

Creel Chronicles

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 2012

Special points of interest:

- New Creel Surveying schedule
- Sutcliffe Boat launch opens
- 2012 LCT stocking plan
- Swimming Advisory update
- Pyramid Lake Store closes
- AIS reminder

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Opening Day

Welcome back to another fishing season at Pyramid Lake. We are all excited to see what the upcoming season will bring. The good news is that there are no changes to the regulations or fees this fall.

Many people complained that last year's catch rates seemed down from previous years (especially from the shore). Let's look at the data. Overall, the catch rate was around 2 hours/fish; however, the shore catch rate was 3.4 hours/fish, while the boat catch rate was 1.5 hours/fish.

Prior to the slot limit being instituted in October 1991 the average catch rate was over 4 hours/fish. Between 1991 and 1996 the catch rates steadily improved to 1.5 hours/fish, and remained relatively stable until 2004. Since 2004 the catch rates have slowly crept up to about 2 hours/fish.

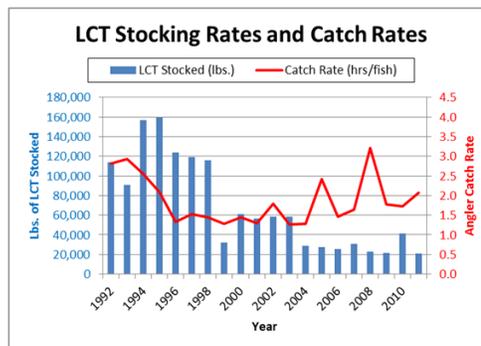
If we look at the stocking rates over that same period, it is clear that we are currently stocking at a much lower poundage. This is due to several factors:

1. Lahontan National Fish Hatchery (US Fish & Wildlife) has switched over to rearing only Pilot Peak strain LCT. It has taken them several years to build-up their brood-stock, and as a result they have not been able to stock very many fish in Pyramid Lake. Their next stocking is tentatively scheduled for February 2013.
2. Pyramid Lake Fisheries has been renovating their hatcheries, and has had to plant the fish at a much smaller size.
3. Due to the poor state of the economy (resulting in very low interest

rates) and the high cost of electricity, it is not feasible to keep the fish in the hatcheries for as long as we used to.

This year we took a total 1.4 million eggs from our spawn channel and from that we successfully hatched nearly 816,000 LCT. Early in the summer approximately 122,188 fry were stocked into the Truckee River below Marble Bluff Dam. We currently have about 670,000 three to four inch fish in our hatcheries. By December we plan to stock about 220,000 each, four inch, five inch and six inch fish in the lake. About 18% of each size group will be marked with adipose fin clips and coded-wire tags. About 20,000 fish will be held over until spring for attraction to the Sutcliffe spawn channel.

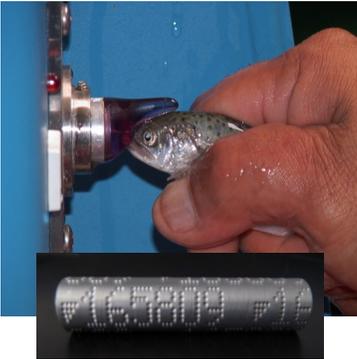
Written by Nancy Vucinich, PLF Biologist (stocking numbers courtesy Denise Shaw)



	Boat	Shore	Total
# of Anglers interviewed	2,638	2,463	5,101
Total Hours Fished	14,991.50	12,775.00	27,766.50
Total # Throwbacks	9,103	3,523	12,626
<17"	26%	22%	25%
17-20"	44%	41%	43%
20-24"	28%	32%	29%
>24"	2%	4%	3%
# Keepers Checked	791	248	1039
Average Length (inches)			18.8
Total Fish per Angler	3.8	1.5	2.7
Total Hours per Fish	1.5	3.4	2.0



Floy tag and placement on the fish



LCT being injected with a coded wire tag. Fisheries personnel must retrieve this microscopic tag.

Angler Information Needed

Pyramid Lake Fisheries and US Fish & Wildlife are requesting your assistance in gathering information on tagged fish caught in Pyramid Lake.

We are looking for coded wire tags and floy tags, both types will also have adipose fin clips.

The floy tags identify the Pilot Peak strain of LCT which are raised in the Lahontan National Hatchery in Gardnerville by the USFWS. All Pilot Peak fish released in Pyramid Lake are marked with a fin clip or floy tag.

Each tagged fish contains

valuable information pertaining to the fish strain, age, stocking date, growth and survival rates.

This information will help biologist determine the best stocking strategies. If you catch a floy tagged fish and return it to the lake, **please do not pull out the tag.**

Whether you decide to keep a legal size fish or if you decide to return it to the lake and it is marked with either type of tag, we would appreciate the **following information** on that fish:

- Fork length/weight

- Tag Number
- Tag color
- Date/Location caught

Floy tag number will be a 6-digit number (i.e. 000123) there is also a phone number on the tag. The floy tag colors will vary.

Please call the phone number on the tag or turn in information at our Creel Station. If you are interested in the information on the fish we can provide it to you, so please leave your name and address.

** Some information and pictures courtesy USFWS poster.*

Sutcliffe Docks Open

Pyramid Lake Fisheries worked with the Pyramid Lake Tribe to complete the Sutcliffe boat launch project. This project was slated for completion in December 2011 but had some technical difficulties.

The boat launch was completed and opened in mid-July 2012. This will ease traffic at the Pelican docks.

Objects in the water, remnants from the old 1980's docks are clearly marked or covered and a map of all obstacles is clearly posted at the dock.

The docks are able to accommodate boats up to 24 feet with no problems. Please use caution when docking and be courteous, keeping in mind there are only two slips.



Dock before obstacles were marked

The boat launch was completed and opened in mid-July 2012.

Below are a few of the authorized fishing charters for Pyramid Lake:

[Cutthroat Charters](#)

[George Molino](#)

Phone: (775) 476-0555

[Eagle Eye Charters](#)

[Joe and Sherry Mendes](#)

Office Phone: (775) 574-0900

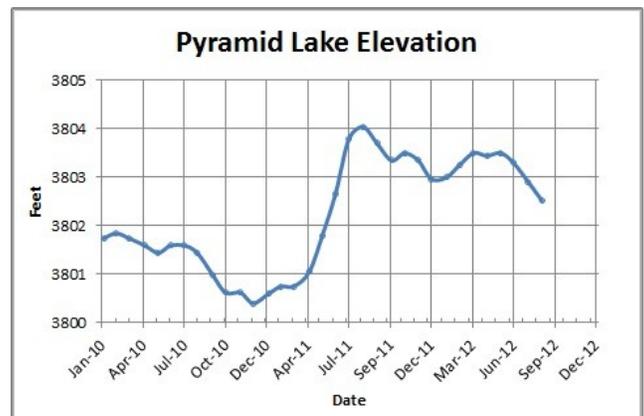
Cell- (775) 224-9815

Sorry, we don't have a current listing of all other authorized guides for the 2012-13 fishing season.

Current Lake Elevations

The elevation of the lake for August 2012 is 3802.5 feet above sea level. The level has declined since the July high of 3803.5 feet. Although it seems like the lake level has dropped dramatically, it has only declined one foot since the June level (high mark for the year).

** Elevation readings are courtesy of US Geological Service.*



Creel Schedule

Our Pyramid Highway Creel Station will be opening on **Sundays only** on the week-ends this season. In addition a creel clerk will be on duty **one weekday** each week, so should you be out fishing during the week, stop by and report your fishing efforts.

The weekday will vary so look out for the bright flags on the Creel signs on the highway which means there is a clerk

on duty.

We are encouraging anglers to use the **self survey forms** when the station is **closed**. These forms are located at both Nixon and the Pyramid Lake station.

Please fill out as much information as possible and please feel free to leave your comments, we want to hear your opinions.

Stop by when a Creel clerk is on duty and you have a chance to enter our **\$50 monthly drawing!** Give us your fishing report and we will give you an entry form.

One winner is chosen each month. *Sorry guys but you cannot enter on the self-survey.* We hope to see you soon and hope you have a great fishing season!

August Swimming Advisory Update

In the midst of one of our busiest months here at Pyramid Lake, there were several reported incidents of swimmers suffering from a “rash” after swimming or wading in the warm, shallow areas of water on several beaches.

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe issued a Water Advisory notice on August 3, 2012 and a group of water quality specialist met to devise a plan that kept the safety of the public in mind. An advisory was posted but the beaches were not closed.

This advisory urged caution for individuals with sensitive skin and advised against swimming in shallow, warm areas of the lake.

Water samples collected from the affected areas and several other beaches were immediately sent to the State of Nevada water quality lab in Reno. All tested parameters met EPA standards for clean water.

This was also the start of an algae bloom. This bloom is a essential part of the nitrogen cycle that keeps the lakes

ecosystem healthy. Swimming in water with an algae bloom has been known to occasionally cause skin rash but whether it was a contributing factor is unknown.

There has not been any more reports of “rash” since the initial reports. All tests have been negative for any contaminants in the water, therefore the advisory has been lifted. **If you have any questions please call (775) 574-0101 Ext. 19.**



Brad Stout 2/9/2012
17 lbs.

“All tests have been negative for any contaminants in the water, therefore the advisory has been lifted.”

Pyramid Lake Store Closes

The Pyramid Lake Store closed its doors on July 8, 2012 after 30 years of operation.

Several factors influenced this decision by George and Carla Molino. Foremost was the passing of Wilbur Smith in Mid March, this left a big void in the heart of his family and the business.

Wilbur took with him his expertise at fly tying and decades of fishing stories, which he told while sitting at his table in the store.

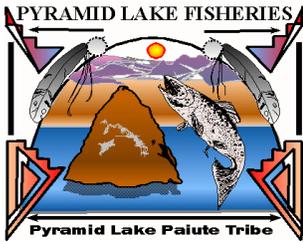
After reflection, Carla and George decided to pursue a ‘normal’, 5 day work week. Carla now works at the Tribal Health Center and George is continuing his Cut-

throat Fishing Charter, Cannon Repair and the Boat/RV storage business.

“To All the fisherman that were not only customers, but regulars and friends, Carla and I will miss you and wish you tight lines and don’t miss that big one.”

George and Carla Molino





Pyramid Lake Fisheries

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Send us your big fish pictures and information and we will include them in our next issue.

Like our **Facebook** page and you can share your pictures and stories on our page!



Aquatic hitchhikers!!!

Pyramid Lake Fisheries was founded in 1975.

Dedicated to the recovery of the native

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and the

endangered Cui-Ui to

Pyramid Lake and the lower

Truckee River

Visit us on the web:

pyramidlakefisheries.org

AIS Update

By following a simple procedure each time you leave the water, we can stop aquatic hitchhikers. Knowing which waters contain nuisance hitchhikers is not as important as doing the procedure every time we leave any lake, stream or coastal area.

Simple procedure:

- Remove any visible mud, plants or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that came in contact with water (Boats, trailers, equipment, clothes, etc.)
- Always empty and dry out live-fish wells after removing fish.

- Never release plants, fish or animals into any body of water unless they came from that body of water.

Be informed and take action. We all need to work together to protect our environment. Why is this important? Because these hitchhikers can:

- Reduce game populations.
- Ruin boat engines and jam steering equipment.
- Make rivers and lakes unusable to boaters and swimmers.
- Reduce native species and degrade ecosystems.
- Effect local economies of water-dependant communi-

ties.

Some common hitchhikers are Zebra Mussels, New Zealand Mudsnaills, Hydrilla, Whirling Disease, Spiny Water Fleas, Round Gobies, and various water plants.

Please take a moment and look at the ANS Task Force and the US Coast Guard websites for more information.

Let's keep Pyramid Lake free of any of these hitchhikers. We have not found any of these threats in our waters but we are monitoring and hope that you will follow these simple steps of prevention.

Thank you and have a great fishing season.