

Below are several terms, rules, and definitions used in this booklet. Please consult the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act webpage or Title 36 of the Idaho Code for more detail at [hadminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/13/index.html](http://hadminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/13/index.html) or [idfg.idaho.gov/title36](http://idfg.idaho.gov/title36).

## **Methods of Fishing and Equipment**

**Archery and Spear Fishing:** Fishing with a bow and arrow, crossbow, spear or mechanical device, excluding firearms. This type of fishing is permitted only in the taking of bullfrogs and unprotected nongame fish and only in those waters during the season set for the taking of game fish.

**Artificial Fly:** Any fly made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feather, fiber or plastic by the method known as fly tying.

**Artificial Lure:** Any device made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feather, fiber, or plastic with hook or hooks attached. Bait of any kind may not be used with artificial lures when fishing artificial flies and lures-only waters.

**Attendance of Fishing Gear:** You must attend to your fishing gear while fishing. This means being able to watch your rod at all times and be able to react to a potential strike.

**Bait:** Organic substances, other than rubber, wood feather, fiber, or plastic, attached to a hook to attract fish. Bait includes insects, insect larvae, worms, dead fish, fish parts, any other animal or vegetable matter, or scented synthetic materials.

Note: Use of live fish, leeches, frogs, salamanders, waterdogs or shrimp as bait is prohibited in Idaho, except that live crayfish may be used if caught on the body of water being fished.

**Bait Fishing:** Fishing with any organic substance defined as "bait."

**Barbless Hook:** A fish hook without barbs or on which barbs have been bent completely closed (point of barbed area touches the body of the hook).

**Catch-and-Release Fishing:** Effort, by permitted methods, to catch or attempt to catch a fish or species of fish is legal, with the restriction that any fish or species of fish so caught must be released immediately, unharmed back to the water. Catch-and-release fishing is only allowed when a fishing season is open for that particular fish species.

Note: Species of fish not specifically listed as catch-and-release may be harvested under their appropriate limits.

**Chumming:** The use of any substance not attached to a hook that is intended to attract fish. It is illegal to chum while fishing in Idaho.

**Closed to Fishing:** No fishing of any type is allowed in the water body.

**Disturbing Traps or Fishing Gear Belonging to Others:** It is illegal to destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.

**Electric Motor Only:** When fishing waters listed "electric motors only," gas (internal combustion) motors may be attached to the boat; but use of the gas motor is prohibited.

**Fishing:** Any effort made to take, kill, injure, capture, or catch any fish, crayfish, or bullfrog. All fishing in Idaho requires a valid fishing license except fishing in a private pond where the owner has a valid Private Pond Permit from Fish and Game.

**Fishing Gear:** It is unlawful to fish in any waters of Idaho with more than one (1) handline or pole with a line attached, except a person with a two (2) pole permit may use two (2) poles; or with more than five (5) lines while ice fishing; or by archery, spearfishing, snagging, hands, and netting except as permitted. Not more than five (5) hooks may be attached per line. The line or lines must be attended by the person fishing.

**Fishing License:** You must have in your possession a valid Idaho fishing license to fish in Idaho. You must produce your license or fish upon request of an agent of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

**Fishing Shelter:** Any enclosure or shelter used for fishing. If left unattended overnight on the ice of any water statewide, it shall have the owners' name, telephone number, and current address legibly marked on two opposing sides of the enclosure or shelter.

**Fly-Fishing:** Fishing with a fly rod, fly reel, fly line, and artificial flies.

**Float Tube:** A floating device which suspends a single occupant, from the seat down, in the water, and is not propelled by oars, paddles or motor.

**Gaff Hook:** A pointed device designed to pierce a fish for the purpose of reducing the fish to possession. It is illegal to land fish of any species with a gaff hook except through a hole cut or broken in the ice in waters which have no length restrictions or harvest closures for that species or when landing non-game fish taken with archery equipment.

**Hands, Use of for Fishing:** The only fish you can legally catch and harvest using your hands are crayfish and bullfrogs. You must use fishing gear to harvest all other fish species.

**Hook:** A bent wire device, for the catching of fish, to which one, two, or three points may be attached to a single shank. Up to five (5) hooks per line may be used, except where specifically prohibited. When fishing for salmon or steelhead, the gap between the point and shank cannot be greater than 5/8 inch. A single-pointed hook has one shank and one point.

**Ice Fishing:** Fishing through an opening, broken or cut, through the ice. You may fish with a maximum of five (5) lines per angler. The opening in the ice may not exceed 10 inches in diameter except on Bear Lake while fishing for cisco. Note: two-pole permits do not entitle the angler to exceed the five pole limit for ice fishing.

**Illegal Fishing Methods:** It is illegal to use chemicals, poisons, electric current, or explosives for fishing.

**Maggot:** An unhatched fly larva.

**Molesting Fish:** It is illegal to molest any fish by shooting at it with a firearm or pellet gun, striking at it with a club, hands, rocks, or other objects, building obstructions for catching fish, or chasing fish up or downstream in any manner.

**Motor:** Includes electric and internal combustion motors.

**No Motor:** Fishing from a watercraft with a motor attached is prohibited.

**Sliding Sinker for Sturgeon:** A method of attaching a sinker to a device that slides freely on the main line. When fishing for sturgeon, a person must use a sliding sinker and a lighter test line to attach the weight to the main line (the line attached to the reel). See Sturgeon Fishing Rules on page 54.

**Snagging:** Taking or attempting to take a fish by use of a hook or lure in any manner or method other than enticing or attracting a fish to strike with, and become hooked in, its mouth or jaw. Game fish cannot be harvested unless hooked in the mouth or jaw. Snag fishing is illegal except where allowed by special rule. Snagging of unprotected nongame fish species is permitted.

**Tagging/Marking Fish** It is illegal to mark, scar, tag or mutilate fish without a Scientific Collecting permit.

**Trapping or Seining Minnows and Crayfish:** Nongame fish (minnows), yellow perch, and crayfish may be taken only in waters open to fishing; provided the seine or net does not exceed ten (10) feet in length or width, and nets and seines must have three-eighths (3/8) inch square or smaller mesh; and the minnow or crayfish trap does not exceed two (2) feet in length, width or height. If the trap is of irregular dimension, but its volume does not exceed the volume of an eight (8) cubic foot trap, it is also legal to use. Nets and seines may not be left unattended. Traps must be checked at least every forty-eight (48) hours. All traps must have a tag attached bearing the owner's name and address.

All game fish (except yellow perch) and protected nongame fish incidentally taken while trapping or seining must be immediately released alive. All fish so taken must immediately be killed except where stated otherwise. Crayfish may be kept alive to be used as bait only on the water where captured. Nongame fish and crayfish may only be taken during the season set for the taking of game fish in those waters.

Only five (5) crayfish traps can be fished with a valid fishing license. If more than five traps are used at one time, you must obtain a Commercial Fishing License and trap tags.

It is illegal to destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.

**Two-Pole Permit:** A person who has a valid resident or nonresident fishing license may purchase a two-pole permit. This permit authorizes the license holder to use two poles or rods at the same time on waters and during seasons specified

by Commission Rule. Valid for all open water and salmon and steelhead fishing.

**Watercraft:** Those devices designed as a means of transportation on water.

## Fish Terms and Limits

**Bag Limit:** The maximum number of fish that may be legally harvested by any one person in one day. The term "bag limit" shall be construed to be an individual, independent effort and shall not be interpreted in any manner as to allow one individual to harvest more fish than their "bag limit" or help the "bag limit" of another.

It is illegal to fish in waters having special bag or species limits while in possession of fish in excess of those limits.

**Clipped Adipose Fin:** See diagram page 43. The adipose fin must be missing or nearly missing with a healed scar where the adipose fin is supposed to be located.

**Game Fish:** Brook, Brown, Bull, Cutthroat, Golden, Lake (Mackinaw), Rainbow (including Steelhead), Splake and Sunapee Trout; trout hybrids (e.g. Tiger Trout); Atlantic, Chinook, Coho, Kokanee, and Sockeye Salmon; Arctic Grayling; Whitefish; Cisco; Crappie; Perch; Bass; Catfish; Bullhead; Sunfish; White Sturgeon; Northern Pike; Tiger Muskie; Walleye and Sauger; and Burbot (Ling). Crayfish are also defined as game fish.

**General Rules:** The seasons, gear, and bag limits adopted for the region where you are fishing.

**Harvest:** Reduce a fish to possession.

**Hybrid Fish:** The offspring of two different species.

**Limit is 0:** Catch-and-release fishing is allowed but the fish species listed in the rule must be released after landing and may not be reduced to possession.

**Nongame Fish:** Any fish not specifically defined as a "game fish." **Protected nongame fish are** Bear Lake, Shoshone and Wood River Sculpin; Sand Roller, Northern Leatherside Chub, Bluehead Sucker (also referred to as Green Sucker), and Pacific lamprey.

**Possession Limit:** Maximum number of fish that may be lawfully in possession of any person. Possession limit shall apply to fish while in the field or being transported. All fish hooked, landed and not immediately released shall be counted in the possession limit of the person hooking the fish. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit.

**Salmon, Chinook:** Anadromous (ocean-run) salmon of the species *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage, and the Clearwater drainage (excluding lakes, reservoirs and the North Fork of the Clearwater River above Dworshak Dam), and the Boise River, when stocked.

**Salmon, Coho:** Anadromous (ocean run) salmon of the species *Oncorhynchus kisutch* in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage, and Clearwater River

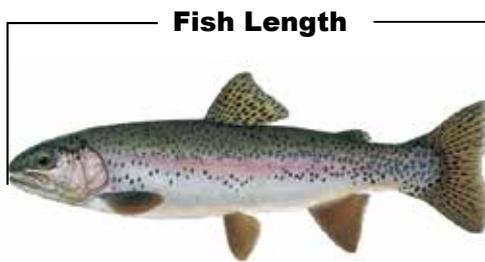
drainage (excluding lakes, reservoirs and the North Fork of the Clearwater River above Dworshak Dam).

**Season Limit:** The maximum number of fish that may be legally taken in any declared season.

**Special Rule Waters:** Any water with a gear, season, or bag limit rule that is different from the general rule.

**Steelhead:** Rainbow trout longer than 20 inches in length in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage (excluding lakes and the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi rivers), and the Clearwater river drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam, and lakes). Rainbow trout longer than 20 inches in length with a clipped adipose fin (as evidenced by a healed scar) are defined as steelhead in the Snake River from Hells Canyon Dam upstream to Oxbow Dam, and in the Boise River from its mouth upstream to Barber Dam.

**Fish Length:** The length as measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail.



## **Boundary and Water Definitions**

**Confluence of a River or Stream:** The point where two rivers or streams come together.

**Diversion:** A man-made structure designed to change the direction of flowing water in a stream.

**Diversion Pond:** A man-made pond holding water taken from a stream or reservoir. The diversion pond may be connected to the stream or reservoir by an open ditch or pipe.

**Drainage:** All water flowing into a common river or stream system, either above or below ground, due to area geography.

**Fish Trap:** Any man-made structure designed to capture fish.

**Fish Weir:** Any man-made structure placed in a water body to delay or divert migrating fish.

**Flat Water:** Water where there is no observable direction of flow.

**Milepost:** An official state highway marker which denotes a mile location. Milepost markers are typically found at one-mile intervals on Idaho highways.

**Mouth of a River or Stream:** The place where a river or stream enters a larger body of water.

**Private Pond:** A man-made, off-channel pond on private property. The owner may only stock the pond with fish after obtaining a private Pond Permit from Fish and Game.

**Reservoir:** The flat water level existing at any time within a reservoir basin. Unless noted otherwise, a stream flowing through the drawn down portion of a reservoir is not considered part of the reservoir.

**Section:** An area of river, stream, or reservoir between specific boundary locations.

**Tributary:** A stream flowing into a larger stream or lake.

**Upstream:** Moving from a lower elevation point in a stream towards a higher elevation point in the same stream.

## **Tournament/ Fishing Contests**

An organized event based on the capture of individual fish where there is: a) a live fish weigh-in; or b) awards cash or prizes valued at \$1,000 or more based on number, size or species of fish captured; or c) is expected to draw 20 or more anglers. Contests for participants under the age of 14 are exempt. Any person or entity that participates or conducts a fishing contest must first obtain a fishing contest permit from IDFG. No harvest tournaments on native fish will be allowed. Applications can be obtained at any IDFG Office or from our website at [idfg.idaho.gov/fish/tournaments](http://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/tournaments). Allow a minimum of 30 days for processing.

## **Transport, Release, and Possession of Fish**

**Check Stations:** Idaho Law authorizes IDFG to use wildlife check stations to collect biological and harvest data from fish and wildlife, receive public input, and enforce Commission seasons and rules. Anyone hunting, fishing or trapping is required to stop if they encounter a check station that requires all hunters, anglers, and trappers to stop, even if the hunting, fishing or trapping activity occurred outside of Idaho and even if individuals do not possess any fish or wildlife.

### **Fish Possessed from State and Federal Fish**

**Hatcheries:** Fish can only be taken from a state or federal fish hatchery when given a written receipt for those fish or as allowed by posted signage.

**Head and Tail Removal:** While in transit it is illegal to remove heads or tails from any trout, kokanee, bass, tiger muskie, steelhead or salmon unless the following conditions are met: 1) the angler is ashore and done fishing for the day; 2) the fish is processed or packaged with the skin naturally attached to the flesh; 3) the fish must be processed or packaged in a manner that the number of fish harvested can be readily determined. Processed fish species listed above cannot be transported by boat.

**Holding Live Fish:** No permit is required to keep game fish alive that have legally been reduced to possession, in a livewell, net or on a stringer while at the body of water from which they were taken. All fish must be killed or released prior to leaving the water body. However, anadromous salmon and steelhead must either be killed or released after landing.

**Private Fish Pond:** You are required to have a private pond permit from Fish and Game to own a private pond stocked with game fish. Permit applications are available on Fish and Game's website or at regional offices.

**Proxy Statement for Fish Transport or Gift:** You must have a proxy statement to transport fish for another person or accept as a gift any game fish. See page 7 for a proxy statement form. It must be signed by the taker, show the number and kind of fish, the date taken, the taker's address, and fishing license number. No person may claim ownership of more fish than allowed by the possession limit.

**Sale of Fish:** Fish harvested by anglers cannot be bought or sold without a commercial license except as provided by Idaho code.

**Shipment of Fish:** No person shall ship legally harvested fish unless the package is marked on the outside with: the name, address and fishing license number of the person who caught the fish, the name and address of the person to whom the fish are being shipped with or sent to, and the number of fish, by species, contained in the package.

**Waste of Game Fish:** It is illegal through carelessness, neglect or otherwise to allow or cause the waste of edible portions of any game fish including the fillets of fish and tails of crayfish.

### Salvage of Fish

Fish salvage may be authorized when fish populations are threatened by water shortages or other causes. No salvage of fish from public waters will be allowed without Fish and Game authorization. When salvage is allowed, fish may be taken by snagging, spearing, archery, dip netting, seining, or by hand. Bag limits are typically removed. Use of toxic chemicals, explosives, firearms, or electric current is prohibited. A valid fishing license is required. Anglers are reminded that access along canal banks and salvage fishing in most canals and ditches requires prior permission from irrigation companies.

**Transport and Introduction of Live Fish:** It is illegal to transport or allow the release of any species of live fish (including crayfish and bullfrogs), or fish eggs, in the state of Idaho without a permit from the director of Fish and Game. If you illegally introduce fish into a water body without a permit, you could be held financially liable for restoration costs.

### Fishing in Boundary Waters

**Bear Lake between Idaho and Utah:** The holder of a valid Idaho or Utah fishing license may fish all of Bear Lake except in areas closed to all fishing by the respective states. Anglers are subject to the rules and regulations of the state in which they are fishing.

### **Snake River between Idaho and Oregon or Washington:**

The holder of a valid Idaho fishing license may fish the Snake River where it forms the boundary between the states of Idaho and Oregon or Washington, subject to the fish and game laws of Idaho but may not fish from the shore including wading, and may not fish in sloughs or tributaries on the Oregon or Washington side. An Oregon or Washington license holder has the same rights and restrictions with reference to the Idaho side.

Any angler who fishes on the Snake River or any other water forming an Idaho boundary is entitled to have in possession only the limit allowed by one license regardless of the number of licenses in possession.

### Releasing Fish

Releasing fish may be a good way to help maintain healthy populations and quality fisheries where angling effort is high. To ensure released fish survive, we recommend the following practices:

You can do your part to increase fish survival by following these stress reducing practices:

- Use the proper size tackle to land the fish quickly, which can help minimize stress.
- Use barbless hooks to ease hook removal and minimize damage to the fish.
- Do not squeeze the fish.
- Do not touch or hold fish by the gills, gill covers, or the eyes.
- Be cognizant of the amount of time fish are held out of water while removing the hook; holding fish upside down in the water often makes them easier to handle.
- If the hook is too deep to be easily removed, cut the line. This will give the fish the best chance to survive.

### Taking Photographs

Photographs of a trophy catch can provide priceless memories of a great fishing trip, but anglers should use care to take the photo responsibly. Here are things you can do to capture that special image and allow the fish to fight another day (remember – sturgeon can't be removed from the water):

- Have the camera ready and the shot framed before removing the fish from the water.
- When lifting a fish from the water, support the fish with both hands as you gently lift it from the water.
- Strive to hold the fish over the water so if it struggles from your hands it will fall back in the water and not onto a hard surface such as a rock or a boat floor.
- Hold the fish out of the water only as long as it takes to take a picture.

## Reasons for Special Size and Bag Limits

Harvest restrictions help maintain the overall numbers and size of fish in a lake or stream, and also ensure “fair share” so every angler has a chance to catch or harvest fish. Restrictive harvest rules are sometimes used simply to provide a different type of fishing experience or to maximize the size of fish available.

Idaho Fish and Game manages recreational fisheries to provide a variety of experiences using different combinations of size, gear, and bag limits. The range of harvest rules includes:

- General bag and size limits apply in typical harvest oriented fishing waters without gear or bait restrictions. Many of these waters are stocked with harvestable-sized hatchery trout.
- Wild trout management focuses on sustaining naturally-reproducing wild populations without hatchery stocking. In certain instances, lower bag limits, size limits, or gear and bait restrictions may be applied to keep populations healthy.
- Special size limits are used where the goal is to catch more and larger fish by giving up some harvest opportunity. A bag limit of 2 fish (trout or bass) and various size limits such as a 14 or 16–inch minimum or a 12 to 16–inch protected range are common.
- Trophy fish or large trout management may require more restrictive limits. For example, this could include catch-and-release rules or a bag limit of 2 fish (for both trout and bass) combined with length restrictions. Gear or bait restrictions may apply.
- Special Cutthroat Trout rules are implemented across most of the state to protect our state fish. Cutthroat Trout are easily overfished, so various special rules are used to protect them from excess harvest. Many waters throughout the state have catch-and-release, restrictive bag or length limits, or other rules to protect Cutthroat Trout.



**FISHING THE BACKCOUNTRY?**

SEE THE ALPINE LAKE FISHING PAGE FOR:

- TIPS AND TRICKS
- WHERE TO FISH
- SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

[IDFG.IDAHO.GOV/FISH/ALPINE](http://IDFG.IDAHO.GOV/FISH/ALPINE)



# FREE FISHING DAY

**No license required to fish statewide**

At Free Fishing Day events, you will find:

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

**SATURDAY**

**JUNE 11, 2022**

**JUNE 10, 2023**

**JUNE 8, 2024**

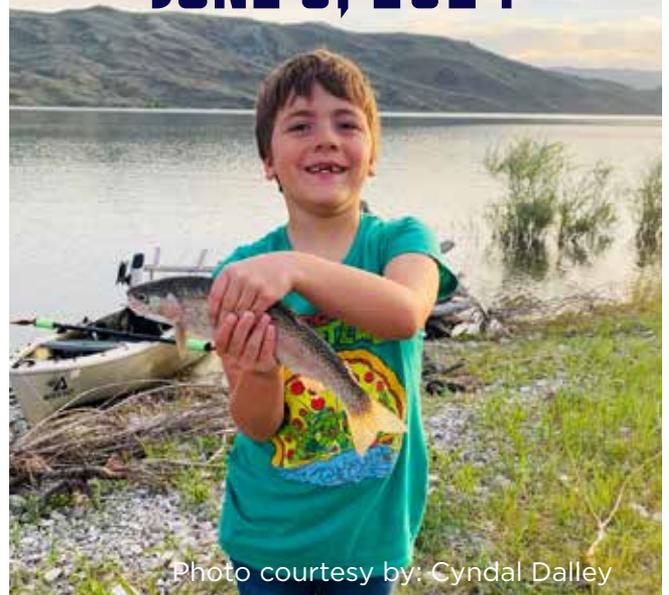


Photo courtesy by: Cyndal Dalley

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



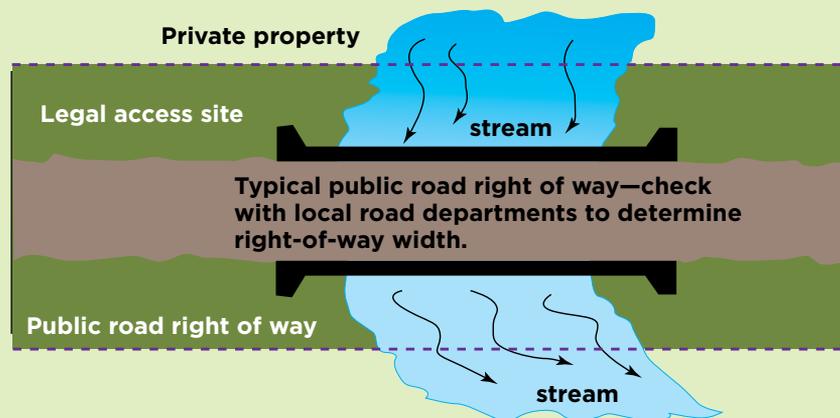
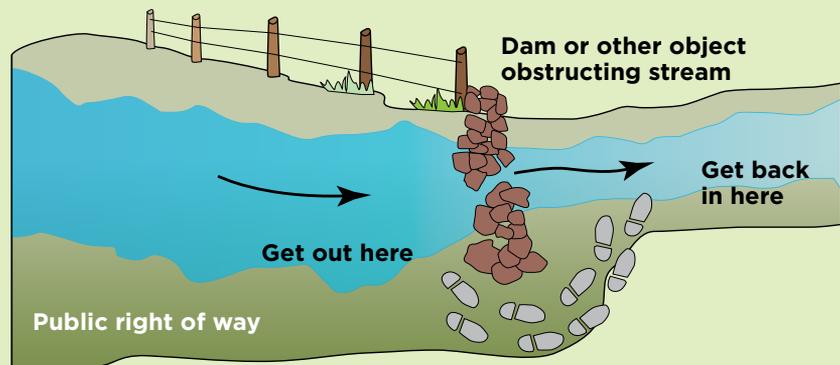
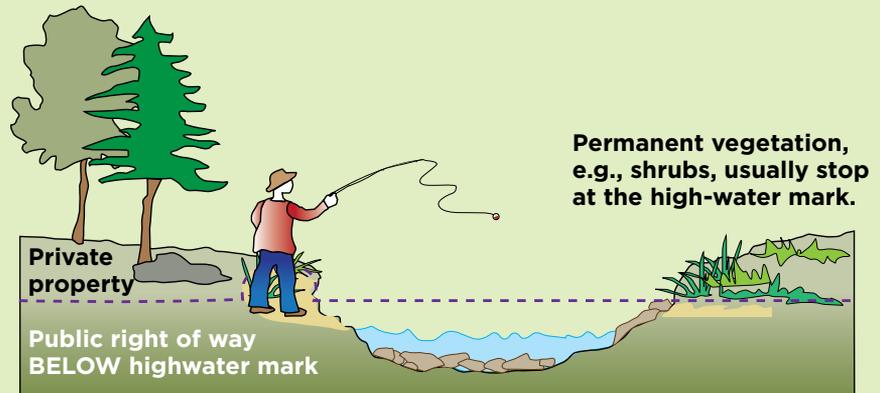
# NAVIGABILITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS

(Refer to Idaho Code 36-1601)

**N**avigable streams are defined as any stream which, in its natural high-water condition, will float logs or any other commercial or floatable commodity, or is capable of being navigated by oar or motor propelled small craft for pleasure or commercial purposes. Navigable streams are recognized as public transportation corridors, thus members of the public have the right to use the corridor, provided they enter and exit the corridor at a public right of way, and remain within the corridor. Many navigable streams flow through private property, thus it is important that anglers know their rights and responsibilities when fishing in navigable waters that flow through private property.

When fishing in navigable streams bordered by private property:

- You must stay within the normal high-water marks of the stream, unless you have landowner permission to get out on the bank, or have no other means of getting around an obstruction in the stream (such as a fence or diversion dam).
- When getting outside of the stream to go around an obstruction, take the shortest, most direct route around the obstruction to get back in the stream.
- Do not allow pets or children to trespass on adjacent private property, without landowner permission.
- You may enter and exit navigable streams at other public rights of way, such as county road bridges.
- **ASK FIRST!** Always get landowner permission before crossing private lands outside of a public right of way.



# Tag You're It!

## If you catch a tagged fish



- Write down or photograph tag number(s). Some fish have 2 tags.
- Call hotline or report via IDFG website
- Provide additional information as prompted
- Some tags offer a cash reward. Simply cut or remove the tag whether you keep or release the fish. To receive the reward you MUST report the tag AND mail or bring it to:



Report your tags  
through this QR code  
OR  
[tag.idaho.gov](http://tag.idaho.gov)  
1-866-258-0338

Fish Tag Returns — IDFG  
1414 E. Locust Lane  
Nampa ID 83686

Thanks for your help!



## BEWARE OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

### WHAT ARE HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS (HABS)?

HABs can be dangerous to people and animals. Some can produce chemicals toxic to humans and animals if ingested, inhaled, or if contacted by skin or mucous membranes

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Keep people and pets away from water that is pea-soup green, scummy, foamy, blue-green, brownish-red, or thick like paint

### HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND FISHING

When a bloom is present, avoid fishing, swimming and drinking contaminated water

### EATING FISH CAUGHT IN AFFECTED WATERS

Risks from eating fish caught in waters with harmful algal blooms are uncertain. Algal bloom toxins accumulate in the organs and may be present in the fillet.

If you decide to eat fish, remove the fat, skin, and organs before cooking and wash hands and equipment. Cooking fish will not remove toxins that might be in the fillet.

## WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!

For more information, see the websites for Idaho Department of Environmental Quality at [deq.idaho.gov](http://deq.idaho.gov), or the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare at [healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov).



# STURGEON FISHING RULES

The White Sturgeon is the largest freshwater fish in North America. To reach their maximum adult size of 8 to 10 feet or more, sturgeon must survive for many years. Unintentional deaths result in fewer fish living the 25-65 years of age necessary to reach large sizes. Research has found that baited hooks, fishing line and swivels, broken off by anglers, may be ingested by sturgeon, and in rare instances cause death. Because of this, IDFG adopted rules designed to reduce the amount of tackle lost by anglers (see diagram below) with the overarching goal of reducing unintentional sturgeon deaths. Specifically, these rules increase an angler's chance of retrieving their hook, leader and swivel when snagged (in most instances the weight breaks off and the rig is retrieved). If the hook does break off, these rules will help increase the likelihood that the weight and hook separate, reducing the chance of "ghost gear". In addition, the following tips were developed for sturgeon anglers to assist them in catching fish and releasing them successfully.

## If You Catch a Sturgeon

- *Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing.*
- Sturgeon can be rolled onto their backs in the water before removing the hook. This generally calms the fish down making it easier to remove the hook.
- Do not grasp a sturgeon by the gills. Gills are the lungs of a fish and can be easily damaged. If you need to keep a sturgeon in place, you can easily hold onto its lower lip while it is upside down.
- Do not mark, scar, or put a tail rope on sturgeon.
- If fishing from a boat and you snag the bottom, back over the snagged hook/weight and pull from different angles to try and dislodge them. This will increase your odds of retrieving your setup/rigging.

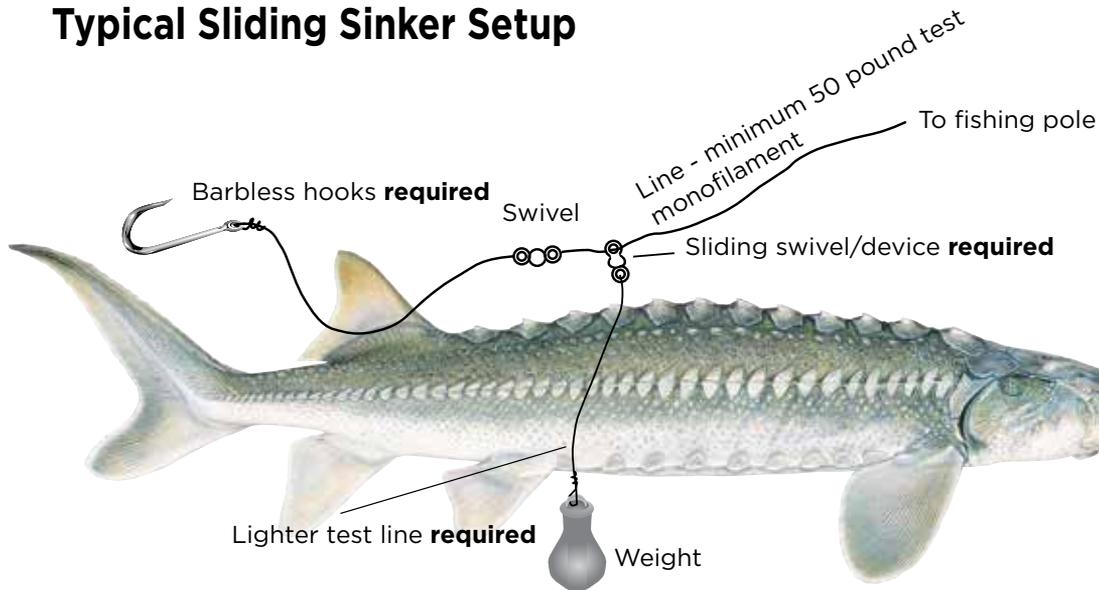
- If fishing from shore and you become snagged try repeatedly giving the line slack and then quickly pull back. If this does not work, retrieve as much line as possible and pull from different angles to try and dislodge your hook/weight.
- Do not leave discarded line on shore or in the water. It is a hazard to both fish and wildlife.

## Sturgeon Fishing Setup/Rigging (also see diagram below)

- When fishing for White Sturgeon, anglers are **required** to use barbless hooks, a sliding swivel device to secure a weight, and a lighter test line to secure a weight to the sliding swivel or other device.
- We **recommend** a minimum of 50 pound test monofilament line on your reel. This greatly reduces the chances of breaking off your main line either with a fish on or when snagged.



## Typical Sliding Sinker Setup



# GET BETWEEN A ROCK *and a* COOL PLACE™

**Catch trout in the West.  
Win the adventure of a lifetime.**

A fishing challenge, at your pace, that helps Western Native Trout Initiative conserve 21 native trout and char species in 12 states.



**Everything you need,  
All in One Cool Place.**

**Maps. Species. Trout Conservation.  
Rewards. The Adventure of a Lifetime.**

**\$25** for Adults 18+  
Kids 17 and under play FREE

Get started by visiting  
[WesternNativeTroutChallenge.org](http://WesternNativeTroutChallenge.org)



## Download the App from Idaho Fish and Game

SAVE LICENSES TO YOUR PHONE AND ACCESS  
FISHING AND HUNTING INFORMATION.

SEARCH "IDAHO FISH AND GAME"  
ON GOOGLE PLAY OR THE APP STORE

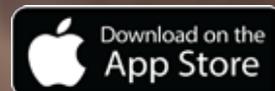




Photo courtesy Nate Burr

Nate Burr with the current catch-and-release state record Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout of 31 inches from the Snake River.

## Record Fish Program Guidelines

Only fish caught in publicly accessible waters with legal fishing methods during an open season are eligible for State Records. All applicants must have a valid Idaho fishing license at the time the fish was caught. No records will be awarded for fish caught during salvage seasons or at private pay-to-fish facilities. Catch/release records must be released. See tips on safely releasing fish in this booklet!

- Catch/release White Sturgeon records (Catch and Release only) must be broken by a minimum of 2 inches. Catch/Release records for all other species must be broken by a minimum of ½ inch.
- All applications must be submitted within 30 days of the catch date.

## How to Apply For a Record

Complete program information and the Record Fish Application form are available online at: [idfg.idaho.gov/fish/record](http://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/record)

## Certified Weight Records applications need:

- A receipt from the certified scale documenting the weight (typically be found at grocery stores or US Post Offices), verification of species from an IDFG office.
- At least one photo of the fish and a witness to the weight.

## Catch and Release Record applications need:

- Fish length - from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail. Sturgeon should be measured upside down along the belly from the snout to tip of the upper lobe of the tail.
- Salmon, Steelhead, Bull Trout and White Sturgeon must be measured and photographed in the water.
- Photos: (1) of the fish directly next to a ruler/tape measure or object of known verifiable length and (2) a photo of the angler with the fish.
- At least one witness to the measurement and release

**The current list of Catch and Release Records is available at [idfg.idaho.gov/fish/record](http://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/record) OR scan the QR code below:**



# STATE RECORD FISH - CERTIFIED WEIGHT

- Certified Weight Records are based on the weight of a fish legally harvested. Application forms require a receipt from a certified scale.
- Application forms and complete information on State Record Fish are available online: [idfg.idaho.gov/fish/record](http://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/record)

## Game Fish

Species	Weight (lbs.)	Length (in.)	Girth (in.)	Location	Angler	Date
Atlantic Salmon	13.25	29.75	17.75	Deadwood Reservoir	Garrett Buffington	10/15/1995
Black Crappie	3.56	17.5	15	Brownlee Reservoir	Jason Monson	06/08/2003
Bluegill	3.5	-	-	C.J. Strike Reservoir	Darrell Grim	1966
Bluegill/P-seed Hybrid	1.00	9.88	10.25	Star Lane Pond	Kevin Graveline	05/08/2001
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	18.94	-	-	Bear Lake	Roger Grunig	04/30/1970
Bonneville Whitefish	3.16	19.5	11.5	Bear Lake	Gaylon Newbold	12/05/2014
Brook Trout	7.06	23.5	15.5	Henrys Lake	DeVere Stratton	08/16/1978
Brown Trout	27.31	37	24	Ashton Reservoir	Wes Case	11/06/2007
*Bull Trout	32	-	-	Pend Orielle Lake	Nelson Higgins	1949
Bullhead Catfish	3.88	20.5	11.88	Brownlee Reservoir	James Winter	05/25/1986
Burbot (Ling)	14	-	-	Kootenai River	P.A. Dayton	1954
Channel Catfish	31.00	38	23.5	Mann Lake	Kenny Decker	08/25/2001
Chinook Salmon (fresh water)	42	41.25	29.75	CdA Lake	Jane Clifford	09/13/1987
Chinook Salmon (ocean run)	54	-	-	Salmon River	Merrold Gold	1956
Coho Salmon (fresh water)	6	23.5	-	Cascade Reservoir	Ted Bowers	09/19/1992
Coho Salmon (ocean-run)	11.75	33	17	Clearwater River	Steve Micek	11/08/2014
Cutthroat Trout -Bonneville	18.94	-	-	Bear Lake	Roger Grunig	04/30/1970
Cutthroat Trout -Lahontan	2.27	20	9.5	Grasmere Reservoir	Jordan Rodriguez	12/12/2020
Cutthroat Trout -Westslope		OPEN				
Cutthroat Trout -Yellowstone		OPEN				
Flathead Catfish	58.5	48	31	Brownlee Reservoir	J. Newberry/K. McCormick	08/23/1994
Golden Trout	5.13	-	-	White Sands Lake	George Wolverton	1958
Arctic Grayling	2.44	18.13	-	Nez Perce Lake	Velma Mahaffey	06/21/1992
Green Sunfish	0.67	9	9	Fernan Lake	John Moore	06/25/2019
Kokanee Salmon	6.59	24.5	14.5	Priest Lake	JerryVerge	06/09/1975
Lake Trout	57.5	49	32.5	Priest Lake	Lyle McClure	11/14/1971
Lake Whitefish	6.5	26	23.75	Pend Oreille Lake	Dale Hofmann	08/06/2010
Largemouth Bass	10.94	-	-	Anderson Lake	Mrs. M.W. Taylor	-
Mountain Whitefish	5.9	22.5	14	Island Park Reservoir	Robert Hall	1997
Northern Pike	40.13	51.5	22.75	Lower Twin Lake	Kim Fleming	08/06/2010
Pumpkinseed	0.88	9.75	10	Chase Lake	Bob Russell	1977
Rainbow Trout	20.00	34.25	22.25	Snake River	Michelle Larsen-Williams	07/29/2009
Rainbow Trout-Gerrard	37	-	-	Pend Oreille Lake	Wes Hamlet	1947
Rainbow/Cutt. Trout Hybrid	34.74	41.13	27.13	American Falls Reservoir	Mark Adams	07/25/2011
Smallmouth Bass	9.72	23.75	20.5	Dworshak Reservoir	Dan Steigers	10/28/2006
*Sockeye Salmon	5	24	-	Redfish Lake	June McCray	08/08/1970
Splake	10.78	28.5	18.88	Ririe Reservoir	Brian Allison	05/12/2006
Steelhead	30.13	44	-	Clearwater River	Keith Powell	11/23/1973
Tiger Muskie	44.25	52.5	25	Little Payette Lake	Edward Kalinowski	08/06/2013
Tiger Trout	4.8	24	-	Becker Pond	Gatlynn Mayes	12/16/2020
Walleye	17.88	34.5	21.88	Oakley Reservoir	Damon Rush	09/10/2011
Warmouth	0.60	8.75	8.5	Snake River	Marvin Stevens	06/23/1988
White Crappie	3.80	17.5	15.75	Crane Creek Reservoir	Trenten Smith	07/16/2012
* White Sturgeon (Rod & Reel)	394	-	-	Snake River	Glenn Howard	1956
* White Sturgeon (Set Line)	675	-	-	Snake River	Unknown	1908
Yellow Perch	3.22	16.25	-	Cascade Reservoir	Adam Mann	03/09/2021

## Nongame

Species	Weight (lbs.)	Length (in.)	Girth (in.)	Location	Angler	Date
Bridgelip Sucker	2.2	17.75	-	Lemhi River	Eric Geisthardt	05/18/2021
Chiselmouth	1.16	14.25	8.38	Salmon River	Justin Powell	04/15/2003
Common Carp (Archery)	67.65	47	34.5	C.J. Strike Reservoir	Scott Frazier II	07/23/2011
Common Carp (Rod & Reel)	34	38	-	Snake River	Henry Charlier	05/03/2021
Goldfish (Archery)	3.4	-	-	Snake River	Kyle Stevens	03/13/2021
Grass Carp (Archery)	39.5	40.63	36	Snake River	Saige Wilkerson	07/16/2012
Grass Carp (Rod & Reel)	46.7	50	-	Snake River	Cris Endicott	10/10/2021
Largescale Sucker	9.04	27	-	Cascade Reservoir	Dave Gassel	12/17/2017
Northern Pikeminnow	7.89	25.25	16	Snake River	Emil Nowoj	05/07/2004
Peamouth Chub	1.14	14.5	-	Snake River	Benjamin Fahnholz	03/08/2021
Tench	4.88	21	-	Spokane River	Scotty Brueher	2000
Tilapia	4.28	16	-	Swan Falls Reservoir	Jason Arneson	08/03/2008
Utah Chub	2.81	16.7	11.2	Lake Walcott	Alfred E. Woolstenhulme	02/07/2010
Utah Sucker	7.86	25.5	-	South Fork Snake River	Rick Thompson	08/20/2011