

HOW TO FISH IN THE WYOMING HEAT

In Wyoming, when it's hot and dry, the state's streams and rivers flow with less water and high air temperatures cause water temperatures to rise. The higher water temperatures and loss of deep pool habitats can prove lethal to trout. In lower elevation reservoirs, lakes and ponds, trout and salmon may also become stressed; particularly when hooked and pulled up into the warm surface waters. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department urges anglers to adjust fishing practices during the state's hottest stretch of summer to help fish beat the heat.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Anglers who adjust their practices can help more fish survive the heat.



Fish early in the morning while the water temperature is cooler.



Reel in and land fish as rapidly as possible to reduce exhaustion stress.



Keep the fish in the water as much as possible.



Do not squeeze the fish or place fingers in the gills.



Carry a pocket thermometer to monitor the water temperature.



If the water temperature is at or above 65 degrees, consider keeping what you catch within the regulations. As a general rule, do not attempt to release trout when water temperatures reach 70 degrees.



As water temperature increases, using the proper techniques to catch-and-release a fish become increasingly more important to help insure the fish has a chance to survive.



Remove the hook gently. If hooked deeply, cut the leader.



Barbless hooks allow easier hook removal.



Flies and lures are recommended whenever many fish are being caught and released.



Consider escaping the heat with a trip to a top notch, high country fishery where it's cooler or take advantage of one of the state's premier walleye, bass, catfish or panfish fisheries.



If a fish is exhausted and cannot hold itself upright, and if regulations allow, consider having it for supper because the fish has a poor chance of surviving.



Information from Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Free thermometers for anglers provided courtesy of Trout Unlimited

