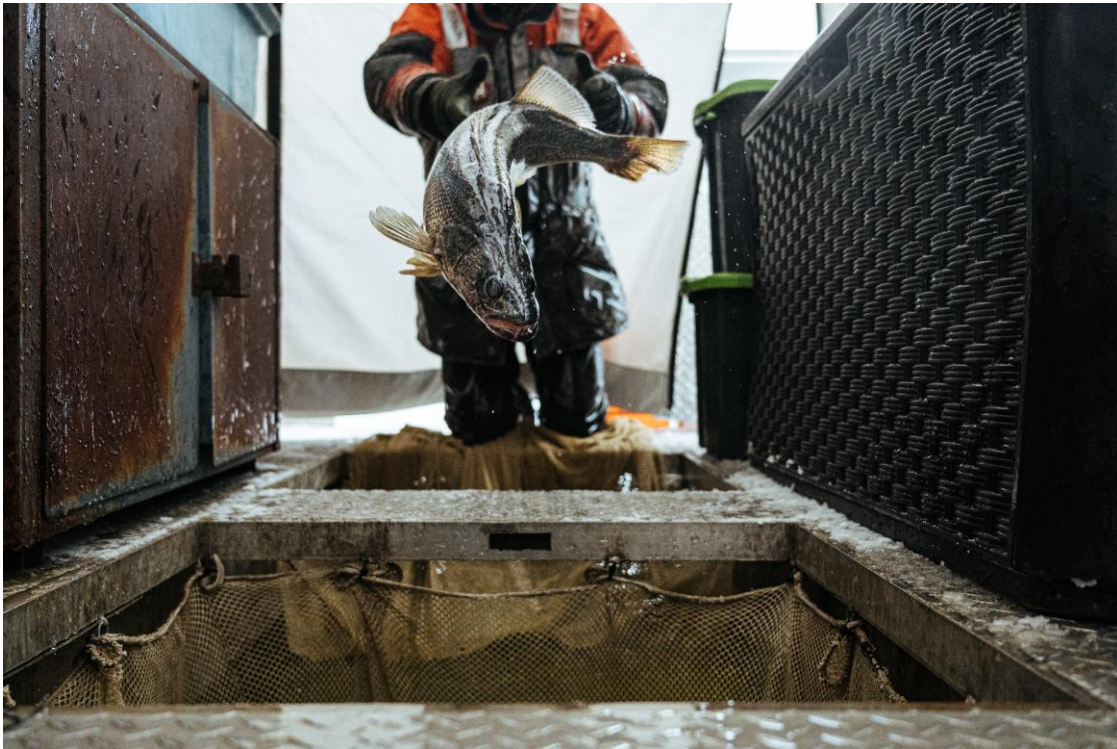


Fishing Report

March 8, 2024



News and Information



CPW to introduce sterile walleye at Ridgway Reservoir, further boosting angling opportunities on Western Slope

After years of coordination, Colorado Parks and Wildlife aims to stock sterile walleye into the reservoir at Ridgway State Park during the spring of 2024.

"This is part of a larger goal to increase angling opportunities in western Colorado in a way that is compatible with the native species of the Upper Colorado River Basin," said CPW aquatic biologist Eric Gardunio. "This will diversify the fishery while still allowing us to maintain and accomplish other management goals within the reservoir."

Ridgway Reservoir will receive 30,000 1.2-inch long walleye fingerlings annually beginning in May, provided successful sterilization is achieved. This is a relatively low stocking rate when compared to other walleye fisheries in the state.

Ridgway Reservoir has abundant populations of white suckers, yellow perch, smallmouth bass and crayfish. The juveniles of these species offer a robust food resource for species such as sterile walleye. When appropriate stocking rates are utilized, those prey sources should be sustainable into the future. The walleye will also help CPW with [management of the smallmouth bass](#).

[Learn more](https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/News-Release-Details.aspx?NewsID=4057) (<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/News-Release-Details.aspx?NewsID=4057>)

Events

Ice Fishing 101

Saturday, March 9, 9a-1p

Have you ever wanted to give ice fishing a try but didn't know where to start? Are you new to ice fishing and looking for some tips? Colorado Parks and Wildlife is offering an Ice Fishing 101 clinic at Staunton State Park for novice anglers interested in learning about the basics of ice fishing.

Ice Fishing 101

Sunday, March 10, 9a-1p

Have you ever wanted to give ice fishing a try but didn't know where to start? Are you new to ice fishing and looking for some tips? Colorado Parks and Wildlife is offering an Ice Fishing 101 clinic at Staunton State Park for novice anglers interested in learning about the basics of ice fishing.

Learn to ice fish at Staunton State Park

Thursday, March 14, 10a-2p

All equipment will be provided if you don't have your own. Clinic will be held at the Davis Ponds, no registration necessary, just drop by and give ice fishing a try anytime between 10am and 2pm. Park pass fees apply and fishing licenses are required for anyone 16 or older.

Learn to ice fish at Staunton State Park

Monday, March 18, 10a-2p

All equipment will be provided if you don't have your own. Clinic will be held at the Davis Ponds, no registration necessary, just drop by and give ice fishing a try anytime between 10am and 2pm. Park pass fees apply and fishing licenses are required for anyone 16 or older.

Learn to ice fish at Staunton State Park

Friday, March 22, 10a-2p

All equipment will be provided if you don't have your own. Clinic will be held at the Davis Ponds, no registration necessary, just drop by and give ice fishing a try anytime between 10am and 2pm. Park pass fees apply and fishing licenses are required for anyone 16 or older.

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date	Link
Erie Lake	northeast	2024-03-07	Atlas
Poplar Pond - Belly Boat #2	northeast	2024-03-07	Atlas
Milavec Reservoir	northeast	2024-03-07	Atlas
Ordway Reservoir	southeast	2024-03-07	Atlas
Runyon Lake	southeast	2024-03-07	Atlas
Fountain Lake	southeast	2024-03-07	Atlas
Pikeview Reservoir	southeast	2024-03-06	Atlas
Wolf Lake	southeast	2024-03-06	Atlas
Ehrlich Lake	northeast	2024-03-06	Atlas
Mead Pond #3	northeast	2024-03-06	Atlas
Izaak Walton Longmont Pond	northeast	2024-03-06	Atlas
St. Vrain State Park Sandpiper	northeast	2024-03-05	Atlas
Thomas Reservoir	northeast	2024-03-05	Atlas
Golden Gravel Pond #3	northeast	2024-03-05	Atlas
Bittersweet Lake	northeast	2024-03-05	Atlas
Riverside Park Lake	northeast	2024-03-05	Atlas
Union Reservoir	northeast	2024-03-05	Atlas
Black Hole at Two Buttes	southeast	2024-03-04	Atlas
Turks Pond	southeast	2024-03-04	Atlas
Standley Lake	northeast	2024-03-01	Atlas
Pathfinder Park Pond	southeast	2024-02-29	Atlas
Brush Hollow Reservoir	southeast	2024-02-29	Atlas
Berkeley Lake	northeast	2024-02-29	Atlas
Rocky Mountain Lake	northeast	2024-02-29	Atlas
Jim Baker Reservoir	northeast	2024-02-29	Atlas
Bear Creek Reservoir	northeast	2024-02-28	Atlas
Hine Lake	northeast	2024-02-28	Atlas
Barr Lake	northeast	2024-02-28	Atlas
Thornton Gravel Lake #2	northeast	2024-02-27	Atlas
Thornton Gravel Lake #3	northeast	2024-02-27	Atlas
Mann-Nyholt Lake South	northeast	2024-02-27	Atlas
Midwestern Farms Pond	southeast	2024-02-26	Atlas
Northgate Pond #1	southeast	2024-02-26	Atlas
Clay Creek Pond	southeast	2024-02-26	Atlas
Centennial Park Lake	northeast	2024-02-22	Atlas
Sloans Lake	northeast	2024-02-22	Atlas
Trinidad Reservoir	southeast	2024-02-21	Atlas
Trinidad Central Park Lake	southeast	2024-02-21	Atlas
Quail Lake	southeast	2024-02-15	Atlas
Prospect Lake	southeast	2024-02-15	Atlas
Milavec Reservoir	northeast	2024-02-15	Atlas
Harvey Gap Reservoir	northwest	2024-02-15	Atlas

Rifle Gap Reservoir	northwest	2024-02-15	Atlas
Confluence Lake	northwest	2024-02-14	Atlas
Ridgway Reservoir	northwest	2024-02-14	Atlas
Chatfield Reservoir	northeast	2024-02-13	Atlas
Carter Lake	northeast	2024-02-13	Atlas
Snooks Bottom Lake	northwest	2024-02-13	Atlas
Mack Mesa Lake	northwest	2024-02-13	Atlas
Ruedi Reservoir	northwest	2024-02-13	Atlas
South Rifle Pond	northwest	2024-02-13	Atlas
Arkansas River	southeast	2024-02-12	Atlas
Anticline Pond	southeast	2024-02-12	Atlas
Lon Hagler Reservoir	northeast	2024-02-12	Atlas
Boyd Lake	northeast	2024-02-12	Atlas
Pueblo Reservoir	southeast	2024-02-08	Atlas
Martin Lake	southeast	2024-02-01	Atlas
Horseshoe Reservoir	southeast	2024-02-01	Atlas
Fruita Red Rocks Lake	northwest	2024-01-30	Atlas
Roans Pothole	northwest	2024-01-30	Atlas
Old Orchard	northwest	2024-01-30	Atlas
Corn Lake	northwest	2024-01-30	Atlas
Elevenmile Reservoir	northeast	2024-01-25	Atlas
Elevenmile Reservoir	northeast	2024-01-24	Atlas
Runyon Lake	southeast	2024-01-23	Atlas

For the most up-to-date stocking information, click [here](#).

Catch of the Week



The Catch of the Week goes to Brad Bryant,
who was out casting for walleye
but reeled in this carp after a good fight!

Well done!

Have a fish you're proud of? Share a photo!
Send an email to dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us with subject line: Catch of the Week

Tip of the Week - All About Walleye

Walleye, a cherished pursuit among anglers in Colorado for over six decades, continue to captivate fishing enthusiasts in the cool-water fisheries of eastern Colorado during the fall season. These elusive creatures offer both challenge and reward, with their delicious white meat fillets tempting many a persistent angler.

As the largest member of the perch family, the walleye boasts distinctive features including a spiny and soft-rayed dorsal fin, sharp teeth, a white-lobed caudal fin, and its most striking characteristic, a large, marble-like eye. This eye, with its reflective layer known as the tapetum lucidum, equips the walleye for nocturnal and turbid water hunting, explaining its preference for low-light conditions during feeding.

Spring marks the walleye spawning season, triggered by water temperatures hitting the 40-degree mark. Females seek out rocky or gravel-type substrates for egg deposition, while males eagerly await to fertilize them. This natural process, influenced by factors like predation and water levels, underscores the delicate balance of walleye reproduction.

To bolster walleye populations, Colorado Parks and Wildlife conducts egg gathering operations, yielding millions of walleye eggs annually for stocking lakes and reservoirs across the state. Excess eggs are even traded with other states for different species, benefiting ecosystems and angling communities alike.



Since their introduction to Colorado waters in the late 1940s, walleye have become a staple in the state's plains reservoirs, with around 2 billion walleye fry stocked in southeast and northeast Colorado since 1973. Despite high stocking numbers, the survival rate to adulthood remains relatively low, highlighting the challenges in maintaining healthy walleye populations.

As the spring spawning frenzy fades and water temperatures rise, summer and fall angling for walleye present unique challenges. Understanding the topography of lakes through quality sonar units and topographic maps becomes crucial, allowing anglers to pinpoint key areas such as underwater humps, drop-offs, and weed beds where walleye congregate.

Novice and seasoned anglers alike benefit from targeting weed beds adjacent to structural elements, employing techniques like slip-sinker rigs with live bait or pitching jigs along weed edges. Trolling, especially along weed bed perimeters and drop-offs, offers another effective method, with anglers adjusting their approach based on fish activity and water conditions.

Night and cloudy days see walleye moving into shallower waters, where side planer boards and slow trolling techniques help anglers cover more ground effectively. For deeper waters, downriggers or lead core lines become indispensable tools, ensuring lures reach desired depths where walleye lurk.

When finesse is required, vertical jigging with spoons or lead head jigs proves effective, especially near favored habitats and structures. Experimentation with lure actions and colors becomes key, with anglers adapting to fish preferences and water clarity.

However, anglers must adhere to fishing regulations and licensing requirements set forth by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, ensuring sustainable fishing practices for future generations of anglers.

With its blend of challenge and reward, walleye fishing in Colorado beckons anglers to explore its waters, armed with knowledge, skill, and an unwavering passion for the pursuit of these remarkable fish.

Comments or Questions?

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. Good luck out there!

- DNR Fish Reporter



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