



All paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, must purchase the proper prerequisite conservation license, fishing license and paddlefish tag (see License Requirements). All licenses must be in the angler's immediate possession while fishing.

Daily and Possession Limits

1 paddlefish per season per angler. Anglers may select only one of the following areas, and may only fish in the area selected:

- Upper Missouri River, upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton - white tag
- Yellowstone River or Lower Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam -yellow tag
- Fort Peck Dredge Cuts (west of Park Grove Bridge and Nelson Dredge) on the lower Missouri River - blue tag

General Paddlefish Regulations for ALL Areas

- Each angler must cast for, hook and reel in his or her own paddlefish. It is unlawful for another person to do so. It is illegal to loan tags or use another angler's tag.
- Hook size is limited to 8/0 and smaller for all paddlefish snagging.
- Gaffs, no longer than 4.5 feet in length, may be used to land a paddlefish that will be tagged. Gaffs may not be used to land a paddlefish that will be released.
- Any tag locked shut prior to attachment to a paddlefish shall be void and is not replaceable. Any altered or modified tag shall be void. Voided tags are not replaceable.
- Paddlefish must be tagged immediately upon harvest.
- It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or part of one. If anglers cut up a paddlefish, they must keep the part of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) where the tag is attached and sealed to the fish.
- Tags must remain with processed fish until consumption.
- When a paddlefish is captured and tagged, the fish must be removed from the river by the end of the day (9:00 PM, MST).

Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Dam

- The paddlefish fishery is managed under an annual harvest target not to exceed 500 fish. FWP may close the harvest season within 24 hours notice in any year if it appears that the harvest target may be exceeded. Catch-and-release would continue for the duration of the season. Call the Glasgow FWP office at 406-228-3700 for current information on harvest status.

Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam and the Yellowstone River

- The paddlefish fishery is managed under a harvest target in conjunction with North Dakota. Montana has set regulations so that annual harvest will not exceed 1000 fish. FWP may close the season within 24 hours notice in any year if it appears that the harvest target may be exceeded, and immediately at the Intake FAS and downstream to Cottonwood Creek, when it is estimated that the target has been reached. Call the Miles City FWP office at 406-234-0900 for current information on harvest status.
- The Montana nonprofit corporation designated to accept paddlefish egg donations for the caviar market is authorized to transport lawfully taken and tagged paddlefish donated by the angler in accordance with guidelines developed and implemented through the annual MOU. Paddlefish taken on the Yellowstone River between the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge at Glendive and the North Dakota state line and donated by the angler at the Intake FAS or at the Sidney Bridge FAS are eligible for transport by designated individuals.

FORT PECK DREDGE CUTS (west of Park Grove Bridge and Nelson Dredge) ____

- Bow and Arrow: open July 1 through August 31 for paddlefish. 1 paddlefish per angler. An unused blue paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish.
- Combined Trout: 2 rainbow trout daily and in possession.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line on open water and 6 lines with 6 hooks per line through the ice.
- Snagging: no snagging allowed.

MISSOURI RIVER

Entire river

- Snagging: it is illegal to snag for fish other than paddlefish on the Missouri River downstream from Fort Benton; any fish other than paddlefish must be immediately released alive. Snagging nongame fish is allowed on the Missouri River upstream from Fort Benton only.

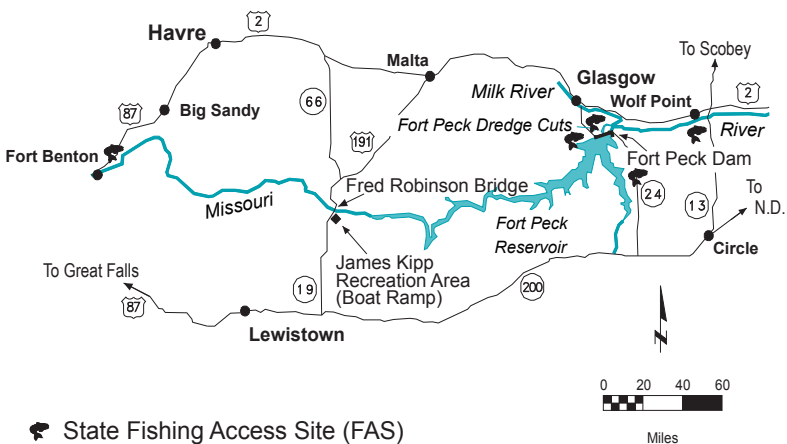
Upstream from Fort Peck Dam

- Paddlefish snagging: open to harvesting paddlefish from May 1 to June 15 (unless closed earlier by FWP) from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST) daily. An unused white paddlefish tag is required to harvest a paddlefish. All paddlefish captured must either be tagged and kept, or released immediately. See Eastern District Standard Regulations for additional important paddlefish information.
- Catch-and-release snagging for paddlefish is open from May 1 to June 15. Proof of purchase of a white paddlefish tag on your fishing license is required for catch-and-release fishing. All paddlefish must be released immediately and may not be gaffed or lifted out of the water. Captured fish must remain at least partially submerged in water at all times (to avoid injury to the fish).
- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be sauger.

Downstream from Fort Peck Dam

- Paddlefish snagging: open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays May 15 through June 30 from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST) daily, unless closed to harvest earlier by FWP. Paddlefish snagging is closed on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays. An unused yellow paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first paddlefish caught and landed. See Eastern District Standard Regulations for additional important paddlefish information.
- Catch-and-release snagging for paddlefish is not permitted.

Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Dam



YELLOWSTONE RIVER

Downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River, not including Intake Fishing Access Site

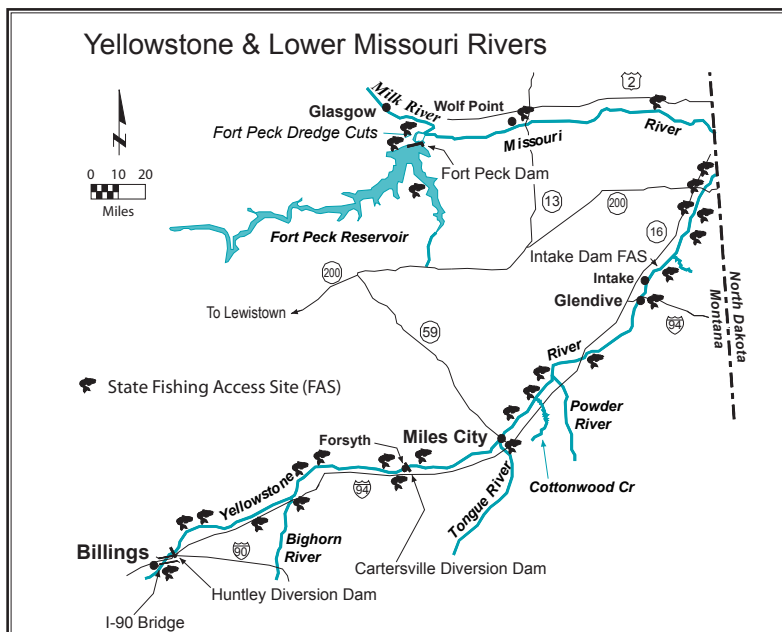
- Catch-and-release snagging for paddlefish is allowed ONLY at the Intake FAS (see the Intake FAS below). Catch-and-release for paddlefish is not permitted on any other section of the Yellowstone River or on the Missouri River below Fort Peck Dam.
- Snagging: It is illegal to snag for fish, other than paddlefish, downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River on the Yellowstone River, or downstream from Fort Peck Dam on the Missouri River. Any fish other than paddlefish must be immediately released alive.
- Paddlefish Snagging: Open May 15 through June 30 from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST), on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays only, unless closed to harvest earlier by FWP. Paddlefish snagging is closed on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays. An unused yellow paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first paddlefish caught and landed. See Eastern District Standard Regulations for additional information.

Intake Fishing Access Site

- Paddlefish Snagging: open for harvesting paddlefish May 15 through June 30 from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST), on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, unless closed to harvest earlier by FWP. An unused yellow paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first paddlefish caught and landed. It is unlawful to release a paddlefish except on designated catch-and-release days during the open season for paddlefish.
- Catch-and-release snagging for paddlefish is allowed May 15 through June 30 from 6 AM to 9 PM (MST), on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays unless closed earlier by FWP. Evidence of a current year yellow paddlefish tag must be in possession to fish for paddlefish. All paddlefish must be released immediately and may not be gaffed or lifted out of the water. Captured fish must remain at least partially submerged in water at all times (to avoid injury to the fish). Following the harvest closure, catch-and-release snagging will be allowed for 10 consecutive days or through June 30, whichever comes first.
- Snagging: It is illegal to snag for fish other than paddlefish.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line all year.

Intake Diversion Dam to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted

- Snagging: It is illegal to snag for fish other than paddlefish.
- Closed May 15 through June 30 to fishing or snagging from boats/vessels.



To Tag a Paddlefish—

- Cut a small hole in the base of the dorsal fin (see illustration).
- Insert the metal loop portion of the plastic self-locking tag through this hole and seal tag.
- The metal loop must penetrate the fish so as to make the plastic self-locking tag non-removable when tag is sealed.
- The plastic self-locking tag must be completely sealed so it cannot be reopened.

Any fish not tagged in accordance with these instructions shall be considered to be untagged. You must have your conservation and paddlefish license in your possession to fish for or/and take paddlefish.

Tag Use



Closed



Open

IMPORTANT: Do not seal your self-locking tag prior to attachment to fish. They cannot be reopened and will be void if sealed prior to attachment.



Handling and Transporting Legally Taken Fish

While a person is fishing, or while on the water or on the ice:

- All fish in possession must be visibly identifiable to species.
- All fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, fins and tail attached. Gills and entrails may be removed.

Fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to your permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:

- All fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.
- Salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish): the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

Possession limit means the number of fish that you may possess at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved. It is illegal to preserve fish (salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved) before taking them to your permanent residence (the physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence) unless those fish can be counted. Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, tents or storage/freezer lockers do not qualify as permanent residences. No person may sell or take for the purpose of sale any fish except as authorized in commercial fishing regulations.

Daily limit means the number of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the water body where you are fishing specify a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch and release is allowed, fish released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the daily limit of the person originally hooking the fish, even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit. You may possess the daily limit allowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing.