North Platte Angler Newsletter

2004

In This Newsletter:

Take A Kid Fishing in 2004

We get several calls every year asking for suggestions on where to take kids fishing. We typically suggest waters that offer relatively fast action to keep the kids attention since they usually do not care how big the fish are, just so long as they get to reel a few in.

Here are some suggestions near Casper to take a kid fishing:

1. Yesness Pond. This is the small reservoir off Wyoming Boulevard in Casper. GF stocks catchable sized trout several times through the spring. Sunfish are also establishing a population and can provide some very fast action.

2. 33 Mile ponds. Several ponds in the 33 Mile area northwest of Casper provide good fishing for trout; however there are a few bass/sunfish ponds too. Stop by the Casper Regional GF office with the Midwest BLM map (1:100,000 scale) and we'll be happy to show you where the ponds are.

3. Alcova Reservoir. Alcova can be a very fast fishery for rainbow trout, especially in the spring and fall. Fishing from either a boat or shore will provide good fishing.

Some other suggestions are the Otter Creek beaver ponds on Muddy Mountain (brook trout), Glendo Wetlands (largemouth bass, catfish), Guernsey Slough (largemouth bass, catfish, pumpkinseed sunfish) and several brook trout streams on the Laramie Range between Casper and Wheatland. Although you may not get to fish yourself while you are baiting hooks, untangling lines and reels, unsnagging hooks and telling the kids to just let the bait sit (instead of constantly reeling), you'll have a great time teaching future anglers what you know. Take a kid fishing in 2004!

What's New at Speas?

The Wyoming Game & Fish Commission, with help from the Wyoming Fly Casters, recently purchased 34.4 acres adjacent to the Speas Rearing Station and the North Platte River. The Wyoming Fly Casters generously agreed to make up the $20,000 difference between the appraised value and asking price for the land. Commission regulation precludes the Commission from paying more than appraised value, so the Fly Casters stepped in to make the purchase possible. Additionally, the Wyoming Fly Caster Foundation has further pledged another $20,000 to assist with development of the roads and parking area needed for a safe public access area.

The primary purpose for purchasing the property is to provide space for the treatment of effluent water from Speas in an efficient and environmentally friendly manner. Since recent adjustments in state and federal effluent discharge requirements, the facility has had a difficult time meeting the new limits. The problem will be solved using a series of settling ponds and a wetland complex. As a real bonus, the public gains up to a ½ mile of new fishing access.

People are urged to not drive out and fish at the new place right now because there isn't a safe place to park. A parking lot for 4-5 vehicles, approach roads and cattle guard should be completed by August 15, pending approval of the plans by Natrona County Road and Bridge Department. These amenities will meet public access needs while preventing overcrowding at the new area.

Because of fish health concerns, anglers will not be provided access to the river through the Speas facility. Gordon Townsend, the superintendent of Speas, continues to welcome visitors to the station but he says, "There are very real concerns about fish diseases

being introduced by visiting anglers, so I am asking fisherman to please keep all waders, boats and fishing gear away from the Speas headquarters and raceways."

On April 27, 2004, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission officially recognized the Wyoming Fly Casters for their generosity in making the land purchase possible. The access portion of the new acquisition will be named Wyoming Fly Casters Memorial Access in recognition of this and past acts of generosity that have benefited anglers in Wyoming now and in the future.

Channel Catfish- Are They Reproducing or Not?

This summer we plan to spend time investigating if channel catfish are successfully reproducing in the North Platte River between Glenrock and Glendo Reservoir. Catfish have been stocked for several decades in this area although they are native to the North Platte River. With all of the modifications to the North Platte River over the past century, such as the construction of dams that have altered the natural flows and water temperatures, the ability of catfish to sustain their numbers without stocking is unknown.

Catfish have not been stocked since 2000 so GF can determine if they are reproducing on their own. We will age each fish we catch in 2004 by taking its right pectoral spine. These spines can be sectioned and read like the rings in a tree to tell us how old the catfish is. If we find catfish less than 4 years old in 2004, they are the product of natural reproduction and perhaps catfish can sustain their numbers without future stocking. We will let you know in next year's newsletter what we find.

NEW WATERS ONLINE FOR 2004!

Petro Reservoir

The water is running into Petro Reservoir and is cool enough to allow a rainbow trout fishery. The reservoir is on BLM land, about 5 miles south of Midwest (R79 T39 S24), and access is good. In 2003, 1,000 rainbows were stocked and they averaged about 8 inches by the end of the summer.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has fenced off the entire reservoir. Anglers can access the reservoir via a walk-through in the fence. This reservoir would be a great place to take a young angler.

Goldeneye Reservoir

Although Goldeneye has been a fishery for over 80 years, walleye are a recent addition and they seem to be doing well. In both 2001 and 2002, about 50,000 fingerling walleye (~2 inches) were stocked and about 25,000 were stocked in 2003. Adult gizzard shad have been stocked in 2002 and 2003 to provide forage for the walleye. Although there are still a few trout in Goldeneye, walleye are now by far the most dominant game fish.

Four sinking gill nets caught 115 walleye and 377 gizzard shad in 2003 (Table 1). The walleye averaged about a foot long with the largest being 15½ inches. The shad were all the young from adults stocked 2003 and averaged about 2-3 inches. Take special note of the average relative weight (Wr) being at 104. This means the Goldeneye walleye were extremely fat.

Table 1. Gill net information for Goldeneye Reservoir, September 2003

Species	Number	Avg. L (inches)	L Range (inches)	Avg. Wt (lbs.)	Wt Range (lbs.)	Avg. Wr*
Walleye	115	12.1	5.6 – 15.5	0.7	0.1 - 1.3	104
Gizzard Shad	377		2 - 3			

*- Wr = relative weight. Essentially a measure of how fat a fish is.

Although some anglers gave ice fishing at Goldeneye a try this winter, only a few were successful most likely because the walleye were so fat going into the winter. If you can carry a boat to the reservoir or fish from the shore in 2004 you have a chance at some nice walleye. The BLM extended the boat ramp in 2003 but it still a long ways from the current water level. Without a lot of precipitation this spring, don't expect to be able to launch a good-sized boat at Goldeneye. We would not recommend driving your vehicle very close to the water's edge since the mud is likely to take hold of it and not easily let go.

Ice anglers this next winter should expect to find walleye up to 17 inches and hopefully have more success than in 2003.

New North Platte River Access- WIA Fishing Addition for 2004

The power plant near Glenrock will soon be providing more than just power. GF recently secured an easement agreement for the North Platte River with PacifiCorp, owner of the Dave Johnston Power Plant. This section of the river is a Blue Ribbon stream, supporting 622 pounds of trout per mile. However, the 26-mile Casper to Glenrock float could not be promoted due to limited public access. This will change in early 2004 when the access area is finished. It will provide a take-out for floaters, just upstream of the plant, and open up 13 river miles to public use.

In addition, the take-out will mitigate a potential hazard to floaters at the plant's weir. Floaters have legal access to the river, but this was a moot point since there was no opportunity for accessible portage at the weir. Some 10,000 to 15,000 people are expected to use the area annually.

To meet the expected demand, the GF will construct a parking area and a double comfort station, as well as maintain the access road. However, more than just anglers will use these facilities. They will allow both hunters and anglers to take advantage of the Walk-in Area hunting and fishing opportunities at the plant. The Walk-In Area is going to be open beginning September 1 for archery deer and antelope hunting and later this fall for waterfowl season.

The North Platte River below this new access area to the dam at Dave Johnston Power Plant will be closed to floaters. Boats can re-enter the river at the access area off Tank Farm Road downstream of the power plant.

THE NORTH PLATTE FROM SEMINOE TO GLENDO RESERVOIR

Seminoe Reservoir

Seminoe Reservoir is the uppermost reservoir on the North Platte River and is primarily known for its excellent rainbow trout fishery and for occasionally producing a 10+ pound walleye. Cutthroat trout, brown trout, and lake trout are also present in much lower numbers. In GF netting surveys, the rainbow trout averaged 14.2 inches and 1.1 pounds and the walleye averaged 14.6 inches and 1.4 pounds. The largest walleye we captured in our 2003 fall netting survey was 31.8 inches and 11.8 pounds. The rainbow trout fishery is maintained almost entirely through the annual stocking of 125,000 eight inch trout. The walleye fishery is maintained entirely through natural reproduction.

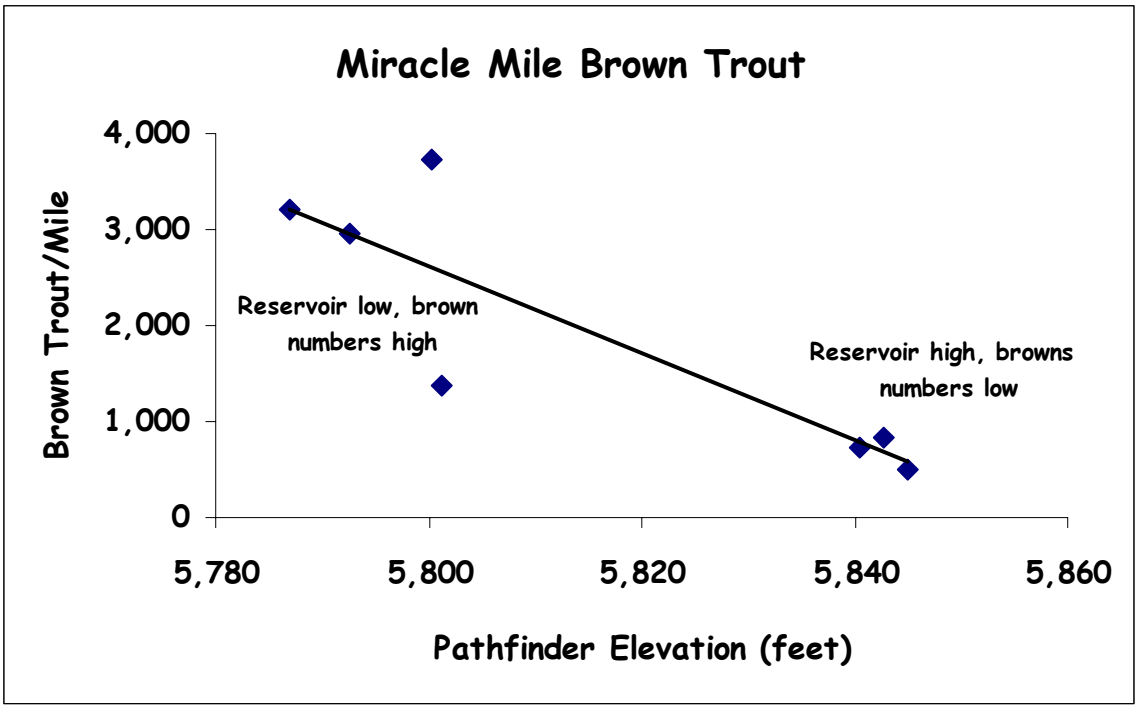
The drought has had moderate impacts on this fishery. Both rainbow trout and walleye are slightly skinnier now than they were just a few years ago. Impacts to reservoir access have been more severe. In April of 2003, there were no usable boat ramps on Seminoe Reservoir. The GF worked cooperatively with Seminoe State Park to temporarily extend the low water ramp at North Red Hills to regain boating access. The privately owned ramp at the Seminoe Boat Club was also usable for most of the summer months.

The fishing at Seminoe remained excellent despite the drought. Many of you were likely interviewed by one of our creel clerks. Anglers targeting trout had an average catch rate of 0.65 rainbow trout per hour and the average length of harvested rainbow trout was 15.7 inches. Anglers targeting walleye had an average catch rate of 0.42 walleye per hour and the average length of harvested walleye was 13.8 inches. Nearly

70% of the anglers we interviewed said they were satisfied with the Seminoe Reservoir fishery.

Miracle Mile- Spawning Habitat Project

The trout population at the Miracle Mile has declined in recent years and we continue to look for ways to reverse that trend. In 2003, we surveyed the river bottom throughout the Miracle Mile and found that suitable spawning substrates, gravel from 1 inch to about 3 inches, were in very short supply until the river was nearly 5 miles from Kortes Dam. This makes sense since the dam has been in place for over 50 years and no significant streams feed the Mile that could provide a source for new gravel. We found a strong relationship between the storage level of Pathfinder Reservoir and the brown trout population three years later.



We used brown trout since their number depend entirely on natural reproduction, none are stocked in Pathfinder or the Mile. As the storage level in Pathfinder fell, the brown trout population improved three years later in the Mile. As Pathfinder falls, the Mile gets longer and more good spawning habitat is available. The decreasing brown trout populations we saw in the late 1990s and early 2000s corresponded to a time when Pathfinder Reservoir was very full and the Mile was at its shortest (~6 miles).

So what are we going to do about the lack of gravel in the Mile? We teamed up with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to initiate a project to add at least 500 tons of suitable spawning gravel to the Mile. While 500 tons sounds like a lot of gravel, that amount will cover an area about 100 feet wide by 200 feet long. We plan to place the gravel by fall of 2004.

Pathfinder Reservoir

September water levels, at about 7,500 surface acres, were the lowest at Pathfinder Reservoir since 1994. Without an above average snow pack this winter, predictions are for water levels to continue declining in 2004.

The average rainbow trout was 15.0 inches and weighed 1.4 pounds (Table 2). Trout fishing should be good in 2004. Although walleye are generally not big (averaged 15.6 inches), there should be good walleye fishing for years to come.

Table 2. Pathfinder gill net summary, 2003.

Species	Number Caught	Catch/ Hour	Avg. L (in.)	Largest (in.)	Avg. Wt (lbs.)	Largest (lbs.)
Rainbows	148	0.73	15.0	20.4	1.4	2.6
Cutthroats	33	0.16	14.3	19.1	1.2	3.1
Browns	7	0.03	16.8	18.2	1.4	1.9
Walleye	25	0.25	15.6	32.5	2.1	12.5

North Platte River- Cardwell Area

Thanks to cooperation among local anglers, the Cardwell family, and federal, state, and county agencies, a minimum flow of 75 cubic feet per second was released from Pathfinder Dam in the historic North Platte River channel between Pathfinder Dam and Alcova Reservoir beginning in 2002. In August of 2002 and 2003, this fishery was stocked with approximately 2,000 rainbow trout.

The GF conducted a population estimate on trout in this fishery in October 2003 and found 148 trout per mile and 145 pounds of trout per mile. While numbers were less than expected, trout growth and condition appear to be excellent. Rainbow trout stocked at less than 6 inches in August of 2002 had reached lengths up to 15 inches in October of 2003. A small number of naturally reproduced rainbow trout are also contributing to this fish population. We will continue to stock 2,000 rainbows annually and monitor this developing fishery. The Cardwell fishery should continue to improve as streamside vegetation becomes established and fine materials from channel construction are transported downstream.

In order to allow the trout fishery to establish, a restrictive creel limit of 1 trout (must be over 20 inches), artificial flies and lures only (no bait) is in effect between the vehicle bridge downstream to the top of Alcova Reservoir. Above the vehicle bridge, anglers can use bait and the limit is 1 trout with no minimum size limit.

Alcova Reservoir

The Alcova Reservoir fishery may be one of the most drought resistant fisheries in Wyoming. Water levels are maintained near capacity April-September for irrigation purposes and are maintained 10 vertical feet lower during the winter months. These consistent water levels produce a consistently excellent fishery. Rainbow trout dominate this fishery with brown trout, cutthroat trout, and walleye present in lower numbers. While walleye numbers are low compared to other area reservoirs, Alcova does produce a few trophy (10+ pound) walleye each year.

The Alcova rainbow trout fishery is maintained almost entirely through annual stocking. Alcova was stocked with approximately 110,000 eight-inch rainbow trout in the fall of 2003. In addition, 14,000 nine-inch Yellowstone cutthroat trout that were originally destined for Upper Sunshine Reservoir near Cody, but due to drought conditions, were stocked in Alcova instead. Anglers will likely see more cutthroat trout in 2004 than in recent years.

Many of you who fished Alcova last spring were likely contacted by one of our creel clerks. Anglers had an impressive average catch rate of 0.69 rainbow trout per hour with an average length of 14.6 inches. Anglers can expect a similar fishery from Alcova in 2004.

North Platte River- Gray Reef to Glenrock

Although numbers of fish are not what they used to be, the North Platte River fishery between Gray Reef Dam and the dam at Dave Johnston Powerplant near Glenrock is still one of the nation's premier fishing destinations. In the water rich years of the late 1990s we estimated that there were about 3,300 trout per mile and over 5,000 pounds of trout per mile near Gray Reef Dam. Numbers have dropped slightly to around 2,800 trout per mile and 4,800 pounds of trout per mile in 2002 (Table 3). However, the average trout in this fishery is nearly 17 inches and 2 pounds! This is primarily a rainbow trout fishery with brown trout and cutthroat trout present in lower numbers.

The lower flows and higher water temperatures due to drought conditions are likely responsible for these slight declines in this trout population. Low flows mean less space for trout and reduced invertebrate production (trout food) as side channels and large portions of the riverbed are left dry. The higher water temperatures associated with low flows causes an increased metabolic demand for food at times when food production is reduced.

Table 3: Fishery information collected in 2002 and 2003 for the North Platte River between Gray Reef Dam and Dave Johnston Powerplant.

Location	Number per mile	Pounds per mile	Average length	Average weight
Below Gray Reef Dam	2,835	4,769	16.6 inches	1.9 pounds
Narrows to Speas	2,905	2,234	12.9 inches	1.0 pounds
Casper	1,713	1,372	13.0 inches	1.1 pounds
Near Glenrock	523	622	14.3 inches	1.5 pounds

In general, trout abundance decreases as you move downstream from Gray Reef Dam. However, the lower reaches of this 87-mile long fishery still offer some excellent angling opportunity without the crowds seen upstream.

Anglers may see a few more brown trout in upcoming years. Approximately 33,000 three inch brown trout that were originally destined for another water that could not be stocked due to drought conditions and were stocked in the North Platte River

between Casper and Glenrock instead. These fish will likely approach 12 inches in length by the fall of 2004 and should provide a boost to the brown trout population.

Glendo Reservoir

The walleye fishery at Glendo kept humming right along in 2003. Although the overall numbers of walleye are not nearly as high as they were in the early 2000s, there were still plenty of walleye in 2003 (Figures 1 & 2). Compared to 2002, the percentage of walleye over 18 inches has decreased. This is a result of the very strong year classes from 1996-2000 moving out of the population. It is great to see the number of walleye in the 12-14 inch range in 2003; these fish represent the future of walleye fishing at Glendo and the future looks good.

With the high number of large walleye through 2002, yellow perch numbers had really fallen off. In 2003, yellow perch made a strong comeback. In 2002, we caught a dismal 0.4/hour compared to 5.7/hour in 2003. Yellow perch not only provide a fishery but they are also an important food item for walleye.

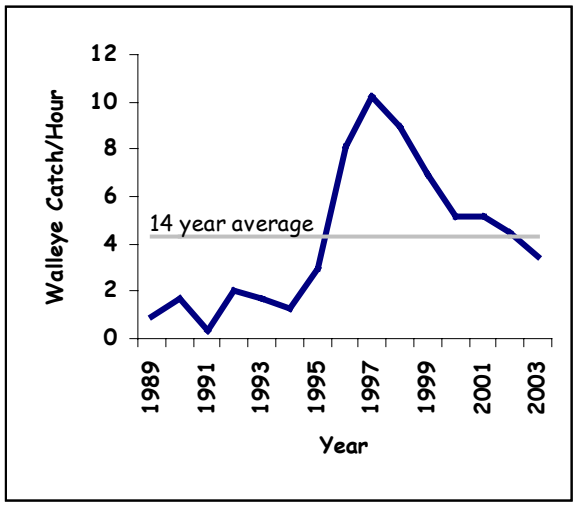


Figure 1. Catch per unit effort of walleye.

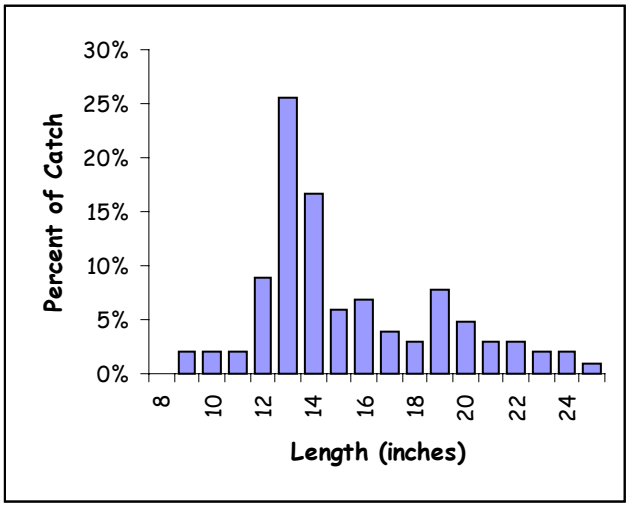


Figure 2. Walleye size distribution in 2003.

Channel catfish remain the most underutilized game species in Glendo Reservoir. The average catfish in our gill nets in 2003 was 20.2 inches and weighed 3.2 pounds. The largest we caught was 29.4 inches, 10.8 pounds. Give catfish fishing a try in 2004.

Purse Seining in Wyoming

Fishery biologists all over the country use a number of gear types to gather information about reservoir fish populations. Some of the most familiar devices include gill nets, trap nets, seines, and electrofishing. Wyoming biologists use all of these but we are fortunate to also have a tool which few states use. In the late 1960s we purchased our first purse seine and now we have two of these nets. The purse seine, which was first developed and is still used extensively for fishing commercially in the ocean, is essentially a large curtain of net which is set in a circle to surround whatever fish are swimming in the area the net encircles. It is most effective at catching fish that school and live relatively near the surface over deep water. We use purse seines to collect information about rainbow and cutthroat trout, kokanee salmon, and some small forage fish species. Since the net hangs down a considerable depth, the net is purposely set in deep water so that it does not snag the bottom.

Wyoming uses two different purse seines. The smaller of the two encircles about 2/3 of an acre and hangs from the surface to a depth of 30 feet. The larger net covers just over a full acre and extends down to 60 feet.

Since we don't know quite how many fish might escape an area while the net is being set and retrieved, we don't use the purse to estimate the number of fish in a reservoir. However, the purse seine is invaluable in identifying what species we see during our routine sonar surveys, a tool we do use to estimate numbers. Both purse seines are also useful for obtaining length, weight, and body condition information on fish that live in the open water.

Few states use the purse seine in their routine fish sampling work. The reason is easy to understand when you first experience the purse seine in action. The net is literally dragged back into a boat by hand. It takes 4 or 5 people and two very large boats to make the whole thing work. The net is expensive to buy and operate and is hard work. But there are few other gears that offer us a chance to assess our open water fish species.

Why Isn't GF Stocking Gizzard Shad in Pathfinder and Seminoe Reservoirs?

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department collects adult gizzard shad in Nebraska in the spring and stocks them in several walleye reservoirs nearly every year. These adult gizzard shad typically reproduce 3 to 5 times over the summer with each female shad producing up to ½ million eggs at each spawning event. This results in an extraordinary number of 3 to 6 inch shad from mid summer through fall, which is ideal forage for predatory fish such as walleye. Gizzard shad typically do not survive Wyoming winters due to prolonged periods when our waters are iced over so annual stocking is necessary to maintain gizzard shad in most cases. The Glendo Reservoir walleye population has benefited enormously from this practice. So, if it has worked this well for Glendo walleye, why are we not doing the same for Seminoe and Pathfinder walleye?

The potential benefits of gizzard shad introductions to walleye fisheries are substantial enough that gizzard shad are routinely stocked (Glendo, Keyhole, and Goldeneye reservoirs) or have self-sustaining populations (Grayrocks Reservoir) in waters where walleye are the primary sport fish. However, when walleye are not the only sport fish present, the decision to stock gizzard shad becomes much more difficult. This is the case for Seminoe and Pathfinder, which also support regionally important rainbow trout fisheries. We must carefully consider all of the potential benefits and problems of gizzard shad stockings to ensure that we are doing the right thing for the fisheries resource. The potential benefits include:

1) Increased food availability for walleye potentially leading to increased growth and more, larger walleye for anglers to catch.
2) Walleye may prey on gizzard shad instead of rainbow trout thus benefiting the rainbow trout fishery. In the short term this idea "theoretically" makes sense, however, there is very little information supporting this notion.

Both Seminoe and Pathfinder reservoirs have been stocked with gizzard shad in the past due to these perceived benefits to the fishery. However, gizzard shad cannot be stocked entirely without risk to the rainbow trout or walleye population. These risks include:

1) Gizzard shad compete with rainbow trout and young walleye for zooplankton and their populations may be impacted. Rainbow trout have grown skinnier in recent years in Seminoe and Pathfinder due to the drought and low water levels, which have impacted the zooplankton in these reservoirs. Further competition with gizzard shad for the remaining zooplankton could prove devastating for the rainbow trout population.

2) Gizzard shad may produce more, larger walleye, which are likely to consume more trout and thus impact the rainbow trout fishery.
3) Gizzard shad may effectively "wipe out" an entire year-class of walleye by readily consuming any larval fish that will fit in their mouths. If walleye reproduction was delayed through a cool spring, gizzard shad may reproduce first and reach sizes where they can consume larval or newly hatched walleye. Given the number of gizzard shad that may be produced, this may completely eliminate an entire year's worth of walleye reproduction.

We believe that the potential risks of gizzard shad stocking to the Seminoe and Pathfinder fisheries currently outweigh the potential benefits, especially under the present drought conditions and reduced zooplankton populations. Therefore, we will not stock gizzard shad in these reservoirs in 2004. However, this certainly does not mean that we won't consider stocking gizzard shad in Seminoe and Pathfinder in the future. When we exit the drought and these reservoirs gain water and maintain more substantial zooplankton populations, gizzard shad stocking will be considered.

Costs of Unwanted Species

- Zebra mussel invasion in the U.S. has cost $3.1 billion during the past ten years
- Annual Tamarisk control costs in Colorado alone are $45 million
- Purple loosestrife has experienced a 6-7 fold increase in U.S. riparian systems since 1980.
- About 50,000 non-native flora and fauna species have been introduced into the U.S., and approximately 25,000 of those species are invasive. The total annual costs of invasive species in the U.S. are estimated at $138 billion.

Seminoe Study

Hydroacoustics (also referred to as fisheries sonar) is a technique used by fisheries biologists that uses transmitted sound to count fish in the water column. Popularity with this technique has increased among fishery scientists in recent years thanks to the many advantages this technique offers over other sampling gears. These advantages include quantitative estimates of trout density, high rates of sampling, and no adverse effects to fish and other animal species. Despite the many advantages that hydroacoustics offers over other sampling gears, assessments are limited to water greater than 25 ft. deep due to the properties of sound in water. However, research conducted by the Game and Fish, as well as numerous other studies have demonstrated that areas close to shore, less than 25 ft. deep, are

important habitats to many trout species. Raising questions about the effectiveness of hydroacoustics at providing accurate information on the entire trout population in a lake or reservoir.

During four weeks in May, June, August, and September 2003, the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit from the University of Wyoming along with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department conducted an intensive fishery study on Seminoe Reservoir. The purpose of this study was to evaluate changes in trout densities in areas sampled with hydroacoustics (> 25 ft. deep) and areas not sampled with hydroacoustics (< 25 ft. deep). Gillnets were used to identify differences in trout densities in these two areas, and compared with hydroacoustic estimates obtained at the same time. The results from this research indicated that trout densities were the same in areas less than 25 ft. and greater than 25 ft. only during May, while trout densities were higher in water less than 25 ft. deep during June, August, and September. Hydroacoustic estimates were also the highest during May, because more fish were in water greater than 25 ft. where they can be effectively sampled with hydroacoustic techniques.
Fisheries biologists now have a clear indication of how differences in trout densities in areas sampled with hydroacoustics and areas not sampled with hydroacoustics will affect assessment programs. This information will be used to improve evaluations of trout populations in many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state and help biologist better manage these valuable sport fisheries.

AccessYes

AccessYes donations totaled $143,291 in the 2003 fiscal year. This helped the department sign up over one million acres for hunting, as well as 85 stream miles and 273 lake acres for fishing.

Wyoming Angler Facts

32% of Wyoming residents fish, most of these anglers (63%) are males

Wyoming has the largest percentage of nonresident anglers of all 50 states (60% of anglers that fish Wyoming's waters are nonresidents). Alaska ranks second with 57%. California and Illinois are tied for the smallest percentage of nonresident anglers at 6%

In 2001, 293,000 anglers spent $212 million on angling in Wyoming. Each angler spends an average of over $700 on his or her hobby each year.

Wyoming anglers spend 78% of their time fishing for trout, 19% of their time fishing for walleye and sauger, and 3% of their time fishing for other types of fish.

Stocking 2003

In the Casper area in 2003, GF stocked about 460,000 rainbow trout, 110,000 cutthroat trout, 40,000 hybrid sunfish, 25,000 walleye, 3,000 brook trout, 3,000 channel catfish and 75 gizzard shad. We typically only stock in waters where habitat conditions do not allow natural reproduction to sustain a sport fishery. Most flowing waters in the area are maintained by natural reproduction. Give us a call or e-mail if you are interested in what may have been stocked in your favorite fishing hole.

Angler Input

We manage Wyoming's fisheries for you and strive to create the best possible fisheries based upon what is biologically possible, economically feasible, and socially acceptable for each particular fishery. We seriously consider input from our anglers as we manage your fisheries and always welcome your comments. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments about our fisheries by email at WGFCasperFish@wgf.state.wy.us or by phone at (307) 473-3400.

Thanks go out this year to Steve Sharon, Mark Fowden, Darren Rhea, Brian Olsen, Gordon Townsend and Roy Whaley for their contributions to this years' newsletter. Remember that we manage your fisheries for you. We always want to hear from anglers, so let us know what you think. If you have any comments on the information in this newsletter, give us some feedback by phone (1-800-233-8544 (in WY only), out of state call (307) 473-3400), letter (Angler Feedback, 3030 Energy Lane, Suite 100, Casper, WY 82604) or e-mail at WGFCasperFish@wgf.state.wy.us