



Chatfield Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Chatfield Reservoir, a 1355 acre storage reservoir, offers good fishing for small-mouth bass, rainbow trout, channel catfish and trophy walleye. For park hours, fees, and other information:

<http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/Chatfield>

Location: Chatfield State Park, between S. Santa Fe Drive (U.S. 85) on the east, and S. Wadsworth on the west. From S. Wadsworth go south past C-470 about 1/4 mile and turn east into the park entrance.

Recreational Management: Colorado Parks and Wildlife (303-791-7275) and Army Corps of Engineers.

Fishery Management: Warm and Cold water species

Annual Survey Data: [\(see page 2\)](#)

Amenities and General Info.

- Boat Ramps (2)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Swim Beach
- Marina
- Hiking trails
- Canoe/Kayak rentals
- Horseback Riding
- Model Airplane Field

Fishing Regulations

- Minimum size for walleyes is 18" long. The daily bag limit for walleye is 3 fish. Only 1 walleye longer than 21" can be taken per day. No saugeye are present in this lake.
- Minimum size for large-mouth and smallmouth bass is 15".
- Fishing is prohibited from the dam and within 100 feet of the dam **or walleye spawning operation nets** March 15-April 15, or until walleye spawning operations are complete.

Previous Stocking

2017

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2016

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2015

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2014

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2013

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2012

Rainbow Trout
 Cuttbows
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

Sportfishing Notes

Walleye

- Big walleye are present in good number because the regulations protect large fish. These regulations give anglers an opportunity to catch trophy size walleye, while still allowing CPW to run an egg take operation that supplies other Colorado waters with young walleye.
- Fish can be difficult to catch due to the large population of gizzard shad, their primary forage food.
- Anglers are successful using live bait rigs and jigging spoons.

Rainbow Trout

- Trout fishing is generally good year round using traditional baits.

Smallmouth Bass

- Fishing for smallmouth can be good near the dam in spring and over the sunken gravel pits in the south end of the lake using traditional lures.

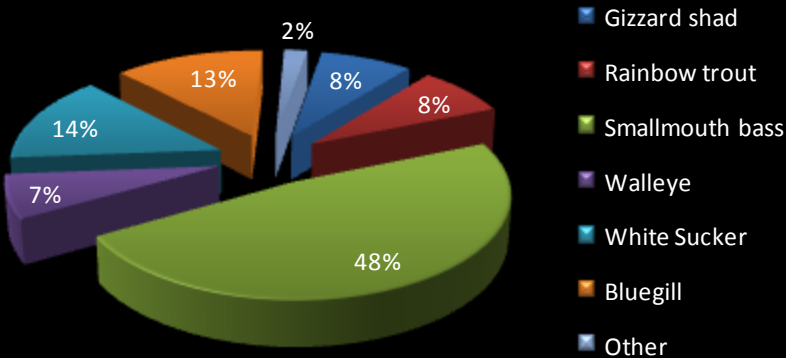


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Chatfield Reservoir 2017 Fish Survey



The figure to the left shows the percent relative abundance of the most common species at Chatfield Reservoir in the 2017 survey. Annual surveys here include the use of gill nets and boat electrofishing. The results show that smallmouth bass comprised the majority (48%), followed by white sucker (14%), bluegill (13%), rainbow trout and gizzard shad (8% each) then walleye (7%). Species such as gizzard shad (young fish) provide an important food source for the good walleye population in Chatfield Reservoir.

The figure below shows the length frequencies of walleye, smallmouth bass, and rainbow trout collected in 2017. These species represent three of the more popular gamefish at Chatfield. The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. Smallmouth up to 15" were collected, walleye up to 24", and rainbow trout up to 14". Walleye in the catch ranged from the young 6"-8" fish (that were stocked as fry during the Spring) up to adults reaching 24". Walleyes over 25" are regularly collected during the spring spawning operations. Larger smallmouth bass are also present in Chatfield, but typically are not collected boat electrofishing because they are in deeper water and can escape the electric field.

Chatfield Reservoir 2017 Length Frequencies

