



Clear Creek

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Clear Creek, with its headwaters at the foot of the Continental Divide, flows east through the towns of Georgetown and Idaho Springs and eventually into the South Platte River. From Georgetown downstream to the town of Golden, Clear Creek provides good fishing for wild brown trout. Between Georgetown and State Highway 40 the stream lies mostly on private property. There is good public access from Highway 40 downstream to Golden, with land owned by Clear Creek Open Space and Jeffco Open Space.

Location: Clear Creek County adjacent to Interstate 70, Jefferson County adjacent to State Highway 6.

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling.

Amenities and General Info.

- Approximately 30 miles of public angling access between Golden and Georgetown.
- The most continuous public angling access is in lower Clear Creek canyon between Golden and Idaho Springs
- Permanent restrooms at Georgetown Lake and businesses adjacent to I-70. Seasonal restrooms in Clear Creek canyon adjacent to Highway 6.

Fishing Regulations

- General regulations - daily bag limit for trout (in aggregate) is 4 fish, possession limit is 8 fish.
- In addition to above, the daily bag and possession limit for brook trout 8 inches and less is 10 fish.

Previous Stocking

2009

Rainbow Trout

2008

Cuttbows

2007

Cuttbows

2006

Rainbow Trout

2005

Rainbow Trout

Sportfishing Notes

Water Quality

- The Argo Treatment plant in Idaho Springs began treating metals-laden water from the Argo Tunnel in 1998.
- Trout populations downstream of Idaho Springs have generally improved since then.

Brown Trout

- Historically, the most abundant trout species between Georgetown and Golden, making up about 95 percent of the fish present.
- These are wild, naturally reproducing fish.
- Spawn from October through November.

Rainbow Trout

- Although stocked annually, make up only about 5 percent of the trout present between Georgetown and Golden, due to whirling disease.
- Beginning in 2009 a WD resistant strain will be stocked annually, probably increasing survival and abundance.

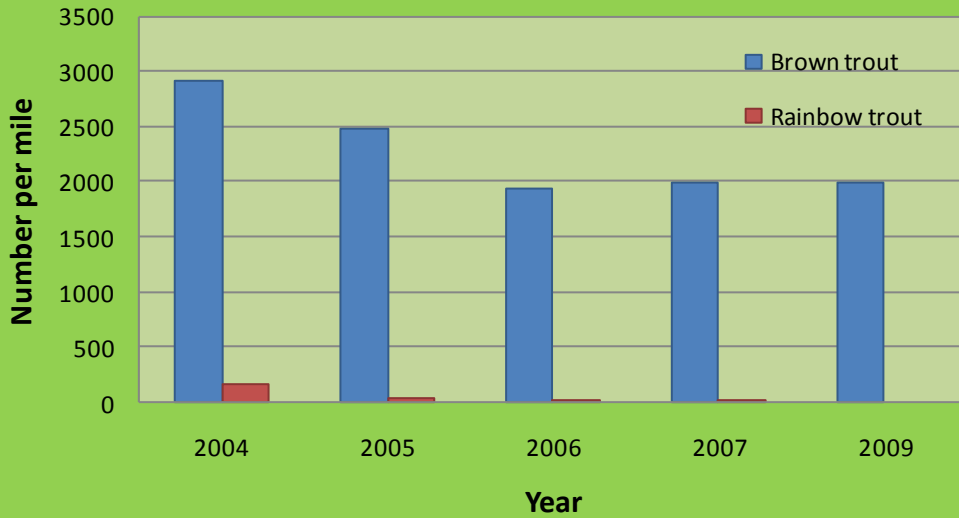


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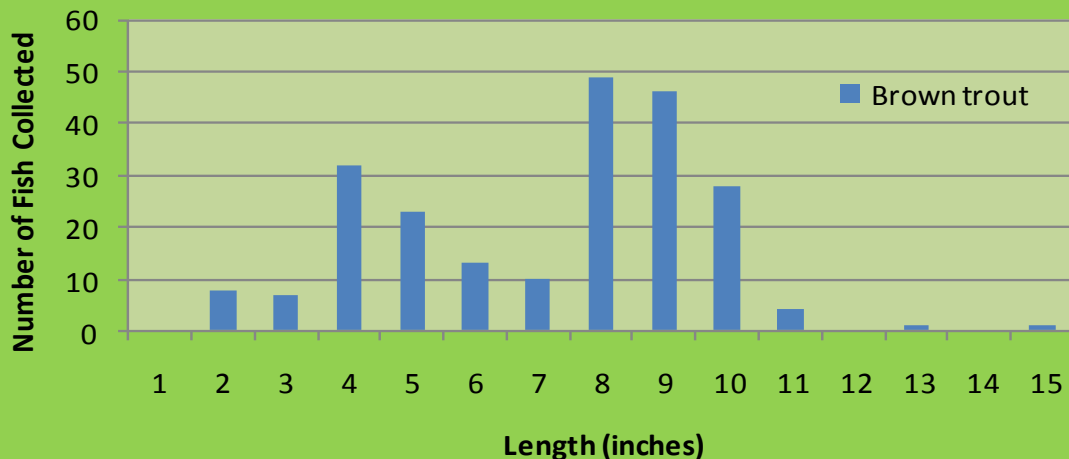
Clear Creek at Highway 40



The figure to the left shows the abundance of brown and rainbow trout greater than 6" collected in Clear Creek near the I-70 and HWY 40 interchange from 2004 to 2009. Brown trout were much more abundant, consistently reaching densities $\geq 2,000$ fish per mile. Conversely, rainbow trout were < 200 fish per mile. Stocking of whirling disease resistant strains of rainbows beginning in 2009 should increase their numbers in future years.

The figure below shows the length frequencies in 2009 of brown trout in Clear Creek near the I-70 and HWY 40 interchange. The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. The majority of the catchable-size brown trout collected were 8 to 10 inches, with one brown trout up to 15 inches in length. Even though sub-catchable size rainbow trout are stocked annually in Clear Creek, none were collected in 2009. Whirling disease is present in Clear Creek, which is probably results in low survival of stocked rainbow trout. However, as stated above, resistant strains were stocked beginning in 2009, so rainbow survival should increase in Clear Creek in future years.

Clear Creek at Highway 40



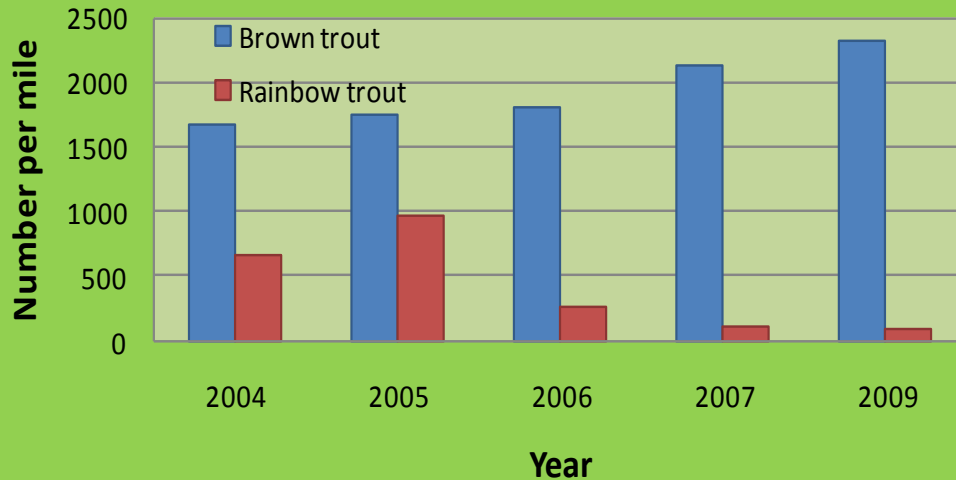


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Just Above Idaho Springs



The figure to the left shows the abundance of brown and rainbow trout greater than 6" collected just above Idaho Springs from 2004 to 2009. Brown trout were much more abundant, consistently reaching densities >1,600 fish per mile. Rainbow trout were typically less abundant, with their densities directly dependent on stocking events. Stocking of whirling disease resistant strains of rainbows beginning in 2009 should increase their numbers in future years.

The figure below shows the length frequencies in 2009 of brown trout and rainbow trout from Clear Creek just above Idaho Springs. The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. The majority of the catchable-size brown trout collected were 8 to 10 inches, with one brown trout up to 15 inches in length. The number of rainbow trout collected was much smaller, since natural reproduction is limited due to whirling disease, so most of the rainbow trout of catchable size in Clear Creek are due to stocking. The largest rainbow collected was 9 inches long.

Just Above Idaho Springs, 2009

