

# 2023 Ridgway Reservoir Smallmouth Bass Classic

Saturday, July 8 – Sunday, August 6

**Angling Prizes** – Cash prizes will be awarded for Smallmouth Bass caught for each of the following criteria: Most (\$4,000), Second Most (\$1,500) and Third Most (\$500).

**Tagged Fish** – Twenty-nine smallmouth bass will be tagged internally with individually numbered tags prior to the tournament. Anglers who catch a tagged fish will win a cash prize specific to the tag which is turned in. The total possible value of all tagged fish is \$12,000 with fish available for each of the following values: 1 at \$5,000, 4 at \$1,000, 4 at \$500 and 20 at \$50.

## FISH TURN-IN - DROP BOX

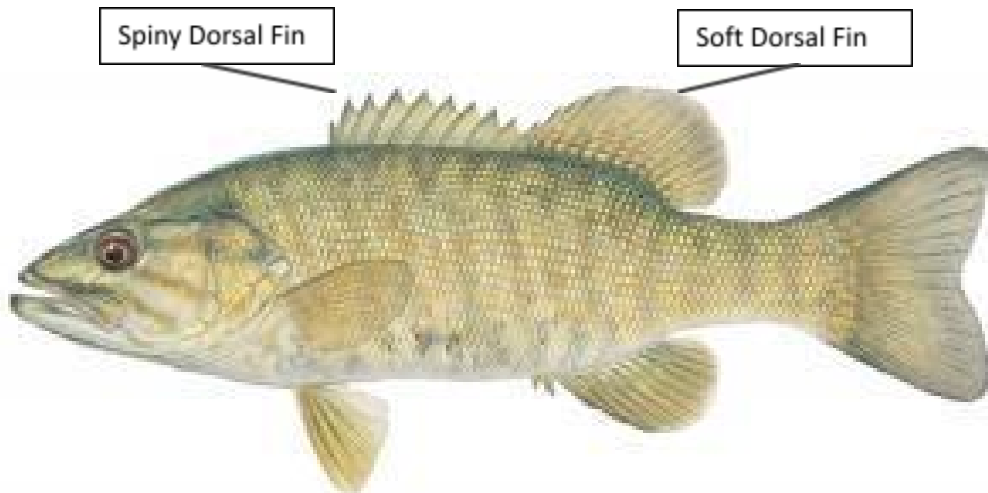
1. *Drop Box* – All smallmouth bass must be turned in at the Fish Drop Box located next to the fish cleaning station at the Ridgway Reservoir boat ramp. It will be open from noon on July 8<sup>th</sup> until 6:00 PM on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Either full carcasses or heads will be accepted for the 2023 tournament. Tagged fish will not be identifiable to anglers, so they must be turned in to the drop box for CPW to check for tags and to award associated prizes.

## RULES

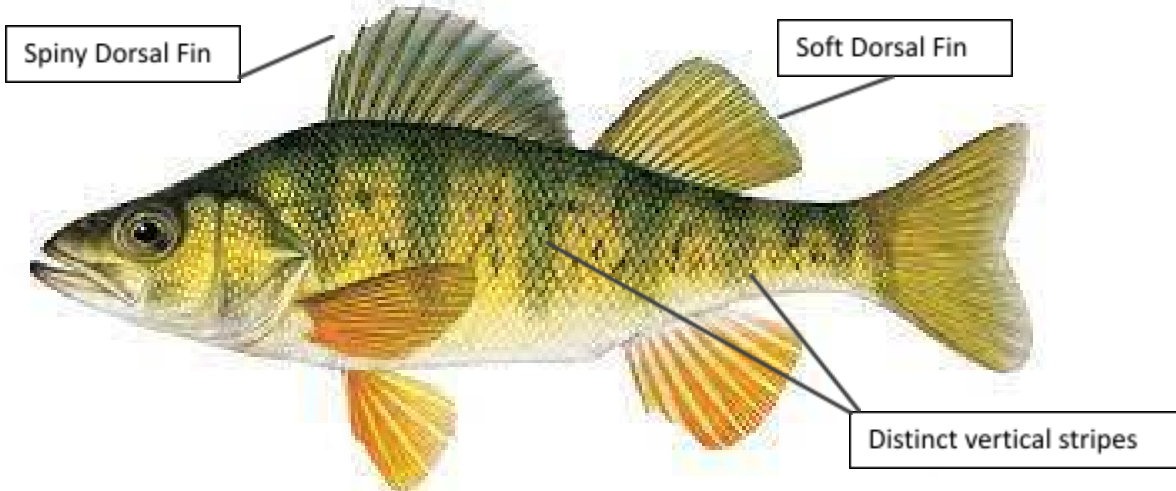
1. Angling will begin at 7 AM on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>, and end at 6 PM on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Only smallmouth bass caught within this time frame from Ridgway Reservoir can be entered in the tournament, and any violations will result in tournament disqualification. Anglers may fish as many days of the tournament as they wish.
2. This is a smallmouth bass only tournament. You may possess other species as allowed by Colorado Fishing Regulations, but they may not be entered in the tournament.
3. Each individual angler may only turn in fish that they personally caught. Anglers are not allowed to pool their catch between multiple anglers. This will result in disqualification from the tournament.
4. There is no bag or possession limit on smallmouth bass at Ridgway Reservoir.
5. Anglers must possess a valid Colorado fishing license and follow all Colorado boating and fishing regulations, including method of take regulations and boat inspection and decontamination procedures.
6. Either whole smallmouth bass carcasses or smallmouth bass heads will be accepted for the tournament. All smallmouth bass carcasses turned in for the tournament will be considered a donation to CPW and will be utilized for research purposes. Anglers who choose to turn in heads only should prepare the edible portions of their bass for human consumption per CPW angling regulations.
7. Any angler cited for an angling violation during the duration of the contest will be disqualified from the tournament.
8. There are no daily time restrictions on angling within the official tournament period.
9. Participating anglers must turn smallmouth bass carcasses or heads into the drop box, and are responsible for following the rules of the drop box for fish to be counted in the tournament. The drop box will include instructions for use, bags for fish carcasses and fish registration cards. The fish registration cards must be filled out in their entirety, signed and placed into the carcass bag each time that fish are turned into the drop box in order to be counted in the tournament. Signing the submission card verifies that the angler understands and has followed the rules of the tournament.
10. A valid Colorado State Parks pass is required to enter the park and to participate in the tournament.
11. Colorado Parks and Wildlife employees and their immediate families may not participate in the tournament.

**Know Your Catch!**

Yellow Perch are often mistaken for Smallmouth Bass, but are not eligible for the tournament and may not be turned in.



Smallmouth Bass – Brown to olive coloration, spiny dorsal is shorter than soft dorsal fin, irregular vertical stripes.



Yellow Perch – Olive back with yellow to orange sides, spiny dorsal is *taller* than soft dorsal fin, 6-7 distinct vertical stripes.