

# Stagecoach Reservoir

## Fishery Management



CPW manages Stagecoach Reservoir as a trout fishery in the presence of illegally stocked northern pike and walleye

### Stagecoach Reservoir Fishery Management Overview

- Throughout the 1990s, the reservoir was stocked with catchable and sub-catchable salmonids, including mostly rainbow trout but kokanee salmon, Snake River cutthroat, and splake were also stocked. Illegal introductions of northern pike (in the early 1990s) and walleye (in the early 2000s) into the reservoir have since influenced CPW's fishery management at Stagecoach Reservoir.
- Since the fall of 2001, CPW has annually stocked an average of 37,915 catchable size rainbow trout (10"-12" in length) into the reservoir in the fall. This stocking strategy includes timing of stocking with a decrease in northern pike metabolism, and stocking larger trout that are less susceptible to northern pike and walleye predation. As a result of these illegal introductions, CPW is spending an estimated \$62,560 annually to provide a trout fishing opportunity to anglers.
- CPW has conducted targeted lethal removal of walleye from the reservoir annually since 2003 (see data summary on next page). As in the past, removal of walleye will continue with any CPW survey and monitoring activities.
- CPW has monitored the northern pike population since 2001 (see data summary on next page). Periodically, lethal removal of northern pike by CPW has occurred, if deemed necessary, for: 1) ongoing age and diet studies; also includes northern pike mortalities from gill nets (Research/Net Mortality); 2) when there has been evidence of a large cohort of northern pike recruiting to the population that may threaten the rainbow trout fishery (Fishery Management); and 3) fish consumption advisories related to mercury and disease testing (Mercury/Disease Testing).
- Northern pike and walleye have not only impacted fishery management at Stagecoach Reservoir, but also downstream in the Yampa River. Downstream escapement out of Stagecoach Reservoir has been documented. Establishment of northern pike in the river has negatively influenced both the trout and native fish communities, resulting in multiple entities contributing significant resources to eradicate and control northern pike and other non-native, non-salmonid fishes from the entire Yampa River drainage.
- Northern pike and walleye are considered by the [Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program](#), of which CPW is a partner, as two of the least compatible species with native fish conservation and recovery efforts. Northern pike and walleye are top level predators that compete with and prey on native fish, as well as stocked rainbow trout.

### 2019 Stagecoach Reservoir Fishery Management Plans

- CPW plans to stock 35,000 catchable rainbow trout in the fall (detailed stocking reports available at [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us))
- CPW will continue removal of walleye during CPW sampling and monitoring efforts throughout the field season. Methods may include electrofishing, and trap and gill netting.
- CPW will begin removal of northern pike during all CPW sampling efforts. When northern pike are encountered by CPW, these fish will be removed. Northern pike previously marked by CPW may be released for ongoing monitoring of the population.
- CPW will donate larger walleye and northern pike removed to licensed anglers and/or to those less fortunate, when possible.

### YOU CAN HELP by CATCHING AND KEEPING ALL NORTHERN PIKE AND WALLEYE



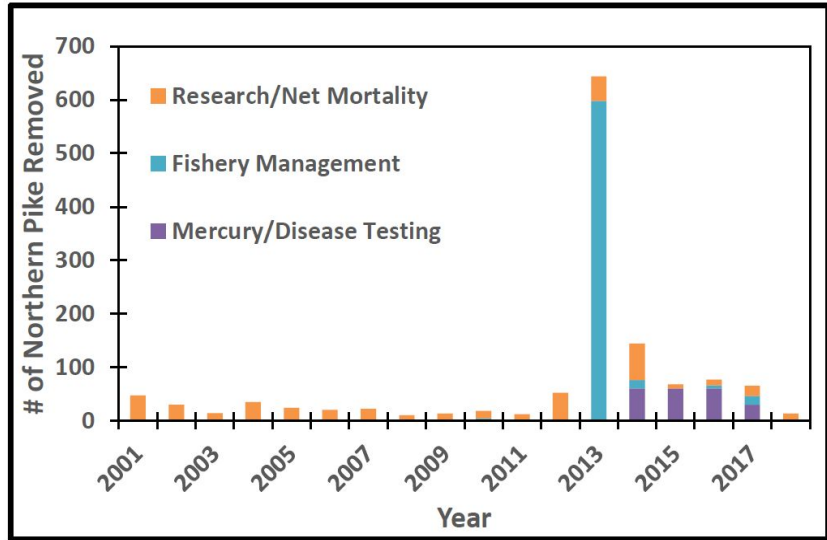
# Stagecoach Reservoir Fishery Management



## 2001-2018 Fish Removed for Fish Management

### Northern Pike

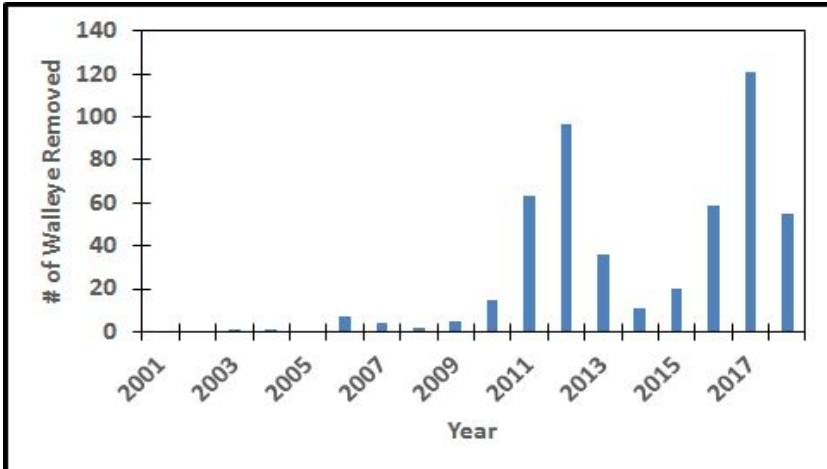
Year Sampled	#	Length Range (inches)	Management Explanation
2001	47	15.4-43.4	Research/Net Mortality
2002	30	14.6-41.6	Research/Net Mortality
2003	14	17.1-35.0	Research/Net Mortality
2004	35	8.7-32.7	Research/Net Mortality
2005	24	8.9-34.4	Research/Net Mortality
2006	20	13.9-22.6	Research/Net Mortality
2007	22	15.2-33.8	Research/Net Mortality
2008	10	6.7-42.3	Research/Net Mortality
2009	13	13.2-32.6	Research/Net Mortality
2010	14	15.5-39.6	Research/Net Mortality
	4	19.1-26.0	Fishery Management
2011	12	16.1-33.0	Research/Net Mortality
2012	52	9.7-28.7	Research/Net Mortality
2013	46	12.7-42.8	Research/Net Mortality
	598	8.6-30.7	Fishery Management
2014	68	15.1-31.1	Research/Net Mortality
	16	10.7-17.8	Fishery Management
	60	15.8-23.5	Mercury/Disease Testing
2015	8	13.0-36.5	Research/Net Mortality
	60	12.2-22.8	Mercury/Disease Testing
2016	11	19.0-39.3	Research/Net Mortality
	6	15.9-20.0	Fishery Management
	60	10.4-23.1	Mercury/Disease Testing
2017	19	15.1-35.6	Research/Net Mortality
	30	15.1-24.8	Mercury/Disease Testing
	16	19.5-25.7	Fishery Management
2018	13	15.5-38.4	Research/Net Mortality



Graph above shows the number of **northern pike** removed from 2001 through 2018, and the four various management explanations for why those fish were removed. Graph below shows the number of **walleye** removed from 2001 through 2018.

### Walleye

Year Sampled	#	Length Range (inches)
2001	0	Not Applicable
2002	0	Not Applicable
2003	1	17.4-17.4
2004	1	7.1-7.1
2005	0	Not Applicable
2006	7	10.6-20.9
2007	4	16.7-17.6
2008	2	17.9-19.0
2009	5	17.8-21.7
2010	15	10.4-21.5



Year Sampled	#	Length Range (inches)
2011	63	10.2-23.8
2012	97	11.7-23.8
2013	36	14.4-26.2
2014	11	6.9-23.0
2015	20	9.6-23.5
2016	59	8.0-27.2
2017	121	9.3-23.7
2018	55	9.7-22.1

For more information about the Stagecoach fishery, contact CPW Area Aquatic Biologist Bill Atkinson at 970-871-2868 or [bill.atkinson@state.co.us](mailto:bill.atkinson@state.co.us)