Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

Fish salvage planned at Rito Hondo Reservoir
In preparation for a dam-repair project, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has removed all bag and possession limits at this reservoir located in Hinsdale County from August 10th through September 2nd. This reservoir holds rainbow, brook, and cutthroat trout. All anglers must have a valid Colorado fishing license, fish must be taken using lawful methods, nets and seines are not permitted, and commercial angling is not allowed.

“Take Me Fishing” event - Ridgway State Park
Saturday August 17th, kids, bring your family and join us for a morning of fun! Rods are free, bait is provided, and volunteers will be on hand to assist!

Backyard Bass Learn to Cast - Eleven Mile State Park
Saturday August 17th, join in the fun young anglers. This is an educational fishing game that makes learning to cast fun and easy. Meet in the parking lot near the amphitheater.

Fly Fishing Seminar - Dragonfly Pond
Thursday August 29th, 8 years old and up. Learn the art and skill of fly-fishing, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with Naturalist Craig! Gear provided.

Crawfishing Seminar - Eleven Mile State Park
Sunday September 1st, join us at the amphitheater, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., to learn how to catch a crawfish. We will learn how these cool crustaceans live and what they eat. After a brief talk, we will get busy and go crawfishing! Poles and bait will be provided! A park pass will be required for entrance.

Ridgway State Park smallmouth bass tournament yields big results
Anglers caught more than 1,400 fish during a month-long tournament! This event took place to help Colorado Parks and Wildlife with its mission of preserving native fish species in the state. These fish were introduced illegally and pose a threat to native fish that live downstream in the Gunnison and Colorado rivers.

Stagecoach State Park has been around for 30 years, come enjoy a long list of activities to celebrate
One of Colorado’s most popular state parks is celebrating thirty years of existence in August, and park folks are preparing a long list of fun activities to celebrate three decades of outdoor fun at Stagecoach State Park. A fly fishing clinic is taking place on August 18th at 10 a.m. at Haybro Cove.
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**Catch of the Week**

Mark caught this beautiful rainbow trout at Chatfield State Park!

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
This 762-acre impoundment is located off E. Quincy Avenue, two miles east of E-470. Open to boating. Electric trolling motors only. As of 8/12/2019, boaters are reporting fair to good success on trout trolling with pop gear and crawlers. Fishing with crawlers and PowerBait off the bottom, in 20 to 30 feet of water, has also caught trout. Perch action has been picking up and anglers have had better lucky catching them than walleyes in recent weeks. Some reports of perch being caught from boats using jigs in 15 to 30 feet of water. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours in August are 5:30am to 9:00pm.

Chatfield Reservoir
This 1,356-acre impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. As of 8/12/2019, water temperature is in the mid 70's. The water level of the reservoir has also decreased about another 3.5 feet. Smallmouth bass are being caught throughout the lake on a variety of presentations. Anglers have caught a few nice smallmouth, as big as 17 inches, fishing only about 3 feet from the surface. Walleye fishing has slowed down. Shad schools are splitting and fewer schools than are expected have been reported. This has caused walleye to be found in various places on the reservoir as they have scattered. The vast majority of the fish being caught are less than the minimum 18 inch length to keep for the fryer.

Cherry Creek Reservoir
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 8/10/2019, water temperatures are in the mid 70's. Anglers targeting walleye are having success fishing with jigs or pulling crawlers on a slow death rig. The shad have hatched and most walleyes are being caught in 10 to 15 feet of water. Fishing success is best in the early parts of the day and has been slowing as it warms. Legal walleyes have still been tough to come by with most fish around the 17 inch mark. Reports of other species are inconsistent and the fishing appears to be slow.

Quincy Reservoir
As of 8/12/2019, bass fishing is slow to fair. The best action has been in the early morning and evening using top water lures such as weedless frogs, soft plastics, and chatter baits (10 to 15 feet of water). Hoppers/poppers have been successful in the morning and evening. A few reports of perch being caught using jigs. Rainbow fishing has been slow and is the most productive during the colder months of the year. This reservoir is a popular spot for fishing so expect high fishing pressure on the weekends. Restricted to artificial flies/lures only. Scented flies or lures must be 1.5 inches or longer. 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 for August are 5:30am to 9:00pm.

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir
As of 8/11/2019, water levels remain good and the fishing continues to be fair. Anglers are having success on a variety of baits and presentations. PowerBait has been working and garlic scented marshmallows as well as salmon eggs seem to be the most consistent producer for the anglers fishing with bait. Rainbows have been caught in high numbers. Hatches in the late evening have been very good and anglers are having success on a variety of dry flies and nymphs.

Barr Lake
As of 8/10/2019, sunny days and warm weather are continuing to warm up the water (mid 70's). Poor water visibility is being reported. Rainbows are being caught in deeper water with Lindy rigs. Walleye are not as abundant as they are in other lakes across the state but smaller fish can be caught with jigs. Remember, the new ADA accessible fishing pier opened at the end of May!
Bear Creek
Reported 8/12/2019, the fly fishing mindsets for smaller creeks, especially in the foothills, should be focused on summertime conditions. Smaller sized caddis flies are good in the early parts of the day and check out the tip of the week for a good method in keeping your eyes on these flies! Bigger terrestrial/hoppers will attract trout later in the day. Try a hooper dropper rig and mix the lower fly (different nymphs and emergers) and color. Pay attention to cloud coverage and sun intensity.

**Bear Creek**

Boyd Lake
As of 8/15/2019, water temperatures are still in the mid to high 70’s. The fishing has slowed. Bass fishing is still good in the shallows, coves, near the pump house, and inlets using a variety of jigs and artificial plastics. Some anglers are also reporting success using top water lures such as Kastmasters to target bass. Walleye fishing has been sporadic with most anglers having success in the morning. Crappie, catfish, and bluegill can be caught from the shoreline using worms as well as stink baits to target catfish.

**Boyd Lake**

Deckers and Cheesman Canyon
As of 8/16/2019, stabilizing flows have helped the clarity and fishing. Anglers have been reporting success using some generalist nymphs as well as some dries during the afternoons. Prince nymphs and copper Johns have been some good patterns as of late. Try using smaller nymphs (#20 size) and check out the tip of the week to help keep your eyes on these smaller flies! Terrestrials are also starting to be productive on this stretch of the South Platte.

**Deckers and Cheesman Canyon**

Eleven Mile Reservoir
As of 8/12/2019, water clarity is good and temperatures are in the high 60’s and low 70’s. Trout fishing continues to be good with the south side of the reservoir having the most consistent. There are also a lot of trout being caught in the Lazy Boy, Rogers Mountain, and Rocking Chair area. Garlic scented PowerBait has been popular for the trout. Anglers fishing with lures are having the best luck on olive colored tube jigs and spoons. Trolling at faster speeds with silver spoons is also a good technique for trout in the warmer months. Kokanee salmon fishing is slow. Pike fishing has been good with the most fish being caught near Cross Creek, Stoll Mountain, or the flats near the river inlet. Large jerk baits and spoons have been the most consistent producers for the pike. Look near weed edges and flats for good pike activity. The best overall lure technique is to use jointed Rapallas as well as gold and silver Kastmasters.

**Eleven Mile Reservoir**

Horsetooth Reservoir
As of 8/13/2019, water temperatures are warming, from the low to mid 70s, which has pushed the fish slightly deeper and made fishing tough. Visibility has also been reported as poor. Anglers are catching some smallmouth bass on crankbaits suspended over deep water. Rocky areas have also produced bass with crayfish imitations but anglers fishing shallow near shore are struggling to catch fish consistently. The minimum size for smallmouth bass is 12 inches in length. Walleye anglers have also had some success trolling crankbaits deeper for suspended fish. A wide variety of baits/lures have caught fish so get creative!

**Horsetooth Reservoir**

Jackson Lake
As of 8/09/2019, surface water temperature is approximately 82 degrees and the water level is at maximum capacity. Anglers are reporting success along the north shore in shallower areas of the lake. Walleye are doing fair and wipers are being reported as having an improved bite. Most wipers are under the 15 inch limit but anglers are reporting catching high numbers of them. Twister tails and jigs are the lures of choice. A few channel catfish and drum are also being caught.

**Jackson Lake**

North Sterling Reservoir
As of 8/11/2019, water temperature is about 78 degrees. Carp, drum, walleye, and crappie fishing is fair. Walleye are being caught on worms, leeches and jigs on a slow retrieval. Crappie, bluegill, and largemouth bass are being caught with small jigs, minnows, and plastics near the dam. More success is occurring in deeper water. The Reservoir is OPEN to BOATING. The Inlet is OFF and the Outlet is ON.

**North Sterling Reservoir**
Spinney Mountain Reservoir
As of 8/13/2019, fishing at this Gold Medal Lake continues to be good for all species and water is reported to be clear. The water level is high and temperatures are in the low 60’s. Try to target fish in-between weed beds. Trout are aggressive and the best way to get a strike is to work lures, especially Rooster Tails and small spoons, faster than you would normally. Dry flies, the Royal Wulff pattern in particular, have been reported to attract fish. Other mayfly and terrestrial patterns will also work. The south ramp and Buffalo Cove have been the best spots for trout. Anglers targeting pike are having success on lures large and small. Rapallas and gold Kastmasters have been working the best. Some pike anglers are even reporting catching trophy fish on smaller lures intended for trout. Remember that no scented plastics, or bait of any kind is allowed in this reservoir.

Tarryall Reservoir
As of 8/13/2019, water temperature has been in the low 60’s and the reservoir is full. Anglers are having success using Panther Martin’s, Kastmasters, and other spoons. Baits have also been working well for trout. The most consistent have been worms, PowerBait, and artificial Salmon Eggs. Trolling Rapelas and silver spoons at faster speeds has also produced a fair trout bite. Anglers have also reported catching some good size pike on Rapalas or Mepps. Shoreline fishing has yielded the best results within 20 feet from the shore. There are large pike in the reservoir so be ready for a battle!

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River-Below Pueblo Reservoir
As of 8/16/2019, flows are beginning to stabilize after a long runoff season. Flows are still higher than average for this time of year with the typical maximum flow usually around 650 CFS. Fish can be found in softer water during heavier flows. There is about 12 to 18 inches of clarity right now on the edges of the river. This should improve as flows decrease. Anglers should focus on using bigger flies and spin anglers should concentrate using lures with more vibration to get the attention of the fish. Common insects in the area include blue winged olive, brown caddis, grasshopper, midge, and yellow stoneflies.

Flows: 1000 CFS (8/16/2019)
Lake Pueblo State Park

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida
As of 8/16/2019, water temperatures are in the 50’s to low 60’s. Clarity is continuing to get better with recent reports at 4 plus feet. Dry flies have been working well along the shoreline. Caddis, sallies, and golden stones have been working well. Smaller tricos (#20-24) have also had success. Flows are returning to normal and the peak summer fishing season is upon us! Use heavier leaders and tippet material for better success when fighting against faster flows in the middle of the river.

Flows: 696 CFS (8/16/2019)
Arkansas River

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista
As of 8/16/2019, water temperatures are in the 50s and clarity is good. Target fish in deeper runs along the river as well as pools along the shoreline with slower currents. Try using caddies and yellow sallies (#14-18).

Flows: 382 CFS (8/16/2019)
Arkansas River

John Martin Reservoir
As of 8/15/2019, water temperatures are high in the 80’s, which can have a negative effect on fishing. There has also been poor visibility reported and the water level is falling. Anglers are reporting success catching small mouth bass and crappie in shallow water. Jig heads fished with either twister tail grubs or paddletail grubs have been the best producers when fished slowly along the bottom. They can also be vertical jigged from boats and using a slow jig pattern is a good technique to get less aggressive fish to take the lure.

John Martin Reservoir State Park

Pueblo Reservoir
As of 8/13/2019, fishing continues to be good for walleye, wiper, and bass. The wiper are starting to boil during the early mornings as they feed on newly hatching shad. Bird activity is a good indicator for where these boils are occurring so these fish can be targeted. Anglers chasing boils can have success using small silver spoons or crankbaits. Walleye fishing is still consistent using swimbaits, night crawlers, and leeches along the bottom. The slow death rig is a good tactic for trolling for walleye. Anglers trolling are also having success catching walleye during the cooler periods of the day. Look for points and humps along the shoreline to troll. Underwater points and submerged trees still seem to be the best areas.

Lake Pueblo State Park
**Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado**

**Blue River - Silverthorne**
As of 8/14/2019, fishing is beginning to return to normal with fish sliding back to normal feeding lanes throughout the stream rather than being focused so close to the banks. There has been a variety of bug activity which has the fish feeding on a wide variety of patterns both dries and nymphs. Common insects include blue winged olive, caddis, green drake, midge, mysis shrimp, pale morning dun, terrestrial species, and yellow stoneflies.

*Flows: 338 CFS (8/16/2019)*

[Blue River](#)

**Colorado River - Near Kremmling**
As of 8/16/2019, flows are on the downward trend and returning to a very fishable level. Anglers fishing this stretch of the Colorado have been having success fishing stonefly patterns with both dries and nymphs. Some other successful patterns have been San Juan Worms, and larger Pheasant Tail or Hares Ear nymphs. Another successful technique for catching big browns has been jerk baits, spinners, and spoons fished perpendicularly, or upstream, through the flow letting the bait swing on the pause. Try a variety of colors and sizes!

*Flows: 1090 CFS (8/16/2019)*

[Colorado River](#)

**Lake Granby**
As of 8/12/2019, water temperatures are in the high 60’s with water clarity varying through the lake, but reported up to 10 feet in some areas. Anglers are having success trolling in bays for rainbow trout using small spoons as well as jiggling. Shore fishing has also been good for rainbows using PowerBait and fishing near dusk. Anglers reported success catching eater sized lakers on tube jigs in 50 to 100 feet of water. There are a few reports of Kokanee being caught.

[Lake Granby](#)

**Lake John**
As of 8/14/2019, fishing has been slow and a variety of fish are being caught on various types of bait. Rainbow colored Kastmasters have been productive when trolled or casted from a boat. Anglers fishing with bait are having success on a variety of scents and colors (white, salmon peach, rainbow garlic, etc.) of PowerBait as well as worms. Fish the edges of the weed beds as they develop in the summer. Fishing from shore gets harder later in the summer as shoreline vegetation can get thick and increasing water temperatures move fish to deeper/colder water. Reports of people seeing large trout surfacing but the trick is getting them to bite!

[Lake John](#)

**Rifle Gap Reservoir**
As of 8/14/2019, fishing has been the best during the cooler parts of the day such as early morning or late into the evening. Walleye and perch have been the most commonly caught species. Night crawlers are catching fish as well as jigs with artificial swimbaits. The Cedar Campground and dam are typically good areas for bass fishing. Reminder that walleye have special restrictions, only 1 fish may be kept and must be a minimum of 18 inches in length. Trout can also be caught using PowerBait or retrieving small lures. Underwater spear fishing may be used as a method of fishing for pike and carp in accordance with regulations issues by CPW. Underwater spear fishing is prohibited within 100 feet of any marina, boat ramp, swim beach, or dam infrastructure.

[Rifle Gap Reservoir](#)

**Steamboat Lake**
As of 8/11/2019, reports from local fisherman are that the fishing has been great so far this year. We've heard that pink/orange PowerBait as well as worms have been quite successful so far. Anglers are also having luck on Kastmasters, Panther Martins, and other spoons. Most of the trout being caught are around the 12 inch range. Underwater spear fishing may be used as a method of fishing for pike and carp in accordance with regulations issues by CPW. Underwater spear fishing is prohibited within 100 feet of any marina, boat ramp, swim beach, or dam infrastructure.

[Steamboat Lake](#)

**Williams Fork Reservoir**
As of 8/12/2019, the surface temperature has ranged from the mid-60s to low-70s throughout the day. The reservoir is nearly full at this point and water clarity is about 10 feet in some areas. Lake trout have been biting early in the morning and again in the mid to late afternoon with tube jigs, tipped with sucker meat, off the bottom in 80 to 100 feet of water. Rainbows are slowing down but some have been reported to be hanging around the area where the river and reservoir meet. The kokanee and pike bite have been slow.

[Williams Fork Reservoir](#)
Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir
As of 8/14/2019, water levels are high which is allowing the fish to spread out over a larger area so anglers must a lot of water to be successful. Water temperatures are in the high 60's. Anglers trolling with lead core are having the best success fishing shallow early in the day and deeper during the middle part of the day. Anglers targeting lake trout are having some limited success catching smaller fish in the 60 to 100 foot range. Kokanee are starting to school and are being caught using a variety of jigging techniques. Try finding a school and vertical jigging. For more information, contact Curecanti National Recreation Area at 970-641-2337.

Crawford Reservoir
As of 8/12/2019, water level is currently a foot and a half below capacity. We have had many anglers, both shore fishing and fishing from boats. They have reported catching pike, perch, largemouth bass and crappie. 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. Pike were introduced illegal to this reservoir and have had a negative impact on the fishery. Anglers can help CPW by keeping their legal bag and possession limit which is unlimited.

Gunnison River - near Gunnison
As of 8/11/2019, flows are nearing optimal levels. Anglers floating the river have had success catching browns and rainbows on a variety of flies both nymphs and dries. Good flies for fishing this river include pale morning duns, green drakes, stoneflies, yellow sallies, as well as streamers. Anglers fishing with spinning gear are having luck on spinners, spoons, and jerk baits. These can be fished perpendicularly, or upstream, through the flow letting the bait swing on the pause with jerk baits. Kokanee also begin their run up the river around this time of year through October. Flows: 794 CFS (8/16/2019)

McPhee Reservoir
As of 8/13/2019, anglers are reporting that the water is dropping so be careful of rocks exposed in the water when boating. The water temperature is currently in the low 70's with decent clarity (5 to 10 feet). Trolling traditional kokanee rigs still seems to be the most productive technique. Anglers are having the most success trolling with small squids and spinners in pink, orange, and chartreuse. Kokanee can also be caught during the summer and jigging chartreuse and silver spoons. Smallmouth bass fishing has also been good especially during the cooler parts of the day. Anglers targeting smallmouth during lower light periods such as dawn and dusk have had the more recent success fishing deeper in 10 to 15 feet of water.

Navajo Reservoir
As of 8/09/2019, fishing at Navajo has been slow. The current lake level is 6072.83. The water temperature at the boat ramp in Arboles is approximately 70 degrees. Fishing for smallmouth bass and pike has been good. The best fishing has been in the shallow coves as the lake rises. The best lures are crankbaits and large lures resembling bait fish for pike. Some crappie are still being caught along structures. Both Colorado and New Mexico fishing license are sold at the Visitor Center.

Ridgway Reservoir
As of 8/09/2019, fishing for trout is good most productive lures of choice are worms, artificial salmon eggs, spinners, and Rapala’s. Smallmouth are also biting in shallow rocky areas such as along Mears Bay. Small spinners, little minnow imitations, and small aquatic fly imitations are good starting points. Fishing at the fishing ponds at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk has slowed down with a variety of presentations working sporadically. Flows in the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk River are still high but anglers are having some success using bigger “bugs” such as leech imitations, San Juan Worms, or Chubby Chernobyl Ant dries.

Taylor Park Reservoir
As of 8/10/2019, fishing has been good from both the shore and boat. Try using a variety of PowerBait from shore. The bag and possession limit for lake trout is three fish, only one of which may be greater than 26 inches in length. Try fishing deep for lakers in 80 feet of water. Gaffs and tail snare snares are prohibited.
Taylor River - Below Taylor Park Reservoir
As of 8/12/2019, flows continue to drop as runoff into the reservoir has subsided. Good flies include Elk Wig caddis, Blue Dun, and the Tungsten Midge. Small flies and light tippet are the name if the game on this river. This section does get a lot of fishing pressure so the fish are well educated. It is also important to be aware of stretches of private land and make sure to access the river where there is public access.
Flows: 399 CFS (8/09/2019)
Taylor River

Conditions Report - Statewide

Flows are stabilizing but are still above average for this time of the year in most of the streams across the state. However, most have returned to a level that is very fishable and anglers are taking advantage after a long runoff season. There are a variety of bugs hatching this time of year and the fish have plenty of options. As always anglers that are having the most success are using streamside indicators to learn about what hatches are currently happening or have recently happened. With the decreased flows fish have started to redistribute themselves throughout the streams rather than being held tight to the banks or in the deeper slow moving pools. The low light periods of the day have been the best for dry fly action on most of the streams throughout the state, especially into the evening hours. If water temperature increase over 66 degrees it is recommend to consider other options. Clear skies make it easier for fish to spot you so be mindful and use soft presentations. For lake fishing the warm water species are active in most waters. Use poppers in early morning to get some good top water action from bass. During this time of year it is best to fish near dusk or dawn when fish are the most active. Also be sure to attend one of CPW’s upcoming fishing clinic to learn new tricks and tips for fishing in the state!

Tip of the Week

Keeping an eye on smaller flies and setting the perfect hook

Small dry flies (#18-20) can be incredibly effective patterns for catching trout, but can also be difficult to keep an eye on and follow in the water. Brook sprouts and Griffith’s gnats are a great midge/midge cluster pattern. To keep an eye on these tiny flies, try tying a larger caddis (#12-16) about a foot and a half to two feet above the smaller fly on your leader. This will allow you to keep your eyes on a larger fly in the water while still letting you see trout rising about one to feet away from the caddis. If you see a trout rise in that area, set the hook! This method also allows you to catch fish on the lead caddis. A larger lead fly may not seem as natural and may tip more sensitive trout off so they won’t go after either fly but in other cases the larger fly will cause them to investigate the area and they may go after the smaller one. If a trout sips your dry fly be careful not to immediately set the hook. You want to wait until the trout turns its head down, towards the bottom of the river, and then set the hook. Just be sure not to wait too long and miss the fish!

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