Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Green River Fisheries News

Spring 2008

"Conserving Wildlife – Serving People"

Welcome to the fifth annual issue of the Green River Region Fisheries News, released each spring to provide information about fisheries resources and their management in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Green River Region. This region covers the Green River drainage downstream from (and including) Fontenelle Reservoir, the Little Snake River drainage, and the upper portion of the Bear River drainage. Fisheries managers are responsible for all aquatic wildlife in the state of Wyoming. Therefore we not only manage sport fish, but also native non-game species and aquatic habitat. Our mission statement (opposite column), mandated by state statute, confirms this philosophy.

Fisheries management personnel inventory and monitor fish populations to provide information for the protection and conservation of aquatic wildlife and habitat. We also manage fish populations through fish stocking, fishing regulations, and population restoration. The aquatic habitat biologist works to restore and manage habitat for the enhancement and sustainability of wildlife populations in perpetuity.

We do our best to manage and conserve aquatic wildlife and their habitat, but only get to visit a fraction of the waters in the region each year. Therefore, in addition to scientific data, we rely on anglers and landowners for information to manage the fisheries resources in southwest Wyoming. We manage aquatic resources for you, the people of Wyoming, so your input is very important. We would appreciate any comments about the contents of this newsletter or any other fisheries concerns you may have. Please contact us using the information provided on the last page of the newsletter.

Fish Division Mission Statement

"As stewards of Wyoming's aquatic resources, we are committed to conservation and enhancement of all aquatic wildlife and their habitats for future generations through scientific resource management and informed public participation. We will use an integrated program of protection, regulation, propagation, restoration and control to provide diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities. Our efforts will balance the productive capacity of habitats with public desires."

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Flaming Gorge Predator - Prey Dynamics

Bill Wengert, Fisheries Biologist

Predator and prey relationships are complex. If there are too many predators they deplete the available prey base, lose body condition, stop growing and eventually reproduction can decline. If prey becomes too abundant they can over utilize their food resources and crash leaving the predators without any food. The predator/prey relationships in Flaming Gorge Reservoir continually evolve as new species are introduced to the reservoir: some intentional, some accidental and some illegally.

Brown trout (BNT) were the first predator stocked in 1966 to utilize the burgeoning Utah chub (UTC) populations. By the late 1970's, Flaming Gorge was a nationally acclaimed trophy BNT fishery. Brown trout grew quickly to trophy sizes on the millions of small chubs throughout the reservoir.

In 1967 smallmouth bass (SMB) were introduced to prey specifically on UTC as dictated by their life cycle (UTC spend their first year foraging along the shorelines before moving into open waters of the reservoir). SMB flourished on the abundant UTC and crayfish populations and became widely established around the reservoir.

Kokanee (KOE) were introduced in 1964 and 1965 to compete with the UTC for zooplankton resources. At the time KOE were stocked no one could have predicted their profound success as not only a valued game fish, but also an important prey species for LAT after the decline of the UTC populations.

The UTC population started declining in the early 1980's and the decline became particularly noticeable in the mid-1980s as trophy BNT fishery faded. SMB preyed heavily on young-of-the-year UTC during the late summer and fall, which limited recruitment of UTC in the reservoir and eventually their role as forage species. Smallmouth bass and other predators were so successful at depressing the numbers of UTC because the habitat UTC depended upon for escape cover, the vast prairies of sagebrush inundated when the reservoir filled was disappearing. No longer were the schools of 4 to 5 inch UTC, which BNT depended to reach trophy size, available as forage. This is classic predator/prey relationship, as the forage disappeared (UTC) so did the trophy fishery for BNT.

By 1980, a developing lake trout (LAT) fishery was recognized. Lake trout became established in the reservoir through downstream drift from the Finger Lakes in the upper Green River drainage. In 1982, management of the reservoir shifted towards trophy LAT. As the trophy BNT fishery faded the LAT became the chief predator and trophy species of interest in the reservoir. Compared to BNT, LAT are a long-lived fish. By 1990 LAT slowly switched from adult UTC to the more abundant KOE in the reservoir. The predator/prey relationship between LAT and KOE was more or less stable during the 1990s. At times when the KOE cycle was depressed (see articles in previous angler newsletters for more on the KOE cycle) LAT were skinny and when KOE were abundant LAT were fat.

Large lake trout like this one rely almost exclusively on Kokanee for food.

As the new millennia began the abundance of LAT increased, especially fish 25 inches or less. In response to the increased LAT abundance, creel limits for LAT were liberalized beginning in 2006 (8 LAT, 1 over 28 inches). The regulation was crafted to increase harvest of small LAT in the reservoir thereby reducing the total number of LAT while still protecting trophy LAT. This will mean there are more KOE to feed the remaining large LAT and maintain the coveted trophy LAT fishery.

The illegal introduction of burbot or ling (BBT) to the Green River drainage has added an additional predator to the fish community in Flaming Gorge. BBT are very opportunistic feeders. We do not know when or how BBT first entered Flaming Gorge,

whether by downstream drift or if the person(s) who illegally introduced BBT to Big Sandy and Fontenelle reservoirs actually illegally stocked them directly into Flaming Gorge as well. It appears that we currently have five abundant year classes of BBT in the reservoir. These year classes didn't just appear from a few adult BBT. There are definitely older but less abundant year classes out there. We are not seeing the larger BBT in our nettings or creel checks, but we occasionally hear anglers are catching them.

The population of BBT is exploding and as it does they are competing directly with the established game species for the forage species (crayfish, as well as fish) in the reservoir. BBT are consuming large numbers of crayfish, a forage species SMB are dependent on and utilized to a lesser extent by rainbow trout (RBT), BNT, LAT and channel catfish. We have also documented BBT preying on SMB, KOE (both eggs and juveniles up to 9 inches) and LAT eggs.

The remains of this Kokanee were found in the stomach of a 20 inch burbot this winter.

The Green River drainage is not blessed with the diversity of fish forage found in the native range of LAT and BBT. Maintaining the predator/prey relationship between LAT and KOE populations has been challenging. The BBT, as another top predator, may completely disrupt the established predator/prey relationship between LAT and KOE. It is very hard to predict how the new predator/prey relationships will play out. At this point there is little evidence LAT are preying upon BBT, but we know BBT are preying upon KOE and LAT.

Kokanee anglers like Morgan Carey will likely see fishing success decline in the future.

So what does the future hold for the Flaming Gorge fishery? Certainly the future of the KOE and SMB fisheries are at great risk. Whether BBT predation on LAT eggs and possibly fry will impact LAT recruitment remains to be seen. If the abundance of KOE decreases, the glory days of the trophy LAT will be in jeopardy. Lake trout will have to find a new forage species and the menu is very short: RBT and BBT. The RBT population in Flaming Gorge is maintained by stocking, so any increase in predation by LAT on RBT will decrease the number of RBT available to anglers.

The potential loss of a premier KOE fishery, a trophy LAT fishery, a popular SMB fishery and certainly a good RBT fishery is a terrible price for Flaming Gorge anglers to pay because some selfish angler(s) decided they wanted BBT in their backyard. Introduction of new fish species is an activity game and fish departments across the country take very seriously. We look closely at both positive and negative consequences before any new species are liberated in a new drainage. Just think what may happen if some misguided and selfish angler or group of anglers decides Flaming Gorge needs walleye too. You probably don't even want to think about it, I know I don't!

Aquatic Invasive Species

Craig Amadio, Fisheries Biologist

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) is a general term for harmful exotic organisms that often cause negative impacts to fisheries and recreational water resources. They are commonly called hitchhikers because they can easily spread to uninfected waters via boats and other equipment if the gear is not properly disinfected. AIS come in many forms: fish, vegetation, mollusks, and parasites. One example that most anglers are probably aware of is the whirling disease parasite that often infects young trout. Numerous different AIS are threats to Wyoming waters. Two species currently of great concern are Quagga mussels (pictured below) and Zebra mussels.

Quagga and Zebra mussels may look relatively harmless, but in reality they have disastrous consequences for aquatic systems. These species are very similar to each other and both are wreaking havoc in other parts of the country, particularly the Great Lakes and Mississippi River regions. Until recently, this problem had not spread to western states, but Quagga mussels were discovered in 2007 downstream of Flaming Gorge in Lake Mead.

The Quagga mussel is a small clam-like mollusk native to the Ukraine. They are very prolific and females can produce up to 1 million eggs each season! The young are called veligers. These microscopic larvae float in the water column and can be carried (and spread) in livewells, bilge water, bait buckets, or any other equipment holding water. Adults are usually 1-2 inches long and grow in clusters containing numerous individuals. They attach themselves to hard surfaces and filter plankton and nutrients from the water (up to 1 liter of water per day for each individual). Once adults are attached to a hard surface, a boat hull for example, they can survive out of water for several weeks and are released next time the boat is launched. Unfortunately it often occurs in a different body of water that has not yet been infested. When this happens, these exotic mussels can become established and spread in systems where they were not previously found. Given the close proximity of Lake Mead to Flaming Gorge, anglers and boaters should be extremely concerned about the spread and potential impacts of Quagga mussels to Flaming Gorge and other Wyoming waters.

So you may be thinking - what's the big deal? After these exotic mussels are introduced they spread rapidly throughout the lake or reservoir, as well as downstream, and can occur at densities of 10,000-80,000 per square meter. The impacts to fish populations can be disastrous because Quagga mussels remove phytoplankton and zooplankton from the water, resulting in an unproductive environment. Plankton are an extremely important component of aquatic food chains as the main source of food for aquatic insects and small forage fish that sustain most sport fisheries. When plankton disappear, forage fish populations decline and sport fisheries can collapse. For example, the lake trout population in Lake Ontario has declined by 95% in the past 10 years due to a crash in the food chain caused by exotic mussels!

The prop and exhaust of this outboard motor are covered with Quagga mussels after the boat was docked in Lake Mead for 6 months.

Quagga mussels don't just devastate fisheries. They also ruin boat engines by clogging cooling and exhaust systems. They destroy beaches when the very sharp shells wash up and cover shorelines. Another major problem is infestation of municipal, industrial and agriculture water infrastructure. They impede water delivery and increase maintenance costs by clogging pipes, pumps, turbines, and filtration systems.

So what can you do to help fight the invasion of AIS, particularly Quagga mussels? A few simple decontamination steps after leaving the water can prevent the spread of these harmful organisms: 1) Visually inspect your equipment and remove any plants, mud, or mussels. 2) Drain all water from the motor, bilge, live well, etc. 3) Dry equipment for at least 1 week in the summer, 3 weeks during cooler spring and fall seasons. Storing equipment in freezing temperatures for 3 days will also kill any mussels. Another option to drying for extended periods of time is to wash/flush your boat and trailer with scalding water (140^{o}F).

These decontamination steps (Clean, Drain, Dry) are critical if you are using a boat in Lake Mead or any other infested water. It only takes one boat to infect an entire watershed – don't be the person responsible for introducing Quagga mussels or other AIS to Wyoming waters. Another thing anglers and recreation users can do is help spread the word about this problem. The more people are informed, the less likely the threat. Visit the websites below for more information on Quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

http://www.protectyourwaters.net/

http://www.100thmeridian.org/

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Burbot in the Green River Drainage and Beyond

Craig Amadio, Fisheries Biologist

It is relatively common knowledge that burbot have been illegally introduced and are widespread throughout the Green River drainage. Many anglers may not be aware however of the alarming rate at which the distribution and abundance of these non-native predators have expanded since their initial discovery in Big Sandy Reservoir during 2001. Here is a brief chronology of the burbot explosion:

- Burbot were found in the Green River approximately 10 miles upstream of Flaming Gorge Reservoir in 2003. They are now widespread in the river downstream of Fontenelle Dam.
- Burbot were confirmed in Flaming Gorge Reservoir in 2005 and the population has rapidly expanded in recent years. They are now widely distributed, extremely abundant, and naturally reproducing in the reservoir.
- In 2005, burbot were captured in the Big Sandy River approximately 12 miles upstream of Big Sandy Reservoir. Follow up surveys in 2006 found numerous burbot in the upper Big Sandy River, as far as 50 miles upstream of Big Sandy Reservoir.
- Burbot were captured in Fontenelle Reservoir in October 2005. This marked the first time BBT were found upstream of Fontenelle Dam and likely resulted from a separate, more recent illegal introduction.
- Now that burbot are above Fontenelle dam, burbot will move upstream and establish populations in the upper Green River drainage and possibly the Finger Lakes in the Wind River Mountains near Pinedale. In fact the Pinedale fisheries management crew has found burbot in the lower New Fork River (2006) and the Green River near Big Piney (2007).
- Department personnel received reports in 2007 that burbot are present in the Hams Fork River as far upstream as Opal.
- During fall 2007, burbot were captured in Jim Bridger Pond. They gained access to the pond via the pipeline that transports water from the Green River.

Burbot are now very abundant in the Green River drainage upstream of Flaming Gorge Dam and information gathered during the past few years indicates that natural reproduction is widespread in

the system. Obviously this predator is going to have substantial impacts on local sport fisheries and native fish populations. Burbot predation and potential problems associated with their introduction in local waters were discussed in the 2006 Green River Fisheries Newsletter so we won't go into that here but rather the general problem with introducing non-native, undesirable fishes into aquatic systems.

By presenting the timeline of burbot discoveries and increasing abundance in the Green River system, it's easy to see just how rapidly an illegal introduction can impact not only the specific water where the species was introduced but also the entire watershed. Once fish are released in the water, they usually distribute and establish populations in every corner of the drainage. They become a cancer that spreads throughout the system if you will. Burbot have already infested the entire Green River system in Wyoming and will likely escape downstream of Flaming Gorge in the future. It remains to be seen what type of environmental tolerances this species will be able to handle but this introduction that began in a small Wyoming reservoir may very well lead to populations in the entire Colorado River watershed including the lower Green River, Colorado River, Yampa River, Gunnison River, Lake Powell…I could go on and on. This will likely have wide-ranging implications for sport fisheries and endangered species recovery programs, not to mention severe economic impacts, in many areas of the west. Not very uplifting news but it is reality when undesirable species with potentially disastrous consequences are introduced to watersheds where they should not be.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department and other natural resource agencies aggressively manage against illegally introduced fish populations and will continue to do so. Beginning this year, unlimited burbot harvest is now allowed in all Wyoming waters where they are found west of the Continental Divide. This liberal regulation is intended to encourage anglers to remove as many as possible and help suppress burbot populations in the drainage. Due to the significant threat illegal fish introductions pose to your fisheries, the Game and Fish is increasing law enforcement efforts concerning transportation and introduction of fish to new waters. We all have a responsibility to help conserve our fisheries so please report any suspicious fish transportation or introduction activity to the Game and Fish Stop Poaching Hotline (800) 442-4331 or the Green River office at (307) 875-3223.

Sulphur Creek Reservoir Walleye

Craig Amadio, Fisheries Biologist

Most anglers are aware that walleye were illegally introduced into Sulphur Creek Reservoir. They were first discovered in 2004 but have likely been present in the reservoir since the late 1990's. Walleye are aggressive predators and their introduction has coincided with declining trout catch rates in recent years. Stocking strategies have been changed in attempts to improve hatchery fish survival and maintain the trout fishery. Larger rainbow and Bear River cutthroat trout are now stocked to improve predator avoidance and survival compared to the smaller fish that were previously planted. Managers are also assessing spring versus fall planting. Fall stocking may be more successful because walleye metabolism slows during fall and winter months allowing hatchery fish to better avoid predation. The reservoir will continue to be managed for rainbow and Bear River cutthroat but walleye will undoubtedly have a negative impact on the trout fishery. The introduction of walleye to the Bear River system may also have disastrous consequences for downstream fish communities if they escape and establish populations in other waters within the drainage like Woodruff Reservoir or Bear Lake.

A large walleye and brown trout captured in Sulphur Creek Reservoir during 2007.

Walleye catch rates and mean length have increased each year since they were discovered. Average length increased to 16 inches in 2007 and walleye as large as 23 inches have been captured the past couple years. The length structure of the population shows multiple age classes and increasing numbers of large adults (>16 inches). Currently 16-20 inch fish appear to be most abundant. In addition to these larger fish, the 12-13 inch size class was represented well in 2007. The population also includes juveniles meaning walleye are successfully reproducing in the reservoir. Walleye continue to exhibit outstanding body condition as well. Juvenile suckers appear to contribute the most to walleye diet but approximately 20% of all walleye captured in 2007 also had trout in their stomachs. The reservoir currently has a very large Utah sucker population so walleye have an abundant forage base but as these predators deplete non-game forage resources they will like feed more heavily on trout. The current abundance of food has made catching them difficult for anglers but rest assured, walleye are present in substantial numbers. As the population continues to expand and walleye reduce the sucker population, fishing will improve.

The Department will continue to aggressively manage against this species to minimize impacts on trout. In 2008, walleye creel limits were removed so unlimited numbers can now be harvested. We are encouraging anglers to remove walleye and help control the population. Walleye are susceptible to overexploitation and numbers can be controlled through harvest. The reservoir has limited walleye habitat and most fish congregate around the large points along the northern shoreline between the dam and the inlet of the reservoir. Walleye typically occupy shallow areas (<15 feet) during dusk and dawn periods when they are most active and move to deeper water (20-40 feet) during mid-day. Anglers should try pitching jigs or slow trolling spinner harnesses with bottom-bouncers in these areas.

High Savery Reservoir

Bill Wengert, Fisheries Biologist

High Savery Reservoir in south central Wyoming began impounding water in 2004, but did not fill until the spring of 2005. Kokanee (KOE) were first stocked in 2004, followed by Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRC) and tiger trout (TGT) in 2005. Brook trout (BKT) and rainbow trout (RBT) can also be caught, but the reservoir is being primarily managed for native CRC.

Tiger trout in the reservoir are growing fast and can easily be caught from shore.

Angling on the reservoir in 2007 was good to excellent. Spot creel surveys during 2007 found the average angler catch rate to be 0.82 fish/hour. CRC dominated the catch, but High Savery anglers also caught good numbers of TGT and KOE. The TGT state record was broken four times during 2007. Angler Jon Bloom of Green River landed the current record fish on Nov. 2, 2007. The tiger was 22.0 inches long and weighed 3.33 lbs. Look for this record to be broken several more times in 2008.

A fish kill was reported on August 6, 2007. Dead KOE were observed in the Savery Creek tailwater and along the shorelines of the reservoir near the dam. The Green River Fisheries Management crew visited the area on August 7 and observed between 300 and 500 dead fish, mostly KOE, although a few CRC were also found below the dam. No dead fish were observed along the shorelines of the reservoir on that date. The fisheries crew collected dead KOE for diagnostic evaluation by the WGFD fish pathologist. The pathologist found the KOE to be malnourished, a condition likely due in part to low zooplankton numbers and near zero dissolved oxygen concentrations below a shallow thermocline found at a depth of 33 feet. Water temperatures above the thermocline were ≥63 ^{o}F. The KOE were confined to a sub-optimal temperature zone at and just above the thermocline. Research has shown KOE prefer

temperatures near 50 ^{o}F and temperatures above 60 ^{o}F can lead to severe mortalities. On August 14 a considerable number of decomposed KOE carcasses were found around the shoreline of the reservoir near the dam. The High Savery Dam Technician estimated the numbers of dead fish around the shorelines of the reservoir at about 1,000 fish. It is possible as many as 2,000 or more fish may have perished of which most were KOE. The fish kill affected all year classes of KOE, not just adult fish.

Even though the 2007 fish kill appears to have dealt a blow to the KOE fishery, a good run of KOE was found in the North and East forks of Savery Creek in September 2007. An average of 27,500 KOE have been annually stocked since 2004, so only a small percentage of the fish stocked perished during this fish kill. KOE anglers may notice a small decrease in catch rates of KOE in 2008, but overall fishing for KOE, as well as CRC should be good. Since TGT are more tolerant of warmer water temperatures, expect some excellent fishing for TGT in 2008. Access and recreational facilities at High Savery Reservoir are the responsibility of the Wyoming Water Development Commission. The reservoir has a cement boat ramp, parking area and bathroom facilities. No overnight camping is allowed at the boat ramp or around the reservoir but camping is allowed to the north on BLM lands and to the south in the Medicine Bow National Forest. The reservoir is located west of Highway 401, approximately 40 miles south of Rawlins, and is visible from the highway. Interested anglers can also visit High Savery Reservoir's website at: www.highsavery.com for maps, photographs, and detailed directions to the reservoir.

Jim Bridger Pond, Back on Track

Robb Keith, Regional Fisheries Supervisor

The quality of the Jim Bridger pond sport fishery has improved greatly following the 2004 chemical treatment that removed undesirable fish species from the pond. Jim Bridger Pond is being managed as a family fishery where general regulations apply. The fishery now sports a diverse fishery composed of rainbow trout, Snake River cutthroat trout, Splake and smallmouth bass.

Netting conducted by the Department in October 2007 produced good news on several fronts and one bit of bad news. Rainbow trout, some now three years in the reservoir, are ranging from 8 to 23 inches. The average length of the 107 rainbow caught in 2007 was 14 inches. Splake, the next most abundant trout in the pond averaged 15 inches and ranged in length from 12 to 16 inches. The Snake River cutthroat brood culls stocked to diversify the fishery average 17 inches and ranged in length from 15 to 19 inches. The trout are growing fast and most have exceptional body condition, in other words, they are fat. The other good news, as of last October, no white suckers or carp have been observed or caught during netting operation.

No bass were caught last fall, but anglers can be assured they are there. Catching bass in our passive nets during the fall is weather dependent and the weather last fall did not cooperate. Anglers can expect bass ranging from 8 to 12 inches with a few even larger.

Now for the bad news, the burbot that some thoughtless angler introduced into the Green River drainage, have gained access to the Jim Bridger Pond via the pipeline that fills pond. If burbot reproduce this could be bad news for the popular crayfish fishery in the pond. Although ice fishing is not allowed on Jim Bridger Pond (for safety reasons) anglers can target the burbot spring and fall when water temperatures are at or below 50 F. Fish either early evening just after sunset or early morning just before sunrise. A little sucker meat suspended 6 inches off the bottom should be productive.
The forecast for 2008 is very good. Expect fishing for trout to be very produce from ice off until early

summer and then again from mid September until the ice goes on next winter. Fishing during the hot summer months may be a little slow. When water temperatures get warm the trout bite slows down.

Jim Bridger is a great family fishery with lots of room for families to spread out. Its close to Green River and Rock Springs so give it a try.

Beavers Find New Home in Corral Creek

Kevin Spence, Aquatic Habitat Biologist

A pair of nuisance beavers were live trapped and transplanted to private land with suitable habitat on upper Corral Creek in the Ham's Fork River drainage in 2007. A beaver colony residing along the Green River in Scott's Bottom Park had been cutting down a large number of mature cottonwood trees in the park, creating a damage management issue for the City of Green River. Two yearling beaver were live trapped and removed from the colony during early September, and released to the upper Corral Creek location. Upper Corral Creek has several relict beaver ponds that are no longer active, but also supports healthy willow and aspen riparian communities sufficient for sustaining a beaver colony. The landowner recognizes the benefits of active beaver ponds in maintaining riparian habitat health and stability and reintroduced beaver to improve habitat for fisheries and other wildlife on his lands.

A beaver live trapped from the City of Green River and transplanted to upper Corral Creek.

Native Fish Spotlight: Speckled Dace

Craig Amadio, Fisheries Biologist

Many native fish species inhabit the lower Green River drainage in Wyoming including the speckled dace, *Rhinichthys osculus*. This small minnow is native to the western United States, as well as to parts of southwestern Canada and northern Mexico. In Wyoming, the species is quite common west of the Continental Divide.

Speckled dace have adapted to many different types of habitat, ranging from cold swift-flowing mountain headwaters to lakes and reservoirs to warm intermittent desert streams.

The speckled dace is a schooling species that is most active at night. They are benthic feeders, meaning they feed on the bottom, eating primarily insect larvae and other invertebrates although algae and fish eggs are also consumed. The species spawns during the spring and summer over gravel areas that have been cleaned by territorial males. In many parts of their range, speckled dace are important forage fish for sport fish species.

Loose Ends

- Anglers are alerted to a number of fishing regulation changes in 2008. Make sure to consult the regulation book before heading out to wet a line this spring.

- The 10th annual Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo will be held September 11-13, 2008 at the Casper Events Center. The Expo is a great event to take youngsters to and educate them about the value and diversity of Wyoming's wildlife resources. For more information about the Expo, visit the Game and Fish's website at http://gf.state.wy.us, or call 1-888-EXPO-WYO.

- Wyoming free fishing day is June 7, 2008.

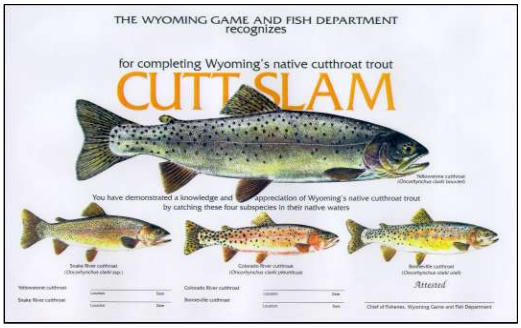
- Families and young anglers can look forward to fishing the urban ponds in our local communities this spring. These ponds will be stocked with catchable trout in mid-May and stocking will continue through the end of June.

- June 14 is the annual kids fishing day at the Rock Springs County Fair Grounds. This popular event us sponsored by High Security Lock and Alarm, Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge, Wal-Mart, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

- Anglers should look for the 2008 Walk-in Area Fishing Atlas. This guide features fishing areas on private land enrolled in the Game and Fish's Private Lands/Public Wildlife Access Program.

- The 2008 Green River Region fishing forecast will be in the May-June issue of Wyoming Wildlife News.

- Try the Cutt-Slam! This Game and Fish program is designed to encourage anglers to learn more about Wyoming's native cutthroat trout sub-species and develop an understanding and appreciation of the Department's cutthroat trout management program. Please visit our web site for more information.



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HTTP://GF.STATE.WY.US/

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