



WGFD

Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

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News Release

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ANGLERS WANTED ON FONTENELLE RESERVOIR

GREEN RIVER-The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is looking for a few good ice anglers to catch lots of ling, a.k.a. burbot, in Fontenelle Reservoir.

The discovery of this eel-like, predatory fish in the late 1990's dealt a serious blow Game and Fish efforts to maintain quality fisheries in Fontenelle Reservoir for *all* anglers, not just the *few* selfish individuals who want their favorite fish everywhere they wish. Since that discovery, area fisheries managers, like Green River fisheries biologist Bobby Compton, have been working aggressively to manage against illegally introduced fish populations.

"Anyone whose fished Flaming Gorge Reservoir over the past few years knows through recent regulations we have allowed anglers to harvest an unlimited number of burbot in order to suppress their populations," said Compton. "Because burbot are also thriving in Fontenelle Reservoir, we also need the help of anglers to suppress the illegally introduced burbot population in the reservoir."

"Although we urge caution to anyone ice fishing, the ice on Fontenelle this winter has been consistently thicker than the ice on Flaming Gorge," Compton said. "There are opportunities to catch significantly larger burbot in Fontenelle Reservoir than in Flaming Gorge Reservoir. In fact, most burbot are in the 20 to 30-inch range."

"We recommend anglers fish near the cliff-habitats along the east shore and southwest corner, or along the dam. Anglers should target rocky points or cliffs in the water 15 to 40-feet deep. Our experience shows anglers will be more successful if they get set up at least one-hour before sunset. That allows them to safely scout out safe ice conditions before it gets dark. The fishing usually picks up at dusk and can last many hours into the night. Strips of sucker meat on luminescent jigs work best. Place the jig near the bottom and keep the luminescent jig charged. Burbot strikes seem to be lighter at Fontenelle than at Flaming Gorge, but that can always vary."

Anglers should pick up a copy of the *2008-2009 Wyoming Fishing Regulations* to read about the Special Winter Ice Fishing Provision. The provision allows anglers the use of more than two lines only during the ice-covered period on waters listed under the Special Winter Ice Fishing Provision. No person shall use more than six lines at any time to fish and when using more than two lines, each line shall bear no more than one hook, artificial fly or lure. Anglers are required to put their name on each line, pole or tip-up and attend to their poles. Waters included in the ice fishing provision in Area 4 include Flaming Gorge, Big Sandy, Fontenelle, Sulphur Creek and Woodruff Reservoirs.

"Ice conditions can vary at Fontenelle due to weather conditions and water releases into the Green River. Proceed with caution and be aware of pressure ridges, especially across the mouths of the small bays on the east shore."

Compton says if you don't like to catch burbot in Fontenelle Reservoir, the Brown and rainbow trout body conditions look good this winter, which makes for fun angling and excellent table fare. "If ice fishing isn't your thing, don't forget the kokanee fishing should get good in mid-May and June. That's not too far off!"

Anyone with questions about fishing can contact the Green River Game and Fish Office at 307-875-3223.

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