

Fishing Report



Friday November 8th, 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 8th, 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! You will need a valid fishing license to receive “Give-Away” kokanee. Donation certificates will be issued at the giveaways if the number of fish exceeds 10 per angler.

Ice Fishing Season Is Fast Approaching

Colorado Parks and Wildlife would like to remind anglers that once ice-fishing season is upon us, the Fishing Report will be published on Fridays every other week instead of the weekly Friday report that is produced during open water season. Colorado Parks and Wildlife would also like to encourage everyone to be safe and cautious during early ice season. It is recommended to fish with a partner and to be prepared for self-rescue should a situation arise.

Try Out Our Fishing Apps for Free!



Try the CPW Fishing App

The CPW fishing app is the official fishing app of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, providing you great journaling, learning and scouting capabilities - even with no connection.

Learn more at [CPW Fishing App](#).

EXPLORE TODAY



Try the New Match a Hatch App

The match a hatch app is designed to help fly anglers identify the flies that are hatching in Colorado each month and find an appropriate artificial fly to use to fish.

Simply tap on one of the riverfly images that looks closest to what you see on the river to learn more about that fly.

EXPLORE TODAY



	<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
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Southwest	10/29/2019
Blue Mesa	Southwest	10/31/2019
Blue Mesa	Southwest	11/01/2019

The stocking report features bodies of water stocked the week prior to the published report. The bodies of water reported on, are stocked with “catchables”, which are fish about 10 inches in length. These fish are stocked for anglers of all ages and experience levels to enjoy. There are many additional bodies of water stocked by our tremendously hard-working hatcheries staff but are not listed in our report. We only report on the waters that are stocked with catchables so that anglers can go experience a great day of fishing.

You can also use the CPW Fishing Atlas filter on the left side of your Fishing Atlas screen. Click on the box beside “Stocked with catchables (~10 inches)” and a fish icon will appear on the bodies of water that have been stocked.

[CPW Fishing Atlas](#)

[CPW Fishing App](#)

Colorado Fishing Atlas
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Map Layers & Legend

Set map layer visibility and transparency Show legend

- Motor Vehicle Use Map
- Fishing Info
 - Fishing License Agent
 - Recommended opportunities
 - Family friendly
 - Family friendly
 - More remote fly fishing
 - Ice fishing
 - Accessible Fishing Area
 - Fishing Information Point
 - Stream or River
 - Water Body
 - Stocked with catchables (~10 inches)
 - Catchables
 - Boat Ramp
 - Snerial Fishing Regulations

translucent 50% opaque

As the ice season approaches, the number of water bodies stocked decreases throughout the winter compared to spring and summertime stocking efforts.

However, our hatcheries staff do stock some bodies of water during the winter under the ice.

When stocked in the winter, the hatchery trout are less susceptible to predation from northern pike, ensuring higher survival rates and improved angling opportunities.

The 10-inch “catchables” grow rapidly under the ice, reaching 13 to 14 inches in length by spring.

For example, each year, Colorado Parks and Wildlife stocks 100,000 to 140,000 trout through the ice at Eleven Mile and Spinney Mountain Reservoirs. Since its inception in 2007, Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Winter Fish Stocking Program has planted more than 740,000 trout in Eleven Mile and Spinney.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife does not receive general tax dollars. Fees from fishing licenses support statewide hatchery and fish stocking programs. If you are someone who has purchased a fishing license over the years, THANK YOU! Without your support, programs like this might not be able to exist.

Here is a fantastic video filmed in 2017 displaying winter stocking of hatchery trout at Eleven Mile State Park. Click on the link on the following page to view the footage.

Winter Stocking of 16,000 Trout at Eleven Mile Reservoir



Video Credit: Jerry Neal @ Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Catch of the Week



Cyndy was fly-fishing at Sandpiper Pond at St. Vrain State Park using a mole fly and mercury midge. Congratulations on your two-for-one cast and double rainbow catch Cyndy!

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 **11/08/2019** 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 **11/08/2019**, the water temperature continues to drop and reported in the high 40's. Fishing has been steadily picking up and improving overall for the walleye bite with the cold weather moving through the Front Range. Main points to hit are the contour lines at around 25-30 feet of water. Walleye fishing has been good as shad populations across the lake have decreased, making it easier to find them. Vertical jigging with chartreuse or orange jigs with plastics or worms near points and drop-offs across the reservoir is still catching walleyes. As water temperatures continue to drop, guides recommend using minnows, live baits or imitations. 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 **11/08/2019**, 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 **11/08/2019**, 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 **11/08/2019**, this small creek has great accessibility (about seven 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 is excellent water clarity and no runoff to report but keep an eye on rainstorms because they can greatly reduce water clarity. Shelf ice was reported in a few areas. Blue wing olives and midges work well at the moment. Euro nymphing is a good technique at this creek as well and makes a subtle bite easier to detect. You can also 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 browns that are more aggressive.

Flows: 18 CFS at Morrison (11/07/2019)

[Bear Creek](#)

Big Thompson River

As of **11/08/2019**, fishing has been good and many smaller (10 to 14 inches) browns and rainbows have been caught recently. The water may be cloudier than in past weeks due to increased flows. 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: 30.6 at Loveland (11/07/2019)

[Big Thompson River](#)

Boyd Lake

As of **11/08/2019**, the water temperature is 54 degrees. Smallmouth, largemouth, and white bass fishing is 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 using slow death rig, bottom bouncer with chartreuse spinner. Shoreline fishing for carp, bluegill, catfish, and crappie are all good using a variety of baits and lures including worms, stinkbaits, Kastmasters and Rapala's. Bow fishing for carp reported good from shoreline as well. 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 **11/08/2019**, fall conditions are beginning to fade, as it seems early winter begins to set in. Reports of smaller flies are catching trout with plenty of blue wing olive and midges hatching consistently along the river. 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: 74 CFS at Canyon Mouth; 15 CFS near Fort Collins (11/07/2019)

[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.

[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 **11/08/2019**, no new conditions reported and the water level 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 **11/08/2019**, the water level 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 **11/08/2019**, water temperatures have decreased into the 50's and visibility decreased to under a foot. One angler reported a thin layer of ice beginning to form but mostly open water still. 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 closed 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 11/08/2019, water clarity reported as clear on this stretch of the river. No new conditions submitted for this stretch of water. 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: N/A from USGS (11/08/2019)

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

As of 11/08/2019, water temperatures are in the 30's and 40's with excellent visibility on this stretch of the river. With colder temperatures, guides recommend fishing in warmer times of the day and focus efforts on deeper runs. 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. Nymphing transition water is also a good tactic. This stretch of river is also extremely wader friendly but these fish can spook easily so it is best to use a cautious approach. Use caution for any fish still spawning and from redds that you may locate.

Flows: N/A from USGS (11/08/2019)

[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. No new reports submitted as of 11/08/2019. 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 11/08/2019, water temperatures dropped to the 50's and should continue to drop. 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](#)

Trinidad Lake

As of 11/08/2019, water temperatures are ideal for walleye fishing and the bass bite should be picking up as the lake's ecosystem is shifting into late fall or winter mode meaning fish are going to stock up on the remaining baitfish that are alive. South Shore anglers are catching trout on homemade dough bait, PowerBait (green color) and worms all along the shore, which has been decent with all species of fish. The most action for fish is occurring in the early mornings and late evenings. Boaters have done well targeting walleye. Reports state smallmouth caught in the morning and afternoon hours. Trout caught during all hours. Worm harnesses and crank baits have worked well.

[Trinidad Lake](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River - Silverthorne

As of 11/08/2019, the Blue through Silverthorne has been fishing well recently and had no flow change this past week. Fishing techniques and strategies remain the same as last week as well. 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 (11/07/2019)

[Blue River](#)

Colorado River - Near Kremmling

As of 11/08/2019, 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: 679 CFS (11/07/2019)

[Colorado River](#)

Delaney Buttes

As of 11/08/2019, Delaney reported a thin layer of ice ranging from open water to 3 inches. If venturing to Delaney for early season ice, please be very careful and safe. Reports have come in stating that the ice is very unstable. 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](#)



Photo Credit: Nichole Imm @ Lake John Resort

Frying Pan River-Ruedi

As of 11/08/2019, with the low flows the greatest thing to pay attention to is your presentation. Guides state that this can be even more important that trying to match the hatch right now. Be sure to use a stealthy approach to the water's edge and try fishing from the bank when possible to prevent spooking any lurking trout. A good nymph setup should do the trick and midges will work as well. Fishing pressure is beginning to drop on the Frying Pan, which makes an excellent opportunity to get on some excellent fishing away from the crowds.

Flows: CFS 58.1 (11/07/2019)

[Frying Pan River](#)

Lake Granby

As of 11/08/2019, not much has changed as far as conditions from last week. Water temperatures reported in the low 50's with the water level down about 10 feet. Techniques and tactics remain the same and no new reports were submitted this past week. Continue to 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. Reminder that Sunset Ramp closed for the season on October 13th but Stillwater Ramp is open and its last day of operation will be December 1st. Boat ramp hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[Lake Granby](#)

Lake John

As of 11/08/2019, ice has started forming since last week at Lake John with some 20-plus inch rainbows landed. Ice is said to be unstable at this time and caution is advised for any anglers venturing to Lake John for early ice fishing. 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](#)



Photo Credit: Nichole Imm @ Lake John Resort

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Animas River-Durango

As of 11/08/2019, fishing for rainbows and browns reported excellent! Blue winged olives and midges are working really well and there are reports of aggressive strikes by browns. Anglers reported mayfly patterns behind a large attractor working well targeting large fish. Using Pheasant Tail Prince Nymph has also proved to be very effective right now.

Flows: 251 CFS at Durango (11/07/2019)

[Animas River](#)

East River

As of 11/08/2019, 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.

Flows: 101 (Ice Affected Reading) CFS at Almont (11/07/2019)

[East River](#)

Florida River-Above Lemon Reservoir

As of 11/08/2019, snagging for kokanee salmon is underway and anglers are reporting success. Reports indicate that kokanees caught right now are not the largest but a ton of fun to catch. Please be aware the brown trout are also running in this area and use caution if targeting kokanee not to snag brown trout.

Flows: 7.4 CFS (11/06/2019)

[Florida River](#)

Gunnison River - near Gunnison

As of 11/08/2019, 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: 294 (Ice Affected Reading) CFS (11/07/2019)

[Gunnison River](#)

Haviland Lake

Effective 10/29/2019 - 12/31/2019 Emergency Public Fish Salvage

Due to unexpected issues with the outlet structure of the dam at Haviland Lake, the lake is being drained. At Haviland Lake, located 19 miles north of Durango, in La Plata County, all current bag and possession limits for all species are removed. Fish may be taken by lawful angling methods that are currently allowed at the lake and stream. Anglers must have a valid Colorado fishing license. Commercial angling is not allowed. If you have any questions regarding the fish salvage, please call 970-247-0855.

[Haviland Lake](#)

Navajo Reservoir

This reservoir provides a great opportunity to catch bass, crappie, catfish, trout, salmon and pike. As of 11/08/2019, fishing at the reservoir has slowed water temperatures 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 11/08/2019, flows remained the same from last week and techniques have not changed much either. 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. Other recommended patterns include egg patterns, Blue-winged-olives and zebra midges to entice a strike. 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 (11/07/2019)

[Taylor River](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

We are again going through another weather pattern much like last week's forecast. The northwest and southwest region's forecasts look to be a little milder and will have more consistent temperatures as the rest of the state is showing precipitation and colder temperatures for Sunday and early next week. For reservoirs, the same principal applies, when the water temperatures start to get below the mid 40's consistently, the baitfish, shad for example, are going to start to die off in numbers meaning the walleye, wipers, and smallmouth bass are going to have fewer food sources to choose from and be more likely to take your baits and lures. The pike fishing near shorelines, weed beds, and points is also going to get better as they also make that last feeding push before winter kicks in. The rivers are all dropping to their winter flows and clarity is clear in most waters. This means technical fishing but finding the trout should be easier as they will be stacking up in their winter positions such as deep pools, runs and slower moving water. Think small midge patterns and blue winged olives. Remember to share your catches with us and have a chance to be featured in the Fishing Report's Catch of the Week photo!

Tip of the Week

Rivers and Creeks

Winter is right around the corner and river anglers will soon be forced to fish tail-water fisheries that provide steady flows throughout the winter. Now is the time to get your last fishing trips in at your favorite small creeks and slow flowing tributaries. Many waters throughout the state are still providing excellent dry fly fishing opportunities on mid-sized (#14 - #18) caddis and blue winged olive patterns. Dropping a small midge nymph (#20 - #22) off the dry fly is producing fish during the warmer hours of the day. As the blue winged olive hatches begin to thin out going into mid-November and December, expect the fish to start focusing their diet on small midge adult and nymph patterns. There is no need to start fishing before the sun has warmed the water, but the fishing will remain steady in the evening hours until sunset. Focus on fishing deeper holes with slow flowing runs as the fish will start congregating to these areas to conserve energy. The fish will not travel far to bite your fly this time of year due to their slower metabolism, so be sure to cover every section of the run before moving on. If you are not catching fish in an area that looks productive, try changing your fishing position, use a smaller indicator, or add more split-shot to your line before switching flies. If these changes do not produce bites, try using smaller fluorocarbon tippet (6X - 7X) matched with a smaller fly. However, do not end a day on the water without also trying large nymph patterns (#8 - #12) such as black and golden stoneflies, San Juan worms, eggs, and woolly buggers. To prevent from spooking the fish, winter anglers should approach runs from downstream with stealth, and should avoid entering the water near the good areas. The low and clear water conditions, along with the limited areas to fish during the winter months will cause the fish to be more aware of their surroundings due to daily fishing pressure. Catch and release anglers should be aware that the fish take longer to recover during the winter months and the fish should remain in the water as long as possible. This means dealing with cold hands for extended periods, or preparing a method to safely release the fish including using catch and release gloves and/or using your fishing net to revive the fish under water.

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.

DNR Fish Reporter



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