# Idaho Fishing 2025–2027 Seasons & Rules

1st Edition 2025



Explore and plan your next adventure with the Fishing Planner



idfg.idaho.gov

# PRESERVING AND SUSTAINING IDAHO'S WILDLIFE HERITAGE

Habitat Restoration | Public Access Wildlife Conservation and Education

## IdahoFish&Wildlife FOUNDATION IFWF.org (208) 334-2648



If you have information about a wildlife violation,

# Make The Call: 1-800-632-5999

- The Citizen's Against Poaching (CAP) Hotline is open 24/7/365.
- Callers can remain anonymous, and may be eligible for a cash reward.
- The more details a caller can provide, the better! Examples: License plates, suspect descriptions, dates/times, locations, and wildlife involved.



## **Director Jim Fredericks' letter to the anglers of Idaho**

If I had to describe Idaho's fishing in a single word, I'd say "diversity." Idaho has more than 40 game fish species in about 26,000 miles of streams and rivers, 3,000 natural lakes, and 250,000 acres of ponds and reservoirs. On one day, anglers can pursue salmon and steelhead that migrate over 600 miles after spending most of their lives in the ocean, and then on the next, fish for largemouth bass among lily pads.

Not only can we as anglers catch a tremendous variety of fish, we can do it in some of the most beautiful and unique places on earth. We can get out the heavy tackle and fish for 10-foot sturgeon in Hells Canyon, the deepest river gorge in North America, and use a 4-weight fly rod to cast to trout in an alpine lake over 10,000 feet in elevation.

As biologists, Fish and Game's fisheries staff has indepth knowledge of these diverse resources, but that's only a portion of successfully managing a fishery. A vital part is also knowing angler preferences, and how

they want their fisheries managed. Fisheries managers learn that in a variety of ways, including public meetings, meetings with angler organizations, one-on-one conversations, and testimony at Fish and Game Commission meetings. Equally important, they conduct angler surveys to reach out to those who we might not otherwise hear from.

Fisheries staff conducts surveys when we consider changes to seasons and limits, such as those in the following pages. In addition to the issue-specific surveys, we also conduct a much broader "Angler Opinion Survey" every few years. We use the results of that survey to guide development of the Idaho's Fishery Management Plan, which is revised every six years. The FMP describes management direction of Fish and Game's fisheries programs, and it acts as the guiding document for our fisheries management activities. Although not as familiar to most anglers as the seasons and rules brochure, it's still a very important document.

In 2024, the Fish and Game Commission approved the 2025-2030 Fisheries Management Plan, and it is available at **idfg.idaho.gov/***fish/plans.* The FMP includes very interesting information about fish and fishing in Idaho, as well as a summary of our most recent angler opinion survey.

Here are some key findings:

- Almost 20% of Idaho residents possess some sort of fishing license, which is relatively high compared to other states and above the national average of 15%.
- Recent studies indicate fishing in Idaho generates over \$1 billion annually in economic activity and supports over 8,700 jobs.
- Around 180,000 anglers purchase Idaho fishing licenses each year. In one year, Fish and Game sold fishing licenses to residents of all 50 states and four U.S. territories, as well as citizens from 61 other countries.
- Most Idaho anglers are male, but female participation has grown from 28% to 33% between 2017 and 2022.
- Consistent with previous surveys, Idaho anglers said trout were the most popular species, followed by bass and "anything that bites."
- When reductions in harvest are necessary, anglers strongly prefer more restrictive length or harvest limits over shorter seasons, or limited entry strategies.

If you've accepted an invitation to participate in an angling-related survey from Fish and Game, thank you for taking to time to offer your input, and I assure you it influences our decision making. Our ability to provide the experiences and opportunities that anglers desire can only be met if we know what those are.

When you buy an Idaho fishing license, I thank you for that as well. Your purchase is critical to helping fund our fish conservation and management programs, and we can't do them without you!

h. Fude

Jim Fredericks, Director Idaho Department of Fish and Game

### Who needs a license to fish in Idaho?

Any person 14 years of age or older must buy a fishing license. Licenses can be bought at vendors and Fish and Game offices, online with a computer or mobile device at

GoOutdoorsIdaho.com, or by phone at (800) 554-8685.

Anyone who fishes for salmon or steelhead must also have a permit for those species (See pages 51)

For a full menu of licenses and permits, see pages 76 - 78.

- Any license, tag or permit which is defaced, altered or tampered with shall be invalid from the date and time of issuance.
- · Fishing on Indian reservations may require tribal licenses and following tribal regulations. Please consult respective tribes for fishing on reservations.

#### Fishing rules for children under age 14

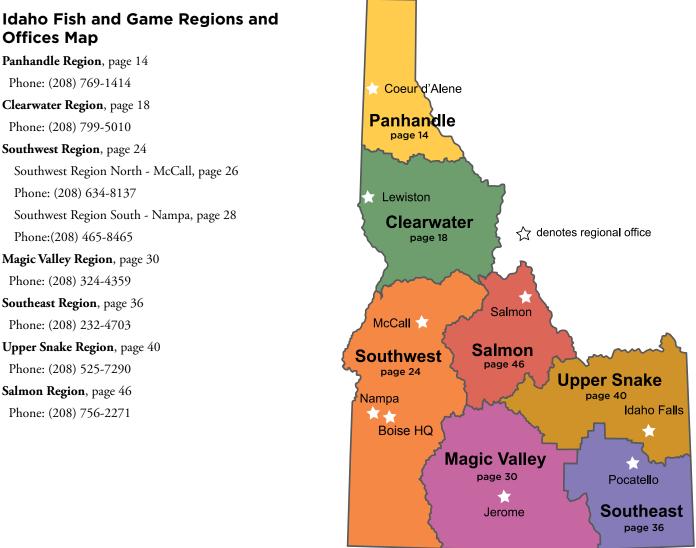
Children under 14 ARE NOT required to buy a fishing license.

#### Idaho resident children under 14 may

- Catch and keep their own daily bag limit.
- Buy a salmon/steelhead permit to keep their own limit of salmon/steelhead.
- Buy a 2-pole permit.

#### Nonresident children under 14

- Must be accompanied by the holder of a valid Idaho fishing license, and
- Harvested fish must be included in the license holder's limit
- OR, a nonresident child may buy a nonresident license and salmon/steelhead permit to keep their own limit



#### Idaho Fish and Game Regions and **Offices Map**

Panhandle Region, page 14

Phone: (208) 769-1414

Clearwater Region, page 18

Phone: (208) 799-5010

Southwest Region, page 24

Southwest Region North - McCall, page 26

Phone: (208) 634-8137

Southwest Region South - Nampa, page 28 Phone:(208) 465-8465

Magic Valley Region, page 30 Phone: (208) 324-4359

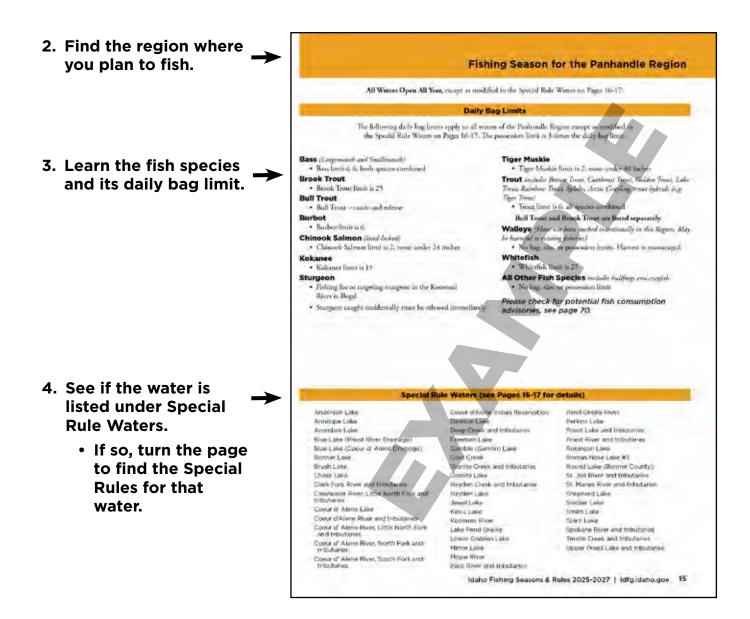
Southeast Region, page 36

Phone: (208) 525-7290

Salmon Region, page 46

Phone: (208) 756-2271

1. Review the Statewide General Rules found on page 8. See also the General Fishing Information and the Terms and Definitions sections on page 64 for more.



#### 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.



# 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

Dave Bobbitt, Panhandle Don Ebert, Clearwater Tim Murphy, Southwest Mike Roach, Magic Valley Jordan Cheirrett, Southeast Brody Harshbarger, Upper Snake Ron Davies, Salmon

#### Idaho Department of Fish and Game

600 S. Walnut St., P.O. Box 25 Boise, ID 83707 208-334-3700 • idfg.idaho.gov

Jim Fredericks, Director Amber Worthington, Deputy Director Jon Rachael, Deputy Director

#### **Regional Offices**

Panhandle Region 2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene IE	
Clearwater Region 3316 16th St., Lewiston ID 83501	208-799-5010
Southwest Region 15950 N. Gate Blvd., Nampa ID 83687	208-465-8465
McCall Subregion 555 Deinhard Lane, McCall ID 83638	208-634-8137
Magic Valley Region 324 S 417 E; Suite #1, Jerome ID 83338	208-324-4359
Southeast Region 1345 Barton Rd., Pocatello ID 83204	208-232-4703
Upper Snake Region 4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls ID 83	
Salmon Region 99 Highway 93 N., Salmon ID 83467	208-756-2271

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:

- Go to Idaho Fish and Game's online licensing site at **GoOutdoorsIdaho.com**.
- Download our Go Outdoors Idaho app directly on your smartphone.
- In person, go to any Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor.
- Dial 1-800-554-8685. Outside the U.S., use the Internet or mail.
- Commercial licenses and tags, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits can only be purchased at Fish and Game offices.

\*A credit card service fee is added for online and telephone transactions.

#### **Other Resources**

U. S. Forest Service:

Southern Idaho	fs.usda.gov/r4
Northern Idaho	fs.usda.gov/r1
Hells Canyon	fs.usda.gov/r6
Bureau of Land Management:	blm.gov/idaho
Idaho Relay Service (TDD)	1-800-377-3529

# 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.



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 Idaho Fish and Game, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 OR Chief, Public Civil Rights Division, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Department of Fish and Game 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. The official rules are available at

**adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current** 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.

Front Cover Photo Courtesy of Martin Koenig 2025-2027 Fishing 1st Edition/BOC/PCA 31918/11-2024/350,000 ROP/GG

# Idaho Department of Fish & Game Fishing Rules 2025-2027

#### CONTENTS

Getting Started	
<b>Regional Offices and Helpful Information</b>	
Statewide General Rules	8 - 13
License and Permit Requirements	8
Fishing Gear and Tackle	8 - 9
Seasons and Bag Limits	
Bait	9
Trapping or Seining Minnows and Crayfish	9
Fishing in Boundary Waters	
Salmon, Steelhead, and Sturgeon	
Transportation, Sale or Shipment of Fish	
Salvage of Fish	
Idaho's Trespass Law	
It Is Unlawful To	11
Navigability and Public Access	12
<b>Trespass Permission and Transport Proxy Fo</b>	r <b>ms</b> 13
Panhandle Region	
Clearwater Region	
Washington/Idaho Fishing in Boundary Waters Map	
North Fork Clearwater River Map	
Southwest Region	
Magic Valley Region	
Silver Creek Map	
Hagerman Area Map	
Southeast Region	36 - 39
Upper Snake Region	
Henrys Fork Fishing Map	
Salmon Region	
Steelhead and Salmon Rules	50 - 55
River Location Codes and Map	
Permit Validation	
Steelhead Seasons and Limits	53
Coho and Fall Chinook Seasons and Limits	54
Sturgeon Fishing Rules	56
Crayfish Seasons and Rules	57
Fish Identification	58 - 63
General Fishing Information	64 - 66
Terms and Definitions	64
Fish Stocking	
Releasing of Fish	
Taking Photographs	65 - 66
Tagged Fish	
Harvest Incentive and Bounty Programs	
Free Fishing Day	
Tournament/Fishing Contests	
Reasons for Special Size and Bag Limits	
State Record Fish Program	
Fish Consumption Advisories	
Licenses, Tags and Permits	
To Buy a License, Tag or Permit	
Refund Policy	
Idaho Residency Requirements	
Resident Price Lock	
Resident Disable Licenses	
Resident Lifetime License Certificates	
Resident Licenses, Tag and Permit Fees	
Nonresident Licenses, Tag and Permit Fees	78

#### WHAT'S NEW

Live transport of crayfish is now legal (except for classified Invasive Species, page 57).

#### Panhandle Region:

- Landlocked Chinook Salmon limit is now 2, none under 24 inches (page 15)
- Priest Lake and Upper Priest Lake trout limit is now 2 Cutthroat Trout, none under 16 inches, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout in tributaries (page 17)
- Robinson Lake removed the 16-inch minimum for bass (page 17)

#### **Clearwater Region:**

- Deer Creek Reservoir Tiger Trout limit is now 2 per day, none under 20 inches (page 21)
- Elk Creek Reservoir Brook Trout bag limit is now 25 per day (page 19)
- Salmon River expanded fall Chinook Salmon fishing boundary upstream (page 54)
- Selway River above Selway Falls Bridge at Meadow Creek trout limit is now 2, all species (page 22)

#### Southwest Region:

- Hells Canyon Reservoir removed minimum length on bass (page 27)
- Caldwell Gravel Ponds bass limit is now 2 per day, none under 20 inches (page 29)
- CJ Strike Reservoir no minimum length on bass, only 1 over 16 inches (page 29)
- Deadwood Reservoir kokanee bag limit is now 6 per day (page 29)

#### Magic Valley Region:

- Big Wood River and Magic Reservoir no bag or length limits for bass (page 33, 34)
- Hagerman WMA and Riley Creek opening dates are now the same for all waters (pages 32, 34)
- Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir removed minimum length limit for walleye (page 31)
- Silver Creek new simplified seasons and limits, new sections map (pages 30, 34)

#### Southeast Region:

• Blackfoot River and tributaries – new trout seasons and limits (page 38)

#### **Upper Snake Region:**

- No daily bag or length limits for bass (page 41)
- Henrys Fork Snake River new trout bag limits above McCrea Bridge to Henrys Lake Outlet (page 43)
- Mud Lake daily limit of bass remains 6 per day (page 44)
- Sand Creek WMA ponds new fixed opening dates for fishing (page 44)

#### Salmon/Steelhead rules:

- Several new River Location Codes for salmon and steelhead permits (page 50)
- Electronic validation of Salmon and Steelhead permits now available through the GoOutdoorsIdaho mobile app (page 55)

This section lists general fishing regulations that apply statewide during all seasons. More information on specific items can also be found in the Terms and Definitions section on pages 64 - 65. Please consult the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act webpage or Title 36 of the Idaho Code for complete details at **adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/13/index.html or idfg.idaho.gov/title36**.

#### LICENSE AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

**Fishing License:** Any person 14 years or older must have a valid Idaho fishing license or permit to fish for fish, bullfrogs or crayfish, except when fishing in a private pond where the owner has a valid Private Pond Permit from Fish and Game, or on Free Fishing Day. Licenses are available to purchase at Fish and Game offices, license vendors, by phone at (800) 554-8685 or at GoOutdoorsIdaho.com.

- Resident children under 14 do not need to be accompanied by a valid Idaho fishing license holder, are not required to purchase a license and may catch and keep their own daily bag limit.
- Nonresident children under 14 must be accompanied by the holder of a valid Idaho fishing license, and harvested fish must be included in the license holder's limit. However, a nonresident child may purchase their own license and have their own limit.

**Fishing License in Possession:** You must have a printed license, or electronic version with you while fishing. Electronic versions that are allowed: accessing **GoOutdoorsIdaho.com** online, using Go Outdoors Idaho mobile app, a saved copy to your smartphone, or a saved photo of your printed license to your smartphone.

**Two-Pole Permit:** Any person wanting to fish with two poles at the same time with a valid resident or nonresident fishing license may purchase a two-pole permit. Any child 14 years or younger, wishing to fish with two poles, must purchase a two-pole permit. This permit authorizes the license holder or child to use two poles or rods during seasons specified. Valid for all open waters and salmon and steelhead fishing.

**Salmon and Steelhead Permit:** 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. Pages 51–52 have complete details on salmon and steelhead rules and information.

#### FISHING GEAR AND TACKLE

**Pole/Rod Limits:** It is illegal to use more than one (1) handline or pole with a line attached, except for a person with a two-pole permit (see Two-Pole Permit above). However, five rods or lines may be used when ice fishing.

**Hook and Line Limits:** Up to five (5) hooks per line may be used, except where specifically prohibited. Up to five (5) rods or lines per angler may be used when ice fishing. Only barbless hooks may be used when fishing for salmon or

steelhead in the Salmon and Clearwater river drainages and the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam. A treble hook is considered a single hook; exceptions may apply in some special rule waters.

**Bow (Archery) and Spear Fishing:** This includes 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.

**Gaff Hook:** This is 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 unprotected fish species taken with archery equipment, provided the angler does not intend to release fish so caught.

**Hands for Fishing:** It is illegal to harvest any fish using only your hands, except when harvesting crayfish and bullfrogs. Anglers must use fishing gear to harvest all other fish species.

**Ice Fishing:** Fishing through an opening, broken or cut, through the ice. Anglers may fish with a maximum of five (5) lines per angler while ice fishing. 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.

**Fishing Shelter:** It is illegal to leave an enclosure or shelter used for fishing unattended overnight on the ice of any water statewide without having the owner's name, telephone number, and current address legibly marked on two (2) opposing sides of the enclosure or shelter.

**"No Motor" or "Electric Motor" Only Waters:** Fishing waters listed in proclamation as "no motors," no person may fish from a boat with a motor attached. 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.

**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 56.

**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.

**Unattended 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.

#### SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

**Bag Limits:** Defined as 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. Each region specifies the bag limits by species. It is illegal to fish in waters having special bag or species limits while in possession of fish in excess of those limits.

Note: Bullfrogs and crayfish have no bag, length or possession limit.

**Possession Limits:** The maximum limit in number or amount of wildlife which may be lawfully in the possession of any person. "Possession limit" shall apply to wildlife being in possession while in the field or being transported to final place of consumption or storage.

**Season Limits:** It is illegal to exceed the maximum number of fish that may be legally taken in any declared season.

**Holding Live Fish:** No permit is required to keep live game fish legally reduced to possession while the angler is at the body of water where the fish were taken. Only live fish may be sorted (high-grading, culling), so long as the fish will swim away freely when released, and the daily bag limit is not exceeded. Exceptions apply on some special rule waters. For anadromous (ocean-run) salmon/steelhead, those fish must be killed or released after landing. All fish must be killed, or released, prior to the angler leaving the water body where the fish were caught. Possessing and transporting live crayfish for personal consumption without a permit is allowed if they are not designated as invasive species in Idaho administrative code (see Crayfish, page 57).

**Catch-and-Release:** 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 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.

**Fishing Closed or Out of Season Waterbodies:** No person may fish any waterbodies that are labeled as closed or out of season. Catch-and-release fishing is only allowed when a fishing season is open for that particular fish species.

### BAIT

**Bait:** Organic substances, other than rubber, wood feather, fiber, or plastic, attached to a hook to attract fish can be used. Bait includes insects, insect larvae, worms, dead fish, fish parts, any other animal or vegetable matter, or scented synthetic materials. Game fish may be used as bait, if harvested using legal methods and bag limits, and count toward daily bag and possession limits.

**Live Bait:** It is illegal to use live fish, leeches, frogs, salamanders, waterdogs or shrimp as bait in Idaho, except that live crayfish may be used if caught on the body of water being fished. Bait of any kind may not be used with artificial lures when fishing artificial flies and lures-only waters.

**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.

# TRAPPING OR SEINING MINNOWS AND CRAYFISH

All game fish (except yellow perch) and protected nongame fish incidentally taken while trapping or seining must be immediately released alive. Nongame fish (minnows), yellow perch, and crayfish may be taken only in waters open to fishing. See page 57 for additional information on crayfish.

**Harvesting Fish with Nets or Traps:** 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. 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.

**Number of Traps:** 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.

**Trap and Net Size:** The seine or net must 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.

#### FISHING IN BOUNDARY WATERS

Any angler who fishes any 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.

**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. When fishing this boundary water, one can only exercise the privileges of one license at the same time, even if they have licenses (and salmon/steelhead permits) for both states.

#### SALMON, STEELHEAD, AND STURGEON

**Salmon and Steelhead fishing:** Fishing for salmon and steelhead is only open during specific seasons set for those species and requires anglers to have a valid Salmon and/ or Steelhead Permit. Additional restrictions apply to tackle, bag limits, and possession limits. Page 51 have complete details on salmon and steelhead rules and information.

**Sturgeon fishing:** Sturgeon fishing is open statewide, all year, except for the Kootenai River, where fishing for sturgeon is illegal. Where open, sturgeon is catch-and-release only. Review page 56 for additional restrictions.

#### TRANSPORTATION, SALE OR SHIPMENT OF FISH

**Head and Tail Removal:** No person may have in the field or in transport any trout, bass, tiger muskie, steelhead, or salmon from which the head or tail has been removed unless:

- 1. The angler is ashore and done fishing for the day; and
- 2. The fish is processed or packaged with the skin naturally attached to the flesh; and
- 3. The fish is processed or packaged in a manner that the number of fish harvested can be readily determined; and
- 4. The processed fish is not transported by watercraft; and
- 5. The salmon or steelhead is properly validated on their permit; and
- 6. For any salmon or steelhead: processed meat must include a portion of the flesh with a healed, clipped adipose fin scar or the adipose fin; and
- 7. Must not process any jack salmon while in the field or in transit.

#### Fish Transport or Gift (by Proxy Statement):

Transporting legally taken game fish requires a proxy statement signed by the original taker accompanies the fish, showing the number and kinds, the date taken, the taker's name, address, and fishing license number. A Fish Transport Proxy Statement can be found on page 13.

#### Fish Possessed from State and Federal Fish

**Hatcheries:** No person can transit state and federal fish from hatcheries without a written receipt for those fish or as allowed by posted signage.

**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.

**Private Pond Permit:** 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.

**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.

#### 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.

#### IDAHO'S TRESPASS LAW

All persons must have written permission, or other lawful form of permission, to enter or remain on private land to shoot any weapon or hunt, fish, trap or retrieve game.

A person should know land is private and they are not allowed without permission if:

- The property is associated with a residence, business
- Or, it is cultivated
- Or, it is fenced or enclosed in a way that delineates the private property
- Or, it is unfenced and uncultivated, but is posted with conspicuous "no trespassing" signs or bright orange/ fluorescent paint at all property corners and boundaries where the property intersects navigable streams, roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the land and posted in a way that people can see the postings.
- Any person must leave private property when asked to do so by the owner or agent.

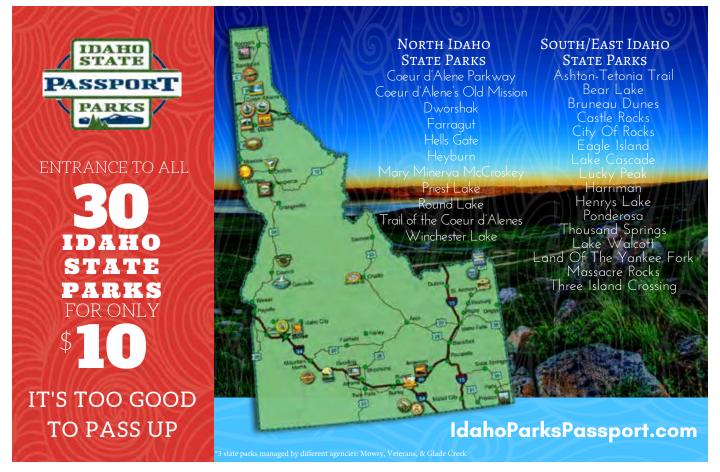
**Note**— It is illegal for anyone to post public land that is not held under an exclusive control lease. Private posting at navigable streams shall not prohibit access to navigable streams below the high-water mark as allowed by Idaho law (see page 12).

#### Please visit: idfg.idaho.gov/2018-trespass-law

#### IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:

- Fish within the posted upstream and downstream boundaries of any fish weir or trap
- Fail 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 individual(s) do not possess any fish or wildlife. Idaho Law authorizes Idaho Fish and Game to use wildlife check stations to collect biological and harvest data from fish and wildlife, receive public input, and enforce Commission seasons and rules.
- Enter or remain on private land to shoot any weapon or hunt, fish, trap, or retrieve game without written permission or other lawful form of permission.
- Knowingly provide false information to the Department or Commission on any report required by law.
- Destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.
- Use chemicals, poisons, electric current, or explosives for fishing.

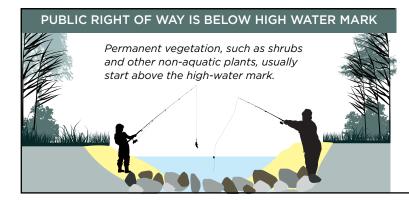
- Waste game fish, through carelessness, neglect or otherwise to allow or cause the waste of edible portions of any game fish including the fillets of fish and tails of crayfish.
- Molest or harass any fish by shooting at it with a firearm or pellet gun, striking at it with a club, hands, rocks, or other objects, building obstructions for catching fish, or chasing fish up or downstream in any manner.
- Deposit, throw, place, allow or cause to pass into any of the waters of this state any deleterious drugs, toxicants, chemicals, poisonous substances, explosives, electrical current, or other material which may tend to destroy, kill, disable, or drive away fish.
- Place racks or traps or any other obstruction across any of the streams or waters of the state of Idaho in order to take fish for any purpose without first obtaining a permit from the Director. No unauthorized person shall tamper with, damage, or destroy any such permitted rack, trap, or other obstruction.
- Mark, scar, tag or mutilate fish without a Scientific Collecting permit.
- Fail to produce wildlife for inspection upon request of a conservation officer or other person authorized to enforce Idaho Fish and Game seasons and rules.
- Remove, alter, or possess Idaho Fish and Game signs.



# NAVIGABILITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS

(Refer to Idaho Code 36-1601)

#### WHEN FISHING IN NAVIGABLE STREAMS BORDERED BY PRIVATE PROPERTY



# YOU MUST STAY BELOW THE NORMAL HIGH-WATER MARK

of the stream, unless you have

landowners 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). High-water area in yellow.

# WHEN GETTING OUT OF A 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.

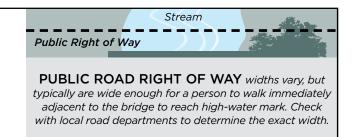




## YOU MAY ENTER AND EXIT A NAVIGABLE STREAM

at locations other than below the high-water mark, such as public right of way at county road bridges.

**ASK FIRST** Always get landowner permission before crossing private right of way.



Navigable streams are defined as any stream which, in its natural high-water condition, will float logs or any other commercial or float-able 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 steams 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.

Public Right of Way

Illustrations: CC-BY Nancy Jasper at Idaho Fish and Game



IDAHO	TDESDASS	PERMISSION	FODM
IDANU	IRESPASS	PERMISSION	LOKI

Permission given to (print):

Dates permission is valid:

from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

General Description of Property:

Landowner Name (print):

**Owner or Agent Signature:** 

-----

A property owner may revoke permission at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_



### FISH TRANSPORT PROXY STATEMENT

(To transport fish taken by another person)

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

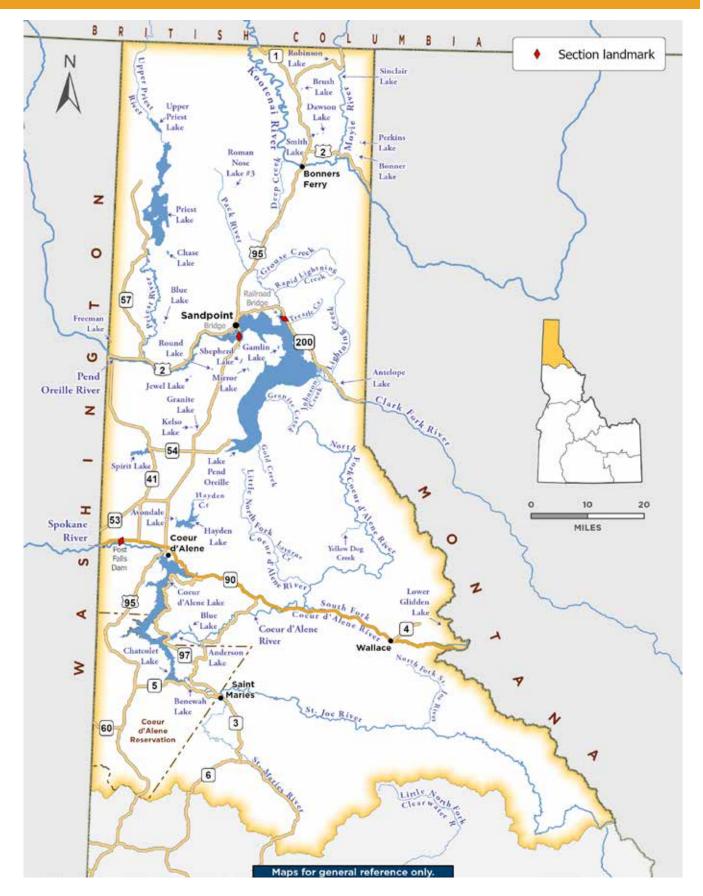
Taker's Address

Tag No.

Fish Species	<b>Description &amp; Number Taken</b>	Water Caught	Date
ther Game:		1	
pecies	#Taken	Date Killed	

\_\_\_\_\_

### **PANHANDLE REGION**



All Waters Open All Year, except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 16-17.

#### **Daily Bag Limits**

The following daily bag limits apply to all waters of the Panhandle Region except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 16-17. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit.

#### **Bass** (Largemouth and Smallmouth)

• Bass limit is 6, both species combined

#### **Brook Trout**

- Brook Trout limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for Brook Trout

#### **Bull Trout**

• Bull Trout – catch-and-release

#### Burbot

- Burbot limit is 6
- Chinook Salmon (land-locked)
  - Chinook Salmon limit is 2, none under 24 inches

#### Kokanee

Kokanee limit is 15

**Northern Pike** (*Stocked illegally in this Region. May be harmful to existing fisheries.*)

• No bag, length, or possession limits. Harvest is encouraged

#### Sturgeon

- · Fishing for sturgeon in the Kootenai River is illegal
- Sturgeon caught incidentally must be released immediately

#### **Tiger Muskie**

• Tiger Muskie limit is 2, none under 40 inches

**Trout** includes Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Golden Trout, Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Arctic Grayling, trout hybrids (e.g. Tiger Trout)

• Trout limit is 6, all species combined

#### Bull Trout and Brook Trout are listed separately

**Walleye** (Stocked illegally in this Region. May be harmful to existing fisheries.)

• No bag, length, or possession limits. Harvest is encouraged

#### Whitefish

- Whitefish limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for whitefish

#### All Other Fish Species includes bullfrogs and crayfish

• No bag, length, or possession limits

*Please check for potential fish consumption advisories, see page 70.* 

#### Special Rule Waters (see Pages 16-17 for details)

Anderson Lake Antelope Lake Avondale Lake Blue Lake (Priest River Drainage) Blue Lake (Coeur d' Alene Drainage) Bonner Lake Brush Lake Chase Lake Clark Fork River and tributaries Clearwater River, Little North Fork and tributaries Coeur d' Alene Lake Coeur d'Alene River and tributaries Coeur d' Alene River, Little North Fork and tributaries Coeur d' Alene River, North Fork and tributaries Coeur d' Alene River, South Fork and tributaries

Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation Dawson Lake Deep Creek and tributaries Freeman Lake Gamble (Gamlin) Lake Gold Creek Granite Creek and tributaries Granite Lake Hayden Creek and tributaries Hayden Lake Jewel Lake Kelso Lake Kootenai River Lake Pend Oreille Lower Glidden Lake Mirror Lake Moyie River Pack River and tributaries

Pend Oreille River Perkins Lake Priest Lake and tributaries Priest River and tributaries Robinson Lake Roman Nose Lake #3 Round Lake (Bonner County) St. Joe River and tributaries St. Maries River and tributaries Shepherd Lake Sinclair Lake Smith Lake Spirit Lake Spokane River and tributaries Trestle Creek and tributaries Upper Priest Lake and tributaries

### **Special Rule Waters for the Panhandle Region**

For waters not listed below, see Page 15 for fishing season, bag and possession limits, and rules that apply to all waters within the Panhandle Region.

#### Anderson Lake

(includes the channel to the Coeur d'Alene River)

• Bass limit is 6, only 2 may be Largemouth Bass, no Largemouth Bass under 16 inches

Antelope Lake - Electric motors only

Avondale Lake - Electric motors only

- Blue Lake (Priest River drainage) Electric motors only
- **Blue Lake** (Coeur d'Alene drainage; includes the channel to the Coeur d'Alene River)
  - Bass limit is 6, only 2 may be Largemouth Bass, no Largemouth Bass under 16 inches

Bonner Lake - Electric motors only

Brush Lake - Electric motors only

#### Chase Lake - Electric motors only

• Bass limit is 6, only 2 may be Largemouth Bass, no Largemouth Bass under 16 inches

#### **Clark Fork River**

Section: Entire river upstream of a straight line extending north of county boat dock (near mouth of Johnson Creek) to Bear Paw Point (southwest tip of Denton Slough)

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- Rainbow Trout catch-and-release December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend
- No limit on lake trout

#### **Clark Fork River tributaries**

(includes Lightning Creek and tributaries)

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- Rainbow Trout catch-and-release December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend
- No bait allowed Dec. 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend

#### **Clearwater River, Little North Fork and**

tributaries

• Trout limit is 2

#### Coeur d'Alene Lake (includes Benewah and Chatcolet lakes,

Coeur d'Alene River "Chain Lakes" and all tributaries to Coeur d'Alene Lake)

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- Lake Creek and tributaries, closed to fishing

#### **Coeur d'Alene River and tributaries**

Section: From the mouth to the confluence of the North Fork and South Fork

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw

# Coeur d'Alene River, Little North Fork and tributaries

Section: From the mouth upstream to Laverne Creek

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw

#### Section: From and including Laverne Creek upstream

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### **Coeur d'Alene River, North Fork and tributaries**

# Section: From the confluence of the North Fork and South Fork upstream to Yellow Dog Creek

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw

Section: From and including Yellow Dog Creek upstream

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### Coeur d'Alene River, South Fork and tributaries

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw

**Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation** - Contact the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Office

Dawson Lake - Electric motors only

#### **Deep Creek and tributaries**

• Rainbow Trout catch-and-release December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend

Freeman Lake - Electric motors only

Gamble (Gamlin) Lake - Electric motors only

**Gold Creek** (Pend Oreille Lake; includes North and South Gold creeks and tributaries)

Closed to fishing

Granite Creek and tributaries (Pend Oreille Lake) • Closed to fishing

**Granite Lake** - Electric motors only

#### **Hayden Creek and tributaries**

• December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend - closed to fishing

#### **Hayden Lake**

- Bass limit is 6, only 2 may be Largemouth Bass, no Largemouth Bass under 20 inches
- Crappie limit is 6, none under 10 inches

Jewel Lake - Electric motors only

Kelso Lake - Electric motors only

#### **Kootenai River**

- Trout limit is 2, no Rainbow or Cutthroat Trout under 16 inches
- Sturgeon Fishing for sturgeon in the Kootenai River is illegal

**Lake Pend Oreille** (includes Sand, Strong, Riser, Bayview, and Mirror creeks and their tributaries)

- No limit on the number of fishing rods per angler while fishing from a boat
- Bass limit is 6, only 2 may be Largemouth Bass, no Largemouth Bass under 16 inches
- No limit on Lake Trout, Lake Trout can be possessed in the field or in transit with head removed
- No harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- Rainbow Trout limit is 2, only 1 over 20 inches

#### Lower Glidden Lake - Electric motors only

#### Mirror Lake - Electric motors only

#### **Moyie River**

• Trout limit is 2

#### **Pack River and tributaries** from the railroad bridge near the mouth upstream; includes Grouse Creek and tributaries and

Rapid Lightning Creek and tributaries)

Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

- Rainbow Trout catch-and-release December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend
- No bait allowed December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend
- Fishing closed 100 yards upstream and downstream of Grouse Creek Falls (on Grouse Creek)

#### **Pend Oreille River**

(from Highway 95 bridge at Sandpoint downstream to Idaho-Washington border, including tributaries and sloughs to the edge of flat water)

- Bass limit is 6, only 2 may be Largemouth Bass, no Largemouth Bass under 16 inches
- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Perkins Lake - Electric motors only

#### Priest Lake and tributaries (including Thorofare)

- Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout, no Cutthroat Trout under 16 inches
- Kokanee limit is 6

#### **Priest River and tributaries**

(from its mouth to Priest Lake)

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Robinson Lake - Electric motors only

Roman Nose Lake #3 - Electric motors only

Round Lake (Bonner County) - Electric motors only

#### St. Joe River and tributaries (except St. Maries River)

Section: From Coeur d'Alene Lake upstream to and including the North Fork St. Joe River

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw

#### Section: From the North Fork St. Joe River upstream

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### St. Maries River and tributaries

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout limit is 2, no harvest of any trout with a red or orange slash below jaw
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2

Shepherd Lake - Electric motors only

Sinclair Lake - Electric motors only

Smith Lake - Electric motors only

**Spirit Lake** 

• Kokanee limit is 25

#### **Spokane River and tributaries**

Section: From state line upstream to Post Falls Dam
• Trout limit is 2

Section: From Post Falls Dam upstream to Coeur d'Alene Lake

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **Trestle Creek and tributaries**

• Closed to fishing

#### **Upper Priest Lake and tributaries**

- Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout, no Cutthroat Trout under 16 inches
- No limit on Lake Trout
- Kokanee limit is 6



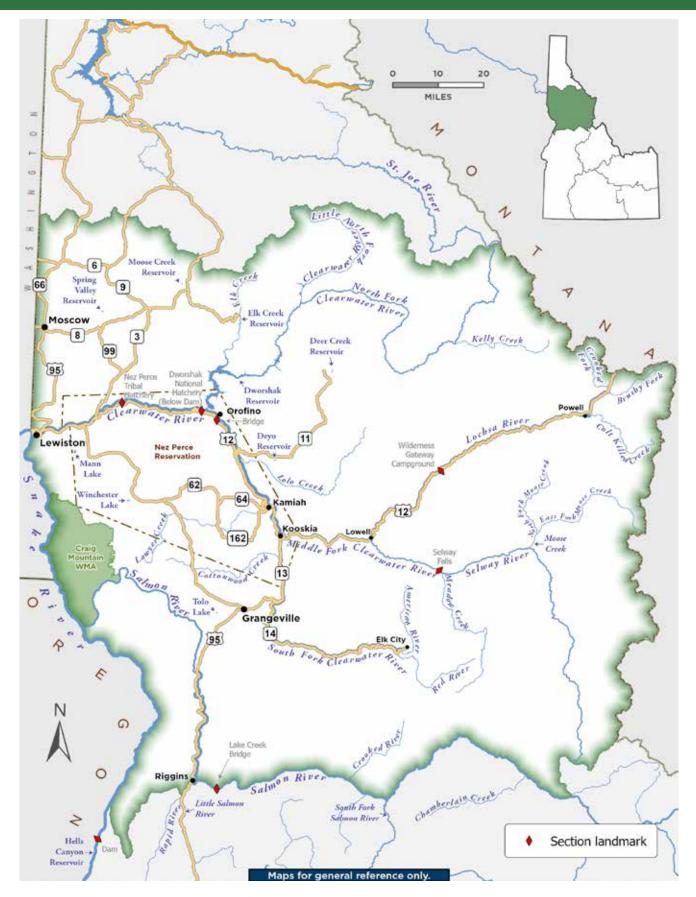
# Fishing & Boating Access Sites

For a complete guide to Idaho Fish and Game's access sites and other resources for anglers go to:

#### idfg.idaho.gov/fish/access-guide or scan this QR code with your smart phone



### **CLEARWATER REGION**



All Waters Open All Year, except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 21-22.

#### **Daily Bag Limits**

The following daily bag limits apply to all waters of the Clearwater Region except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 21-22. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit.

#### **Bass** (Largemouth and Smallmouth)

- In rivers and streams, no bag, length or possession limits
- In lakes and reservoirs, limit is 6, both species combined

#### **Brook Trout**

- Brook Trout limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for Brook Trout

#### **Bull Trout**

• Bull Trout - catch-and-release

#### Kokanee

• Kokanee limit is 25

#### Salmon (ocean-run)

- Spring and summer Chinook Salmon seasons and limits are set by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and issued in separate brochures
- Seasons and limits for fall Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon can be found on page 54
- Sockeye Salmon fishing is prohibited. Defined as oceanrun *Oncorhynchus nerka* longer than 14 inches in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage (excluding above Mosquito Flat Dam), and the Clearwater River drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam and lakes)
- Fishing for salmon is prohibited unless a salmon season is specifically opened for that water

#### Steelhead (ocean-run)

- Defined as Rainbow Trout longer than 20 inches 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 steelhead is prohibited unless a steelhead season

is specifically opened for that water (see steelhead seasons/ limits on page 53)

#### Sturgeon

- Sturgeon catch-and-release
- Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing
- Barbless hooks, sliding swivel device to secure a weight, and a lighter test line to secure weight to sliding swivel device are required, see page 56

#### **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

#### Bull Trout and Brook Trout are listed separately

**Walleye** (Stocked illegally in this Region. May be harmful to existing fisheries.)

• No bag, length, or possession limits. Harvest is encouraged

#### Whitefish

- Whitefish limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for whitefish

**Protected Nongame Fish** *includes Pacific Lamprey and Sand Roller* 

• May not be harvested or possessed

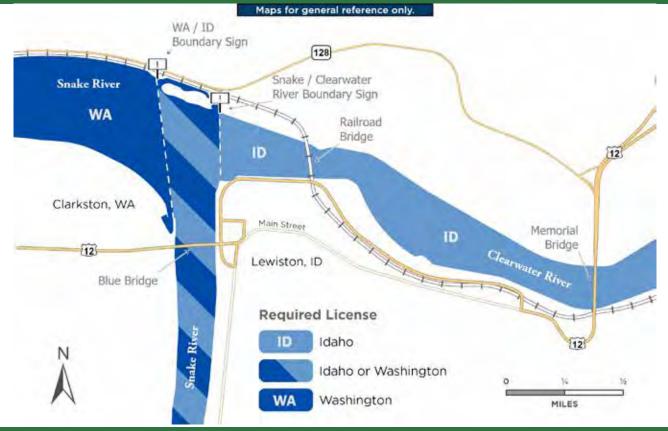
- All Other Fish Species includes bullfrogs and crayfish
  - No bag, length, or possession limits

# *Please check for potential fish consumption advisories, see page 70.*

#### Special Rule Waters (see Pages 21-22 for details)

Clearwater River Clearwater River, Little North Fork and tributaries 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 Kelly Creek and tributaries Lochsa River Mann Lake Moose Creek Reservoir Salmon River Salmon River, Little Salmon River tributaries Selway River Snake River (ID/WA border upstream to Hells Canyon Dam) Spring Valley Reservoir Winchester Lake

# Washington/Idaho Fishing In Boundary Waters



## **Special Restrictions – North Fork Clearwater River**



# Special Rule Waters for the Clearwater Region

For waters not listed below, see Page 19 for fishing season, bag and possession limits, and rules that apply to all waters within the Clearwater Region.

#### Clearwater River See map on page 20

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, Little North Fork and tributaries

• Trout limit is 2

#### **Clearwater River, Middle Fork**

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout 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 See map on page 20

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 – catch-and-release, no bait allowed except maggots
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2, no Cutthroat Trout under 14 inches, no bait allowed

#### **Clearwater River, South Fork**

- Cutthroat Trout catch-and-release only
- Single-pointed barbless hooks are required while fishing for steelhead and salmon

#### **Crooked Fork** (tributary to Lochsa River)

#### Section: From the mouth to Brushy Fork

- Trout catch-and-release
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

Section: From Brushy Fork upstream - Clearwater Region general rules apply

#### **Deer Creek Reservoir**

• Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Tiger Trout, no Tiger Trout under 20 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

#### **Kelly Creek and tributaries**

- Trout 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 – 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 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, Little

- Clearwater Region general rules apply
- No bag, length, or possession limits on bass

#### **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 (page 27).

• Trout limit is 2

Section: Those tributaries upstream from the mouth of the Middle Fork Salmon River – See Page 48, 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 – 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

All other sections of the Selway River – Clearwater Region general rules apply

#### Snake River (ID/WA border 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 onlyBass limit is 2, none under 16 inches

Winchester Lake - Electric motors only

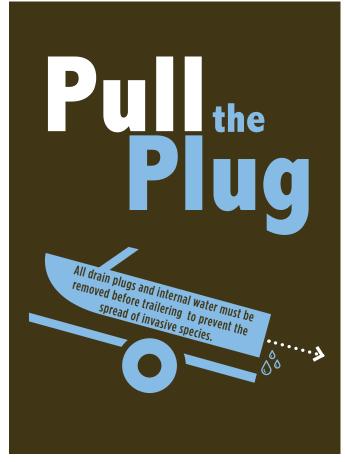


During the summer months the fishing trailers travel across Idaho ready to help families start fishing.

HOW

- Free and open to everyone. Just show up and register at the event.
- Fishing equipment can be checked out for free. First-come, first-served basis.
- Learn the basic fishing skills from knowledgeable staff.
- No license required for registered participants during the duration of the event.

idfg.idaho.gov/fish





No license required to fish statewide

At Free Fishing Day events, you will find:

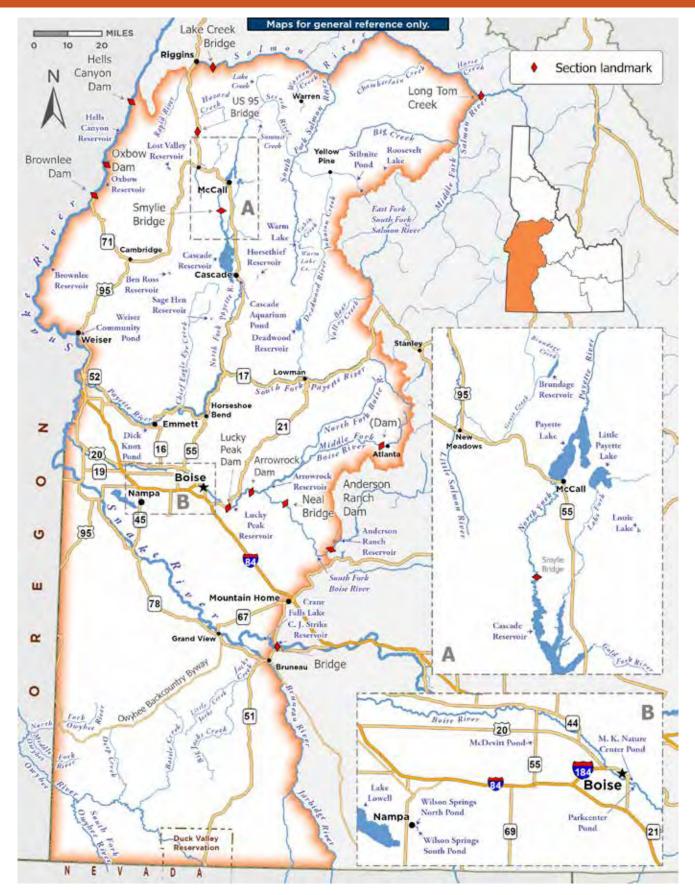
How-to Clinics Tackle available Questions answered Skills development -

SATURDAY JUNE 14, 2025 JUNE 13,2026 JUNE 12, 2027



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

### **SOUTHWEST REGION**



All Waters Open All Year, except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 27-29.

#### **Daily Bag Limits**

The following daily bag limits apply to all waters of the Southwest Region except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 27-29. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit.

#### **Bass** (Largemouth and Smallmouth)

- Bass limit is 6, both species combined
- None under 12 inches

#### **Brook Trout**

- Brook Trout limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for Brook Trout

#### **Bull Trout**

• Bull Trout - catch-and-release

#### Kokanee

• Kokanee limit is 6

#### Salmon (ocean-run)

- Spring and summer Chinook Salmon seasons and limits are set by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and issued in separate brochures
- Seasons and limits for fall Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon can be found on page 54
- Sockeye Salmon fishing is illegal. Defined as ocean-run *Oncorhynchus nerka* longer than 14 inches in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam and the Salmon River drainage (excluding above Mosquito Flat Dam)
- Fishing for salmon is prohibited unless a salmon season is specifically opened for that water

#### Steelhead (ocean-run)

• Defined as Rainbow Trout longer than 20 inches in the Salmon River drainage (excluding lakes and reservoirs). Between Hells Canyon Dam and Oxbow Dam and the Boise River from its mouth upstream to Barber Dam during steelhead seasons, steelhead are Rainbow Trout over 20 inches with the adipose fin clipped (as evidenced by a healed scar) • Fishing for steelhead is prohibited unless a steelhead season is specifically opened for that water (see steelhead seasons/ limits on page 53)

#### Sturgeon

- Sturgeon catch-and-release
- Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing
- Barbless hooks, sliding swivel device to secure a weight, and a lighter test line to secure weight to sliding swivel device are required, see page 56

#### Tiger Muskie

• Tiger Muskie limit is 2, none under 40 inches

# **Trout** *includes Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Golden Trout, Arctic Grayling, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, land-locked Chinook and Coho Salmon, trout hybrids (e.g. Tiger Trout)*

- Trout limit is 6, all species combined
- Chinook Salmon and steelhead placed in ponds are counted in the trout bag limit

#### Bull Trout and Brook Trout are listed separately

**Walleye** (Stocked illegally in this Region. May be harmful to existing fisheries.)

• No bag, length, or possession limits, harvest is encouraged

#### Whitefish

- Whitefish limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for whitefish

#### Protected Nongame Fish includes Pacific Lamprey

• May not be harvested or possessed

#### All Other Fish Species includes bullfrogs and crayfish

• No bag, length, or possession limits

#### Special Rule Waters (See Pages 27-29 for details)

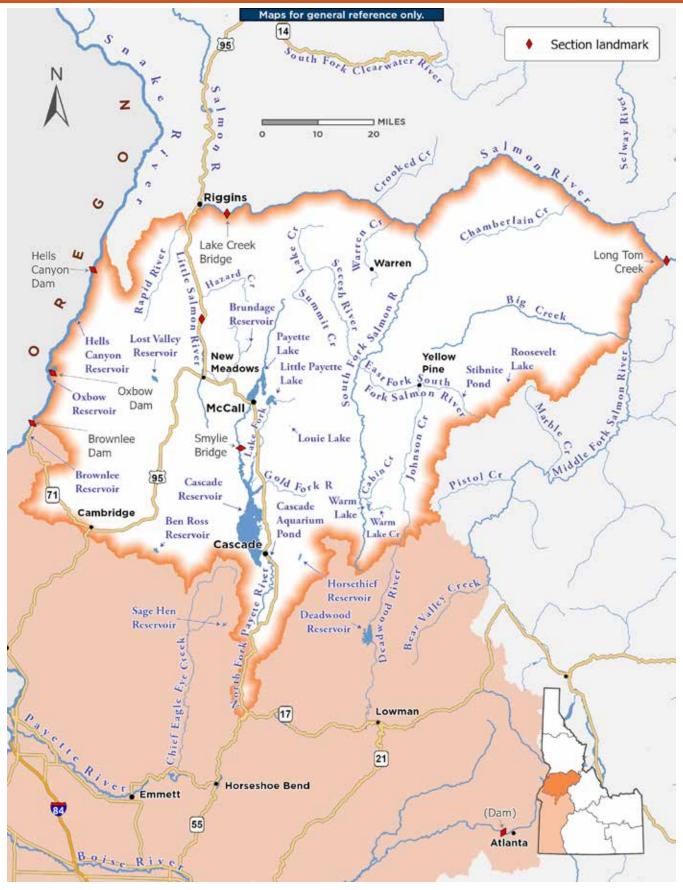
#### Southwest Region North - McCall

Ben Ross Reservoir Big Creek Brundage Reservoir and tributaries Cascade Aquarium Pond Chamberlain Creek and tributaries Hells Canyon Reservoir Little Payette Lake Louie Lake Oxbow Reservoir Payette River, North Fork Rapid River and tributaries Roosevelt Lake Salmon River Salmon River, Little Salmon River, Little Salmon River, South Fork and tributaries Stibnite Pond (Glory Hole) Warren Creek

#### Southwest Region South - Nampa

Bear Valley Creek Boise River Boise River, Middle Fork Boise River, South Fork Caldwell Gravel Ponds Chief Eagle Eye Creek and tributaries CJ Strike Reservoir Crane Falls Lake Deadwood Reservoir tributaries Dick Knox Pond Duck Valley Indian Reservation Lake Lowell McDevitt Pond Middle Fork Salmon River M.K. Nature Center Owyhee River and tributaries Parkcenter Pond Payette River, South Fork and tributaries Sage Hen Reservoir tributaries Salmon River, Middle Fork and tributaries Weiser Community Pond Wilson Springs Ponds

## **SOUTHWEST REGION NORTH - MCCALL**



## Special Rule Waters for the Southwest Region North - McCall

For waters not listed below, see Page 25 for fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and rules that apply to all waters within the Southwest Region.

#### **Ben Ross Reservoir**

• Bass limit is 2, none between 12 and 16 inches

#### **Big Creek**

- Trout catch-and-release
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### **Brundage Reservoir and tributaries**

- Trout limit is 2, none over 14 inches
- No bait allowed

#### **Cascade Aquarium Pond**

· Closed to fishing

#### **Chamberlain Creek and tributaries**

• Trout limit is 2

#### **Hells Canyon Reservoir**

• Bass limit is 6, any size

#### **Little Payette Lake**

- Bass limit is 2, none under 20 inches
- Kokanee limit is 25

#### **Louie Lake** (an alpine lake in the Boulder Creek drainage)

- Trout limit is 2, none under 20 inches
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### **Oxbow Reservoir**

(between Brownlee Dam and Oxbow Dam)Bass limit is 2, none between 12 and 16 inches

#### **Payette River, North Fork**

Section: From Payette Lake upstream, including tributaries

• Kokanee – catch-and-release

- Section: From Smylie Bridge (Hartsell) to Payette Lake
  - December 1 to Friday of Memorial Day weekend – trout – catch-and-release

All other sections of the Payette River, North Fork – Southwest Region general rules apply

#### **Rapid River and tributaries**

- (tributary to the Little Salmon River)
  - Trout limit is 2

#### **Roosevelt Lake**

- Trout catch-and-release
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### **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
- · No bag, length, or possession limits on bass

#### Salmon River, Little

- Southwest Region general rules apply
  - No bag, length, or possession limits on bass

#### **Salmon River tributaries**

- All sections:
  - No bag, length, or possession limits on bass

Section: Those tributaries from the mouth of the Salmon River upstream to the mouth of the Middle Fork Salmon River (except Little Salmon River and South Fork Salmon River)

• Trout limit is 2

Section: Those tributaries upstream of the mouth of Middle Fork Salmon River - See Page 48, Salmon River tributaries, Special Rule Waters.

#### Salmon River, South Fork and tributaries

(includes: Johnson Creek, East Fork South Fork Salmon River, Secesh River, Lake Creek, Summit Creek, and tributaries)

- Trout catch-and-release
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required
- No bag, length, or possession limits on bass

#### Stibnite Pond (Glory Hole)

- Trout catch-and-release
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### Warren Creek

• Trout limit is 2

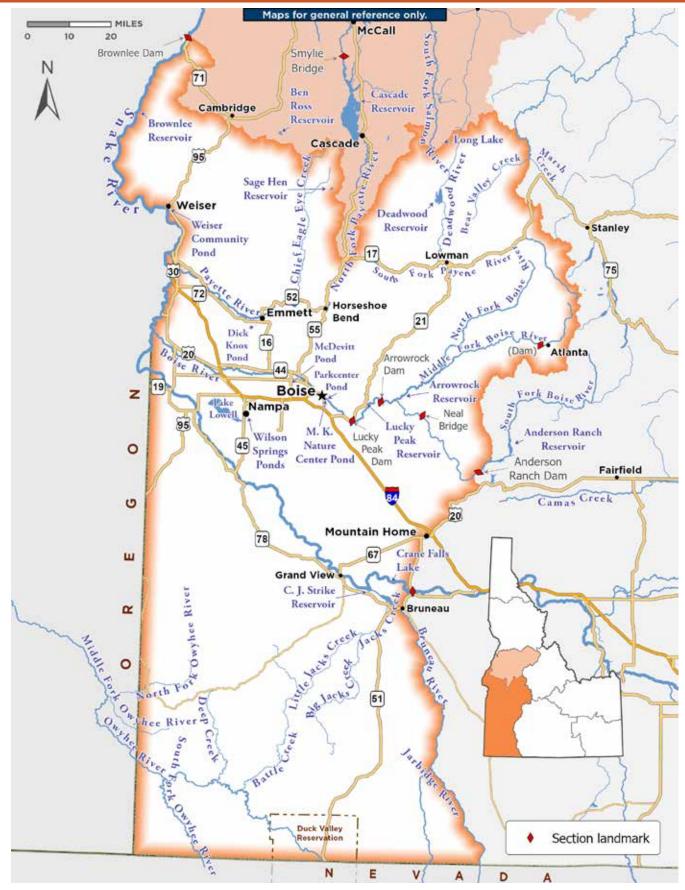
# **Check health advisories**



# before eating fish.

*Please check for potential fish consumption advisories, see page 70.* 

### **SOUTHWEST REGION SOUTH - NAMPA**



## Special Rule Waters for the Southwest Region South - Nampa

For waters not listed below, see Page 25 for fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and rules that apply to all waters within the Southwest Region.

#### **Bear Valley Creek**

- Trout catch-and-release
  - No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### **Boise River**

from the mouth upstream to Lucky Peak Dam (lower Boise River)

Section: From the downstream side of the East Parkcenter Bridge to the upstream side of the West Parkcenter Bridge

• Trout limit is 2, none under 14 inches

All other sections of the lower Boise River - Southwest Region general rules apply

#### **Boise River, Middle Fork**

Section: From the confluence of the North Fork upstream to Atlanta Dam

- Trout limit is 2, none under 14 inches
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

All other sections of the Boise River, Middle Fork -Southwest Region general rules apply

#### **Boise River, South Fork**

Section: From Neal Bridge (Forest Road 189) upstream to Anderson Ranch Dam

- No bait allowed, one barbless hook per fly or lure (*see page 64 for hook definitions*)
- December 1 through March 31– trout catchand-release
- April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit 2, none under 20 inches

Section: Boise River, South Fork upstream of Anderson Ranch Dam; see Magic Valley Region rules (Page 33)

#### **Caldwell Gravel Ponds**

• Bass limit is 2, none under 20 inches

#### **Chief Eagle Eye Creek and tributaries**

• Trout limit is 2

#### **CJ Strike Reservoir**

• Bass limit is 6, no minimum length, only 1 over 16 inches

#### Crane Falls Lake - Electric motors only

• Bass limit is 2, none under 20 inches

#### **Deadwood Reservoir tributaries**

- Trout limit is 2
  - Kokanee limit is 6

#### **Dick Knox Pond**

• Bass limit is 2, none under 20 inches

#### **Duck Valley Indian Reservation**

contact the Duck Valley Indian Tribal Office

#### Lake Lowell

- January 1 to June 30 bass catch-and-release
- July 1 to December 31- bass limit is 2, none between 12 and 16 inches

#### **McDevitt Pond**

• Trout limit is 2

#### **Middle Fork Salmon River**

(see Salmon River, Middle Fork and tributaries)

#### M.K. Nature Center

Closed to fishing

#### **Owyhee River and tributaries**

• Bass limit is 6, any size

#### **Parkcenter Pond**

• Trout limit is 2

#### **Payette River, South Fork and tributaries**

(except the Middle Fork Payette drainage)Trout limit is 2

#### Sage Hen Reservoir tributaries

- December 1 through June 15 closed to fishing
  - June 16 through November 30 trout limit is 2

#### Salmon River, Middle Fork and tributaries

(includes: Bear Valley, Big, Camas, Elk, Loon, Marsh, Sulphur creeks, and tributaries)

- Trout catch-and-release
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required
- No bag, length, or possession limits on bass

#### Weiser Community Pond

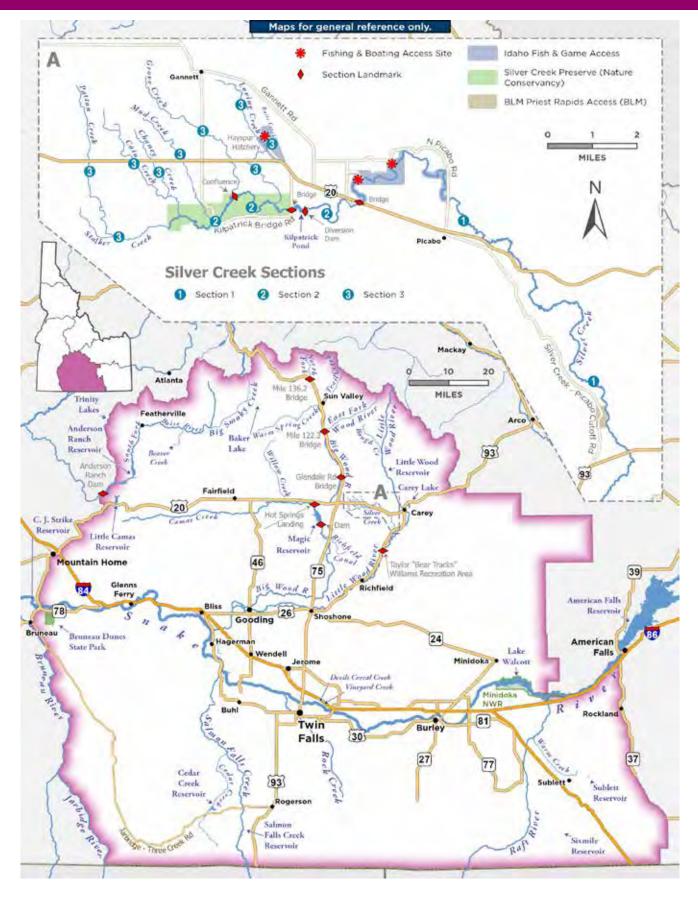
• Trout limit is 2

#### Wilson Springs Ponds (all waters within the Wilson Springs

- access area including Wilson Drain)
  - Trout limit is 2



### **MAGIC VALLEY REGION**



All Waters Open All Year, except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 33-35.

#### **Daily Bag Limits**

The following daily bag limits apply to all waters of the Magic Valley Region except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 33-35. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit.

#### **Bass** (Largemouth and Smallmouth)

- Bass limit is 6, both species combined
- None under 12 inches

#### **Brook Trout**

- Brook Trout limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for Brook Trout

#### **Bull Trout**

• Bull Trout - catch-and-release

#### Kokanee

• Kokanee limit is 6

#### Sturgeon

- Sturgeon catch-and-release
- Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing
- Barbless hooks, sliding swivel device to secure a weight, and a lighter test line to secure weight to sliding swivel devic are required. See page 56

#### **Tiger Muskie**

• Tiger Muskie limit is 2, none under 40 inches

Trout includes Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Golden Trout, Arctic

Grayling, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, land-locked Chinook and Coho Salmon, trout hybrids (e.g. Tiger Trout)

- Trout limit is 6, all species combined
- In rivers and streams, only 2 of the 6 trout may be Cutthroat Trout

#### Bull Trout and Brook Trout are listed separately

#### Walleye

• Walleye limit is 6

#### Whitefish

- Whitefish limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for whitefish

#### **Protected Nongame Fish** *includes Norhern Leatherside*

Chub, Shoshone Sculpin, Wood River Sculpin, and Bluehead Sucker (also know as Green Sucker)

• May not be harvested or possessed

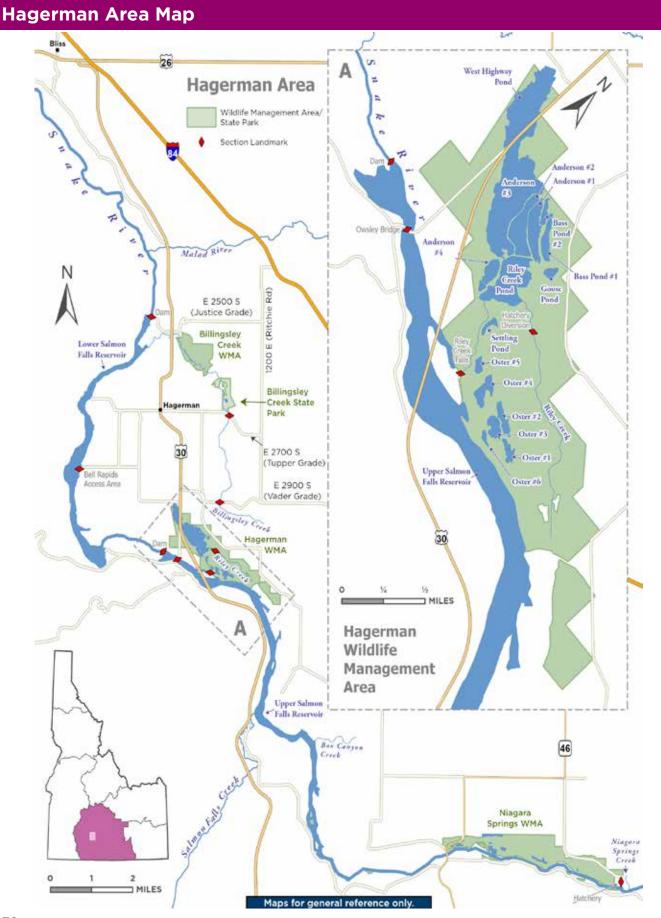
#### All Other Fish Species includes bullfrogs and crayfish

• No bag, length or possession limits

#### Special Rule Waters (See Pages 33-35 for details)

Anderson Ranch Reservoir Baker Lake Bell Rapids (See Snake River) Big Wood River Big Wood River tributaries (upstream of Magic Reservoir) Billingsley Creek Boise River, South Fork (upstream of Anderson Ranch Dam) Box Canyon Creek Bruneau Dunes State Park Carey Lake Devils Corral Creek

- Empire Rapids Ponds (Niagara Springs Empire Ponds) Sixmile Reservoir (Gunnel) Hagerman Wildlife Management Area Jarbidge River and tributaries Little Wood River Magic Reservoir Malad River Niagara Springs Creek Niagara Springs Wildlife Management Area Riley Creek (see Hagerman Wildlife Management Area)
- Silver Creek Silver Creek tributaries Snake River Sublett Reservoir Sublett Reservoir tributaries Trinity Lakes Vineyard Creek Willow Creek (tributary to Camas Creek)



## Special Rule Waters for the Magic Valley Region

For waters not listed below, see Page 31 for fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and rules that apply to all waters within the Magic Valley Region.

#### **Anderson Ranch Reservoir**

- Kokanee limit is 15 per day
- Baker Lake (an alpine lake in Blaine County) • Trout limit is 2

#### Bell Rapids (See Snake River)

#### **Big Wood River**

- All sections:
  - Bass no bag, length, or possession limits

# Section: From the Richfield Canal Diversion upstream to Magic Dam

- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through March 31 – trout limit is 6
- April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing

#### Section: From the posted boundary about 700 yards east of Hot Springs Landing upstream to Glendale Road Bridge

- December 1 through March 31– trout catchand-release
- April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6

# Section: From Glendale Road Bridge upstream to the Highway 75 Bridge near milepost 122.2

- December 1 through March 31 trout catchand-release
- April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2, none between 12 and 16 inches

#### Section: From Highway 75 Bridge near milepost 122.2 upstream to Highway 75 Bridge near milepost 136.2

- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through March 31– trout – catch-and-release, no bait allowed, one barbless hook per fly or lure
- April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing

#### Section: From the Highway 75 Bridge near milepost 136.2 upstream to the headwaters of the Big Wood River

- December 1 through March 31 trout catchand-release
- April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6

#### **Big Wood River Tributaries**

- (upstream of Magic Reservoir)
  - Bass no bag, length, or possession limits
  - December 1 through March 31 trout catchand-release
  - April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
  - Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6

#### **Billingsley Creek**

# Section: From Tupper Grade upstream to Vader Grade (see map on page 32)

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, fly-fishing only, no bait allowed

All other sections of Billingsley Creek - Magic Valley Region general rules apply

#### Boise River, South Fork (upstream of Anderson Ranch

Reservoir, see Southwest Region for information downstream from Anderson Ranch Dam)

Section: From the mouth of Beaver Creek upstream to the mouth of Big Smoky Creek

- Trout limit is 2, none under 14 inches
- No bait allowed, one barbless hook per fly or lure

All other sections of the Boise River, South Fork upstream Anderson Ranch Dam - Magic Valley Region general rules apply

#### **Box Canyon Creek**

• Trout limit is 2

Bruneau Dunes State Park - Electric motors only
Bass limit is 2, none under 20 inches

Carey Lake - Electric motors only

- Devils Corral Creek
  - Trout limit is 2

#### **Empire Rapids Ponds**

(Niagara Springs Empire Ponds)

• Trout limit is 2

#### Sixmile Reservoir (Gunnel)

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2

#### Hagerman Wildlife Management Area - No motors

Section: The four Anderson Ponds, the Bass Ponds, Goose Pond, and the West Highway Pond, Oster Lakes, Riley Pond, and the Settling Pond

• November 1 through the last day of February – closed to fishing

Section: Riley Creek from the Falls upstream to the State Fish Hatchery Diversion

 November 1 through the last day of February – closed to fishing

All other sections of Riley Creek - Magic Valley Region general rules apply

#### **Jarbidge River and tributaries**

• Trout limit is 2

#### Lake Walcott

Section: From the downstream side of the Gifford Springs boat fishing zone (western boundary in Minnidoka NWR) upstream to Eagle Rock

- Bass limit is 2, any size
- Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout

#### **Little Wood River**

Section: From the downstream end of the Taylor "Bear Tracks" Williams State Recreation Area near Highway 93 milepost 190, to the upstream end of the Recreation Area near Highway 93 milepost 192.5, as posted

- Trout catch-and-release
- · Fly-fishing only, barbless hooks required

Section: From Baugh Creek upstream (including tributaries)

• Trout limit is 2

All other sections of the Little Wood River - Magic Valley Region general rules apply

# **Magic Reservoir** (from Magic Dam to the posted boundary about 700 yards east of Hot Springs Landing)

• Bass – no bag, length, or possession limits

#### **Malad River**

Section: From its mouth upstream to the Interstate 84 bridge at Malad Gorge

 December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout – catch-and-release

#### **Niagara Springs Creek**

Section: From the Niagara Springs Steelhead Hatchery intake pool (above the lowest fall) upstream to the spring sources as posted

Closed to fishing

All other sections of Niagara Springs Creek - Magic Valley Region general rules apply

#### Niagara Springs Wildlife Management Area -

except Snake River

• Trout limit is 2

#### Silver Creek - No motors.

Section: From its mouth upstream to the bridge near milepost 187.2 on Highway 20 west of Picabo (See map page 30, Section 1)

- Open all year
- Trout limit is 2, none between 12 and 16 inches

Section: From the bridge near milepost 187.2 on Highway 20 west of Picabo upstream to the confluence of Grove Creek and Stalker Creek (See map on page 30, Section 2, does not include Kilpatrick Pond listed separately below)

- No fishing from rafts or boats; float tubes are allowed
- December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout – catch-and-release, flyfishing only, no bait allowed, one barbless hook per fly

#### Section: Kilpatrick Pond, from the Kilpatrick Pond diversion dam upstream to Kilpatrick Bridge (See map on page 30)

- No fishing from rafts or boats; float tubes are allowed
- April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through March 31 – trout – catch-and-release, fly-fishing only, no bait allowed, one barbless hook per fly

#### Silver Creek tributaries - No motors. All diversion ponds

have the same rules as the connected stream

#### Section: All tributaries within the Nature Conservancy Silver Creek Preserve property (See map on page 30, Section 2)

- No fishing from rafts or boats; float tubes are allowed
- December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend—closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout – catch-and-release, flyfishing only, no bait allowed, one barbless hook per fly

#### Section: All tributaries outside the Nature Conservancy Silver Creek Preserve (See map on page 30, Section 3)

- December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2, none under 20 inches

#### **Snake River**

Section: From Lower Salmon Falls Dam (Bell Rapids area) upstream to Upper Salmon Falls Dam (0.3 miles below Owsley Bridge)

- January 1 through June 30 bass catch-and-release
- July 1 through December 31 bass limit is 2, none between 12 and 16 inches

Section: From the downstream side of the Gifford Springs boat fishing zone (western boundary in Minnidoka NWR) upstream to Eagle Rock

- Bass limit is 2, any size
- Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout

All other sections of the Snake River including reservoirs within the Magic Valley Region - Magic Valley Region general rules apply

#### **Sublett Reservoir** (see also Sublett Reservoir tributaries)

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6

#### **Sublett Reservoir tributaries**

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2

#### Trinity Lakes - No motors

#### **Vineyard Creek**

- November 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through October 31 – trout limit is 2

#### Willow Creek (tributary to Camas Creek)

• Trout limit is 2



# before eating fish.

*Please check for potential fish consumption advisories, see page 70.* 

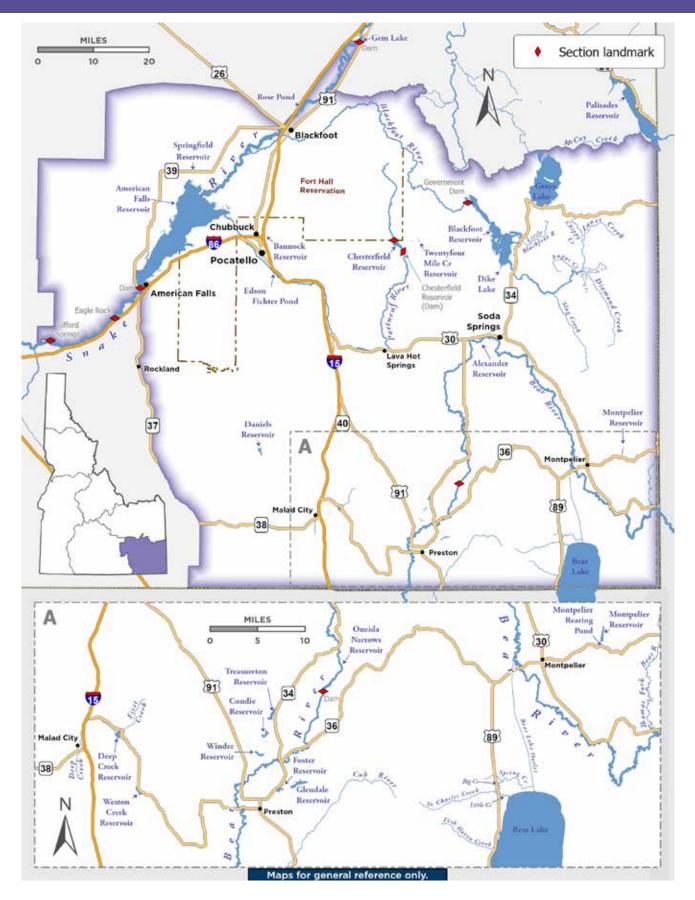


**Magic Valley** 

before you leave the area.

• DRY equipment before launching watercraft into another body of water.

### **SOUTHEAST REGION**



All Waters Open All Year, except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 38-39.

#### **Daily Bag Limits**

The following daily bag limits apply to all waters of the Southeast Region except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 38-39. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit.

#### **Bass** (Largemouth and Smallmouth)

- Bass limit is 6, both species combined
- None under 14 inches

#### **Brook Trout**

- Brook Trout limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for Brook Trout

#### **Cisco** (Bear Lake only)

• Cisco limit is 30

#### Kokanee

• Kokanee limit is 6

#### Sturgeon

- Sturgeon catch-and-release
- Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing
- Barbless hooks, sliding sliding swivel device to secure a weight, and a lighter test line to secure weight to sliding swivel device are required, see page 56

#### **Tiger Muskie**

• Tiger Muskie limit is 2, none under 40 inches

**Trout** *includes Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, and trout hybrids (e.g. Tiger Trout)* 

- Trout limit is 6, all species combined
- In rivers and streams, only 2 of the 6 trout may be Cutthroat Trout

#### Brook Trout are listed separately

#### Whitefish

- Whitefish limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for whitefish

**Protected Nongame Fish** *includes Northern Leatherside Chub, Bear Lake Sculpin, and Bluehead Sucker (also know as Green Sucker)* 

- May not be harvested or possessed
- All Other Fish Species includes bullfrogs and crayfish
  No bag, length or possession limits

*Please check for potential fish consumption advisories, see page 70.* 

#### Special Rule Waters for the Southeast Region (see Pages 38-39 for details)

American Falls Reservoir Bear Lake Bear River Bear River tributaries Blackfoot Reservoir Blackfoot River and tributaries Chesterfield Reservoir Condie Reservoir Daniels Reservoir Deep Creek Reservoir

Fish Haven Creek First Creek Fort Hall Indian Reservation Glendale Reservoir Little Blackfoot River and tributaries McCoy Creek and tributaries Montpelier Reservoir Oneida Narrows Reservoir Portneuf River St. Charles Creek Snake River Springfield Reservoir Treasureton Reservoir Twenty-Four Mile Reservoir

#### Special Rule Waters for the Southeast Region

For waters not listed below, see page 37 for fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and rules that apply to all waters within the Southeast Region.

#### **American Falls Reservoir**

• Bass limit is 2, any size

#### **Bear Lake**

- From the mouth of St. Charles Creek (Little Creek) for a radius of 300 yards into the lake is closed to fishing from April 16 through June 30
- Not more than 2 baited hooks, flies, or lures per line
- One line only when ice fishing. Two lines permitted when ice fishing with a two-pole permit
- Trout limit is 2
- Cisco limit is 30; dip-netting permitted January 1 through February 15. Dip nets may not exceed 18 inches in any dimension. Any size hole may be cut through the ice to catch cisco
- Whitefish limit is 10

#### **Bear River**

Section: From the Utah state line upstream to Oneida Narrows Dam

- Trout limit is 2, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- Bass limit is 6, any size

Section: From the confluence with Oneida Narrows Reservoir upstream to the Wyoming state line

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

**Bear River tributaries** (all tributaries including the Cub River and Thomas Fork Bear River)

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **Blackfoot Reservoir**

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- No length, bag, or possession limits on bass

#### **Blackfoot River and tributaries**

Section: From the confluence with the Snake River upstream to Blackfoot Dam (Government Dam) including tributaries

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

Section: Upstream from Blackfoot Reservoir (includes: Diamond Creek, Lanes Creek, Slug Creek and tributaries. Does not include Little Blackfoot River)

- May 1 through June 30 closed to fishing
- July 1 through April 30 trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout, no bait allowed

#### **Chesterfield Reservoir**

• Trout limit is 2

#### **Condie Reservoir**

• Bass limit is 2, none under 20 inches

#### **Daniels Reservoir**

- Trout limit is 2, none under 20 inches
- One line only when ice fishing
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### **Deep Creek Reservoir**

- Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout
- No length, bag, or possession limits on Bass

#### **Fish Haven Creek**

- December 1 through June 30 closed to fishing
- First Creek (tributary to Deep Creek Reservoir)
  December 1 through June 14 closed to fishing

**Fort Hall Indian Reservation** - contact Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Office

#### **Glendale Reservoir**

• Bass limit is 2, none under 16 inches

#### **Little Blackfoot River and tributaries**

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **McCoy Creek and tributaries**

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Montpelier Reservoir - Electric motors only

#### **Oneida Narrows Reservoir**

- Walleye limit is 6
- Bass limit is 6, any size

#### **Portneuf River**

Section: From above the East Main Street bridge in Lava Hot Springs upstream to Chesterfield Reservoir

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout – catch-and-release, no bait allowed, barbless hooks required
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 - trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

Section: From the Fort Hall Indian Reservation boundary upstream to the East Main Street bridge in Lava Hot Springs

• Southeast Region general rules apply

All sections within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation – contact Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Office.

#### **St. Charles Creek**

Section: St. Charles Creek (including both lower forks) upstream to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest boundary

• December 1 through June 30 – closed to fishing

#### **Snake River**

Section: From the downstream side of the Gifford Springs boat fishing zone (western boundary in Minnidoka NWR) upstream to Eagle Rock

• Bass limit is 2, any size

• Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout

Section: From Eagle Rock upstream to American Falls Dam

- October 16 Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend October 15 – trout limit is 2

Section: From American Falls Reservoir upstream to Gem Lake dam

- Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout
- Bass limit is 2, any size

#### **Springfield Reservoir**

- Trout limit is 2, none under 20 inches
- One line only when ice fishing
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### **Treasureton Reservoir**

- Trout limit is 2, none under 20 inches
- Bass no bag, length, or possession limits
- One line only when ice fishing
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### Twenty-Four Mile Reservoir - No motors

- Trout limit is 2, none under 20 inches
- One line only when ice fishing
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required



Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry. StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

# Explore and plan your next fishing adventure.

Photo courtesy: WAFWA/RBFF

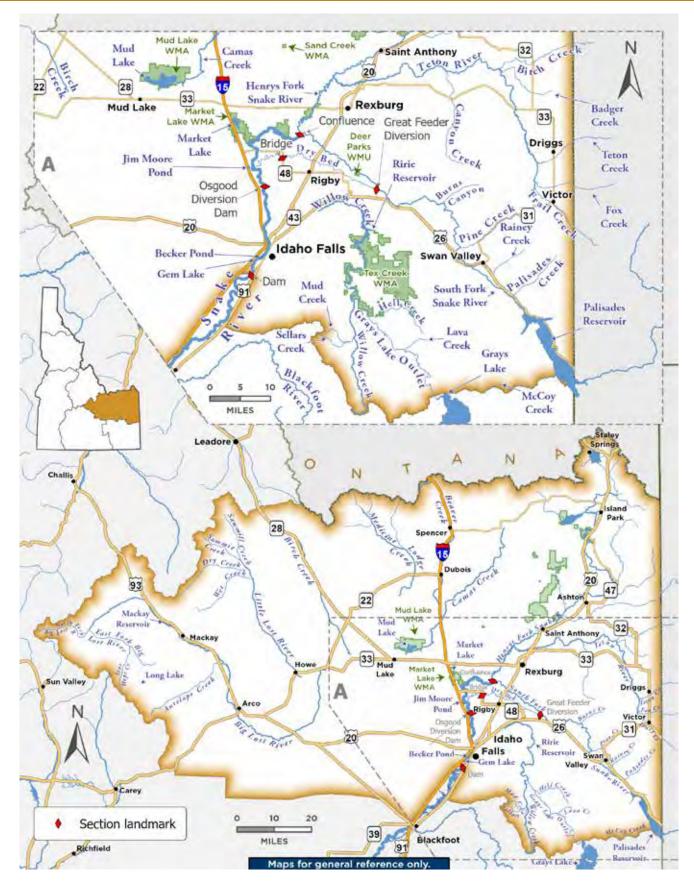
Search by location, species, access, facilities, or type of fishing experience. Links to maps and more!

Visit **idfg.idaho.gov** and click on the Idaho Fishing Planner icon





#### **UPPER SNAKE REGION**



All Waters Open All Year, except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 43-44.

#### **Daily Bag Limits**

The following daily bag limits apply to all waters of the Upper Snake Region except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Pages 43-44. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit.

#### **Bass** (Largemouth and Smallmouth)

• Bass - no bag, length, or possession limits

#### **Brook Trout**

- Brook Trout limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for Brook Trout

#### **Bull Trout**

• Bull Trout - catch-and-release

#### Kokanee

Kokanee limit is 15

#### Sturgeon

- Sturgeon catch-and-release
- Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing
- Barbless hooks, sliding swivel device to secure a weight, and a lighter test line to secure weight to sliding swivel device are, see page 56

#### **Tiger Muskie**

• Tiger Muskie limit is 2, none under 40 inches

**Trout** *includes Brown Trout, Golden Trout, Lake Trout, Arctic Grayling, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, and trout hybrids (e.g. Tiger Trout)* 

• Trout limit is 6, all species combined

#### Bull Trout and Brook Trout are listed separately

**Walleye** (*Have not been stocked intentionally in this Region. May be harmful to existing fisheries*)

• No bag, length, or possession limits, harvest is encouraged

#### Whitefish

- Whitefish limit is 25 see Big Lost River exception
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for whitefish

#### Protected Nongame Fish including Bluehead Sucker (also

know as Green Sucker)

May not be harvested or possessed

#### All Other Fish Species includes bullfrogs and crayfish

• No bag, length or possession limits

### *Please check for potential fish consumption advisories, see page 70.*

#### Special Rule Waters (see Pages 43-44 for details)

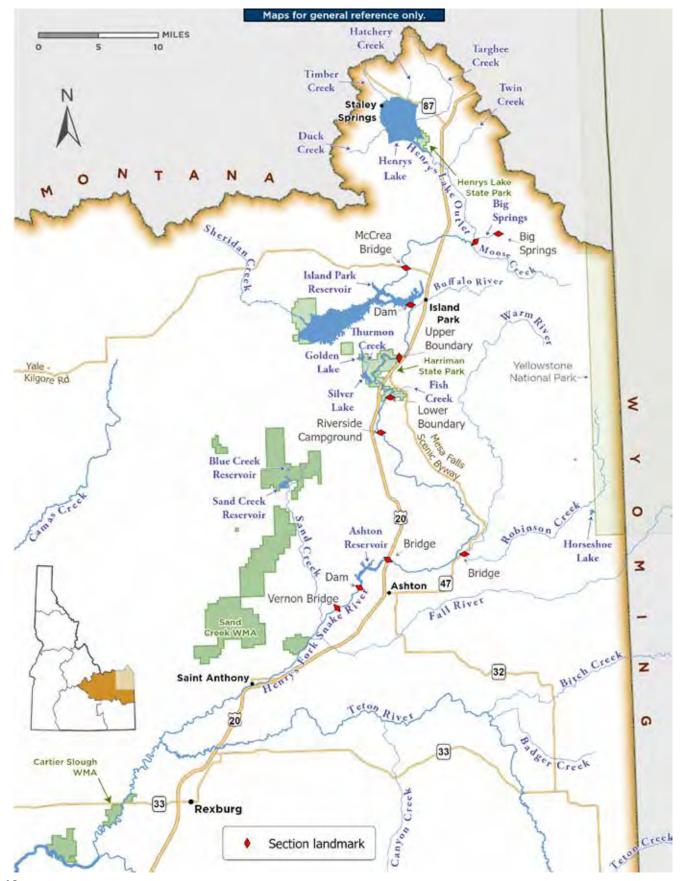
Beaver Creek and tributaries Becker Pond (Ryder Park Pond) Big Lost River and tributaries Dry Beds (Snake River) Fall River and tributaries Fish Creek (Harriman State Park) Golden Lake (Harriman State Park) Hell Creek (see Willow Creek tributaries) Henrys Fork (Snake River, North Fork) Henrys Fork tributaries (excluding Thurmon Creek, Warm River and the Fall River)

Henrys Lake

- Henrys Lake Outlet Henrys Lake tributaries Horseshoe Lake (Fremont County) Jim Moore Pond Lava Creek (see Willow Creek tributaries) Little Lost River and tributaries Long Lake (Custer County) Market Lake Wildlife Management Area McCoy Creek and tributaries Medicine Lodge Creek and tributaries Mud Lake Palisades Reservoir tributaries
- Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area Silver Lake (Harriman State Park) Snake River South Fork Snake River South Fork Snake River tributaries Teardrop Lake (Snow Creek Pond) Teton River and tributaries Thurmon Creek (Harriman State Park) Warm River and tributaries Willow Creek Willow Creek tributaries

#### HENRYS FORK FISHING MAP

See Page 43 for specific boundaries



42 Idaho Fishing Seasons & Rules 2025-2027 | idfg.idaho.gov

**Upper Snake** 

#### Special Rule Waters for the Upper Snake Region

For waters not listed below, see page 41 for fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and rules that apply to all waters within the Upper Snake Region.

#### **Beaver Creek and tributaries**

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- Becker Pond (Ryder Park Pond)
  - 2 fish any species

#### **Big Lost River and tributaries**

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout – catch-and-release; (*except Brook Trout*); whitefish – catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6; whitefish – catchand-release

#### Dry Beds (Snake River)

Section: From the Highway 48 bridge upstream to the Great Feeder irrigation diversion headgate

- May 1 through March 31 Upper Snake Region general rules apply
- April 1 through April 30 it is legal to take fish with dip nets, by snagging or by hand – Upper Snake Region bag limits apply

#### **Fall River and tributaries**

• Limit is 2 trout, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Fish Creek (Harriman State Park)

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- Fly-fishing only

#### Golden Lake (Harriman State Park)

Closed to fishing

#### Henrys Fork (Snake River, North Fork) (see map on page 42) Section: South Fork Snake River/Henrys Fork confluence upstream to Vernon Bridge

• Trout limit is 2, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Section: From Vernon Bridge upstream to Ashton Dam

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout – catch-and-release (*except Brook Trout*)
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Section: From Highway 20 bridge upstream to the posted boundary upstream of Riverside Campground

• Trout limit is 2, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Section: From the posted boundary upstream of the Riverside Campground upstream to the lower Harriman State Park boundary

- Trout catch-and-release (except Brook Trout)
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### Section: From the lower Harriman State Park boundary upstream to the upper Harriman State Park boundary (Harriman Ranch)

• December 1 through June 14 - closed to fishing

• June 15 through November 30 – trout – catchand-release, fly fishing only, barbless hooks required

#### Section: From the upper Harriman State Park boundary to Island Park Dam

- Trout catch-and-release (except Brook Trout)
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### Section: From McCrea Bridge upstream to the Henrys Lake Outlet

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout – catch-and-release (except Brook Trout)
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6

#### Section: From Henrys Lake Outlet upstream to the head of Big Springs

• Closed to fishing

All other sections of Henrys Fork including Ashton and Island Park Reservoirs – Upper Snake Region general rules apply

#### Henrys Fork tributaries (except Warm River, Fall River,

- and Thurmon Creek)
  - December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout – catch-and-release
  - Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Henrys Lake

Section: Those portions of the lake within the posted boundaries of Staley Springs and within 100 yards of Hatchery Creek

Closed to fishing

#### **Remainder of Henrys Lake**

- February 15 through Friday before Memorial Day Weekend – trout – catch-and-release, including Brook Trout.
- Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend through February 14 – trout limit is 2, Brook Trout counted in the trout limit
- Fishing must cease after the 2-trout daily bag limit has been reduced to possession

#### **Henrys Lake Outlet**

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout – catch-and-release (*except Brook Trout*)
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout, no Cutthroat Trout under 16 inches

#### Henrys Lake tributaries

- July 1 through March 31 no harvest of Cutthroat Trout; Brook Trout limit is 25, only 2 Brook Trout over 16 inches
- April 1 through June 30 closed to fishing
- Hatchery Creek closed to fishing

#### Horseshoe Lake (Fremont County) - no motors

• Trout limit is 2

#### **Jim Moore Pond**

• Trout limit is 2

#### Little Lost River and tributaries

- Trout limit is 2
- **Long Lake** (an alpine lake in Custer County)
  - Trout limit is 2, none under 20 inches

#### Market Lake Wildlife Management Area

• March 1 through July 15 – no boats, rafts or float tubes

#### **McCoy Creek and tributaries**

• Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **Medicine Lodge Creek and tributaries**

• Trout limit is 2, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **Mud Lake**

All Sections:

• Bass limit is 6

#### Section: from west of the posted boundary which runs north and south from McKenzie Point

 March 1 through July 15 – no boats, rafts or float tubes

#### **Palisades Reservoir tributaries**

- Trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- No harvest of kokanee

#### Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area (motorized watercraft prohibited)

Blue Creek Reservoir, Sand Creek Pond #1, and Sand Creek Pond #2

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6; no boats, rafts, or float tubes allowed prior to July 16

#### Sand Creek Pond #3 and Sand Creek Pond #4

- December 16 through June 30 closed to fishing
- July 1 through December 15 trout limit is 6; no boats, rafts, or float tubes allowed before July 16

#### Silver Lake (Harriman State Park)

• Closed to fishing

#### Snake River

Section: Gem Lake Dam to Osgood Diversion Dam
Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Cutthroat Trout

#### Section: Osgood Diversion Dam upstream to the confluence of Henrys Fork (North and South Fork)

• Trout limit is 2, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **South Fork Snake River**

- No harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- Brown Trout limit is 2
- No limit on Rainbow Trout or trout hybrids

#### South Fork Snake River tributaries (includes Burns,

- Palisades, Pine, and Rainy creeks and tributaries)
  - June 1 through June 30 closed to fishing
  - No harvest of Cutthroat Trout
  - No limit on Rainbow Trout or trout hybrids

Teardrop Lake (Snow Creek Pond)

Trout limit is 2

#### **Teton River**

- No limit on Rainbow Trout or hybrids
  - No harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **Teton River tributaries** (includes Bitch, Badger Creek,

Canyon, Fox, Trail, Teton, and S Leigh creeks and tributaries)

- June 1 through June 30 closed to fishing
- No harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- No limit on Rainbow Trout or hybrids

#### Thurmon Creek (Harriman State Park)

• Closed to fishing

#### **Warm River and tributaries**

Section: Within the posted boundaries from the state highway 47 bridge downstream (approx. 350 yards) to the next bridge near the mouth of Robinson Creek

Closed to fishing

#### All other sections of the Warm River

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Memorial Day weekend through November 30 trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **Willow Creek**

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Willow Creek tributaries (includes Sellar Creek)

- No harvest of Cutthroat Trout
- · No limit on Rainbow Trout or hybrids
- June 1 through June 30 closed to fishing

#### **Cutthroat Trout need your help in the South Fork Snake and Teton rivers!**



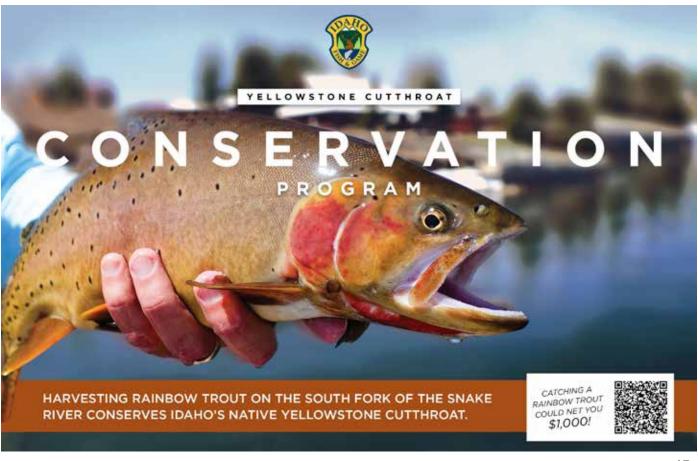
https://idfg.idaho.gov/south-fork-snake

- Non-native Rainbow Trout are a serious threat to native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in the South Fork Snake and Teton rivers
- Over time, Rainbow Trout replace Cutthroat Trout through competition for space and food, and by interbreeding, creating hybrids
- ► Hybrid trout are fertile and readily spawn with Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, creating more hybrids
- Fish and Game uses traps on SF Snake tributaries to help block Rainbow Trout from spawning in Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout streams
- You can help protect Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout by harvesting non-native Rainbow Trout and hybrids from the SF Snake River and Teton River
- ► Win prizes when you harvest Rainbow Trout! Turn in the heads of Rainbow Trout harvested from the SF Snake River for a chance to win between \$50 \$1,000!

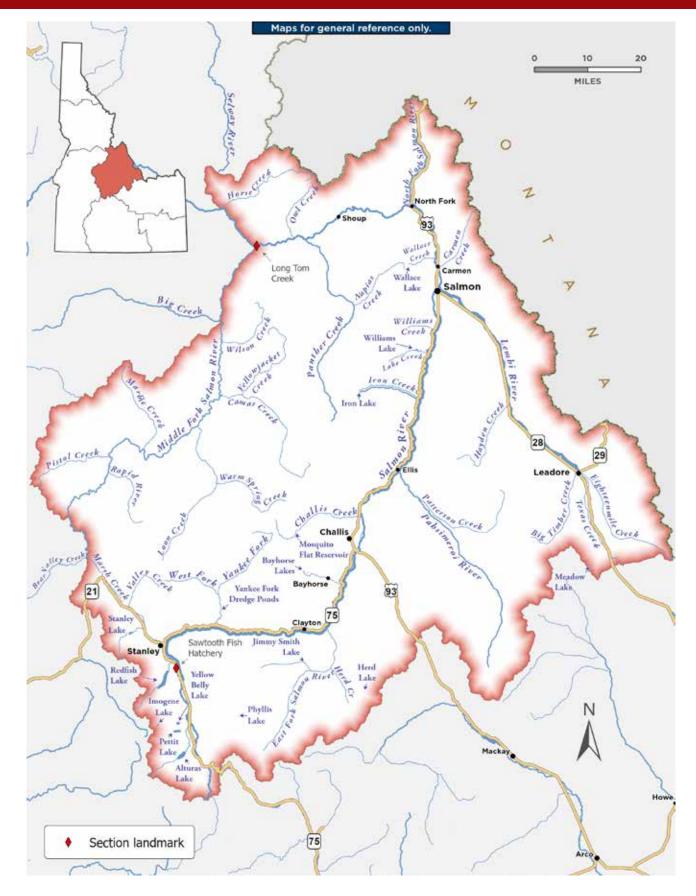
- Heads can be deposited in freezers at Conant and Byington boat ramps, and the Fish and Game office in Idaho Falls
- Learn about the South Fork Snake River and Angler Incentive Program at: <u>https://idfg.idaho.gov/south-fork-snake</u>
- Rainbow/Cutthroat hybrid trout can have a wide arrange of colors and markings of both parent species. Hybrids are most easily identified by their white fin tips.



white fin tip



#### **SALMON REGION**



All Waters Open All Year, except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Page 48.

#### **Daily Bag Limits**

The following daily bag limits apply to all waters of the Salmon Region except as modified in the Special Rule Waters on Page 48. The possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit.

#### **Bass** (Largemouth and Smallmouth)

• No bag, length, or possession limits

#### **Brook Trout**

- Brook Trout limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for Brook Trout

#### **Bull Trout**

• Bull Trout – catch-and-release

#### Kokanee

Kokanee limit is 25

#### Salmon (ocean-run)

- Spring and summer Chinook Salmon seasons and limits are set by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and issued in separate brochures
- Seasons and limits for fall Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon can be found on page 54
- Sockeye Salmon fishing is illegal. Defined as ocean-run *Oncorhynchus nerka* longer than 14 inches in the Salmon River drainage (excluding above Mosquito Flat Dam)
- Fishing for salmon is prohibited unless a salmon season is specifically opened for that water

#### Steelhead (ocean-run)

- Defined as Rainbow Trout longer than 20 inches in the Salmon River drainage (excluding the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and ponds)
- Fishing for steelhead is prohibited unless a steelhead season is specifically opened for that water (see steelhead seasons/ limits on page 53)

#### Sturgeon

- Sturgeon catch-and-release
- Sturgeon must not be removed from the water and must be released upon landing
- Barbless hooks, sliding swivel device to secure a weight, and a lighter test line to secure weight to sliding swivel device are required, see page 56

#### **Tiger Muskie**

• Tiger Muskie limit is 2, none under 40 inches

#### **Trout** *includes Lake Trout, Golden Trout, Arctic Grayling, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, Sunapee Trout and trout hybrids (e.g. Tiger Trout)*

- Trout limit is 6, all species combined
- Chinook Salmon and steelhead placed in ponds are counted in the trout bag limit

#### Bull Trout and Brook Trout are listed separately

#### Whitefish

- Whitefish limit is 25
- Harvest allowed during any open season unless otherwise noted under Special Rules – if gear or bait restrictions are listed, they apply when fishing for whitefish

#### Protected Nongame Fish including Pacific Lamprey

• May not be harvested or possessed

#### All Other Fish Species includes bullfrogs and crayfish

• No bag, length, or possession limits

*Please check for potential fish consumption advisories, see page 70.* 

#### Special Rule Waters (see Page 48 for details)

Herd Lake Jimmy Smith Lake Lake Creek and tributaries (Lemhi County) Lemhi River and tributaries Pahsimeroi River Pettit Lake Redfish Lake Salmon River and tributaries Salmon River, East Fork and tributaries Salmon River, Middle Fork and tributaries Salmon River, North Fork and tributaries Salmon River, Yankee Fork and West Fork Yankee Fork Stanley Lake Wallace Lake Yankee Fork Salmon River Dredge Ponds

#### **Special Rule Waters for the Salmon Region**

For waters not listed below, see Page 47 for fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and rules that apply to all waters within the Salmon Region.

#### **Herd Lake**

• Trout limit is 25

#### **Jimmy Smith Lake**

• Trout limit is 25

#### Lake Creek and tributaries (above Williams Lake)

- December 1 through June 30 closed to fishing upstream from the posted boundary at Williams Lake
- July 1 through November 30 Salmon Region general rules apply

#### **Lemhi River**

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **Lemhi River tributaries**

• Salmon Region general rules apply

#### **Pahsimeroi River**

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### **Pahsimeroi River tributaries**

• Salmon Region general rules apply

#### **Pettit Lake**

- January 1 through August 7 Salmon Region general rules apply
- August 8 through December 31 kokanee catchand-release

#### **Redfish Lake**

- January 1 through August 7 Salmon Region general rules apply
- August 8 through December 31 kokanee catchand-release

#### **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 (page 27).

• Trout limit is 2

Section: Those tributaries from the mouth of the Middle Fork Salmon River upstream (except: North Fork Salmon River, Lemhi, Pahsimeroi, East Fork Salmon River, and Yankee Fork Salmon River)

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – Salmon Region general rules apply

#### Salmon River, East Fork

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Salmon River, East Fork tributaries

• Salmon Region general rules apply

#### Salmon River, Middle Fork and all tributaries

(includes: Bear Valley, Big, Camas, Elk, Loon, Marsh, Sulphur creeks, and tributaries)

- Trout catch-and-release
- No bait allowed, barbless hooks required

#### Salmon River, North Fork

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Salmon River, North Fork tributaries

• Salmon Region general rules apply

#### Salmon River, Yankee Fork and West Fork Yankee Fork

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend trout catch-and-release
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6, no harvest of Cutthroat Trout

#### Salmon River, Yankee Fork tributaries

• Salmon Region general rules apply

#### **Stanley Lake**

• Trout limit is 6, only 2 may be Lake Trout

#### Wallace Lake

• Trout limit is 2

#### Yankee Fork Salmon River Dredge Ponds

- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend closed to fishing
- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – Salmon Region general rules apply

# 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.

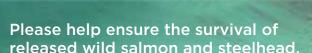


All in One Cool Place. Maps. Species. Trout Conservation. Rewards. The Adventure of a Lifetime.

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

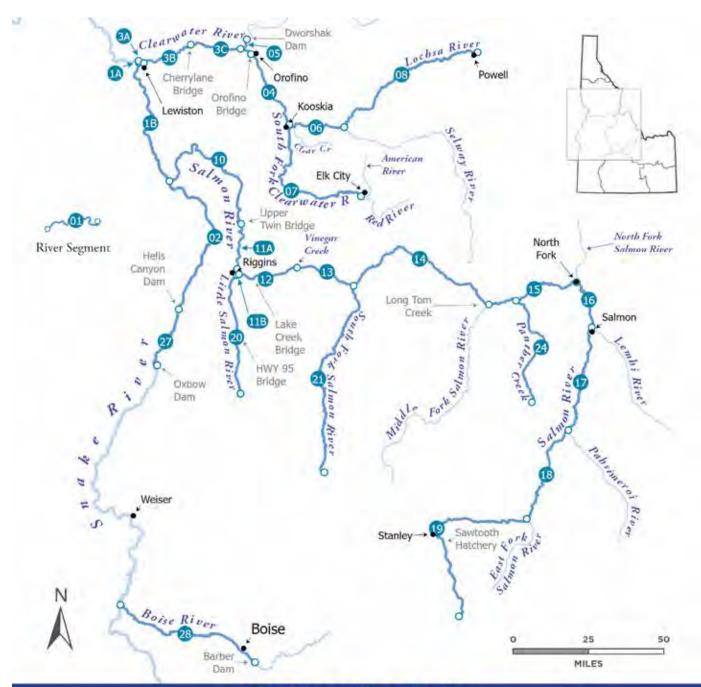
Get started by visiting WesternNativeTroutChallenge.org

# RELEASING WILD SALMON AND STEELHEAD



- Use proper-sized gear and keep fight time to a minimum
- Avoid pulling fish onto rock, sand, or dirt banks—instead, use a net or "tail" the fish
- Minimize the time out of water
- Don't handle the fish by the gills
- Revive the fish by gently holding it in the water, if necessary





#### **River Location Codes**

#### **Snake River**

- 1 ID/WA line to Blue Bridge
- 1B Blue Bridge to Salmon River
- 02 From Salmon River to Hells Canyon Dam
- 27 Hells Canyon Dam to Oxbow Dam

#### **Clearwater** River

- 3A Downstream of Memorial Bridge
- 3B Memorial Bridge to Cherrylane Bridge
- 30 Cherrylane Bridge to Orofino Bridge
- 03 Upstream from Orofino Bridge
- 05 North Fork Clearwater River

- 06 Middle Fork Clearwater River 07 South Fork Clearwater River
- 08 Lochsa River

#### Salmon River

- 10 Mouth to Upper Twin Bridge 11A Upper Twin Bridge to Timezone Bridge 11B Timezone Bridge to Shorts Creek
- 12 Shorts Creek to Vinegar Creek
- 13 Vinegar Creek to South Fork
- G South Fork to Middle Fork
  - Middle Fork to North Fork

- 16 North Fork to Lemhi River
- 17 Lemhi River to Pahsimeroi River
- 18 Pahsimeroi River to East Fork
- 19 Upstream from East Fork

#### Other

- 20 Little Salmon River
- 21 South Fork Salmon River
- 24 Panther Creek
- 28 Boise River

#### ANADROMOUS STEELHEAD AND SALMON RULES AND INFORMATION

#### SPRING AND SUMMER CHINOOK SALMON SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS WILL BE SET ANNUALLY BY 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.



#### **Chinook Salmon**

Black mouth, black gums Spots on entire tail fin



#### Sockeye

Non-spawning color is silver to steel blue **NO FISHING ALLOWED** 



#### Coho Salmon

Black mouth, white gums Spots only on upper half of tail fin

#### Anadromous (ocean-run) Fish

Salmon, Chinook: An anadromous (ocean-run) species of salmon 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:** An anadromous (ocean-run) species of salmon 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).

Salmon, Sockeye: Defined as ocean-run *Oncorhynchus nerka* longer than 14 inches in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage (excluding above Mosquito Flat Dam), and the Clearwater River drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam and lakes). Sockeye Salmon fishing is prohibited.

**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.

#### License/Permit Requirements

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.



#### Steelhead

White mouth, white gums Spots on entire tail fin

Any person who does not qualify as a resident (see page 74) 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.

#### **Fishing Rules**

- 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 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 65.
- Fishing for salmon or steelhead is prohibited unless a season is specifically opened for the species on that water.
- 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. No jack salmon may be processed while in the field or in transit.
- 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.

#### **Unclipped Adipose Fin**

Steelhead with an unclipped adipose fin must be released. Fall Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon with an unclipped adipose fish 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.



#### **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. Validate their salmon or steelhead permit electronically

using the GoOutdoorsID application (if using e-tagging). OR if using a paper permit,

- 2. Write in the space provided, the month and day the fish was harvested; and
- 3. Look up the location code number from the River Location Code list (page 50, or your permit) and write it in the space provided; and
- 4. Indicate species (Chinook or Coho) and adipose clip status if validating a salmon permit.

For example, a steelhead kept from the Snake River between the Salmon River and Hells Canyon Dam on October 1 would be entered as:

FISH	MONTH DAY	LOCATION CODE	MONTH DAY	LOCATION CODE	FISH
	10/01	02			$\sqrt{21}$
2					$\checkmark$

For example, an adipose-clipped Chinook Salmon kept from the Little Salmon River on June 1 would be entered as:

Fish	Month Day	River Location Code	Chinook	Coho	Adipose Fin Clipped?
1	06/01	20	X		Yes 🗌 No
2					Yes No

#### Note:

- Anglers may retain jack salmon less than 24 inches in length as part of their bag and possession limit but they are not required to record them on their permit.
- Anglers are not required to possess or validate their salmon permit on Free Fishing Day, and any salmon harvested on free fishing day does not count toward an angler's season limit. All other seasons, daily bag and possession limits, and rules apply on Free Fishing Day.
- 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 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. Even though Coho Salmon and Chinook Salmon must be tagged on the same salmon permit, anglers are still allowed to keep daily and possession limits for each species.

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



					Steelhe	<b>Steelhead Seasons and Limits</b>	ns an	d Limit	S			
River Section	SP	ossession	<b>eason</b> n limit:	(Season 3-times	<b>Spring Season (Season limit: 20 fish)</b> Possession limit: 3-times daily bag limit	<b>fish)</b> mit			Fall Seas Possession li	<b>on (Season</b> nit: 3-times	<b>Fall Season (Season limit: 20 fish)</b> Possession limit: 3-times daily bag limit	<b>1</b> ) lit
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snake River		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day	Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day		Closed	ed	Jul 1 - catch-an	Jul 1 - Aug 31 catch-and-release		Se 3	Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Clearwater River - lower		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day	Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day		Closed	ed	Jul 1 - catch-an	Jul 1 - Aug 31 catch-and-release		Se 2	Sep 1 - Dec 31 2 fish per day	
Clearwater River - upper*		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day	Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day		Closed	ed	Jul catch-	Jul 1 - Sep 9 catch-and-release	Sep 10 - Oct 14 2 fish per day	Oct 15 - Nov 9 catch-and-release	ov 9 Iease	Nov 10 - Dec 31 2 fish per day
North Fork Clearwater River*		Jan 1 - 3 fish <sub>F</sub>	Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day			Closed				Se 2	Sep 1 - Dec 31 2 fish per day	
South Fork Clearwater River*		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day	Apr 30 ber day		Closed	ed	Jul catch-	Jul 1 - Sep 9 catch-and-release	Sep 10 - Oct 14 2 fish per day	Oct 15 - Nov 9 catch-and-release	ov 9 Iease	Nov 10 - Dec 31 2 fish per day
Salmon River - lower		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day	Apr 30 ber day			Closed				3 Se	Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Salmon River - middle	Эа Э	Jan 1 - Mar 31 3 fish per day	31 iy		Closed	sed		I & JI 92232		Se 3	Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Salmon River - upper		Jan 1 - Apr 30 3 fish per day	Apr 30 ber day			Closed		-bns-də		3 Se	Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Little Salmon River		Jan 3 fi	Jan 1 - May 15 3 fish per day			Closed		An Cat		3 Se	Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Hells Canyon Reservoir			Jan 1 - May 31 3 fish per day	y 31 day			Closed			Se 3	Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 fish per day	
Boise River							Open wh	Open when steelhead are present 2 fish per day	are present y			
					River B	<b>River Boundary Descriptions</b>	Desci	riptions				
Snake River: from the ID/WA border (see map on page 13) upstream to Hells Canyon Dam	border (	see map	on page	13) upstr	eam to Hell	s Canyon D	Jam					
Clearwater River - lower: from the mouth upstream to the Memorial Bridge of U.S. Highway 12 at Lewiston (see map on page 20)	the mo	uth upst	ream to	the Mem	orial Bridge	of U.S. Hig	shway 12	at Lewist	on (see map on J	age 20)		
Clearwater River - upper: from the Memorial Bridge of U.S. Highway 12 at Lewiston upstream to Clear Creek on the Middle Fork Clearwater River	n the Me	emorial I	3ridge of	U.S. Hig	rhway 12 at	Lewiston u	pstream	to Clear C	reek on the Mid	dle Fork Clea	rwater River	
North Fork Clearwater River: from the mouth upstream to	from th	e mouth	upstrear	n to Dwc	rshak Dam	Dworshak Dam (see map on page 20)	n page 2(					
South Fork Clearwater River: from the mouth upstream to	from the	e mouth	upstrean	n to the c	onfluence o	the confluence of American and Red rivers	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)	e mouth	upstrear	n to the	Lake Cre	ek Bridge (a	bout 6 mile	s upstrea	um from th	e 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)	he Lake	Creek B	ridge up:	stream to	Long Tom	Creek (3/4	mile ups	tream fron	the Middle For	k Salmon Riv	er)	
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	ong Tom	ı Creek (	3/4 mile	upstrean	t from the N	Aiddle Fork	Salmon	River) ups	tream to posted	boundary 100	) yards downst	tream
Little Salmon River: from the mouth upstream to the U.S. Highway 95 bridge near Smokey Boulder Road	mouth u	ıpstream	to the U	.S. High	vay 95 brid	ge near Smo	okey Bou	lder Road				
Hells Canyon Reservoir: from Hells Canyon Dam upstream	Hells C	anyon D	am upsti		to Oxbow Dam							
*These rivers have additional restrictions. Please refer to pages 20 - 2	cions. Ple	<mark>ase refer t</mark>	o pages 2	<mark>) - 21 for</mark>	<mark>l for details.</mark>							

Coho Salmon Sea	sons and L	imits		
River Section	to 20 inches length). Ac	<b>Bag/Posses</b> is 2 adult Coho S s length), no limit dipose clipped or mit is 3-times dai	almon (greater th on jacks (less tha unclipped fish ma	in 20 inches ay be kept.
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clearwater River: Mouth to confluence of South Fork and Middle Fork Clearwater rivers North Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Dworshak Dam Middle Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Clear Creek South Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Red River Snake River: ID/WA border to Hells Canyon Dam		Sep 1 -	Dec 31	

Fall Chinook Salmon	Season	s and Li	mits		
River Section	equal t inches let	imit is 3 adu to 24 inches ngth). Adipo	<b>g/Possession Lin</b> Ilt fall Chinook Salm length), no limit on ose clipped or unclipp 3-times daily bag limi	on (greater than or jacks (less than 24 ved fish may be kept.	
	A	ug	Sept	Oct	
Clearwater River: Mouth to Memorial Bridge			Aug 18 - Oct	31	
Clearwater River: Memorial Bridge to Orofino Bridge	Closed		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	Cl	osed	d Sept 1 - Oct 31		
Middle Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Clear Creek South Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Red River Snake River: ID/WA border to Hells Canyon Dam Salmon River: Mouth to upper Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp	Closed		Aug 18 - Oct	31	

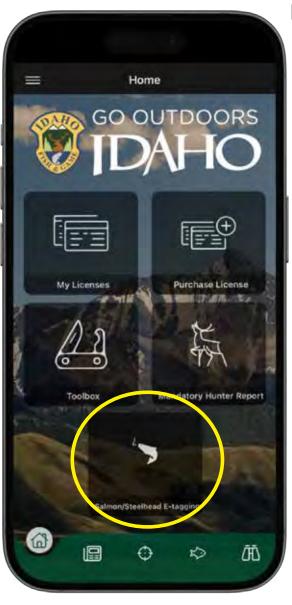
## Wild about Salmon and Steelhead?

To find out about Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead

- News and updates
- Conservation stories
- Science articles

Visit: idfg.idaho.gov/fish/wild

# E-TAGGING FOR SALMON & STEELHEAD NOW AVAILABLE



#### Fishing in Idaho just got easier

Download our **Go Outdoors Idaho** mobile app to make purchases, store licenses, and tag your salmon or steelhead catches on your phone.



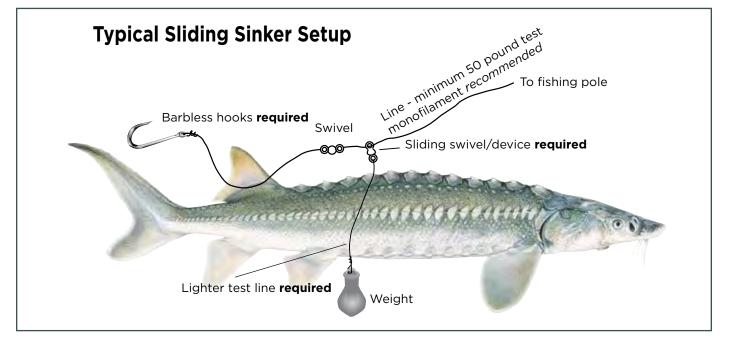
The White Sturgeon is the largest freshwater fish in North America. To reach their maximum adult size of 8 to 10 feet or more, sturgeon must survive for many years. Unintentional deaths result in fewer fish living the 25-65 years of age necessary to reach large sizes. Research has found that baited hooks, 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 goal of reducing sturgeon mortality. 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.

#### **Fishing Rules**

- Sturgeon must be released immediately upon landing
- Removing sturgeon from the water or having them in possession (including in a live well, on a stringer or tail rope) is prohibited.
- Fishing for sturgeon in the Kootenai River is illegal
- 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 when fishing for White Sturgeon.
- 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).

#### Tips

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



#### **CRAYFISH SEASONS AND RULES**



Crayfish may be taken only in waters during the season set for the taking of game fish in those waters. Review the additional rules regarding trap requirements on Page 9 under "Trapping or Seining Minnows and Crayfish".

- A maximum of five (5) crayfish traps can be fished with a valid fishing license. Anglers may apply for a commercial fishing license should they want to use more than five traps.
- Crayfish may also be caught or harvested using your hands.
- All game fish (except yellow perch) and protected nongame fish taken while trapping or seining must be immediately released alive.
- All traps must have a tag attached bearing the owner's name and address, license number, or sportsman identification number.
- Crayfish may be kept alive to be used as bait only in the water where captured.
- Crayfish may be transported live for personal consumption. However, live transport is NOT allowed for invasive species including: Red Claw, Yabby, Marone, Marbled, and Rusty crayfish.
- Live crayfish may only be released back to the waterbody where they were captured.



• 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:



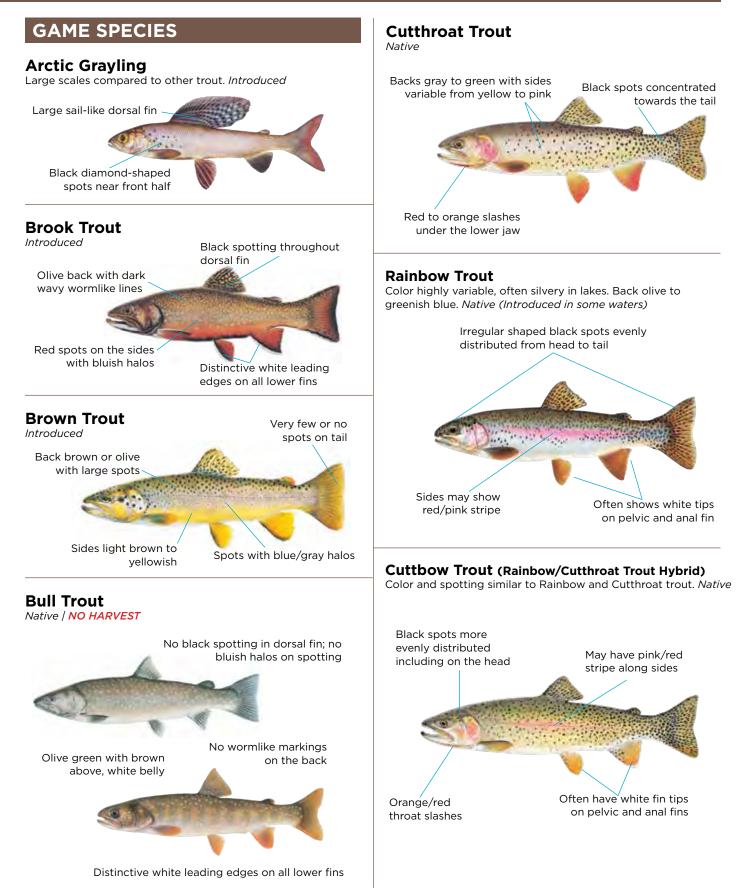
Report your tags through this QR code OR tag.idaho.gov 1-866-258-0338

Idaho Department of Fish and Game Attn: Fish Tag Returns 600 S. Walnut Street/P.O. Box 25 Boise, ID 83712

Thanks for your help!



#### **FISH IDENTIFICATION**



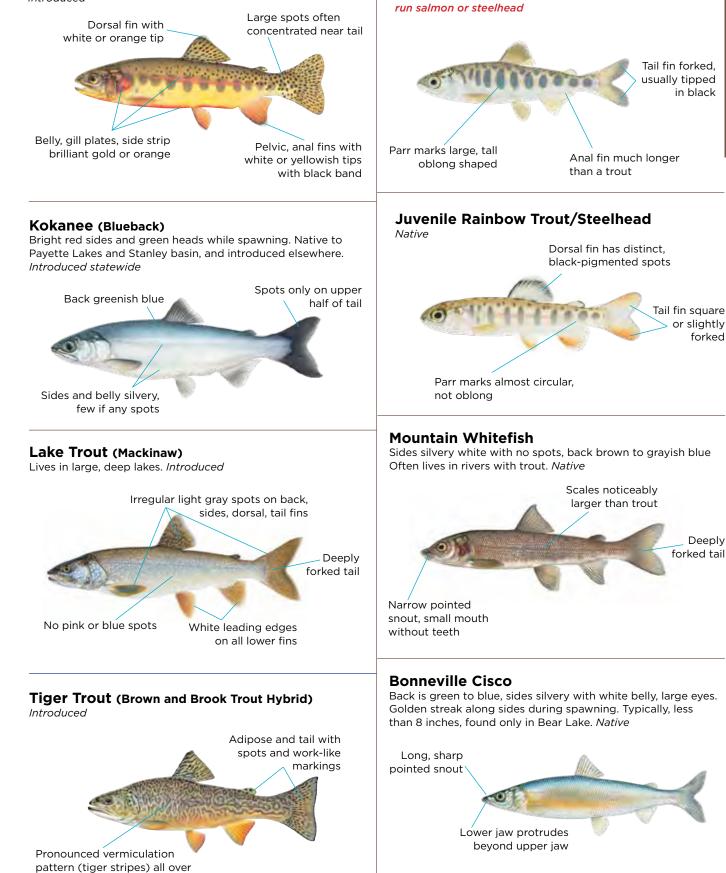
# **Fish Identification**

forked

Deeply



Introduced



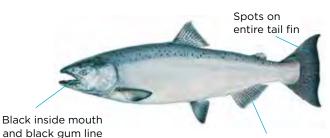
**Juvenile Chinook Salmon** 

Native | NO HARVEST ALLOWED - In waters with ocean-

#### SALMON, STEELHEAD

#### **Chinook Salmon**

Adults 24-40 inches, irregularly shaped black spots on back, dorsal fin and tail. *Native* 



15-17 anal fin rays

#### See page 51 for salmon fishing information

#### **Coho Salmon**

Looks similar to kokanee with spotting on back, dorsal and upper lobe tail fin. *Native* 

Spots only on upper half of tail, with heavy spotting on dorsal and tail fins

Black mouth, white gums



#### See page 51 for salmon fishing information

#### Steelhead

Adults typically 20-40 inches. Irregularly shaped black spots on back, dorsal fin and tail. *Native* 

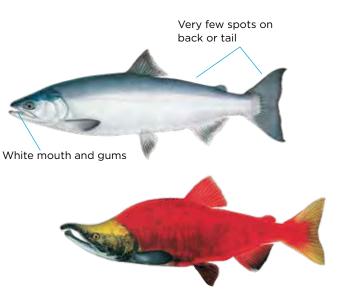


white gums

See page 51 for steelhead fishing information

#### Sockeye Salmon

Adult 18-24 inches. Spawning adults turn bright red with greenish heads. *Native | NO HARVEST* 



#### BASS, WALLEYE, PERCH, PIKE

#### **Largemouth Bass**

Dark green on back and sides, white belly. Introduced

Upper jaw when closed extends past eye

Dark, irregular horizontal band along sides

#### **Smallmouth Bass**

Dark olive to brown on back, sides bronze, white belly. Dark vertical bands on sides. *Introduced* 

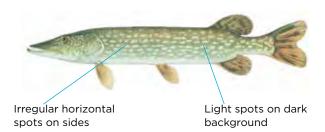


Upper jaw when closed doesn't extend beyond eye

# **Fish Identification**

#### **Northern Pike**

Long slender body, duck-billed shaped mouth with many teeth. *Introduced* 



**Tiger Muskie** Northern Pike and Muskellunge hybrid. *Introduced* 



Dark irregular vertical stripes on light background

#### Walleye

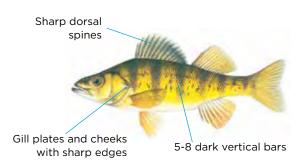
Dark green backs white belly with sharp dorsal spines. Similar shape to Yellow Perch, without vertical barring. *Introduced* 

Large, glassy opaque eyes Prominent "canine" teeth Lower tail ha

Lower lobe of tail has white tip

#### **Yellow Perch**

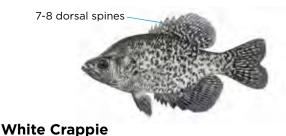
Dark green back with yellow sides. Introduced

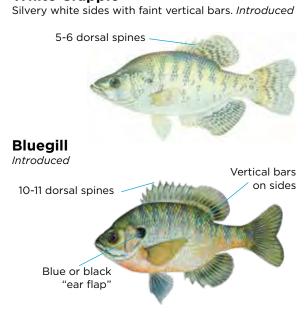


#### SUNFISH

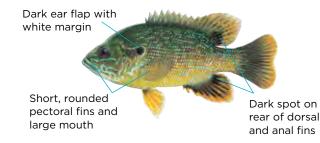
#### **Black Crappie**

Heavy black spotting, no vertical bars. *Introduced* 



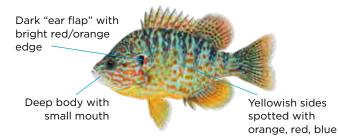






#### Pumpkinseed

Yellowish sides spotted with orange, red, blue. Bright orange and blue streaks side of head. *Introduced* 



#### CATFISH

#### Bullhead

Solid brown coloration with lighter belly. Typically, less than 14" long. Very smooth skin with no scales. *Introduced* 



4 pairs of whiskers

Rounded tail

#### **Channel Catfish**

Very smooth skin with no scales. Coloration variable, olive brown to gray. *Introduced* 



Forked tail

#### Flathead Catfish Mottled brown and gray across body. Introduced



Lower jaw underbite, extends past upper jaw Squarish tail with no fork



Burbot (Ling) Long streamlined body with wide flat head, dark brown lace patterning. Native Very long dorsal and anal fins Very long dorsal and anal fins Single barbel in center of lower jaw Struce I NO HARVEST 5 rows of bony plates

### 4 barbels in front of mouth that opens directly downward

See page 56 for sturgeon fishing information

#### COMMON NONGAME SPECIES

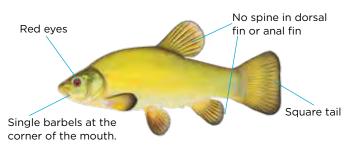
#### **Northern Pikeminnow**

Dark green back, sides silvery gray, belly yellowish white. Fins without spots or spines. *Native* 



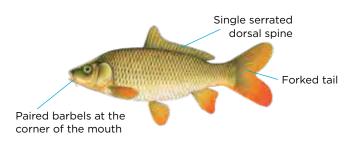
#### Tench

Olive green, brown, or orange in color with small scales. *Introduced* 



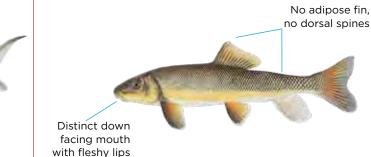
**Common Carp** 

Olive green to gold with large scales. Resembles large goldfish. *Introduced* 



#### Sucker

Bronze, green, or grayish on back with cream or yellowish belly. Spawning males have dark stripe along sides. *Native* 



# **Fish Identification**

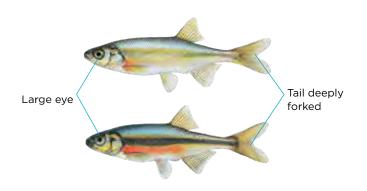
#### Peamouth

Dark brown or green on back; slivery white or yellowish sides and belly. Red stripe along sides during spawning time. Adults typically 6-12" long. *Native* 



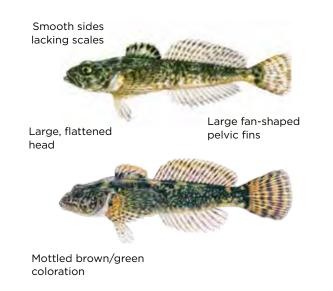
#### **Redside Shiner**

Steely blue, green or brown on back, silvery sides. Yellow and red band along side. Typically, less than 6 inches long. *Native* 



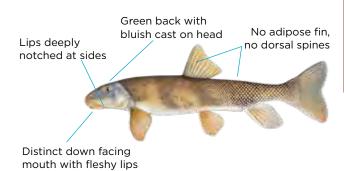
#### Sculpin

Small, bottom-oriented fish typically less than 5 inches. **Note:** Bear Lake, Shoshone, and Wood River sculpins - no harvest. *Native* 



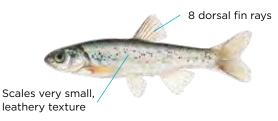
#### PROTECTED NONGAME SPECIES

#### Green Sucker (also referred to as Blue Sucker) Found only in rivers above Shoshone Falls. *Native | NO* HARVEST



#### Northern Leatherside Chub

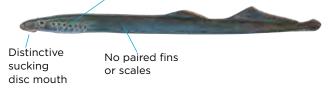
Back bluish or greenish gray, silvery sides and belly. Typically 3-7 inches. *Native | NO HARVEST* 



#### **Pacific Lamprey**

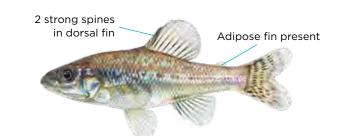
Cylindrical, shaped like an eel. Coloration varies from bluish gray to brown and green. *Native | NO HARVEST* 

7 pairs of gill and gill openings



#### Sand Roller

Green back with grayish sides, white belly. Oblong dark blotches along sides. Typically, 3-4 inches. Found only in the lower Clearwater and Snake rivers. *Native | NO HARVEST* 



#### **GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION**

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 adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/13/index.html or idfg. idaho.gov/title36.

#### **TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

**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.

**Bait:** Organic substances, other than rubber, wood, feathers, 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.

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

**Bag Limit:** The maximum number of fish that may be legally harvested by any one person in one day.

**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).

**Boundary Waters:** Waters that share a border between Idaho and neighboring states.

**Bow Fishing (Archery and Spear):** This includes fishing with a bow and arrow, crossbow, spear, or mechanical device (excluding firearms).

**Chumming:** The use of any substance not attached to a hook that is intended to attract fish.

**Clipped Adipose Fin:** See diagram page 52. The adipose fin must be missing or nearly missing with a healed scar where the adipose fin is supposed to be located.

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

**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 or river.

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

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.

**Fishing:** Any effort made to take, kill, injure, capture, or catch any fish, crayfish, or bullfrog.

Fishing Shelter: Any enclosure or shelter used for fishing.

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

**Float Tube:** Single occupant floating device not to exceed 6 feet in any dimension that is not propelled by oars, paddles, or motors.

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

**Game Fish:** Game fish includes the following fish and crayfish: American shad, Arctic Grayling, Bear Lake Whitefish, Black Bullhead, Black Crappie, Blue Catfish, Bluegill and Bluegill hybrid, Brook Trout, Brown Bullhead, Brown Trout, Bull Trout, Burbot, Channel Catfish, Chinook Salmon, Cisco, Coho Salmon, Crayfish, Cutthroat trout, Flathead Catfish, Golden Trout, Green Sunfish, kokanee, Lake Trout, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed, Rainbow Trout, Rainbow/Cutthroat Trout hybrid (cutbow), Sauger, Smallmouth Bass, Sockeye Salmon, Steelhead, Splake, Sunapee Trout, Tiger Trout, Tiger Muskie, Walleye, Warmouth, Whitefish, White Crappie, White Sturgeon, Yellow Bullhead, Yellow Perch. See pages 58 - 62 for game fish identification.

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

Harvest: Reduce a fish to possession.

**Hook:** A bent wire device, for the catching of fish, to which one, two, or three points may be attached to a single shank. A treble hook is considered a single hook; exceptions may apply in some special rule waters.

Hybrid Fish: The offspring of two different species.

**Ice Fishing:** Fishing through an opening, broken or cut, through the ice.

**General Information** 

**Limit is Zero (O):** 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.

Maggot: An unhatched fly larva.

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

Motor: Includes electric and internal combustion motors.

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

**Nongame Fish:** Any fish not specifically defined as a "game fish," including bullfrogs. Protected nongame fish include Bear Lake, Shoshone and Wood River Sculpin; Sand Roller, Northern Leatherside Chub, Bluehead Sucker (also referred to as Green Sucker), and Pacific lamprey. See page 58 - 62 for fish identification of common and protected nongame fish.

**Possession:** Both actual and constructive possession, and any control of the object or objects referred to; provided that wildlife (fish/crayfish) taken accidentally and in a manner not contrary to the provisions of this title shall not be deemed to be in possession while being immediately released live back to the wild. Possession includes but is not limited to any fish harvested, held in a live well or other type of enclosure, or on a stringer. Holding fish using a tether, rope or tail-rope is a form of possession and is unlawful for fish that must be immediately released. Nontarget fish taken with legal methods are not considered in possession as long as they are immediately released live back to the wild.

**Possession Limit:** The maximum limit in number or amount of wildlife which may be lawfully in the possession of any person. "Possession limit" shall apply to wildlife being in possession while in the field or being transported to final place of consumption or storage.

**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.

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

**Sliding Sinker:** A method of attaching a sinker to a device that slides freely on the main line.

**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.

**Special Rule Waters:** Any water with a gear, season, length 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.

**Sunfish:** Game fish species that include Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish, and Warmouth.

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

Upstream: Moving from a lower elevation point in a stream

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

#### **FISH STOCKING**

Idaho Fish and Game stocks over 30-million fish from its hatcheries into rivers, lowland lakes, reservoirs and mountain lakes every year. Stocked fish include fry, fingerlings, and "catchable-sized" fish from 19 different species, including several species and strains of salmon, trout and kokanee. Most of the fish stocked in rivers and lakes are primarily Rainbow Trout and kokanee, but other fish include channel catfish, arctic grayling, Cutthroat Trout, tiger muskie and more. Stocked Rainbow Trout, including 10-12 inches, are stocked in popular fishing spots where anglers are likely to find them.

#### **RELEASING FISH**

Releasing fish may be a good way to help maintain healthy populations and quality fisheries where angling effort is high. You can do your part to increase fish survival by following these strategies to reduce stress:

- Use the proper size tackle to land the fish quickly, which can help minimize stress.
- Using barbless hooks makes removing hooks easy and minimizes damage to the fish.
- Do not squeeze the fish.
- Do not touch or hold fish by the gills, gill covers, or the eyes.
- Minimize the time fish are out of the water.
- Holding fish upside down in the water often can make them easier to handle.
- If the hook is too deep to be easily removed, cut the line for the best chance to survive.
- Revive the fish, if necessary, by gently holding it in the water.

#### 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.

#### TAGGED FISH

Biologists attach "t-bar anchor tags" to various fish species throughout the state to learn more about them. This helps to understand how many fish are caught by anglers, describes fish migrations and can be used to compare survival and catch of different types of hatchery-raised fish after they are stocked. When anglers report a tag, it provides information about angler catch, survival and abundance of certain species, which helps biologists manage fish populations for better fishing.

Each tag is labeled with a unique tag number that anglers should document for reporting. Based on the type of tag found, anglers have two options to report them:

#### Non-reward tags:

- Report it online at tag.idaho.gov or call 1-866-258-0338
- Tag can be removed from the fish or leave it for the next angler catch.

#### **Reward Tags:**

- If the tag says "REWARD", the tag should be removed and reported online at tag.idaho.gov or call 1-866-258-0338.
- To redeem a "REWARD" tag, mail it to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Attn: Fish Tag Returns, 600 S. Walnut Street/P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83712

**Note:** Reward tags must be mailed to Idaho Fish and Game to be paid.

## HARVEST INCENTIVE AND BOUNTY PROGRAMS

Anglers can help Idaho Fish and Game remove fish that pose risks to fisheries and earn cash. Programs currently in place are for Lake Pend Oreille and portions of the Snake River. For more details on each incentive program, go to **idfg.idaho.gov/ fish/incentive**.

Rules vary for each species, please review the details for each program or contact a Fish and Game Regional Office for more information.

#### FREE FISHING DAY

Idaho's Free Fishing Day is an annual event held the second Saturday of every June. All anglers, residents and nonresidents, can celebrate the day by fishing Idaho's waters without a license or salmon permit. Statewide, regional, and Chinook Salmon seasons, rules, bag and possession limits still apply. Any Chinook Salmon harvested on free fishing day will not count towards one's season limit. Upcoming Free Fishing dates are June 14, 2025, June 13, 2026, and June 12, 2027.

#### **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. The Department will not issue a permit for a harvest contest for wild native trout or sturgeon in rivers or streams. The Director may issue a permit for a catch-and-release contest for these species if he determines there will be no harm to that fishery resource in the particular water where the contest is to take place. 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**. Allow a minimum of 30 days for processing.

## 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 length, gear, and bag limits. The range of harvest rules includes:

- General bag and length 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 naturallyreproducing wild populations without hatchery stocking. In certain instances, lower bag limits, length limits, or gear and bait restrictions may be applied to keep populations healthy.
- Special length and bag 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 length 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 conserve 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

# Take a Drive on the Wild Side

When you purchase a newly redesigned Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation license plate, your money supports conservation and research efforts to save and enhance Idaho's fish and wildlife populations.

Purchase your new plates today at your local DMV or online at dmvonline.itd.idaho.gov.





#### STATE RECORD FISH PROGRAM



Jase Groesbeck of Kamiah with the current Catch-and-Release State Record for Coho Salmon, caught from the Clearwater 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. Catchand-release records must be released. See tips on safely releasing fish in this booklet!

- Catch-and-release White Sturgeon records must be broken by a minimum of 2 inches. Catch-and-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** 

#### **Certified Weight Records Applications Need:**

- A receipt from the certified scale documenting the weight (typically 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 Catchand-Release Records is available at idfg.idaho. gov/fish/record OR scan this QR code:



#### **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

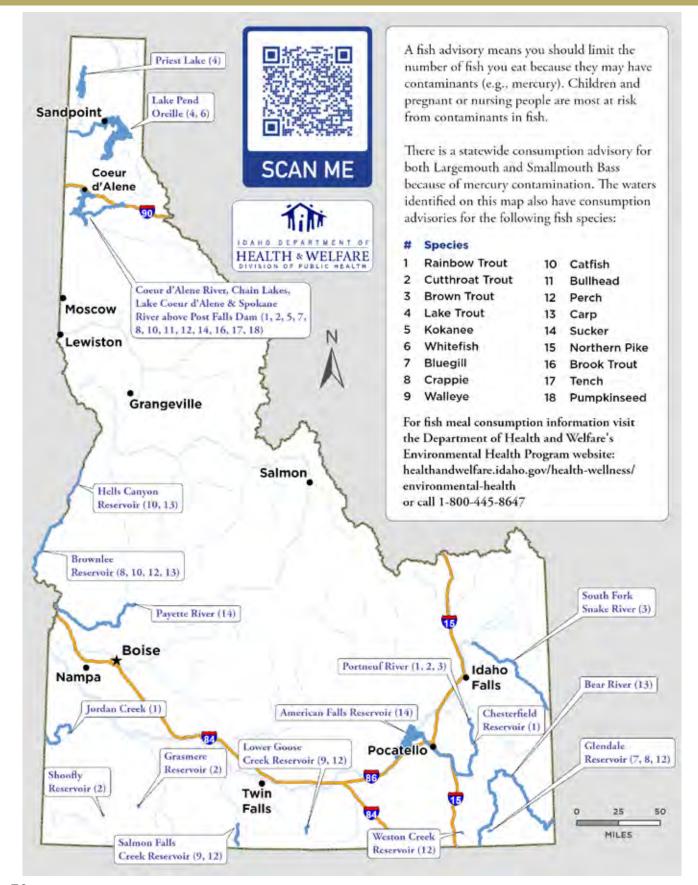
#### Game Fish

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 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	32.9	36.5	-	C.J. Strike Reservoir	Cody Kastner	06/16/2022
Chinook Salmon (fresh water)	42	41.25	29.75	Coeur d' Alene 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)	11.78	32.68	-	Clearwater River	Matt Hosking	10/13/2023
Cutthroat Trout -Bonneville	18.94	-	-	Bear Lake	Roger Grunig	04/30/1970
Cutthroat Trout -Lahontan	3.14	21	-	Grasmere Reservoir	Hayleigh Urban	10/05/2022
Cutthroat Trout -Westslope	0.56	11	-	Alpine Creek Lake #14	Spencer Smith	8/18/2024
Cutthroat Trout -Yellowstone	2.88	20	-	Henrys Lake	Spencer Smith	1/1/2023
lathead Catfish	58.5	48	31	Brownlee Reservoir	J. Newberry/K. McCormick	08/23/1994
Folden Trout	5.13	-	-	White Sands Lake	George Wolverton	1958
Arctic Gravling	2.44	18.13	-	Nez Perce Lake	Velma Mahaffev	06/21/1992
Green Sunfish	0.67	9	9	Fernan Lake	John Moore	06/25/2019
(okanee Salmon	6.59	24.5	14.5	Priest Lake	JerryVerge	06/09/1975
ake Trout	57.5	49	32.5	Priest Lake	Lvie McCiure	11/14/1971
ake Whitefish	6.5	26	23.75	Pend Oreille Lake	Dale Hofmann	08/06/2010
argemouth Bass	10.94	-	-	Anderson Lake	Mary Alice Hurt Taylor	10/22/1948
Yountain Whitefish	5.9	22.5	14	Island Park Reservoir	Robert Hall	1997
Northern Pike	40.76	49	26.5	Hayden Lake	Thomas Francis	3/21/2023
Pumpkinseed	0.93	9.5	-	Chase Lake	James Milton	7/17/2023
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 McCrav	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
liger Muskie	44.25	52.5	25	Little Pavette Lake	Edward Kalinowski	08/06/2013
liger Trout	9.13	27.25	-	Montpelier Reservoir	Austin Christensen	6/1/2024
Valleve	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 (Rod & Reel)	1.14	14.5	-	Snake River	Benjamin Fahnholz	03/08/2021
Peamouth Chub (Archery)	1.12	14.5		Snake River	Matthew Carlson	09/13/2022
Redside Shiner	0.08	4.7		Blackfoot River	Raiden Schneider	07/23/2022
Tench (Rod/reel)	5.32	20.5	-	Lake Pend Oreille	Phillip Biggerstaff	06/19/2022
Tench (Archery)	6.13	22	-	Priest Lake	Ryan Gangi	7/18/2024
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

#### **IDAHO FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY FOR SELECTED WATERS**



# 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, or the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare at healthandwelfare.idaho.gov.

# YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NOXIOUS WEEDS IN IDAHO!

- 1. Cleaning boats, trailers and watercraft after leaving a water body
- 2. Pumping the bilge of your boat before entering a water body
- 3. Cleaning boating and fishing gear from any plant material
- 4. Reporting infestations to your County Weed Superintendent



CALL 1-844-WEEDSNO

1:6

HEALTH = WELFARI

Pulling Together

www.IDAHOWEEDAWARENESS.com

#### ANGLERS, REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR BOAT ANNUALLY! VISIT PARKSANDRECREATION.IDAHO.GOV FOR MORE INFO



#### HELP FIGHT THE QUAGGA MUSSEL! NON-MOTORIZED VESSELS NEED AN INVASIVE SPECIES STICKER TOO!



72 Idaho Fishing Seasons & Rules 2025-2027 | idfg.idaho.gov

# **Keep Idaho Waters Clean!**

Trash and fishing line can be harmful to wildlife and the scenery.

#### How You Can Help:

- Don't leave used line, tackle or bait containers behind
- Properly discard used fishing line and tackle
- ✓ Pack out your trash
- $\checkmark$  Do your part, and fill your net!



#### **Licenses, Tags and Permits**

Information on the following pages apply to fishing licenses and permits. For details on licenses, permits, and tags for hunting or trapping, please visit our website at **idfg.idaho.gov/licenses**, or review the Seasons and Rules brochure for the species you are interested in.

#### To Buy a License, Tag or Permit

- Visit an Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor.
- Download the "GoOutdoorsIdaho" mobile application from the Google Play store or Apple Appstore.
- From your computer or mobile device, go to **GoOutdoorsidaho.com**
- Within the United States call 1-800-554-8685.
- For an overview of all license buying options, visit **idfg.idaho.gov/buy**
- Commercial licenses, duplicate permits or tags, documents that require proof of disability, and lifetime certificates, may be purchased only at Fish and Game offices.

Licenses purchased online or over the phone must be printed from the buyer's computer; they will not be mailed. However, all tags and notchable permits will be mailed, unless e-tagging is selected. A confirmation number may not be used in lieu of a tag or salmon/steelhead permit. Items sent in the mail will arrive within 7-10 business days, so customers should be mindful when placing their order for mailed items.

The charge for phone-in purchases is three percent of the transaction plus \$6.50; the charge for online purchases is three percent of the transaction plus \$3.50.

Any license, tag or permit that is defaced or altered is invalid from the date and time of issue. It is unlawful to use or attempt to use any license that has been defaced or altered.

#### **Refund Policy**

No refunds will be made on resident licenses, tags or permits. No refunds will be made on fishing licenses.

#### **Idaho Residency Requirements**

Proof of residency is required to buy any resident license. A previous year's license is not proof of residency.

- 1. **Drivers must present:** A valid Idaho driver's license and must have been domiciled in the state of Idaho for the last six months immediately prior to purchasing a resident license, tag or permit. Owning real property or paying property taxes within the state of Idaho does not in itself establish residency. You cannot claim resident privileges in any other state or country if you intend to claim residency and purchase resident licenses in the state of Idaho.
- 2. **Non-drivers must present:** An Idaho identification card issued by the Department of Transportation; or a combination of two documents bearing your name and address but not issued by yourself.

Examples include:

• Home utility bills for the previous six months.

- Rent receipts or mortgage statements for the previous six months.
- Notarized statement from an employer on business letterhead.
- Proof of voter registration dated six months prior.
- For a minor child under 18, identification from a parent.
- 3. Military members: A nonresident member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a foreign country, which includes state National Guard or Air National Guard, may obtain a resident license provided the service member presents a copy of assignment orders appropriate for the branch of service, such as "Request for Authorization for Permanent Change of Station-Military" that indicate the member is on active duty with permanent duty station in Idaho at the time of license application. The nonresident active duty member's spouse and dependent children less than 18 years of age may obtain a resident license, provided they present a copy of the service member's assignment orders and documentation they are a member of the active duty members household. Authorized documentation includes a marriage certificate, identification issued by the Idaho Department of Transportation indicating the same address as the active duty service member, or a current signed "Military Status and Residency Affidavit". Members of the Armed Forces who are not residents of Idaho, and who are stationed or domiciled in Idaho fewer than 30 days immediately preceding application are not eligible for a resident license or military furlough license and must purchase nonresident licenses and tags.

This is a summary of residency requirements, for additional details see Idaho Code 36-202(S) and 36-405; online at **idfg.idaho.gov/ title36** and **idfg.idaho.gov/idapa13** or contact your local Fish and game office. Persons who do not qualify as residents must purchase a nonresident license.

#### **Resident Price Lock**

Price Lock is a win-win for Idahoans and Idaho Fish and Game. We are keeping resident costs to fish, hunt and trap among the lowest in the West, and each license purchased directly funds wildlife conservation, management, and enforcement. Once enrolled, residents will need to continue to purchase an annual license each year to continue receiving discounted pricing. Some exceptions apply with certain Resident license holders and life events. Learn more at **idfg.idaho.gov/licenses/pricelock** or contact your local Fish and Game office.

How To Enroll in Price Lock

- Residents who had a license in 2017 and kept purchasing one every year since or have purchased a three-year license are automatically enrolled in Price Lock.
- Residents who have not purchased a license each year since 2017 can enroll by purchasing a three-year license. Then, as long as they buy a license each year, they'll keep receiving the discounted pricing.

#### **Resident Disabled Licenses**

Any resident certified as permanently disabled or eligible for federal supplemental income (SSI), social security disability income (SSDI), railroad retirement board disability, a nonservice-connected veteran's pension, or a service-connected veteran's disability benefit with 40 percent or more combined/overall disability rating, may qualify for a "disabled" license. An applicant must provide either a benefit verification letter from the Social Security Administration in their name showing they are receiving SSI or SSDI benefits for the current year, or a letter from the Railroad Retirement board verifying disability status and being dated within 3 years preceding application for a license, or an official identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Defense, or a letter of any date from the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs verifying a service-connected disability rating of 40% or greater, or a current year's letter from the Veteran Affairs office showing the applicant is receiving a nonservice-connected pension, or a form prescribed by the department that certifies permanent physical disability. A physically disabled person means a person who has lost the use of one (1) or both lower extremities or both hands, or is unable to walk 200 feet or more unassisted by another person or without the aid of a walker, cane, crutches, braces, prosthetic device or a wheelchair, or is unable to walk 200 feet or more without great difficulty or discomfort due to one or more of the following impairments: neurological, orthopedic, respiratory, cardiac, arthritic disorder, blindness (a medically documented loss or impairment of vision and includes any person whose visual acuity with correcting lens does not

exceed 20/200 in the better eye, or whose vision in the better eye is restricted to a field which subtends an angle of not greater than 20 degrees), or the loss of function or absence of a limb.

An applicant may present a valid Idaho driver's license if the holder meets disability requirements or section 49-117(7)(b), Idaho Code, and license is marked as disabled.

Disabled licenses may be purchased at Fish and Game offices, selected license vendors (see website for list), and through the mail.

#### **Resident Lifetime License Certificates**

The purchase of a lifetime certificate could be the best investment you ever make. Lifetime certificates authorize all privileges associated with a corresponding annual license, are valid for the life of the certificate holder and are available to Idaho residents. The lifetime certificate does not include tags and permits. If a lifetime certificate holder moves out of Idaho, they will continue to receive an annual license, but will pay nonresident tag and permit fees. Lifetime certificates can be purchased at IDFG offices only. Details on hunting and trapping lifetime certificates can be found at **idfg. idaho.gov/licenses/lifetime.** 

Applicant	Combination	Hunting	Fishing	Trapping
0 - 1 year	\$795.50	\$276.75	\$601.75	\$701.75
2 - 50 years	\$1,113.00	\$386.75	\$841.75	\$981.75
51 and older	\$636.75	\$221.75	\$481.75	\$561.75



#### **Resident Fishing License, Tag and Permit Fees**

Prices listed below are as of December 1, 2024. Prices may change without notice. Licenses, tags and permits are valid through December 31, except where noted. All tags, permits and applications require the purchase of a license.

For a complete list of license, tags and permit fees available to purchase, please visit: idfg.idaho.gov/licenses

DAILY LICENSES	DAILY PRICE	DAILY WITH PRICE LOCK <sup>1</sup>
Daily Fishing (first day) <sup>2</sup> - 14 years or older	\$13.50	\$11.50
Each consecutive day at initial time of purchase	\$6.00	\$5.00
YOUTH DA	AILY LICENSES	
Youth Fishing - 0-13 years <sup>3</sup>		e required. nits and regulations.

	PR	ICE	WITH PRI	CE LOCK <sup>1</sup>	
ANNUAL AND MULTI-YEAR LICENSES	ANNUAL	3-YEAR⁴	ANNUAL	3-YEAR⁴	
ADULT LICENSES: 18 Y	EARS OR OLD	ER			
Fishing	\$30.50	\$73.75	\$25.75	\$73.75	
Disabled Fishing <sup>5</sup>	\$5.75	\$11.50	\$5.00	\$11.50	
Military Furlough Fishing	\$20.50	N/A	\$17.50	N/A	
Combination (Hunting & Fishing)	\$38.75	\$97.00	\$33.50	\$97.00	
Disabled Combination <sup>5</sup>	\$5.75	\$11.50	\$5.00	\$11.50	
Military Furlough Combination	\$20.50	N/A	\$17.50	N/A	
Sportsman's Package - includes adult combination license plus deer, elk, turkey, bear, gray wolf and mountain lion tags, and archery, muzzleloader, salmon and steelhead permits.	\$144.60	N/A	\$124.25	N/A	
SENIOR LICENSES: 65 YEARS OR OLDER					
Senior Combination (Hunting & Fishing)	\$13.75	\$31.75	\$11.75	\$31.75	
YOUTH LIC	ENSES				
Youth Fishing - 0-13 years <sup>3</sup>	Mus	No license t observe all lim		ons.	
Junior Fishing - 14-17 years	\$16.00	\$37.75	\$13.75	\$37.75	
Junior Combination (Hunting & Fishing) - 14-17 years	\$19.75	\$49.00	\$17.50	\$49.00	
Sportsman's Package - includes adult combination license plus deer, elk, turkey, bear, gray wolf and mountain lion tags, and archery, muzzleloader, salmon and steelhead permits.	\$144.60	N/A	\$124.25	N/A	

ANNUAL ACCESS-DEPREDATION FEE <sup>6</sup>	PR	CE	WITH PRI	
Required one-time fee for annual and 3-year license holders	ANNUAL	3-YEAR⁴	ANNUAL	3-YEAR <sup>₄</sup>
Adults - 18 years or older	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$10.00
Jr./Sr./DAV/Furlough	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$4.00

PERMITS	PRI	CE	WITH PRI	
Requires a valid license before purchasing	ANNUAL	3-YEAR⁴	ANNUAL	3-YEAR⁴
Salmon or Steelhead Permit	\$15.25	N/A	\$12.75	N/A
Two-Pole Permit	\$15.00	N/A	\$13.75	N/A

#### **Resident Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> Customers who held a license in 2017 and have consistently purchased a license each year are currently in Price Lock. This includes 3-year license holders. Resident customers that are not currently in Price Lock, can optin by purchasing a 3-year license and then continue to purchase a license each year following the expiration date of their current license. Price lock is only available to Idaho residents.
- <sup>2</sup> Price Lock on daily fishing is only available as long as the customer has a current year annual or a valid multiyear license. Otherwise customer must pay fees in column 1.
- <sup>3</sup> Resident children from 0-13 years of age, do NOT need to purchase a daily or annual fishing license. They can keep their own daily bag limit, can purchase a salmon/ steelhead permit to keep their own limit of salmon/ steelhead, and purchase a 2-pole permits.
- <sup>4</sup> If a 3-year resident hunting, fishing or combination license holder moves out of Idaho, the license will remain valid, but the holder will be required to purchase nonresident tags and permits.
- <sup>5</sup> Disability must be certified by a medical doctor on a Fish and Game form.
- <sup>6</sup> A license buyer is required to pay this annual fee when purchasing their first annual license of the year. It will not apply to any additional annual licenses purchased later in the year, nor is it required to purchase a daily license. This fee helps improve hunting and fishing access and provides more resources to manage big game and depredation impacts.



#### **GET MORE FOR LESS** SAVE 38% WHEN YOU PURCHASE THE SPORTSMAN'S PACKAGE\*



\*LICENSE AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS ONLY PACKAGE INCLUDES AN ADULT COMBINATION LICENSE PLUS PERMITS AND TAGS FOR DEER, ELK, BEAR, MOUNTAIN LION, WOLF, TURKEY, SALMON AND STEELHEAD. LEARN MORE AT <u>IDFG.IDAHO.GOV/LICENSES/FEES-RESIDENT</u>

# Enjoy your season and remember...

Photo courtesy: WAFWA/RBFF

• **Be a mentor.** Pass on the heritage and traditions of hunting, fishing and trapping in Idaho.

• Fishing on private land is a privilege. Always get permission and thank the landowner.

B H D 9911 \

#### **Nonresident Fishing License, Tag and Permit Fees**

Prices listed below are as of December 1, 2024. Prices may change without notice. Licenses, tags and permits are valid through December 31, except where noted. All tags, permits and applications require the purchase of a license.

For a complete list of license, tags and permit fees available to purchase, please visit: idfg.idaho.gov/licenses

DAILY LICENSES	DAILY PRICE			
Daily Fishing (first day) <sup>2</sup> - 14 years or older	\$22.75			
Each consecutive day at initial time of purchase	\$7.00			
Three-day Salmon/Steelhead	\$44.75			
YOUTH DAILY LICENSES				
Youth Fishing - 0-13 years <sup>1</sup>	No license required. Must fish with an adult Idaho license holder, and their harvested catch must be included in the adult license holder's limit.			

ANNUAL AND MULTI-YEAR LICENSES	ANNUAL PRICE	<b>3-YEAR PRICE</b>	
ADULT LICENSES: 18 YEARS OR OLDER			
Fishing	\$108.00	\$291.25	
Combination (Hunting & Fishing)	\$264.00	\$788.50	
Hunting - includes three-day fishing license each year of license	\$185.00	\$551.50	
Disabled American Veteran Hunting (DAV) <sup>2</sup> - includes three-day fishing license	\$31.75	N/A	
YOUTH LICENSES			
Youth Fishing - 0-13 years <sup>1</sup>	No license required. Must fish with an adult Idaho license holder, and their harvested catch must be included in the adult license holder's limit.		
Junior Fishing - 14-17 years	\$23.75	\$67.75	
Junior Mentored Hunting <sup>3</sup> - 10-17 years -	\$91.75	\$271.75	

ANNUAL ACCESS-DEPREDATION FEE <sup>4</sup> Required one-time fee for annual and 3-year license holders	ANNUAL PRICE	3-YEAR PRICE
Adults - 18 years or older	\$10.00	\$20.00
Jr./Sr./DAV/Furlough	\$4.00	\$8.00

includes three-day fishing license

<b>PERMITS</b> Requires a valid license before purchasing	ANNUAL PRICE
Salmon or Steelhead Permit	\$28.25
Two-Pole Permit	\$17.00

#### Nonresident Notes:

- Nonresident children from 0-13 vears of age. do NOT need to purchase a fishing license and must be accompanied by the holder of a valid Idaho fishing license, and their harvested catch must be included in the adult license holder's limit OR, they may purchase a nonresident license and have their own limit.
- <sup>2</sup> Disability must be certified by the U.S. Departement of Defense or by Veterans Affairs on their official letterhead showing combined service-connected disability rating of 40% or more.
- <sup>3</sup> Anyone hunting with this license must be accompanied in the field by an adult license holder close enough to be within normal conversation or hearing range without shouting or the aid of electronic devices.
- <sup>4</sup> A license buyer is required to pay this annual fee when purchasing their first annual license of the year. It will not apply to any additional annual licenses purchased later in the year, nor is it required to purchase a daily license. This fee helps improve hunting and fishing access and provides more resources to manage big game and depredation impacts.

Idaho Fishing Seasons & Rules 2025-2027 | idfg.idaho.gov





If you have information about a wildlife violation,

Make The Call: 1-800-632-5999

- The Citizen's Against Poaching (CAP) Hotline is open 24/7/365.
- Callers can remain anonymous, and may be eligible for a cash reward.
- The more details a caller can provide, the better! Examples: License plates, suspect descriptions, dates/times, locations, and wildlife involved.

Photo: CC-BY Martin Koenig for IDFG

# · DON'T CRAMP THE RAMP ·

Boat ramps can be crowded and hectic during peak times when boaters are launching and retrieving their craft. To make things go smoothly, please do these things:



- Load all your gear, or as much as possible, before you approach the ramp, and leave the ramp as quickly as possible. When trailering your boat, clear the ramp immediately and use the parking area to prep your boat for travel.
- Make sure the plug is in your boat.
- If launching kayaks, canoes, and other boats that don't require a trailer, use the edges of the ramp so trailered boats can be launched and retrieved at the same time.
- Don't use the boat ramp or adjacent dock as a fishing, lounging or picnic spots.
- Be patient and helpful. Complaining or being confrontational isn't likely to speed up the process, but it can spoil a good day on the water.

# e pesca este año.

#### Compra su licencia de pesca antes de que vayas.

- Todos los pescadores mayores de 14 años deben tener una licencia de pesca. Niños menores de 14 años pescan gratis
- Compra su licencia de pesca en oficinas de Fish and Game, varios venderores locales, o en línea en GoOutdoorsIdaho.com.
- Utilice su teléfono inteligente para descargar la aplicación de Go Outdoors Idaho para más información. Búscalo en Google Play o App Store.

Google P

App Store

