

Fishing Report

Friday October 19th, 2018



News and Information

Tips for the best hunting and fishing in Colorado this fall

Fall in Colorado is always a challenging time for outdoor endeavors. Not because there's nothing to do. There's too much to do. It can be difficult to choose. Big game hunting seasons are in full swing. [Fishing can be the best of the year.](#) Waterfowl hunting has started and upland game hunting is just around the corner.

Crystal River's voluntary fishing closure lifted, river recovering from extremely low flow and high water temperatures this summer

Due to recent rains, cooler temperatures and the end of water diversions in the area, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials are [lifting the full-day, voluntary fishing closure.](#)

Boaters to be on honor system as CPW leaves ramp gates open 24 hours a day when ANS inspection stations switch to shorter, winter hours

Effective Oct. 15, [Lake Pueblo's boat ramp gates will remain open 24 hours a day.](#) Boaters are required to use a drop-box system to certify their watercraft have passed an ANS inspection, if they enter or leave when inspection stations are closed.

Kokanee Salmon Regulations and Give-aways.

For details on regulations, give-away locations and requirements, see the [flyer.](#) Be sure to read the "New for 2018" section.



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Closure Information

Due to high water temperatures and low flows, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is implementing voluntary fishing closures on several stretches of rivers in Colorado. The fishing closures are effective immediately, until further notice.

Although anglers are not legally prohibited from fishing in these stretches, CPW is asking anglers to fish early in the day and find alternative places to fish until conditions improve.

Contact the [closest Colorado Parks and Wildlife office](#) for more details.

Northwest Region

Voluntary Closures Between 2 pm & Midnight and Full Day, 24 hour Voluntary Closures

- None at this time.

Southeast Region

Voluntary Closure Between Noon and Midnight

- Conejos River from Platoro Reservoir down to Broyles Bridge.

Closures NO LONGER in Effect

- Crystal River from Avalanche Creek downstream to its confluence with the Roaring Fork River.
- Yampa River from Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area to western Steamboat Springs city limits.
- Eagle River from Wolcott downstream to its confluence with the Colorado River.
- A mandatory fishing closure in place at the tailwater of the Yampa River has been rescinded (see 7/19/18 news release).
- Colorado River from State Bridge downstream to Rifle.
- Colorado River from the confluence with the Fraser River near Windy Gap Reservoir downstream to its confluence with the Williams Fork River near Parshall.
- Fraser River from Grand County Road 8 in Fraser, downstream through the towns of Tabernash and Granby to confluence with the Colorado River near Windy Gap Reservoir.
- North Fork of White River at the National Forest boundary, through the main stem of the river to the County Road 5 bridge, downstream of the Rio Blanco Lake State Wildlife Area.
- South Fork of the White River from the National Forest boundary through the main stem of the river to the County Road 5 bridge, downstream of the Rio Blanco Lake State Wildlife Area.
- Roaring Fork River from Carbondale downstream to its confluence with the Colorado River.

For a complete up to date list of Fishing Closures currently in effect [visit the CPW Website](#)

To check closures call your CPW Regional office. In the Northeast Region, call the Denver office at 303-291-7227. In the Southeast Region, call the Colorado Springs office at 719-227-5200. In the Southwest Region, call the Durango office at 970-375-6708. In the Northwest Region, call the Grand Junction office at 970-255-6100.

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Snooks Bottom Lake	Northwest	10/12/2018
Parachute Pond	Northwest	10/12/2018
Rifle Pond South	Northwest	10/12/2018
Pueblo Reservoir	Southeast	10/12/2018
Pueblo Reservoir	Southeast	10/11/2018
Fruita Red Rocks lake	Northwest	10/10/2018
Mack Mesa Lake	Northwest	10/10/2018
Eagle River #1	Northwest	10/10/2018
Alder Park Pond	Northwest	10/10/2018
Palisade Riverbend Park	Northwest	10/10/2018
Brush Hollow Reservoir	Southeast	10/10/2018
Eleven Mile Reservoir	Northeast	10/9/2018

Catch of the Week



Jennifer's 44-inch pike looks like it has been on a steady diet of footballs lately! This monster northern pike was caught at Spinney Mountain Reservoir.

Have a fish you'd like to show off? [Share your photo](#) and include "catch of the week" in the subject line. Feel free to share any additional info/details on your catch!

Conditions Report - Metro

Aurora Reservoir

This 762-acre impoundment is located off of E. Quincy Avenue, two miles east of E-470. As of **10/19/2018**, the water level is coming up quickly. Trout fishing from shore is slow to fair with a few good reports of rainbows being caught from the dam using PowerBait. Boaters reporting fair to good conditions on trout trolling with crawlers and lures. The walleye action is currently slow to fair with a few good reports using bottom bouncers and jigs. A few reports of walleye caught from shore using suspended jerkbaits. Restricted to electric motors only. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours October 6:30am-7:30pm. Restricted to electric motors only. For more information call 303-326-8425.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

This 1,356 impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. As of **10/19/2018**, the walleye has been really slow and not much reported as of late. The smallmouth fishing has remained really good if you target the right spots. Many smallmouth bass have been hunkering around the structure points, gravel pits and near the dam. Guides have reported success when using rattle traps, spinners and swimbaits along these areas. The south boat ramps are closed for the season and the north boat ramps will remain open until December 1st or ice on, whichever comes first. Roxborough Cove and the Marina are closed to the public. The perimeter road from Jamison to the Heronry, including Kingfisher & the Gravel Ponds, are closed as of October 1st. There will be no thru traffic in the park. All campers must use the east entrance from Titan Road. All DOLA & North Boat Ramp traffic must use the west entrance from Wadsworth.

[Chatfield Reservoir](#)

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 **10/19/2018**, the walleye fishing has been improving lately especially with some warmer weather forecasted. The cold snap killed off some significant shad numbers which can be a good thing when angling for walleye as it gives them less options for food sources and they get hungrier. The temperatures have been all over the place depending what time of day you measure the water. The mornings have produced cold temperatures obviously due to our cold nights but we are still getting some warm days so the water temperatures have still be getting fairly warm during the afternoon hours. Jigging spoons and Rapalas along the breaks in about 10 to 15 feet of water has been producing for guides and other anglers lately. Be ready to get out there this weekend with the warm weather as it should encourage some good fish activity. Reports from several guides out of Discount Fishing Tackle have specifically noted some very nice sized walleyes, close to 10 pounds, out of the reservoir recently. They predict more of the same in the coming weeks depending on the weather patterns.

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

Quincy Reservoir

As of **10/19/2018**, the bass fishing is rated as slow as the colder water temperatures are starting to slow down their metabolism. Smallmouths are still catchable and can be active in these conditions so try targeting them specifically if you want to catch bass by using crankbaits, jigs and other mid to deeper level techniques. All other species are slow or no reports. Park Hours for October 6:30am-7:30pm. Restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Electric motors only and hand launched watercraft only. Trailers and vehicles prohibited in the water. For more information call 303-326-8424. Quincy will close for the season October 31st!

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Cache la Poudre

As of **10/19/2018**, the fishing has been about the same but geared more towards the fall techniques. Hopper fishing is more or less over but using a large dry such as a hopper as your indicator would not hurt as it will be more discrete than traditional indicators. The forecast is showing mainly clear skies until next week so nymph fishing during the weekend will be the best bet. Some trico and blue winged olive hatches should be coming off in the afternoon hours especially during those cloudier days. Flies to include on your nymph rigs should be Beadhead princes, Gold Biot Stones, Purple Prince or a Guides Choice Hare's Ear all in about the #16-18 sizes. Dries that will get some looks will be Parachute Adam's, different variations and colors of tricos and elk haired caddis.

Flows: 45.4 CFS near Canyon mouth and 118 CFS at Fort Collins (10/18/2018)

[Cache la Poudre](#)

Clear Creek

As of **10/19/2018**, the hatches right now are midges and caddis. The water clarity is very clear right now as we get into the fall and winter season so fish will be easy to spook but on the flip side, easier to sight. The menu will be about the same as previous weeks as nymph rigs will be the best bet for success. Nymphs to include should be Pheasant tails, Green Copper Johns, Flash Back Black Beauties and Graphic Caddis in the #14-20. Later in the afternoons you might see some risers and they will most likely be after caddis so make sure you have a few of those in the #14-18 size if a good hatch presents itself and fish are consistently rising.

Flows: 46.3 CFS (10/18/2018)

[Clear Creek](#)

Deckers and Cheesman Canyon

As of **10/19/2018**, the action has been decent lately but with the high fishing pressure, the fish have been very selective of what they eat so good presentations, fly choice and size will be very important. Cheesman Reservoir is at about 53,321 acre feet which is very low and there is word that Denver Water is going to keep Roberts Tunnel opened this winter which will translate to low flows for the remainder of the fall and winter months. This makes for great sight fishing but the stealthy and patient anglers will have the most luck. Effective patterns are your Juju Baetis, Stalcup Baetis, Mercury Midges and tricos in the #20-22 sizes. With small flies like these you will need to use small tippet as well, the 5-6x fluorocarbon will work on these educated fish. REDDS are present so please be on the lookout and avoid trudging through or near them while leaving their parents be as they spawn and produce your future trophy catches.

Flows: 64 CFS (10/18/2018)

[Deckers and Cheesman Canyon](#)

Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of **10/19/2018**, fishing has not slowed and trout are still being caught all over the reservoir. Reports of KDV's and pink Panther Martins in particular are bringing in some consistent trout catches. The previously mentioned Kastmasters and Tasmanian Devils will also get some trout. Pike fishing has also been doing well and possibly picking up. Fall is pushing the pike to shallower water, 6-10 feet as they hunt and stock up for winter. This presents a great opportunity for shore anglers wanting to get some big northern pike as in the warmer months they are usually deeper and harder to reach from shore. A fall pike tactic for boaters is keeping an eye on the weed beds. You want to see the transition of weeds dying off. The dead or dying weed lines will produce less oxygen, be less suitable for insects, attract less bait fish and in turn, cause pike to hunt elsewhere. When the weed beds really start to turn brown and die, the insects, baitfish and most importantly big pike will be more concentrated in what is still alive and producing oxygen. A good indication of living weed lines vs dying are the darkness. When weeds are alive and going through photosynthesis they are a dark green as opposed to the lighter colored brown.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of **10/19/2018**, trout and pike fishing has also been good at Spinney. There are less and less weeds for the fish to concentrate in and stick to so they are moving around a bit more. The cooler it gets, the more the fish will start to move around and forage. The big pike are starting to be more active and aggressive, just check out the catch of the week! To get some monster pike, use high vibration lures around the green and alive weed lines to attract them from their ambush hiding spots. When you arrive at a location that looks promising or you have already seen some surface action from a big predator, be persistent and keep casting. Pike will often feed on several individuals of prey before they retire to digest so if you do not get any hits on the first few casts or so, give it several more before deciding the pike is not interested or has moved on.

[Spinney Reservoir](#)

South Platte - Charlie Meyers

As of **10/19/2018**, aside from the crowds the fishing has been good on the Dream with the many fishing opportunities this section of the South Platte offers this time of year. Salmon are still spawning in force and the browns are making their way up the river as well. The fall, tailwater hatches are what is coming in on the reports. Tricos have been hatching once the temperatures warm up enough and settle off in the later hours of the morning or early afternoons. Top water fishing on light tippet will be a good option. The biggest key is dialing in on the size and bug they are targeting. After a solid trico hatch consider an RS2 or drowned trico throughout the day. If the trout are really after those very small bugs, sizes #20-24, try leading with a highly visible Parachute Adams in the #16-20 range. This fly might not get the most takes but it will be a very low profile indicator for a trailing and more realistic fly such as a very small dun, trico, blue winged olive spinner or an emerger. Please be aware of the REDDS!

Flows: 122 CFS (10/18/2018)

[South Platte - Charlie Meyers](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River-Below Lake Pueblo

As of **10/19/2018**, the flows are tapering off and getting to that static CFC that we typically see in fall and last throughout the winter. It's still too warm and early for the trout to be staging in their winter waters yet so fall techniques in lower flows are going to get the fish. Water clarity is rough right now due to the turnover and killing off of the vegetation in Pueblo Reservoir, reports are saying about 1 foot of visibility. The trico spinner fall and caddis hatches are coming off in the morning and later hours, basically in low light conditions. Cloudy days have been producing heavy and strong blue winged olive hatches. Besides the above listed flies, the Psuedo Baetis and Red Bodied Attractors are still doing well.

Flows: 74.2 CFS (10/18/2018)

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Upper Arkansas - Near Salida

As of **10/19/2018**, the water clarity is good all through Salida but below Coaldale the runoff from the Hayden Pass Fire burn scar is dumping a lot of debris in the river and water clarity is poor. After the cold snap this past weekend, the forecast is showing a warmer trend for several days which will encourage the fish back into the riffles to feed on the blue winged olive hatches. This weekend looks like clear skies but early next week has some clouds and precipitation on the way which could make for some great opportunities to see some heavy blue winged olive hatches as well as good streamer fishing opportunities. During the cloudy days, look for the mayflies to hatch from 1-4pm which means you should be prepared with some duns and emergers in the #18-22 sizes. A large dry followed by a small baetis or midge is going to be a good tactic with these conditions. Keep in mind of the fish moving around as the water temperatures warm up in the late morning hours. REDDS are in the rivers so please be mindful.

Flows: 214 CFS (10/18/2018)

[Upper Arkansas River](#)

Lake Pueblo State Park

As of 10/19/2018, the fishing has been decent but nothing very notable yet. Guides do hope the fishing will pick up as we get more into the fall season as Pueblo can be one of the top fisheries this time of the year for Colorado anglers. Depending on what you are fishing, most species seem to be holding deep still. Wipers and walleyes are reported right at about 35-40 feet of water right now. This could change as we do get some warmer weather here in the next several days. You may see some good wiper action on some bait fish but it will most likely be suspended over deep water so your best chances are from a boat for right now. Drop shotting around 25 feet of water in the breaks is getting both the walleye and wipers right now as well as jigging spoons and Rapalas.

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Trinidad State Park

As of 10/19/2018, anglers are still having success with the same methods as recent reports. Homemade dough baits and PowerBaits in green or chartreuse are getting anglers success. Shore angling has been hot along the southern shorelines lately. Look for walleye to start moving around a bit more especially from the deeper waters into shallower areas. Wipers are on the hunt for what shad is left. After the cold fronts we get in the fall, the shad population will start to decrease and they start to retreat to shallow and warmer waters. Look for wipers to be following shad into the flats as we get more into fall and water temperatures continue to fall. Walleye will more or less do the same and chase the dying shad. Jigging spoons and Rapalas will be a good technique this time of year. Smallmouth bass will be holding next to structure points and can be caught using spinners and jerkbaits.

[Trinidad State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River - Silverthorne

As of 10/19/2018, fishing on the blue has been a bit rough as of late. The fish count is low this year so anglers fishing blindly are having very difficult times. The stretch through town and right below the damn you should try Mysis, red larvae, dropped with various mayfly patterns on your rigs. Sight fishing if possible will give you the best odds as there are not enough trout in this section of river so targeting specific trout and getting a good drift will be the way to go. On the lower sections of the Blue River use an assortment of midge and mayfly patterns on your rigs to get the best success.

Flows: 54.8 CFS (10/18/2018)

[Blue River](#)

Colorado River - Near Kremmling

As of 10/19/2018, some anglers are not only getting away with dry dropper rigs but doing very well with them as we edge past mid-October. Even when dries are not really a viable option, using a dry as an indicator is sometimes a better, and more stealthy option than bulky, traditional indicators. It really depends on the bodies of water you are targeting and if you are in skinny or wide waters so just adjust accordingly to what you are fishing. The hatches are blue winged olives, midges, tricos and October caddis. Bug selection is very similar to recent reports and guides are suggesting a dry dropper rig using Tungsten bead headed nymphs such as Tungsten Torpedos, Guide's choice Hare's Ear, Z Winged Caddis and Iron Sallies. Streamers for those overcast days will pretty much remain the same throughout the season such as an Autumn Splendor, Barely Legal, Cheech Leech and a Baby Gonga are some trademarked flies that have been getting catches according to recent reports.

Flows: 576 CFS (10/18/2018)

[Colorado River](#)

Frying Pan River - Ruedi

As of 10/19/2018, fishing was lights out during that last cold front on the Frying Pan. Flows were low and fish were feeding throughout the river on dries, nymphs and streamers. Fishing should continue to be good moving forward this next weekend and week. Tactics will differ mainly with the timing since hatches could be during different parts of the day with the increased sun and warmer temperatures forecasted. The flows are being cut back and getting to that steady, winter level. Recommended flies for this next week are your midges and egg patterns. It's a good idea to look for REDDS as they are often easier to spot than actual trout. A REDD will tell you a couple things. The first is yes, there is a good chance of some spawning browns so do not disturb them or their nest. The second is that there are also likely scavengers stacked downstream of the nest, cleaning up on dislodged eggs. Target these feeders once you can insure they are not actually the residents of the egg sites. During the sunny days tie on some midge patterns such as Bling midges, Rainbow Warriors and midge larvae in the #18-22 sizes. As you see the hatches coming off include an emerger on your rig such as Biot Emergers, a Red Jujubee or a Shuck Midge in a black and/or cream pattern.

Flows: CFS 113 (10/18/2018)

[Frying Pan River](#)

Stagecoach State Park

As of 10/19/2018, the pike fishing especially has been picking up. The larger females are beginning to hunt in the shallows in preparation for winter. Stagecoach is a great fishery for pike with the habitats and features it offers. A technique mentioned for Eleven Mile and Spinney Reservoirs should also work well here at Stagecoach. There is a lot of shallow shoreline with tall weeds at the reservoir which is prime hunting grounds for big pike in the fall. These weed lines will die off at different times. A great time to fish for these monster pike is during the transition period of the dying weed beds, basically when there is a good mix of dead and living weed lines. The alive weed beds will hold a higher concentration of everything including pike. The dead weed lines are producing little or no oxygen which is less desirable for the insects which means less bait fish and pike as well. Often times these large pike will barely stick their nose out of the weeds but just enough to sense vibrations in the water. Tossing big, heavy and high vibrations lures or spinners will attract the most attention. The big pike do not want to expend a lot of energy so a lot of casts and retrieval methods might be necessary to finally get one to commit to your lures.

[Stagecoach State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir

This 8,900-acre reservoir is located west of Gunnison. As of 10/19/2018, not a lot of activity at Blue Mesa lately but it's about time to start focusing on the big browns, pike and lake trout. The trout are spawning and active and the pike are consuming as many calories as they can before winter hits. Lake trout are piscivores meaning they only eat other fish and not insects so if you want to try fly fishing for lake trout, toss some large streamers. Guides even suggest saltwater patterns to earn some big fish. For brown trout, jigs and in-line spinners are doing well along shorelines. The big females are now starting to come up from the depths to feed on other fish as they go on a feeding binge to prepare for the winter. Again, if you want to try fly fishing for some big pike, throw big streamers with bright patterns and colors such as yellows, chartreuse, and bright oranges. For spinning anglers, cast big and busy swimbaits or high vibration spinners. Anglers can check on current conditions and boat ramp inspection schedules by contacting the Curecanti National Recreation Area at (970-641-2337).

[Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

Gunnison River - Near Gunnison

As of 10/19/2018, the flows are a bit low but have remained steady. Finding good holding water will be important so some moving around for happy, feeding trout will be key. Dry dropper rigs are also working well with these low water levels since your dropper is able to get low enough with enough leader and weight without sinking your dry or indicator fly. Bead headed nymphs in the #14-18 sizes are working right now as well as some worm patterns especially when a little precipitation is happening. Egg patterns can be a good option as well during the brown trout and kokanee spawning seasons. The notable hatches right now are blue winged olives, red quills, and grey drakes. Peak time for these mayflies has been roughly around 12 pm to 3 pm depending on the temperatures and sunlight. Use a combination of mayfly nymphs and emergers or a small, mayfly midge trailed behind a mayfly nymph is also a good idea. The salmon are not done yet in the Gunnison Valley as they are still stacking in deep pools along with egg scavenging trout.

Flows: 208 CFS (10/18/2018)

[Gunnison River](#)

Mancos

As of 10/19/2018, the water is very low and the shoreline is muddy except for along the dam. Mancos is a great place for consistent action from trout and yellow perch. Most of the trout action is from 10-12 inch fish but there's very good opportunities for 18-20" trout and a few 12"-plus perch. The lake is also a great opportunity for kids to catch fish. Most anglers are finding success with bait (PowerBait, eggs, and crawlers) fishing just off bottom or under a slip bobber. For a chance at the yellow perch and trout, a small jig fished under a bobber on a long leader and tipped with a piece of worm is a good bet. Casting or trolling typical with in-line spinners (Panther Martins, Mepps) from boats is another approach at the trout. Hand-launchable boats such as non-motorized kayaks, canoes, and belly boats, are a great way to fish the lake in this off-season.

Navajo

As of 10/19/2018, the smallmouth bass bite has been excellent as of late. Guides are reporting a wide variety of lures and techniques that are working really well at the moment. Typical smallmouth lures are catching good numbers of fish and decent sizes. Lures that are bringing in catches include jerkbaits, crankbaits, Senkos, and swimbaits. The smallmouths will be holding to natural structures in medium depth waters but could be found shallower in the early mornings. Some decent reports of largemouth bass are still coming in with many of the same techniques as the smallmouth. Pike are getting more active by the day and we are getting to the time of year where the conditions will present good opportunities for the big pike catches. Anglers have been getting decent pike off of swim baits, crankbaits and spinners. Think of lures that have high vibrations and work the shallow weed lines for pike.

[Navajo State Park](#)

Taylor Park Reservoir

As of 10/19/2018, not much changing on the fishing here at Taylor. Basically anglers need to keep an eye on the pike and lake trout action as they are the next species of interest as we get into fall. Gunnison County is generally pretty cold in the winter months so expect the fall season to mature faster than a lot of the state. Look for pike, especially the bigger ones, to become more apparent in the shallower waters as they hide in the weed beds and hunt for bait fish and trout. Vibration lures should be considered in order for them to come out of hiding as they often do not rely on eye site when waiting in ambush and instead pick up on vibrations. The lake trout will also be cruising and hunting in shallower waters. They will be after bait fish, kokanee and trout and are attracted to structures and edges.

[Taylor Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

The weather is going to be a bit different than the cold front we experienced last weekend. Pretty much all portions of the state will be more or less experiencing this same high pressure system that is occurring. Temperatures will steadily rise and we will see clear skies Saturday with some scattered clouds on Sunday. The winds this weekend look to be tame but always be prepared, this is fall in Colorado after all. Precipitation looks like it could be on the way earlier next week, possibly by Tuesday for most counties but nothing significant showing yet. The consensus for many guides along the Front Range is that the warmer weather pattern moving in will positively impact reservoir fishing especially for the warm water species. Fall conditions have put the fish in feeding mode and warmer weather will cause the bait fish to move around more and encourage even more feeding. Early morning hours will be the best time to get cruising predators. If you are in the metro areas look for walleye to be cruising shallows and use reactionary baits. Trout in the high country will be looking for the last bit of hatches once the water warms up a bit then it will be back to nymphs, deeper running lures or bait fishing. Weed beds are dying back so there is less cover for insects, baitfish, and predators. This means fish will be more concentrated in living weed beds making it a little easier to zero in on the predators such as pike waiting in ambush. Lake trout or mackinaw are beginning their spawn in shallower waters where they have gravel to create nests. Males will be cruising close to an active nest so there is a good chance to hook a few once you get into one. Nymphing in rivers will be the best bet for success throughout the day as hatches will be more sporadic as opposed to overcast days. Streamers are usually advised for overcast days or stained water but aggressive browns or even a big rainbow can always be tempted if the opportunity arises so keep that in your back pocket if other techniques are slow. We are fortunate to get some mild and warm weather this weekend so enjoy the leaves and brisk air while you're out there on the water!

Tip of the Week

For several species of fish fall means it's time to spawn. These fish in general become a lot more active, aggressive and present some great opportunities for anglers to catch big fish! For lake trout, many males cruise around one female's nest site and can be caught from aggression bites, kokanee stack in deep pools laying and fertilizing thousands of eggs afterwards dying once their mission is complete. If you have been reading the last few fishing reports, I am sure you have noticed the term "REDDS" being mentioned several times. The reason being is it is a very important variable that fall and spring brings to our rivers and streams. Anyone fishing a river or stream during a spawning season needs to be educated so they can avoid making crucial mistakes that hurt the fishery they love to fish. A REDD is an area that a trout has cleared for the purpose of laying eggs so basically a nest for a fish. The female and sometimes the male will protect the nest area aggressively and lay or fertilize anywhere between 500 to a 1,000 eggs depending on the size and health of the fish. Biologists, guides and angling experts almost all agree that stressing a fish that is actively spawning will affect them in a negative way, hindering their spawning potential as well as the fishery itself since there will be less offspring for the future. Fly angler Gabe from St Pete's Fly Shop explains why fall is such a great time to get out on the water but also a time to be aware and educated about the spawning trout, "Fall is many anglers favorite time to fish. Cooler water temperatures and a transitioning season usually puts trout on the feed. This fall as you are out on the water, PLEASE be mindful of trout spawning beds called "REDDS". Avoid stepping on and fishing through spawning areas. You can avoid targeting actively spawning fish by fishing the deeper runs and pools downstream from spawning areas which are typically in shallow gravel beds. You can use a REDD to your advantage by identifying one then sighting for fish that are downstream scavenging for eggs. Before casting, ensure the fish downstream are in fact not spawning, put on an egg pattern, get a good drift then be ready to set the hook!" - Gabe from St Pete's Fly Shop, Fort Collins. Please educate yourself on REDDS before heading out on the water this fall. A simple internet search will reveal in depth explanations and pictures to help with identification. Always feel free to email us with any questions especially about topics such as spawning and REDDS.

Have a suggestion or request?

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

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DNR Fish Reporter



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources