General Fishing Season for the Clearwater Region

All Waters Open All Year

Except as modified in Clearwater Region Special Rule Waters on Pages 14-15.
Fishing is not allowed within the posted upstream and downstream boundary of any fish weir or trap.

Daily Bag Limits for the Clearwater Region

The following daily bag limits apply to all waters of the Clearwater Region except as modified in Clearwater Region Special Rule Waters on Pages 14-15. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit after the second day of the season.

Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth)
- In rivers and streams, no bag, size or possession limits
- In lakes and reservoirs, limit is 6, both species combined

Brook Trout
- Brook Trout limit is 25

Bull Trout
- Bull Trout limit is 0, catch-and-release

Kokanee
- Kokanee limit is 25

Salmon (ocean-going)
- Salmon seasons and limits are set by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and issued in a separate brochure
- Fishing for or targeting salmon is prohibited unless a salmon season is specifically opened for that water

Steelhead (ocean-going)
- Defined as Rainbow Trout longer than twenty (20) inches in length in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage (excluding lakes and reservoirs), and the Clearwater River drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam, and lakes)
- Fishing for or targeting steelhead is prohibited unless a steelhead season is specifically opened for that water (see pages 41-45)

Sturgeon
- Sturgeon limit is 0, catch-and-release
- Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing
- Barbless hooks are required,
- Use of a sliding swivel device to secure a weight, and a lighter test line to secure weight to sliding swivel device, see Page 54 for details

Tiger Muskie
- Tiger Muskie limit is 2, none under 40 inches

Trout includes Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, and trout hybrids (e.g. Tiger Trout)
- In rivers and streams, trout limit is 2, all species combined
- In lakes, reservoirs, ditches and canals, trout limit is 6, all species combined
- Does not include Bull Trout and Brook Trout which are listed separately

Whitefish
- Whitefish limit is 25

Protected Nongame Fish includes Pacific Lamprey and Sand Roller
- May not be harvested or possessed

All Other Fish Species includes bullfrogs and crayfish
- No bag, size or possession limit

Check for potential fish consumption advisories. See Page 67.

Special Rule Waters for the Clearwater Region (see Pages 14-15 for details)

Clearwater River
Clearwater River, Middle Fork
Clearwater River, North Fork
Clearwater River, South Fork
Crooked Fork (tributary to Lochsa River)
Deer Creek Reservoir
Deyo Reservoir
Dworshak Reservoir
Elk Creek and tributaries (tributary to Dworshak Reservoir)
Elk Creek Reservoir
Kelly Creek and tributaries
Lochsa River
Mann Lake
Moose Creek Reservoir
Salmon River
Salmon River tributaries
Selway River
Snake River (Lewiston to Hells Canyon Dam)
Spring Valley Reservoir
Tolo Lake
Winchester Lake
Clearwater River

Section: From the mouth upstream to the Clearwater River Bridge at Orofino
• Trout limit is 6; only trout with a clipped adipose fin, as evidenced by a healed scar, may be kept; no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
• Fishing between posted boundaries 100 yards upstream and downstream from the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery Ladder (near Cherry Lane Bridge) and extending into the river channel 50 yards is prohibited
• Fishing from the shoreline or wading along the perimeter of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery is prohibited

Section: From the Clearwater River Bridge at Orofino upstream to the confluence of the South Fork and Middle Fork Clearwater rivers
• Trout limit is 6; only trout with a clipped adipose fin, as evidenced by a healed scar, may be kept; no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
• September 1 through April 30 - No motors allowed

Clearwater River, Middle Fork
• December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend - trout limit is 0, catch-and-release
• Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 - trout limit is 2, none under 14 inches
• September 1 through April 30 - No motors allowed

Clearwater River, North Fork
Section: From the mouth upstream to Dworshak Dam
• Trout limit is 6; only trout with a clipped adipose fin, as evidenced by a healed scar, may be kept; no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
• When fishing from Ahsahka Highway 7 Bridge, it is illegal to take or attempt to take any fish downstream of the railroad bridge; fishing from the railroad bridge is prohibited
• Fishing from any watercraft or wading is prohibited between the posted line approximately 150 yards upstream from the mouth of the North Fork Clearwater River and the Ahsahka Highway 7 Bridge
• Fishing from the shoreline or wading along the perimeter of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery is prohibited

Section: From the upper end of flat water of Dworshak Reservoir upstream
• Barbless hooks required
• December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend - trout limit is 0, catch-and-release, no bait allowed except maggots

Clearwater River, South Fork
• Trout limit is 6; only two may be Tiger Trout, no Tiger Trout under 14 inches

Deyo Reservoir
• Bass Limit is 2, none under 16 inches

Dworshak Reservoir
• Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout, no Cutthroat Trout under 14 inches

Elk Creek and tributaries (tributary to Dworshak Reservoir)
• Trout limit is 6, Brook Trout must be counted in trout limit

Elk Creek Reservoir
• Trout limit is 6, Brook Trout must be counted in trout limit

Kelly Creek and tributaries
• Trout limit is 0, catch-and-release
• No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

Lochsa River
Section: From the mouth upstream to Wilderness Gateway Campground Motor Bridge, near Highway 12 milepost 122
• Barbless hooks required
• December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout limit is 0, catch-and-release, no bait allowed except maggots
• Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2, none under 14 inches, no bait allowed

Section: From Wilderness Gateway Campground Motor Bridge upstream to the confluence of Colt Killed Creek and Crooked Fork Creek
• Trout limit is 0, catch-and-release
• No bait allowed, barbless hooks required
Mann Lake - Electric motors only
  • Bass limit is 2, none under 16 inches

Moose Creek Reservoir - Electric motors only

Salmon River
  • Trout limit is 6; only trout with a clipped adipose fin, as evidenced by a healed scar, may be kept; no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

Salmon River tributaries
  Section: Those tributaries from the mouth of the Salmon River upstream to the Middle Fork Salmon River (except Little Salmon River and South Fork Salmon River)
    • Trout limit is 2
  Section: Those tributaries above the mouth of Middle Fork Salmon River - See Page 40, Salmon River tributaries, Special Rule Waters

Selway River
  Section: From the mouth upstream to Selway Falls cable car
    • Barbless hooks required
    • December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend - trout limit is 0, catch-and-release, no bait allowed except maggots
    • Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2, none under 14 inches, no bait allowed
  Section: From Selway Falls cable car upstream to Selway Falls Bridge at Meadow Creek
    • Closed to fishing
  Section: From Selway Falls Bridge at Meadow Creek upstream
    • Trout limit is 0, catch-and-release
    • No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

Snake River (Lewiston upstream to Hells Canyon Dam)
  • Trout limit is 6; only trout with a clipped adipose fin, as evidenced by a healed scar, may be kept; no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

Spring Valley Reservoir - Electric motors only
  • Bass limit is 2, none under 16 inches

Tolo Lake - Electric motors only

Winchester Lake - Electric motors only