

ANADROMOUS STEELHEAD AND SALMON RULES AND INFORMATION

Anyone fishing for anadromous (ocean-run) salmon and/or steelhead, except those expressly exempt, must have a valid fishing license and salmon and/or steelhead permit(s) on their person. These license and permit requirements also apply when fishing for hatchery salmon or steelhead stocked by Idaho Fish and Game in the Boise River or Hells Canyon Reservoir.

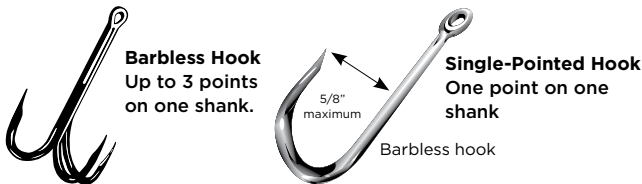
Any person who does not qualify as a resident (see Page 63) must purchase either a nonresident season fishing license and a full-season salmon and/or steelhead permit or a nonresident 3-day salmon/steelhead license/permit.

Children (including nonresident children) under the age of 14 are exempt from purchasing salmon and steelhead permits. They may fish without permits if they are accompanied by a valid permit holder, provided that any fish caught must be recorded on the permit holder's card and counted in the permit holder's legal bag, possession and season limits. A resident child under 14 may purchase permits without a license so that they may catch their own limit(s) of salmon and/or steelhead.

Any nonresident under the age of 18 may purchase a junior nonresident fishing license and appropriate permit so they may catch their own limit of salmon or steelhead.

Methods of Take

- Any angler, who has attained the bag, possession, or season limit on those waters with salmon or steelhead limits, must cease fishing for salmon or steelhead including catch-and-release fishing.



- Only single-pointed barbless hooks are allowed when fishing for salmon or steelhead in the South Fork Clearwater River.
- Only barbless hooks with a maximum 5/8 inch gap between shank and point may be used when fishing for salmon or steelhead in the Salmon and Clearwater river drainages and the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam. Bending the barb(s) down to the shank of a single, double, or treble hook will meet this requirement.
- Salmon and steelhead may be taken with barbed hooks in the Boise River and the Snake River between Hells Canyon and Oxbow dams.
- No person shall kill or retain in possession any salmon or steelhead which has been hooked other than in the mouth or jaw. Any salmon or steelhead hooked other than in the mouth or jaw must be released. See snagging definition on Page 48.

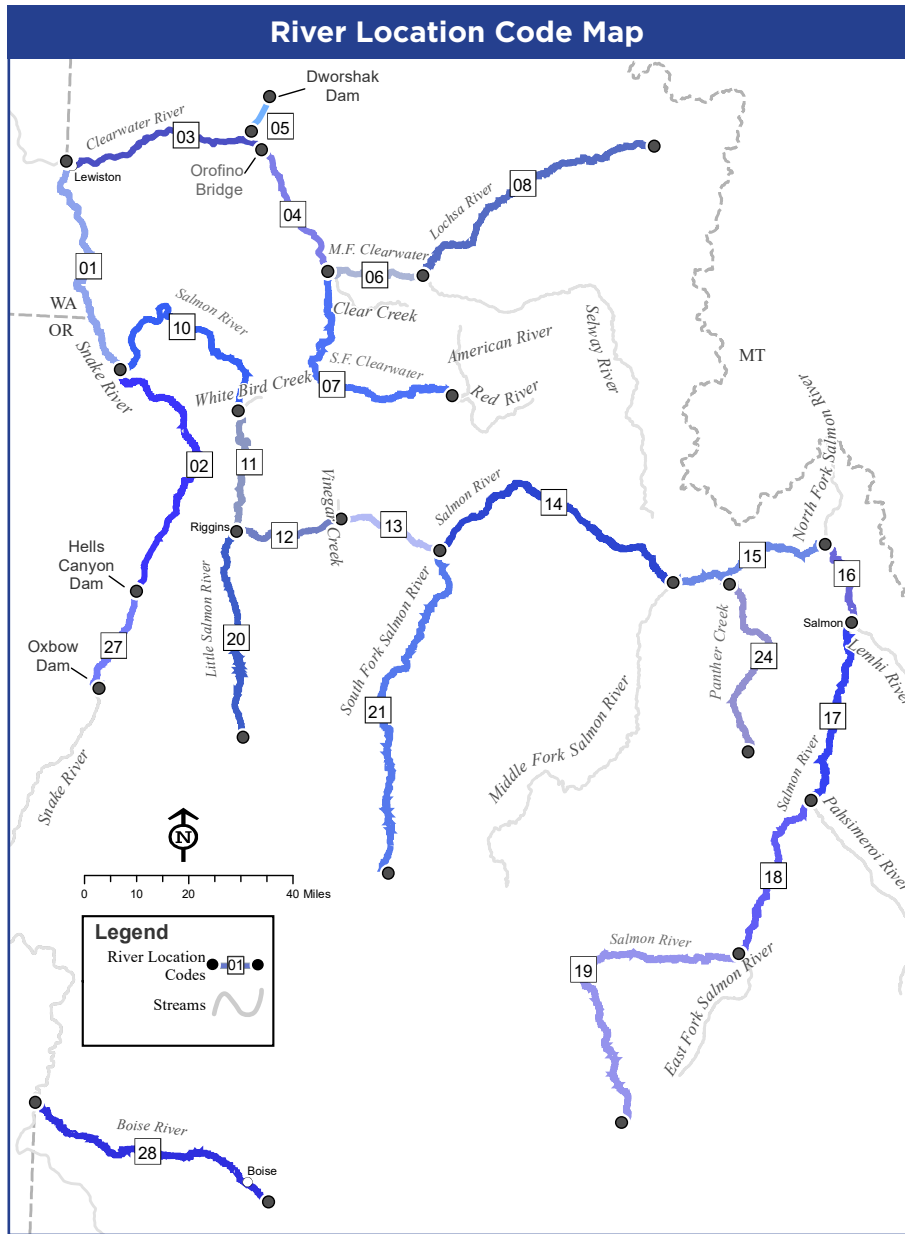
Please Note

- Fishing for or targeting salmon or steelhead is prohibited unless a season is specifically opened for the species on that water.
- Steelhead with an intact adipose fin cannot be reduced to possession and must be released.
- Any anadromous (ocean-run) salmon or steelhead that is being reduced to possession must be killed immediately. Otherwise, the fish must be released upon landing.
- All fish that are hooked, landed, and reduced to possession shall be counted in the limit of the person hooking the fish.
- No person shall have in the field or in transit any salmon or steelhead from which the head or tail has been removed unless: 1) the angler is ashore and done fishing for the day; 2) the salmon or steelhead is properly recorded on the anglers permit; and 3) the fish is processed or packaged with the skin naturally attached to the flesh including a portion with a healed, clipped adipose fin scar or the adipose fin. The fish must be processed or packaged in a manner that the number of fish harvested can be readily determined. Processed salmon and steelhead cannot be transported by boat.
- Steelhead harvest and angler participation are estimated by surveys conducted within three months after the season closes. You may be contacted and asked about your effort and success. Please save your permit until three months after the season has closed or until you are contacted by Idaho Fish and Game.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.



River Location Codes

Snake River

- Snake River, downstream from Salmon River01
- Snake River, from Salmon River to Hells Canyon Dam.....02
- Snake River, Hells Canyon Dam to Oxbow Dam.....27

Clearwater River

- Clearwater River, downstream from Orofino Bridge.....03
- Clearwater River, upstream from Orofino Bridge04
- North Fork Clearwater River.....05
- Middle Fork Clearwater River.....06
- South Fork Clearwater River07
- Lochsa River.....08

Salmon River

- Salmon River, downstream from Whitebird Creek10
- Salmon River, Whitebird Creek to Little Salmon.....11
- Salmon River, Little Salmon to Vinegar Creek.....12
- Salmon River, Vinegar Creek to South Fork.....13
- Salmon River, South Fork to Middle Fork.....14
- Salmon River, Middle Fork to North Fork15
- Salmon River, North Fork to Lemhi River.....16
- Salmon River, Lemhi River to Pahsimeroi River17
- Salmon River, Pahsimeroi River to East Fork.....18
- Salmon River, upstream from the East Fork.....19

Other

- Little Salmon River20
- South Fork Salmon River21
- Panther Creek24
- Boise River.....28

Permit Validation

When an adult Chinook Salmon (24 or more inches in length), adult Coho Salmon (20 or more inches in length), or steelhead has been hooked, landed and reduced to possession (must be killed immediately), the angler hooking the fish must immediately:

1. Completely remove one numbered notch from their steelhead or salmon permit, depending on which species was caught.
2. Enter the month and day the fish was harvested.
3. Look up the number code from the River Location Code list and write it in the space provided.

For example: an adult fall Chinook Salmon kept from the Clearwater River downstream Orofino Bridge on September 6 would be entered as:

FISH BIRD	MONTH	DAY	LOCATION CODE	MONTH	DAY	LOCATION CODE	FISH BIRD
1				9	6	03	21
2							22
3							23
4							24
5							25

When a salmon or steelhead is released rather than reduced to possession, the angler should not make an entry on the permit.

Unless otherwise stipulated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commission, jack Chinook Salmon (less than 24 inches in length) and jack Coho Salmon (less than 20 inches in length) are not included in an angler's season limit and need not be entered on their permit. Anglers can record Coho Salmon and Chinook Salmon on the same permit.

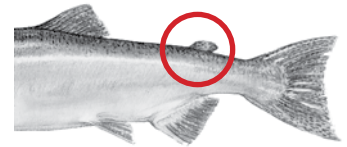
RELEASING WILD SALMON AND STEELHEAD

Please help ensure the survival of released wild salmon and steelhead by:

- Using proper-sized gear and keeping fight time to a minimum
- Not pulling fish onto rock, sand, or dirt banks—instead, use a net or "tail" the fish
- Minimizing the time out of water
- Not handling the fish by the gills
- Reviving the fish by gently holding it in the water, if necessary

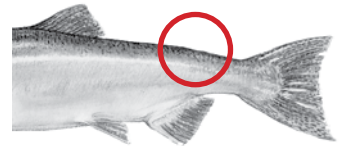
Unclipped Adipose Fin

Steelhead with an unclipped adipose fin must be released. Fall Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon with an unclipped adipose fin can be kept. Spring and summer Chinook Salmon seasons are set annually and anglers should refer to season proclamations to determine if spring and summer Chinook Salmon with an unclipped adipose fin can be retained.



Clipped Adipose Fin

Hatchery steelhead or salmon may be kept if the adipose fin has been clipped as evidenced by a healed scar.



Wild about Salmon and Steelhead?



Visit: idfg.idaho.gov/fish/wild

To find out about Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead

- News and updates
- Conservation stories
- Science articles



Photo courtesy Ron Roberts



Anadromous Steelhead and Salmon Rules

*These rivers have additional restrictions. Please refer to pages 12-16 and the map on page 46 for details.

River Section	Steelhead Seasons and Limits											
	Spring Season 20 fish per season						Fall Season 20 fish per season					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snake River		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 2 fish per day			Closed		Jul 1 - Aug 31 catch-and-release				Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Clearwater River - lower		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 1 fish per day			Closed		Jul 1 - Aug 31 catch-and-release				Sep 1 - Dec 31 2 fish per day	
Clearwater River - upper*		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 1 fish per day			Closed		Jul 1 - Sep 9 catch-and-release		Sep 10 - Oct 14 2 fish per day	Oct 15 - Nov 9 catch-and-release		Nov 10 - Dec 31 2 fish per day
North Fork Clearwater River*		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 1 fish per day			Closed		Closed				Sep 1 - Dec 31 2 fish per day	
South Fork Clearwater River*		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 1 fish per day			Closed		Jul 1 - Sep 9 catch-and-release		Sep 10 - Oct 14 2 fish per day	Oct 15 - Nov 9 catch-and-release		Nov 10 - Dec 31 2 fish per day
Salmon River - lower		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 2 fish per day			Closed						Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Salmon River - middle		Jan 1 - Mar 31 3 2 fish per day			Closed			Aug 1 - Aug 31 catch-and-release			Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Salmon River - upper		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 2 fish per day			Closed						Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Little Salmon River		Jan 1 - May 15 3 2 fish per day			Closed						Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Hells Canyon Reservoir		Jan 1 - May 31 3 fish per day					Closed				Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Boise River	Open when steelhead are present 2 fish per day											
River Boundary Descriptions												
Snake River:	from the ID/WA border (see map on page 13) upstream to Hells Canyon Dam											
Clearwater River - lower:	from the mouth upstream to the Memorial Bridge of U.S. Highway 12 at Lewiston (see map on page 13)											
Clearwater River - upper:	from the Memorial Bridge of U.S. Highway 12 at Lewiston upstream to Clear Creek											
North Fork Clearwater River:	from the mouth upstream to Dworshak Dam (see map on page 46)											
South Fork Clearwater River:	from the mouth upstream to the confluence of American and Red rivers											
Salmon River - lower:	from the mouth upstream to the Lake Creek Bridge (about 6 miles upstream from the mouth of the Little Salmon River)											
Salmon River - middle:	from the Lake Creek Bridge upstream to Long Tom Creek (3/4 mile upstream from the Middle Fork Salmon River)											
Salmon River - upper:	from Long Tom Creek (3/4 mile upstream from the Middle Fork Salmon River) upstream to posted boundary 100 yards downstream of Sawtooth Hatchery											
Little Salmon River:	from the mouth upstream to the U.S. Highway 95 bridge near Smokey Boulder Roads											
Hells Canyon Reservoir:	from Hells Canyon Dam upstream to Oxbow Dam											

Coho Salmon Seasons and Limits				
River Section	<p align="center">Bag Limits</p> <p>Daily limit is 2 adult Coho Salmon (greater than or equal to 20 inches length), no limit on jacks (less than 20 inches length). Adipose clipped or unclipped fish may be kept.</p>			
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<p>Clearwater River: Mouth to confluence of South Fork and Middle Fork Clearwater rivers</p> <p>North Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Dworshak Dam</p> <p>Middle Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Clear Creek</p> <p>South Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Red River</p> <p>Snake River: ID/WA border to Hells Canyon Dam</p>	Sep 1 - Dec 31			

Fall Chinook Salmon Seasons and Limits			
River Section	<p align="center">Bag Limits</p> <p>Daily limit is 3 adult fall Chinook Salmon (greater than or equal to 24 inches length), no limit on jacks (less than 24 inches length). Adipose clipped or unclipped fish may be kept.</p>		
	Aug	Sept	Oct
Clearwater River: Mouth to Memorial Bridge	Closed	Aug 18 - Oct 31	
Clearwater River: Memorial Bridge to Orofino Bridge		Aug 18 - Oct 14	Closed Oct 15
Clearwater River: Orofino Bridge to South Fork Clearwater River		Aug 18 - Oct 31	
North Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Dworshak Dam	Closed	Sept 1 - Oct 31	
<p>Middle Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Clear Creek</p> <p>South Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Red River</p> <p>Snake River: ID/WA border to Hells Canyon Dam</p> <p>Salmon River: Mouth to Little Salmon River</p>	Closed	Aug 18 - Oct 31	

SPRING AND SUMMER CHINOOK SALMON SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS WILL BE SET ANNUALLY BY THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME COMMISSION.

NOTE: Salmon and steelhead seasons and bag limits may be changed by Commission or Director action. Please see idfg.idaho.gov, license vendors, or regional offices for changes to rules published in this document.

SET IT AND FORGET IT!

GO ONLINE AND SET YOUR LICENSE TO **AUTO RENEW** OR PURCHASE A **3-YEAR LICENSE.**



Special Restrictions

North Fork Clearwater and Clearwater rivers

1 When fishing from the Ahsahka Highway 7 Bridge, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take any fish downstream of the railroad bridge. Fishing from the railroad bridge is prohibited.

2

Fishing from any watercraft or wading is prohibited between the posted sign about 150 yards upstream from the mouth of the North Fork Clearwater River and the Ahsahka Highway 7 Bridge.





3

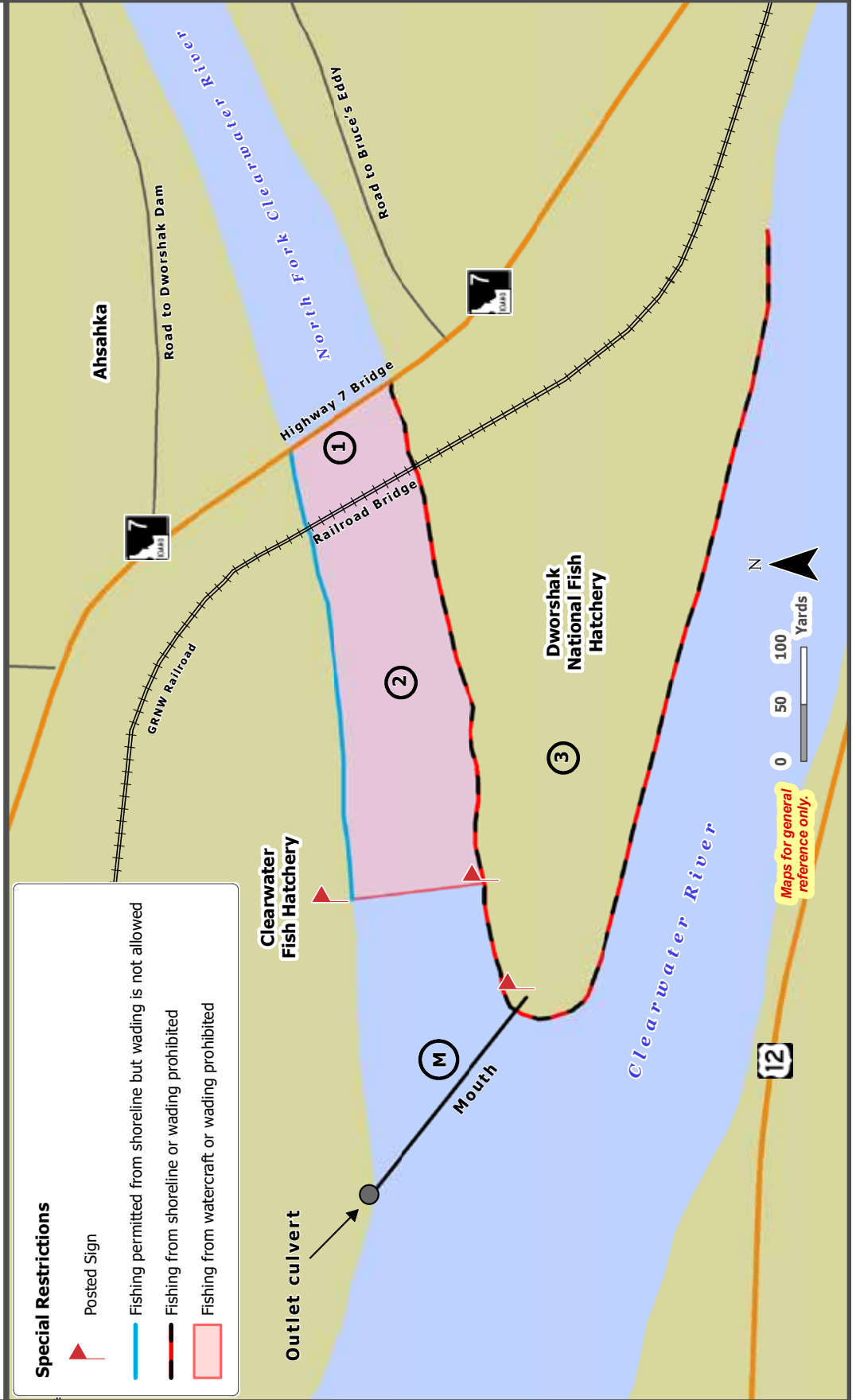
Fishing from the shoreline or wading along the perimeter of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery is prohibited. Wading across the Clearwater or North Fork Clearwater rivers to fish near the Dworshak Hatchery perimeter is prohibited.

M

Mouth of North Fork Clearwater River defined as a straight line between the Clearwater Hatchery outlet culvert on the west side and the posted sign located at the tip of land below Dworshak Hatchery on the east side

Special Restrictions

-  Posted Sign
-  Fishing permitted from shoreline but wading is not allowed
-  Fishing from shoreline or wading prohibited
-  Fishing from watercraft or wading prohibited



Maps for general reference only.