



Skaguay Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Skaguay Reservoir, a 114 acre impoundment, offers good fishing for rainbow and brown trout with an occasional large northern pike taken. To view map go to <http://maps.google.com/maps>

Location: Teller County. Nestled in a quant valley about 7 miles east of Victor, Colorado via Cty Rd 861.

Recreational Management: Colorado Parks and Wildlife (719-530-5520).

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling for rainbow, cutthroat, and brown trout, and northern pike.

Detailed Fishery Information: See additional pages.

Amenities and General Info.

- CPW State Wildlife Area
- Boat ramp (1) with restroom
- Primitive camping allowed, no hook-ups, pack out your trash
- Wakeless boating only

Regulations

- No bag or possession limit for northern pike
- Statewide bag and possession limits apply for other species (see CPW Fishery Brochure).

Previous Stocking

2019

Rainbow Trout
Cutbow Trout

2018

Rainbow Trout
Cutbow Trout

2017

Rainbow Trout

2016

Rainbow Trout
Cutbow trout

WARNING!!!
Prevent the Spread of Zebra
Mussels and other Aquatic
Nuisance Species
• Clean, drain, and dry your
boat after each use.

Sportfishing Notes

Trout

- Good fishing for trout that average 12 inches and range in size from 10-16 inches. Catchable (10+ inch) trout are stocked from May through September. Brown trout have become more prevalent in recent years, comprising 30% of the total catch and reaching lengths over 16 inches.

Northern Pike

- Though scarce, this reservoir supports a population of northern pike that average 20 inches with fish exceeding 40 inches present. Anglers are encouraged to catch and harvest these toothy predators. This will help to minimize trout predation while maximizing northern pike growth (more food for fewer fish).



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2019 LAKE SURVEY DATA

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2019 Gillnetting Survey

Species	#Caught	Average Length and (Range) in Inches	Average Weight (lbs.)
Brown Trout	7	12.1 (10-14.7)	0.66
Rainbow Trout	76	12.0 (7.2-15)	0.69
Northern Pike	13	21.6 (9.9-35.5)	4.23

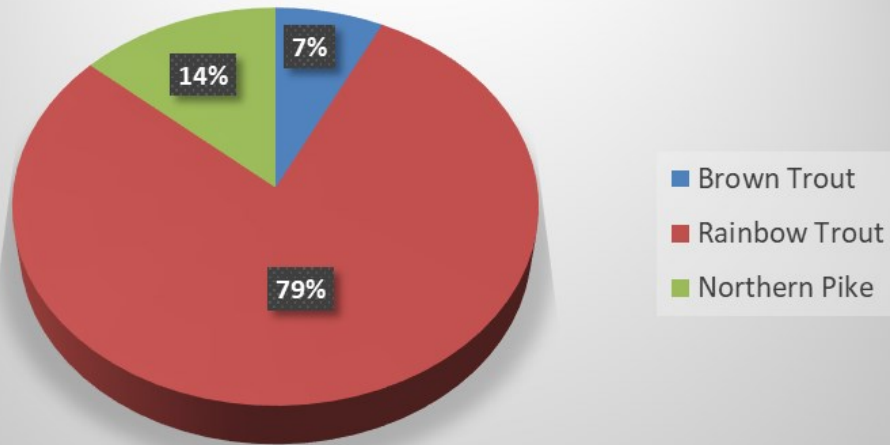


Skaguay Reservoir

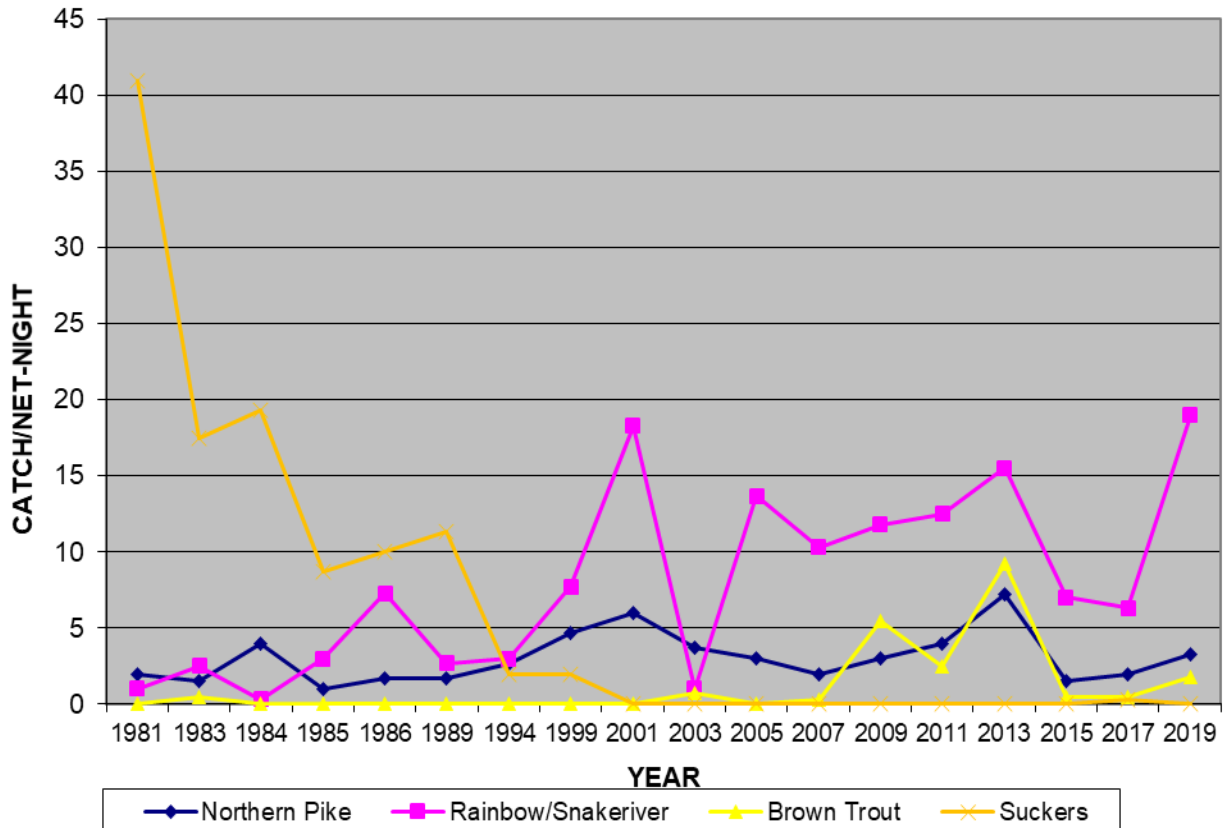
2019 LAKE SURVEY DATA

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2019 % Relative Abundance



SKAGUAY RESERVOIR CATCH/GILL NET-NIGHT, 1981-2019





Skaguay Reservoir

2020 FISHING FORECAST

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Dispersed camping is no longer allowed at Skaguay Reservoir, effective July 2020.

The lake should be full in 2020. Catchable trout are stocked throughout the summer providing good action for anglers. They range in size from 10-16 inches. Brown trout have become more prevalent in recent years, comprising 30% of the total catch in 2013, but only 7% in 2019, and they can reach lengths over 16 inches. Though somewhat scarce, this reservoir supports a population of northern pike that average over 20 inches with fish exceeding 40 inches in length. There is no limit on northern pike. Anglers are encouraged to catch and harvest these toothy predators (see photo). This will help to minimize trout predation while maximizing northern pike growth (more food for fewer fish). The inlet area offers the best habitat for northern pike. Angler facilities are good at Skaguay Reservoir and include a concrete boat ramp, parking, and restrooms. Wakeless boating is required. Beaver Creek below the reservoir offers good brown trout fishing for the stream fishing enthusiast.

There is no ANS boat inspection at Skaguay Reservoir. Therefore, it is incumbent upon each boater to make sure that their boat and gear are CLEAN, DRAINED, and DRY before launching at any water body.





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MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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Skaguay Reservoir can become anoxic in the summer (extremely low oxygen) forcing fish to inhabit the upper 4 meters of the lake. This condition remains until fall turnover. Similar conditions likely develop as the lake stratifies in the winter. Consequently, useable fish habitat is restricted to the top 4 meters of water during much of the year. This anoxic condition limits fishery potential in Skaguay Reservoir.

The sportfish population has changed little since 1981 but shows an upward trend since 2007. Brown trout of various sizes have become more abundant in recent years. There is no record of their stocking. Evidently, they emigrated downstream from Beaver Creek. Large northern pike are consistently captured during gill net surveys. Northern pike were planted eight times, from 1959 to 1976. They have become self-sustained. Spawning habitat for northern pike (flooded terrestrial vegetation) is abundant in the inlet area of the reservoir. Reproductive success is probably good, however survival and recruitment is likely poor.

Rainbow trout (10 inch) have been the primary species planted since 1988. Their presence is dependent on stocking because of poor reproductive success in standing water. Catchable trout stocking has been consistent in recent years and the trout gill net catch has risen accordingly. Suckers have not been collected since 1999, likely eliminated by northern pike predation.



Habitat issues coupled with fish population and angler indices (2011 Creel Census) are critical to successful management of this fishery. Anglers currently prefer to catch trout at Skaguay Reservoir. These fish are well utilized. Angler satisfaction is high with the majority of anglers rating their trip quality as good to excellent (71%) even though catch rate was fair (0.43 fish/hour). The current trout fishery is maintained by stocking just under 20000 catchable trout per year (175/acre). In this cold water lake habitat where trout are the primary species being managed for, a low density pike population is preferred. Over-populated pike fisheries can decimate a trout fishery. Habitat conditions and prey abundance determine pike survival. The unique habitat/fishery balance at Skaguay Reservoir should not be disrupted, even though fish abundance is low. The annual catchable trout stocking rate should be maintained. Over stocking may disrupt the current predator/prey balance by enhancing northern pike survival and indirectly decreasing predation on suckers by northern pike. The result would be an unbalanced fishery favoring northern pike and suckers. Trout mortality would continually rise forcing more to be stocked to try to maintain angler satisfaction.