



February 2022

## Officers:

President: Joe Stewart

Vice President: George Overman

Secretary: Cheryl Juarez

Treasurer: Brandon Weaver



**BE CAREFUL OUT THERE ON THE ICE!! DON'T BE THIS GUY.**

## Board of Directors:

Tom Juarez

Bruce Nepper

Willie Forbes

Ted Thompson

Brian Woodward

## All You Can Eat Walleye Banquet:

NPWU All You Can Eat Walleye Banquet will be held April 9th, 2022 at The Hangar in Bar Nunn, WY...

If you would like to sponsor a table or buy a couple tickets @ \$60 a piece let us know! See page 2 for the table sponsor levels.

Call Joe Stewart @ (307) 315-1627 or stop by Rocky Mountain Discount Sports in Casper, WY to get yours...

We are only selling 300 tickets this year so act NOW!!

## Toughman Tournament:

The Toughman is here! April 23rd, 2022 @ Alcova Reservoir. See page 3, 4, 5 and 6 for information

## NPWU Apparel:

Would you like to see our apparel listed on the website?? Let us know by email or by shooting us a text!! We have apparel in stock! Give us a shout to get your hands on a t-shirt, hat or a fishing style shirt while supplies last!

# NORTH PLATTE WALLEYES UNLIMITED INC.



## Annual "All You Can Eat" Walleye Banquet

April 9th, 2022

"The Hangar"

### CORPORATE TABLE/SPONSORSHIP

I wish to contribute to the North Platte Walleyes Unlimited by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Buying: \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets to the Banquet @ \$60.00 each OR Purchasing Table Level \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Donate the following merchandise valued @\$ \_\_\_\_\_

CORPORATE/COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### Gold Table \$1000.00

1. 8 Dinner Tickets-Reserved table
2. 8 Memberships
3. \$500 in General Raffle Tickets
4. Copy of Monthly Newsletter
5. 1 yr. Advertising on Website & Newsletter with full color logo and digital link to your website
6. Guided walleye fishing trip on Glendo or Pathfinder
7. Recognition @ Banquet/Brochure

#### Silver Table \$750.00

1. 8 Dinner Tickets-Reserved Table
2. 6 Memberships
3. \$300 in General Raffle Tickets
4. Copy of Monthly Newsletter
5. 1 yr. Advertising on Website & Newsletter with logo no digital link
6. Recognition @ Banquet/Brochure

#### Bronze Table \$500.00

1. 4 Dinner Tickets-Reserved Table
2. 4 Memberships
3. \$200 in General Raffle Tickets
4. Copy of Monthly Newsletter
5. 1 yr. Advertising on monthly Newsletter / No Logo
6. Recognition @ Banquet/Brochure

CONTACT US @:  
northplattewalleyes.com

Npwalleyes@gmail.com

(307) 315-1627

# Toughman Tournament:

Welcome Anglers!

On behalf of Alcova Resort, I wish you all a safe and successful tournament. Alcova Marina will be open from 6:00pm-9:00pm Friday evening April 22, 2022 and from 3:00pm-5:00pm on April 23, 2022. This year we are bringing back the Fishermen's Banquet on Friday night. It's my hope that we can get everyone together to enjoy a nice meal and share fish stories with each other! All those attending must RSVP on the Toughman application for the meal. If you want a sausage burrito ready for you at registration on Saturday morning, you will need reserve that as well.

The transient docks in front of the boathouse are available throughout the weekend and I encourage you all to tie up throughout the day on Saturday. If you wish to dock overnight, the cost is \$25/night and a waiver will need to be signed. I will have mid-grade 87 ethanol free fuel for sale at the pump. If there is anything else anyone needs, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached anytime at 307-259-6450.

Tight lines to all.

## **Friday Evening Banquet**

6pm-9pm

\$25 prime rib dinner. Meal includes, 12oz. prime rib, vegetable medley, dinner roll, baked potato and drink. Must reserve meal on the 2022 Toughman Application.

## **Saturday Morning**

5:30am-7am

Place your order on the 2022 Toughman Application and your burrito will be waiting for you at the registration tent. Sausage burritos for \$5 and \$2 coffee.

## **Award Ceremony**

3pm-5pm

Inside the marina. \$3 beers for those of age



# **30th Annual Toughman Tournament**

## **April 23rd, 2022**

**Alcova Reservoir/Alcova Marina**

Payout based on 35 Teams			
Heaviest Walleye	\$800	Heaviest Trout	\$350
2 <sup>nd</sup> Heaviest Walleye	\$500	2 <sup>nd</sup> Heaviest Trout	\$250
3 <sup>rd</sup> Heaviest Walleye	\$300	3 <sup>rd</sup> Heaviest Trout	\$200
4 <sup>th</sup> Heaviest Walleye	\$150	Most Non-Game Fish	\$50

Weight is determined by a length to weight conversion

### CONTEST REQUIREMENTS:

1. \$100 Entry fee per boat
2. Tournament hours are 7 am to 3 pm. All fish must be in by 3:00 pm!
3. Maximum of 3 anglers per boat
4. All registered anglers must also be NPWU members (\$20 individual/family membership)
5. \*\*\*Any contestant watercraft coming from outside the state of Wyoming, are required to undergo a mandatory inspection by an authorized AIS inspector prior to launching. Contact the WGFD @ 877-943-3247 or logon to [www.wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS](http://www.wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS) for more information.\*\*\*

**FRIDAY EVENING DINNER:** Pre-Toughman dinner will be held inside Alcova Marina from 6:00pm – 9:00pm Friday evening April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022... \$25 prime rib dinner. Meal includes 12oz prime rib, vegetable medley, dinner roll, baked potato and drink. Must RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**BREAKFAST BURRITOS AND COFFEE:** Sausage Burrito \$5 and/or Coffee \$2. Must RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Pick up your burritos and coffee at the registration trailer.

**BOAT INSPECTION:** Boat inspections will begin at 6:00 am at the Alcova Marina

[EARLY BIRD PRIZES for the first 10 teams with paid entries.](#)

Contact: Joe Stewart @ (307) 315-1627 for questions  
North Platte Walleyes Unlimited, Inc  
P.O. Box 1363  
Casper, WY 82602





# **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Toughman Tournament April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 Rules and Regulations**

- Fish weight is determined by a length to weight ratio conversion
- Single file line up start, starting with the number 1 boat. No wake until you are past the launch boat!
- Team Captains to check in and get boat number at Alcova Resort parking lot
- Team Captains must return boat number and check out with tournament personnel to ensure all contestants are safely off of the water!!!
- Any contest Watercraft coming from out of the state of Wyoming are required to undergo a mandatory inspection by an authorized AIS inspector prior to launching. Contact 1-877-WGFD-AIS (1-877-943-3247) or [wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS) for more information and inspection locations
- Tournament fishing hours will be from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm
- It's the responsibility of the team captain to make sure that all anglers are aware of the 2022 Wyoming Game and Fish fishing and boating regulations.
- All watercraft that has been in a water infested with Zebra/Quagga Mussels within the last 30 days must undergo a mandatory inspection by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) prior to launching. All boats may be subject to inspection from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.
- All boats must display 2022 registration and (WY boats) aquatic invasive species decals.
- Sorting or releasing fish prior to weigh-in/measuring (culling) that have been reduced to possession is not permitted. Once a fish is in an angler's possession (i.e., in the livewell), if it is a trout, it cannot be released. Any fish caught that is not to be entered into the contest shall be immediately released back to the water with as little injury to the fish as possible.
- This is a harvest tournament for trout, no trout may be released into the water after it has been placed in the livewell. The anglers must keep all trout and apply them to their possession limit. Trout will be weighed
- This is a catch and release tournament for walleye. Walleye Tournament will be conducted as a catch and release event where fish will be measured per Game & Fish standards (tail pinched) on the water then released.
- No more than five (5) Walleye may be kept in a livewell at any time. No more than six (6) trout (WGFD creel limit) may be kept. The time Walleye spend in a livewell shall be not more than two (2) hours.
- Fish unable to right themselves (or fish that otherwise seem weak and may suffer post-release death) shall be declared dead, and shall be given to the contestant and count toward the daily possession limit of that contestant.
- There will be a 15" minimum length for walleye being measured and entered into the contest. Any walleye less than 15" cannot be entered. Any walleye determined to be declared dead cannot be entered.
- No angler may enter fish exceeding the daily possession limit.
- If any contestants are found to be in violation of Wyoming Game and Fish Regulations, between 6:00 pm Friday April 22, 2022 until 6:00 pm Saturday April 23, 2022; they will be disqualified from the contest.
- All contestants must observe safe boating practices and show respect to other anglers on the water at all times.
- No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be consumed or allowed in any tournament boat during the contest.
- Boat inspections and Team Captain check-in will be held at the NPWU trailer located near the Alcova Resort from 6:00 am to 7:00 am.
- You must be a North Platte Walleyes Unlimited Member to participate in this tournament.
- You must have your fish at the weigh-in center by 3:00 pm, boat captains must check out with tournament directors before departing.
- In case of a tie, the two places will be combined and the money will be split evenly between the two teams.
- Have a safe day on the water, and we will see you at the 3:00 pm weigh-in and the following Prize Ceremony at the Alcova Resort.

**Thank You to the Alcova Resort!**  
**Your support of this sponsor is greatly appreciated!**

**North Platte Walleyes Unlimited, Inc.**

**PO Box 1363**

**Casper, WY 82602**

[npwalleyes@gmail.com](mailto:npwalleyes@gmail.com) - [www.northplattewalleyes.com](http://www.northplattewalleyes.com)

Questions? Contact President Joe Stewart @ (307) 315-1627



**30<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Toughman Tournament  
April 23, 2022**

**ENTRY FORM**

1. Payment of \$100.00 must accompany this entry form. \$120.00 if received after 4/21/2021.
2. Team Captain must check-in BEFORE event at Alcova Marina, from 6 am to 7 am
3. All registered anglers must be a NPWU member. membership fee Only \$20 for Individual/Family
4. **All participants information below must be completely filled out and PRINTED CLEARLY!**

**TEAM CAPTAIN**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tournament fee and Membership Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member #2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member #3**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Release:**

By signing the tournament entry form, "we" in consideration of being permitted to participate in the Toughman Tournament do release all North Platte Walleyes Unlimited (NPWU) officer, directors, member, and representatives thereof from any claim whatsoever, including but not limited to, any bodily injury, death, or property damage resulting from any accident during the tournament participation, or traveling to or from this event. We further release NPWU and its membership or representatives from any claim on account of first aid, treatment, or service rendered as a result of travel or tournament participation. All participating teams, by signing, declare that they have "in effect" proper liability boat insurance.

Prize money is based on an 80/20 split. Any advertised prize amount is based on a specific number of entries and is not guaranteed if the number of entries is different from that advertised. Further, NPWU is not obligated to release a prize of money to any entity determined to have violate established tournament rules or Wyoming Game and fish Regulations. Any category of prize that is not won by contestants will be awarded by drawing.

In the event the tournament is cancelled due to a lack of entries, inclement weather, or other reason, an attempt will be made to notify the team captain and entry fees will be returned.

**\*\*\*All contest watercraft coming from out of the state of Wyoming is required to undergo a mandatory inspection by an authorized AIS inspector prior to launching. Contact 1-877-WGFD-AIS (1-877-943-3247) or go to; [wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS) for more information\*\*\***

Captain's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Application must be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to RSVP dinner or breakfast burritos and coffee.***

\$25 Prime Rib Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Sausage Breakfast Burrito \_\_\_\_\_ \$2 Coffee \_\_\_\_\_

Guy Campbell (Fish Culture Supervisor) and Lars Alsager (Speas Hatchery Superintendent)

### **Cool/Warm water sport fish in Wyoming**

Typically, close to 1.2 million walleye and several hundred thousand other cool/warm water fish are transferred into the state annually. These fish are distributed across the state to assist in the management of walleye and other cool/warm water fisheries. Fish are made available through trades with other states such as: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and North Dakota. North Dakota is one of our most important trade partners as we receive 1.2 million walleye annually from this state.

### **Importation of cool/warm water fish into Wyoming**

WGFD typically doesn't have any control on the timing or size of cool/warm the fish. When fish become available we go and get them. The trips transporting walleye back from North Dakota typically take between 10 and 14 hours. Trips traveling to other states can take several days with multiple personnel. All fish imported into the state are thoroughly inspected for AIS utilizing plastic sorting boards. This additional handling definitely puts stress on the fish but the overall effect on the survival rates is not known.

### **Rising concerns due to AIS**

Due to the rising discoveries and concerns of Aquatic Invasive Species across the country, the ability to find clean cool/warm water sources are becoming more of a challenge. Our options to find channel catfish, walleye, sauger, bluegill, green sunfish, black crappie, largemouth bass, white crappie, sturgeon and northern pike that can safely imported into our state are very limited.

### **How will we produce cool/warm water fish to meet the needs of Wyoming fisheries?**

Discussions began several years ago about how the state could move forward with our own production of cool/warm water species. Initial conversations first focused on "extensive" or outside pond culture to produce fish. A typical "extensive" fish culture facility would utilize a large footprint to rear walleye in 1/2 to 1 acre lined earthen ponds. For us, this would come at a high cost due to the need of finding and purchasing land, running utilities, construction of the facility and staffing. Costs could easily reach into the 30-40 million dollar range. Besides costs other concerns include: the elevation of the facility, late-spring weather patterns, pathogen free water source and near-by bio-security risks all of which could influence the number of fish produced annually.

The next option left on the table was to look into "intensive" fish culture to produce walleye and other cool/warm water species. Methods have been successfully achieved in a lab but not on a larger production scale. "Intensive" fish culture is the type of fish culture utilized with existing cold water species around the state. Fish are reared in rectangular and/or circular tanks and fed an artificial diet. Intensive culture utilizes a smaller footprint of a facility where many rearing variables are controlled.

Before jumping into our own trails, we first reached out to some of our contacts at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Iowa Department of Natural Resources. We learned about their recommended set-ups and techniques used to successfully incubate and rear cool/warm water species primarily walleye. Also, the Culture Section sent personnel to Colorado and Nebraska to get cross trained on their walleye spawning techniques. Personnel also spent time reviewing other available literature based on research conducted on cool and warm water species.

### **Trials**

For the trials, the Speas Hatchery was selected since it has an isolation facility and the availability to utilize multiple water temperatures. This site was also appealing because many of requirements needed for a new cool/warm water facility are present at this location. This included: a pathogen free water source with multiple water temperatures and available space for construction of a new facility.

In 2020, trials first began in the Speas isolation and these trials continued into 2021. Fertilized eggs were brought into the facility from spawning operations at Buffalo Bill Reservoir. Once fry hatched they were enumerated and moved into three 3' circular tanks in 2020 and three 3' circular tanks and one 5' self-cleaning larval tank in 2021. Turbidity was maintained in tanks through the injection of clay into the water source. Fish were fed a specialized artificial diet imported from Japan. Specialized lights were utilized as well as water sprayers to provide surface distortion and to break surface tension to allow the small walleye fry the ability to engulf air to regulate their gas bladders. Since walleye are photo positive to light for the first 21 days of their life, it is important to provide them with the exact environmental conditions (turbid water, appropriate feed, surface distortion, breaking surface tension, and exact lighting) or success will be limited.

Overall, the two experimental trials in the Speas isolation have been quite successful with a survival rate of 75% in 2020 and 60% in 2021. In 2021, we were on track for a survival of 75% but there was a unexpected equipment failure. In the past two years, a total of 150,000 fish were produced from these trials. Walleye were stocked in Hawk Springs, Ocean Lake, Wardell, Deaver, and Harrington Reservoirs.

### **Moving forward**

Back in 2021, we received notification that we would start to see a 20% reduction in the numbers of walleye we receive from North Dakota due to the discovery of AIS in one of the fish hatcheries. So in 2022, we plan to produce a total of 150,000 walleye from the isolation to help off-set this shortage.

### **Future of cool/warm water fish in Wyoming**

Speas Hatchery is being considered as the potential location of a new cool/warm water fish hatchery. The facility is centrally located, has multiple water sources with varying temperatures including the warm water, supply water available, large infrastructure and space available for the construction of the facility. Building a new facility would provide the state a consistent source of cool/warm water fish that could be reared to achieve optimum survival. The WGFD is actively seeking an outside consultant to determine the feasibility for a new facility.

## **Please Support These Businesses!!**

APS Technologies  
Bayou Bar



CRUSHCO  
Scenic Construction

### **Platinum Sponsors**



### **Gold Sponsors**

Tycoon Oilfield Services



### **Silver Sponsors**

Air Innovations  
All Out Fire  
American Title Agency  
C & C Supply  
Fox Spas  
Forbes Land Company  
Holloman Corporation

Hunting with Heroes  
Kenny Electric  
Overman Realty LLC  
Platte Valley Bank  
Recycled Eyez Walleye Guides  
Ridgeline Outdoors  
Rocky Mountain Electric

Sloane's General Store  
Sonny's RV  
Travis Staszak  
USA Trucking  
Wear Parts  
White's Marine Center

### **Bronze Sponsors**

All Trees  
Aspen Agency Group  
Big Horn Tires / TPI  
Broker One

Casper Children's Dental Clinic  
Foss Toyota  
Master Clean

Rocky Mountain Discount Sports  
WY Walleye Stampede  
WyoWires German Wirehaired Pointers