**W.A.L.L.I.**

(WALLEYE ANGLERS LENGTH LEAGE INTERNATIONAL)

Catch & Release (pro’s & Con’s)

Catch and release is not as simple as it sounds and doesn’t always live up to its name. Sportfishing tournaments have been following or claiming to follow catch and release best practices since the 60’s. Lets discuss industry norms and the approach taken by W.A.L.L.I.

**Con’s**

* The goal in most “no kill” derbies is simply that the fish of whatever species you are competing with be “alive” after mandatory transportation and at time of official entry. This means at minimum; the fish needs to have movement in its gills.
* While waiting to enter their fish, anglers hold them in bags filled with water, or they are put in troughs with aerated water that can contain sedatives or other pharmaceuticals designed to sedate and lessen the trauma on the fish during the entry process. These fish and the water way the trough water was dumped in now have contaminants put their by Anglers and tournament organizations.
* Alive at the time of entry, does not necessarily correlate to alive after release from the event.
* Any event that requires the anglers catch to be transported to a centralized entry station has greatly lessened the survival rate of their entered catch exponentially.
* Some events release the tournament fish from the nearest shoreline, or larger events have release boats, with tanks also filled with sedatives. In either case, the fish is being released back into the body of water it came from, BUT not at, or near, the location it was caught. In some large water body events Anglers could be transporting fish 100 plus miles from where they were caught to where they were entered.
* Along with distance from point of catch, there is also the trauma of being in a dark live well, getting smashed back and forth as the boat it is in is navigated through all sorts of seas, tank temperatures, and oxygen levels.
* The fish that weren’t belly up as soon as they were released have made it to the bottom of the body of water, in shock, physically traumatized, potentially drugged or sedated, they are completely defenseless waiting to recover their senses, if they do.
* This group of caught and released fish has now been removed from its specific ecosystem, school, gene pool, preferred habitat, food source, depth and temperature range.
* In large, multiple-day tournaments participants may go and fish where all the previous days catches were released. This practice is called catching “re-treads”.
* What does this do long term to the caught and transported group of fish? What is their survival rate short/long term?
* Does the mandatory transport tournaments enable/exacerbate the spread of aquatic diseases in fish populations and water bodies by relocating fish to completely different areas of the body of water than they would have ever been in if not for being caught during an event.
* Will a relocated fish ever return naturally to their place of catch?
* Are mandatory transport tournaments destroying the fish and fisheries that we love?
* Shouldn’t event officials and anglers alike vehemently protect the resources (fish and fishery) that they depend on and love?
* Events that use actual weight and girth measurements to choose a winner have the most occurrences of fraud and cheating in the sportfishing world right now. An advantage is gained when anglers stuff their fish with foreign objects with the objective of artificially increasing their catches weight.

Pro’s

* Virtual entry format events, where the fish are entered on the water in real time and locations to where they were caught and released in the same spot is 100% guaranteed to be the least invasive, disruptive, or harmful approach to running a sportfishing event.
* There would be no captive, physical culling of fish in a virtual format. All fish are entered into the app and the program culls according to the board or event rules of entry.
* W.A.L.L.I. uses a three-part equation based on picture of fish on approved measuring device, an estimated weight from a length to weight in pounds conversion table, and lastly an AI generated measurement of the fishes surface area. These values when added together give each fish a unique score that accurately reflects the unique size of the fish.
* Least invasive method of tournament sport-fishing
* Highest survival rate among all sport-fishing tournament protocols.