

Lake trout are the largest trout species native to North America. Their native range includes the northeastern US, Canada and Alaska. Stocking efforts have helped this species spread across the United States including several locations in Colorado. The management of Lake trout varies with location. Fisheries managers deal with the effects overfishing and parasitism from lampreys in the Great lakes region.

In comparison Colorado has very different management objectives for the non-native species. Healthy populations of lake trout are on goal of the state's management plan as the sport offered by this species is an economic staple for some communities. However, certain lake trout populations prey heavily on other salmonid species such as kokanee and brown trout causing a decline in these other sport species.

You can help keep balance in lake trout fisheries by simply keeping what you catch providing you are catching fish in the size limit for removal. Cold weather is finally setting in and that means most fish are changing their habits. For lake trout that means moving towards shore in search of spawning habitat. After spawning they succumb to the biological need to restore the energy invested in spawn and to prepare for winter.

The combination of hungry fish within casting distance for shore anglers is sure to provide you with plenty of action over the coming weeks. The best method for hooking one of these awesome fish is to attach a piece of sucker meat to a 1/8 ounce weighted tube jig, cast as far as you can, then leave the bail of your reel open until the fish finishes running with your bait.

By Weston

Niep

Species Profile: Lake Trout

Anticipating the Harvest

By: Peter Stitcher

Being born and raised in the Mid-West, my life was intimately connected to land. From working on farms and ranches during my early years, to selling sweet corn on the side of the road to pay for college, the seasons were marked by their own unique rhythms of planting and harvest. From the time the seeds were planted, we could count the days down to when we would expect to see the first shoots emerge from the soil. Without fail, the old-timers' saying that the corn should be "Knee High by the 4th of July" proved true, and the crops were ripe and ready to harvest within the same 3 week window as the year before.

The world of trout is marked by its own series of planting and harvest, anticipation and reward. Just as we divide the country into regions that produce corn, cotton, apples, and avocados, so our lakes and rivers can be split into regions that are home to the Giant Salmon Fly, the Hex Mayfly, or the meaty Hellgrammite. While soil, rainfall, elevation, and temperature define when and where different types of produce can be grown, so too the harvest of aquatic invertebrates (bugs) is defined by its own requirements. Depending on the elevation, water chemistry, water temperature, habitat, and food sources, the waters across a given region will have their own progression of clockwork "harvests" (or hatches).

As the angler begins to learn which invertebrates inhabit his or her local waters, they will be able to anticipate and more fully take advantage of the seasonal progression of new life, growth, and hatch. Take some time to study your local hatch chart, treat it like your Farmers' Almanac, and join me as we anticipate the harvest!

FLY OF THE MONTH

November, 2014

MAYFLY
Blue Winged Olive Blend
Baetis spp.



COOL SEASON
185 Days
Sow in late spring or fall

HEIRLOOM
This trout favorite is an essential for every stream and river! These mayflies are abundant, nutritious, and easy to grow.



Ascent Fly Fishing
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November Fly of the Month

October Caddis

Size 12



There is a time in the West between the turning of the Aspen and when the snows begin to coat the high country that our last BIG dry emerge occurs: The October Caddis hatch.

This freestone river monster emerges between sizes 10-12 and looks like a Boeing 787 Dreamliner when compared with the midges and micro-mayflies sharing the runway of your favorite late season stream or river. I encourage you to tie one on before they take off for the year!

By: Peter Stitche

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River and Still Waters Reports

Fall fishing has been at the mercy of the strange weather we have experienced so far. Warm temperatures and higher than normal flows have the fish just as confused as we are. With colder temps around the corner fishing should start to heat up and return to what you would normally expect this time of year.

Colorado River- 231 cfs in Parshall

The Colorado is fishing better than most drainages this fall. Anglers are getting into some thick bows and browns on a wide variety of patterns. Fish are taking everything from large streamer and stone patterns to small Baetis and midge patterns. Look for the occasional BWO and midge hatch if you feel like testing your skills with small dry patterns.

*Information provided by Pat Dorsey of Blue Quill Angler
Evergreen, CO*

Jumbo Reservoir Grand Mesa, CO

Visiting a warm-water fishery is something you don't think of during the autumn fishing season. Now may be the time to start as trophy walleye and crappie are moving in close to shore at Jumbo. These fish feeding on crayfish, shad, and fish-fry. With incredibly low fishing pressure these fish will take anything as long as you can locate good structure for them to feed off. The walleye bite is a little more sporadic compared to the crappie.

Information provided by Weston Niep

Blue Mesa Reservoir Gunnison, CO

It is time to start thinking about great fall fishing in the mountain reservoirs. Every day they get closer to adding that first layer of ice and the fish know it. Lake trout in the 18-32 inch range are hitting consistently with some larger fish intermixed. Large browns can also be found cruising the shore as they are just coming out of the spawn. I highly recommend getting to Blue Mesa or Granby soon due to the short window we have before ice on.

Information provided by Weston Niep

We're looking for more nominees... do you have someone that you'd like to include in the Fly of the Month Club? Please send an email with name, mailing address & number to:
cindy.alvarez@wamboltandassoc.com