

# Idaho Fishing

## 2019 – 2021 Seasons & Rules

1st Edition 2019



**Free Fishing Day**

June 8, 2019 • June 13, 2020 • June 12, 2021

[idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov)

## Craig Mountain



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FOUNDATION

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## DIRECTOR MOORE'S OPEN LETTER TO THE HUNTERS, ANGLERS AND TRAPPERS OF IDAHO



My 6-year-old grandson caught his first steelhead last year. It was a wild fish and he had to release it. We had quite a discussion of why Grandpa got to keep the fish that I had caught earlier, but he had to release his. In spite of my explanation about wild fish vs. hatchery-raised fish, he was confused. Although ultimately, he understood this, when his dad caught a wild steelhead and he had to release it, as well. Both of my grandsons insisted on taking a picture of us with my fish. These moments in the field with our families and friends are the most precious of memories that I hope to continue to have for several decades as a mentor of anglers and hunters, demonstrating “how to harvest” and more importantly how to responsibly interact with wildlife. My first great grandchild was born in October 2018. He too, will receive a lifetime license from the proud “Great Grandpa” and I plan to be there for his first steelhead too. This heritage defines who we are as Idahoans.

Fish and Game is in the second year of its 2017 resident fee increase and many hunters and anglers held on to lower fees by getting “Price Locked” by continuing to buy their annual fishing, hunting and trapping licenses. If you missed that window of opportunity, it’s actually not too late. You can buy a three-year license and still pay 2017 prices and be Price Locked.

No one really likes paying more for something without getting more in return, so Fish and Game has strived to put additional revenue generated from the 2017 fee increase into enhanced opportunities for Idaho sportsmen and women.

Anglers will benefit from the result of a two-year plan to increase the numbers and sizes of hatchery rainbow trout. In 2019, an additional 225,000 “catchable” sized trout (predominantly 10” and 12” fish) will be stocked statewide, bringing the total to just over 1.8 million. Thanks to the additional revenue, this level of production will become the new normal in future years.

Fish and Game knows that having healthy big game herds is vital to Idaho’s hunting heritage, and so is the ability of hunters to access those animals. The department forged an agreement with Idaho Department of Lands to ensure continued public access on 2.3 million acres of state endowment lands. That access was secured through an agreement to provide a combination of law enforcement services and annual payments to the state’s endowment fund, which helps fund schools, hospitals and other state facilities.

The department continues to look for opportunities to provide additional public access for hunting and fishing by using resources derived from the Access/Depredation fee, which is paid by all fishing, hunting and trapping license holders. This dedicated fund provides much-needed resources that are earmarked specifically for providing access for hunting, fish and trapping for Idaho’s sportsmen and women. Increases to private lands access through “Access Yes” will add hundreds-of-thousands of acres to this successful program.

Providing access to the outdoors for Idahoans covers a wide range of activities from maintaining hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife watching opportunities at 31 Wildlife Management Areas that Fish and Game owns, to replacing aging boat ramps and sprucing up parking lots at popular boating areas.

Along those same lines, the “depredation” portion of the Access/Depredation fee is an important tool for ensuring that wildlife populations can be maintained at a high level while also protecting private landowners’ livelihoods.

Simply put, a large herd of elk grazing in an alfalfa field can be costly to a farmer or rancher, so Fish and Game compensates them for damages. Additionally, while we work with landowners to prevent damage caused by wildlife, we also conduct research to find methods to keep wildlife in its natural habitat and away from cultivated lands.

Fish and Game has been conserving wildlife in Idaho for 120 years. The Idaho State Legislature created the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1899 to stop market hunting and to restore game, fish, and bird populations for the public’s benefit. A state game warden, C.H.Ar buckle was subsequently hired; Hayspur Hatchery, was built in 1907 and the Payette River Wildlife Preserve was established in 1909 to enhance elk numbers. In 1938, by voter initiative, the Fish and Game Commission was created to set policy for the Department and administer the state wildlife policy established in Title 36 of Idaho Code. Briefly, it states that all wildlife in Idaho is to be preserved, protected, perpetuated and managed for the citizens of the state in a manner that provides continued supplies for hunting, fishing and trapping. In 2012, 70% of voters in Idaho approved a constitutional amendment that ensures the public’s right to hunt, fish, and trap and signifies that the preferred method of managing wildlife populations is through regulated hunting, fishing, and trapping. Under Commission guidance with public involvement, the wildlife resources in Idaho are in excellent hands with a professional staff that is committed to managing them on your behalf.

This work is often hazardous and during this 120 years, ten Idaho Fish and Game employees have been killed in the line of duty. I served with six of these professionals during the last four decades and it is an honor to be able to recognize them as part of the 120th Anniversary. Please join me in celebrating your agency anniversary and our accomplishments together in wildlife management.



**Virgil Moore**, Director

Idaho Department of Fish and Game



# Idaho Department of Fish and Game

## Idaho Wildlife Policy

“All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.”

— Idaho Code Section 36-103

## Idaho Fish and Game Commission

- Brad Corkill, Panhandle
- Daniel Blanco, Clearwater
- Tim Murphy, Southwest
- Greg Cameron, Magic Valley
- Lane Clezie, Southeast
- Derick Attebury, Upper Snake
- Jerry Meyers, Salmon

## Idaho Department of Fish and Game

600 S. Walnut St., P.O. Box 25  
Boise, ID 83707

**208-334-3700 • [idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov)**

- Virgil Moore, Director
- Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director
- Ed Schriever, Deputy Director

## Regional Offices

- Panhandle Region..... 208-769-1414  
2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d’Alene ID 83815
- Clearwater Region ..... 208-799-5010  
3316 16th St., Lewiston ID 83501
- Southwest Region ..... 208-465-8465  
3101 S. Powerline Rd., Nampa ID 83686
- McCall Subregion..... 208-634-8137  
555 Deinhard Lane, McCall ID 83638
- Magic Valley Region ..... 208-324-4359  
324 S 417 E; Suite #1, Jerome ID 83338
- Southeast Region ..... 208-232-4703  
1345 Barton Rd., Pocatello ID 83204
- Upper Snake Region ..... 208-525-7290  
4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls ID 83401
- Salmon Region..... 208-756-2271  
99 Highway 93 N., Salmon ID 83467

Idaho Fish and Game offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except state holidays. Offices in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions are in the Pacific Time Zone; all others are in the Mountain Time Zone.

## To Buy a License, Tag or Permit:

- In person, go to any Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor.
- By credit card, within the United States call 1-800-554-8685. Outside the U.S., use the Internet or mail.
- From your computer or mobile device, go to **[idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov)**. A service fee is added for online and telephone transactions.
- Commercial licenses and tags, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits may be purchased only at Fish and Game offices.

## To report wildlife crimes, call Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999.

Emergency information can be relayed to Fish and Game personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.



## Other Information Numbers

- Rules booklets, nonresident license applications: 208-334-3700
- U. S. Forest Service:
  - Southern Idaho ..... **[www.fs.usda.gov/r4](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r4)**
  - Northern Idaho..... **[www.fs.usda.gov/r1](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r1)**
- Bureau of Land Management: ..... **[www.blm.gov/id](http://www.blm.gov/id)**
- Idaho Relay Service (TDD) .....1-800-377-3529

*Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability or veteran’s status. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, Mailstop: MBSP-4020, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, Telephone: (703) 358-2156. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact IDFG for assistance.*

Information in this brochure summarizes rules and is an official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of wildlife and/or fish. The official rules are available at **<https://idfg.idaho.gov/rules>** or from the Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries. Maps are for general reference only.

# Idaho Department of Fish & Game

## Fishing Rules 2019–2021

### CONTENTS

**How to Use This Booklet** .....6

**Proxy Statement** .....7

**Panhandle Region** ..... 8 - 11

**Clearwater Region** ..... 12 - 15

**Southwest Region** ..... 16 - 20

**Magic Valley Region** ..... 21 - 25

Silver Creek Fishing Map .....26

**Southeast Region** ..... 27 - 30

**Upper Snake Region** ..... 31 - 34

Henrys Fork Fishing Map .....35

**Salmon Region** ..... 36 - 38

**Steelhead and Salmon Rules** ..... 39 - 44

River Location Codes .....40

Steelhead Seasons and Limits ..... 41 - 42

Salmon and Steelhead Fishing in Boundary Waters .....43

Permit Validation .....43

Washington/Idaho Fishing Waters Boundaries .....43

Threatened and Endangered Species .....44

**General Fishing Information** ..... 45 - 59

Methods of Fishing and Equipment ..... 45 - 46

Fish Terms and Limits ..... 46 - 47

Boundary and Water Definitions .....47

Tournament/ Fishing Contests .....47

Transport, Release, and Possession of Fish ..... 47 - 48

Salvage of Fish .....48

Salmon and Steelhead Rules .....48

Fishing in Boundary Waters .....48

Releasing Fish .....48

Taking Photographs ..... 48 - 49

Reasons for Special Seasons, Size and Bag Limits .....49

Navigability and Public Access .....50

Fish Consumption and Advisory Information .....51

Sturgeon Fishing Rules .....52

Official List of Idaho Record Fish ..... 53 - 54

How to Apply for a Record .....55

Trespass Law .....55

Fish Identification ..... 56 - 59

**Licenses, Tags and Permits** ..... 60 - 64

To Buy a License, Tag or Permit .....60

Hunter and Bowhunter Education .....60

Refund Policy .....60

Resident Disabled Licenses .....60

Disabled Hunter/Companion .....61

Resident Lifetime License Certificates .....61

Residency Requirements .....61

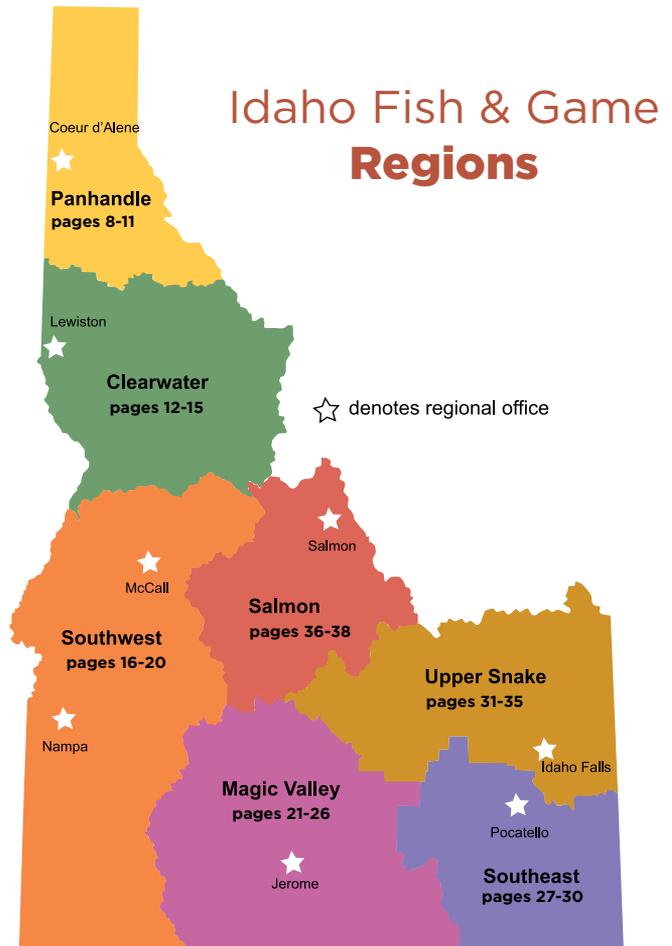
Hunting Passports .....61

Idaho Resident Fees ..... 62 - 63

Nonresident Fees .....64

### WHAT'S NEW

- Changes to Bass regulations in rivers and streams with anadromous salmon or steelhead
- New Burbot harvest fishery in the Panhandle Region
- More Lake Trout harvest opportunity in Upper Priest Lake
- New bag and length limits for Tiger Trout in Deer Creek Reservoir
- Reduced daily bag limit for Kokanee at Deadwood Reservoir
- Expanded winter catch-and-release fishing season on some sections of Silver Creek
- Changes to Bass regulations on Deep Creek and Weston Reservoirs.
- Removal of Brown Trout length limits on the South Fork Snake River
- Sometimes seasons and rules change after a booklet is printed. Starting early 2019, you can find significant changes or corrections to this printed proclamation online at <https://idfg.idaho.gov/rules>



# HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

1. Find the region where you plan to fish →
2. Find the regional fishing season dates →
3. Find your fish species and bag limit →
4. See if the water you want to fish is listed under Special Rule Waters →
5. Turn the page for details on Special Rule Waters

### CLEARWATER REGION

**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.

<b>Bass</b> ( <i>largemouth and smallmouth</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bass limit is 6, both species combined</li></ul>	<b>Sturgeon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sturgeon limit is 0, catch-and-release</li><li>• Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing</li><li>• Barbless hooks and sliding sinkers are required, see Page 52 for details</li></ul>
<b>Brook Trout</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brook trout limit is 25</li></ul>	<b>Tiger Muskie</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tiger Muskie limit is 2, none under 40 inches</li></ul>
<b>Bull Trout</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bull trout limit is 0, catch-and-release</li></ul>	<b>Trout</b> includes Cutthroat Trout, rainbow trout, and trout hybrids (e.g. tiger trout) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In rivers and streams, trout limit is 2, all species combined</li><li>• In lakes, reservoirs, ditches and canals, trout limit is 6, all species combined</li></ul> <b>Does not include bull trout and brook trout which are listed separately</b>
<b>Kokanee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kokanee limit is 25</li></ul>	<b>Whitefish</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whitefish limit is 25</li></ul>
<b>Salmon</b> ( <i>ocean-going</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Salmon seasons and limits are set annually by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and rules are issued in a separate brochure</li><li>• Fishing for or targeting salmon is prohibited unless a salmon season is specifically opened for that water</li></ul>	<b>Protected Nongame Fish</b> includes Pacific lamprey and sand roller <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May not be harvested or possessed</li></ul>
<b>Steelhead</b> ( <i>ocean-going</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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 the Clearwater River drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam, and lakes)</li><li>• Fishing for or targeting steelhead is prohibited unless a steelhead season is specifically opened for that water (see pages 39-43)</li></ul>	<b>All Other Fish Species</b> includes bullfrogs and crayfish <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No bag, size or possession limit</li></ul>

*Check for potential fish consumption advisories. See Page 51.*

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

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

*General Information and Definitions pertaining to rules can be found starting on Page 45.*

## Who needs a license to fish in Idaho:

- Any person 14 years of age or older must have a valid license or permit to fish for fish, bullfrogs or crayfish in Idaho. No person shall fish without having the proper license on his or her person.
- Resident children under the age of 14 are not required to purchase a fishing license but can purchase a two-pole fishing permit. Resident children may possess their own daily bag limit.
- A resident child under 14 may purchase a salmon or steelhead permit without a license so that he or she may catch his or her own limit of steelhead or salmon.
- Nonresident children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by the holder of a valid fishing license and their fish must be included in the license holder's limit in order to fish without a license, or they may purchase a nonresident license and have their own limit.
- Any license, tag or permit which is defaced, altered or tampered with shall be invalid from the date and time of issuance. It is a violation to use or attempt to use any license, tag or permit that has been defaced, altered or tampered with by means of (but not limited to) erasures and type overs, or tears in the paper.
- Fishing on Indian reservations may require tribal licenses and adherence to tribal regulations.

## Información Importante

Este libro incluye información importante acerca de las leyes de pesca de Idaho. Usted puede ser multado o encarcelado si viola estas leyes. Por favor, encuentra alguien que lea inglés para explicar la información en este libro.



# FREE FISHING DAY

EVERYONE WELCOME!  
(No license required)

**Saturday,  
June 8, 2019,  
June 13, 2020,  
June 12, 2021**

- How-to clinics
- Tackle available
- Questions answered
- Skills development

For more information, contact the Fish and Game office nearest you.

## PROXY STATEMENT (To transport wildlife taken by another person)

Taker's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Taker's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Taker's Address \_\_\_\_\_

License No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tag No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fish Species	Description & Number Taken	Water Caught	Date

**Other Game:**

Species \_\_\_\_\_ #Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Date Killed \_\_\_\_\_