

1984-1985 MONTANA FISHING REGULATIONS

VALID MAY 1, 1984 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1985

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following dates and regulations for the 1984-85 fishing season are adopted.
Montana Fish and Game Commission
James W. Flynn, Secretary
January 6, 1984

To be in full force and effect through Feb. 28, 1985. All regulations are subject to change by the commission.

COLOR CODES

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

FISHING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

CLOSED TO FISHING ALL YEAR

SEASONS, HOURS, LIMITS, TACKLE OR FISHING FROM BOATS MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN STANDARD REGULATIONS FOR DISTRICT, ALSO CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS

INDIAN RESERVATIONS, NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES (Contact Agency for any Additional Restrictions)

FISHING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT includes all waters in Montana west of the Continental Divide.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT includes all waters in Montana lying east of the Continental Divide (including the Belly and St. Mary Drainages) and waters lying west of the following described boundary: Interstate 15 from Montana-Canadian border south to Northwest Bypass Junction near Great Falls, east on said Bypass to Smelter Avenue, east on Smelter Avenue to 15th Street, south on said street to north bank of Missouri River, east along high water mark of Missouri River to Black Eagle Dam, across said dam and following high water mark along the south bank of the Missouri River, easterly to State Route 80 at Fort Benton; southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 191 northeasterly along U.S. Highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87, south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12, west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3, south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 94, northeasterly on Interstate 94 to its junction with Interstate 90, easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the Montana-Wyoming border.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT includes all waters lying east of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District.

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HOW TO USE THESE REGULATIONS

The regulations for each fishing district have been organized into five sections:

1. Standard, Daily and Possession Limits;
2. Fishing seasons;
3. Special regulations;
4. Bait;
5. Nets.

Fishing seasons are divided by Standard Season, Exceptions-Restrictive and Exceptions-Liberal.

We suggest that in reading these regulations you:

1. Acquaint yourself with the Statewide Standard Regulations on opposite side.
2. Locate on the map the area where you plan to fish. Note if there is any color (red, yellow, or pink) in the area and which fishing district you will be fishing in.
3. Turn the sheet over and find the appropriate district regulations, if there is no color on the map in the area where you intend to fish the Standard Daily and Possession Limits plus Standard Fishing Seasons for this district (along with the Standard Statewide Regulations) will tell all you have to know for regular fishing with a single line.
4. Scan the Exceptions — Liberal for the fishing district for any of the more liberal regulations you may want to take advantage of.

If the area where you plan to fish is flagged with red or yellow on the map, there are special restrictions which you must become aware of. These will be found in the Exceptions — Restrictive or Special Regulations for the district adjacent to the color bar for the color involved.

A water in one of the pink areas on the map is in either an Indian Reservation, National Park, or National Wildlife Refuge. You should ask the appropriate agency for a copy of its fishing regulations.

*Yellowstone - non fee permit required.
Indian Res. charge in addition to license*

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A fishing license is a permit for lawful holder thereof to fish for and possess any fish within the state as authorized by fishing regulations. This includes commercial whitefishing in which case the license must be validated by an authorized Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department employee. There is no charge for this validation.

Residents — Each resident 15 years and older must have a resident fishing license in order to fish. Residents 12 through 14 years of age must have a conservation license to fish. Residents under the age of 12 need no license to fish 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.

Residents who are certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by rules of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks must have a "Disabled Persons Conservation License" in order to fish.

Nonresidents — All nonresidents 15 years and older must have a fishing license to fish. No nonresident under the age of 15 years may fish in Montana without having obtained a fishing license unless the nonresident under the age of 15 years is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult.

A nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish.

FISHING LICENSES LICENSE FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE

RESIDENT LICENSES

Residency — in order to apply for a resident Montana hunting or fishing license one must be a legal resident of Montana for a period of six months immediately prior to making application.

Except for holders of Resident Sportsman Licenses, conservation licenses are prerequisite to purchase of fishing licenses.

Conservation License \$ 2.00

Residents 12 through 14 years of age and residents 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish and hunt upland game birds other than turkeys.

Resident Disabled Persons Conservation License.

Residents who are certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by rules of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, may apply for an annual "disabled persons conservation license" which authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds other than turkeys \$ 2.00

Resident Fishing License \$ 8.00

Resident Sportsman's License \$ 35.00
(includes Conservation, 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 black bear, game birds and fishing licenses)

Paddlefish Tags Two for \$ 3.00
(needed for Yellowstone River) limit of two in 1984.

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.

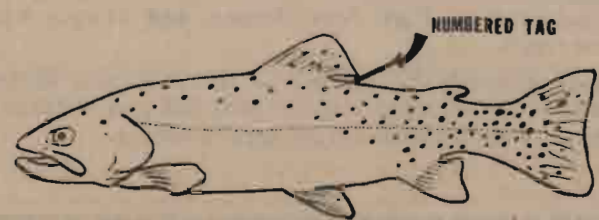
Nonresident Conservation License \$ 2.00
(See "License Requirements", this page)

Nonresident Season Fishing License \$ 30.00

Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (2 day) \$ 6.00

Nonresident Paddlefish Tag Two for \$ 3.00
(needed for Yellowstone River) limit of two in 1984

Nonresident Fish, Bird and Big Game License \$309.00
(available from Helena, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks office only) includes an elk tag, deer "A" tag, black bear tag, authorizes hunting of game birds and fishing. Quota of 17,000.



If you catch a tagged fish, please advise the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the:

1. Tag number and color
2. Date fish was caught
3. Species of fish
4. Length and Weight (close as possible)
5. Location of Catch (river — lake and specific area in miles from or to the nearest landmark)
6. Name and address of fisherman.

COLOR CODES
Closed or limited to fishing all year.
Dates, hours or limits more restrictive than general.

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 limits 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 number or pounds of fish which may be in one person's possession anytime 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.

A person fishing on a water may possess only the limit allowed for that water.

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.

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 may be used live for bait statewide, except in waters limited to artificial lures and in the Madison River between McAtee Bridge and

STANDARD STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS

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.

Persons fishing in waters closed to the use of live fish for bait may not have live bait fish in their immediate possession.

CHECKING STATIONS:

Fishermen and hunters are required to stop at checking stations on their routes of travel to and from fishing and hunting areas.

FISHING HOURS: Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons except on Holter Lake.

ICE FISHING SHELTERS:

Special regulations on ice fishing shelters apply in: Bearpaw Lake, Beaver Creek Reservoir, Browns Lake (near O'vando), Deadman's Basin Reservoir, Echo Lake (near Anaconda), Lake Helena

See ice fishing shelter regulations available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

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 artificial lures, 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.

These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Setlines may be used as provided under district regulations. Setlines are lines that may be unattended. They may include poles and tips.

CLOSED WATERS:

All waters operated by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Water in which the Department of Fish and Wildlife Parks is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water supply lakes and streams and hatcheries 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 the 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, Wildlife and Parks.

SIZE OF HOLE FOR ICE FISHING:

The maximum size hole that may be cut for ice fishing is 144 square inches. This does not apply to waters open to fishing through the ice with spear or gig.

It is unlawful to transport or introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any water, to release or show any 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 canicide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or noxious 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 lure or retain an unlicensed outfit or guide;

to waste any part of game fish suitable for food;

It is unlawful to operate upon waters waters a boat which is not properly licensed and numbered with registration card carried in boat;

to use carrying equipment required by the Montana Water Safety law (copies available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks);

does not have one serviceable, Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each passenger plus one type IV PFD in boats over 16 feet. Persons under 12 years old must wear PFD's when boat is in motion and is less than 26 feet long.

Third Saturday in May through November. Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard-Statewide Regulations.

Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and bull trout (Dolly Varden).

Catch and Release Only.

Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

Rock Creek front from its mouth to mouth of Butte Cabin Creek and from mouth of Big Hogback Creek to mouth of West Fork of Rock Creek.

Third Saturday in May through November, artificial lures only, for periods 15 years and older. Fisherman 14 years and younger may use bait. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard-Statewide Regulations.

Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and bull trout (Dolly Varden). Three (3) fish per day, only one (1) of which may exceed 14 inches. This is both a daily and possession limit.

Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing districts.

SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER South Fork Flathead River from Meadow Creek bridge down to Spotted Bear footbridge

Third Saturday in May through November — catch and release for cutthroat trout only with artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard-Statewide Regulations.

Limit Number 1. Brown trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling and bull trout (Dolly Varden) — five (5) fish only one of which may exceed 14 inches. No more than one (1) bull trout (Dolly Varden) may be included in the daily catch.

Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

SWAN RIVER

Swan River from Ferndale bridge to mouth of Bear Creek

December 1 to third Saturday in May — catch and release with artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard-Statewide Regulations.

Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling and bull trout (Dolly Varden) **catch and release** only.

Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

THOMPSON RIVER Thompson River from mouth of West Fork Thompson River to mouth of Deernhorn Creek

Third Saturday in May through November — catch and release with artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard-Statewide Regulations.

Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling and bull trout (Dolly Varden) **catch and release** only.

Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

WOODS LAKE Entire year — catch and release with artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard-Statewide Regulations.

Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling and bull trout (Dolly Varden) **catch and release** only.

Limits 2 Through 7 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 Standard-Statewide Regulations.

NETS

(Use of Live Fish for Bait)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish. The 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).

Streams — Open third Saturday in May through November.

Lakes — Open entire year.

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EXCEPTIONS — RESTRICTIVE

(waters marked with color on map)

STREAMS

Closed Entire Year

Missouri River immediately downstream of Canyon Ferry Dam as posted.

Missouri River — fishing from Holter Dam, abutment and spillway structures below the Dam.

Central Fishing District Continued

Midvale Creek and Intake Reservoir from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to Glacier Park boundary

O'Brien Creek upstream of Neihaar public water intake

Toston Dam structure as posted. Willow Creek and its tributaries from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to its source

The following streams are closed from city water supply intake to a point one thousand (1,000) feet upstream as posted:

Bozeman (Sourdough), near Bozeman Indian Creek near Sheridan Lyman Creek near Bozeman Middle Fork Hyalite near Bozeman Rattlesnake Creek near Dillon West Fork of Rock Creek at Red Lodge

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 (also see restriction below on Willow Creek Arm of Harrison Lake).

Open third Saturday in May through September — Boulder River from its mouth (near Cardwell) upstream approximately four airline miles to the bridge in T2N, R3W, S24

Open August 1 through November:

Lightning Creek

LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

Closed Entire Year:

A portion of Lake Frances around Conrad water supply outlet as posted

Open third Saturday in May through February of following year: Wade Lake (Madison County) Willow Creek Arm of Harrison Reservoir as posted (also, see restrictions above on North and South Willow creeks)

Open third Saturday in June through November: Rock Creek from its mouth to mouth of Butte Cabin Creek and from mouth of Big Hogback Creek to mouth of West Fork of Rock Creek.

Open second Saturday in June through February of following year: Eyrad (Arod) Lakes

Closed between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m., Mountain Standard Time or Daylight Savings Time, whichever is in effect:

Holter Reservoir

EXCEPTIONS LIBERAL

STREAMS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR

Alder Gulch Creek and Dredge Ponds from the mouth to Virginia City

Beaverhead River downstream of Pipeorgan Bridge

Belt Creek downstream of bridge at Riceville

Big Spring Creek (Main Stem) Fergus Co.

Bighorn River

Bluemaver Creek

Boulder River (Main Stem) Park and Sweet Grass Co.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River

Cut Bank Creek downstream of Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary

Deernhorn River downstream from bridge on Highway 434

East Gallatin River downstream from mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek

Gallatin River

Jefferson River

Little Bighorn River

See Special Catch & Release on Bighorn R. 7/20/04

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See Special Catch & Release on Bighorn R. 7/20/04

Madison River from Hebgen Dam to Varney Bridge and downstream of Ennis Lake

Marias River

Milk Creek in Madison Co.

Missouri River

Red Lodge Creek downstream from Cooney Dam

Rock Creek (Main Stem) Carbon Co.

Ruby River downstream from Ruby Dam

Smith River downstream from the confluence of North and South Forks Smith River

Stillwater River (Main Stem) Stillwater Co.

Sn Sun River downstream from Gibson Dam

Teton River downstream from U.S. Highway 89

Warm Springs Creek in Fergus Co.

Yellowstone River

Open third Saturday in May through February of the following year:

Madison River from Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake

Open December 1 to third Saturday in May — **catch-and-release fishing only, artificial lures only; see "Lures and Bait" under Standard-Statewide Regulations.**

Armstrong Spring Creek

Piedoxter Slough

EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON — Open December 1 to the third Saturday in May.

Big Hole River

North Fork Big Hole River

Red Rock River downstream from Lima Reservoir

Sweet Creek

Yellowstone River drainage, all waters

COMMERCIAL WHITEFISH FISHING — Open entire year for the catching of whitefish for commercial sale.

Missouri River from Holter Dam to Black Eagle Dam

Yellowstone River

OPEN YEAR-AROUND FOR BROOK TROUT — Tributaries of Big Hole River upstream from Divide A and Big Hole River and tributaries upstream from bridge at Wisdom

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 — Open September 1 through December:

Ackley Lake

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir

Pishkun Reservoir

Shoshone Reservoir

Split Rock Lake

Yellowstone River downstream of mouth of Clarks Fork

Open through the ice only:

Canyon Ferry Reservoir

Hauser Lake

Helena Valley Reservoir

Big Muddy Creek

Open second Saturday in June through February of following year — Eyrad (Arod) Lakes.

SEAR FISHING — Persons swimming or submerged