

Fishing Report



Friday July 2nd, 2020

News and Information

Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

COVID-19 Update - 6/25/20

Colorado Parks and Wildlife group picnic areas for groups of 25 or fewer; campgrounds including cabins, yurts and group camping for groups of 25 or fewer; camper services buildings; and designated swim areas are now open. Please follow all directions and precautions required by Governor Polis's Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors Order. The check-in time for all yurt and cabin reservations is now 4 p.m. Playgrounds at Colorado's state parks remain closed until further notice. There are exceptions in counties with remaining health orders or areas remaining closed by county request. For commonly asked questions, including details on available SWA camping, [please review our Camping FAQ](#). Most Colorado Parks and Wildlife visitor centers, service centers and CPW offices are open with limited access to the public. Front desk areas and staffed drive-up windows will open to customers with social distancing and safety at the forefront. Individual location hours may vary, so please call for hours before visiting your nearest office or park. Restrictions and closures remain subject to change.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission supports full funding of federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

On June 12, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved a resolution voicing support for the secure, long-term and dedicated funding for land and water conservation, wildlife management, parks and outdoor recreation. Full [funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\) was subsequently granted on June 17](#) when the U.S. Senate passed the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422).

Water enthusiasts should always wear personal flotation devices (PFD)

Now that summer is officially here, Coloradans head to the state's rivers, lakes and reservoirs to participate in a variety of water sports activities. Colorado Parks and Wildlife [remind outdoor recreationists to be safe on the water](#) and wear a life vest, also known as a personal floatation device (PFD).

Colorado State Wildlife Areas: New rules and what they mean for Coloradans

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission recently adopted a rule change, requiring all visitors 18 or older to possess a [valid hunting or fishing license to access any State Wildlife Area or State Trust Land leased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#). This new rule will be in effect beginning July 1, 2020.

Big Prizes beckon smallmouth bass anglers to Ridgway State Park tournament

If you need an extra excuse to go fishing, [head over to Ridgway State Park July 11 - Aug. 9 to participate in the Sixth Annual Smallmouth Bass Fishing Tournament](#) sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

	<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
Carter Reservoir	Northeast	6/15/2020
Flatiron Reservoir	Northeast	6/15/2020
Pinewood Reservoir	Northeast	6/16/2020
Catamount Reservoir North	Southeast	6/15/2020
Catamount Reservoir South	Southeast	6/15/2020
Blue Lake	Southeast	6/15/2020
Bear Lake	Southeast	6/15/2020
Monument Reservoir	Southeast	6/17/2020
Beaver Lake	Northwest	6/15/2020
Glacier Springs Retention Pond	Northwest	6/15/2020
Sunset Lake	Northwest	6/16/2020
Estes Lake	Northeast	6/16/2020
Jefferson Lake	Northeast	6/16/2020
Skaguay Reservoir	Southeast	6/17/2020
Twin Lakes	Southeast	6/17/2020
Mount Elbert Forebay	Southeast	6/18/2020
Weir & Johnson Reservoir	Southwest	6/15/2020
Bailey Reservoir	Southwest	6/16/2020
Island Lake	Southwest	6/17/2020
Horseshoe Reservoir	Southeast	6/16/2020
Martin Lake	Southeast	6/16/2020
Chatfield Reservoir	Northeast	6/17/2020
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	6/19/2020
Mineral Creek, South	Southwest	6/17/2020
Andrews Lake	Southwest	6/17/2020
Molas Lake Big	Southwest	6/17/2020
Animas River #2	Southwest	6/18/2020

Animas River #4	Southwest	6/18/2020
Vallecito Reservoir	Southwest	6/18/2020
Durango Retention Pond	Southwest	6/18/2020
Dolores River #4	Southwest	6/19/2020
Dolores River #5	Southwest	6/19/2020
Dolores River, West Fork	Southwest	6/19/2020
San Juan River #2	Southwest	6/16/2020
San Juan River, East Fork	Southwest	6/16/2020
Chatfield Reservoir	Northeast	6/17/2020
Montgomery Reservoir	Northeast	6/22/2020
Lake O'Haver	Southeast	6/22/2020
Buena Vista Kids Pond	Southeast	6/23/2020
Clear Creek Reservoir	Southeast	6/23/2020
Fairplay Kids Pond	Northeast	6/23/2020
Sands Lake	Southeast	6/24/2020
Riverside Ponds	Southeast	6/24/2020
Dowdy Lake	Northeast	6/22/2020
West Lake	Northeast	6/22/2020
Poudre River #2	Northeast	6/23/2020
Poudre River #3	Northeast	6/23/2020
Ranger Lake Lower	Northeast	6/23/2020
Casey Pond	Northwest	6/24/2020
Fetcher City Pond	Northwest	6/24/2020
Hahns Peak Lake	Northwest	6/24/2020
Yamcolo Reservoir	Northwest	6/24/2020
Hotel Twin Lake	Southwest	6/22/2020
Lost Lake Slough	Southwest	6/23/2020
Roaring Judy Ponds	Southwest	6/24/2020
Tincup Pond	Southwest	6/25/2020
Mirror Lake	Southwest	6/25/2020

Trinidad Reservoir	Southeast	6/23/2020
Bear Creek Reservoir	Northeast	6/24/2020
Cherry Creek Reservoir	Northeast	6/25/2020
Cottonwood Lake #2	Northwest	6/22/2020
Cottonwood Lake #4	Northwest	6/22/2020
Alta Lake Lower	Southwest	6/23/2020
Cottonwood Lake #1	Northwest	6/23/2020
Reed Reservoir	Southwest	6/24/2020
Pitkin Kids Pond	Southwest	6/25/2020
Quartz Creek	Southwest	6/25/2020
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	6/26/2020
Molas Lake Big	Southwest	6/23/2020

**Missed your region's Angler Roundtable? No worries!
Click on the links below to watch the recorded Angler
Roundtables.**

[Northwest Region June 10, 2020](#)

[Southwest Region June 15, 2020](#)

Southeast Region June 25, 2020*

Northeast Region July 2, 2020*

*Link will be published in next CPW Fishing Report on July 17, 2020.

Catch of the Week



Levi caught a 43 ¼ -inch Tiger Muskie with a 19-inch girth on June 27th! Levi returned this specimen alive and well to the water.

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

Conditions Report - Metro

Aurora Reservoir

As of 6/29/2020, trout fishing is fair to good using PowerBait from the dam. The trout are deeper in the water column so casting out 40-50 yards is recommended. There have been a few reports of largemouth bass being caught using soft plastics in the coves. Walleye fishing is fair to good using jigs tipped with crawlers/leeches and trolling with bottom bouncers and crawlers. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park Hours for June 5am-9:30pm. Restricted to electric motors only and portable gas tanks must be removed.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

As of 6/30/2020, it was reported that water temperature at Chatfield Reservoir was recorded in the high 60's. An angler mentioned that they had success pulling in small mouth bass on the west side of the lake. Crankbaits have been getting anglers into trout. Chatfield is open to boating. Aquatic Nuisance Species Inspections will be conducted at North Ramp and South Ramp from 6am -10pm seven days a week. Vessel Decontamination will only be performed during day light hours.

[Chatfield Reservoir](#)

Cherry Creek Reservoir

As of 6/16/2020, Cherry Creek Reservoir appears to be fishing well. Water temperatures have been recorded as high as the mid 70's in some areas. Both bait and artificial lures have been reported to be working well for anglers. Recent reports also indicate that walleye have been very active recently. The reservoir is open for boating with two boat ramps and ANS inspections stations open daily from 6am - 10 pm. The West boat ramp will be closed on Wednesdays.

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

Quincy Reservoir

As of 6/29/2020, bass fishing has been fair to good using soft plastics and top water lures. Early mornings and evenings have seen the most fish activity. There are some reports of yellow perch caught on jigs. Restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Watercraft restrictions-only watercraft capable of being launched by hand permitted. Vehicles and trailers are not permitted in the water. Park Hours for June 5am-9:30pm. For more information call 303-326-8424.

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

As of 6/25/2020, fishing for trout at Antero Reservoir was indicated to be good. One angler reported catching several rainbow trout in the 15 to 19-inch range. They also reported that water clarity was good and there was little weed growth. Best fish activity is in the cooler hours, mornings and evenings. The daily bag and possession limit for trout is two.

[Antero Reservoir](#)

Barr Lake

As of 6/30/2020, an angler reported noticing a significant algae bloom at Barr Lake as early as 6/20/2020. They also reported that the lake was below full capacity and water temperature was measured in the low 70's. Park staff note that "the boat ramp is currently open! Boating is only allowed on the North end of the lake, and only motors 10hp or less are allowed to be used. ANS inspections are mandatory prior to launch for all trailered or motorized vessels."

[Barr Lake](#)

Boyd Lake

As of 6/26/2020, anglers report that fishing has been good at Boyd Lake. There have been reports of walleye being caught in waters between 15 to 25-feet deep. Shore anglers have been particularly successful in shallow waters, about 8-feet, along the shore. Recent measurements have recorded the water temperature at Boyd Lake to be between mid-60's to low 70's in different sections throughout the lake. The main and Heron Cove boat ramps are currently open. ANS inspections are available 6am to 10pm and decontaminations are available 8am to 8pm at the main boat ramp.

[Boyd Lake](#)

Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of 6/30/2020, reports from Eleven Mile State Park and the Eleven Mile Marina suggest that the reservoir and nearby facilities are very crowded, especially on weekends. Despite long waits to get boats on the water, it appears that the fishing has been good. Boaters have had success trolling deeper waters for trout throughout the daytime heat. Meanwhile, shore fisherman have also been able to get into some trout but have had the most success in the early morning or evenings when temperatures are low. The North Shore Boat Ramp is now open from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Horsetooth Reservoir

As of 6/22/2020, fishing has been good at Horsetooth Reservoir. Specifically, anglers have noted considerable success pulling in warm water species such as bass, bluegill, and sunfish. Smallmouth bass were reported to be striking flicker shads and minnows. Meanwhile, an angler also report catching considerable bluegill and sunfish with a worm under a bobber. Water temperature was recorded between the upper-60's to low 70's depending on where measurements were taken.

[Horsetooth Reservoir](#)

North Sterling Reservoir

As of 6/25/2020, North Sterling State Park staff warn anglers and other water recreationists that it is the time of year where "the reservoir experiences an algae bloom. Also, carp have not been particularly resilient after spawning. It won't be uncommon to come across a few dead Carp in the lake and on shore." The Elks Ramp is open daily from 7am to 9pm. The South Ramp is open Friday - Sunday 7am to 9pm and Monday 8am to 4pm.

[North Sterling Reservoir](#)

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of 6/28/2020, it was reported that Spinney Mountain Reservoir has had inconsistent and sometimes sporadic fish activity. Overall, a guide service described the fishing at Spinney Mountain Reservoir to still be good. Water levels are high and water is stained with reported visibility at about 4'. There have been many non-fishing recreationists on the water. Like many other water bodies across the state, the weekends can be become busy at Spinney Mountain Reservoir.

[Spinney Mountain Reservoir](#)

St. Vrain State Park

As of 6/28/2020, the ponds at St. Vrain State Park have been fishing well. Reports from anglers indicate they are having success with warm water species such as walleye, bass, and perch. Increased water temperatures have impacted the activity of trout in the ponds. A recent measurement of water temperature was recorded as high as the mid 70's in one pond. The water was indicated to be stained with visibility at about 3-feet.

[St. Vrain State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

Information provided by Braden Baker with Ark Anglers. As of 7/1/2020, Braden writes that “we’ve got excellent conditions right now on the upper Arkansas. Buena Vista and north offers the best clarity on the whole river right now. The Hayden Meadows area is the most approachable section to wade fish, but if anglers are comfortable rock hopping through BV and the Numbers, good pocket water is starting to open up along the edges. Expect to see some early season yellow sally, golden stonefly and caddis activity. Over the weekend we saw some hatching pale morning duns, so smaller mayfly nymphs, emergers and dry flies would be good to have in your arsenal. Even if nothing is hatching, you’ll likely find opportunistic, competitive fish taking refuge in velocity shelters looking for an easy meal. Think dry-dropper or shallow nymphing with large attractor flies like chernobyl ants, stimulators, Pat’s rubberlegs, etc. As the water continues to recede, conditions will get better and better!”

Flows: 286 CFS at Hayden Meadows, 768 CFS at Granite (6/29/2020)

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

[Arkansas River](#)

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida

Information provided by Braden Baker with Ark Anglers. As of 7/1/2020, “conditions are great in the middle basin with flows hovering just below 1,000 cfs. Anglers will find the best success by fishing hard right along the banks, where they will find fish aggressive and looking for an easy meal. Currently, you’ll want to focus on fishing the soft pockets of slower water along the edges. We’ve had some great reports from intrepid anglers working the edges with large attractor dry/dropper setups, and flies that imitate grasshoppers and stoneflies are usually the ticket. Golden stones and yellow sallies are the key food items here, and a mix of caddis are active as well. We are seeing lots of active pale morning dun nymphs mid-day, so expect to see adults on the water in the next couple weeks. With peak runoff behind us, now is the time to plan for your summer on the Arkansas!”

Flows: 963 CFS at Helca Junction (6/29/2020)

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

[Arkansas River](#)

Horseshoe Lake

As of 6/24/2020, according to rangers at Lathrop State Park, “anglers using PowerBait or worms at Horseshoe Lake have reported pulling in the majority of the trout over the past week. Crappie and bass fishing on Horseshoe has been more productive than on Martin, with most anglers stating that artificial lures, jigs, and spinners result in the most takes. Warmer waters have led to increased activity from catfish and carp. Fishing for catfish has been reported as being the most active around dawn and dusk.”

[Horseshoe Lake](#)

James M. Robb Colorado River State Park - Corn Lake, Island Lake, Red Rocks Lake

As of 6/22/2020, park staff report that “trout fishing has slowed with the warmer summer temperatures. Bluegill will begin to pick up. All types of baits and lures work well. Corn Lake was stocked with another 8000 catchable fish on March 20. Red Rocks Lake was stocked with 1472 catchable fish in February. Island Acres was stocked with trout on March 5.”

[Corn Lake](#), [Island Lake](#), [Red Rocks Lake](#)

John Martin Reservoir

As of 7/1/2020, fishing at John Martin Reservoir has generally slow down. While catfish activity has picked up with rising water temperatures, crappie, trout, white bass, and striper are slow throughout the day and feed mostly in the mornings and evenings. The water level at the reservoir has been consistently dropping and is well below full capacity.

[John Martin Reservoir](#)

Lake Pueblo

As of 6/23/2020, fishing continues to be good at Lake Pueblo. There are many anglers that have reported catching many walleye but the majority measure just below the legal limit of 18-inch. Shore anglers have had a lot of success with simple leeches and slip bobber rigs. One angler noted that the Shad hatch is just beginning which should excite boaters trolling for walleye. Boat ramps are open with inspection hours 5am to 12am and decontamination hours 8am to 7pm. Park staff note that the park is experiencing high visitation and heavy boating usage. Expect long lines at the entrance to the park, to launch your boat and to find a parking space. Be prepared to walk a distance from your parking spot. Waiting times of one to two hours may occur during the peak times: 11 am to 4 pm on weekends.

[Pueblo Reservoir](#)

Lake Trinidad

As of **6/8/2020**, Trinidad Lake has reported good fishing. The lake is at 726 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6184.22. Surface water temps ranging between 62-65 degrees. Boaters have had great luck trolling for trout and targeting walleye and smallmouth in 10 to 20 feet. South Shore anglers were catching trout with hooks tipped with dough bait and worms. Catching trout around 12 to 15 inches is common. Reilly Canyon: Decent sized trout and perch are being caught with jigs/worms.

[Lake Trinidad](#)

Martin Lake

As of **6/24/2020**, park staff at Lathrop State Park reported the following conditions for Martin Lake: “trout fishing has been more productive over the last week, with the majority of anglers pulling rainbows in on worms and PowerBait. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass have been active, as well as yellow perch. Trolling or fishing with swimbaits has led to more anglers pulling in pike and muskie. Wiper have been most active in the early morning hours prior to sunrise.”

[Martin Lake](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Delaney Lakes

As of 6/25/2020, staff at Lake John Resort noted that “the Delaney’s are fishing great. The water temperature is warming up slowly, it is currently at about 62 degrees. East Delaney is producing smaller 12 to 13-inch fish but is the most active, South Delaney is producing fish approximately 16-20”. North Delaney is producing the largest measurements but fish activity is slower than the other two. Rapala’s, tub jigs, leeches, chironomids, damsels, scuds, and nymphs 10 to 20 feet under an indicator has been best during the day, stripping crayfish and leeches has been successful at night and twilight hours.”

[North](#), [South](#), and [East Delaney Lakes](#)

Grand Lake

As of 6/28/2020, Fishing With Bernie guide Sam Hochevar writes: “the water temperature at Grand Lake is 61 degrees in the mornings. Lake trout fishing has been good in 20 to 45 feet of water. Small spoons and tubes tipped with sucker meat has produced most of the lakers. Rainbows and browns have moved a little deeper and are being caught in 15 to 20 feet of water during the day. Trolling has been the most effective technique targeting the browns and rainbows.”

<https://www.fishingwithbernie.com/weekly-fishing-reports>

[Grand Lake](#)

Lake Granby

As of 6/28/2020, local angler, Dimitri Georges, reported the following conditions at Lake Granby: “Lake trout are concentrated on the side slopes of mid lake troughs (deep water channels), but are generally preferring the sub 50 deg F water which is found at 60 feet deep. Lakers were stuffed with Mysis shrimp and nothing else. Lakers sitting on the bottom are not feeding, only suspended fish in the 18” class are actively feeding all day, but especially early morning and right at dusk.” Dimitri recommends anglers consider the following lures: UV pink hoochies (squid like lures) with smile blades, pink or black and white wedding rings with smile blades, and humdinger spoons in green/orange/dotted coloration behind small Colorado blades.

[Lake Granby](#)

Lake John

As of 6/25/2020, Lake John Resort reports that “the lake has quality fish coming out right now but the bite is still slow. The water temperature is warming up slowly, it is at about 57 degrees. Boat anglers are using rapala’s, tub jigs, kastmasters, thomas bouyants and ruby eyed leech flies under an indicator. Shore fisherman have been using marshmallows, cheese, garlic, red, pink, and green PowerBait, night crawlers, and black leech flies.”

<https://lakejohnresort.com/>

[Lake John](#)

Steamboat Lake

As of 6/22/2020, the staff at Steamboat Lake State Park reported that the lake has been fishing well throughout the summer months and anglers have had the most success pulling in fish with night crawlers. The Dutch Hill ANS inspection booth is open Monday through Thursday, 8am to 6pm; Friday through Sunday 6am to 9pm.

[Steamboat Lake](#)

Williams Fork Reservoir

As of 6/28/2020, Randy, a guide with Fishing with Bernie, reports that “the lake is finally full. Water capacity is at 100%. Surface temp has risen to 59 warming to 62 on a sunny day. The Lake trout bite has picked up now that the lake has topped off. All age groups can be found in 55' to 85'. Fish deeper as the day wears on. Tubes and rubber grubs tipped with sucker meat can produce limits for the patient angler. Some rainbows are being caught lake wide by bottom fishing with worms, eggs or PowerBait. Small rainbows are hitting spinners and flies in the inlet. Northern pike are slow but devoted fishermen are catching a few in the west side bays. Due to lack of population, Kokanee trolling is slow with most angler’s reeling in young lake trout. Ramp hours are 6AM to 8PM.”

<https://www.fishingwithbernie.com/weekly-fishing-reports>

[Williams Fork Reservoir](#)

Yampa River - Yampa River State Park

As of 6/24/2020, staff at Yampa River State Park note that there have been many positive fishing reports from Yampa River anglers. Water levels having dropping from peak runoff levels. These changing conditions have continued to create good opportunities for dry fly fishing on the Yampa River.

[Yampa River](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir

As of 5/25/2020, the folks at Blue Mesa Fishing report that “the fishing on Blue Mesa has been excellent for all species! We are still seeing some good casting opportunities for rainbow and brown trout, excellent trolling for rainbow trout with plenty of salmon action mixed in (they are big!) and some GIANT lake trout! Blue Mesa has been open for 10 days now and the fishing has been equally good all across the lake.” Specifically, anglers can find trout by “casting the rocky shorelines, especially early and late in the day. The number of rainbow trout appears to be very good as trolling for them in the top 15 feet of the water column has been excellent most days and a lot of times they are getting to your presentation faster than the kokanee salmon!” For Kokanee, anglers should focus on the top of the water column, Blue Mesa Fishing reports that “they seem to be holding in the top 30 feet of the water column most days and so far they are a lot spunkier than they were last year, which is an encouraging sign that the gill lice aren’t hitting them so hard they appear lethargic! One thing that we have been impressed with is the size of the kokanee for this time of year; there are some really nice fish showing up!”

bluemesafishing.com

[Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

Crawford Reservoir

As of 7/1/2020, there has been good fishing at Crawford Reservoir. Staff reported that there has been a lot of action with trout and bass. There have been reports that trout have begun rising and feeding from the surface. The reservoir is currently 13’ below capacity. Iron Creek boat ramp is open with inspectors on duty from 7am to 8pm. Boaters can stay on the lake beyond inspection hours, and can now exit at any time, knowing that NO exit inspection will be done. You will be inspected the next time you come in.

[Crawford Reservoir](#)

Gunnison River

As of 7/1/2020, lower water levels and increased insect activity currently makes a dry fly and dropper set up perfect for fishing on the Gunnison. Streamflow was measured near the town of Gunnison at 613 CFS (as of 7/1/2020). Current discharge levels are well below normal levels for this time of the year. Since peak runoff at the beginning of June the Gunnison River has consistently measured well below normal levels of discharge.

[Gunnison River](#)

Navajo Lake

As of 7/1/2020, fishing at Lake Navajo was described by park staff as good. Specifically, staff noted there has been considerable action among bass, catfish, and carp. The water temperature in the reservoir was recently recorded at 65 degrees. The boat ramp and ANS Inspection Station are open Friday through Saturday 7am to 9pm, and Sunday through Thursday 7am to 8pm. The boat ramp gate is locked daily at closing

[Navajo Lake](#)

Ridgway Reservoir

As of 7/1/2020, Ridgway Reservoir and its tailwaters, flowing into the Uncompahgre River, have had decent to fair fishing recently. Anglers have been able to catch trout in the reservoir using typical bait and tackle, worms and spinners. Below the dam, on the Uncompahgre River, there have been few hatches so fly anglers have been the most successful with small nymphs sizes 22-24 in colors black and red.

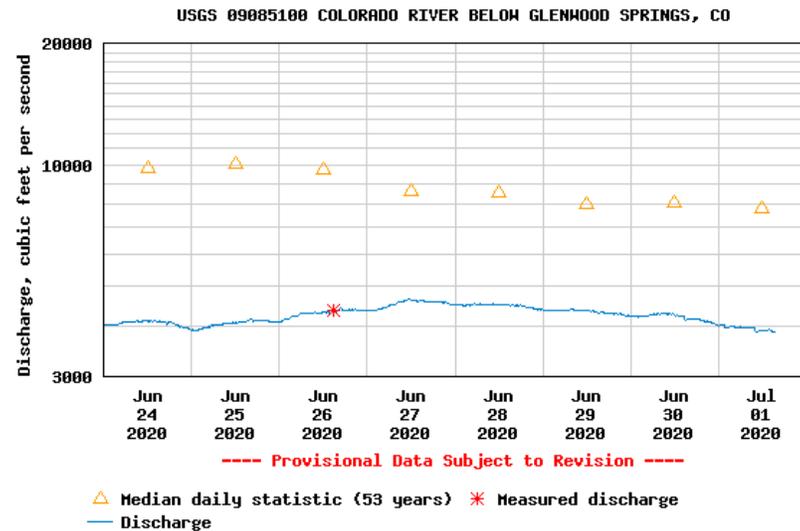
[Ridgway Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

Summer fishing is here. Rivers and streams are sliding down from their peak spring runoffs and the hatches are on in most parts of the state. For fly anglers, this is the time for the infamous dry dropper combination set up. There are increasing reports of yellow sally, caddis, golden stones, PMD's, and even some hoppers being eaten off the top. There is also good fishing in many lakes across the state as well, especially for warm water fishing. However, there have been some reports that indicate the bite has slowed for certain water bodies that have reach temperatures too high for good fish activity, at least throughout the daytime. If that is the case for your local fishing hole, head into the mountains to find lakes and reservoirs with less heat and cool, deep depths.

Tip of the Week - Stream Gauges

Right now, we are coming down from the spring runoff and anglers are wondering if their local rivers and streams are ready for fishing again. For the most part, yes, rivers and streams across the state have retreated from the spring highs and are settling into more consistent summer flows fed by the remaining snowpack and groundwater. A useful resource for determining if the conditions are right to get back on the water, in a boat, or in the water, in waders, is to check in with the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) stream gauges. The USGS has measured streamflow in rivers and streams across the country for more than a hundred years. Stream gauges are useful for many purposes, however, they can be particularly helpful for fly anglers. Streamflow is a computed figure that is derived from discharge and gauge height measurements collected at a gauge. For anglers, streamflow can provide us an idea of the conditions of the water and help us prepare where to go and what flies to bring along. To make streamflow data useful, you must know some background information about the river or stream. Is it big water (i.e. the lower Arkansas) or a stream traversing a narrow canyon (i.e. Clear Creek)? The ideal conditions may be very different from one river to the next. Therefore, streamflow needs to be put into context. For reference, the USGS provides a useful indication on streamflow graphs to inform the reader how the current reading compares to historical data (as indicated by yellow triangle). For example, on 7/1/2020, the daily discharge value on the Colorado River below Glenwood Springs was 3870 cubic feet per second, while the median value for historical July 1st data was 7,800 cubic feet per second. Therefore, this information is telling us that there is significantly less water flowing



through the Colorado River at this time. Likewise, the value for Clear Creek at Golden, 366 cubic feet per second, is far below the median, 624 cubic feet per second. What does this information mean for anglers? Low stream flows can impact the behaviors of fish and determine the best techniques to catch fish. When water streamflow is low, particularly in the heat of summer, water temperatures are likely to rise, pushing fish into pools and deeper water. When streamflow is high, the quick moving and sediment filled water will make it difficult for fish to see flies on top or even below the surface. Anglers should seek out the slower water pockets and use large attractor flies to get the attention of fish. Streamflow data, like climate information, weather, and fish biology is an additional tool that can help anglers do what they love, catching fish.

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. 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



COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources