



Lower Cataract Lake

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Jon Ewert - Aquatic Biologist (Hot Sulphur Springs)

General Information: Lower Cataract Lake is located in a beautiful setting on the edge of the Eagles' Nest Wilderness Area above Green Mountain Reservoir. The lake sits at 8,630' in elevation and is about 50 acres in size. .

Location: Approximately 17 miles south of Kremmling, CO. The lake is reached by driving to the end of Summit County road 1725, south of the town of Heeney, on the west side of Green Mountain Reservoir.

Recreational Management: The lake is on White River National Forest land, and does have a user fee associated with it. There is camping nearby. More information can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/>

Amenities and General Info.

- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Numerous hiking trails

Regulations

- Standard harvest regulations for trout (4 fish daily bag/8 fish in possession).

Previous Stocking

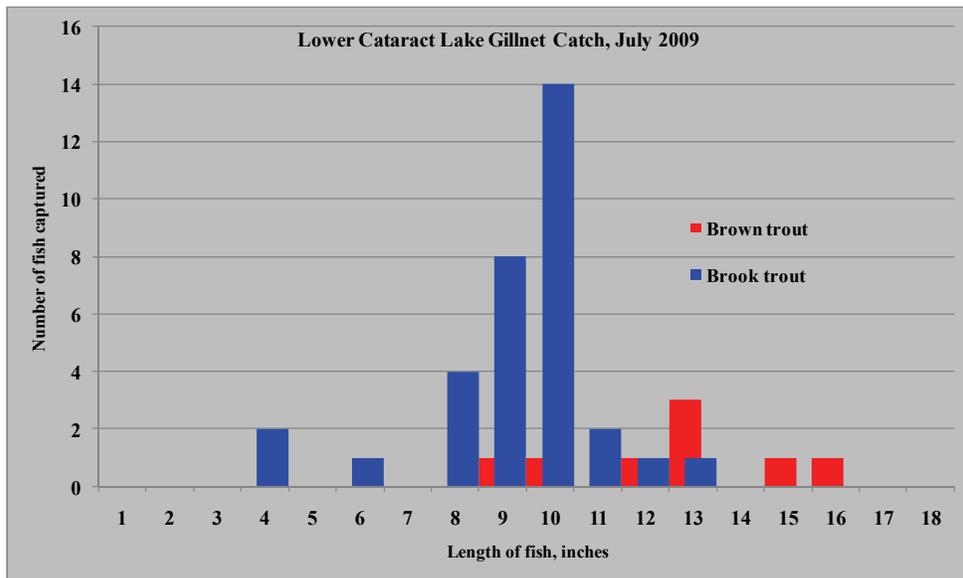
Cutthroat trout 2009
Cutthroat trout 2008
Cutthroat trout 2007

Sportfishing Notes

Lower Cataract Lake is an ideal location for fishing from a float tube or a canoe. Like many mountain lakes, scheduling your visit to be fishing during early morning or evening hours in the summer will provide the greatest chance of success. Most summer evenings see the lake come alive with rising trout, willing to take any reasonable offering such as a small parachute adams or a trolled woolly bugger.

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Fish population data
Jon Ewert, Aquatic Biologist



Lower Cataract Lake was surveyed with gillnets in the summer of 2009. The goal was to gauge the success of cutthroat trout stocking that has taken place over the past several years. As can be seen in the graph to the left, there appear to be no cutthroat trout in the lake. Angling opportunities for brook and the occasional larger brown trout are good. Fingerling cutthroat trout will no longer be stocked. Alternative stocking strategies will be considered in the future.

The graph to the right shows the relationship between fish length and relative weight (a measurement of body condition) among the trout in Lower Cataract Lake. The information suggests that as trout in the lake get larger, they become thinner. This is most likely due to an overpopulation of fish in the lake and a lack of adequate food.

The conclusion from this sampling is that despite high visitation at Lower Cataract Lake, the fish population, and in particular the brook trout population, would benefit from increased harvest. This would reduce the competition among the remaining fish, and allow more fish to reach a larger size, with better body condition.

