



Taylor Park Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Dan Brauch - Aquatic Biologist (Gunnison)

dan.brauch@state.co.us / 970-641-7070

Updated April 2016

General Information: Taylor Park Reservoir is a 2000 surface acre reservoir providing good opportunities for catching rainbow, brown, and lake trout as well as northern pike.

Location: Gunnison County. Taylor Reservoir is located 29 miles northeast of Gunnison. Take Hwy 135 north towards Crested Butte for 9 miles, then right at Almont 20 miles up the Taylor River Road. The reservoir can also be accessed over Cottonwood Pass from Buena Vista by car (summer) or snowmobile (winter).

Recreational Management: US Forest Service

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling managed for trophy lake trout and also stocked with catchable rainbow trout. Northern pike also provide additional fishing opportunity.

Amenities

- Taylor Reservoir can be accessed by boaters from one marina and paved boat ramp as well as several additional access points
- Campground facilities and restrooms are available at several locations.

WARNING!!!

Prevent the Spread of Zebra Mussels and other Aquatic Nuisance Species

- **Clean, drain, and dry your boat after each use.**
- Find additional local fishing info and a list of fishing guides at: **Gunnison - Crested Butte/Activities**

Regulations

Bag and possession for lake trout is 3 fish. Only 1 can be longer than 26 inches.

Gaffs and tail snares prohibited.

Kokanee snagging permitted September 1-December 31

Bag and possession for kokanee is 10 fish

Bag limit for cutthroat, brook, brown, and rainbow trout is 4 fish with possession limits of 8 fish

Previous Stocking

2015

58,000 catchable rainbow trout stocked

343,000 fingerling kokanee stocked

2014

70,500 catchable rainbow trout stocked

209,500 fingerling kokanee stocked

Sportfishing Notes

Rainbow Trout

- Make up about 80 percent of angler catch. Look for some excellent fishing right after ice-off for overwintered rainbows

Lake Trout

- Lake trout provide opportunity for anglers to catch truly trophy proportioned trout, but lake trout fishing here is often overshadowed by the more productive and larger Blue Mesa Reservoir downstream.

Brown Trout

- Naturally reproducing brown trout make up a very small part of the overall catch

Kokanee Salmon

- Kokanee are stocked primarily to maintain a forage base for trophy lake trout, but do provide some opportunity for boat anglers and late season kokanee snagging (look near the dam)

Northern Pike

- Good fishing in early summer

Taylor Park Reservoir

MAP AND FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION

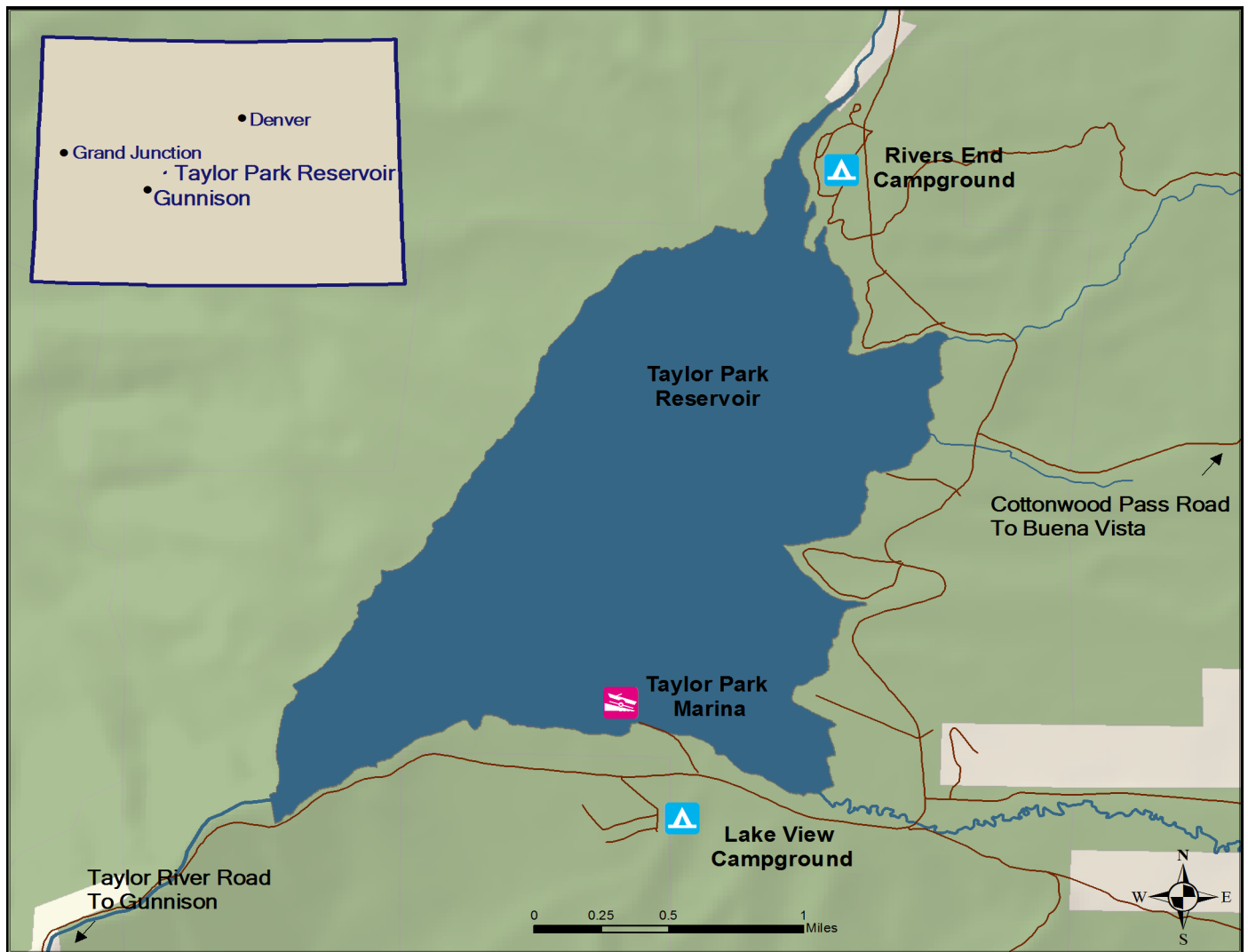


Figure 1. View of Taylor Park Reservoir from the Taylor Park Marina.

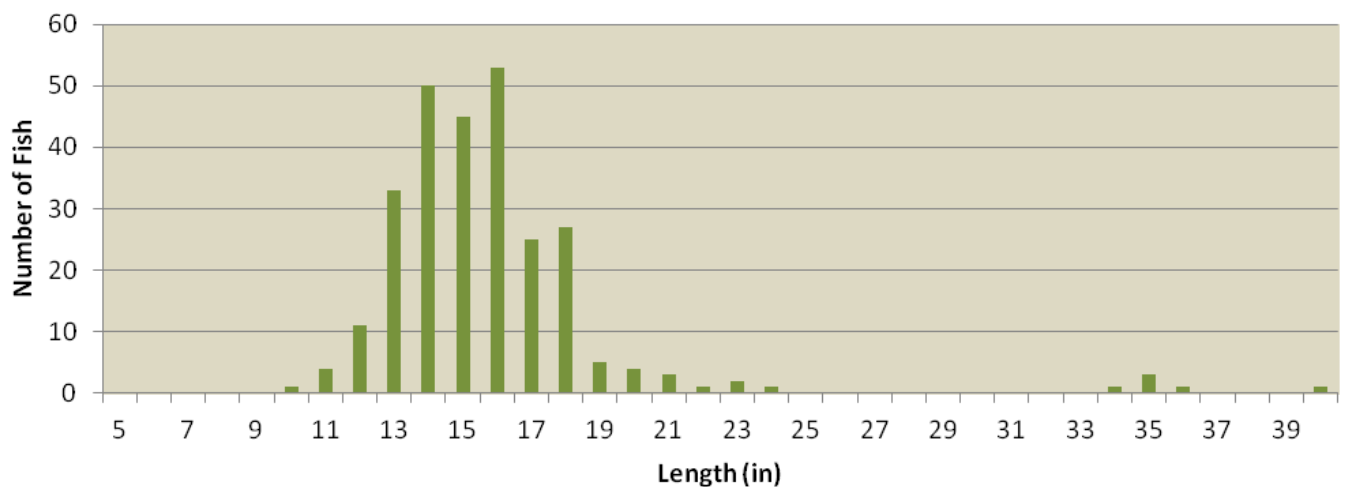


Figure 2. Length Frequency of lake trout captured during 2014 summer lake trout study.

Taylor Park Reservoir

FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION

Table 1. Standard gill net survey results, June 2015 8 overnight nets were set to assess current fish populations and changes from previous surveys.

Fish Species (listed in order of abundance)	# Caught	Average Length (Range) in inches	Average Weight in pounds
Brown trout	12	15 (9.9-19.8)	1.4
Lake Trout	6	18.2 (16.8-20.7)	1.8
Northern pike	49	16.8 (8.4-38.9)	2.2
Rainbow trout	127	12.7 (7.9-18.7)	.8
Yellow Perch	1	3.7	

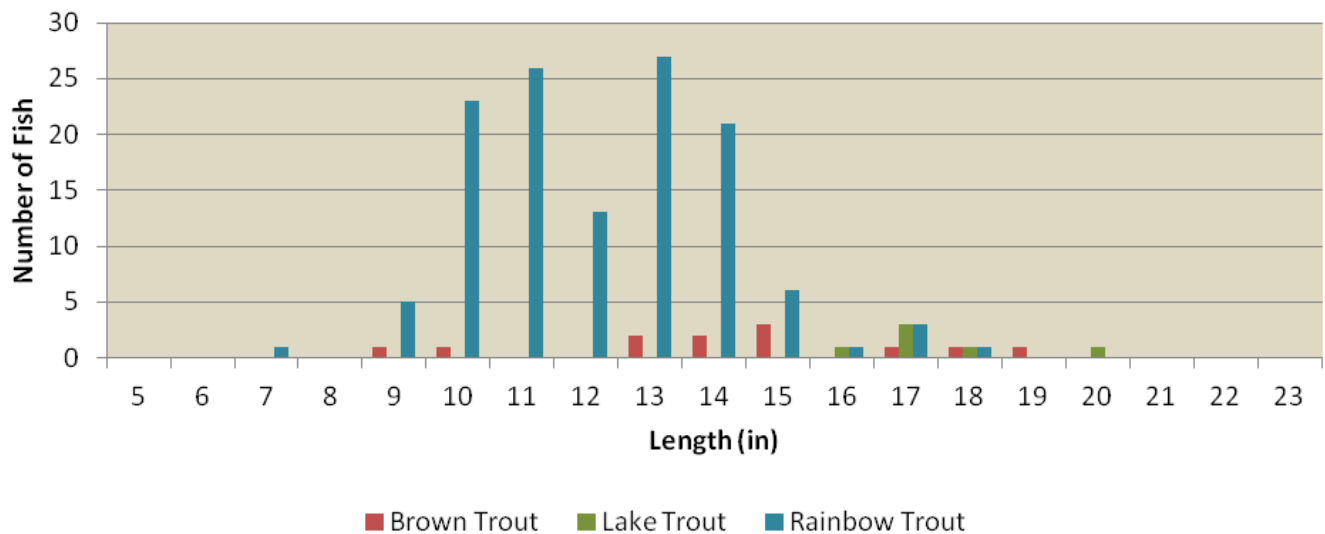


Figure 3. Length frequency of trout captured during standard gill net survey, 2015.

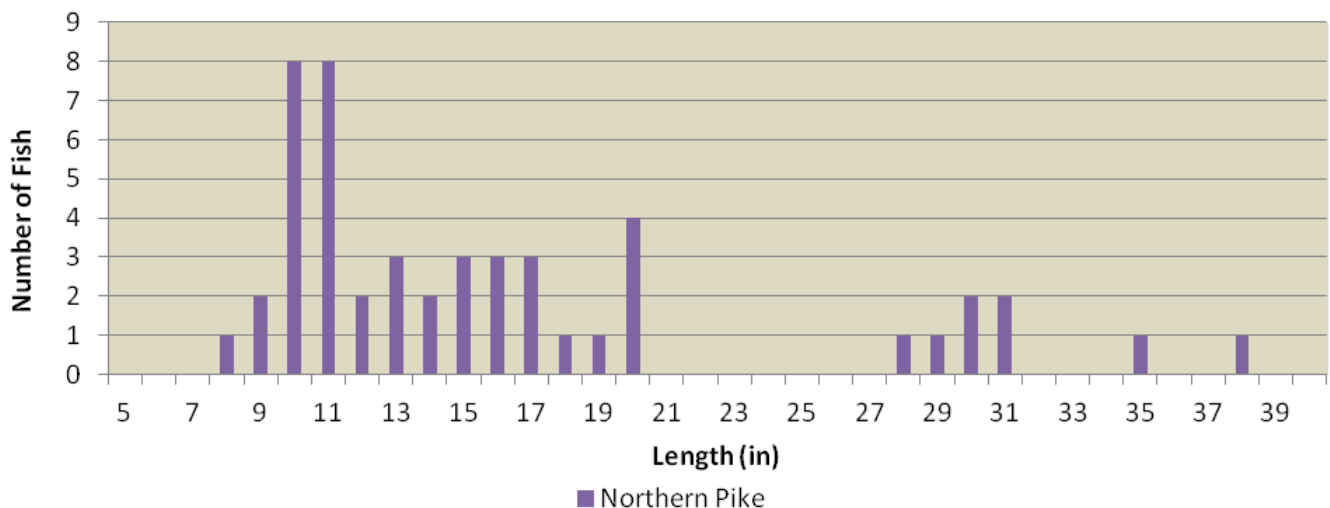


Figure 4. Length frequency of northern pike captured during standard gill net survey, 2015.

Taylor Park Reservoir

ANGLER CREEL SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

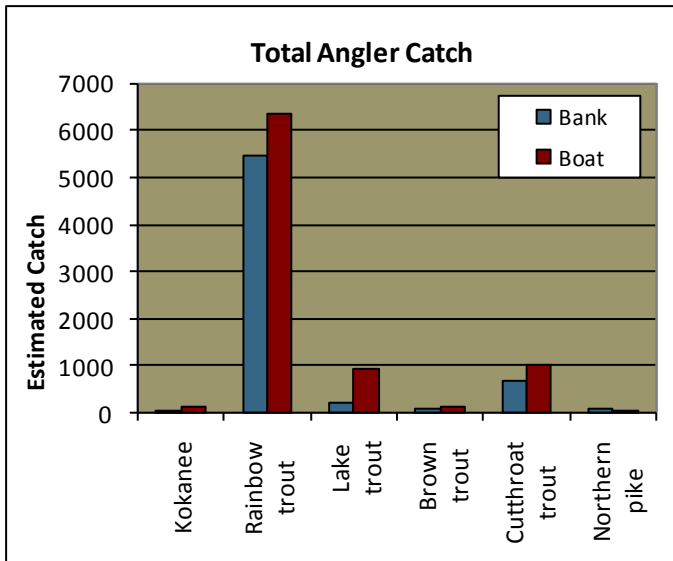


Figure 5. Taylor Reservoir angler creel survey data from July and August, 1998 showing total estimated angler catch by species.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Catch per hour</u>	<u>Size (inches)</u>
Kokanee	0.002	12.9
Rainbow trout	0.236	12.4
Lake Trout	0.023	16.2
Brown trout	0.004	13.1
Cutthroat trout	0.033	13.6
Northern pike	0.002	23.8

Table 2. Taylor Reservoir angler creel survey data from July and August 1998 showing angler catch per hour by species and average length of harvested fish.

Management Notes — Taylor Reservoir provides a great fishing experience in the very picturesque Taylor Park, a high elevation basin surrounded by towering peaks. Taylor Reservoir is managed as a put and take rainbow trout fishery and a trophy lake trout fishery. Northern pike also provide more diverse fishing opportunities and the chance to catch a trophy fish, particularly in the early summer time period. Kokanee are stocked to provide a forage base for trophy lake trout, but can provide additional opportunity for anglers who choose to target them. Lake trout monitoring in 2014 documented good lake trout densities with overall densities of about 6 fish per acre and an overall population of 12,000 fish over 10.6 inches in length. Summer 2015 sampling with standard gill nets documented significant



Figure 6. View of Taylor Park Reservoir looking north from the Taylor Park Marina

expansion of the northern pike population (about 8 times more numerous than in the late 1980's). Northern pike were stocked in 1973, resulting in establishment of a naturally reproducing population. Larger northern pike do prey significantly on stocked rainbow trout, but numbers of pike are likely not at the level that are significantly hampering trout management. Rainbow trout were abundant in the 2015 survey, with about half of captured rainbow trout fish overwintered from 2014. Yellow perch were sampled for the first time during the survey, indicating that they may have been illegally introduced to Taylor Park Reservoir.