



Chatfield Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Chatfield Reservoir, a 1355 acre storage reservoir, offers good fishing for small-mouth bass, rainbow trout, channel catfish and trophy walleye. For park hours, fees, and other information: <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/Chatfield/>

Location: Chatfield State Park, between S. Santa Fe Drive (U.S. 85) on the east, and S. Wadsworth on the west. From S. Wadsworth go south past C-470 about 1/4 mile and turn east into the park entrance.

Recreational Management: Colorado State Parks (303-791-7275) and Army Corps of Engineers.

Fishery Management: Warm and Cold water species

Annual Survey Data: ([see page 2](#))

Amenities and General Info.

- Boat Ramps (2)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Swim Beach
- Marina
- Hiking trails
- Canoe/Kayak rentals
- Horseback Riding
- Model Airplane Field

Fishing Regulations

- Minimum size for walleyes is 18" long. The daily bag limit for walleye is 3 fish. Only 1 walleye longer than 21" can be taken per day. No saugeye are present in this lake.
- Minimum size for large-mouth and smallmouth bass is 15".
- Fishing is prohibited from the dam and within 100 feet of the dam **or walleye spawning operation nets** March 15-April 15, 4 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Previous Stocking

2011

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2010

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2009

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2008

Rainbow Trout
 Cuttbow
 Brown Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

2007

Rainbow Trout
 Channel Catfish
 Walleye

Sportfishing Notes

Walleye

- Big walleye are present in good number because the regulations protect large fish. These regulations give anglers an opportunity to catch trophy size walleye, while still allowing the DOW to run a egg take operation that supplies other Colorado waters with young walleye.
- Fish can be difficult to catch due to the large population of gizzard shad, their primary forage food.
- Anglers are successful using live bait rigs and jigging spoons.

Rainbow Trout

- Trout fishing is generally good year round using traditional baits.

Smallmouth Bass

- Fishing for smallmouth can be good near the dam in spring and over the sunken gravel pits in the south end of the lake using traditional lures.

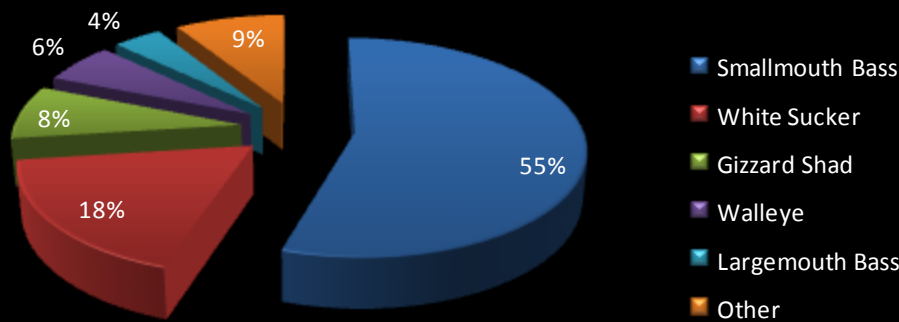


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Chatfield Reservoir 2011 Fish Survey



The figure to the left shows the percent relative abundance of the most abundant species in the 2011 fish collections at Chatfield Reservoir. Annual surveys here include the use of gill nets and boat electrofishing. The 2011 results show that smallmouth bass comprised the majority (55%) of the sample, followed by white sucker (18%), gizzard shad (8%), and then walleye (6%). As one can see, Chatfield provides optimum conditions for smallmouth bass. The abundant shad and sucker populations provide good forage for the walleye.

The figure below shows the length frequencies of smallmouth bass, walleye, and rainbow trout collected in 2011. These species represent three of the more popular gamefish at Chatfield. The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. Although the majority of the smallmouth bass population in the lake is smaller fish, a 15" bass was collected in 2011 and there are bass up to 20" in the lake. Walleye up to 30" were collected in 2011 and walleyes over 15 pounds have been collected during the annual walleye spawn at Chatfield. Rainbow trout are typically stocked at about 10" in length, and trout up to 17" were collected in 2011.

Chatfield Reservoir 2011 Length Frequencies

