

Fishing Report



Friday November 1st, 2019

News and Information

Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

Kokanee Salmon Regulations and Giveaways

[Roaring Judy Give-Away will take place at the Hatchery north of Gunnison on November 1, 2019.](#) Individuals will need to be in line by 9:00 a.m. to receive fish. Please check out the flyer for additional Give-Away dates, locations, and details!

CPW hopes enhanced wetlands will help boreal toad survival

In mid-September, Biologist Dan Cammack walked slowly along the edge of a boggy pond in the San Juan Mountains high above the San Luis Valley and peered into the mud and black water looking for a camouflaged critter the size of a dime. [After just a couple minutes, he saw the jumping movements of tiny boreal toads.](#) The amphibians, colored a brownish-black, sat in the mud, on the rocks, in the grass or moved on the top of the water attempting to stay clear of danger.

Spinney Mountain State Park to close for the season

[Spinney Mountain State Park will officially close for the season on November 15th, or earlier if it ices over before that date.](#)

Nearby Eleven Mile State Park will remain open throughout the cold weather season, offering winter camping, as well as ice fishing, when conditions permit. However, Eleven Mile will close to boating for the season on November 1st. Non-motorized vessels will be allowed to launch until ice-over. Electric trolling motors are not permitted after November 1st.

The 2019 Elkhead Reservoir Fishing Classic is in the books and after crunching numbers, CPW says the angling contest continues to be a success

The Fourth Annual Elkhead Reservoir Fishing Classic is in the books and now that the 2019 numbers have been compiled and annual fish stocking has been completed, [Colorado Parks and Wildlife says the angling contest at one of Northwest Colorado's largest bodies of water continues to be a success for both the agency and anglers.](#)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife encourages anglers to submit condition reports to the DNR Fishing Reporter. Conditions, comments, and questions can be submitted to the Fishing Reporter's email at dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us

The Fishing Report is for all Colorado anglers of every experience level, and anglers just like yourself provide many of the conditions you read.

	<p>Now you can take the #ColoradoOutdoors anywhere. Follow us on @instagram @coparkswildlife! http://instagram.com/coparkswildlife</p>
	<p>Check out our CPW community on Facebook. Colorado anglers can "like" the CPW Facebook page to get tips, share stories and more. If you love the outdoors, this is the place to be. Before you head out, head for facebook.com/ColoradoParksandWildlife/.</p>
	<p>Fish with us on Twitter Colorado anglers can get updates directly from CPW on Twitter. Follow @COParksWildlife.</p>

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Boulder Kids Pond	Northeast	10/21/2019
Viele Lake	Northeast	10/21/2019
Sheldon Lake	Northeast	10/21/2019
Vallecito Reservoir	Southwest	10/21/2019
Northgate Pond	Southeast	10/21/2019
Midwestern Farms Pond	Southeast	10/21/2019
Clay Creek Pond	Southeast	10/21/2019
Dillion Reservoir	Northwest	10/21/2019
Willow Springs Pond #2	Southeast	10/22/2019
Willow Springs Pond #1	Southeast	10/22/2019
Quail Lake	Southeast	10/22/2019
Coward Lake	Northeast	10/22/2019
Brush Hollow Reservoir	Southeast	10/23/2019
Ridgway Reservoir	Southwest	10/23/2019
Severance City Pond	Northeast	10/23/2019
Mead Pond #2	Northeast	10/23/2019
North Lake Park Pond	Northeast	10/23/2019
Officers Gulch Pond	Northwest	10/23/2019
Meadow Lake	Northwest	10/23/2019
Evergreen Reservoir	Northeast	10/23/2019
Izaak Walton Longmont Pond	Northeast	10/23/2019
Webster Lake	Northeast	10/23/2019
Golden Gravel Pond #3	Northeast	10/23/2019
Thomas Reservoir	Northeast	10/23/2019
Boyd Lake	Northeast	10/24/2019
Boxelder Lake #3	Northeast	10/25/2019
Bear Creek Reservoir	Northeast	10/25/2019

Catch of the Week



Jim submitted this impressive Catch of the Week photo via the Fish Reporter email listed below. Beautiful catfish Jim!

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 11/01/2019 water level is low and the public dock is completely out of the water! Trout fishing from shore is slow to fair with a few good reports using PowerBait and crawlers from the dam and off some of the points off the south side. Boaters are reporting anywhere from fair to good success on trout trolling with crawlers and spoons. A few reports on walleye being caught using jigs. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours November 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Restricted to electric motors only. Last month of the boating season. Closed to boating December 1st this includes all hand launched watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, rafts, paddle boards etc.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

This 1,356-acre impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. As of 10/30/2019, the water temperature continues to drop and has been reported in the high 40's. Walleye fishing has been good as shad populations across the lake have decreased, making it easier to find them. Walleyes are still being caught by vertical jigging with chartreuse or orange jigs with plastics or worms near points and drop-offs across the reservoir. Additionally, jerkbaits that mimic perch can catch large walleyes and try trolling these in deeper water or jigging them and slowly retrieving them on the gravel pits in the slow wake area. There have also been reports of good shore fishing for waldos, during the low light parts of the day, when they are traveling into shallower water to feed. As the temperatures continue to drop bass are beginning to move into deeper water. The dam (5 to 10 feet of water) has been the best spot to fish on the reservoir and walleye, bass, and trout are being caught. Crayfish imitations are still working extremely well for all species and try using deep running cranks that imitation crayfish. Top water lures will also work in the mornings and evenings. With all the recent snow and cold temperatures, fish have likely moved into deeper water across the reservoir but there should still be some good opportunities for fishing before the reservoir freezes over as they will be looking to consume as much food as possible for the winter. The minimum size for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 15 inches in length. The bag limit and minimum size for walleye is three fish, 18 inches in length. No more than one walleye greater than 21 inches in length may be taken per day.

[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 **10/30/2019**, the recent cold weather should have further reduced shad populations across the reservoir and made it easier to find walleyes. As a result, try fishing regular summer hot spots based on structure (drop-offs, humps, points, etc.) that walleyes usually find appealing. Reports of a few wipers are also coming in and using the same reactionary techniques as walleye should give you a good shot at them as well. Rainbow fishing should start to improve and most of the traditional trout fishing techniques will work here. The minimum size for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 15 inches in length. The bag limit and minimum size for walleye is three fish, 18 inches in length. No more than one walleye greater than 21 inches in length may be taken per day.

[Cherry Creek Reservoir](#)

Quincy Reservoir

As of 11/01/2019, 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 **10/29/2019**, this small creek has great accessibility (about 7 miles of public land access) and is only a short drive from Denver. Brown trout is the most common catch on this creek but there are some rainbows as well. There has been great water clarity and no runoff to report but keep an eye on rainstorms because they can greatly reduce water clarity. Try gold and silver spinners (Mepps, Panther Martin, etc.) if using a spin rod. Blue Fox Vibrax minnows with a spin blade are another good option for catching more aggressive browns. If fly fishing try using Caddis, PMD's, and Yellow Sallies. Euro nymphing is a good technique at this creek as well and makes a subtle bite easier to detect.

Flows: 15 CFS at Morrison (10/30/2019)

[Bear Creek](#)

Big Thompson River

As of **10/29/2019**, fishing has been reported as good and lots of smaller (10 to 14 inches) browns and rainbows have been caught recently. 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. Visibility has been reported at up to 36 inches and temperatures have been reported in the high 30's and low 40's. Midges (size 20 to 24) have been working below a dry fly. Baetis, eggs, and worms will also work. Be aware of where you are fishing on this river because there is a mix of public and private land.

Flows: 7.16 at Loveland (10/30/2019)

[Big Thompson River](#)

Boyd Lake

As of **10/30/2019**, the water temperature have been in the mid 50's and continues to drop. Bass fishing is reported as good in the shallows, coves, near the pump house, and inlets using a variety of jigs and artificial plastics. Crayfish imitations should work well for bass but use deep runners instead of top water as the recent cold front has pushed fish into deeper water. The Rebel Big Craw crank is a good option for using these imitations and getting them into deeper water. Walleye reported in 15 to 25 feet of water catching them off the bottom. Try trolling a slow death rig or a bottom bouncer with a chartreuse spinner and worm harness. Carp, catfish, and bluegill can be caught from the shoreline using worms as well as stinkbaits to target catfish. There is no fishing allowed from marina slips or docks. Perch, trout, and white bass have been caught in 5 to 10 feet of water by trolling Kastmasters and various spinners. The minimum size for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 15 inches in length. The minimum size for walleye and saugeye is 15 inches in length. No more than one walleye or saugeye in the aggregate greater than 21 inches in length may be taken per day. Any live fish collected for use as bait may only be used in the same body of water from which they were collected. All live bait/fish from a commercial source and transported by anglers must at all times be accompanied by a receipt for the source. **Receipt is valid for 7 days.** If you do not use all live aquatic bait in one trip, you must provide your own distilled water to transport from each body of water.

[Boyd Lake](#)

Cache La Poudre River

As of 11/01/2019, fall conditions continue to persist on the river so be prepared for just about everything when it comes to the bug activity. We are getting some good storm fronts lately bringing in some cloud cover, which is prime for streamers or bigger bugs. Consider tying on some Woolly Buggers or an Autumn Splendor and work the structures and deeper waters along the banks. Big brown trout will be patrolling these areas looking for a meal that offers a lot of protein. Other smart rigs to use would be either a full nymph rig with a bigger attractor to lead with or a dry dropper rig. Attractor flies to consider are Prince Nymphs, Iron Sallies or bigger Copper Johns. Trailing nymphs should comprise of a Juju Baetis, Hot Wire Prince, or a Barr's Emerger all around the #18 range.

Flows: 15.4 CFS near Fort Collins (11/01/2019)

[Cache La Poudre River](#)

Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of 10/31/2019, report from the **Eleven Mile Marina weekly fishing report**. Lake closed to boating as of October 31st. Trout fishing reported as good to very good and its trophy season! It's hard to catch a fish below 16 inches. Many techniques and methods are succeeding from shore and boat. We really like jigging this time of year and pitching or trolling Rapala's. Jointed and X-Rap are some of our favorites. Shore anglers are doing really well. PowerBait, Salmon eggs and the like are productive. Both sides of the lake seeing good action. Kokanee fishing has been extremely slow. Lots of them moving up river so there are still four year olds out there. Nothing out of the boats. Northern pike fishing has been excellent and trophy season is here. October is one of the best months and that seems to be the case as action continues to be lots of fun. Most fish in the 24 to 33 inch range but the big ones are on the prowl. Big Sticks with orange bellies continue to be their favorite. Action has been found all around the lake. One of our favorite, and least mentioned spots, is the cove to the right of the buoy line. Lots of rocks and drop offs. Our biggest fish come from that cove and have usually been between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with noon being the best. The Eleven Mile Marina is located at the North Shore in Eleven Mile State Park, Lake George Colorado. A CPW Park Pass is required on all vehicles entering the Park. Trout daily bag/possession limit is four fish, of which no more than two can be 16 inches or longer. Northern pike has NO bag/possession limit. Kokanee salmon daily bag/possession limit is 10 fish at all times of the year.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Estes Lake

This beautiful lake is home to yellow perch, tiger muskie, and trout (browns, rainbows, and cutbows). If going for perch, try the area where the lake meets Fish Creek. As of 10/22/2019, the water level is reported as full with temperatures in the high 40's and great water clarity. The fishing has been reported as great for rainbows and Wooley buggers and pink tube jigs have been reported to be working for trout on the lake. The brown trout has been reported as slow. The tiger muskie bite has also been slow and there is not a large population in the lake. Try casting and retrieving large spoons, spinners, and cranks if targeting muskie.

[Estes Lake](#)

Flatiron Reservoir

This 47 acre reservoir offers the opportunity to catch brown, rainbow, and cutbow trout. Fishing from shore is allowed and no boats are permitted on the water. There is also camping permitted along the shoreline making this a great place to spend a weekend. As of 10/30/2019, the water level is reported as full with temperatures in the high 40's and low 50's. The water clarity is reported as good with about 4 feet of visibility. Fishing has been reported as good with lots of large rainbows being caught. Try using the fly/bubble fishing technique! There have been reports of lots of anglers fishing the reservoir lately.

[Flatiron Reservoir](#)

Prewitt Reservoir

This 2,431 acre reservoir is located on the Prewitt Reservoir State Wildlife Area and wakeless boating is permitted. As of 10/29/2019, water temperatures have decreased into the 50's and visibility has been reported at about 2 feet. 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. The fishing has been reported as extremely slow lately.

[Prewitt Reservoir](#)

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of **10/30/2019**, Spinney Mountain State Park will close to boating 10/31/2019 at 6:33 p.m. for the season. Only vessels listed under Parks Chapter 8, Regulation #800K will be allowed after that time until the Park closes for the season. Spinney Mountain State Park will close for the season 11/15/2019 one half hour after sunset. If the reservoir ices over before then, it could close earlier. Trout and pike are becoming more and more active every day as they stock up for the winter. Colder nightly temperatures are encouraging aggressive feeding habits for all species. Trout are hitting various colored Tasmanian Devils and Rapala's. Pike are in full force as the big, fat, and aggressive females start to reveal themselves for the fall feeding. High vibration lures and spinners are going to get their attention. Check in with a local tackle shop to see what colors are particularly working. Going really dark with a black or on the opposite end of the spectrum with a white or chartreuse are always good bets. There still hasn't been ice reported but the recently cold weather will be something to keep an eye on as ice can form quickly here.

[Spinney Mountain Reservoir](#)

Tarryall Reservoir

As of **10/30/2019**, reports are coming in that there has been some ice present along the shorelines in the morning but that it is melting by the middle parts of the day. The recent cold front and snow may have changed things a bit and caused more ice to form. There was reports of good trout fishing before the recent storms hit the state and there should still be a few more opportunities to fish open water at the reservoir before it completely freezes over. Rainbows are being caught off the bottom with PowerBait and Gulp minnows. Once the reservoir completely ices over and there is enough ice to safely fish on, it is a great body of water to ice fish and presents the opportunity to catch large rainbows and northerns. This reservoir is only a couple hours' drive from both Denver and Colorado Springs and is a great place to spend the weekend fishing!

[Tarryall Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Salida to Canon City

As of **10/30/2019**, water clarity has been reported as clear on this stretch of the river. The flows are going to start to dip for the winter months. In general, this means the fish will be a bit finicky as they grow accustomed to the new flows. The recent cold front has slowed the action but it should begin to pick up during the weekend as nicer conditions are expected. Deep nymphing will be the most productive for the rest of the fall and winter season but if you see consistent surface water action, try some dries. Streamers should also be in full force, especially with the water being a bit stained. Large articulated streamers in all shapes and sizes can work here as the available amount of bait fish are abundant and in wide varieties. 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.

Flows: 408 CFS in Wellsville (10/25/2019)

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

As of **10/30/2019**, water temperatures are in the 30's and 40's with excellent visibility on this stretch of the river. The snow and cold weather has made accessibility difficult with poor road conditions reported. This has made fishing slow on this stretch of the river but this should improve as temperatures increase this weekend and nicer weather is expected. The fish should be hungry and aggressive once conditions return to normal! 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. Fish are sitting in these areas waiting to strike so try baitfish imitation streamers to induce a bite. Fish should be in deeper pockets of water where the water is moving slower and is therefore a bit warmer. With colder temperatures it is also important to keep in mind that fish will be more active during the warmer parts of the day. There is no longer the need to wake up at the crack of dawn to get out on the river. Sleep in and fish the warmest parts of the day!

Flows: 126 CFS at Granite (10/30/2019)

[Arkansas River](#)

John Martin Reservoir

This reservoir is located on the Arkansas River and provides an excellent opportunity to catch bass, crappie, catfish, saugeye, and wiper. As of **10/30/2019**, the water level reported as low with temperatures reported in the 50's and continuing to drop. Poor visibility is being reported and the reservoir is turning over causing turbidity. There have been a few reports of wiper being caught and look for coves and rocky points to use shad or crayfish imitations. The cold front likely caused large portions of the shad populations to die off but using these imitations and mimicking a struggling fish is a good option. Try using small jigs with plastics for crappie!

[John Martin Reservoir](#)

Pueblo Reservoir

As of **10/28/2019**, water temperatures have dropped in the 50's and should continue to drop. The recent storm should have reduced shad populations across the reservoir and walleyes will be returning to their normal spots. Try using top water lures for bass in the mornings and going deeper as the day continues. Crayfish imitations are still working well and present the opportunity to catch a variety of fish species. Try using blade and swim baits for walleyes that mimic shad. As temperatures have dropped and shad populations are dying off, it is important to adjust your retrieval with these shad imitations to mimic a struggling fish. There are some blade baits that will mimic a struggling fish as they are jigged and retrieved and this is a great option for this time of year at the reservoir. 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.

[Pueblo Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River - Silverthorne

As of **11/01/2019** the Blue through Silverthorne has been fishing well recently and practically no change in flows. When the cloud cover gets thick, the blue-winged olive hatches are coming off in good numbers. Guides are saying the dry fly fishing has done well recently with the heavy hatches so be prepared with some blue-winged olives extended body, Parachute Adams and CDC Baetis Dun in the #18 to 22 sizes. A double or triple fly rig will be the next option if you are not getting good top water action. Point flies include Flossie worms, Rainbow Warriors #16-18, or a mysis shrimp. The next in line on the rig should include a Tube Midge #20-22, Mercury Midge #20-22 or a Juju Baetis. Always try and spot fish in these conditions as these fish will need a good presentation to be convinced.

Flows: 103 CFS below Dillion (11/01/2019)

[Blue River](#)

Colorado River - Near Kremmling

As of **11/01/2019**, guides are noting the browns to be in full force spawn mode! This means two important things. One is the browns are getting active and aggressive. Number two, is there are many REDDS about so be careful where you are fishing. A technique mentioned quite a bit this time of year is to spot REDDS then fish downstream for other trout feeding off the dislodged eggs. Just be careful to not fish too close to the nest sites. Indicator rigs have worked well using double or triple fly rigs. The first fly should consist of a Hares Ears, Pat's Rubber Legs, eggs patterns and worms. Going with a baetis or midge patterns for the follow up flies are recommended by guides such as Barr's Emergers, Juju Baetis, Rainbow Warriors and Zebra Midges. Also, keep an eye out for those big October Caddis to be coming off in numbers. They are a big caddis with yellow or orange bellies. These fish will key on these bugs so have a few in your box ready to go.

Flows: 829 CFS (11/01/2019)

[Colorado River](#)

Delaney Buttes

As of **10/25/2019**, there is no ice reported yet and we will keep updating the status. Delaney's are still fishing great and awesome size browns are coming out of north. We've heard that Rapala's, chironomid, damsel nymph and leech imitations are doing well here. Fishing is by artificial flies and lures only. Scented flies or scented lures may be used on this water if they are 1.5 inches or longer. The bag and possession limit for trout is two fish. Fishing is prohibited from the dam and within 100 feet of the dam from September 15th through November 15th. All brown trout between 14 and 20 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately upon catch. Fishing is prohibited in the inlet, upstream of the standing water line. All rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and cutbows between 18 and 22 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately.

[Delaney Buttes](#)

Frying Pan River-Ruedi

As of **11/01/2019**, the dry fly fishing on this river should remain a good option and there have still been strong hatches in the afternoon. Low flows should make for some excellent fishing. Fishing with minimal amount of line in low flows is ideal. Try fishing with streamers in the later parts of the day. As flows reduce and winter approaches, it is best to use finer tippet so that fish aren't easily spooked. Try to sight fish and identify areas they are holding and cast into those areas. Fish can spook easily here and sight fishing and casting as little as possible is the best strategy for catching trout on this river.

Flows: CFS 55.7 (11/01/2019)

[Frying Pan River](#)

Lake Granby

As of 11/01/2019, water temperatures reported in the low 50's with the water level down about 10 feet. Look 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. The laker bite has been reported as good and jigs tipped with sucker meat have still been catching fish. Lake trout are spawning and can be found in shallower water (25 to 40 feet) than they were previously. Try jigging tubes and spoons as well as retrieving cranks. Boat ramp hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[Lake Granby](#)

Lake John

As of 10/25/2019, fall fishing is still doing great in north park and we are seeing gorgeous fish this year. The temperatures have dropped here at Lake John and we received some snow over the last couple of days. Not a lot of accumulation though and the roads are already melted. In the past week we've seen lows in teens and highs in the 40 to 50's. There is no ice yet. Anglers are doing great from both shore and boats right now and we are seeing 18-22 inch fish regularly. They are quality fish but only expect to catch 1 to 5 in a day right now. Bait is still all over the board with anglers using lots of different lures, flies and bait. Here are a few to mention: black leech and wooly bugger flies, pink and orange colors are working great, PowerBait in garlic, gulp night crawlers, shrimp, rainbow Kastmasters, and Tasmanian devils in pink.

[Lake John](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

East River

As of 10/25/2019, the dropping temperatures have greatly reduced terrestrial activity. Double nymphing is the go to setup during this time of year on the East. 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: 103 CFS at Almont (11/01/2019)

[East River](#)

Gunnison River - near Gunnison

As of 10/25/2019, the suspect nymph patterns are really producing for most anglers. With the colder temperatures, the hatches have died off some so focus on nymph rigs and streamers on the cloudy days especially. Baetis nymphs and midge pupa are the main food source right now. Make sure to use smaller flies and longer leaders this time of the year since the water is low and clear. It is okay to sleep in a bit before fishing the Gunnison as activity won't pick up until there are warmer temperatures in the afternoon.

Flows: 406 (Ice Affected Reading) CFS (11/01/2019)

[Gunnison River](#)

Navajo Reservoir

This reservoir provides a great opportunity to catch bass, crappie, catfish, trout, salmon and pike. As of 10/28/2019, fishing at the reservoir has slowed water temperatures are being reported at 53 degrees. The bass bite has trailed off some with the colder water temperatures but they are still catchable during the warmer afternoons. Use a crankbait or try slow rolling a spinner bait in shallow waters near drop offs. The trout fishing is decent right now and the use of salmon eggs has been successful for anglers. Trolling silver spinners near points if water temperatures are over 50 degrees can be a good option as well for trout. Catfish and other bass species are fishing slow or no reports as of late. Colorado and New Mexico fishing licenses are available at the Visitor Center.

[Navajo Reservoir](#)

Taylor River - Below Taylor Park Reservoir

As of 10/25/2019, fishing as slowed down and the flows have dropped. Right now it is crucial to identify deeper parts of the river (runs, pockets, pools, etc.) where fish will be holding. Try using nymphs and large streamers, in the morning, in deeper pockets of water. 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: 102 CFS below Taylor Park Reservoir (11/01/2019)

[Taylor River](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

Sunny and warm conditions expected on Saturday for the metro area and the days before a cold front can create great fishing conditions. The warm weather before the cold front can increase the fishing action for many Front Range reservoirs like Cherry Creek and Pueblo Reservoir. Fish can sense and react to changes in pressure and activity will often times increase in the days before a cold front. Colder water is beginning to kill off the shad populations, so schools are more confined and less abundant. Fish like walleye, wiper, and bass will be honing in on the remaining schools, feeding heavily which will give shore anglers a great opportunity as the fish chase the shad to the shallower waters. The colder weather during the later part of the weekend and early next week will reduce fish activity. Saturday will also be a great day to fish many of the rivers and streamers across the state as trout can sense the incoming front and may be more aggressive in the days leading to its arrival. Once it hits, you can still catch some trout but the overall bite will slow down as they become more docile and move into deeper, slower pockets that are holding warmer water. Good luck to everyone, stay warm, and send us picture of your catches!

Tip of the Week

Fall Fishing for Northern Pike

Fall is one of the best times of the year to fish for northern pike (*Esox lucius*), and many bodies of water across the state hold trophy northerns. This aggressive and carnivorous species will begin consuming other fish once they are large enough and are even known to go after other pike. Once fall is here and water temperatures begin to cool, pike will move into shallower, warmer water. Look for water that is 3 to 10 feet deep and fish the edges of weed beds, submerged logs, and near brush piles. In terms of equipment, a medium to heavy action rod is recommended with 10 to 12 # mono or braided line. Large baits are the best for these aggressive fish and jointed Rapala's, gold/silver hammered spoons, Zara Spooks, Mepps spinners, and cranks are all good options. If fly fishing, try using larger flies/streamers (6 to 18 inches long) to catch a pike's attention. They will go after baitfish, frog, rat, and even duck imitations. Similar to matching a hatch, it is important to know the body of water you are fishing and the types of food they are consuming in that area. An aspect of pike fishing that makes it so fun is these species can be found by sight and targeted when they are in shallow water. This requires an accurate casting and diverse retrieval speeds to get a bite (if you are seeing fishing and not getting bites, speed up your retrieve; generally, faster is better). Sight fishing for pike requires accurate casting and the angler should cast the bait 8 to 10 feet past the fish, being careful not to spook them. When using floating baits such as a Zara Spook, Flatfish, or jointed Rapala's, the bait should set for a few seconds before beginning the retrieve, a figure 8 or zigzag motion can trigger a bite. Once they bite be patient and make sure they are actually taking and running with the bait. They are known for messing with bait without fully taking it so make sure they are running before setting the hook and if you do set the hook too fast, let it sit for a minute and slowly start retrieving it again which may attempt to take the bait again. If going after trophy pike, use leaders to reduce the chances of your line being broken/severed with their sharp teeth. This will not only lead to more fish being caught but will also keep your from losing your expensive lures! The length of the steal leader is important to consider. Shorter leaders (6 inches) are best for cranks and spoons because it allows them to exhibit their normal movement through the water. Longer leaders (20 to 30 inches) are good when using live or dead baits that will be fished along the bottom of the body of water. It is important to use caution when handling pike because they have a variety of weapons that can cause injury to the angler or fish. Anglers will want to grab the gill plates of northerns. Curl your fingers (not your thumb) to create the shape of a "U" with the palm of your hand and place them on the inside of the gill plate and apply pressure to your thumb which gives you a strong grip and allows you to control the head of the fish. Use care and try not to grab the actual gills of the fish. Plastic fish grips are another good option and it allows you to place and clamp shut plastic grips in the fish's mouth without injuring it or causing mortality. These are great because they don't puncture the fish and can be used to quickly remove the hook from the fish's mouth.

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