



Idaho Fish and Game Magic Valley Region Fisheries Newsletter Volume II Issue I February 2011



Regional Staff

Regional Supervisor

H. Jerome Hansen

Regional Fisheries Manager

Doug Megargle

doug.megargle@idfg.idaho.gov

Regional Fisheries Biologist

Scott Stanton

scott.stanton@idfg.idaho.gov

Fisheries Technician

Alissa Bosscher

Inside this issue:

Welcome Message

Free Fishing Day

1

Fish Fry

2

Anderson Ranch Reservoir
Kokanee

2

Silver Creek Trout

2

Big Wood River
Electro fishing Survey

3

Yellowstone Cutthroat
Transplant

3

Trout In The Classroom

4

Welcome :

Greetings fellow Sportsmen. Welcome to the second issue of the Magic Valley Region Fisheries newsletter. 2010 was another busy and fun filled year at Idaho Fish and Game. In this issue you will find information on 2010 sampling efforts and general summaries of our findings. The Magic Valley Region is truly a unique and wonderful part of Idaho. It provides great urban fisheries, high mountain lakes, reservoirs, and wonderful rivers and streams.

Fishing opportunities are vast in the region, and our goal at Fish and Game is to provide anglers the best opportunity in utilizing those fisheries. If you are ever interested in joining us for a day in the field and taking the opportunity to see what we do in some truly beautiful country, feel free to contact me anytime either by phone or email. Please enjoy the great Magic Valley Region and its excellent fishing!

Scott Stanton



Free Fishing Day June 11, 2011

Idaho free fishing day is June 11, 2011. No license is required to fish this day but all other rules apply. Fish and Game will host Free Fishing Day activities across the Magic Valley. This a wonderful opportunity to get the family out fishing and enjoy the great outdoors. It's a time to smile, laugh and take a kid fishing!



Ed Papenberg - photo



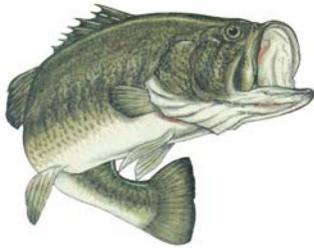
IDFG photo



Scott Stanton - photo



Mini Cassia Bassers

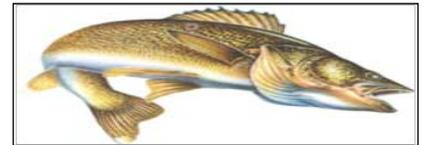


First Ever Idaho Fish and Game Fish Fry

In late May 2010, before the opening day of Idaho's general stream season, Fish and Game held the first community fish fry at the Magic Valley regional office. Attendance was huge and everyone enjoyed fried crappie and catfish. Experts from local fishing clubs provided tips on all types of fishing. Anglers were treated to fishing tips on sturgeon, crappie, trout, bass and walleye. Members of Idaho Walleye Unlimited, Mini Cassia Bassers, Thirsty Fish Outfitters and Magic Valley Fly fishers were all present at the event to share their knowledge with the public. A similar event is planned for the future.



Thirsty Fish Outfitters



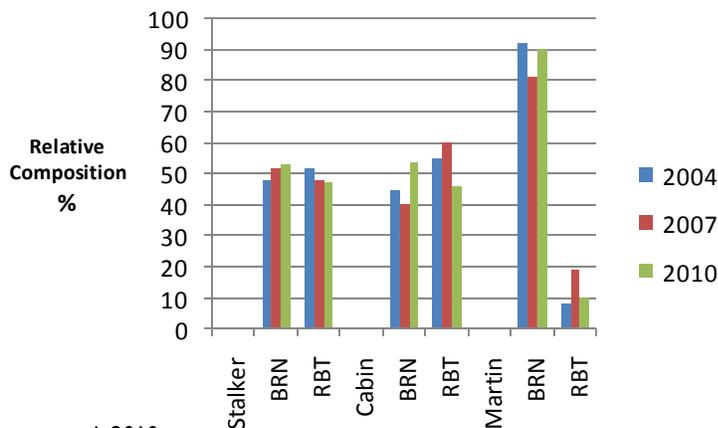
Idaho Walleye Unlimited

Anderson Ranch Reservoir Kokanee

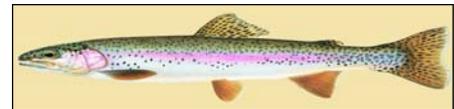
Every year for three long nights in late July centered around a new moon, fisheries biologists trawl the depths of Anderson Ranch Reservoir sampling the fishery to determine a population estimate and biomass density of kokanee salmon. Kokanee are prized among anglers for their delicacy. Kokanee are a density dependant fish, therefore the more fish present in the fishery, the smaller the size structure. Kokanee naturally reproduce in the tributaries of Anderson Ranch Reservoir. In 2010, four age classes of Kokanee were documented in the fishery from trawling. Age 0 to Age 4 kokanee were present with both age 3 and age 4 kokanee spawning. Age 4 fish measuring 16 inches were caught in the trawl, and anglers reported fall fishing for large kokanee was spectacular.



Silver Creek Experiencing Biomass Shift



Stanton et al. 2010



Night time electro-fishing surveys conducted on three reaches of Silver Creek in 2010 show a biomass shift toward brown trout in all three reaches sampled. Brown trout are now more than 50 percent of the catch in all three reaches of Silver Creek and more than 90 percent of the catch in the creek's lower portions.

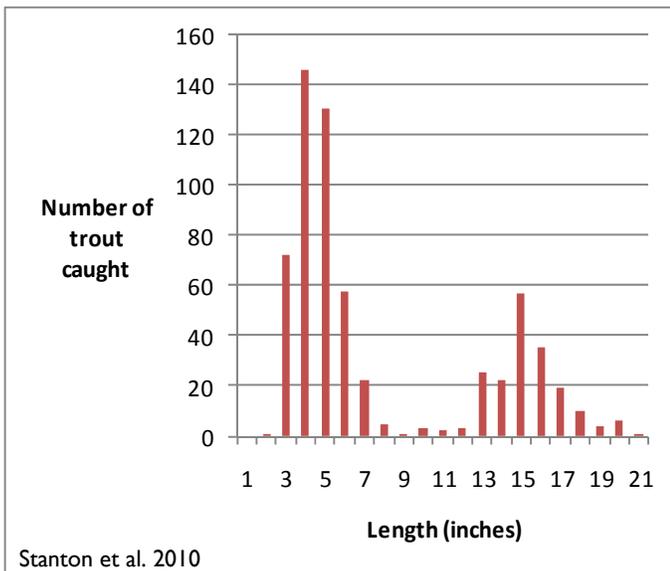


Big Wood River Electro-Fishing Survey and Exploitation Study



IDFG photo

Idaho Department of Fish and Game fisheries crews sampled the Big Wood River below Magic Reservoir in 2010. In the interest of various constituents, issues, such as year round stream flows below Magic Dam and conservative regulations in the river below the dam, Fish and Game completed a standard mark-and-recapture population estimate and an exploitation study. To determine catch and harvest in the fishery, 296 fish were tagged. Little information, such as catch and harvest data, use of the fishery, population estimates, and habitat, is known about the fishery. Data collected in the survey will be analyzed and used to further answer some of these questions. Results indicate the trout fishery in the Big Wood River below Magic Reservoir is healthy. Four age classes of fish were documented in the river, as well as juvenile and adult spawning fish indicating natural reproduction in the river. Population estimates indicate 4,800 fish per mile,



Stanton et al. 2010



IDFG photo

Yellowstone Cutthroat Transplant Completed

Six Mile Creek, in a remote area of eastern Cassia County, was historically home to native Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Over time, through stocking of rainbow trout, hybridization occurred. In early 2008, Fish and Game initiated a program with the U.S. Forest Service and a local landowner to remove hybrid trout from Six Mile Creek using rotenone—a selective fish toxicant used to remove fish. In the fall of 2009, Fish and Game treated the headwater springs and Six Mile Creek with rotenone, removing the hybrid trout. In the spring of 2010, 83 native Yellowstone cutthroat trout from nearby Eight Mile Creek were transplanted back into Six Mile Creek, as the final part of Fish and Game's Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Management Plan.



IDFG photo



BE OUTSIDE
IDAHO CHILDREN IN NATURE



Idaho Department of
Fish and Game
Magic Valley Region 4
324 S 417 E, Suite 1
Hwy 93 Business Park
Jerome, Idaho 83338

(208) 324-4359
(208) 324-1160 Fax

Trout In The Classroom and “Take Me

The Trout in the Classroom program and Fish and Game’s “Take Me Fishing” trailer were huge successes in 2010. The Trout in the Classroom curriculum is now in 17 classrooms throughout the Magic Valley Region. Chiller units are sponsored by the Magic Valley Fly Fishers, who donate proceeds to the program. More than 5,000 children were taken fishing as part of Trout in the Classroom and the Take Me Fishing trailer. The fishing trailer visited seven locations for 12 trips throughout the region in 2010. The trailer will be available again in 2011 for groups to use on a loan basis. Sign out the trailer for your group at the local Magic Valley Regional office. The Take Me Fishing trailer is stocked with fishing poles and various kinds of fishing equipment.

TROUT in the CLASSROOM
Connecting Students with their Watersheds

WHAT STUDENTS DO:

- * raise trout from eggs to fingerlings
- * monitor tank water quality
- * engage in stream habitat study
- * appreciate water resources
- * foster a conservation ethic
- * understand ecosystem connectivity

[>learn more](#)

FOR TEACHERS

- * lesson plans *
- web resources
- library

FAQ's ←

- how to get started
- trout care
- tank & equipment

“All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.”

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/>

