

**In this issue:**

- **Big pike at Yuba**
  - **Which fish in Utah tastes best?**
  - **Taking cow elk during bull elk hunts**
- 

## Catch Big Pike at Yuba

Nephi -- Want to know what it feels like to catch a fish that's more than three feet long and weighs almost 20 pounds?

You might find out if you grab your fishing gear—including a foot or two of metal leader—and head to Yuba Reservoir in the next few months.

On April 14, Division of Wildlife Resources biologists were conducting gillnet surveys at this reservoir in central Utah. What they found when they pulled one of the nets out of the water took their breath away.

Inside was a huge northern pike. The fish was more than 43 inches long and weighed over 17 pounds.

That puts this pike close to the current Utah state record. The current record was caught at Yuba in 2002 by Henry Fenning. That pike weighed 25 pounds and was 43½ inches long.

The official Utah “catch-and-release” northern pike record is a 49¾-inch fish caught by Logan Hacking at Lake Powell in 1998.

Hacking's fish was not weighed.

### Not the only big pike!

The huge pike biologists caught and placed back in the reservoir on April 14 isn't the only big pike biologists have caught at Yuba during gillnet surveys this spring. Other big and healthy pike—and big and healthy walleye—have been caught at the reservoir too.

Biologists conduct gillnet surveys by setting nets in the reservoir for an hour or two and then pulling the nets back to the surface. After measuring and weighing the fish, the fish are released back into the water.

### Tips

May and June are usually the best months to catch northern pike and walleye at Yuba.

To catch pike, DWR biologists suggest the following:

- Fish in water that's five feet or less deep. Fishing from the shore works great!

(more)

## page 2

- Use lures that imitate minnows. These lures include plugs (crank baits), jigs and spoons.
- Tie a foot or two of metal leader between your fishing line and your lure. Northern pike have sharp teeth. Using metal leader is a good way to keep the pike from biting through your line!

### Getting there

Yuba Reservoir is just off I-15, about 30 miles south of Nephi in central Utah. For more information about fishing at the reservoir, call the DWR's Central Region office at (801) 491-5678.

Updated fishing reports for Yuba are available at [www.wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/reports.php](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/reports.php).

###

Contact: Scott Root, DWR Central Region Conservation Outreach Manager (801) 491-5678 or (801) 376-7076

## Utah's Tastiest Fish? Try Walleye!

Scott Root has talked to hundreds of anglers during the 20 years he's compiled fishing reports for the Division of Wildlife Resources. Without hesitation, he says most of them list walleye as Utah's "tastiest" fish.

Other great-tasting fish include perch, catfish and bass.

"Personally, walleye are my favorite because the fillets don't taste fishy or oily," Root says. "They're light, mild and flakey. I've never had anyone tell me they didn't enjoy them.

"Fish are an important part of a healthy diet, and more and more people are including fish in their meals," he says. "There's a lot of interest right now in trying new types of fish."

### Spring: a popular time to catch walleye

Roots says Utah Lake, Lake Powell, and Willard Bay, Deer Creek, Yuba and Starvation reservoirs are Utah's major walleye waters.

Walleye spawn in the spring, so spring is a great time to catch them. They'll be heading to tributaries and spawning areas within the main body of water.

April is a popular month to target walleye. Lake Powell is among the exceptions, though. The lake tends to produce its best walleye fishing in May and June.

Fall fishing can be excellent at all of these waters too.

### Try these techniques

If you're ready to catch some of these tasty fish, Root provides tips and techniques to try:

(more)

## page 3

- The most effective technique is to cast a lure that imitates a minnow. Then retrieve (or troll) the lure very slowly along the bottom of the water you're fishing.

Unlike most fish species, walleye often strike lures softly. When a walleye strikes, you might think you just ran your lure through some vegetation. Actually, you may have a walleye on the end of your line!

- Another effective technique is to cast dead minnows or worms, and then let them settle on or near the bottom of the water you're fishing. Make sure you watch the tip of your fishing rod closely to detect any movement.

- Walleye are predators. They usually feed at dawn and dusk, and throughout the night. Those are the best times to catch them.

### Fishing at Utah Lake

Root reminds you that the tributaries to Utah Lake are closed to fishing until May 1 to protect walleye that are spawning in them.

Popular walleye fishing spots at Utah Lake include both jetties at Utah Lake State Park, the "bubble up" area near Lindon Harbor, Lincoln Beach at the south end of the lake, lake areas where tributaries feed into the lake, and along the edges of shallow areas that provide the fish with structure and vegetation.

Fishing reports for Utah Lake and all of Utah's major fishing waters is available at [www.wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/reports.php](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/reports.php).

###

Contact: Scott Root, DWR Central Region Conservation Outreach Manager (801) 491-5678 or (801) 376-7076

## Taking a Cow Elk during the Rifle Bull Elk Hunt

### *DWR shares ideas for this fall's antlerless big game hunts*

If they have a cow elk permit for the same area, all bull elk hunters—including rifle hunters—might be allowed to take a cow elk during this fall's bull elk hunt.

That change—and permit numbers for Utah's 2010 antlerless big game hunts—are among items Division of Wildlife Resources biologists want your input about.

### Learn more, share your ideas

You can read the DWR's proposals on the Web at [wildlife.utah.gov/public\\_meetings/next.php](http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/next.php). Once you've read the proposals, you can provide your comments one of two ways:

(more)

## RAC meetings

Five Regional Advisory Council meetings will be held across Utah on April 27. Citizens representing the RACs will take the input received to the Utah Wildlife Board. Board members will use your input to set permit numbers for this fall's hunts.

The April 27 meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. You can participate and provide your input at any of the following locations:

### Northern Region

Brigham City Community Center  
24 N. 300 W.  
Brigham City

### Southeastern Region

John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main St.  
Green River

### Central Region

Central Region Conference Center  
1115 N. Main St.  
Springville

### Southern Region

Cedar Middle School  
2215 W. Royal Hunte Dr.  
Cedar City

### Northeastern Region

Uintah Basin Applied Technology  
450 N. 2000 W.  
Vernal

## E-mail

You can also provide your comments to your RAC via e-mail. E-mail addresses for your RAC members are available at [wildlife.utah.gov/public\\_meetings/rac\\_members.php](http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/rac_members.php).

The group each RAC member represents (sportsman, non-consumptive, etc.) is listed under each person's e-mail address. You should direct your e-mail to the people on the RAC who represent your interest.

## Permit numbers

The following are the number of antlerless hunting permits available in 2009 and the number DWR biologists are recommending for this fall:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Cow elk	11,146	9,813
Doe deer	1,775	2,025
Doe pronghorn	1,107	622
Cow moose	30	19

(more)

### **Taking cow elk during the bull elk hunts**

Allowing hunters to take a cow elk during the bull elk hunts is among the strategies DWR biologists have used to keep elk herds within population objectives outlined in Utah's elk unit management plans.

If they have a cow elk permit for the same unit on which they're hunting bulls, archery and muzzleloader elk hunters are allowed to take a cow elk during the bull elk hunts.

Biologists want to give rifle bull elk hunters the same chance.

"There are two advantages to allowing hunters to take a cow elk during the bull elk rifle hunts," says Anis Aoude, big game coordinator for the DWR.

"First of all, doing so would help ensure enough cow elk are taken," he says. "Rifle hunters have the highest success rate.

"Also, allowing hunters to take a cow elk during the bull elk rifle hunts would reduce the number of hunters who hunt during the cow elk-only hunts later in the year," he says. "That would reduce hunter crowding and reduce pressure on the elk while they're on their winter ranges."

### **Deer and crops**

Almost 90 percent of the doe deer permits the biologists are recommending would be used to control deer in areas where deer are damaging crops on farm land.

The remaining 12 percent of the permits—250 of the 2,025 permits biologists are recommending—would be used to keep deer herds on the Paunsaugunt and Panguitch Lake limited-entry units from growing beyond the number their habitat can support.

"The deer herds on these two units are at their population objective," Aoude says. "We need to make sure we balance the number of deer with the habitat that's available to them."

### **Pronghorn on the Parker Mountains**

In 2009, the Utah Wildlife Board approved 1,107 doe pronghorn permits. Most of those permits were used to reduce the number of pronghorn on the Parker Mountains in southwestern Utah.

(The population objective for the unit is 1,500 pronghorn.)

"The unit is getting closer to its population objective," Aoude says. "Because it's getting closer to the objective, we can start reducing the number of doe pronghorn permits offered for it."

### **Moose: Nearing their objective**

Aoude says the number of moose in northern Utah is approaching the population objective. Biologists are recommending a slight decrease in the number of cow moose permits available this year.

For more information, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR's Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4700.

###

Contact: Mark Hadley, DWR Relations with the Public Specialist (801) 538-4737