

Colorado Angler Survey



*For Wildlife-
For People*

November 2004

ABOUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

- The purpose of this survey is to learn more about the preferences and fishing experiences of anglers, such as yourself. In developing management plans for Colorado's fishing resources, we review biological information and take into consideration comments that we receive from anglers.
- Your opinion is important to us. We want to hear from everyone who receives this questionnaire, not just people with strong opinions about angling or wildlife management.
- It is important that the person to whom this was addressed fill out the questionnaire, even if someone else in your family is a more active angler. This will ensure that the results accurately represent all anglers.
- The survey is being conducted cooperatively by the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Aquatic Resources Section and Policy and Regulations Section.
- Your answers will be kept confidential. The questionnaire has an identification number so we can check your name off the mailing list when you return your questionnaire, and we won't send out a duplicate survey to you. Your name will not be associated with your answers.

FILLING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- For each item on the questionnaire, please choose the answer that is most true for *you*.
- Do *not* write your name on the questionnaire.
- The survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate, please check here _____ and return your blank questionnaire. That way we won't send you additional mailings.
- Please return the questionnaire in the pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided.
- If you have questions about this questionnaire, contact Robin Knox at 303-291-7362 or Linda Sikorowski at 303-291-7279.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

We realize that asking you to complete this survey is no small effort. We want to assure you that the information will be used responsibly and for the benefit of making good management decisions. It is important for us to periodically evaluate our fishing seasons and programs from anglers' perspectives and to collect anglers' opinions on possible management issues that affect anglers and the resource. This survey is your opportunity to participate in our management decision process.

PART A - First, we would like to ask you some questions about the kind of fishing you do and where and how often you fish in Colorado.

- 1.** How old were you when you first went fishing?

_____ years old

- 2.** How many years have you been fishing in Colorado? _____ years

- 3.** What is the primary reason you went fishing in Colorado over the past five years?

(Circle one number)

1 To catch fresh fish to eat

2 To be with family and friends

3 To have fun

4 To catch large fish

5 To be close to nature or to be outdoors

6 For relaxation

7 Other – please specify: _____

- 4.** Compared to other outdoor recreation activities that you participate in, how important is fishing to you? *(Circle one number)*

1 Extremely important

2 Very important

3 Moderately important

4 Slightly important

5 Not at all important

6 Don't know

- 5.** How would you rate your expertise as an angler? *(Circle one number)*

1 Beginner

2 Intermediate

3 Advanced

4 Don't know

- 6.** What type of Colorado fishing license did you buy in 2004? *(Circle one number)*
- 1 Resident Annual License
 - 2 Resident Senior License
 - 3 Resident Combination Fishing/Small Game Hunting License
 - 4 I did not buy a Colorado fishing license in 2004
- 7.** How often do you buy a Colorado fishing license? *(Circle one number)*
- 1 Every year
 - 2 Most years
 - 3 About half the time
 - 4 Every few years
 - 5 Almost never
 - 6 2004 was the first time
- 8.** In a typical year, about how many days do you fish in Colorado? _____ days
- 9.** Who do you usually go fishing with in Colorado? *(Circle one number)*
- 1 I usually go fishing by myself.
 - 2 I usually go fishing with friends or family, and we all fish.
 - 3 I usually go fishing with friends or family, but not all of them actually fish.
 - 4 Other – please specify: _____
- 10.** How often do you hike or backpack to get to your fishing site in Colorado? *(Circle one number)*
- 1 Frequently
 - 2 Sometimes
 - 3 Once in a while
 - 4 Never

11. What **one kind** of fish do you prefer to fish for **most often** in Colorado? *(Circle one number)*

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Trout | 7 | Crappie |
| 2 | Bass | 8 | Northern Pike/Tiger
Muskie |
| 3 | Catfish | 9 | Other - please specify:

_____ |
| 4 | Wiper/White Bass | | |
| 5 | Salmon (Kokanee) | | |
| 6 | Walleye/Saugeye | | |

12. What **one type** of water do you **most often** fish in Colorado? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 Coldwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in the mountains
- 2 Coldwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs at lower elevations
- 3 Coldwater streams and rivers
- 4 Warmwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs
- 5 Private waters
- 6 Commercial lakes or ponds

13. Is the water you **most often** fish in Colorado stocked? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 No, the water I most often fish is not stocked
- 2 Yes, the water I most often fish is stocked
- 3 I don't know if the water I most often fish is stocked
- 4 Other - please specify: _____

14. In Colorado, do you **most often** fish ... *(Circle one number)*

- 1 From the shore or bank
- 2 From a pier or dock
- 3 By wading
- 4 In a boat, float tube, or raft
- 5 Other - please specify: _____

15. In Colorado, do you **most often** fish with... *(Circle one number)*

- 1 Artificial flies only
- 2 Artificial lures only
- 3 Both flies and lures
- 4 Bait only
- 5 Both bait and lures
- 6 Artificial flies, lures and bait

16. Do you keep the fish you catch in Colorado or release them? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 I mostly keep what I catch.
- 2 I mostly catch and release.
- 3 Sometimes I keep them, sometimes I release them.

17. Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The Colorado Division of Wildlife does a good job in managing fishery resources to provide angling opportunity". *(Circle one number)*

Strongly agree	Moderately agree	Neutral	Moderately disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1	2	3	4	5	6

If moderately or strongly disagree, please explain: _____

18. In the area you fish **most** in Colorado, how crowded do you feel while you are fishing? *(Circle one number)*

Not at all crowded		Slightly crowded		Moderately crowded		Very crowded
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

19. Does the specific level of crowding you circled in Question 18 (while you are fishing in Colorado) have any effect on the enjoyment of your fishing trips? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 That level of crowding **increases** my enjoyment.
- 2 That level of crowding **has no effect** on my enjoyment.
- 3 That level of crowding **decreases** my enjoyment

- 20.** About how often do you obtain information about fishing in Colorado from each of the following sources? *(Circle one number for each statement that most closely matches your response)*

Source	Never		Sometimes		Often
a. Local newspapers	1	2	3	4	5
b. Local radio	1	2	3	4	5
c. Local television	1	2	3	4	5
d. Cable or satellite tv programs – for example: Outdoor Life Network (OLN), Outdoor Channel, ESPN	1	2	3	4	5
e. Colorado Division of Wildlife internet website	1	2	3	4	5
f. Other internet websites	1	2	3	4	5
g. Fishing/outdoor magazines and/or books	1	2	3	4	5
h. Fishing/outdoor videos and/or DVDs	1	2	3	4	5
i. Colorado Division of Wildlife fishing regulations brochure	1	2	3	4	5
j. Other Colorado Division of Wildlife publications	1	2	3	4	5
k. Colorado Division of Wildlife employees	1	2	3	4	5
l. Publications of conservation groups - for example, Trout Unlimited, BASS	1	2	3	4	5
m. Friends and/or family members/word of mouth	1	2	3	4	5
n. Sportsmen exhibitions or boat, sport and travel shows	1	2	3	4	5
o. Public meetings or live presentations about fishing – for example, talks by Colorado Division of Wildlife personnel, angler roundtables	1	2	3	4	5

- 21.** How would you rate the quality of the following information sources about fishing from the Colorado Division of Wildlife? *(Circle one number for each item)*

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Not familiar with it
Division of Wildlife internet site	1	2	3	4	5	6
fishing regulations brochure	1	2	3	4	5	6
Colorado fishing map	1	2	3	4	5	6
Colorado Outdoor magazine	1	2	3	4	5	6

If you answered “fair” or “poor” to any of the above items, please explain:

PART B - Now, we would like to ask you some questions about your fishing experiences in Colorado during 2004.

- 1.** Did you actually fish in Colorado **in 2004**?

_____ No Even if you did not fish during 2004, we still need your responses to the rest of the questionnaire. Please skip to PART C.

_____ Yes Please continue.

- 2.** In total, about how many fishing **trips** did you take in Colorado **in 2004**?
(Please count each fishing trip, no matter how long it was - one day or several days - as one trip).

_____ total fishing trips

- 3.** In total, about how many **days** did you fish in Colorado (on all your trips) **in 2004**?

_____ days

- 4.** Between now and December 31, 2004, do you plan on fishing in Colorado?

_____ No Please skip to PART C.

_____ Yes Please continue.

- 5.** Between now and December 31, 2004, approximately how many fishing **trips** will you take in Colorado?

_____ total fishing trips

- 6.** Between now and December 31, 2004, approximately how many **days** will you spend fishing in Colorado?

_____ days

7. So that we can get an idea of how fishing is spread around the state, please tell us about the **three sites in Colorado** that you fished the most and about how many days you fished there **in 2004**. Some rivers and streams are long, so please tell us the nearest town so we can have a better idea where you fished (for example, the South Platte River in the Denver area and the South Platte River in Deckers would be two different sites).

Name of
Lake/Reservoir/
River/Stream

Nearest Town

Number of days fished
in **2004**

Site #1 _____

Site #2 _____

Site #3 _____

8. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with your fishing experiences in Colorado in **2004**?

(Circle one number)

Strongly satisfied 1	Somewhat satisfied 2	Slightly Satisfied 3	Neutral 4	Slightly Dissatisfied 5	Somewhat Dissatisfied 6	Strongly Dissatisfied 7
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If dissatisfied, why? _____

9. Do you ice fish in Colorado?

_____ No
_____ Yes

If yes, how many days did you ice fish in Colorado **last winter**?
_____ days

10. Please indicate from the list below the most important things that the Colorado Division of Wildlife could do with its fisheries program that would encourage you and other anglers to fish more. (*Please circle all that apply*)

- a. Offer different types of licenses (family licenses, 10-day, etc.)
- b. Increase access to fishing locations on public land
- c. Increase access to fishing locations on private land
- d. Improve fish habitat
- e. Improve the quality or size of fish
- f. Improve the health of fish
- g. Stock more catchable trout (10")
- h. Open fly and lure only waters to bait fishing
- i. Add additional waters to fly and lure fishing
- j. Make the bag limits higher
- k. Make the bag limits lower
- l. Provide better information on where to fish
- m. Provide better information on how to fish
- n. Simplify fishing regulations: Please specify: _____

- o. Improve facilities at fishing access points
- p. Put more information about fishing opportunities on the internet
- q. There is nothing the Colorado Division of Wildlife can do
- r. Don't know
- s. Other – please specify: _____

PART C - Next, we would like to ask you a few questions about Colorado's fishing regulations. Colorado has statewide regulations for size and bag limits for most kinds of fish, and there are also special regulations that apply to specific waters for a variety of management purposes.

1. Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Colorado's fishing regulations are too complex." (*Circle one number*)

Strongly agree 1	Moderately agree 2	Neutral 3	Moderately disagree 4	Strongly disagree 5	Don't know 6
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If you disagree, why? _____

2. Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The *Colorado Fishing Regulation & Property Brochure* is easy to understand." (*Circle one number*)

Strongly agree 1	Moderately agree 2	Neutral 3	Moderately disagree 4	Strongly disagree 5	Don't know 6
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If you disagree, why? _____

3. In Colorado, the current statewide daily bag limit for trout is 4. Do you agree or disagree that the current daily bag limit for trout is at the right number? (*Circle one number*)

Strongly agree 1	Moderately agree 2	Neutral 3	Moderately disagree 4	Strongly disagree 5	Don't know 6
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If you disagree, why? _____

- 4a.** On some waters, especially streams, there are special regulations that may require size limits, the use of flies or lures only, catch and release of caught fish. Some anglers have suggested that the Division allow bait fishing to increase fishing opportunity. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “The Colorado Division of Wildlife should open some of the special regulation water to allow fishing with bait”? *(Circle one number)*

Strongly agree 1	Moderately agree 2	Neutral 3	Moderately disagree 4	Strongly disagree 5	Don't know 6
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- 4b.** Please describe why you agree or disagree: _____

- 5a.** Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “The Colorado Division of Wildlife should add restrictive regulations to additional waters (such as, fly and lure only fishing, size limits, etc.)”? *(Circle one number)*

Strongly agree 1	Moderately agree 2	Neutral 3	Moderately disagree 4	Strongly disagree 5	Don't know 6
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- 5b.** Please describe why you agree or disagree: _____

- 6.** Within the past 5 years, while fishing in Colorado, approximately how many times have you been contacted by a Division of Wildlife law enforcement officer?

_____ # of times (put 0 if never been contacted)

- 7.** How would you rate the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s law enforcement efforts regarding fishing? *(Circle one number)*

Excellent 1	Very Good 2	Good 3	Fair 4	Poor 5	Don't know 6
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- 8.** In your opinion, should fishing law enforcement efforts by the Colorado Division of Wildlife be increased, stay the same, or be decreased? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 Be increased
- 2 Stay the same
- 3 Be decreased
- 4 Don't know

PART D – The next few questions ask you about your fishing plans for 2005.

1. Are you planning on buying a Colorado fishing license in 2005?
- _____ Yes Please skip to PART E.
- _____ No Please continue.
2. What are some of the main reasons you do not plan on buying a Colorado fishing license in 2005? (*Please circle all that apply*)
- a. Change in interest or attitude toward fishing
 - b. Lack of time
 - c. Don't have anybody to go fishing with
 - d. Problems with finding or getting to places to go fishing
 - e. Weather conditions, drought or forest fire
 - f. The number or size of fish
 - g. Poor conditions due to pollution or trash
 - h. Costs associated with fishing
 - i. Problems with the facilities (boat ramps, etc.)
 - j. Age or health makes it difficult
 - k. Difficulty finding a convenient place or location to buy a license
 - l. Problems with fishing regulations
 - m. Whirling disease or the health of fish populations
 - n. Problems with crowding or other recreationists
 - o. Problems with fishing law enforcement
 - p. Don't know
 - q. Other - please specify: _____
3. Is there anything the Colorado Division of Wildlife can do to encourage you to buy a fishing license in 2005?
- _____ No
- _____ Yes - please explain: _____
- _____

PART E - Finally, we would like to ask you a few questions about yourself to help us understand the different characteristics of anglers and to allow us to compare your answers as a group with those of other anglers. Again, your answers are totally confidential.

1. Would you say you access the internet: *(Circle one number)*

- 1 Daily
- 2 Often
- 3 Sometimes
- 4 Rarely
- 5 Never

2. Do you belong to any sportsmen's or conservation organizations?

_____ No

_____ Yes – *(Circle all that apply)*

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. BASS | j. Pheasants Forever |
| b. Buckmasters | k. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation |
| c. Defenders of Wildlife | l. Sierra Club |
| d. Ducks Unlimited | m. The Nature Conservancy |
| e. Izaak Walton League of America | n. Trout Unlimited |
| f. National Audubon Society | o. World Wildlife Fund |
| g. National Rifle Association | p. Walleyes, Inc. |
| h. National Wild Turkey Federation | q. Muskies, Inc. |
| i. National Wildlife Federation | r. Mule Deer Foundation |
| | s. Other - please specify: |
| | _____ |

3. Are you:

_____ Female

_____ Male

4. How old are you? _____ years old.

5. What is the highest grade you have completed in school? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 Grades 1 – 12, but no high school diploma
- 2 High school graduate or equivalent
- 3 Some college or trade school
- 4 College graduate
- 5 Graduate or professional degree

6. What race or ethnic background do you consider yourself? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino
- 2 White or Caucasian, not of Hispanic origin
- 3 Black or African American, not of Hispanic origin
- 4 Native American
- 5 Asian American
- 6 Other - please specify: _____

Thank you for completing this survey, your input is very important.
Please fold the questionnaire in half and return it in the enclosed postage-paid
business reply envelope.

If you misplaced the return envelope, please mail the survey to:

Linda Sikorowski
Policy and Regulations Section
Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216