**General Information:** Jumbo Reservoir is a 1,578 acre water (at full capacity) located on the Jumbo State Wildlife Area. Anglers can expect excellent fishing for walleye and crappie, and quality fishing for channel catfish, smallmouth bass, and bluegill. Fishing pressure is moderate to high.

**Location:** Logan and Sedgwick Counties. From I-76 take Exit 155 and head 3 miles north to Hwy 138. Take Hwy 138 1 mile northeast to CR 95. Take CR 95 2 miles north to the reservoir.

**Recreational Management:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**Fishery Management:** Warmwater angling

**Purchase a Fishing License:** [http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/Fishing.aspx](http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/Fishing.aspx)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Previous Stocking</th>
<th>Sportfishing Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Lighted boat ramp</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Walleye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Picnic areas</td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>• During early months fish are typically scattered. Try using a crawler harness, bottom bouncer, or jig.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Primitive restrooms</td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>• During later months, when water temperatures rise, try casting shad raps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Non-designated camping areas</td>
<td>Black crappie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fishing (open water and ice)</td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td><strong>Crappie</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Small game hunting</td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>• Fishing near the outlet, the east dam, and near the inlet is recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wildlife viewing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regulations**

- Min. size for walleye and saugeye is 15” (only 1 can exceed 21”).
- Min. size for wiper is 15”.
- Min. size for crappie is 10”.
- Statewide bag and possession limits also apply.
- Boats prohibited within 50 ft of outlet structure.
- Anyone ages 18-64 must purchase an annual access permit to enter the property, unless he/she has a valid Colorado annual fishing or hunting license.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>Walleye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>Saugeye</td>
<td>Black crappie</td>
<td>Black crappie</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>Cuttbow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sportfishing Notes**

- **Walleye**
  - During early months fish are typically scattered. Try using a crawler harness, bottom bouncer, or jig.
  - During later months, when water temperatures rise, try casting shad raps.
- **Crappie**
  - Fishing near the outlet, the east dam, and near the inlet is recommended.
- **Channel catfish**
  - Cut shad, cut carp, or crayfish as bait work well.
  - The west end of Jumbo is weedy, but it tends to produce more channel catfish.
- **Rainbow trout and Cuttbow**
  - Shore and ice anglers do well using night crawlers.
  - Boat anglers do well using small shad raps near the two concrete dams along the south shore.
Similar to all northeastern plains reservoirs, Jumbo (Julesburg) Reservoir was constructed to store irrigation water for agricultural use. Water used to fill the reservoir is diverted from the South Platte River between the towns of Proctor and Crook, and flows through a 22-mile earthen inlet canal before reaching the reservoir. First filled in 1907, Jumbo Reservoir is 113 years old.

Since the primary function of Jumbo Reservoir is to store irrigation water, water levels routinely drop during the irrigation season. During a typical year, water levels are drawn down by approximately 15 feet (Figure 1). During dry years more water is needed for agricultural purposes, drastically reducing water levels and creating many fish management challenges.

Due to severe drought conditions, the reservoir was completely drained in the early fall of 2006. Severe drought conditions returned in 2012, reducing the water level to a maximum depth of three feet. In anticipation of extremely low water levels and the potential for a summerkill, Colorado Parks and Wildlife initiated a public fish salvage which excused the length, bag, and possession limits for all species in the reservoir. Several thousand fish, the majority being walleye, were salvaged by anglers. The reduction in fish biomass, along with a steady stream of water running through the reservoir from the inlet to the outlet, likely aided in the survival of the remaining fish and fortunately the reservoir did not experience a summerkill. Colorado Parks and Wildlife crews have since rebuilt the fishery by restocking millions of walleye and thousands of other sportfish species. By 2015, the walleye and crappie fisheries were booming and the smallmouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill fisheries were also doing very well. Provided the South Platte River Drainage continues to receive a large snowpack and plenty of rain during the spring and summer months, these fisheries should continue to thrive.

Figure 1. Water level fluctuation at Jumbo Reservoir during a typical year. Prior to the irrigation season, which usually starts in May, the reservoir is at full capacity. During the irrigation season (May-October) the reservoir is routinely drawn down, often to ≤50% of its capacity. Refilling usually begins near the end of October, is suspended during the winter months (December-February), and resumes again in the spring (March).
About the Fish...

Jumbo Reservoir is primarily managed as a warmwater fishery. Management is focused on walleye; however, efforts are also made to provide quality fishing opportunities for crappie, smallmouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish.

Walleye and saugeye

Approximately 3.5 million fry and 40,000 fingerling walleye were stocked into Jumbo Reservoir in the spring of 2007 as part of the rebuilding effort. Since then, an additional 35.1 million walleye fry, 139,975 walleye fingerlings, and 110,000 saugeye fingerlings have been stocked. At Jumbo Reservoir, it takes approximately three growing seasons for walleye and saugeye fry and fingerlings to reach the minimum size limit of 15” (Figure 2). Fish that are released or that escape being caught can reach greater than 20” by the end of the fourth growing season. As with other fish species, walleye growth rates decline with age; thus, it may take six growing seasons to reach 25” (Figure 2).

Due to the tremendous amount of effort put forth to rebuild the walleye and saugeye fisheries, catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) tripled from 30 fish per net in 2007 to 90 fish per net in 2011 (Figure 2). These walleye and saugeye catch rates were by far the highest in Colorado. Due to the 2012 public salvage and a faulty outlet screen, CPUE dropped to 23 fish per net in 2012 (Figure 2). Though this catch rate may seem low compared to 2011, it is still a great catch rate relative to other Colorado reservoirs. Highly successful walleye plants in 2013 to 2015 increased CPUE to a record high of 123 fish per net in 2015. Since then, CPUE has decreased, primarily due to high angler harvest rates, but also due to lower recruitment of fry and fingerlings. The 2019 walleye/saugeye CPUE (58 fish per net) was the highest in Colorado; thus, arguably maintaining Jumbo Reservoir’s status as one of the best walleye fisheries in the state (Figure 2). Based on the 2019 annual survey, anglers can expect superb fishing for quality-sized (15”) walleye, and good fishing for preferred-sized (20”) walleye during the 2020 fishing season (Tables 1-2; Figures 2-3). Additionally, anglers will have a chance to catch fish greater than 25” in length (Tables 1-2; Figures 2-3).

Figure 2. Walleye/saugeye catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) during the 2007 to 2019 annual surveys at Jumbo Reservoir. For comparative purposes, the number of fish collected was standardized per gill-net. The black line indicates growth of fish stocked in 2008 through the years of 2008 to 2014.
Table 1. Relative stock density (RSD; think of it like a percent) of walleye during the 2007 to 2019 annual surveys. S = stock length, which is the length at which fish are considered to provide recreational value. Q = quality length, which is considered to be the minimum size of fish most anglers like to catch. P = preferred length, which is considered to be the length of fish most anglers would prefer to catch. M = memorable length, which is considered to be the size of fish most anglers remember catching. T = trophy length, which is considered to be the size of fish worthy of acknowledgement. Stock, quality, preferred, memorable, and trophy lengths for walleye are approximately 10”, 15”, 20”, 25”, and 30”, respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>RSD (S-Q)</th>
<th>RSD (Q-P)</th>
<th>RSD (P-M)</th>
<th>RSD (M-T)</th>
<th>RSD (T)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2.46</td>
<td>0.82</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>69.09</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>23.61</td>
<td>1.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>64.32</td>
<td>30.65</td>
<td>4.02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>14.20</td>
<td>78.85</td>
<td>6.95</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>57.73</td>
<td>41.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>8.91</td>
<td>24.26</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3.14</td>
<td>1.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14.46</td>
<td>78.77</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>32.28</td>
<td>50.79</td>
<td>14.81</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>25.47</td>
<td>64.15</td>
<td>10.06</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3. Length-weight regression for walleye caught during the 2018-2019 annual surveys at Jumbo Reservoir. Stock (S), quality (Q), preferred (P), and memorable (M) size categories are indicated in green. Colorado’s Master Angler Award length for walleye is indicated in red. Data are based on 73 and 72 hours of gillnetting in 2018 and 2019, respectively.
**Bass (smallmouth and largemouth)**

Though smallmouth bass grow well in Jumbo Reservoir due to the substantial abundance of crayfish, natural reproduction of this species is limited. Therefore, the smallmouth bass fishery is primarily built through stocking. As part of the rebuilding effort, 15,000 3” smallmouth bass were stocked in 2007. These fish reached 10” by 2008, 13.5” by 2009, and were large enough (>15”) for anglers to legally take home in 2010. Due to the tremendous growth rates of smallmouth bass in Jumbo Reservoir, another 25,000 3” fish were stocked between 2008 and 2011. Unfortunately, no smallmouth bass could be stocked from 2012 through 2019 due to limited rearing space at Colorado Parks and Wildlife warmwater hatcheries. This issue is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Thus, the smallmouth bass population may diminish without successful natural reproduction. Only eight smallmouth bass were caught during the 2019 annual...
About the Fish...

Bass (smallmouth and largemouth) continued...

In the event more warmwater hatchery space is acquired, stocking of this species will resume due to its success in the reservoir. Until then, largemouth bass will be stocked in greater numbers in an attempt to make up for the lack of smallmouth bass. Only seven largemouth bass were caught during the 2019 annual survey (Table 2).

Crappie (black and white)

Crappie have always performed well in Jumbo Reservoir. In fact, crappie were the primary sportfish species caught by anglers between the years of 1960 and 1975. This species lost its primary status in the reservoir as fishery management shifted due to the popularity of walleye fishing. Currently, both black and white crappie reside in Jumbo Reservoir; however, black crappie, which are stocked, comprise a majority of the crappie population (Table 2). Nearly 130,000 black crappie have been stocked in Jumbo Reservoir since 2007 as part of the rebuilding effort, providing a quality black crappie fishery for anglers. Based on the crappie caught during the 2019 annual survey, anglers can expect good fishing during the 2020 season (Table 2). Many memorable (12-15”) and trophy-sized (>15”) crappie are undoubtedly lurking in the reservoir.
About the Fish... 

Bluegill
The primary purpose of stocking this species was to diversify the prey base for larger sportfish while the Jumbo Reservoir fishery was being rebuilt. However, tremendous growth experienced by bluegill within the reservoir resulted in a substantial bluegill fishery. The largest bluegill caught during the 2019 annual survey was 8.35 long and weighed 0.51lb (Table 2). According to the most recent creel survey (2011), several bluegill measuring 8 to 10” were caught; however, no anglers sought Master Angler Awards for their fish (qualifying length is 10”). Additionally, a 13.5” bluegill was caught that would have broken the current state record (11.5”), had the angler known. In 2015, a bluegill over 14” was caught. Several bluegill over 10” were caught by anglers during the 2019 fishing season. Bluegill will continue to be stocked in the future due to their large success in the reservoir.
Channel catfish

Nearly 117,000 channel catfish have been stocked into Jumbo Reservoir since 2007. Regardless of stocking rates, low numbers of channel catfish are sampled in nets during annual surveys due to the sedentary nature of catfish. As indicated by results from the most recent creel survey (2011), which showed anglers caught decent numbers of channel catfish ranging from 6 to 26”, hook-and-line usually produces more catfish than gillnets. Twenty-two channel catfish were caught during the 2019 annual survey. The average length of channel catfish was 14.67”, with the largest catfish being 24.61” long and weighing 5.75lb (Table 2). In an effort to gain a better understanding of the channel catfish population, a catfish project was performed in 2015. Results from this project indicated that the channel catfish population is composed of several size classes, and that there are large numbers of fish 14-18” long and 29-33” long (Figure 4). The largest fish caught during the project measured 34.45” and weighed 20.06lbs. Channel catfish fishing should be good during the 2020 fishing season.
According to the 2011 creel survey, over 5,400 anglers fished Jumbo Reservoir for nearly 20,000 hours between May and September of 2011 (Table 3). Eighty-eight percent of anglers were Colorado residents, of which 57% were from nearby towns in the six surrounding counties (Logan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Yuma, Washington, and Morgan). The majority of anglers fished with bait (63%) or a combination of bait and lures (24%), while fewer anglers used only lures (13%). Over one-half of anglers targeted walleye and saugeye, while nearly one-quarter of anglers targeted trout (Figure 5). Nearly 23,000 fish (all species included) were caught, of which approximately 28% were kept and 72% were released. In general, most anglers enjoyed their fishing trips at Jumbo Reservoir, ranking their trip quality as either excellent (22%), good (45%), or average (21%). Likewise, most anglers approved of the fish they caught, ranking fish quality as either excellent (33%), good (51%), or average (14%).

### Table 3. Summary of the 2011 Jumbo Reservoir creel survey conducted from May through September.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Shore anglers</th>
<th>Boat anglers</th>
<th>Total (all anglers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FISHERMAN-HOURS (# OF HRS FISHED)</td>
<td>6276</td>
<td>13639</td>
<td>19916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHERMAN (# OF ANGLERS)</td>
<td>2356</td>
<td>3068</td>
<td>5424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CATCH (# OF FISH)</td>
<td>4048</td>
<td>18850</td>
<td>22898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEPT CATCH (# OF FISH)</td>
<td>2182</td>
<td>4203</td>
<td>6384</td>
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<tr>
<td>RETURNED CATCH (# OF FISH)</td>
<td>1866</td>
<td>14647</td>
<td>16513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CATCH/HR (# FISH/HR)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEPT CATCH/HR (# FISH/HR)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETURN CATCH/HR (# FISH/HR)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE COMPLETED TRIP LENGTH (HRS)</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>4.45</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 5. Fish species targeted by anglers during the 2011 Jumbo Reservoir creel survey.

- Walleye/Saugeye: 56%
- Trout: 24%
- Channel catfish: 13%
- Smallmouth bass: Other
About the Anglers...

2011 Jumbo Reservoir creel survey continued...

Anglers were asked the following four questions and had the following responses:

1) Given the following scale, please rank your support (or not) for the new user fee at Jumbo State Wildlife Area:
   A) Strongly support user fee
   B) Support user fee
   C) It does not matter one way or the other
   D) Do not support user fee
   E) Strongly against user fee

   - 29% Strongly support user fee
   - 40% Support user fee
   - 17% It does not matter one way or the other
   - 11% Do not support user fee
   - 3% Strongly against user fee

2) Please rank your support (or not) for the installation of a boat dock at Jumbo Reservoir using the following scale:
   A) Strongly support installation
   B) Support installation
   C) It does not matter one way or the other
   D) Do not support installation
   E) Strongly against installation

   - 52% Strongly support installation
   - 29% Support installation
   - 14% It does not matter one way or the other
   - 4% Do not support installation
   - 1% Strongly against installation

3) Of the following warmwater fish species, which would you most like to catch at Jumbo Reservoir?
   A) Walleye/Saugeye
   B) Bass (largemouth and/or smallmouth)
   C) Wiper
   D) Crappie (black and/or white)
   E) Yellow perch

   - 71% Walleye/Saugeye
   - 10% Bass (largemouth and/or smallmouth)
   - 6% Wiper
   - 4% Crappie (black and/or white)
   - 9% Yellow perch

4) What percentage of your angling time today did you spend actively targetting trout?
   A) 0%
   B) 1-32%
   C) 33-65%
   D) 66-99%
   E) 100%

   - 11% 1-32%
   - 57% 33-65%
   - 14% 66-99%
   - 13% 100%

   Thank you to all of the anglers who were willing to participate in the creel survey!