News and Information

Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

CPW, Denver Water partnering to improve aquatic habitat on Kemp-Breeze section of Williams Fork

Beginning October 1st, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Denver Water will begin collaborating on a month-long project to improve fish habitat within a popular stretch of the Williams Fork River near the town of Parshall. Located in CPW’s Kemp-Breeze State Wildlife Area, the section of river to be improved will not close during construction; however, the agencies advise anglers to consider fishing in alternative waters while the work is ongoing. “Unfortunately, this will affect some fishing trips to this area but anglers should know that the long-term improvements will be worth the temporary inconvenience,” said Jon Ewert, area aquatic biologist with CPW. “This project will turn a very good trout fishery into a great one, so we ask anglers for a little patience.”

Elkhead Reservoir’s boat ramp closes for the season, but there are still opportunities to enjoy great outdoor recreation

With autumn bringing much cooler temperatures and winter weather only a few weeks away, the 2019 boating season has come to an end at Elkhead Reservoir. Colorado Parks and Wildlife says although the boat ramp and aquatic nuisance species inspection station closed Sept. 30, there are still great opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation at northwestern Colorado’s largest body of water. Water recreationists can still hand-launch vessels at the Northeast Access day-use area; however, all motorized vessels must be inspected prior to launching. An ANS inspection station remains active at nearby Yampa River/Elkhead Reservoir State Park headquarters. Call 970-276-2061 to confirm staffing and inspection availability. Vessel decontamination at the park will not be available for the remainder of the hand-launch boating season.

101 Places to Take a Kid Fishing

Check this link out for a sampling of 101 (+) family-friendly fishing sites across the state. These sites offer easily accessible shores and/or banks, open casting areas, facilities for camping, biking, canoeing and picnicking; and most importantly the opportunity for kids to catch fish! These scenic areas also provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing and other attractions for the entire family.

Waiting for Winter: What to do in between seeking fall colors and hitting the slopes

From the river bank or a boat, the Gold Medal Waters of the Arkansas River offer plenty of fishing opportunities. Fall fishing may present more challenges as the water is often low and clear, but it also offers great reward. Better yet, you’ll find far more solitude on the water in autumn. Find information about fishing and other activities at Arkansas Headwaters State Park.

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

Check out our CPW community on Facebook. Colorado anglers can “like” the CPW Facebook page to get tips, share stories and more. If you love the outdoors, this is the place to be. Before you head out, head for facebook.com/ColoradoParksandWildlife/.

Fish with us on Twitter
Colorado anglers can get updates directly from CPW on Twitter. Follow @COParksWildlife.
# Stocking Report

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Catch of the Week

Kieyla caught this monster catfish at Green Briar Park in Fort Collins!

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. As of 10/01/2019, water level is low and the public dock is completely out of the water. Fishing access throughout the reservoir is good due to the low water levels. Trout fishing from shore has picked up some using power bait from the dam. Boaters are reporting anywhere from fair to good success on trout trolling with pop gear and crawlers. Reports also coming in of large perch being caught and they have been scattered throughout the lake. For more information, call 303-326-8425. Park hours for September are 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Restricted to electric motors only.

Chatfield Reservoir
This 1,356-acre impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. As of 10/04/2019, the water temperature continues to drop and is in the mid 60’s with the water level down about 5 feet. Walleyes are still being caught by trolling a slow death rig or spinners with a crawler harness. Try vertical jigging with chartreuse or orange jigs with plastics or worms on the gravel beds. Fish are moving into shallower water this time of year. Leeches, crawfish patterns, and baitfish streamers can all catch fish here on a fly rod. Smallmouth are still being caught with crayfish imitations near the dam in around 5 feet of water. Look for rocky points to throw crawfish imitations. Anglers have also reported that various white streamers have been working for bass from the west shore of the reservoir. Use caution in the slow wake area because lower water can expose hazards and boats can get stuck in shallow areas.

Cherry Creek
This 881-acre impoundment is located in Cherry Creek State Park, in Aurora. There are two entrances to the park, the east entrance off S. Dayton St. and the west entrance off S. Parker Rd. As of 10/01/2019, water temperatures are in the mid 60’s. Reports of lots of shad scattered across the lake and many anglers are finding it tough to bring in the walleye right now. Guides recommend changing your summer tactics and gear more towards the fall as the shad are now behaving differently and so are the walleye. Instead of looking for the larger schools of walleye, search for transition points from deeper to ledges of shallower water. Basically, the shad are coming over these points to get to the shallow waters as the walleye wait in ambush. There may be fewer numbers of walleye in these areas but you will find hungrier fish. Jig raps, spoons and blades in shad imitations will be the ticket. These fish will trigger off of faster moving bait fish so using reactionary techniques will get their attention best. Take advantage of the windy days by going to wind-blown shorelines. The shad will be more concentrated and schooled together there and will attract good numbers of hungry walleye. Bass have been caught on the southeast side of the reservoir. Anglers are successful using live bait rigs and jigging spoons.
Quincy Reservoir
As of 10/04/2019, Quincy Reservoir is continuing to experience water quality challenges concerning blue green algae. Out of an abundance of caution, Quincy Reservoir is CLOSED for the season. The season typically ends October 31st. For more information, call 303-326-8425.

Quincy Reservoir

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Bear Creek
Reported 10/04/2019, this creek has great accessibility and is only a short drive from Denver. Water temperatures have been in the high 40’s to low 50’s and flows right now are ideal. There has been great water clarity and no runoff to report. Keep an eye on rainstorms because they can greatly reduce water clarity at this creek. Hopper dropper rigs are catching the most fish. Generally, use the double rigs in deeper pools with slower moving water and single flies in shallower water. Black streamers are another great option here!
Flows: 12.20 CFS (10/04/2019)

Bear Creek

Big Thompson River
As of 10/03/2019, fall is here and the water is low and clear. The water clarity makes this a great river for sight fishing and spotting rising trout. Be sure to have a careful approach and not spook fish because if you can see them, they can usually see you. Smaller bugs are starting to be more effective on this river and Pheasant tails as well as Price Nymphs are a great option. Look for deeper runs and pools to try streamers! Try mixing up your retrieves with jerks and stops instead of using a consistent retrieval pattern and speed. Baitfish imitations can catch some huge trout this time of year!
Flows: 18.7 at Loveland (10/04/2019)

Big Thompson River

Boyd Lake
As of 9/28/2019, the water temperature have been in the high 60’s. Bass fishing has continued to be good in the shallows, coves, near the pump house, and inlets using a variety of jigs and artificial plastics. Crawfish imitations also work well this time of year for bass. Some anglers are also reporting success using top water lures such as Kastmasters to target white bass in the coves, near the pump house, and shallow areas of the lake. Carp, catfish, and bluegill can be caught from the shoreline using worms as well as stinkbaits to target catfish. Walleye fishing also reported as good using the slow death rig in the early mornings. Success trolling for walleye still reported in 20 feet of water but they should start be move shallower this time of year. There is no fishing allowed from marina slips or docks.

Boyd Lake

Cache La Poudre River
As of 9/30/2019, flows have been low with clear water near Fort Collins. This makes it easy to spot fish but also makes it easy for them to spot you. The best stretch of the river to fish has been through the canyon. Water temperatures reported getting into the mid 50’s during the warmest part of the day. There is some turbidity being reported in different stretches of the river but for the most part it has been clear. Nymphing is another good option if fish are not rising to the surface. Large/fast streamers are also a great option and can catch some giant fish! Look for deeper holes with slower moving water to try these. Large trout will wait in hiding for an opportunity to attack smaller baitfish and trout. Identifying structure that will give trout cover and the ability to strike is crucial to have success using baitfish imitations.
Flows: 54.5 CFS at Canyon Mouth and 30.9 CFS near Fort Collins (10/04/2019)

Cache La Poudre River

Deckers and Cheesman Canyon
As of 10/02/2019, water temperatures have been reported in the 60’s and there has been good water clarity for Deckers on the South Platte River. The flows have greatly dropped over the last couple of weeks and fishing success has varied greatly. Anglers have been reporting success using some generalist nymphs and dries during the afternoons. PMDS, Golden Stones, and Blue Winged Olives have been having success. Trout can be difficult to catch here because of the high fishing pressure it receives. Use light tippet and long leaders! Try nymphing in deeper pools and riffles in the morning and evening and switching to a hopper dropper rig in the afternoon when there are warmer temperatures.
Flows: 107 CFS (10/04/2019)

Deckers and Cheesman Canyon
Eleven Mile Reservoir
As of 10/03/2019, report from the Eleven Mile Marina weekly fishing report. Trout fishing has been reported as good there has been lots of great action, on mostly cutbows, ranging from 16 to 22 inches. It’s hard to catch a fish below 16 inches. Many techniques and methods are succeeding from shore and boat. Tasmanian Devils are catching fish when trolling. Marabou and tube jigs also hitting the mark. Scuds and Woolly Buggers have been producing on the fly rod. Shore anglers need to stay close to their rigs. Night anglers are getting cold but the action is hot. Salmon peach PowerBait and night crawlers/mallows from shore have been catching trout. Kokanee fishing has been slow and a few seen making it up river but not as many as you would hope. Only one here and there out of the boat. Northern pike bite has been reported as excellent and October is one of the best months. Most fish caught have been in the 24 to 33 inch range but the bigger ones are on the prowl. Big Sticks with orange bellies continue to be their favorite. Action has been found all around the lake.

Eleven Mile State Park

Gross Reservoir
This reservoir is 440 surface acres and is a storage reservoir owned and operated by Denver Water. Anglers can expect to catch rainbow trout, brown trout, lake trout, splake, kokanee salmon, and tiger muskie. As of 10/02/2019, gold and silver Kastmasters have been working for trout. If fishing from shore try using night crawlers on slip bobbers as well as PowerBait. Kokanee salmon can be caught with small flies (#18+). There are tiger muskie and they appear to roam lake-wide. Fishing has been reported as slow near the dam area. The minimum size for a muskie is 36 inches and only one fish may be kept. Fishing is prohibited from 9 p.m. until 4 a.m. or as posted at the main entrance to comply with Denver Water Requirements. This reservoir is above 7,000 feet in elevation and as a result it is illegal to use live fish as bait.

Gross Reservoir

Horsetooth Reservoir
This reservoir is 1900 acres and provides quality fishing for walleye, smallmouth bass, and the occasional trout. Anglers may also catch splake, white bass, crappie, bluegill, and perch. The lake is open year round to fishing. As of 10/04/2019, there has not been any recent reports. The colder weather should draw a lot of species of fish out of the deeper water and encourage more activity and feeding. Try using Ned rigs with pumpkin or watermelon colored plastics for smallmouth. Crayfish imitations should also work and bass will chomp on a crayfish crank but walleye and trout may also be tempted. If fishing from shore, move around a lot to find fish and also try altering retrieval rates to put your lure in different depths to see where the fish are located.

Horsetooth Reservoir

Jackson Lake
As of 9/24/2019, surface water temperature is approximately 71.6 degrees. Walleye are doing fair to good; while Wipers are being reported as good. 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. Cranks can also be a good choice for catching wipers and try larger white/silver shad imitations. A few channel catfish and freshwater drum have been caught. On 8/29/19, CPW released 26,000 channel catfish (size 3-1/2 inches) into the lake. The minimum size for wipers is 15 inches in length. The minimum size for crappie is 10 inches in length. The minimum size for walleye/saugeye is 15 inches in length. No more than one walleye/saugeye in the aggregate greater than 21 inches may be taken per day. Fishing in the outlet ditch immediately below the dam, around the rotary screen structure, is prohibited.

Jackson Lake

Jumbo Reservoir
This reservoir is a 1,578 acre water (at full capacity) located on the Jumbo State Wildlife Area. Anglers can expect excellent fishing for walleye and crappie, and quality fishing for channel catfish, smallmouth bass, and bluegill. Fishing pressure is moderate. As of 10/04/2019, the boating season is coming to an end. Hours of operation during the month of October are half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset from Thursday to Tuesday. The boat ramp is closed on Wednesdays due to decreased staff. Boating is only permitted during inspection hours and all boats must be off the water prior to the inspection station closing. The minimum size for wipers is 15 inches in length. The minimum size for crappie is 10 inches in length. The minimum size for walleye and saugeye is 15 inches in length. No more than one walleye/saugeye in the aggregate greater than 21 inches in length may be taken per day. Fishing in the outlet ditch immediately below the dam, around the rotary screen structure, is prohibited.

Jumbo Reservoir

Prewitt Reservoir
This 2,431 acre reservoir is located on the Prewitt Reservoir State Wildlife Area and wakeless boating is permitted. As of 10/01/2019, the water level has been reported as low (5 to 6 feet down) and water temperatures have decreased into the 60’s with poor visibility. When fishing for walleye, the areas near the boat ramp, the south shore, and the northeast corner of the reservoir represent traditional hot-spots. Walleye and crappie have been caught on cranks in deeper water. In terms of channel catfish, shore anglers generally do as well as boat anglers. Try using cut carp, cut shad, or shrimp. Later in the year when the reservoir is drawn down, try fishing for crappie along the east dam.

Prewitt Reservoir
Spinney Mountain Reservoir
For gold medal fishing, it would be hard to find any that is better than Spinney Mountain Reservoir. Anglers can find
shoreline or fly fishing, belly boating or trolling opportunities in a setting that is both peaceful and scenic. Chironomidae
Midge, Callibaetis, Rooster Tails, and small spoons are good options for catching fish here. As of 10/04/2019, Spinney
Mountain Reservoir is open. Visitors should use caution and watch their speed due to a couple of remaining soft spots. The
south boat ramp is closed for the remainder of the season. If we get heavy rains we may have to close for additional damage
repair. See the Eleven Mile State Park Facebook page for updates on the Spinney cleanup progress after severe
thunderstorms on 9/3 caused the park to temporarily close for repairs.

South Platte - Charlie Meyers
As of 10/04/2019, a few sporadic hatches, mid-day, will appear such as tricos and blue winged olives. The trout are
focusing on nymphs although you might see a bit of top water action. Underwater flies that are showing success are scuds,
smaller midges in the #20-22 sizes, and baetis in the #18 or smaller range. There are a couple of important points to note
especially for this time of year on the Dream. Number 1, is the browns are starting to spawn so be aware of lighter colored
rock bottom where the trout have cleared a space to lay eggs, avoid walking around them and leave the browns alone. An
egg pattern below a REDD for scavengers works well but be sure you cast low enough below the REDD so you do not
accidentally hook or harass one of the spawning fish. Number 2, this time of year will bring a lot of anglers as it’s a
fantastic place to fish with the opportunities it provides. It is easy for one to get competitive for space and fishing
opportunities but remember a good angler can accommodate to the conditions which includes the crowds and still find ways
to catch fish. Be patient and friendly with your fishing neighbors and report any fishing violations to a wildlife officer.

Floows: 90 CFS (10/04/2019)

Waterton Canyon
As of 10/04/2019, for the best action head further up the canyon. If you have never been to Waterton, there is a dirt road
leading up through the canyon so taking a bike will get you up there faster if fishing is your priority. Try some hoppers and
terrestrials as indicators or a stimulator dropped with various midges and baetis patterns as your droppers. Shift everything
to a little smaller than earlier in September especially hoppers if you decide to use one.

Floows: 36.8 CFS (10/4/2018)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Below Pueblo Reservoir
As of 10/04/2019, flows have been steady and the water clarity has substantially improved. Temperatures are decreasing
making the action good throughout the entire day. Temperatures are being reported in the 50’s and 60’s. The Decker fire is
impacting the air quality in this area so may attention to the wind to find spots to fish where poor air quality isn’t ruining
your day on the river. Fish can be found in softer water (banks, pockets, riffles) and nymphing should produce the most
consistent bite on sunny/bright days. Anglers should focus on using bigger flies and spin anglers should concentrate using
lures with more vibration to catch the attention of the fish on the cloudier days of fall. Streamers have been working for
large brown trout and should continue to improve. Identify structure such as logs and sunken trees where large trout may be
waiting for smaller trout and baitfish. Try stripping streamers through these areas and use a combination of speeds and
movements to catch the attention of a hungry fish.

Floows: 264 CFS (10/04/2019)

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida
As of 10/04/2019, water temperatures are in the 50’s and 60’s and clarity is continuing to improve with recent reports at 4
plus feet. The Decker fire is impacting the air quality in this area so may attention to the wind to find spots to fish where
poor air quality isn’t ruining your day on the river. Dry flies have been working well along the shoreline. Try using a caddis,
sallies, golden stones, or red quills. Smaller tricos (#20-24) have also had success. Float and wade anglers are having the
usual success expected around this time of year! Use heavier leaders and tippet material for better success when fighting
against faster flows in the middle of the river. Target the areas below rapids in warmer parts of the day. Try the hopper
dropper rig. Fish are moving into deeper pockets as temperatures increase. Blue wing olives should work well around this
time of year.

Floows: 300 CFS (10/04/2019)
Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista
As of 10/04/2019, water temperatures are in the high 30’s to low 50’s with excellent visibility on this stretch of the river. This stretch of river is also extremely wader friendly but these fish can spook easily so it is best to use a cautious approach. Target fish in deeper runs along the river, as well as, pools along the shoreline with slower currents. They are holding in these deeper areas with slower moving water. It is the time of year to use blue winged olive nymphs!

Flows: 100 CFS in Hayden Meadows and 120 CFS at Granite (10/04/2019)

Pueblo Reservoir
As of 10/04/2019, water visibility is good and continuing to improve with temperatures dropping into the 60's and low 70's. The water level has also been reported to be decreasing and fishing has been the best in the mornings. Fishing has been reported as fair recently. The bass bite has been picking up. Anglers are having success with crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and soft plastics. Walleye fishing has been fair and the fish are starting to move into shallower water. Wiper fishing can become more difficult in the fall as they disperse along banks and mudflats chasing leftover shad. You will need to cover a lot of shoreline to find them. Try using silver spoons. Reports of some huge catfish coming out of the reservoir! Trout also being found in shallower water. The minimum size for smallmouth, largemouth, and spotted bass is 15 inches in length. The bag/possession limit and minimum size for walleye/saugeye is five fish in the aggregate, 18 inches in length. The bag/possession limit for crappie is 10 fish and the minimum size is 10 inches in length. The bag/possession limit for wiper is 5 fish and no more than one wiper greater than 21 inches, in length, per day can be taken. Underwater spearfishing is allowed for the take of channel, blue, and flathead catfish with an aggregate bag and possession limit of 5 fish.

Trinidad Reservoir
As of 9/27/2019, the lake is at 709 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6182.81 feet. All shorelines are currently open for fishing. Water temperature is around 67 degrees. South shore anglers have been catching trout with PowerBait and Dough bait off the bottom. Anglers catching 12 to 15 inch trout have been common, good numbers of bass/perch reported as well. In Reilly Canyon, there have been reports of catfish being caught with worms and liver. Perch are being caught with worms and trout have been common as well. Boaters have had success catching trout and walleye. Trolling with worms or spinners seems to be working the best. There have been reports of walleye caught in 10 to 15 feet of water. The smallmouth bite has been the best in the early mornings and evenings.

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River - Silverthorne
As of 9/30/2019, the flows have been steady with great water clarity. The lower flows have made trout more selective but easier to spot. This also means it is easier for them to spot you so try approaching cautious to ensure you don’t scare them away. Once you find them, try placing your fly directly in front of them to induce a bite. If fish are being selective try using a combination of flies to see what they will take.

Flows: 105 CFS below Dillon (10/04/2019)

Colorado River - Near Kremmling
As of 10/01/2019, flows have reduced some which has improved visibility on this stretch of the river. The hopper dropper rig is still the best option here and look along banks for slower moving water. It is important to keep in mind that colder temperatures will reduce terrestrial activity in the future making this rig less effective. Watch the temperatures at night and if they drop below freezing put the terrestrials away. Nymphing is another good option in pools, runs, and riffles. Streamers will catch larger trout but the action won’t be as consistent as nymphing.

Flows: 1180 CFS (10/01/2019)
**Dillon Reservoir**
As of 9/28/2019, brown trout, rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, and Arctic Char can all be caught here. The water clarity has been good (over 8 inches) and the reservoir is a bit higher than usual this time of year. Anglers have reported catching rainbows and suckers with worms. Arctic char can be caught by trolling or jiggling using similar techniques anglers use to catch lake trout during this time of the year. All Arctic char under 20 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately upon catch. No kokanee activity has been reported. The bag and possession limit and minimum size for Arctic char is one fish, 20 inches in length. This rare species was stocked from 2008 through 2015. Fishing for this species has greatly improved over the past few years as the stocked fish have established and successfully reproduced. Anglers have been most successful during ice fishing season, using various small jigs in less than 60 feet of water. Some summer catches have also been reported. Dillon is home to a high density of brown trout, which are naturally self-sustaining and not stocked. Fish as large as nine pounds have been captured in CPW netting surveys. Crankbaits and other large lures fished around rocky points and other structure at ice-out, during summer evenings, and in the fall can be productive. Kokanee are also self-sustaining in Dillon, and have not been stocked since 1978. Spawning has been documented in the Snake River inlet area, other locations in-lake, and in the Blue River upstream of the lake. There have been reports of spoons working from shore and catching rainbows.

**Lake Granby**
As of 10/01/2019, looks for inlets and try spoons and cranks to catch aggressive rainbows and browns. Baitfish imitations are also great this time of year for catching larger trout. Try different retrieval speeds to produce a bite. Lake trout are still holding deep and tubes and spoons tipped with sucker meat can produce a bite. Boat ramp hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Rifle Gap Reservoir**
As of 10/04/2019, there have not been any reports recently. Walleye, perch, and bass have been the most commonly caught fish. 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 one fish may be kept and it 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.

**Trappers Lake**
As of 10/04/2019, this is a great high mountain lake with some of the most beautiful views in the state. The fishing has been great here as water temperatures have dropped. Try elk hair caddis, pheasant tails, and BWOs if fly fishing. Panther Martins, Blue Fox Vibrax, Mepps Aglia, and other spinners are a great option if fishing with a spin rod. There are special regulations to be aware of and fishing is by artificial flies and lures only. The bag and possession limit for cutthroat trout is two fish. All cutthroat trout greater than 11 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately upon catch. There is no bag or possession limit for brook trout. Fishing is prohibited in all inlets and upstream for ½ mile. Fishing is prohibited within 100 feet of either side of all inlet streams. Fishing is prohibited within 100 feet of either side of the outlet and downstream to the first falls.

**Steamboat Lake**
As of 10/04/2019, there has been excellent fishing all summer. The trout here go for anything red (red wigglers, red PowerBait, red flies). Rainbow PowerBait is the most popular bait at Rainbow Ridge day use area. Crayfish imitations will catch larger rainbows here and is a great option! Underwater spearfishing may be used as a method of fishing for northern pike or carp (where present) in accordance with regulations issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Underwater spearfishing is prohibited within 100 feet of any marina, boat ramp, and swim beach or dam infrastructure.

**Williams Fork Reservoir**
As of 10/01/2019, the surface temperature has been in the 50’s and the water level is dropping with good clarity. The bite has been slow but patience will lead to plenty of fish being caught. Small lakers are still being caught with tube jigs, tipped with sucker meat, off the bottom in 80 to 100 feet of water. It can take some time to find them. Rainbows are also slowing down but some have been reported to be hanging around the area where the river and reservoir meet. Try using PowerBait or worms off the bottom. There have been reports of anglers catching trout from shore with PowerBait, salmon eggs, and spinners. Larger trout should also be moving into shallower area of the reservoir and baitfish imitations may produce a bite. The pike and kokanee bite has been slow. Pike should also be in shallower areas now and retrieving a spoon may grab their attention. Trolling is the best option for kokanee and try casting and retrieving jerks and large spoons/daredevils for pike. The ramps hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Notes:**
- Fishing for northern pike may be prohibited in certain areas.
- Fishing is prohibited within 100 feet of any marina, boat ramp, swim beach, or dam infrastructure.
- Regulations may vary by area, so always check current regulations.
- Water clarity has been good (over 8 inches) at the reservoirs mentioned.
- Special restrictions apply for walleye and cutthroat trout.
- Fishing regulations and restrictions vary by location, so always check current regulations.

**Contact Information:**
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife
  - 1313 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203
  - (303) 297-1192
  - cpw.state.co.us
Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir
As of 10/03/2019, fishing has been reported as slow with temperatures reported in the 60’s. A few rainbows are being picked up by trolling with spoons and Kastmasters. Honest opinion would be to check in with a local bait shop or guide and see where they have had success as reports coming in are slow to fair. With that said, the fishing will get better probably sooner than later as we see a cold front approaching this weekend which will bring in more drastic seasonal changes. Look for lake trout to become increasingly active as the peak spawning season approaches. Pike are also going to be more active and start to move around more with the cooler temperatures as they hunt to stock up before winter. For more information, contact Curecanti National Recreation Area at 970-641-2337.

Crawford Reservoir
Located 2 miles south of the town of Crawford on Highway 92. As of 10/04/2019, no new reports have been submitted. Generally, good baits include small tube jigs and worms. Channel catfish can be caught near the dam, on the north side of peninsula cove, with night crawlers, stinkbaits, and dead minnows. Largemouth bass are hitting crankbaits, spinners, and soft plastics in rocky areas near the dam. 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.

East River
As of 10/03/2019, not a lot has changed since last week and flows have been steady and caddis and stones have been catching fish. Dry-dropper rigs are a great option in riffles. Caddis, stones, and BWO’s can all catch fish on this river. Be aware of special fishing regulations at different points along the river. From the upstream property boundary at the Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery and downstream to the Roaring Judy Hatchery outlet: fishing is only allowed with artificial flies/lures, the taking of kokanee salmon is prohibited, and the bag/possession limit and maximum size for trout is 2 fish that are at least 12 inches in length. From the Roaring Judy Hatchery outlet downstream to the southern Roaring Judy SFU boundary: fishing prohibited from August 1st until October 31st.

Flows: 77.6 CFS (10/03/2019)

Gunnison River - near Gunnison
As of 10/03/2019, anglers fishing with spinning gear continue to have 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. Fish are moving to the center of the river as temperatures continue to warm. Kokanee are still moving up the river to the East River. Deeper runs are housing a few kokanee right now so fishing some egg patterns could produce some decent feeding trout behind the spawning salmon. Kokanee will naturally go after any eggs other than their own as a protective measure to minimize competition with their own eggs. As a result, egg fly patterns or beads are a great way to catch fish in the fall in Colorado. Try fishing these in deeper pools. The flows have been great for floating the river. Wading is also possible in areas of the river west of Gunnison.

Flows: 425 CFS (10/03/2019)

Taylor River - Below Taylor Park Reservoir
As of 10/03/2019, temperatures have been reported in the 50’s with clear visibility. Good flies include BWO’s, Red Quills, and Midges. Flies and light tippet are the name if the game on this river. Fish can be found in pockets, runs, and various riffles along the 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. BWOS and terrestrials have been working well!

Flows: 328 CFS below Taylor Park Reservoir (10/03/2019)
Conditions Report - Statewide

Friday should bring warmer temperatures across much of the state with things cooling down quite a bit on Saturday and Sunday with overcast conditions expected. The month of October is upon us. That means that the days are getting shorter and much cooler. With winter approaching, the fish are eating much more frequently to bulk up for winter. Large and flashy streamers can get the attention of large trout this time of year. Aggressive trout will hold along banks, near timber, and deeper pools waiting to attack prey. Identifying structure that would be provide a good attack point for trout and using a streamer that mimics baitfish or small trout is a great strategy. Egg fly patterns are another great choice as trout and kokanee salmon are regularly feeding on them this time of the year (see the tip of the week!). Browns are starting to spawn so be aware of lighter colored rock bottoms where the trout have cleared a space to lay eggs, avoid walking around them, and leave the browns alone. Fishing on the lake should improve for trout, pike, and walleye species. Look for fish to become more active and moving in shallower. From shore, start by experimenting with depth and speed of retrieval. Once you start getting hits or catches its game on! From boats, hit the weed lines and shallow structures with recommended lures from the local fishing shops. Trolling will also come more into play than previously especially in our metro reservoirs. Pike are also going to be more active and start to move around more with the cooler temperatures as they hunt to stock up before winter. Good luck to everyone, stay warm, and send us picture of your catches!

Tip of the Week

Egg Fly Patterns and Beads

Fall is upon us, and that means spawning season for brown trout and kokanee salmon. Because eggs have a high nutritional value and are an easy target, they become a large portion of the diet of many species here in Colorado. Kokanee will naturally go after any eggs other than their own as a protective measure to minimize competition with their own eggs. Rainbow trout will position themselves downstream from the spawning browns for an easy meal. As a result, egg fly patterns or beads are a great way to catch fish in the fall in Colorado. However, you should also expect to hang up more using egg fly patterns and lose more flies because the best presentation is often bouncing off the bottom. This can also make strike detection more difficult as it can be hard to tell if the fly is hitting the bottom or if a fish is gingerly taking the fly. This makes indicators crucial when fishing these patterns. These should be easy to see on the water while also not being flashy enough to spook fish. White indicators, that are easy to see on the water, are a good option. Make sure to set the hook quickly when a bite is felt as trout can often times swallow the eggs quickly, deep in their throats, which can result in mortality of the fish. If this occurs, it is best to clip the line because removing the hook can use more damage and stress on the fish. An egg pattern below a REDD for scavengers works well but be sure you cast low enough below the REDD so you do not accidentally hook or harass one of the spawning fish. While most fly anglers prefer not to use plastic, beads (plastic egg replications) can have advantages and are another great option for catching fish in the fall. Beads come in a variety of colors and sizes and it is important to base the types you use on the body of water you are fishing and the time of the season. Beads are usually much cheaper than egg fly patterns and the glossiness of them gives them a more realistic look than the fabric used in egg fly patterns. The buoyancy of the plastics also gives them a more realistic presentation than most egg fly patterns. Everyone has their own preference but when it comes to using egg fly patterns or beads and you should find success! Bright and florescent colors will be the best as the spawn begins and more mute/natural colors will be better as fall continues.

Have a suggestion or request?
Email us at dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us
We would love to hear back from our subscribers regarding fishing reports, tips, and requests of material you would like to start seeing more of. Any useful feedback helps us make our fishing reports a “go to” resource for anglers fishing Colorado’s waters. 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.

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DNR Fish Reporter