



Gross Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Gross Reservoir (440 surface acres) is a storage reservoir owned and operated by Denver Water. Shore angling and limited boat access (see regulations) are allowed. Anglers can expect to catch rainbow trout, brown trout, lake trout, splake, kokanee salmon and tiger muskie. Open to ice fishing. More Information: <https://www.denverwater.org/recreation/gross-reservoir>

Location: 18 miles west of Boulder via Flagstaff Road, also accessible via HWY 72 (Nederland or Golden).

Recreational Management: Forest Service—Boulder District

Purchase a fishing license:

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling

Amenities

- Primitive Restrooms
- Hiking Trails
- Wildlife Viewing
- Day-use picnic areas
- Ice Fishing!

Regulations

- Operation Hours - sunrise to sunset.
- Watercraft: carry-on, non-motorized boats only (canoes, kayaks, row boats). Belly boats, sail boats, and all trailer hitched boats are **NOT** allowed. Call 303-634-3641 for more information.
- Swimming, wading, and diving are prohibited.
- Kokanee snagging season October 1 – December 1. Limit is 10 salmon.
- Min. size for Tiger Muskie is 36" (1 fish).
- Use or possession of live fish as bait is prohibited (and strictly enforced).

Previous Stocking

2019

Brown Trout
Kokanee Salmon
Rainbow Trout
Tiger Muskie

2018

Brown Trout
Kokanee Salmon
Rainbow Trout
Hofer Strain Rainbow Trout
Tiger Muskie

2017

Brown Trout
Kokanee Salmon
Hofer Strain Rainbow Trout
Tiger Muskie

2016

Brown Trout
Rainbow Trout
Hofer Strain Rainbow Trout
Tiger Muskie

Sportfishing Notes

Trout

•All trout species are stocked as sub-catchables (3-5"). As a result trout generally prefer flies and artificial lures compared with power bait or worms.

Kokanee

•Fall run to the inlet typically occurs in October.
•Besides snagging (see regulations), small flies (#18+) at times attract a kokanee.

Tiger Muskie

•Large tigers are present in Gross; they appear to roam lake-wide.
•Tigers are stocked in relatively low numbers to provide a diversified fishery and control suckers.



Named for Denver Water former Chief Engineer Dwight D. Gross, the reservoir was completed in 1954. It serves as a combination storage and regulating facility for water that flows under the Continental Divide through the Moffat Tunnel. Gross Reservoir has a surface area of 440 acres at full pool and 10.9 miles of shoreline.

With the allowance of carry-on boating, Gross Reservoir has become a more frequent fishing destination for Front Range anglers. Gross is fed by South Boulder Creek. Fishing opportunities exist within the reservoir, below the dam, near the inlet, and on the ice when conditions permit. Good portions of Gross's shoreline is also accessible to both anglers and hikers.

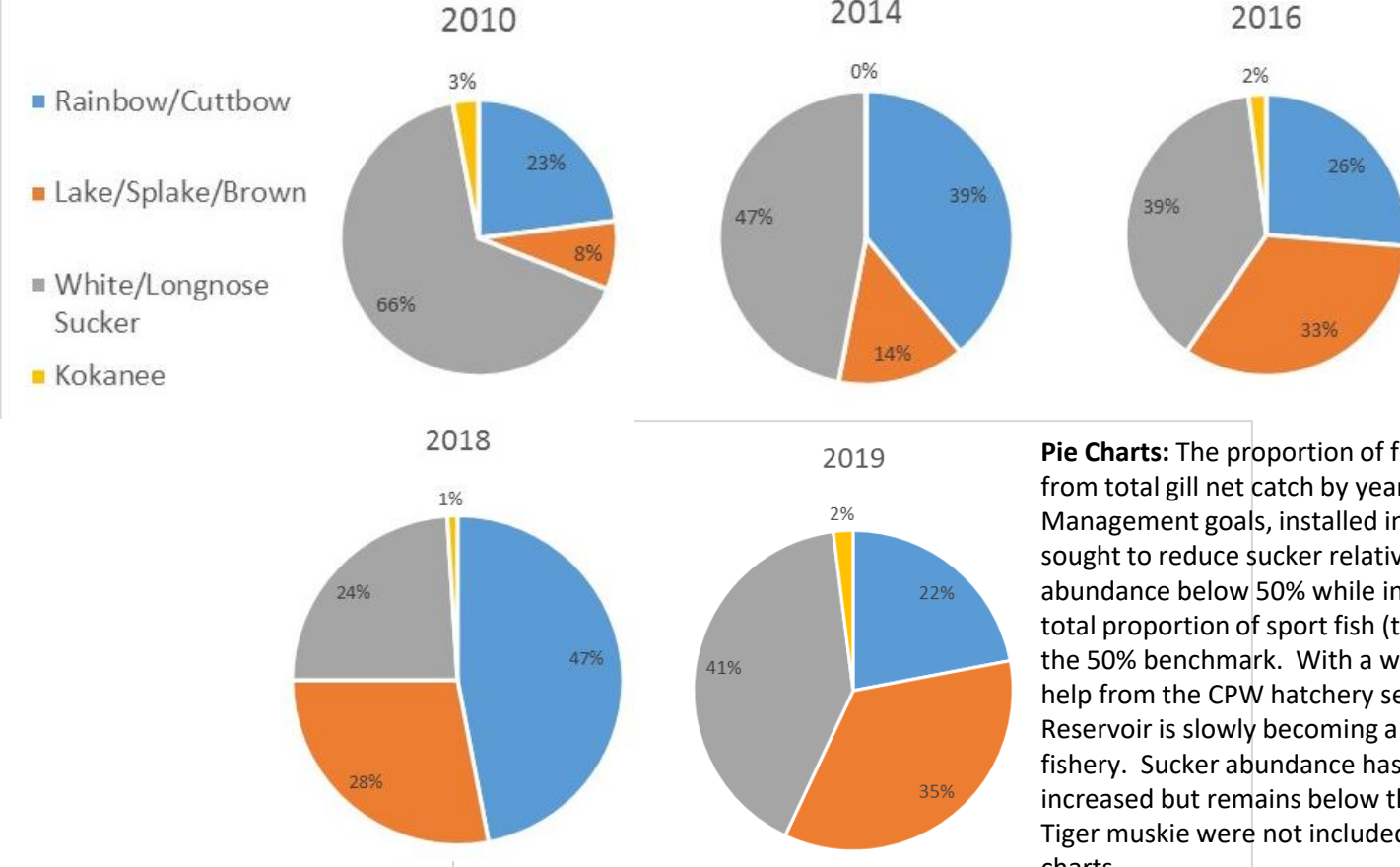
Because of Gross's steep shoreline and profound depth, this reservoir is one of the more difficult waters in the NE to accurately evaluate. White and longnose sucker historically dominated, however their abundance has steadily been declining. Sucker abundance has declined as part of an aggressive predatory fish stocking program. Rainbow strain trout represent the dominant trout species present.

09/10/2019 Survey Summary (10 gillnets fished overnight)

SPECIES	Total Catch	Mean	Length (inches)		Mean	Weight (lb)	
			Minimum	Maximum		Minimum	Maximum
KOKANEE (SOCKEY E)	4	12.15	11.50	12.68	0.65	0.56	0.75
LONGNOSE SUCKER	46	10.54	6.77	16.73	0.50	0.04	2.09
LONGNOSE DACE	1	4.13	4.13	4.13	0.04	0.04	0.04
BROWN TROUT	68	11.91	4.72	22.05	0.72	0.04	4.52
LAKE TROUT (MACKINAW)	2	11.00	7.87	14.13	0.45	0.16	0.73
RAINBOW TROUT	45	9.88	5.08	21.26	0.48	0.06	3.16
TIGER MUSKIE (NORTHERN X MUSKIE HYBRID)	1	16.22	16.22	16.22	0.97	0.97	0.97
WHITE SUCKER	38	16.34	6.26	20.08	1.29	0.11	3.36

09/11/2018 Survey Summary (10 gillnets fished overnight)

SPECIES	Total Catch	Mean	Length (inches)		Mean	Weight (lb)	
			Minimum	Maximum		Minimum	Maximum
KOKANEE (SOCKEY E)	2	11.56	10.08	13.03	0.57	0.37	0.77
LONGNOSE SUCKER	36	9.56	4.76	13.54	0.36	0.03	0.95
BROWN TROUT	55	12.03	4.88	27.68	0.91	0.04	9.40
LAKE TROUT (MACKINAW)	9	12.42	8.27	25.94	1.03	0.07	6.15
RAINBOW TROUT	64	8.50	6.69	11.61	0.24	0.09	0.60
RAINBOW X CUTTHROAT	48	8.31	5.35	11.93	0.23	0.04	0.65
WHITE SUCKER	20	14.87	6.54	19.88	1.72	0.13	3.50
WHITE-LONGNOSE HYBRID SUCKER	1	13.35	13.35	13.35	1.00	1.00	1.00



Pie Charts: The proportion of fish species from total gill net catch by year in Gross. Management goals, installed in 2008, sought to reduce sucker relative abundance below 50% while increasing the total proportion of sport fish (trout) near the 50% benchmark. With a whole lot of help from the CPW hatchery section, Gross Reservoir is slowly becoming a better fishery. Sucker abundance has recently increased but remains below the 50% goal. Tiger muskie were not included in these charts.



Left: A tiger muskie @ 39" collected during the net survey. This fish weighed 18 pounds and was released. In order to create a more balanced fish community, predatory species such as tiger muskie will continue to be stocked in Gross Reservoir.

Kokanee Salmon: Kokanee are stocked annually in Gross Reservoir however, the annual survey evaluates the fish community in September or before most kokanee begin migratory "runs". As a result detection of this species is difficult. Success of the annual kokanee run is in part gauged from direct input by anglers, the rangers at Gross Reservoir, and district wildlife officers.

Kokanee stocking generally occurs during late May of each year. Typically, the 2-inch fingerlings are stocked from a boat as close as possible to the South Boulder Creek inlet. Recently, salmon have been stocked in the reservoir as well as 4 miles upstream of the reservoir in South Boulder Creek. In 3-4 years these fish will migrate and become more accessible to angling during the fall "run".



Kokanee fingerlings from the hatchery.

Loading kokanee for boat stocking.

Boat stocking the kokanee fingerlings in

About 4 years later, caught by an angler at Gross!