General Information: John Martin Reservoir provides quality fishing for saugeye, wiper, white bass, crappie and catfish. Good populations of largemouth and smallmouth bass are present as well. This large reservoir is subject to drastic fluctuations. John Martin is a popular destination for early spring crappie anglers. Visit the state park website at: [http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/JohnMartinReservoir](http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/JohnMartinReservoir)

Location: Bent County. Exit US Hwy 50 at Hasty, CO and travel 2 miles south to reservoir.
Size: 2,000 - 17,000 surface acres (highly variable), Average Depth 10 - 20 ft., (30 - 50 ft. near dam)
Management: US Army Corps of Engineers (owner), Colorado State Parks, and CPW (recreation mgmt.)
Annual Survey Data: Page 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities and General Info.</th>
<th>Previous Stocking</th>
<th>Sportfishing Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • 2 large boat ramps within the state park, 1 small ramp on the SWA at Rd. 19 (high water).  
• Picnic Sites  
• Restrooms available  
• 2 Camp Grounds  
• 4.5 mile Red Shin Hiking Trail  
• Swim beach at Hasty Lake (below John Martin Dam)  
• Handicapped accessible fishing pier available at Hasty Lake  
• Staffed visitor’s center | 2016  
Black Crappie 1.4”  
Flathead Catfish 0.4”  
Largemouth Bass 1.1”  
Largemouth Bass 0.4”  
Saugeye 0.2”  
Walleye 1.2”  
Wiper 0.2” | Wiper/White Bass  
• Prefer coves, rocky points, and open water areas near schooling shad.  
• Best months are May- June & September - October  
• Best lures are shad imitating crank baits, plastic jigs, and shiny spinners. Effective baits include: worms, minnows, shrimp, and crawdads.  
Saugeye  
• Prefer areas with submerged structure, aquatic vegetation, or near schooling bait fish  
• Best months are May & June  
• Effective lures are walleye type crank baits, minnow imitations, and jigs tipped with bait  

Crappie  
• Prefer dam and rocky areas around railroad trestle.  
• Best months are pre-spawn (April—May)  
• Live minnows, small plastic jigs (< 2”, 1/8 oz or less). | 2015  
Black Crappie 1.8”  
Blue Catfish 3.4”  
Largemouth Bass 2.0”  
Saugeye 1.4”  
Saugeye 0.2”  
Walleye 1.2”  
Walleye 0.2”  
Wiper 0.2” |

Regulations  
• NO ATV’s or OHV’s allowed on the wildlife area  
• Closures may exist around endangered bird nesting areas.  
• Seasonal closures for waterfowl hunting season. Limited access: Nov. 1 - last day of waterfowl season.  
• All walleye and saugeye limits have returned to the Arkansas Valley regulation. 10 fish limit with no size restrictions.
John Martin Reservoir
FISHERY SURVEY DATA - FALL 2016
Jim Ramsay - Aquatic Biologist
Lamar Service Center

LENGTH FREQUENCY TABLE

| INCHES | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27+ | T |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| B. CATFISH | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| C. CATFISH | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 23 |
| CRAPPIE | I | 2 | 20 |
| DRUM | 6 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| *G. SHAD | 21 | 15 | 22 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 42 | 43 | 1 | 206 |
| SAUGEYE | 1 | 3 | I | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 36 |
| STRIPER | |
| WALLEYE | |
| *WHITE BASS | I | 30 | 33 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| WIPER | 5 | 6 | 17 | 15 | 10 | 2 |

Centimeters
| 10 | 13 | 15 | 18 | 20 | 23 | 25 | 28 | 30 | 33 | 35 | 38 | 40 | 43 | 45 | 48 | 50 | 53 | 55 | 58 | 60 | 63 | 65 | 68 |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

RELATIVE WEIGHT TABLE

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<td>95.8</td>
<td>97.5</td>
<td>107.4</td>
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<td>86.1</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>89.5</td>
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<td>97.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>100.5</td>
<td>76.4</td>
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Walleye/Saugeye:

Much of the flood water captured in 2015 was systematically released throughout 2016. Some of the water was retained, and water levels are higher than normal for this time of year. Good numbers of walleye/saugeye were stocked during these high water periods. Although these fish grew quickly, a pathogen in the water or soil affected these fish when they reached the 6-8 in. range. A die-off of this age class occurred in summer 2015. This event was short-lived, and there appears to be no lingering affects from this event. Fish stocked since then have fared well. In 2017, fishing should be fair to good for these fish, as numbers are improving. Anglers can keep up to 10 fish, regardless of size.

White Bass:

High water levels benefitted the white bass fishery tremendously in 2016. Populations have exploded, with abundant numbers in all size classes. Fishing for white bass was world-class in 2016, and is expected to be excellent again in 2017. Fall sampling indicated large numbers of white bass in all size classes (see page 2 and graph to the right). CPW does not normally stock white bass. Stocks are maintained through natural reproduction. White bass are often found with wipers of the same size class. Larger wipers tend to school separately. Boaters targeting white bass and wipers tend to use jigs, spinners, or shad-imitating crank baits. Shore anglers can be successful by offering live bait, jigs, or shiny casting lures.

Catfish:

5 species of catfish inhabit John Martin Reservoir: Flatheads, blues, channels, and black and yellow bullheads. Channel catfish are especially abundant. Good numbers of large fish are available. Fishing for catfish should be excellent in 2017. Channel catfish can be caught on a variety of baits including worms, livers, dough baits, crayfish, and shrimp. Flatheads and blues will hit these baits as well, but more often prefer live offerings such as large minnows or water dogs. Look for flatheads along the rocky points as well as the rip-rap dam face. Channel catfish are more abundant in the coves and toward the shallower west end of the lake. The stilling basin is often a good choice as well.

Crappie:

Historically, when John Martin receives large amounts of water (as in 2015), crappie populations tend to increase dramatically. Good crappie fishing is anticipated for 2017. Fall sampling indicated increasing numbers of crappie. Crappies numbers tend to fluctuate from year to year, but good spawning success should equal good fishing in the near future. Supplemental stocking of hatchery reared fish has also helped to bolster crappie numbers. Fishing success tends to really pick up during mid-spring, as water temps reach the mid 50s (usually late April). The rocky dam, railroad trestle and north coves are good areas to try for these fish. Live minnow rigs or small jigs (twister or tube, 1/8 oz. or less) are good choices for crappie.