

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 08/12/2020

ISSUE:	Should CPW change fishing regulations on selected streams to protect Colorado River cutthroat trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation populations?
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

CPW is a signatory member of the Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRCT) and Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT) range-wide conservation teams. The conservation teams were formed to assure the long-term viability of the subspecies throughout their historical range and reduce the likelihood for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Each conservation team has developed conservation measures and objectives when implemented to minimize the threats to the subspecies. Cutthroat trout are highly vulnerable to angler harvest and this has often led to overharvest of wild populations (Varley et al.1988).

Special angling regulations are important elements of a successful conservation program. Regulating angling and enforcing regulations are conservation measures listed in the strategies (CRCT Conservation Team 2018, RGCT Conservation Team 2013). CPW has identified several streams in the SW Region (see list below) inhabited by CRCT and RGCT populations that are not protected by special regulations in Chapter W-1. These are high value conservation populations located on public land and readily accessible by anglers.

Citations:

CRCT Conservation Team. 2018. Conservation Strategy for Colorado River cutthroat trout (Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus) in the States of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Fort Collins. 26p.

RGCT Conservation Team. 2013. Rio Grande cutthroat trout (Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis) Conservation Strategy. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Denver, CO.

Varley, J. D., and R. E. Gresswell. 1988. Ecology, status, and management of the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. Pages 13-24 in Status and management of interior stocks of Cutthroat Trout. American Fisheries Society Symposium 4, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

The following groups and agencies were contacted via CPW Twitter and Facebook accounts, and statewide news release:

- USFS
- Trout Unlimited
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- SW Region Sports Persons Roundtable
- PWC Commissioners

Public input was solicited for this regulation during a Virtual SW Region Angler Roundtable Meeting hosted by CPW on June 15, 2020 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. Twenty-two people attended the meeting along with CPW staff and PWC commissioner Charles Garcia. There were no comments regarding the cutthroat trout fishing regulation proposal. Written comments were accepted through June 30; however, CPW did not receive any written comments. The meeting was recorded and posted on the CPW website. Here is the link to the recorded meeting:

https://cpw-state-co.zoom.us/rec/share/-NZIPujS52hOckOd-WPRUYsFR93cX6a8hyqf_foFnR3uFaMzxAVIihUIJUDDqfll

Internal: CPW SW Region staff, Area Managers, DWMs and Biologists
External: Anglers and interested public contacted through the Virtual SW Region Angler Roundtable Meeting, Twitter, Facebook and statewide news release.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:**

For all recommended streams in SW Region (see below) adopt the following regulations:

- a. Artificial flies and lures only.
- b. Cutthroat trout must be returned to the water immediately.

List of cutthroat trout waters proposed for special regulations:

- **Anthracite Creek, North Fork (WC 38047, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to the confluence with Hell Creek.
- **Beaver Dams Creek (WC 44521, Ouray County)** - Headwaters and unnamed tributary stream downstream to the US Forest Service boundary.
- **Chair Creek (WC 38958, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to the confluence with Lee Creek.
- **Clear Fork of Muddy Creek (WC 41753, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Little Muddy Creek including the following tributary streams:
 - **Basin Creek (WC 44626, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to Clear Fork Muddy Creek.
 - **Rock Creek (WC 45870, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to Clear Fork Muddy Creek.
 - **Second Creek (WC 45921, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to Clear Fork Muddy Creek.
 - **Twin Creek, North (WC 46238, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to Clear Fork Muddy Creek.
 - **Twin Creek, South (WC 46240, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to Clear Fork Muddy Creek.
- **Cliff Creek (WC 39114, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to the confluence with South Prong Cliff Creek.
- **Deep Creek (WC 39621, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to Paonia Reservoir.
- **Disappointment Creek (WC 39758, Dolores County)** - Headwaters downstream to US Forest Service boundary including South Fork Disappointment Creek (WC 18277).
- **Escalante Creek, North Fork (WC 40080, Mesa County)** - Headwaters downstream to US Forest Service boundary including Points Creek (WC 39655).
- **Hubbard Creek, Main (WC 49355, Delta County)** - Headwaters downstream to the Overland Ditch.
- **Hubbard Creek, Middle (WC 48620, Delta County)** - Headwaters downstream to the Overland Ditch.
- **Minnesota Creek, South Fork (WC 47058, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Minnesota Creek.
- **Priest Gulch (WC 49280, Montezuma County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Dolores River.
- **Pryor Creek (WC 39702, Ouray County)** - Headwaters downstream to the US Forest Service boundary.
- **Roaring Fork (WC 42616, Mineral County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Goose Creek, including unnamed tributary streams. (RGCT)
- **Robinson Creek (WC 42630, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Coal Creek including Kaufman Creek (WC 45541).

- **Schaeffer Creek (WC 43000, Gunnison County)** - Headwaters downstream to Gunnison County Rd 12C.
- **Slate Creek (WC 43101, Dolores County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Dolores River.
- **Terror Creek, West (WC 43606, Delta County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Terror creek including **Cunningham Creek (WC 38519, Delta County)**.
- **Wildcat Creek (WC 47224, Montezuma County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Dolores River.
- **Wolf Creek, South Fork (WC 66649, Mineral County)** - Headwaters downstream to confluence with Wolf Creek.

2. Status Quo - no change:

Issue Raised by:	SW Aquatic staff	
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	John Alves	
CC:	Matt Nicholl	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Matt Nicholl	
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Aquatic Section	
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 08/12/2020

ISSUE:	Should Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) implement special fishing regulations for walleye at Horseshoe Reservoir (Larimer County)?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Horseshoe Reservoir’s surface water recreational rights belong to the homeowners surrounding the reservoir (Figure 1). Public fishing is allowed along the dam in the northeast corner, the dam between Boyd Lake and Horseshoe Reservoir (east side of reservoir), the dam in the southeast corner, and the Seven Lakes Reservoir Company’s property at the inlet of the reservoir. Given the limited public angling access, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) generally limits stocked fish to walleye fry. This has resulted in a marginal walleye fishery and general statewide regulations have historically applied (Figure 2).</p>	
<p>The lack of a special fishing regulation at Horseshoe Reservoir has resulted in confusion among anglers and a difficult situation for law enforcement personnel. For example, Boyd Lake Rangers are tasked with enforcing two separate regulations on waters located in very close proximity (Figure 2). Anglers with undersized walleye in possession at Boyd Lake have claimed they caught sub 15-inch walleye at Horseshoe Reservoir and later walked into the state park resulting in an enforcement dilemma. To build upon the walleye stocking at Horseshoe Reservoir and ease law enforcement issues, CPW staff recommends implementing special fishing regulations at Horseshoe Reservoir that mimics the existing Boyd Lake walleye regulation.</p>	
<p>49. Boyd Lake – Larimer County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The minimum size for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 15 inches in length. b. The minimum size for walleye and saugeye is 15 inches in length. c. No more than one walleye or saugeye in the aggregate greater than 21 inches in length may be taken per day. 	
<p>STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:</p>	
<p>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARTY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</p>	
<p>Internal: Area 2 DWMs, Area 2 AWM, Aquatic Biologist</p> <p>External: Horseshoe Lake Homeowners Association. Conversations with the public regarding these proposed regulation changes are being planned for during the 2020 statewide regulation review process. We anticipate scheduling at least one virtual meeting in each Region of the State seeking comments on these proposed regulation change.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*:</p> <p align="center">HORSESHOE RESERVOIR – LARIMER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The minimum size for walleye and saugeye is 15 inches in length. b. No more than one walleye or saugeye in the aggregate greater than 21 inches in length may be taken per day. <p>2. Status Quo-no change. Statewide general regulations</p>	
Issue Raised by:	<p>Benjamin Swigle (Area 2 Aquatic Biologist) Clayton Brossart (Area 2 DWM) Jason Duetsch (Area 2 AWM) Eric Grey (Boyd Lake Park Manager)</p>
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Aquatic Section, NE Region

APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Matt Nicholl
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Aquatic Section
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

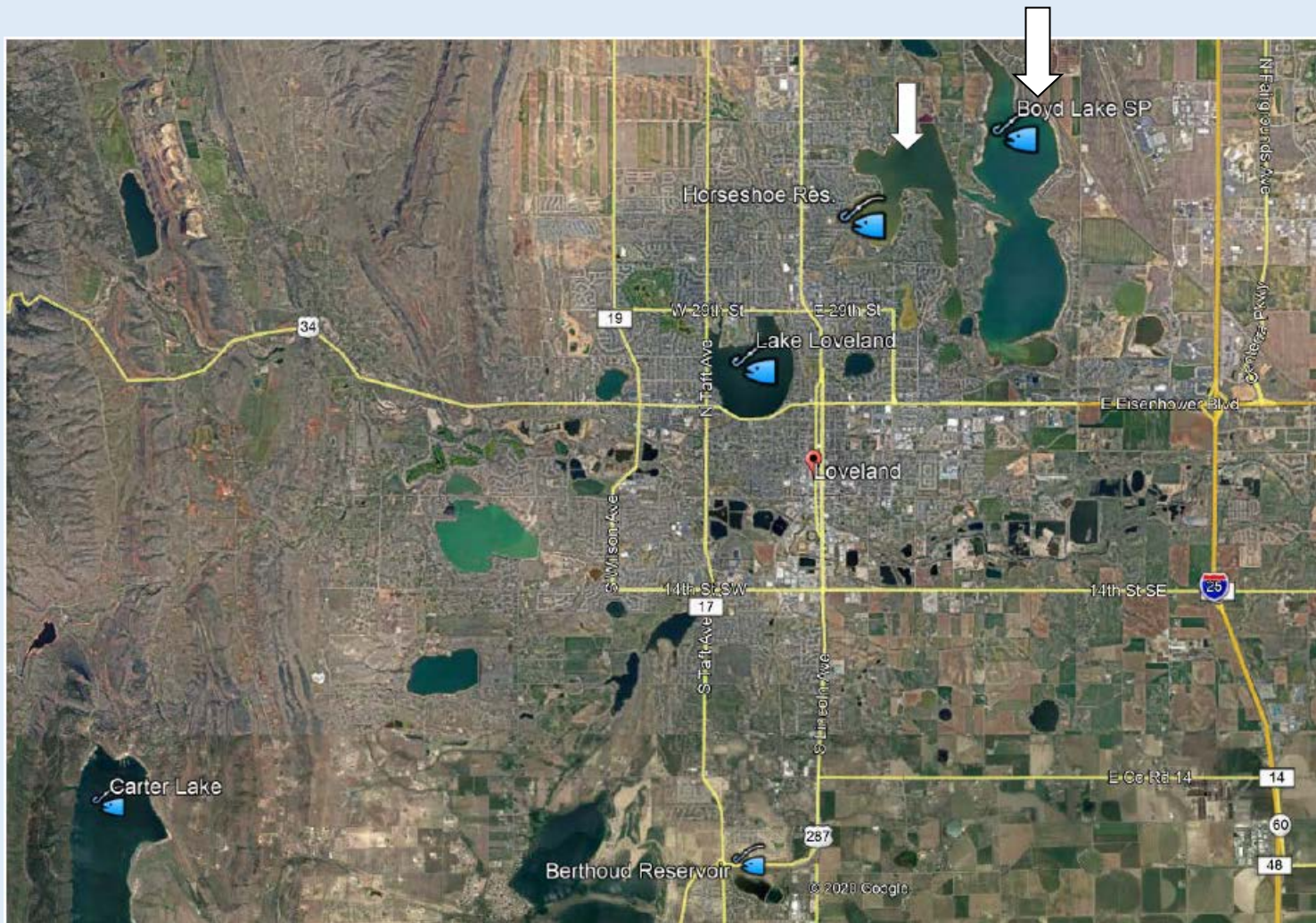


Figure 1. Horseshoe Reservoir, Loveland.



Mean, Minimum and Maximum Length and Weight

Water **52960** Horseshoe Reservoir
 Station **SP3470** Horseshoe Reservoir

Date **8/3/2016**

Drainage **South Platte River**

UtmX

UtmY

Elevation **4981 ft**

Length

Width

Area

Surveyors **RS, AK**

Gear **6 GN**

Effort **108.00**

Metric **HOURS**

Protocol **CPUE**

SPECIES	Total Catch	Min cut inch	Max cut inch	Total Used	Length (inches)			Weight (lb)		
					Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
BLACK CRAPPIE	12			12	7.35	6.73	8.15	0.24	0.17	0.35
CHANNEL CATFISH	80			80	18.63	6.06	27.56	1.49	0.05	5.27
COMMON CARP	24			24	17.30	8.58	23.43	1.97	0.17	5.11
GIZZARD SHAD	32			32	9.38	4.53	18.46	0.30	0.04	2.21
WALLEYE	8			8	15.07	10.31	27.76	1.64	0.35	7.24
WHITE BASS	32			32	10.12	8.31	14.45	0.52	0.26	1.33
WHITE CRAPPIE	5			5	7.54	7.01	8.23	0.24	0.19	0.31
WHITE SUCKER	27			27	11.36	8.54	15.00	0.35	0.10	0.61
YELLOW PERCH	6			6	6.33	5.91	6.77	0.14	0.11	0.15

Figure 2. Survey results from Horseshoe Reservoir, August 2016.

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 08/12/2020

ISSUE:	Should Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) implement special fishing regulations for walleye at Lake Loveland (Larimer County)?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Lake Loveland (Figure 1) was created in 1893 out of a depression known as Hays Lake. Today, Lake Loveland (443 acres) remains the center of outdoor recreation for the residents of Loveland and visitors. Lake Loveland’s surface water recreational rights belong to the homeowners surrounding the reservoir. The south and west shores offer public shore fishing. North Lake Park also offers additional public fishing opportunities. All publicly accessible areas are managed by the City of Loveland's Parks and Recreation Department while Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) manages the fishery in this reservoir.</p> <p>Walleye are the dominant sport fish in this reservoir and become quite accessible to shore anglers as these fish attempt to spawn along rip-rap dams. They are also attracted to the inlet area as the reservoir fills during runoff. The 2019 gillnet survey yielded 135 walleye averaging 14.2 inches (Figures 2 & 3). Walleye also serve as the primary predator keeping populations of rough fish such as white sucker and common carp at manageable levels. Thus, to provide a better angling experience and rough fish control, CPW staff recommends installing a minimum length limit of 15 inches for walleye in Lake Loveland. In addition, to further protect larger walleye, CPW staff recommends anglers only be allowed to harvest a single walleye exceeding 21 inches.</p> <p>Along with Lake Loveland, Boyd Lake State Park and Horseshoe Reservoir also offer angling for walleye and are stocked annually with this species. Given the proximity of these waters (Figure 1), having a consistent regulation among each reservoir will aide law enforcement and will reduce confusion among anglers. Please see Horseshoe Reservoir Issue Paper.</p>	
<p>STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:</p> <p>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARTY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</p>	
<p>Internal: Area 2 DWMs, Area 2 AWM, Aquatic Biologist</p> <p>External: Lake Loveland Homeowners Association and City of Loveland Parks and Recreation staff. Conversations with the public regarding these proposed regulation changes are being planned for during the 2020 statewide regulation review process. We anticipate scheduling at least one virtual meeting in each Region of the State seeking comments on these proposed regulation change.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*:</p> <p>Lake Loveland – Larimer County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The minimum size for walleye and saugeye is 15 inches in length. b. No more than one walleye or saugeye in the aggregate greater than 21 inches in length may be taken per day. <p>2. Status Quo-no change. Statewide General Regulations</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Benjamin Swigle (Area 2 Aquatic Biologist) Clayton Brossart (Area 2 DWM) Jason Duetsch (Area 2 AWM)
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RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

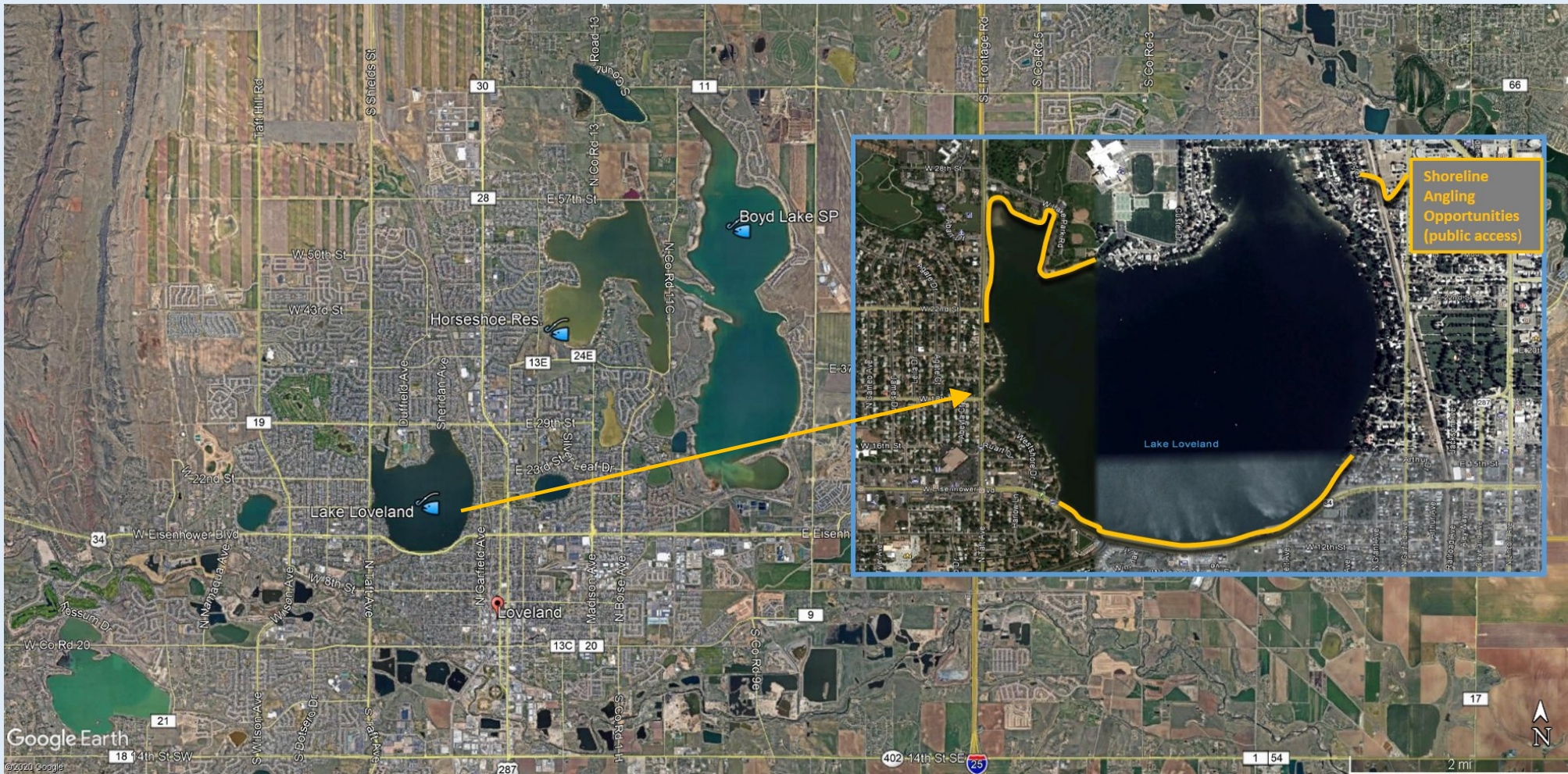


Figure 1. Lake Loveland location.



Mean, Minimum and Maximum Length and Weight

Water 53176 Loveland Lake
 Station SP3478 Loveland Lake

Date 9/19/2019

Drainage South Platte River

UtmX 492602

UtmY 4473361

Elevation 5010 ft

Length

Width

Area

Surveyors Swigle, Higgs, Sandersen, Stribling

Gear GN

Effort 100.00

Metric HOURS

Protocol CPUE

SPECIES	Total Catch	Min cut inch	Max cut inch	Total Used	Mean	Length (inches)		Mean	Weight (lb)	
						Minimum	Maximum		Minimum	Maximum
BLACK CRAPPIE	1			1	9.65	9.65	9.65	0.62	0.62	0.62
CHANNEL CATFISH	4			4	26.17	22.87	33.07	6.85	4.18	13.00
COMMON CARP	6			6	24.37	22.64	25.24	1.97	1.83	2.25
GIZZARD SHAD	2			2	15.24	14.65	15.83	1.56	1.52	1.61
GOLDEN SHINER	1			1	3.78	3.78	3.78	0.02	0.02	0.02
LARGEMOUTH BASS	18			18	5.66	3.86	5.91	0.03	0.01	0.11
SMALLMOUTH BASS	2			2	15.83	15.75	15.91	2.17	1.96	2.37
WALLEYE	135			135	14.23	7.09	24.49	0.79	0.09	3.64
WHITE SUCKER	45			45	15.89	12.52	19.45	0.60	0.20	2.46
YELLOW PERCH	13			13	8.27	6.06	12.13	0.35	0.02	1.00

Figure 2. Survey data summary for Lake Loveland September, 2019.

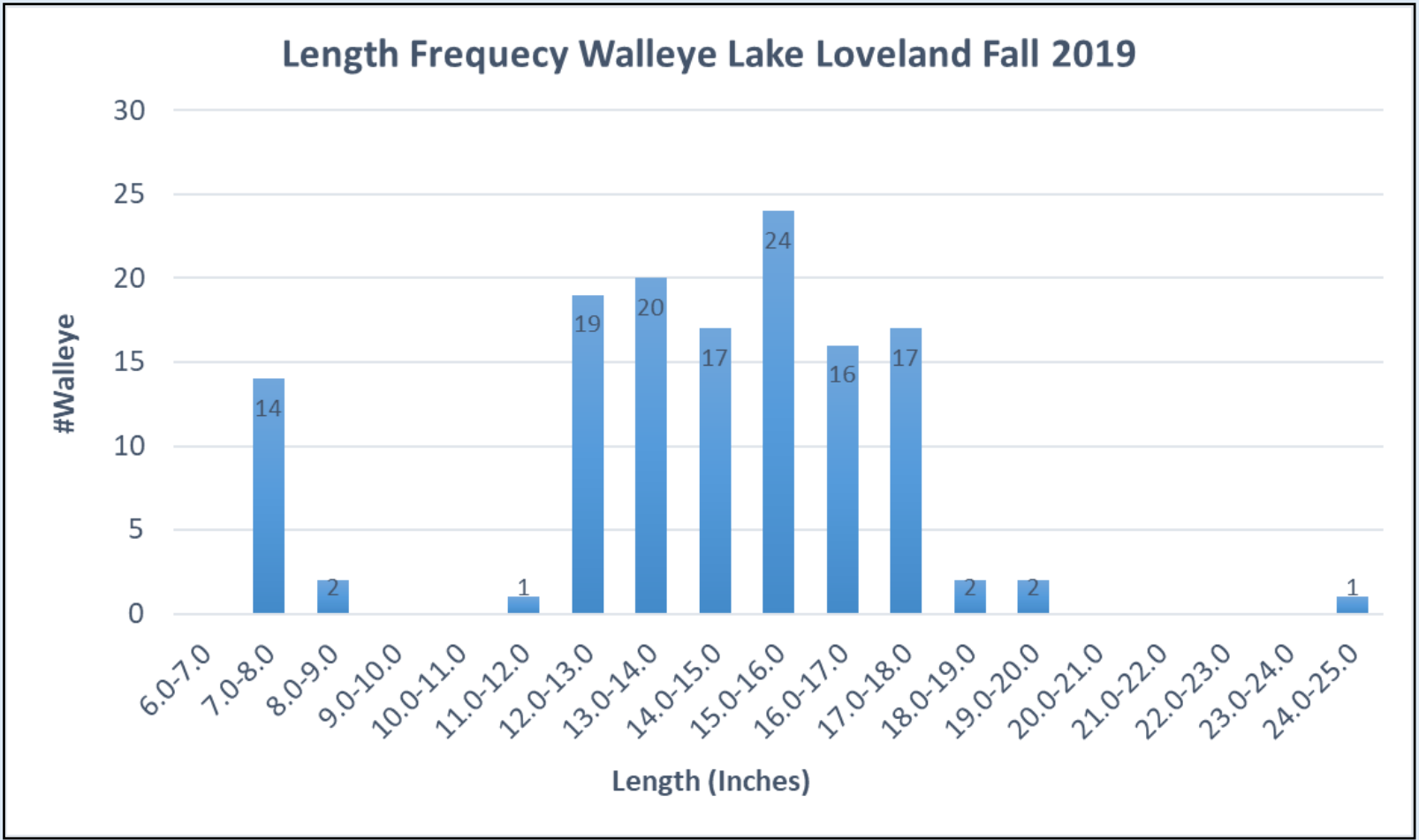


Figure 3. Length-frequency for walleye collected from Lake Loveland, September 2019. Restricting the harvest of walleye less than 15 inches will allow for a consistent rough fish predation as well as increased catch rates of sub-legal walleye.