



July 2016

the wyoming game & fish department

CASPER REGION newsletter

21st Annual Kids Fishing Day Casper's Yesness Pond, a Community Fishery

Once again, the Kids' Fishing Day held in Casper was a fun day! Over 250 kids caught at least **110 fish** and enjoyed a great day of being outside and fishing. This event is sponsored by the Community Recreation Foundation, in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, North Platte Walleyes Unlimited, Wyoming Fly Casters, Schwan's Foods, Grey Reef Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Sportsman's Warehouse.



Inside This Month's Issue:

In the Water

Glendo Gets 9 Million Walleye Fry, Glendo Check Station

Behind the Badge

Boating Safety

Of Interest

Lice and Hair Loss Syndrome of Deer, Tularemia

In the News

Black Bear in Casper

In the Water

Glendo Gets 9 Million Walleye Fry

An unexpected set of circumstances recently allowed surplus walleye fry from the Garrison National Fish Hatchery in North Dakota to be stocked into Glendo Reservoir. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department received and stocked over 9 million walleye fry on June 6.

“Wyoming Game and Fish has a great cooperative trade agreement with the North Dakota Game and Fish,” said Steve Sharon, fish culture supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish. “We provide North Dakota with trout or trout eggs that are surplus in our culture program and receive warm and cool water fish in return. This is a win/win scenario for anglers in both states.”

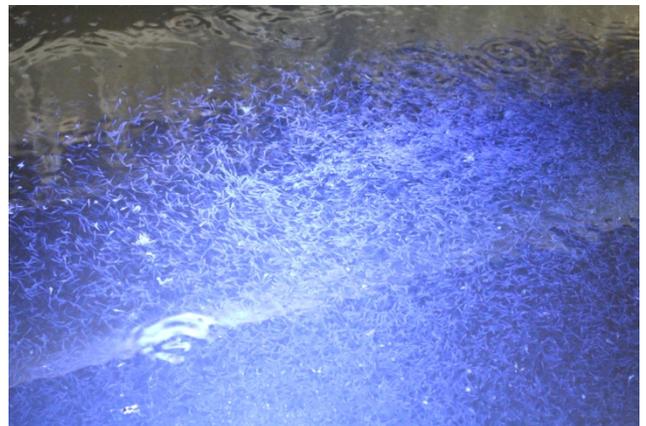
Garrison National Fish Hatchery had exceptional survival of walleye eggs this year. They were able to meet all their requests, and, in an unprecedented occurrence, still have a massive surplus of fry, or recently hatched juvenile fish.

“Recently we have seen poor walleye spawning success in Glendo. This is associated with high runoff years. With Glendo being in flood storage again in 2016, and this exceptional opportunity from North Dakota, we considered stocking. The stars aligned and we stocked the fish in early June,” says Game and Fish Fisheries Biologist Gordon Edwards.

Walleye were first introduced in Glendo in 1972 and last stocked in 1974 and for over 40 years the walleye population has been supported by natural recruitment.

“Our hope is these fry can hedge against another potentially poor spawning and recruitment year given the extremely high and cold spring inflows in Glendo Reservoir,” said Edwards. “In this way we hope to jump start this regionally important walleye fishery.”

Game and Fish will continue to evaluate the success of the fry stocked as they mature.



Glendo Check Station

Casper Fisheries Biologist Gordon Edwards and Fisheries Technician Mick Novotny ran a check station at Glendo Reservoir with help from Game Wardens Gary Boyd, Brady Vandenberg, David Ellsworth, Mitch Renteria, and Kristen Davanon. Aquatic Invasive Species crew members Evan Bulla, Sean Opitz, and Trent Remily were also on hand to ensure exit inspections were being conducted and seal boats if requested to help reinforce our Drain, Clean, Dry message. Water levels were very high and the state park had closed many facilities, including several popular boat launches. In normal water years, there are usually between 200-300 interviews conducted, but this year only 111 at our check station. Anglers reported catching more yellow perch than expected. Compliance was great and only a few violations were detected, with most being failures to retain species identification on fillets.



Behind the Badge Boating Safety

Casper game wardens spent many hours on local waters conducting boat safety checks. Over 200 people were contacted in boats in jet-skis. Casper game wardens had six boating under the influence (BUI) arrests in June and worked two boat accidents, including search and rescue efforts on an incident that resulted in one fatality. There were high numbers of boats equipped with all required safety equipment and many kids wearing life jackets. Game and Fish would like to thank Sloanes General Store of Alcova for teaming up with us to give every kid “caught” wearing a life jacket a free ice cream cone.



Of Interest

Lice and Hair Loss Syndrome (HLS) of Deer

Deer in the western U.S. commonly are infested with a native chewing louse (*Damalinia (Tricholipeurus) lipeuroides*) that may reach high numbers by late winter on young of the year. Native louse infestation (known as “pediculosis”) has not had significant impacts on deer populations. However, in fall 2009, a debilitated adult mule deer buck with severe hair loss from southeastern Wyoming was diagnosed with infestation by an exotic chewing louse (*Bovicola tibialis*). This exotic European louse was likely introduced into North America by importation of their native host, the Fallow deer. *B. tibialis* has been associated with population-limiting disease in deer fawns in eastern Washington State. Also during fall 2009, “exotic pediculosis” was diagnosed for the first time in free-ranging deer from several states adjacent to Wyoming. This exotic louse has now been identified in ten counties within Wyoming – more than any other state except California!



Evidence of louse infestation are hair breakage (ear, upper left), hair loss (leg, upper right), and sometimes severe hair loss, dermatitis, and redness (bottom).

Typically, deer with native chewing louse infestations are asymptomatic, while deer infested with the exotic louse show varying degrees of hair breakage and hair loss with skin inflammation (dermatitis). The dermatitis is characterized by red, moist skin, eventual crusting and possibly thickened discolored skin. The distribution of hairless patches tends to be patchy and asymmetrical. Animals with extensive, severe lesions may lose body condition and eventually die.

Deer infested with both native and exotic lice have been documented in Wyoming. Typically, native lice are most numerous (and easily seen) in the sparsely-haired underbelly regions of the deer. In a deer with large patches of hair loss due to exotic pediculosis, lice will not be present in the center of the lesions. Rather, they will be abundantly present in the normally-haired skin just outside the distinct borders of the patch of affected (bare, inflamed) skin.

In Wyoming, only mule deer have been documented with exotic pediculosis due to *B. tibialis*. In other regions, black-tailed deer and white-tailed deer cases have been found. Susceptibility of other cervid species (moose, elk) to infestation with *B. tibialis* is not known. Humans are not susceptible to infestation with chewing lice of deer, but may experience transient minor irritation.



Lice are extremely small (1-2 mm) and must be looked for carefully if pediculosis is suspected.

Tularmeia

Tularemia is active again in 2016. Tularemia is relatively common across the entire state, below are some quick facts about tularemia:

- Agent: *Francisella tularensis* – A hardy bacteria that survives well in damp/wet soil
- Hosts: Rabbits, muskrats, beavers and squirrels are the primary carriers; however, many species can become infected.
- Transmission: Bites from infected ticks and biting flies are the most common method of transmission. Other methods of transmission include: ingesting contaminated water, or undercooked meat, direct contact with an infected animal, or inhaling bacteria that may be present in contaminated dust or animal material.
- Human Health: Symptoms include: swollen and painful lymph glands, fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, dry cough, and progressive weakness. A skin ulcer commonly forms at the site of the insect bite and is frequently accompanied by swelling of regional lymph glands, usually in the armpit or groin.
- Prevention for Hunters:
 - ✓ Use an insect repellent that is effective against ticks, biting flies and mosquitoes (e.g. DEET), and wear light colored clothing so that ticks are easier to spot.
 - ✓ Avoid handling sick wildlife.
 - ✓ Avoid drinking unpurified water from streams or lakes.
 - ✓ Wear gloves when field dressing any harvested animal.
 - ✓ Cook meat thoroughly before consumption, especially rabbits, muskrats, beaver or other rodents.



Additional sources of information on tularmia:
 Field Guide to Diseases of Wyoming Wildlife Page 176-178
 CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/tularemia/index.html>

In the News

Black Bear in Casper, Again



A second black bear this summer was immobilized in Casper. This yearling bear had been jumping fences in the backyards of central Casper when Game and Fish biologists and wardens located him. Upon a quick physical, it was discovered he had a quarter-sized cut on his flank. Best Friends Animal Hospital quickly volunteered to stitch him up before he was released on the south side of Muddy Mountain, about 20 miles from town.

