and the spawn continues although it should be wrapping up soon. Salmon Peach and Garlic PowerBait have done well. Pautzke Salmon or trout eggs are also hot. Night fishing is good at 10:00 p.m., 2 and 4 in the morning. Lots of fish in the 18 to 22-inch range being caught. The water is very cold and action will improve even more as it gets to temps in the 50's."

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

Eleven Mile State Park

Horsetooth Reservoir

The reservoir was recently stocked on 4/20/2021. As of 5/21/2021, anglers have reported success catching trout on a variety of lures as well as smallmouth bass action picking up.

Horsetooth Reservoir

North Sterling Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021**, the lake is OPEN to boating. All vessels must go through an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) inspection prior to launching. Water temperatures are near mid 50's. Walleye and crappie fishing has been decent lately. No other species reports at this time. Contact the park for the latest ice conditions at 970-522-3657.

North Sterling Reservoir

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021**, park staff reports trout fishing has been very good. Due to very low water levels, the reservoir will open to boating of hand-launched vessels only. Boats with motors will be allowed and will require an ANS inspection going in and coming out.

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

St. Vrain State Park

As of **5/21/2021**, pike, walleye, and saugeye will chase larger swimbaits and spoons, but we recommend suspending only a few feet down, as most ponds with pike are very shallow at St. Vrain. Pike and walleye will also chase streamers and poppers, but will usually require some form of a leader to prevent breaking free. Please contact the park for the most up-to-date conditions by calling 303-678-9402.

St. Vrain State Park

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

As of 5/21/2021, Braden Baker with Ark Anglers writes, "The outflow from Twin Lakes is now running at 20 CFS. The flows have been steadily increasing in Hayden Meadows as the runoff is beginning. Even with higher flows the clarity is good most days and improves throughout the day. Hayden Meadows is fishing well and with far less traffic than you'd see around Salida. Look toward riffles, edges, and pocket water as the temperatures are beginning to warm and food sources increase. Your best window of opportunity will be between 9 am and 5 pm. Even on recent sunny days, we are seeing some great blue-winged olive hatches through the Numbers and Granite areas with reports of good BWO hatches in the meadows as well. There should be many more opportunities to catch a mayfly hatch up here in the coming days, especially if there's any cloud cover in the forecast. If you are not in a BWO hatch, fish attractor dry droppers with longer (3') droppers as a subtle nymph rig in the pockets, edges, and riffles. Once runoff fully starts, fishing opportunities are still possible in the upper reaches of the river, although you may need to cover more water to find good holding positions. All you need is a little visibility along the edges where the fish will get pushed into with high flows. During this time, big dry flies in the soft water areas can be very productive."

Flows: 222 CFS at Hayden Meadows, 302 CFS at Granite (5/21/2021)

http://www.arkanglers.com/

Arkansas River

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida

As of 5/21/2021, Braden Baker with Ark Anglers writes, "The Arkansas River is still very fishable, despite a recent increase in flow. Clarity is holding around 2' in the middle basin following heavy rain yesterday but flows have come down slightly from Tuesday. While the river is stained, consider fishing high contrast flies like Prince Nymphs or rubberlegs stoneflies in tandem with caddis pupa or baetis nymphs. Streamers can also work well in the stained water, as mature brown trout take advantage of the conditions to ambush juvenile browns. Prior to the cool weather, the Mother's Day caddis hatch had made it up as far as Fisherman's Bridge. We may still see caddis in the coming days when the weather warms back up, but the cloudy weather in the forecast today looks prime for blue-winged olives. Combining the weather outlook with low flows and the current state of the snowpack, we should enjoy a few more days of relatively fishable conditions before runoff truly sets in.

Caddis hatches seem strongest in the afternoons, with adult flights and egg-laying activity in the evening and sometimes mornings. We would normally expect a semi-predictable wave of hatches moving upstream day by day, but as delayed as the hatch has been in starting this year we are seeing pockets of intense hatches fire off outside of the typical pattern. Water that reaches 54 degrees has the potential to see caddis hatches underway, giving us a wide window of opportunity to encounter this hatch. We'll update this report daily as the hatch proceeds upstream.

The blue-winged olive mayflies tend to be most active in the afternoons, with daily behavioral nymphal drifts occurring between noon and 3 pm most days. These mayflies typically wait for cloudy, often precipitous days to hatch in the afternoons, but you should be prepared regardless of the forecast. Sometimes all it takes is a single cloud to mute the sun for a hatch to occur. Recently, it seems that the clear, direct sunlight has fish content to feed just under the surface, intercepting nymphs and vulnerable emergers rather than committing to the dun on the water's surface. Next Tuesday's forecast of cooler temperatures and potential precipitation may make for more concentrated surface feeding. These mayflies are generally a #16-18 and offer some of the best "match-the-hatch" dry and dry-dropper fishing of the year. Stonefly and other large attractor nymphs will be great anchor flies while nymphing during non-hatch periods. For droppers, try midge larva and pupa, caddis larva, and blue-winged olive nymphs and emergers."

Flows: 563 CFS at Hecla Junction (5/21/2021)

http://www.arkanglers.com/

Arkansas River

John Martin Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021**, both the East and West boat ramps are open. Anglers continue to report success catching walleye and white bass. As a reminder to anglers, underwater spearfishing may be used as a method of fishing in accordance with regulations issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Underwater spearfishing is prohibited within 100 feet of any marina, boat ramp, swim beach, or dam infrastructure.

John Martin Reservoir

Lake Pueblo

As of **5/21/2021**, be advised that rainbow spawning is taking place and to avoid walking on redds. Anglers have reported increased bass action this week as water temperatures are starting to reach the mid to high 50's. Lake Pueblo

Runyon & Fountain Lakes

The lakes were recently stocked on 5/10/2021, 4/19/2021, 3/19/2021, 2/26/2021, and 1/27/2021 and are fishing well. Fishing overall has been fair to good with a variety of artificial lures.

Runyon Lake

Fountain Lake

Trinidad Lake

As of **5/21/2021**, park staff reports boaters are catching trout on jigs and trolling. There are some walleye being caught in deeper water using jigs. The bass fishing has reportedly picked up over the last couple of weeks. The South shore has produced good size trout regularly using PowerBait, doughballs, and nightcrawlers. Call the park for the most up-to-date conditions 719-846-6951.

Trinidad Lake

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River

As of **5/21/2021**, mornings have provided the best fishing lately. Eggs and mayfly nymphs are reportedly working well in deeper waters. Other reports have indicated late afternoon hatches providing an abundance of activity.

Flows: 78.7 CFS below Green Mountain Reservoir (5/21/2021)

Blue River

Eagle River

As of **5/21/2021**, the significant increases in flows have decreased water clarity. Look for fish holding along the banks in areas protected from the more turbulent water. Caddis, leech, and stonefly presentations have worked for those who are nymphing.

Flows: 1280 CFS below Gypsum (5/21/2021)

Eagle River

Green Mountain Reservoir

As of 5/21/2021, reports indicate fishing is slow and water levels are low.

Green Mountain Reservoir

Harvey Gap

As of **5/21/2021**, the lake is open water and fishing fair to good. Anglers have reported success landing perch and trout on a variety of lures as well as nightcrawlers.

Harvey Gap

Lake John

As of **5/21/2021**, Lake John reports intermittent fishing success for trout using standard baits and lures. Lake John

Rifle Gap

As of 5/21/2021, park staff reports with the warmer temperatures, northern pike are being caught as well as brown trout. Rifle Gap

Steamboat Lake

As of **5/3/2021**, park staff reports, "the lake levels are still very low so the water from the lake does not reach the creeks. The shore fishing has been great across the lake!" Call the visitor center, (970) 879-3922, for up-to-date information on lake conditions, open daily 8 am-4 pm.

Steamboat Lake

Vega Reservoir

Park staff reports as of 5/21/2021, boat ramps will open effective 8:00 a.m. on May 1st, 2021. Currently, the lake is ice-free. The Visitor Center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily and masks are required to enter. Beginning May 2021, to prevent boats from launching during hours that ANS inspections are not available, the park has installed new gates and one-way spike strips. The spike strips will allow boats to exit the lake after hours at the Island boat ramp but will prevent anyone from entering the lake during non-inspection hours. Boaters that plan to exit the lake after inspection hours should park and use the Island boat ramp so that they are not behind locked gates after hours. Early Settlers and Oak Point boat ramps will be locked every night after the ANS inspection gate closes at 8:30 p.m. Vega Reservoir

Yampa River

As of **5/21/2021**, the Yampa River has been providing excellent fishing this time of year for all species. Anglers have reported success using San Juan worms, BWO size 18-20, zebra midges, and Pheasant tails.

Flow: 31.8 CFS below Stagecoach Reservoir (5/21/2021)

Yampa River

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Animas River at Durango

As of **5/7/2021**, *Duranglers* reports, "Runoff has arrived and is ramping up. Water will be off-color but still may have some visibility. Float fishing is picking up. Streamers and bigger nymph rigs will be key right now."

Flows: 1490 CFS at Durango (5/21/2021)

<u>Duranglers</u> <u>Animas River</u>

Blue Mesa Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021**, anglers have reported success fishing 10-20 feet of water for trout and heading deeper to 50-80 feet of water for lake trout. The Blue Mesa Lake Trout tournament continues through July! The Lake Fork and Elk Creek boat ramps are open and have hours 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Blue Mesa Reservoir

Dolores River - above McPhee Reservoir

As of **5/21/2021** *Duranglers* report, "The upper Dolores is high, but fishing may be decent with nymphs and streamers. Stonefly nymphs will be your friend in the deeper water."

Flows: 752 at Dolores (5/21/2021)

<u>Duranglers</u> Dolores River

Gunnison River

As of **5/7/2021** *Duranglers*, "Nymph rigs are your best bet with stoneflies, caddis, and still a few midges. Watch for some fish coming up for early season caddis or midges."

Flows: 481 CFS below Gunnison Tunnel (5/21/2021)

<u>Duranglers</u> Gunnison River

Jackson Gulch Reservoir - Mancos State Park

As of 5/7/2021, the staff at Mancos State Park report, "Most of the fishing right now has been happening from the bank with typical baits: rainbow or green PowerBait, worms, and 'crawlers. A double-hook rig with PowerBait on one hook and a worm on the other will open up your odds of both trout and yellow perch. Fishing has been good for 10-12-inch trout and small yellow perch. A few splake (brooke trout/lake trout crosses) have been caught using the same baits or small lures. Inline spinners (Mepps, Panther Martins) are working. Let the spinner sink for a count of five or six, then reel mid-speed (enough to get the blade turning but not too fast). Trout should start surfacing in the still mornings and evenings, making for good action with the fly rod, especially from a float tube or kayak."

Jackson Gulch Reservoir

James M. Robb Colorado River

As of **5/21/2021**, park staff reports all of the lakes have been stocked and fishing has been good using all types of bait. Please ensure the responsible and ethical release of fish and properly dispose of fishing line. Remember, the daily limit for trout is four fish per person.

James M. Robb Colorado River - Corn, Fruita, and Connected Lakes

San Juan River at Pagosa Springs

As of **5/21/2021** *Duranglers* report, "Runoff has arrived on the upper San Juan. Water will be high, off-color, and cold. Fishing will be okay, not great, yet. Streamers and stonefly nymph rigs will be the go-to."

Flows: 1030 CFS at Pagosa Springs (5/21/2021)

<u>Duranglers</u> <u>San Juan River</u>

Tip of the Week Free Fishing Weekend June 5 to 6, 2021

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

DNR Fish Reporter

