

# 1978-79 MONTANA Fishing Regulations

May 20, 1978 through May 19, 1979

The accompanying map is an aid only. Regulations and legal descriptions of fishing districts follow in print.

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following dates and regulations for the 1978-79 fishing season are adopted.

Montana Fish and Game Commission  
Robert F. Wambach, Secretary  
January 6, 1978

To be in full force and effect through May 19, 1979. All regulations are subject to change by the Commission.

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A fishing license is a permit for the lawful holder thereof to fish for and possess any fish within the state as authorized by fishing regulations.



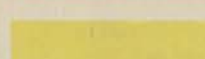
**Residents** — Each resident 15 years and older must have a license to fish. Residents 14 years old or younger may fish without a license but must observe limits and all other fishing regulations.

Free fishing permits are available from heads of respective institutions for patients at veterans' administration hospitals and for residents of state institutions other than the state penitentiary. Disabled residents who have a permanent physical or mental condition that prevents them from doing substantial gainful work may get free permits to fish from the Department of Fish and Game upon certification of disability by a doctor licensed to practice medicine in Montana.

**Nonresidents** — All nonresidents 15 years and older must have a fishing license to fish. Nonresidents 14 years old or younger may fish without a license when accompanied by an adult with a valid Montana fishing license. The total number or pounds of all fish taken by the licensed adult and all persons 14 or younger, accompanied by such licensed adult, shall not exceed one legal limit. However, a nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish.

## COLOR CODES

Colored portions of map indicate special regulations apply there. For details refer to matched colors under regulations by district.

-  FISHING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
-  CLOSED TO FISHING ALL YEAR
-  DATES, HOURS, OR LIMITS MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THOSE FOR GENERAL FISHING

If You Fish  
Regularly in  
Montana,  
Help Gather  
Fishing Information  
Write The  
Department of  
Fish And Game  
For A  
Fisherman's Log



## SEE OPPOSITE SIDE FOR REGULATIONS BY DISTRICT

### LICENSE FEES

License Fees Are Not Refundable

#### RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES

A Wildlife Conservation License is required before any fishing or hunting license may be purchased. You may apply for other licenses at the same time that you apply for a conservation license.

Residents 62 or older need only a Conservation License to fish.

Resident Conservation License .....	\$ 1.00
Resident Fishing License (stamp) .....	5.00
Resident Sportsman's License (includes Wildlife Conservation License) .....	35.00

#### NONRESIDENT FISHING LICENSES

A Wildlife Conservation License is required before fishing licenses may be purchased. You may apply for other licenses at the same time you apply for a conservation license.

Nonresident Conservation License .....	\$ 1.00
Nonresident Season Fishing License (stamp) .....	20.00
Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (6-day stamp) .....	10.00
Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (1-day stamp) .....	2.00
Nonresident Combination Bird and Fish (serves as a prerequisite to application for several Montana big game licenses) .....	50.00
Nonresident Fish, Bird, and Big Game License (available from Helena, Montana Fish and Game office only) includes an elk tag, deer "A" tag, black bear tag, authorizes hunting of game birds and fishing. Quota of 17,000 .....	225.00

### RELEASING FISH

The following steps will insure that a released fish has the best chance for survival:

1. Play fish as rapidly as possible — do not play to total exhaustion.
2. Keep fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing hook.
3. Remove hook gently — do not squeeze fish or put fingers in gills.
4. If deeply hooked — cut line — do not pull hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
5. Release fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary gently hold fish upright facing upstream and move fish slowly back and forth.
6. Release fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

### IT IS UNLAWFUL

- to transplant or introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters;
- to refuse to show one's license upon demand;
- to loan or transfer your fishing or hunting license or tags to any person;
- to sell game fish except as prescribed by Montana Fish and Game Commission regulations;
- to leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted;
- to use any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any streams where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish;
- to hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide;
- to waste any part of game fish suitable for food.

It is unlawful to operate upon Montana waters a boat which:

- is not properly licensed and numbered with registration card carried in boat;
- is not carrying equipment required by the Montana Water Safety Law (copies available from Montana Department of Fish and Game);
- does not have one serviceable, Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each passenger. Persons under 12 years old must wear PFD's when boat is in motion and is less than 26 feet long.




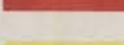
# 1978-79 STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

**DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS**  
When weighing and measuring fish to determine limits, fish may have entrails removed, but must have their heads and tails attached to their bodies.  
Daily limit shall mean the numbers or pounds of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. No person shall take or possess more than the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified under district regulations.  
Possession limit shall mean the numbers or pounds of fish which may be in one person's possession at any time in any form—fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved.  
Refer to district regulations for respective daily and possession limits.

**SEASONS**  
All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

**FISHING HOURS**  
Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons except on Holter Lake and on other posted waters.

## COLOR CODES

 Closed To Fishing All Year  
 Dates, hours or limits more restrictive than general

**GAME FISH**  
All species of the family Salmonidae (charr, trout, salmon, grayling and whitefish); all species of the genus *Stizostedion* (sandpike or sauger and walleye pike or yellow pike-perch); all species of the genus *Esox* (northern pike, pickerel and muskellunge); all species of the genus *Micropterus* (bass); all species of the genus *Polyodon* (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); all species of the genus *Lota* (burbot or ling); and the species *Ictalurus punctatus* (channel catfish).

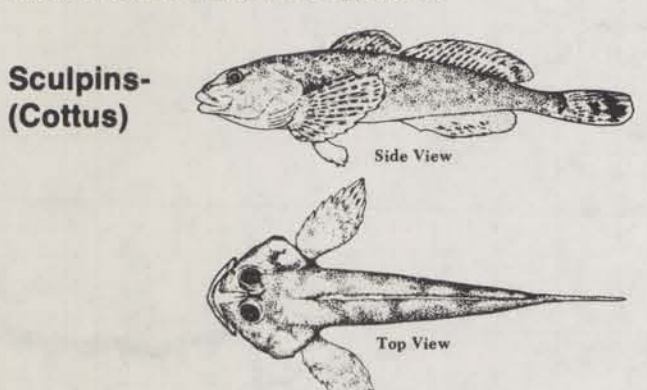
**MEANS OF TAKING**  
Only a single line with hook or hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be in immediate control.  
Setlines may be used as provided under district regulations. Setlines are lines that may be unattended. They may include poles and tups.  
A screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus) for bait. Otherwise, use or possession of minnow seines, snares, or fish traps is unlawful except as provided under district regulations.

**LURES AND BAIT**  
Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man-made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural baits or foods.  
Sculpins (see illustration) may be used live for bait statewide, except in the Madison River between Quake Lake and Ennis Lake. Otherwise live fish may not be used for bait except as provided under district regulations.  
Carp or goldfish may not be used in any form as fish bait. Other fish may be used dead as bait if they have their heads and entrails removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

**CLOSED WATERS**  
All waters operated by the Montana Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Waters in which the Department of Fish and Game is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water supply lakes and streams and hazardous areas are closed as posted.

**CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS**  
Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons thirteen (13) years of age and older.

**BEAVER PONDS, IRRIGATION CANALS AND DITCHES**  
Impoundments formed by beaver dams on streams are governed by the same regulations as govern the streams. Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open the year around unless shown otherwise under district regulations.

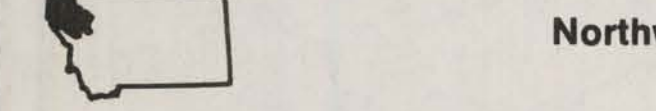


**NATIONAL PARKS, INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND WILDLIFE REFUGES**  
Certain waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special regulations or permits that apply to their individual areas. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the park, reservation or refuge involved.

**USE OF BOATS**  
The use of boats is prohibited or restricted on many waters. See Boating Regulations available from Montana Department of Fish and Game.

**MONTANA OUTDOORS**  
is a beautiful, full-color outdoor magazine for the entire family. This official publication of the Montana Department of Fish and Game is published six times per year.  
Contact the Montana Department of Fish and Game, Helena, Montana 59601 for further information. Free sample copies are available upon request.

## Northwestern Montana FISHING DISTRICT 1



**FISHING SEASONS**  
**STREAMS**  
Open third Saturday in May through November, with the following exceptions:  
Open Entire Year — Little Bitterroot River below its tunnel, Key Creek below Smith Lake, Flathead River below Kerr Dam, Kootenai River, Clark Fork River.  
Closed Entire Year — Rogers Lake spawning inlet. The following tributaries of North Fork Flathead River: Big Creek, Coal Creek and all their tributaries, Whale Creek and its tributaries below Whale Creek Falls, Trail Creek (Yakimika) and its tributaries below mouth of Thomas Creek. The following tributaries of Middle Fork Flathead River: Granite, Morrison, Lodgepole, Long Creeks and their tributaries. South Fork of Flathead River downstream from Hungry Horse Dam to "Devil's Elbow" as posted. Herrig Creek, tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake. Rand, Green Mountain and Fish Creeks, tributaries of Ashley Lake. Donaldson and Freeland Creeks, tributaries of Lake Mary Ronan. Ashley Creek from the Thompson Falls public water supply intake to its source. Hell Roaring Creek, water supply for Polson, and its lakes from the outlet of the lower lake to its source. Crow Creek and its tributaries above the intake for the Ronan water supply to its source. Hot Springs Creek and its tributaries from Hot Springs public water supply intake to its source. Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from the Power Dam to its source, excluding the natural lakes. O'Brien Creek from Troy city water intake to a point one-fourth (¼) mile upstream as posted. Haskell Creek and tributaries from the Whitefish public water intake to its source.

**LAKES AND RESERVOIRS**  
Open entire year with the following exceptions:  
Closed Entire Year — Cedar Creek impoundment, within one thousand (1,000) feet of Columbia Falls water intake as posted.  
Open third Saturday in May through September — Kilbrennan Lake.  
Open third Saturday in May through March of the following year — Lake Mary Ronan.

**SPECIAL SEASONS**  
**BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING** — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging nongame fish.  
**SNAGGING FOR SALMON** — Open September 1 through December — All waters except those closed entire year and Hatchery Bay of Flathead Lake near the State Fish Hatchery at Persons as posted during spawn taking operations.

**SEAP FISHING** — Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish with the aid of rubber or spring propelled spears in all waters open to fishing.  
December 1 through March of the following year — Northern pike and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from Echo Lake.

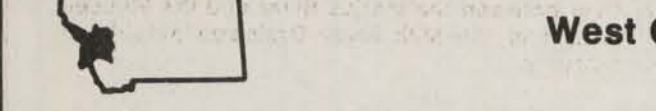
**SPECIAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS — LIBBY DAM** — Fishing from boats or other floating craft is prohibited in Lake Kootenai from Libby Dam upstream to the first log boom and in Kootenai River from Libby Dam approximately 500 yards downstream to the David Thompson bridge as posted. Fishing is prohibited from the Libby Dam structure as posted.  
**EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON** — Open December 1 through March of the following year — All waters except Kilbrennan Lake and waters closed entire year.

## CLARK FORK RIVER DRAINAGE BELOW THE MOUTH OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER, FLATHEAD RIVER AND KOOTENAI RIVER DRAINAGES

**FISH SIZE LIMITS (Dolly Varden and Sturgeon)**  
The minimum size of Dolly Varden (bull trout) which may be taken in the North Fork and Middle Fork of the Flathead River and their tributaries and the South Fork of the Flathead River below Hungry Horse Dam, the main Flathead River above Kerr Dam, Flathead Lake, and that portion of the Swan River below Big Rock Dam shall be no less than eighteen (18) inches long with head and tail attached to body.  
It shall be unlawful to keep or possess any sturgeon of the genus *Acipenser* (white sturgeon) under forty (40) inches or over seventy-two (72) inches in total length.  
**BAIT (Use of Live Fish for Bait)**  
Sculpins (Cottus) are the only fish that may be used live as bait. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.  
**DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS**  
Unless otherwise specified, the following limits are both daily and possession limits. Limits are in numbers of fish, except where poundage limits are specified.  
Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit. Each fisherman may take all of the following limits.  
1. Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, Golden Trout, Lake Trout, Dolly Varden and Grayling — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish or ten (10) fish, whichever is reached first, in any combination.  
2. Brook Trout — Ten (10) pounds, no number limit.  
3. Bass, Walleye and Northern Pike — Fifteen (15) in any combination.  
4. Salmon — Except at Lake Mary Ronan. Daily — Thirty-five (35) whether taken by angling or snagging. Possession — Seventy (70) whether taken by angling or snagging.  
Lake Mary Ronan — During regular angling season — Ten (10) daily and possession. During snagging season — Thirty-five (35) daily, seventy (70) possession.  
5. Sturgeon — Two (2) per calendar year.  
6. Whitefish — Thirty (30) daily and sixty (60) possession.  
There is no limit on nongame fish or burbot (ling).

**NETS (Use of)**  
Use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

## West Central Montana FISHING DISTRICT 2



**FISHING SEASONS**  
**STREAMS**  
Open third Saturday in May through November, with the following exceptions:  
Open Entire Year — Clark Fork River below Warm Springs Creek in Deer Lodge; Clearwater River below the Lake Inez fish barrier, Big Blackfoot River below Scotty Brown bridge, Bitterroot River below the Stevensville bridge.  
Closed Entire Year — Rattlesnake Creek and tributary streams from the Missoula water supply dam of the Montana Power Company to its source, Basin Creek from the lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to its source, including all reservoirs and tributaries. Silver Creek above Saltese water supply intake.  
**LAKES AND RESERVOIRS**  
Open entire year with the following exceptions:  
Closed Entire Year — Fred Burr Lake (Phillipsburg water supply) and Georgetown Lake pump station area approximately three hundred (300) feet along the shore and one hundred (100) feet out into the lake as designated by signs and buoys.

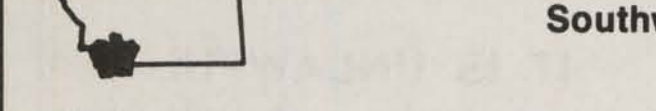
Open third Saturday in May through November — Echo Lake.  
Open third Saturday in May through October and third Saturday in December through February of the following year — Georgetown Lake.  
**SPECIAL SEASONS**  
**BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING** — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging nongame fish.  
**SNAGGING FOR SALMON** — Open September 1 through November — Georgetown Lake and tributaries and Clearwater Drainage.  
**SEAP FISHING** — Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish with the aid of rubber or spring-propelled spears in all waters open to fishing.  
**EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON** — Open December 1 through March of the following year — All waters, except waters closed entire year and waters posted as closed to fishing.

## CLARK FORK RIVER DRAINAGE (Defined as the Clark Fork River Drainage above the mouth of the Flathead River)

**SPECIAL ICE FISHING REGULATIONS**  
Special regulations apply to Georgetown and Browns Lake. Contact the Department of Fish and Game for details.  
**BAIT (Use of Live Fish for Bait)**  
Sculpins (Cottus) are the only fish that may be used live as bait. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.  
**DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS**  
Unless otherwise specified, the following limits are both daily and possession limits. Limits are in numbers of fish, except where poundage limits are specified.  
Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit. Each fisherman may take all of the following limits.  
1. Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, Golden Trout, Lake Trout, Dolly Varden and Grayling — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish or ten (10) fish, whichever is reached first, in any combination.  
2. Brook Trout — Ten (10) pounds, no number limit.  
3. Bass, Walleye and Northern Pike — Fifteen (15) in any combination.  
4. Salmon — Ten (10) except during snagging season when the daily limit shall be thirty-five (35) and possession limit seventy (70). In Georgetown Lake and tributaries the daily limit shall be thirty-five (35) and the possession limit seventy (70), whether taken by angling or snagging.  
5. Whitefish — Thirty (30) daily and sixty (60) in possession.  
There is no limit on nongame fish.

**NETS (Use of)**  
Use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

## Southwestern Montana FISHING DISTRICT 3



**FISHING SEASONS**  
**STREAMS**  
Open third Saturday in May through November, with the following exceptions:  
Open Entire Year — Gallatin River from Squaw Creek bridge to confluence with Missouri River, East Gallatin River below mouth of Botanum (Sourdough) Creek, Jefferson River, Ruby River below Ruby Dam, Madison River below Ennis Lake, Beaverhead River below Pipeorgan Bridge, Alder Gulch Creek and Dredge Ponds from the mouth to Virginia City, Mill Creek near Sheridan and Missouri River.  
Closed Entire Year — Madison River from mouth of Squaw Creek to mouth of Wolf Creek. The following streams are closed from the city water supply intake to a point one thousand (1,000) feet upstream as posted. Indian Creek near Sheridan, Rattlesnake Creek near Dillon and Middle Fork Hyalite, Bozeman (Sourdough) and Lyman Creeks near Bozeman.  
Open third Saturday in May through February of the following year — Madison River from Heben Dam to mouth of Squaw Creek and from mouth of Wolf Creek to Ennis Lake.  
Open third Saturday in July through November — East Fork and West Fork of Hyalite Creek.  
Open third Saturday in June through November — Norwegian Creek, South Willow Creek and North Willow Creek downstream from the Highway 287 bridges at Harrison to Willow Creek Reservoir.

Open third Saturday in May through September — Boulder River from its mouth upstream approximately four airline miles to the bridge in T2N, R3W, S24.  
**LAKES AND RESERVOIRS**  
Open entire year with the following exceptions:  
Open third Saturday in May through February of the following year — Wade Lake.  
Open third Saturday in June through November — Hidden Lake, Goose Lake and Otter Lake.

**SPECIAL SEASONS**  
**BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING** — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of nongame fish.  
**SEAP FISHING** — Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish and burbot (ling) with the aid of rubber or spring-propelled spears in all waters open to fishing.  
**EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON** — Open December 1 through the third Saturday in May — Big Hole River, North Fork Big Hole River, Steel Creek and Red Rock River below Lorna Reservoir.

**BOOK TROUT** — Tributaries of Big Hole River above Divide Dam and Big Hole River and tributaries above bridge at Wisdom shall be open to fishing for brook trout the entire year.  
**MADISON RIVER — SPECIAL REGULATIONS**  
Madison River from Quake Lake outlet to mouth of

## JEFFERSON RIVER, MADISON RIVER AND GALLATIN RIVER DRAINAGES

Squaw Creek (mouth of Squaw Creek to mouth of Wolf Creek closed to fishing) and from mouth of Wolf Creek to McAtee Bridge — catch and release fishing only for trout and grayling. Artificial lures only (see definition under Lures and Bait). Fishing from boats not allowed.  
Madison River from McAtee Bridge to Ennis Lake — Sculpins not allowed for bait.  
Limit No. 1 — Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout and Grayling. Three fish per day, only one of which may be over 18 inches.  
Limits 2 through 5 are the same as those listed under DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS for the rest of the fishing district.  
**BAIT (Use of Live Fish for Bait)**  
Sculpins (Cottus) are the only fish that may be used live as bait. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.  
**DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS**  
Unless otherwise specified, the following limits are both daily and possession limits.  
Each fisherman may take all of the following limits 1 through 5.  
1. Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout and Grayling.  
**On Streams** — Five (5) fish, only one (1) of which may exceed 18 inches.  
**OR**  
**On Lakes** — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish. Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit.  
The combined daily and possession limit for a person fishing both lakes and streams is ten (10) fish.  
2. Brook Trout — Ten (10) pounds, no number limit.  
3. Bass, Sauger, Walleye and Northern Pike — Ten (10) fish in any combination.  
4. Whitefish — Thirty (30) fish daily and sixty (60) fish in possession.  
5. Salmon — Ten (10) fish.  
There is no limit on nongame fish or burbot (ling).

**NETS (Use of)**  
Use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).



## Central Montana

## FISHING DISTRICT 4

**FISHING SEASONS**  
**STREAMS**  
Open second Saturday in June through February of the following year — Eyaud (Arod) Lakes.  
Open third Saturday in May through November, with the following exceptions:  
Open Entire Year — Missouri River, Sun River below Gibson Dam, Pondera Coulee, Judith River below its confluence with Big Spring Creek, Cut Bank Creek below Blackfoot Indian Reservation Boundary, Belt Creek below bridge at Riceville, Smith River below the confluence of North and South Forks Smith River, Big Spring Creek near Lewistown, Dearborn River and that portion of North Fork Dearborn River below the high bridge on Highway 434, Teton River below U.S. Highway 89, Marias River, Musseshell River below the bridge at Barber.  
Closed Entire Year — Midvale Creek and the intake reservoir from the intake of the Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to the Glacier Park Boundary. O'Brien Creek above the Neilhart public water intake, Willow Creek and its tributaries from the White Sulphur Springs public water intake to its source, Missouri River immediately below Morony Dam, and Canyon Ferry Dam as posted; Missouri River 175 feet below Holter Dam; that portion of Giant Springs at Great Falls enclosed by the concrete walks and masonry work; Big Spring Creek in Fergus County at the state fish hatchery as posted.

**LAKES AND RESERVOIRS**  
Open entire year with the following exceptions:  
Closed Entire Year — A portion of Lake Frances around the Conrad water supply outlet as posted, Sheffield Pond located in Cascade County, approximately two hundred (200) yards of Nilan Reservoir's shoreline as posted, Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted, Toston Dam structure as posted, Holter Reservoir between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., Mountain Standard Time or Daylight Savings Time, whichever is in effect.  
Open entire year with the following exceptions:  
Closed Entire Year — A portion of Lake Frances around the Conrad water supply outlet as posted, Sheffield Pond located in Cascade County, approximately two hundred (200) yards of Nilan Reservoir's shoreline as posted, Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted, Toston Dam structure as posted, Holter Reservoir between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., Mountain Standard Time or Daylight Savings Time, whichever is in effect.

**SPECIAL SEASONS**  
**BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING** — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish.  
**SETLINE FISHING** — Anglers may use up to six (6) untended setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in the following waters:  
Open Entire Year — Lake Frances, except portion closed as posted, Missouri River from bridge at Cascade to Black Eagle Dam, Missouri River below Morony Dam, Teton River below U.S. Highway 89, Marias River in its entirety (including Tiber Reservoir), Split Rock Lake, Pishkun Reservoir.  
Open December 1 through March of the following year — Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam in the Marias River including Tiber Reservoir and in all streams and drainage canals of the Muddy Creek drainage near Vaughn and Musseshell River below the bridge at Lavina.  
Open second Saturday in June through February of the following year — Eyaud (Arod) Lakes.  
**SNAGGING FOR SALMON** — Open September 1 through January of the following year — Helena Valley Reservoir, Pishkun Reservoir, Byrum Reservoir, including inlet and outlet streams.  
**SPEAR FISHING** — Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish and burbot (ling) with the aid of rubber or spring-propelled spears in all waters open to fishing.  
Open December 1 through February of the following year — Northern pike and nongame fish by spear or gig; Eyaud (Arod) Lakes.  
Open December 1 through March of the following year — Northern pike, walleye, sauger and nongame fish by spear or gig.

**CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS** — The following waters as posted, will be open to persons twelve (12) years of age and under the entire year. — Spring Creek from the Milwaukee Bridge to Charles Fellows fence below Choteau, Elk Creek (South Fork Sun River) from Auchard Bridge to Boone Bridge in the town of Augusta, and Fairgrounds Pond, Helena.  
**SPECIAL ICE FISHING REGULATIONS**  
Special regulations apply to Lake Frances, Deadman's Basin Reservoir, Hauser Lake and Lake Helena. Contact the Department of Fish and Game for details.

**BAIT (Use of Live Fish for Bait)**  
The use of sculpins (Cottus) is allowed in all waters. Other nongame fish (except carp or goldfish) may be used in the Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam in the Marias River including Tiber Reservoir and in all streams and drainage canals of the Muddy Creek drainage near Vaughn and Musseshell River below the bridge at Lavina.

**DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS**  
Unless otherwise specified, the following limits are both daily and possession limits. Limits are in numbers of fish, except where poundage limits are specified.  
Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit. Each fisherman may take all of the following limits.  
1. Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, Golden Trout, Lake Trout and Grayling — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish or ten (10) fish, whichever is reached first, in any combination, except in streams of the Sun River Drainage above Gibson Reservoir and in the Smith River from its mouth to the mouth of Sheep Creek where not more than two (2) cutthroat and/or rainbow trout may be included in this bag and possession limit.  
2. Brook Trout — Ten (10) pounds, no number limit, except in Flatwillow Creek and tributaries and McDonald Creek and tributaries in Petroleum and Fergus counties where the limit is ten (10) fish.  
3. Bass, Sauger, Walleye — Ten (10) in any combination.  
4. Northern Pike — Five (5).  
5. Salmon — Ten (10) except during snagging seasons when the daily limit shall be thirty-five (35) and seventy (70) in possession.  
6. Whitefish — Thirty (30) daily and sixty (60) in possession.  
7. Paddlefish — One (1) daily and two (2) in possession.  
There is no limit on nongame fish, catfish, burbot (ling), shovelnose sturgeon or pallid sturgeon.

**NETS (Use of)**  
In waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:  
1. With seines not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or  
2. With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.  
A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).



## South Central Montana

## FISHING DISTRICT 5

**FISHING SEASONS**  
**STREAMS**  
Open third Saturday in May through November, with the following exceptions:  
Open Entire Year — Clarks Fork Yellowstone River, Yellowstone River and Bluewater Creek, Boulder River (Main Boulder River), Stillwater River, Rock Creek and Red Lodge Creek below Cooney Dam.  
Open August 1 through November — Lightning Creek.  
Closed Entire Year — West Fork of Rock Creek from the Red Lodge city water intake to the mouth of Washoe Creek as posted.

**LAKES AND RESERVOIRS**  
Open Entire Year with the following exception: Open August 1 through April 30 of the following year — Lightning Lakes.  
**SPECIAL SEASONS**  
**BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING** — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of nongame fish.  
**SNAGGING FOR SALMON** — September 1 through January of the following year — Dailey Lake.  
**SETLINE FISHING** — Anglers may use up to six (6) untended setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in the following waters:  
Open Entire Year — Clarks Fork Yellowstone River below the bridge at Bridger.  
**SPEAR FISHING** — Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish with the aid of rubber or spring-propelled spears in all waters open to fishing.  
**EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON** — Open December 1 through March of the following year. All waters.  
**OTHER** — In the lakes of the Bearfoot and Absaroka Mountain areas of Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Park Counties the daily and possession limit on golden, cutthroat, rainbow, brown and lake trout, and grayling shall be ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish (no number limit), except for Cooney Reservoir, West Rosebud, East Rosebud, Emerald, Crater, Dailey, Wild Bill, Kersey, Rock Island, No Ketchum, Blue, Picket Pin, Greengough Lakes and Lake Abundance where the limit on these species shall be ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish.

**BAIT (Use of Live Fish for Bait)**  
Sculpins (Cottus) are the only fish that may be used live as bait. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.  
**DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS**  
Each fisherman may take all of the following limits 1 through 6.  
1. Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout and Grayling.  
**On Streams** — Five (5) fish, only one (1) of which may exceed 18 inches.  
**OR**  
**On Lakes** — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish. Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit.  
The combined daily and possession limit for a person fishing both lakes and streams is ten (10) fish.

**NETS (Use of)**  
Use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

## UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER DRAINAGE (Defined as the Yellowstone River Drainage above and including Clarks Fork Yellowstone River)

2. Brook Trout — Ten (10) pounds, no number limit.  
3. Walleye, Sauger, Bass and Northern Pike — Ten (10) fish in any combination.  
4. Salmon — Ten (10) fish, except during the snagging season when the daily limit shall be thirty-five (35) fish and possession limit seventy (70) fish.  
5. Whitefish — Thirty (30) fish daily, and sixty (60) fish in possession.  
6. Paddlefish — One (1) fish daily and two (2) fish in possession.  
There is no limit on nongame fish, catfish, burbot (ling), shovelnose sturgeon or pallid sturgeon.  
**NETS (Use of)**  
Use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).



## Northeastern Montana

## FISHING DISTRICT 6

**FISHING SEASONS**  
**ALL WATERS**  
Open Entire Year with the following exceptions:  
Closed Entire Year — Wind Creek from Clear Creek road crossing to its source, excluding Ross Reservoir. Missouri River below the outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted.  
Open third Saturday in May through November — Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in the Bearpaw Mountains.

**SPECIAL SEASONS**  
**BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING** — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish.  
**SETLINE FISHING** — Anglers may use up to six (6) untended setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in the following waters:  
Open Entire Year — Missouri River and dredge cuts (excluding the Dredge Cut Trout Pond), Musseshell River below the bridge at Lavina, Milk River and its impoundments (including Fort Peck Reservoir, Lone Tree Creek and its impoundments, Poplar River, Redwater River, Fort Peck Reservoir, (excluding Flat Lake, and the Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Reservoir south from and including Sand Arroyo and Box Elder Creek Bays), Ester Reservoir, McNeil Slough, Medicine Lake, and Nelson Reservoir. In Nelson Reservoir each setline (including jugs) must be clearly marked with owner's name and address.  
Open December 1 through March of the following year — All lakes and reservoirs.  
Open April 1 through November — Anglers may use up to two (2) untended setlines with not more than two (2) hooks per line in the following waters: The Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Reservoir south from and including Sand Arroyo and Box Elder Creek Bays. Setlines shall not be suspended from free-floating jugs or other devices. This does not prohibit the use of floats or bobbers attached to poles or bank lines.  
**SPEAR FISHING** — Persons swimming or submerged may take fish with the aid of rubber or spring-propelled spears as follows:  
Nongame fish — all waters open to fishing.  
Game fish, except Bass — Fort Peck and Nelson Reservoirs.  
Open December 1 through March of the following year — Northern Pike, Walleye, Sauger and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from all waters.

**BAIT (Use of Live Fish for Bait)**  
The use of sculpins (Cottus) is allowed in all waters. Other nongame fish (except carp or goldfish) may be used in the Dredge Cut Trout Pond; Kuester Reservoir in Richland Co.; Cole Pond, Frenchman Reservoir, McChesney Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Little Warm Reservoir, Ester Reservoir, and McNeil Reservoir in Phillips Co.; Killenbeck Reservoir in Daniels Co.; Engstrom Reservoir, Raymond Reservoir & Medicine Lake in Sheridan Co.; Bainville Railroad Ponds in Roosevelt Co.; Fort Peck Reservoir (excluding Flat Lake), Milk River and its impoundments below Fresno Reservoir, Lone Tree Creek and its impoundments, and all streams and rivers, except the Milk River and its tributaries above Fresno Reservoir and streams south of Highway 2 which originate in the Bearpaw Mountains.

**DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS**  
Unless otherwise specified, the following limits are both daily and possession limits. Limits are in numbers of fish, except where poundage limits are specified.  
Each fisherman may take all of the following limits.  
1. All Trout, Salmon, Grayling and Whitefish — Ten (10) in any combination.  
2. Walleye and Sauger — Ten (10) in any combination.  
3. Northern Pike — Five (5).  
4. Paddlefish — One (1) daily and two (2) in possession.  
There is no limit on nongame fish, bass, catfish, burbot (ling), shovelnose sturgeon or pallid sturgeon.

**NETS (Use of)**  
A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).  
**HOOP NETS** — Hoop nets without wings or leads may be used to take nongame fish, catfish, burbot (ling), shovelnose sturgeon and pallid sturgeon in the Milk River downstream from Highway 2 bridge below Dodson Dam except from Vandalia Dam to a point one-quarter (¼) mile downstream in the Missouri River below the mouth of the Milk River. Each net must be clearly marked with the owner's name and address.  
**Minnow Seines and Traps** — In all waters where the use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:  
1. With a seine not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or  
2. With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.



## Southeastern Montana

## FISHING DISTRICT 7

**FISHING SEASONS**  
**ALL WATERS**  
Open entire year with the following exceptions:  
Open February 1 through October — Rush Hall Pond.

**SPECIAL SEASONS**  
**BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING** — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish.  
**SETLINE FISHING** — Anglers may use up to six (6) untended setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in the following waters:  
Open Entire Year — Yellowstone River below the mouth of the Clarks Fork, Little Bighorn River from its mouth to the mouth of Lodge Grass Creek, Bighorn River below Two Leggin diversion dam, and all streams in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River, not including Tongue River Reservoir.  
Open December 1 through March of the following year — All lakes and reservoirs, except Broadview Pond and Bighorn After-bay.  
**SPEAR FISHING** — Persons swimming or submerged may

take fish with the aid of rubber or spring-propelled spears as follows:  
Nongame fish — All waters open to fishing.  
Game fish — Tongue River Reservoir.  
Open December 1 through March of the following year — Northern Pike, Walleye, Sauger, and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from all waters downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River.

**DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS**  
Unless otherwise specified, the following limits are both daily and possession limits. Limits are in numbers of fish except where poundage limits are specified.  
Each fisherman may take all of the following limits.  
1. All Trout, Salmon, Grayling and Whitefish — Ten (10) in any combination, except Bighorn River Drainage where the limit shall be ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish.  
2. Sauger and Walleye — Ten (10) in any combination.  
3. Northern Pike — Five (5).  
4. Paddlefish — One (1) daily and two (2) in possession.

## LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER and LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER DRAINAGES (Defined as the Yellowstone River Drainage below and excluding the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River, and all other drainages in Montana southeast of the Yellowstone River)

There is no limit on nongame fish, bass, catfish, burbot (ling), shovelnose sturgeon and pallid sturgeon.  
**NETS (Use of)**  
A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).  
**HOOP NETS** — Hoop nets without wings or leads may be used to take nongame fish, catfish, burbot (ling), shovelnose sturgeon and pallid sturgeon in the Yellowstone River downstream from the mouth of Bighorn River (except for approximately two hundred (200) yards below all irrigation diversion dams). Each net must be clearly marked with the owner's name and address.  
**Minnow Seines and Traps** — In all waters where the use of live fish and other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:  
1. With a seine not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or  
2. With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.