

Fishing In Idaho

For anglers, Idaho is truly a land of opportunity and variety. From alpine peaks to lowland deserts and valleys, a dazzling array of waters await discovery; 26,000 miles of streams and rivers, more than 3,000 natural lakes, and a quarter-million acres of ponds and reservoirs.

Inhabiting those waters are 42 gamefish species, from giant white sturgeon to wild trout, catfish to kokanee, and smallmouth bass to salmon and steelhead. Fishing trips can be as simple as a short walk to a local pond or as challenging as a wilderness float trip; there are plenty of options from which to choose.

Whether budding angler or seasoned veteran, this guide will help you plan your next fishing adventure. From basic fishing gear and fishing tips to biology and management of key sportfish, it's all here. The guide divides the state into eight regions, allowing you to focus on specific areas; maps and information charts will help you find waters to match your fishing preferences.

Most Idaho waters have year-round fishing seasons. However, many rivers and streams and some lakes have special rules and seasons. Pick up a fishing rules brochure which outlines season

dates, special regulations and bag limits. Brochures are available at all Idaho Fish and Game offices and most sporting goods stores statewide.

Every angler 14 years old or older must have a valid license to fish in Idaho. Resident anglers under 14 may fish without a license and keep their own bag limits of fish. Nonresident anglers under 14 may fish without a license if accompanied by a license-holding adult. Purchase licenses at any local license vendor, Fish and Game office, via telephone or through Fish and Game's website:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.



Use the **Idaho Fishing Planner** on the Fish and Game website **to plan your next fishing trip. Click the Fishing Planner icon to find any stream, lake or reservoir in the state, see what fish species live there and check fishing rules.** You can even print customized maps.
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>

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Fishing Basics

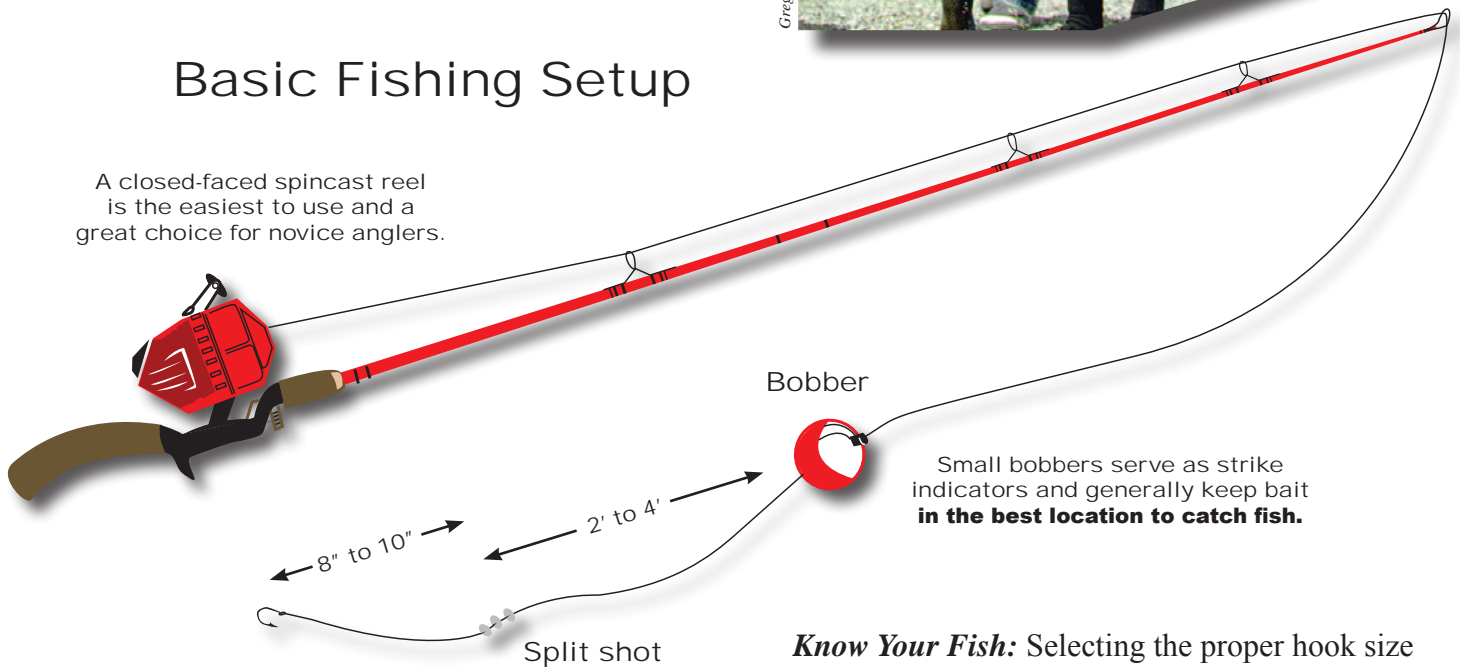
Fishing equipment can vary from a simple inexpensive rod-and-reel combination to highly specialized (and expensive) gear like fly fishing rods or line-counter reels. For the beginner, a trip to the sporting goods store can be a little overwhelming. Here are a few tips to get you and your family ready for your first Idaho fishing trip.

Start Simple: A moderately priced rod and reel combination outfit will work fine for most kinds of fishing. Look for something with a five- to six-foot medium action rod and a closed faced (push button) reel. Add to that some four- to eight-pound monofilament line, hooks in a variety of sizes, sinkers, and small bobbers and you're ready to go. See the diagram below for the basic setup.



Basic Fishing Setup

A closed-faced spincast reel is the easiest to use and a great choice for novice anglers.



Small bobbers serve as strike indicators and generally keep bait in the best location to catch fish.

Pick Your Spot: Good fishing is available across Idaho, but some spots are better for beginners and kids. Use this book to find smaller lakes and ponds close to where you live. Many of these waters are stocked with trout or have easy-to-catch bluegill lurking in the shallows. Many have picnic or park facilities, nature trails or other attractions nearby to enhance your outing.

Know Your Fish: Selecting the proper hook size and bait, and knowing how to fish it, can make all the difference. Remember that fish like bluegill and trout have small mouths, so smaller hooks (sizes 8 to 14) and bait will usually catch more of these fish. Bass and catfish have bigger mouths and tend to be more aggressive, so larger baits can be more effective. Bass and bluegill are usually found along the shoreline, but trout and catfish tend to spend their time in deeper water. Knowing just a little about fish habits can increase your chances of catching them.



Family Fishing Waters – Family Fun Hot Spots

Imagine a handful of choice fishing holes close to home where the family has a great chance to catch fish. That's the idea behind Idaho's *Family Fishing Waters* program. Across the state, select ponds, lakes, reservoirs and rivers with easy access and plenty of fish have been designated *Family Fishing Waters*. These special waters (identified in the following pages) are managed to offer simple and successful fishing experiences for kids and other novice anglers.

Brochures identifying local *Family Fishing Waters* are available at all Fish and Game regional offices. Driving directions, full-color illustrations and text to help novice anglers identify Idaho's gamefish species are all included. Additionally, the brochures provide tips on equipment, fishing techniques, care of fish for consumption, and catch and release fishing. Find the entire set of brochures online at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.



Family Fishing Waters offer easy access, simple rules and lots of fishing fun for the whole family



Dennis Hardy, IDFG



Dan Garren, IDFG

Ethical Fishing

Ethical fishing is as much about common courtesy as it is about following the regulations. These simple rules can improve everyone's fishing experience.

Please don't litter. Pick up after yourself and others. Remember that discarded fishing line is litter too. Bury fish entrails and leave your fishing location cleaner than you found it.

Don't crowd other anglers. Leave enough room between your fishing spot and theirs to avoid line tangling or other conflicts.

Ask permission to fish on private lands and treat the property as if it was your own. Idaho's trespass law is very clear.

No person may enter private land to hunt, fish or trap without permission if the land is either cultivated or posted with legible "no trespassing" signs.

Proper posting includes lettered signs or 100 square inches of fluorescent orange paint or an entire fluorescent orange metal fence post located every 660 feet around the property and at reasonable access points. In Idaho, a trespass conviction includes a mandatory one-year license revocation.

Panfish - Crappie, Bluegill and Perch

They don't call crappie and bluegill "panfish" for nothing. They're some of Idaho's best eating gamefish. Plus, they're fun – abundant and relatively easy to catch. Panfish are tailor-made for great kid fishing and provide lots of action.

Spring and early summer are the best times to fish for these species because they are spawning in shallow water close to shore. They travel in schools, and once found, the fishing can be fast and furious.

Popular destinations for **crappie** include Hayden Lake near Coeur d'Alene, Mann Lake near Lewiston, Brownlee and C.J. Strike reservoirs in southern Idaho, and Glendale Reservoir in southeast Idaho.

Bluegill are distributed across the state in many lakes and small ponds. The best fishing for bluegill is generally in the southern portion of the state.

Yellow perch are also widespread, but inhabit larger water bodies such as Magic Reservoir, C.J. Strike Reservoir and Lake Cascade.



Evin O'neale, IDFG

They don't all weigh 3 1/2 pounds!
*Nine-year-old Jason Monson caught
this state record crappie in 2003
at Brownlee Reservoir*



Evin O'neale, IDFG

*Abundant and easy to catch, bluegill
are a great choice for young anglers*

Panfishing equipment includes lightweight rods, light line (4 pound test or less), and a variety of small lures and/or bait. Perch can be caught using worms or strips of cutbait fished close to the bottom. Crappie will go after 1/16 ounce or smaller jigs with plastic bodies in a variety of colors. Bluegill can be caught on small artificial lures, worms and jigs; focus on shallow shoreline areas. Be sure to use small hooks (size 12 or smaller), small bait and a small bobber.

While there are no limits on panfish in most Idaho waters, please keep only as many fish as you can properly care for and eat.



Be Outside!
For ideas on connecting
children to nature
from backyards to mountaintops
go to:
beoutsideidaho.org



Catch and Release or Catch and Keep?

Many anglers believe the best way to ensure good fishing is to release every fish caught. While this may be true in some instances, it does not apply everywhere and in some cases may actually be counterproductive to good fish management.

Idaho's fisheries are managed with a variety of rules designed to provide diverse recreational opportunity. There are places to catch (and mostly release) large fish and other waters that provide high

catch and harvest rates. Still other areas are stocked with catchable-sized trout intended specifically for anglers to take home and eat.

Fishing regulations help protect fish populations from overharvest. Fish managers place bag or size limits on fish populations that cannot withstand heavy harvest. Abundant fish populations require less restrictive rules including six-fish limits or unlimited harvest.

Catch and Keep

Most species of Idaho gamefish are excellent eating if cared for properly. Please use fish resources wisely; keep only fish that you will use and release the rest.

- **Plan ahead.** If you intend to keep fish for eating, bring a proper storage container.
- **Get fish cleaned and on ice** as soon as possible, especially trout. Remember to leave the head and tail attached during the trip home.
- **Warm water fish** can be kept in a live well or on a stringer until you are done fishing.



Rob Parkins

Catch and Release

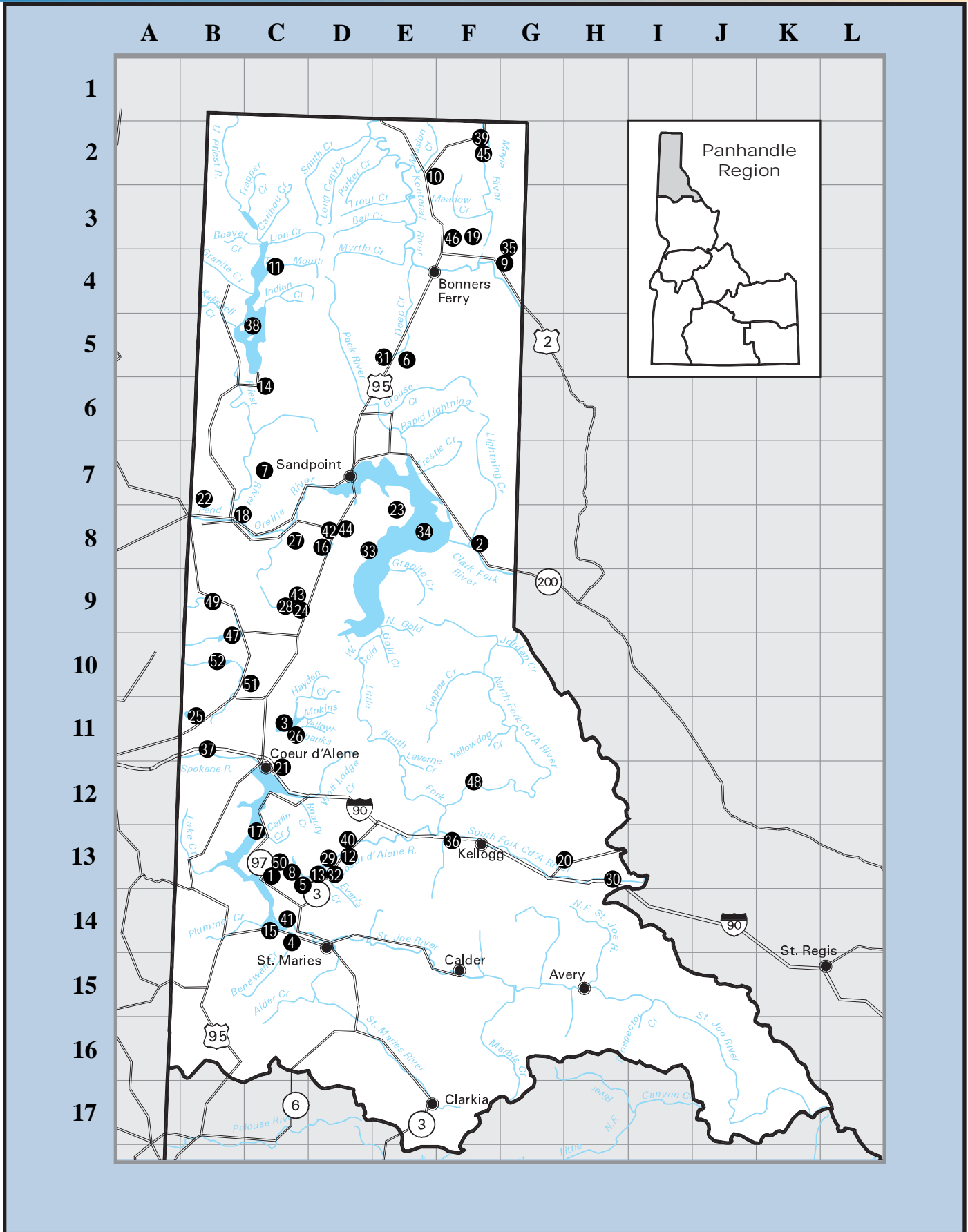
Although many fish are hardy and can be caught and released numerous times, fish survival increases with these proper handling and release techniques.

- **Use barbless hooks** to make releasing fish easier.
- **Land fish quickly** to minimize undue stress, especially in warmer water.
- **Leave hooked fish in the water** if possible. Never hold a fish by the gills. Support the belly to avoid injuring internal organs.
- **For lip-hooked fish**, hold the hook shank with a pair of pliers and pull the hook backwards with a gentle shake. If the fish is hooked more securely, wet one hand to gently grip the fish. Back the hook out with your fingers or pliers.
- **If the hook is swallowed**, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and release the fish. Most hooks will dissolve within a few weeks.



Rob Parkins

Panhandle Region Fisheries



Panhandle Region Fisheries

Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish										Warm Water Fish						Facilities									
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Tiger Muskie	Northern Pike	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access
1. Anderson Lake (720)	C13																										
2. Antelope Lake (4)*	F8	◆	◆																								
3. Avondale Lake (31)	C11																										
4. Benewah Lake (400)	C14																										
5. Black Lake (400)	C13																										
6. Bloom Lake (18)	E5	◆																									
7. Blue Lake (Bonner County) (80)	C7																										
8. Blue Lake (Kootenai County) (200)	C13																										
9. Bonner Lake (23)	G4	◆																									
10. Brush Lake (29)	E2	◆	◆																								
11. Bull Moose Pond (8)*	C4	◆																									
12. Bull Run Lake (100)	D13																										
13. Cave Lake (700)	D13																										
14. Chase Lake (100)	C6																										
15. Chatcolet Lake (600)	C14																										
16. Cocolalla Lake (800)	D8	◆	◆	◆	◆																						
17. Coeur d'Alene Lake (31,487)	C13		◆																								
18. Crystal Lake (Bonner County) (20)	C8	◆																									
19. Dawson Lake (35)	F3																										
20. Day Rock Pond (1)*	G13	◆																									
21. Fernan Lake (300)*	C12	◆	◆																								
22. Freeman Lake (30)	B7	◆																									
23. Gamble Lake (130)	E8																										
24. Granite Lake (20)*	C9																										
25. Hauser Lake (550)	B11	◆	◆																								
26. Hayden Lake (4,500)	C11	◆	◆																								
27. Jewel Lake (35)*	C8	◆																									
28. Kelso Lake (60)*	C9	◆																									
29. Killarney Lake (500)	D13																										
30. Lucky Friday Pond (2)	H13	◆																									
31. McArthur Reservoir (200)	E5	◆																									
32. Medicine Lake (340)	D13																										
33. Mirror Lake (90)	D8	◆																									
34. Pend Oreille Lake (85,960)	E8	◆	◆	◆																							
35. Perkins Lake (60)	G3																										
36. Pine Pond (1)	F13	◆																									
37. Post Falls Park Pond (1)*	B11	◆																									

* Family Fishing Waters

Table continued next page



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.

Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Clean, drain and dry to protect fishing in Idaho



Panhandle Region Fisheries

Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish										Warm Water Fish						Facilities									
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Tiger Muskie	Northern Pike	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access
38. Priest Lake (23,360)	C5	◆			◆	◆		◆		◆		◆	◆			◆			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
39. Robinson Lake (60)	F2	◆			◆								◆		◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
40. Rose Lake (300)	D13												◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
41. Round Lake (Benewah County) (400)	C14								◆			◆	◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
42. Round Lake (Bonner County) (120)*	D8	◆			◆								◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
43. Round Lake, Little (10)	C9												◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
44. Shepherd Lake (120)	D8							◆					◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
45. Sinclair Lake (3)*	F2	◆																		◆		◆					
46. Smith Lake (30)*	F3	◆	◆					◆					◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
47. Spirit lake (1,477)	B10	◆	◆		◆			◆	◆			◆	◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
48. Steamboat Pond (2)*	F12	◆																					◆	◆	◆	◆	
49. Stoneridge Reservoir (80)	B9	◆			◆							◆							◆		◆						
50. Thompson Lake (200)	C13								◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
51. Twin Lake, Lower (350)	B10	◆	◆		◆			◆	◆				◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
52. Twin Lake, Upper (500)	B10	◆	◆		◆				◆				◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Rivers and Streams																											
Clark Fork River	F8	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆				◆											◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Clearwater River, Little North Fork	H17	◆	◆			◆					◆																
Cocolalla Creek	D9	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆																				
Coeur d'Alene River, Little North Fork	E11	◆	◆		◆						◆														◆	◆	
Coeur d'Alene River, North Fork	G11	◆	◆								◆														◆	◆	
Coeur d'Alene River, South Fork	H13	◆	◆		◆						◆																
Hoodoo Creek	C8	◆	◆	◆	◆																						
Kootenai River	F3	◆	◆			◆		◆			◆																
Marble Creek	G15		◆																						◆	◆	
Moyie River	F2	◆	◆		◆						◆														◆	◆	
Pend Oreille River	C7	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆			◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Priest River	C6		◆	◆	◆		◆				◆	◆															
Priest River Tributaries	C6		◆	◆	◆		◆				◆																
Round Prairie Creek	F2				◆																						
Smith Creek	D2		◆		◆																						
Spokane River	B11	◆		◆																							
St. Joe River - Above Avery	J15		◆			◆					◆														◆	◆	
St. Joe River - Below Avery	H15	◆	◆			◆			◆		◆	◆	◆		◆										◆	◆	
St Joe River, North Fork	H14		◆		◆																				◆	◆	
St. Maries River - Above Santa	E16		◆								◆																
St. Maries River - Below Santa	D15								◆		◆	◆	◆						◆					◆	◆	◆	

* Family Fishing Waters



Bass Fishing in Idaho

For a Rocky Mountain state most famous for its trout fishing, Idaho has some remarkably good bass fishing on scenic and relatively uncrowded waters. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass can be found from the low elevation lakes in Idaho's Panhandle to the rivers, lakes and reservoirs in southern and southeast Idaho. Smallmouth bass tend to be found along the rocky shorelines of larger lakes and low elevation rivers, while largemouth bass prefer the warmer water of smaller lakes and reservoirs or the shallow bays of large lakes. Both species are popular with anglers because they are aggressive predators that will strike a variety of baits and lures.

A relatively short growing season means Idaho's smallmouth and largemouth bass grow slower than bass in the southern states. It can take four or five years to grow a 12-inch fish and close to ten years to grow a trophy. Most of Idaho is managed with a 12-inch minimum length for bass, while some lakes are managed with special seasons or size limits. Restrictive harvest rules don't guarantee you'll catch a giant, but you will probably get to catch (and mostly release) more fish and bigger fish than in waters with more liberal rules. In some northern Idaho waters, smallmouth bass harvest rules are different from largemouth bass rules, so it's important to know the difference between species. As always, check the fishing rules before you go.



Idaho's more popular smallmouth bass waters include Hayden Lake in the Panhandle Region; Dworshak Reservoir in the Clearwater Region;



Evin Oneale, IDFG

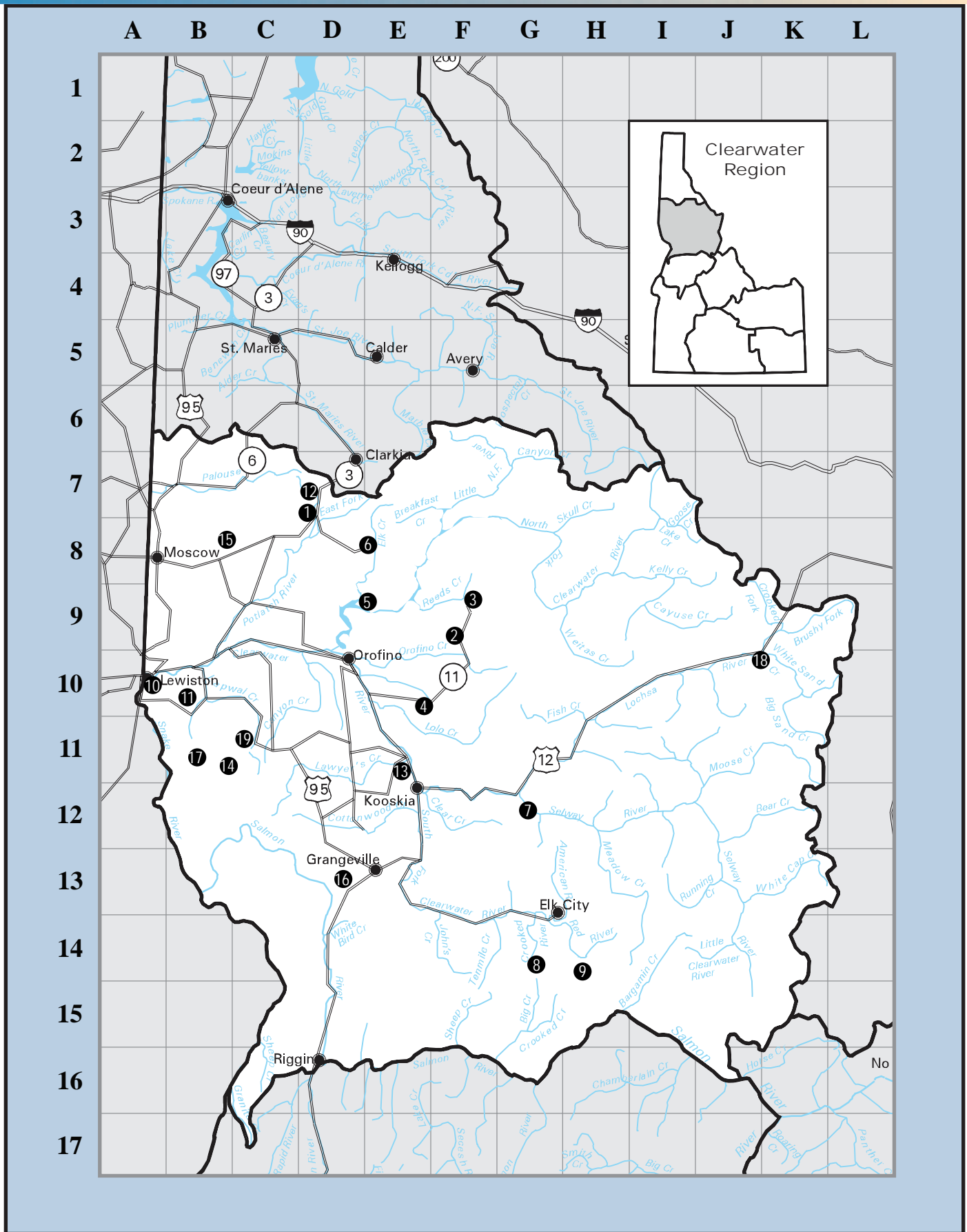
*Smallmouth bass are found in a number
of Idaho rivers and reservoirs*

Oxbow, Brownlee, and C.J. Strike reservoirs in the Southwest Region; Milner and Minidoka reservoirs in the Magic Valley Region; and American Falls Reservoir in the Southeast Region.

Largemouth bass prefer warmer water and are not as widespread. Explore the chain lakes along the Coeur d'Alene River in the Panhandle Region, Lake Lowell and Crane Falls Lake in the Southwest Region, and most small ponds and reservoirs in southern and southeast Idaho.

Fishing tackle for bass should include light to medium action rods with 6 to 10 pound test line. Plastic tube jigs or crankbaits can be effective for smallmouth, while largemouth will strike a variety of soft plastic worms and jigs, spinner baits and minnow-imitation lures. When fishing for bass, focus on shallower shoreline areas, off points and around rocks, brush or other cover.

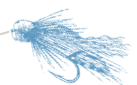
Clearwater Region Fisheries



Clearwater Region Fisheries

Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish											Warm Water Fish						Facilities									
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Tiger Muskie	Steelhead	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access	
1. Blue Lagoon (5)	D7	◆																			◆					◆		
2. Campbells Pond (5)*	F9	◆											◆						◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
3. Deer Creek Reservoir (75)*	F9	◆	◆																			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
4. Deyo Reservoir (56)	F10	◆											◆			◆												
5. Dworshak Reservoir (16,000)	D9	◆	◆				◆		◆				◆		◆								◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
6. Elk Creek Reservoir (46)	E8	◆			◆								◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
7. Fenn Pond (1) (at Lowell)*	G12	◆																				◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
8. Five Mile Pond (2)	G14	◆																				◆			◆	◆		
9. Karolyns Pond (1)	H14	◆																				◆		◆				
10. Lewiston Levee Pond (2)*	A10	◆																				◆			◆			
11. Mann Lake (106)*	B10	◆												◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
12. Moose Creek Reservoir (27)*	D7	◆											◆	◆	◆				◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
13. Robinson Pond (2)*	E11	◆											◆									◆						
14. Soldiers Meadow Reservoir (118)	B11	◆											◆	◆			◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
15. Spring Valley Reservoir (53)*	B8	◆							◆				◆	◆	◆				◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
16. Tolo Lake (40)	D13	◆											◆	◆	◆		◆					◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	
17. Waha Lake (94)	B11	◆							◆				◆		◆		◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
18. White Sands Pond (3)	K10	◆																				◆			◆	◆		
19. Winchester Lake (100)*	C11	◆							◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Rivers and Streams																												
American River	G13	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆		◆		◆																
Clearwater River, Little North Fork	F7	◆	◆				◆		◆		◆															◆	◆	
Clearwater River, Mainstem	C10	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			◆		◆				◆	◆		◆	◆		
Clearwater River, Middle Fork	F12	◆	◆				◆	◆		◆		◆	◆									◆	◆		◆			
Clearwater River, North Fork	G8	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆										◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Clearwater River, South Fork	E13	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆		◆		◆	◆												◆	◆		
Crooked Creek	G15	◆	◆				◆		◆		◆		◆															
Crooked River	G14	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆		◆		◆													◆	◆		
Elk Creek	E8	◆			◆																					◆		
Kelly Creek	I8	◆	◆				◆					◆														◆		
Lochsa River and Tributaries	I10	◆	◆				◆	◆		◆		◆													◆	◆		
Orofino Creek	E10	◆							◆																			
Palouse River	B7	◆			◆																				◆	◆		
Potlatch River	C9	◆			◆				◆			◆														◆	◆	
Potlatch River, East Fork	D8	◆			◆				◆																			
Quartz Creek	F9	◆			◆																					◆	◆	
Red River	H14	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆		◆		◆														◆	◆	
Selway River and Tributaries	H12	◆	◆				◆	◆		◆		◆														◆	◆	
Salmon River	B13	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆					◆					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Snake River - Hells Canyon Dam	A11	◆	◆				◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆		◆					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

* Family Fishing Waters



Fly Fishing

Fly fishing is one of those special outdoor activities that can quickly become a life-long passion. At its most basic, fly fishing is simple, using a flexible rod, a fly line, leader and a feathered hook. Yet the sport can quickly evolve into a pursuit unlike any other fishing method. Fly fishing is usually thought of as a stream surface fishing method, but techniques and equipment have changed over the years; all waters and depths can now be fished.

Quality, inexpensive beginner fly fishing kits are common and a fly angler can get started for less than a hundred dollars. The fly rod is usually 7 to 9

feet long and is usually 6 to 10 feet long. The fly is usually small and made of various materials tied to mimic a food item that a fish might recognize. When matched together well, the equipment can allow an experienced fly angler to precisely place a fly at distances up to 100 feet.

Like many activities, fly casting is simple to learn but difficult to master. Ask any veteran fly angler and they will tell you that their cast is a work in progress.

Fortunately, help is available for the beginner. Videos, DVDs and fly fishing classes (both from clubs and fly shops) are good places to start. And don't overlook an experienced friend.

Idaho is renowned for its fly fishing waters. Some of the more famous fly fishing rivers are: the Henrys Fork of the Snake River, the South Fork of the Snake River, Silver Creek, the South Fork of the Boise River, Kelly Creek, the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and the St. Joe River.

Give fly fishing a try. You just might get hooked for life.



Rob Parkins

feet long with a fly reel mounted on the rear seat. Rods can have different flex characteristics, but the rod basically aims and transfers power to the fly line. Fly lines are shot forward with the power of the rod flex.

Fly lines are divided into two general categories: floating and sinking, with a dizzying variety in each category to meet fishing conditions. A monofilament leader attaches the fly line to a



Rob Parkins



Steelhead and Salmon Fishing

Of all the fishing opportunities in Idaho, perhaps the most exciting is the yearly surge of anadromous (sea-run) fish to our rivers and streams. Wild steelhead and Chinook salmon, though much reduced from historic numbers, return from the Pacific Ocean every year by the thousands, swimming upstream as much as 900 miles to spawning grounds in the Snake, Salmon and Clearwater drainages. Hatchery-raised steelhead and salmon boost the overall runs and provide first rate fishing and harvest opportunity for big, hard-fighting fish.

Steelhead: Some consider steelhead to be the premiere freshwater sportfish and for good reason; few gamefish can match the steelhead's combination of beauty and fighting ability, as well as their excellent qualities on the dinner plate.



Martin Koenig

Run size varies from year to year, but Idaho averages more than 150,000 steelhead returning each season. Fish can range from five pounds to more than 20 pounds. They enter Idaho in late summer or fall, spend the winter in larger rivers, and make the final push to spawning grounds in the spring. With large numbers of fish, long seasons and more than 650 river miles of the Snake, Salmon and Clearwater rivers to choose from, Idaho offers one of the finest steelhead fisheries on the continent.

Salmon: Chinook salmon runs – and fishing opportunity for them – have been less consistent than for steelhead, but what salmon lack in numbers they make up for in brute strength. Most fish range from 12 to 20 pounds, but fish over 30 pounds are caught each year. Chinook salmon are classified



Carson Jeffries

into three groups – spring, summer and fall Chinook – based on the timing of their run and where they spawn.



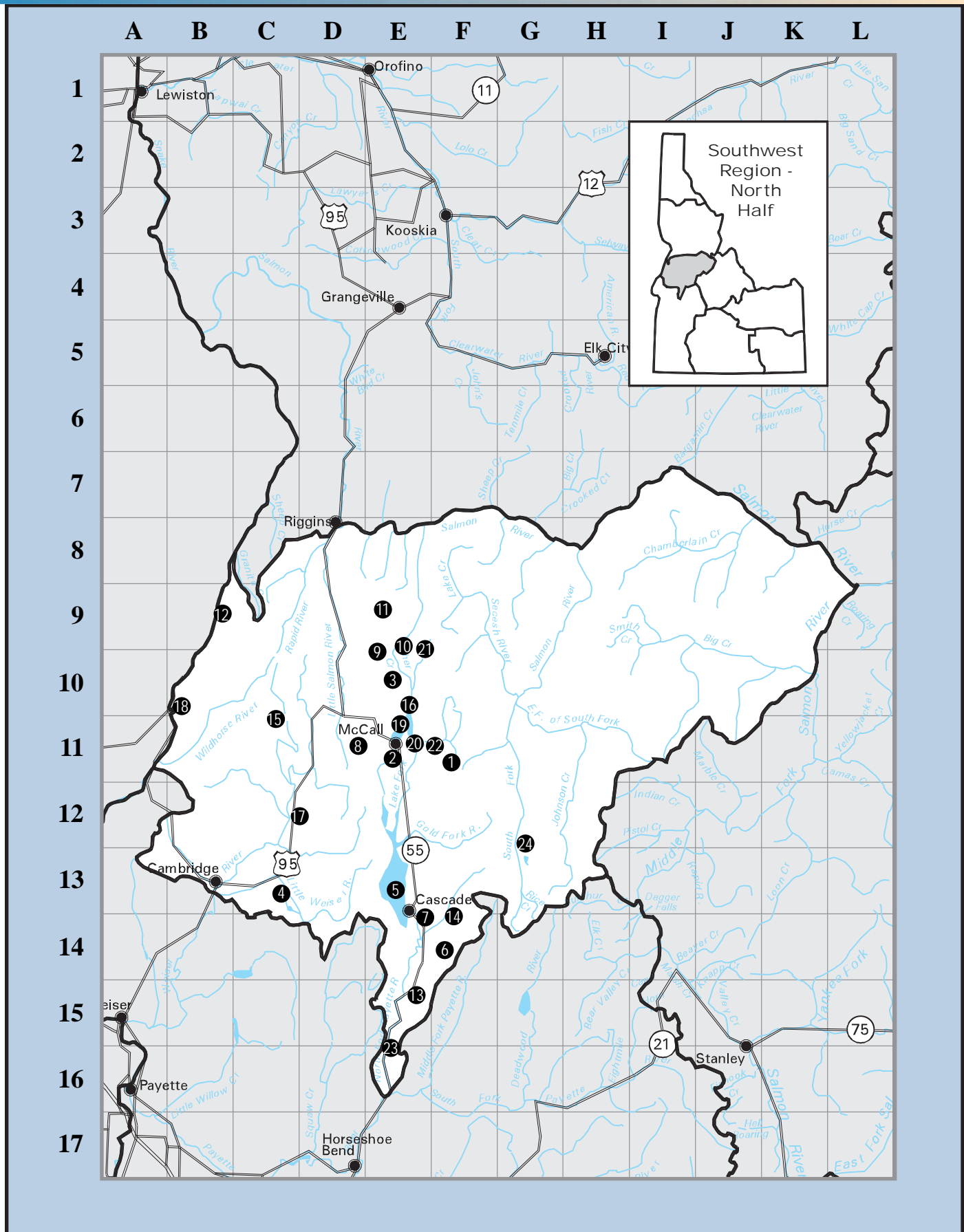
Brett Bowersox

Spring and summer Chinook generally migrate earlier, travel farther to headwater streams and spawn in late summer. Fall Chinook migrate later and typically spawn in larger mainstem rivers in October. Chinook salmon fishing seasons are often very restrictive and limited to specific stretches of rivers.

Fishing Rules: Steelhead and Salmon seasons and limits can change each year depending on the strength of the run, so check the regulations carefully, use the Fish and Game website (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>) or call your local Fish and Game office when planning a trip. Note that all fishing for steelhead and salmon requires a special permit, barbless hooks are required, only hatchery fish with a clipped adipose fin may be harvested, and you must record any harvested fish on your permit immediately.



Southwest Region Fisheries - North Half




Southwest Region Fisheries - North Half

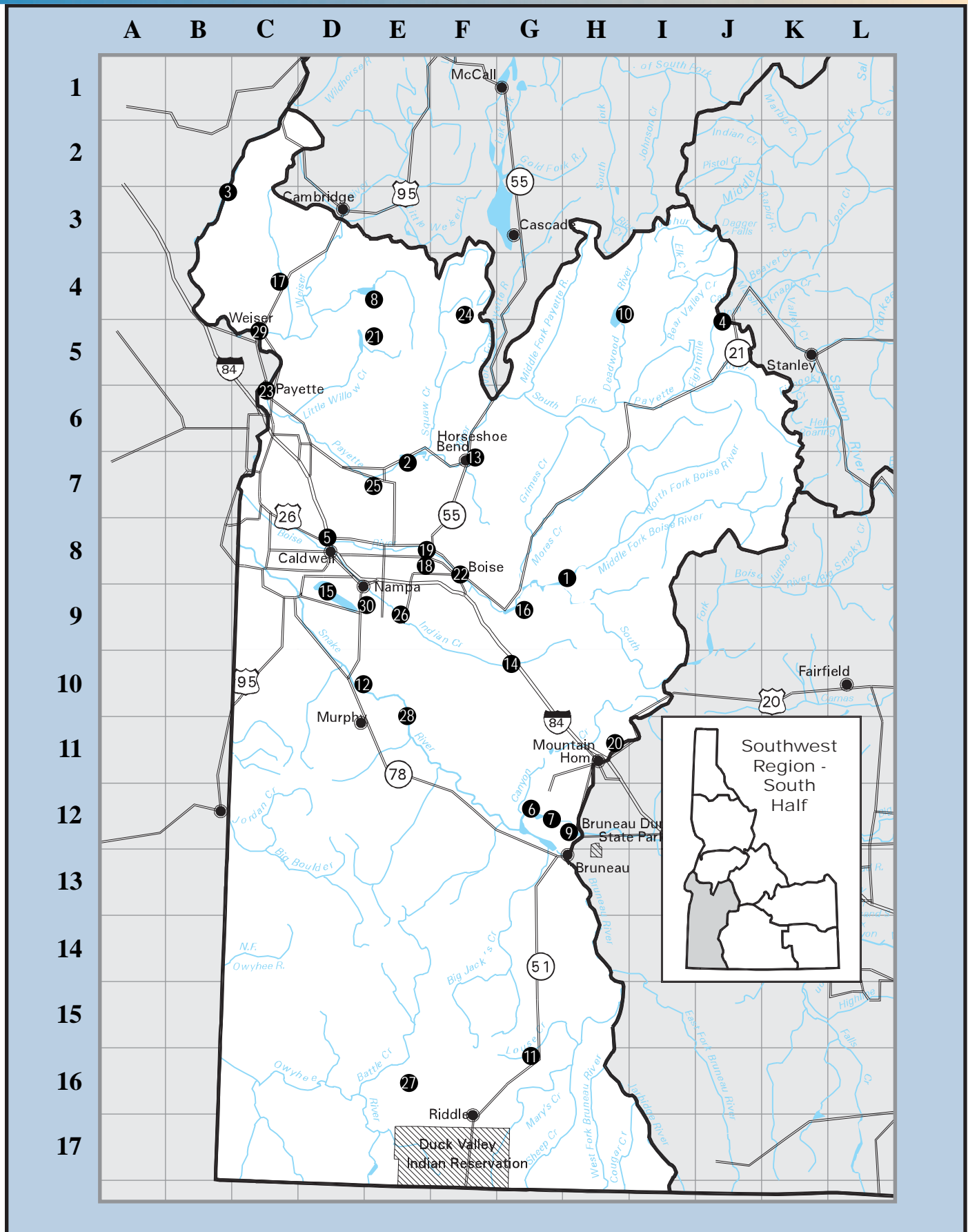
Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish										Warm Water Fish						Facilities									
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead	Tiger Muskie	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access
1. Browns Pond (80)*	F11	◆			◆																						
2. Browns (Airport) Pond (3)	E11	◆																									
3. Brundage Reservoir (340)	E10	◆	◆																						◆	◆	
4. C. Ben Ross Reservoir (350)	C13												◆	◆	◆								◆	◆	◆		
5. Cascade Reservoir (30,000)	E13	◆						◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
6. Corral Creek Reservoir (44)	F14	◆																									
7. Fischer Pond (2)*	F14	◆																									◆
8. Fish Lake (30)	D11	◆																							◆	◆	
9. Goose Lake (520)	E10	◆			◆																		◆		◆	◆	
10. Granite Lake (195)	E10	◆	◆																								
11. Hazard Lake (120)	E9	◆			◆																				◆	◆	
12. Hells Canyon Reservoir (2,500)	B9	◆							◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	
13. Herrick Reservoir (30)	E15	◆																									
14. Horsethief Reservoir (275)*	F14	◆		◆																				◆	◆	◆	◆
15. Lost Valley Reservoir (800)*	C11	◆			◆																		◆	◆	◆	◆	
16. Northwest Passage Pond (1)*	E10	◆																							◆	◆	◆
17. Ol' McDonald Pond (1)*	D12	◆																							◆		
18. Oxbow Reservoir (1,500)	B10	◆										◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	
19. Payette Lake (5,300)	E11	◆			◆			◆															◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
20. Payette Lake, Little (1,400)	E11	◆						◆			◆												◆	◆	◆	◆	
21. Payette Lake, Upper (300)*	E9	◆			◆																		◆		◆	◆	
22. Rowlands (Scout) Pond (5)*	F11	◆																							◆	◆	
23. Tripod Reservoir (8)	E16	◆																							◆	◆	◆
24. Warm Lake (640)	G12	◆			◆	◆	◆		◆		◆												◆	◆	◆	◆	
Rivers and Streams																											
Payette River, Gold Fork	F12	◆			◆	◆																			◆	◆	
Payette River, Lake Fork	F11	◆			◆																				◆	◆	
Payette River, North Fork	E16	◆			◆						◆	◆													◆	◆	
Salmon River, East Fork of South Fork	G11	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆		◆														◆	◆	
Salmon River - Secesh River	F9	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆		◆														◆	◆	
Salmon River, South Fork	G12	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆		◆														◆	◆	
Salmon River - Little Salmon to South Fork	E8	◆	◆			◆	◆		◆		◆	◆											◆		◆	◆	
Salmon River, Little	D9	◆			◆	◆	◆		◆		◆														◆	◆	
Weiser River	C13	◆			◆						◆	◆													◆	◆	
Weiser River, Middle Fork	C12	◆			◆						◆														◆	◆	
Weiser River, East Fork	D12	◆			◆	◆																			◆	◆	

* Family Fishing Waters

For more than 25 years, Idaho's citizens
have helped protect Idaho's fish and wildlife
Citizens Against Poaching
 To report wildlife violations in Idaho, call:
 1-800-632-5999



Southwest Region Fisheries - South Half



Southwest Region Fisheries - South Half

Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish										Warm Water Fish						Facilities									
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access
1. Arrowrock Reservoir (3,100)	H8	◆					◆	◆				◆	◆				◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	
2. Black Canyon Reservoir (1,000)	E7											◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
3. Brownlee Reservoir (15,000)	B3	◆									◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
4. Bull Trout (69)* and Martin (5) lakes	J5	◆			◆																	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
5. Caldwell Ponds (9)*	D8	◆											◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
6. C.J. Strike Reservoir (7,500)	G12	◆									◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
7. Cove Arm Reservoir (76)	G12	◆										◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
8. Crane Creek Reservoir (3,270)	E4												◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
9. Crane Falls Lake (94)	H12	◆											◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
10. Deadwood Reservoir (3,000)	H4	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆			◆											◆	◆	◆	◆	
11. Grasmere Reservoir (213)	G16		◆																								
12. Halverson Lake (8)	D10																										
13. Horseshoe Bend (Mill) Pond (12)	F7	◆											◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
14. Indian Creek Reservoir (221)	G10												◆	◆	◆										◆	◆	
15. Lake Lowell (9,000)	D9											◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
16. Lucky Peak Reservoir (2,820)	G9	◆					◆	◆				◆	◆			◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	
17. Manns Creek Reservoir (281)	C4	◆											◆	◆									◆	◆	◆	◆	
18. McDevitt (2)* and Kleiner (4)* ponds	E8	◆											◆	◆	◆			◆						◆	◆	◆	
19. Merrill Park Pond (2)*	E8	◆											◆	◆	◆			◆				◆		◆	◆	◆	
20. Mountain Home Reservoir (344)	H11	◆											◆	◆	◆								◆	◆	◆	◆	
21. Paddock Reservoir (1,500)	E5												◆	◆	◆			◆					◆	◆	◆	◆	
22. Parkcenter (14)*/Marianne Williams (2)* ponds	F8	◆											◆	◆	◆			◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
23. Payette Greenbelt Pond (5)*	C6	◆											◆	◆	◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
24. Sagehen Reservoir (100)	F4	◆																					◆	◆	◆	◆	
25. Sawyers Ponds (5)	E7	◆											◆	◆	◆			◆					◆	◆	◆	◆	
26. Sego Prairie Pond (2)*	E9	◆											◆	◆	◆			◆					◆	◆	◆	◆	
27. Shoofly (85) and Bybee (188) reservoirs	E16		◆														◆										
28. Swan Falls Reservoir (900)	E11											◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
29. Weiser Community Pond (2)*	C5	◆											◆	◆	◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
30. Wilson Springs (11)* and Beachs Pond (5)*	E9	◆											◆	◆	◆			◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Rivers and Streams																											
Boise River, North Fork and Tributaries	I7	◆	◆	◆	◆							◆													◆	◆	
Boise River, Middle Fork and Tributaries	H8	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆					◆													◆	◆	
Boise River - Lucky Peak Reservoir to Star	F8	◆		◆								◆															
Boise River - Star to Snake River Confluence	D8	◆										◆	◆					◆									
Boise River, South Fork below And. Ranch Res.	I10	◆					◆	◆				◆										◆		◆	◆	◆	
Grimes Creek	G7	◆		◆				◆				◆															
Mores Creek	G8	◆		◆				◆				◆													◆	◆	
Owyhee River and Tributaries	C16	◆											◆														
Payette River, Middle and South Forks	G5	◆		◆	◆							◆											◆	◆	◆	◆	
Payette River - S. Fork to Black Canyon Reservoir	F6	◆										◆	◆										◆	◆	◆	◆	
Payette River - Below Black Canyon Reservoir	C6											◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Snake River - C.J. Strike Res. to Swan Falls Dam	F11	◆										◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Snake River - Swan Falls Dam to Walters Ferry	E10											◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Snake River - Walters Ferry to Brownlee Reservoir	B4											◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Weiser River - Below Cambridge	D4	◆											◆					◆									

* Family Fishing Waters



White Sturgeon - Prehistoric Giants

North America's largest and longest-lived freshwater fish, the white sturgeon, is an Idaho native. Growing to 12 feet and living up to 100 years, white sturgeon are found in several of Idaho's larger rivers. Catching one is considered by many to be the ultimate fishing experience.

Popular white sturgeon fishing destinations along the Snake River include Hells Canyon Dam to Lewiston, C.J. Strike Dam to Swan Falls Reservoir, Bliss Dam to C.J. Strike Reservoir, and below Swan Falls Dam.

Whether you're new to the sport, or a veteran sturgeon angler, it remains important to use "low-impact" fishing techniques to insure the continuation of this great fishery.

Use only barbless hooks – which are required by law – in sizes 7/0 to 13/0. Pliers can be used to pinch down hook barbs; this practice makes hook removal easier and minimizes damage to a sturgeon's fleshy mouth.

Tie the sinker to a dropper line on a sliding swivel using line at least ten pound test lighter than the main line (see inset at right). This minimizes the chances of leaving a baited hook rig snagged to the bottom if break-off occurs. Beginning in 2011, the sliding sinker will be required when sturgeon fishing.

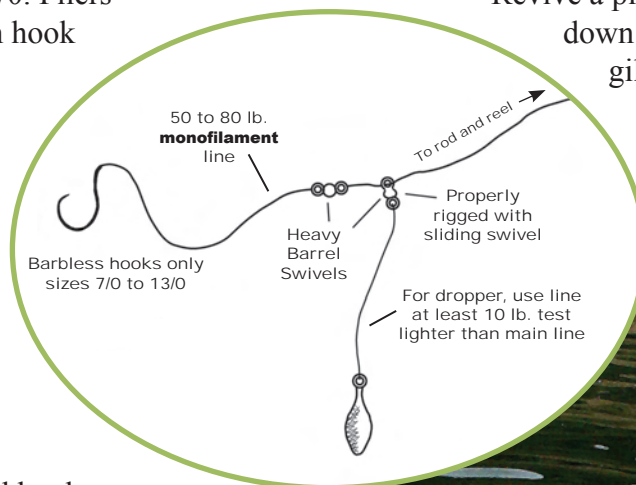
Avoid overstressing the fish during the fight by using 50 to 80 lb. test monofilament line or 130 to 150 lb. test superbraid line to work the fish quickly to shore or boat. Monofilament line generally has much higher abrasion resistance and stretch that makes it much more forgiving when fighting large fish. Use a heavy rod and quality reel capable of landing large fish quickly. A quality sturgeon reel is

well machined with a smooth drag and line capacity of at least 250 yards of proper line. Be realistic about your chances of landing a large sturgeon when choosing a fishing hole, especially when fishing without a boat.

Keep the fish in the water (it's the law). Sturgeon have only cartilage, not bones, and may be injured if lifted out of the water. Never pull a fish up on shore for any reason. Gently roll the fish belly-up to remove the hook; a tired sturgeon will almost always remain calm when held in this manner. Never tie a fish by the tail, as a tail-roped fish will struggle and can easily injure itself if it starts thrashing.

A great sturgeon photo is best taken with you in the water with the fish. Keep water flowing over the sturgeon's gills at all times while snapping a picture.

Revive a played-out fish by rolling it belly down and allow water to flow over its gills until it swims away. Never touch the gills.



Mike Demick, IDFG

Watch the low-impact sturgeon fishing video on the Fish and Game website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>



Dealing With Invasive Aquatic Species

Invasive species are animals, plants and disease organisms that are not native (and not wanted) in Idaho. Some invasive species pose a risk to fish and wildlife by taking over habitats, crowding out native species, competing for food or making them sick. Do your part to stop the introduction and spread of these organisms – your future fishing may depend on it.

Several invasive aquatic species have already found their way to Idaho. A European import, whirling disease is a microscopic parasite that has had a major impact on some western wild trout populations. Because the parasite clings to waders, boots and other fishing equipment, anglers – without even knowing it – can spread the disease to new waters.

Eurasian water-milfoil is a non-native aquatic plant that arrived in the U.S. in the 1940s and has now spread across the country, including Idaho. This nuisance plant grows fast and can quickly cover the entire surface of smaller lakes and ponds, making fishing and boating impossible.



U. of Idaho

Eurasian water-milfoil

A single piece of milfoil can start a new infestation, so it is easily spread by boat trailers, float tubes or wading boots.

New Zealand mudsnails are now dispersed across southern and central Idaho. These invaders crowd out native snails, consume algae and reduce aquatic insects.



D. L. Gustafson

New Zealand Mudsnails

Their effects on fish populations remain unknown. Mudsnails can survive for hours or even days out of water. They can cling to waders, boots or other equipment and go along on your next fishing trip.

Stopping new introductions...

The best defense against invasive species is to keep them from getting here in the first place. **Zebra mussels and quagga mussels**



100th Meridian.org

Zebra Mussel

are the newest threat. First seen in the Great Lakes in the 1980s, both species quickly expanded through much of the Midwest and more recently to the western U.S. They thrive in reservoirs, lakes and larger rivers, attaching to rocks, ropes, chains, docks, dams, irrigation pipes and even boat hulls and motors. Filtering algae from the water, they can disrupt the food chain which then impacts fish populations. Spreading can occur when an infested boat is moved from one water to another.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Quagga mussels

Neither mussel has been found in Idaho, and efforts focus on keeping them out. Special boat inspection stations along major highways and boat cleaning stations near some boat ramps are intended to detect mussels and other invasive species and decontaminate infected boats.

Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species!

Inspect fishing and boating equipment and remove all obvious debris.

Clean items by spraying them with a two percent solution of household bleach or allow the items to dry thoroughly (at least 48 hours) before using them at another water body.

Never release fish or any other living creature into any water where it did not originate.

For more information on aquatic nuisance species, visit these websites:

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net>

<http://www.100thmeridian.org>

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>

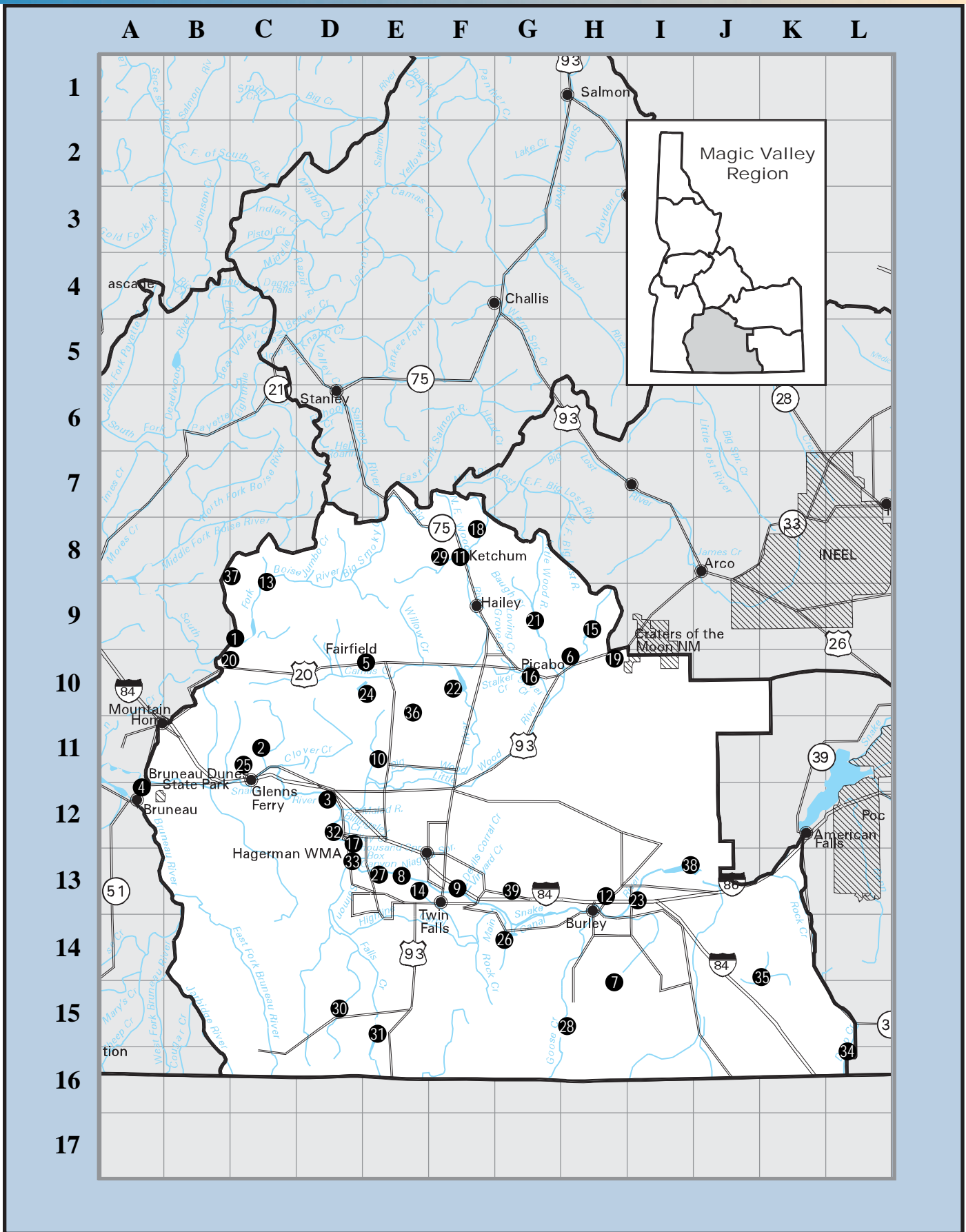
<http://www.invasive.org>

<http://www.agri.state.id.us>

<http://www.esg.montana.edu/aim/mollusca/nzms/id.html>

<http://nas3.er.usgs.gov>

Magic Valley Region Fisheries



Magic Valley Region Fisheries

Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish										Warm Water Fish						Facilities								
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Tiger Muskie	Walleye	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping
1. Anderson Ranch Reservoir (4,740)	C9	◆					◆	◆					◆			◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	
2. Blair-Trail Diversion Reservoir (15)*	C11	◆														◆			◆							
3. Bliss Reservoir (254)	D12	◆								◆			◆	◆		◆						◆	◆	◆		
4. Bruneau Dunes Ponds (100)	A12												◆		◆						◆			◆	◆	
5. Camas Ponds #1 and #2 (5)*	E10	◆																								
6. Carey Lake (517)	H10												◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆		
7. Lake Cleveland (25)	H14	◆	◆																		◆			◆	◆	
8. Crystal (Springs) Lake (5)	E13	◆																					◆	◆		
9. Dierkes Lake (25)	F13	◆											◆		◆						◆		◆	◆		
10. Dog Creek Reservoir (60)	E11	◆						◆					◆		◆	◆	◆					◆	◆	◆		◆
11. Dollar Lake (1)*	F8	◆																					◆	◆		
12. Emerald Lake (30)	H13	◆											◆		◆				◆		◆			◆		
13. Featherville Dredge Pond (2)*	C8	◆																								
14. Filer Pond (2)*	E13	◆																					◆	◆		◆
15. Fish Creek Reservoir (500)	H9	◆		◆																		◆	◆	◆		
16. Gavers Lagoon (2)*	G10	◆																					◆	◆		
17. Hagerman Wildlife Management Area (48)	D12	◆								◆			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆
18. Lava Creek Lake (3)	F8	◆		◆																						
19. Lava Lake (80)	H10	◆																								
20. Little Camas Reservoir (1,400)*	C10	◆											◆									◆	◆			
21. Little Wood Reservoir (600)*	G9	◆		◆																		◆	◆	◆	◆	
22. Magic Reservoir (3,700)*	F10	◆	◆										◆			◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	
23. Milner Reservoir (Snake River) (4,000)	I13												◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
24. Mormon Reservoir (2,400)	E10	◆														◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	
25. Morrow Reservoir (50)	C11												◆		◆											
26. Murtaugh Reservoir (Lake) (820)	G14												◆	◆		◆			◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	
27. Niagara Springs Wildlife Management Area (6)	E13	◆																						◆		
28. Oakley Reservoir (1,350)	H15	◆							◆							◆						◆	◆			
29. Penny Lake (1)*	F8	◆		◆																			◆	◆		◆
30. Roseworth (Cedar Creek) Reservoir (1,500)*	D15	◆																				◆	◆	◆	◆	
31. Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir (3,400)	E15	◆					◆		◆			◆	◆		◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	
32. Salmon Falls Reservoir (Lower) (800)	D12	◆								◆		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
33. Salmon Falls Reservoir (Upper) (800)	D13	◆								◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
34. Stone Reservoir (300)	L16	◆											◆	◆		◆						◆		◆	◆	
35. Sublett Reservoir (100)	K14	◆	◆	◆																				◆	◆	
36. Thorn Creek Reservoir (120)	E10	◆																				◆		◆		
37. Trinity Lakes (including Roaring Lake) (40)	C8	◆																			◆			◆	◆	
38. Lake Walcott (Minidoka Reservoir) (11,850)	I13	◆											◆	◆		◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	
39. Wilson Reservoir (Lake) (450)	G13	◆											◆			◆			◆			◆	◆	◆		

* Family Fishing Waters

Table continued next page

Magic Valley Region Fisheries

Rivers and Streams	Map Location	Cold Water Fish										Warm Water Fish					Facilities										
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Tiger Muskie	Walleye	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access
Baker Creek	E8	◆			◆																				◆	◆	
Big Wood River	F8	◆		◆	◆						◆															◆	◆
Big Wood River, East Fork	F9	◆			◆						◆															◆	◆
Big Wood River, North Fork	F7	◆			◆						◆															◆	◆
Billingsley Creek	D12	◆		◆																							
Boise River, S. Fork above Anderson Ranch Res.	C8	◆			◆		◆																			◆	◆
Camas Creek	D10	◆		◆																							
Cassia Creek	I15	◆	◆		◆																						
Cedar Draw Creek	E13	◆																									
Deep Creek (Twin Falls County)	E13	◆																									
Deer Creek (Blaine County)	F9	◆			◆																						
Goose Creek	G16	◆	◆		◆																						
Grove Creek	G10	◆		◆	◆																						
Jarbridge River	B15	◆					◆																				
Lake Creek	F8				◆																						
Lime Creek	C9	◆					◆		◆																		
Little Wood River	G11	◆		◆	◆							◆														◆	◆
Loving Creek	G10	◆		◆	◆																					◆	◆
Malad River	E12	◆																									
Niagara Springs Creek	E13	◆																								◆	
Richfield Canal	F10	◆																									
Riley Creek	D12	◆																									
Rock Creek (Twin Falls County)*	F14	◆		◆	◆																					◆	◆
Salmon Falls Creek	D14	◆			◆								◆													◆	
Silver Creek	G10	◆		◆																						◆	◆
Smoky Creek, Big	E8	◆					◆		◆																	◆	◆
Smoky Creek, Little	E9	◆					◆		◆																	◆	◆
Snake River - C.J. Strike Reservoir to Lake Walcott	E11	◆		◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆				◆	
Stalker Creek	G10	◆		◆	◆							◆														◆	
Trail Creek	F8	◆			◆																					◆	◆
Trapper Creek	G15	◆	◆		◆																						◆
Trinity Creek	C8	◆					◆		◆			◆															
Warm Springs Creek	F8	◆			◆							◆															
Willow Creek	E9	◆																									

* Family Fishing Waters

Did you know?

Idaho's Free Fishing Day is the first Saturday of the first full week in June each year.

Fish any legally-open water anywhere in Idaho; no license required! It's an inexpensive way to introduce the whole family to fishing.



Mike Demick, IDFG



Beneath the Ice

Ice fishing on lakes or reservoirs can provide some much-needed outdoor adventure during those long winter months. Yellow perch and rainbow trout are the most common species pursued beneath the ice, and a number of Idaho waters have both species in abundance.

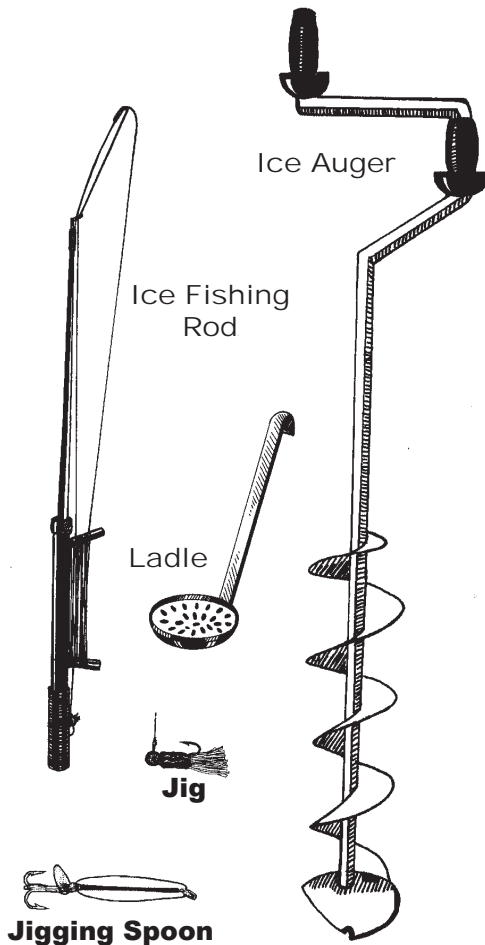
Ice is generally safe for walking when 3 to 4 inches thick; if you are venturing out on snow machines or ATVs, wait for 8 to 10 inches of clear, solid ice. Ice fishing with a partner is a good idea, particularly during early and late winter.

While specialized ice fishing gear is available, any rod and reel will suffice for the casual ice angler. Terminal tackle should include an assortment of jigs, glow hooks and ice flies, in combination with baits such as maggots, worms or cut bait.



Mike Demick, IDFG

Ice Fishing Equipment



Kids and ice fishing - they go together!

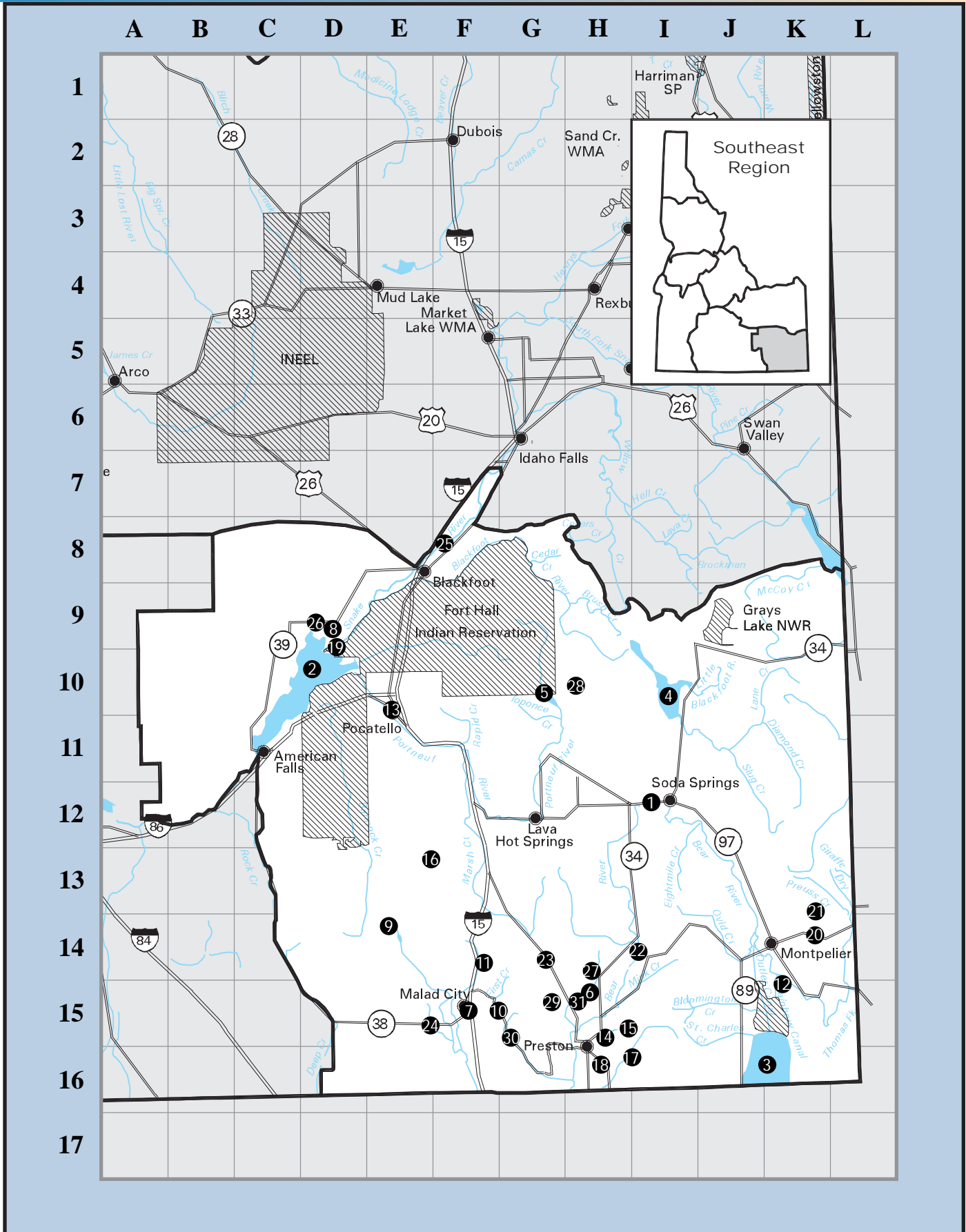
To get started, drill a series of test holes. Rules dictate that no hole may be larger than 10 inches in diameter for safety's sake. Most Idaho waters allow for up to 5 lines per angler (when the bite is on, it gets busy!). Try different locations at varying depths until you find fish. Perch generally are found near the bottom, whether the water is 10 feet deep or 40, while trout tend to be found closer to the surface.

Jigging can be a very effective ice fishing technique. To jig, drop the bait to the bottom, then reel up approximately 2 feet of line. Slowly raise the rod tip about a foot, then allow it to settle back down. Repeat this procedure until a fish strikes.

Some anglers prefer a more passive approach, simply still fishing and waiting for a strike. Either way, when the fish begin to bite, the ice fishing action can get fast and furious.



Southeast Region Fisheries



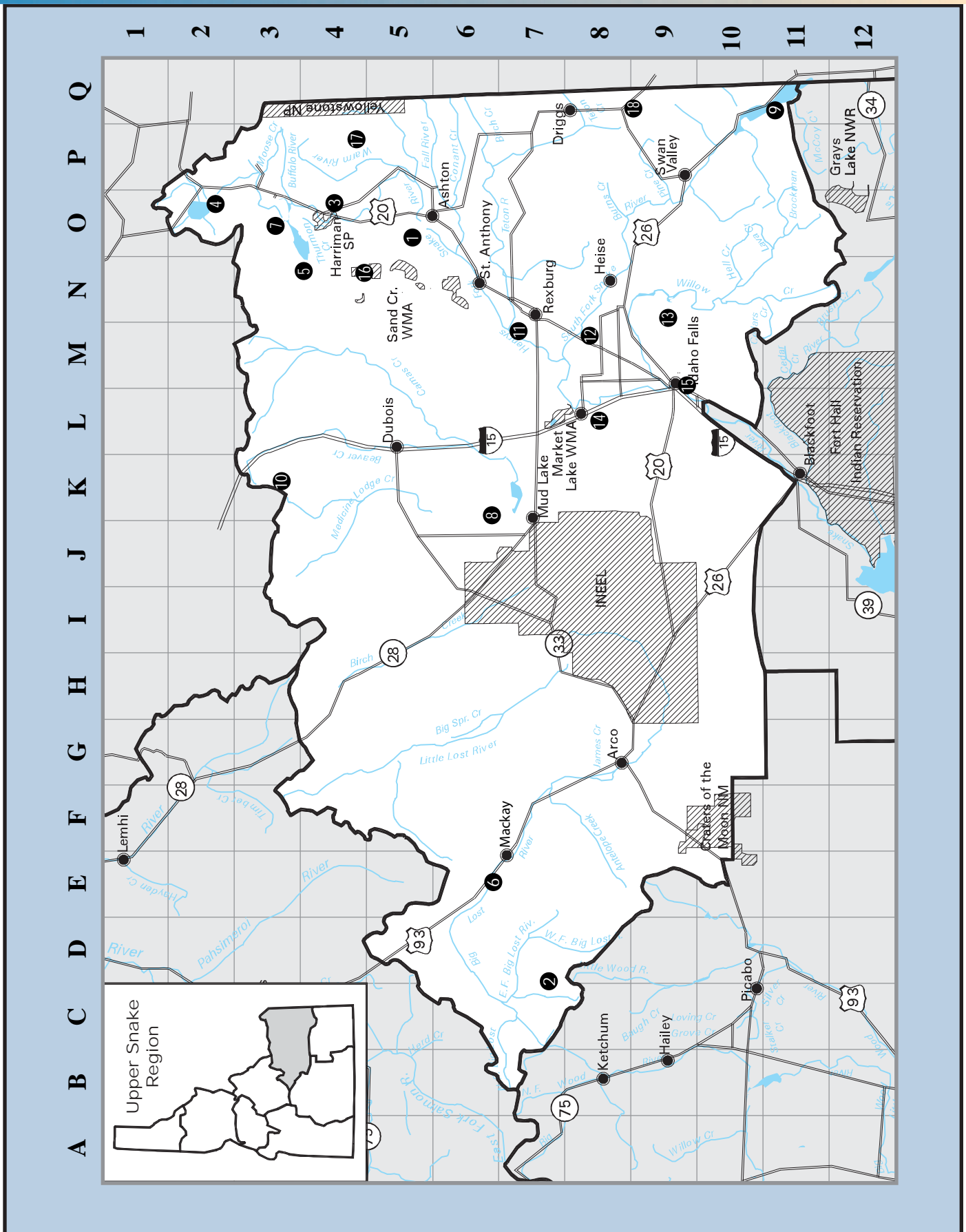
Southeast Region Fisheries

Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish											Warm Water Fish						Facilities									
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access	
1. Alexander Reservoir (1,007)*	I12	◆	◆									◆	◆		◆	◆						◆	◆	◆				
2. American Falls Reservoir (56,000)	D10	◆	◆	◆								◆	◆				◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
3. Bear Lake (70,000)	K16	◆	◆		◆						◆						◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
4. Blackfoot Reservoir (18,000)	I10	◆	◆														◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
5. Chesterfield Reservoir (1,600)	G10	◆	◆	◆																			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
6. Condie Reservoir (117)	H15												◆			◆	◆						◆	◆	◆			
7. Crowthers Reservoir (33)*	F15	◆											◆		◆										◆			
8. Crystal Springs Pond (6)	D9	◆																				◆			◆		◆	
9. Daniels Reservoir (375)	E14	◆																					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
10. Deep Creek Reservoir (183)	F15	◆	◆																				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
11. Devils Creek Reservoir (142)*	F14	◆	◆					◆					◆											◆	◆	◆	◆	
12. Dingle Pond (10)	K15	◆																								◆		
13. Edson Fichter Pond (3)*	E10	◆																						◆	◆	◆	◆	
14. Foster Reservoir (145)	H15	◆											◆	◆	◆	◆						◆	◆	◆	◆			
15. Glendale Reservoir (230)	H15	◆											◆	◆	◆	◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
16. Hawkins Reservoir (54)	F13	◆	◆																				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
17. Johnson Reservoir (50)	H16	◆											◆			◆	◆						◆	◆	◆			
18. LaMont Reservoir (92)	H16	◆											◆			◆	◆						◆	◆	◆			
19. McTucker Ponds (25)*	D9	◆											◆		◆		◆	◆						◆	◆	◆		
20. Montpelier Pond (1)	K14	◆																										
21. Montpelier Reservoir (120)	K13	◆	◆	◆				◆															◆	◆	◆			
22. Oneida Reservoir (515)	I14	◆	◆									◆					◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
23. Oxford Reservoir (25)	G14												◆			◆												
24. Pleasant View Reservoir (47)	E15	◆																					◆					
25. Rose Pond (20)	F8	◆																				◆						
26. Springfield Lake (66)	D9			◆																			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
27. Treasureton Reservoir (143)	H14	◆																					◆	◆	◆	◆		
28. Twenty-four Mile Reservoir (44)	H10	◆	◆																						◆	◆	◆	
29. Twin Lakes (446)*	G15	◆											◆	◆	◆	◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
30. Weston Reservoir (112)	G15	◆											◆			◆	◆					◆			◆			
31. Winder Reservoir (94)	H15	◆											◆			◆									◆			
Rivers and Streams																												
Bear River	J13	◆	◆	◆									◆					◆					◆		◆	◆	◆	
Bear River - Black Canyon	H14	◆	◆	◆									◆													◆		
Bear River - Montpelier Creek	K16	◆	◆	◆																							◆	
Bear River - Cub River	H18	◆	◆	◆																							◆	
Blackfoot River - Blackfoot Reservoir Headwaters	J11	◆	◆																							◆	◆	
Blackfoot River - Snake River to Wolverine Creek	G10	◆	◆									◆																
Blackfoot River - Wolverine Creek to Blackfoot Res.	G11	◆	◆									◆																
Portneuf River - Am. Falls Res. to Marsh Creek	E12	◆	◆	◆																						◆	◆	
Portneuf River - Marsh Creek to Magic Valley Div.	F14	◆	◆	◆																								
Portneuf River - Magic Valley Div. to Lava Hot Sps.	G14	◆	◆	◆																								
Portneuf River - Lava Hot Sps. to Portneuf Canal	G13	◆	◆	◆																						◆	◆	
Portneuf River - Pebble Creek	G13	◆	◆																							◆	◆	
Portneuf River - Toponce Creek	G12	◆	◆	◆																								
Snake River - American Falls Res. to Tilden Bridge	D11	◆	◆	◆								◆													◆	◆		
Snake River - Tilden Bridge to Bing/Bonneville Ln.	E10	◆	◆	◆								◆													◆	◆		
Snake River - Lake Walcott to American Falls Dam	C13	◆	◆	◆								◆	◆	◆											◆	◆		

* Family Fishing Waters



Upper Snake Region Fisheries




Upper Snake Region Fisheries

Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish										Warm Water Fish					Facilities										
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Tiger Muskie	Rain/Cut Hybrid	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access
1. Ashton Reservoir (400)*	O5	◆		◆							◆	◆					◆					◆	◆	◆		◆	
2. Copper Basin High Mountain Lakes	D7	◆	◆		◆																						
3. Harriman Fish Pond (30)*	O4	◆			◆																						
4. Henrys Lake (6,500)	O2		◆		◆						◆													◆	◆	◆	◆
5. Island Park Reservoir (7,000)*	N4	◆	◆		◆							◆											◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
6. Mackay Reservoir (1,000)*	E6	◆			◆																		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
7. Mill Creek Pond (2)	O3	◆																									
8. Mud Lake (7,000)	K7																◆		◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
9. Palisades Reservoir (16,000)	Q11		◆	◆		◆						◆											◆	◆	◆	◆	
10. Paul Reservoir (9)*	K3		◆																								
11. Rexburg City Ponds (5)*	M7	◆															◆							◆		◆	
12. Rigby Lake (40)*	M8	◆																				◆		◆	◆	◆	
13. Ririe Reservoir (1,560)	N9		◆										◆				◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	
14. Roberts Gravel Pond (45)*	L8	◆															◆					◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
15. Ryder Park (Becker) Pond (1)*	L9	◆																◆						◆		◆	
16. Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area (25)	N4	◆			◆																	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
17. Snow Creek Pond (4)	P4	◆																									
18. Trail Creek Pond (2)*	Q9	◆																								◆	
Rivers and Streams																											
Antelope Creek	E8	◆			◆																				◆	◆	
Beaver Creek	L4	◆			◆																					◆	◆
Big Lost River - Above Mackay Reservoir	D6	◆	◆		◆																					◆	
Big Lost River - Below Mackay Reservoir	F7	◆	◆		◆																					◆	◆
Birch Creek*	I5	◆			◆																					◆	◆
Buffalo River	P3	◆			◆																					◆	◆
Camas Creek	M4		◆	◆	◆																					◆	
Fall River	P5	◆	◆		◆																					◆	
Henrys Fork Snake - Above Island Park Reservoir	O3	◆	◆		◆						◆	◆													◆	◆	◆
Henrys Fork Snake - Is. Park Dam to Mesa Falls	O4	◆	◆		◆						◆	◆													◆	◆	
Henrys Fork Snake - Mesa Falls to South Fork	N6	◆	◆	◆	◆						◆	◆													◆	◆	◆
Little Lost River	G6	◆			◆		◆																			◆	
Medicine Lodge Creek	K5	◆	◆		◆																					◆	
Snake River Confluence to Bingham/Bonneville Line	L7	◆	◆	◆								◆	◆	◆											◆		
Snake River, South Fork	N8	◆	◆	◆							◆	◆													◆	◆	◆
Teton River - Upper Teton Valley	P7	◆	◆		◆						◆	◆													◆	◆	◆
Teton River - Canyon Section	O6	◆	◆								◆	◆															
Warm River	P4	◆		◆	◆							◆													◆	◆	◆
Willow Creek	N10		◆		◆																					◆	

* Family Fishing Waters

Did you know?

An excise tax on fishing and boating equipment funds a variety of projects benefitting anglers.



Wild Trout Streams

Among Idaho's 26,000 miles of streams are some of the world's most famous trout fishing waters. The Henrys Fork, Silver Creek, the South Fork Snake River and Kelly Creek, for example, are the subjects of dozens of books, hundreds of articles, and countless angler daydreams. For some anglers, a chance to test their fishing skills against ultra wary rainbow trout in places like Harriman Ranch or

native cutthroat, or the abundance of brook trout.

The geographic and geologic diversity of the Gem State gives rise to every stream type from small mountain streams to spring creeks to larger freestone rivers. The interaction of water (hydrology) and earth (geology) helps determine channel shape, habitat type and even the insect hatches that occur.

Freestone streams – the most common

Idaho stream type – are driven by snowmelt and spring runoff. Fish habitat can best be described as dynamic: low in the winter, high in the spring, and gradually decreasing through summer and fall. In the spring, water levels – and fishing conditions – can vary from day to day due to rain or melting snow. Fishing will generally improve as flows start to drop. Freestone stream trout often migrate seasonally to adjust to changing conditions or to reach spawning areas. Famous Idaho freestone streams include Kelly Creek, the St. Joe River and the South Fork of the Snake River.

Spring Creeks are primarily influenced by groundwater or natural spring flows. Conditions such as flows and temperature tend

to be more consistent than in freestone streams. This translates into more reliable fishing conditions and aquatic insects in abundance. When temperatures are optimal for trout, the result can be truly exceptional growth rates. The biggest fishing challenge associated with spring creeks is usually the fish themselves; they can be some of the toughest trout in the world to catch. Because spring creeks generally flow slowly and have crystal clear water, fish are easily spooked and anglers must be stealthy and present the lure or fly in just the right spot. Idaho's famous spring creeks include Silver Creek and the Henrys Fork of the Snake River.



Rob Parkins

Pursuing wild trout in an Idaho stream is as much about getting away as it is about catching fish

Silver Creek is the pinnacle of stream trout fishing. For others, what really makes Idaho special is the many dozens of lesser-known streams full of willing rainbow and cutthroat trout.

Whatever stream sits at the top of your list, it is difficult to argue that *variety* makes Idaho truly special to stream trout anglers. Idaho has it all, from a quick lunch hour trip to the Boise River in the capitol city, to a week-long adventure in the Middle Fork Salmon River wilderness, and everything in-between. Variety also describes the fish, whether it's the acrobatic fight of a rainbow, the charge of a German brown, the aggressiveness and beauty of a



Mountain Whitefish - Idaho's Unsung Native

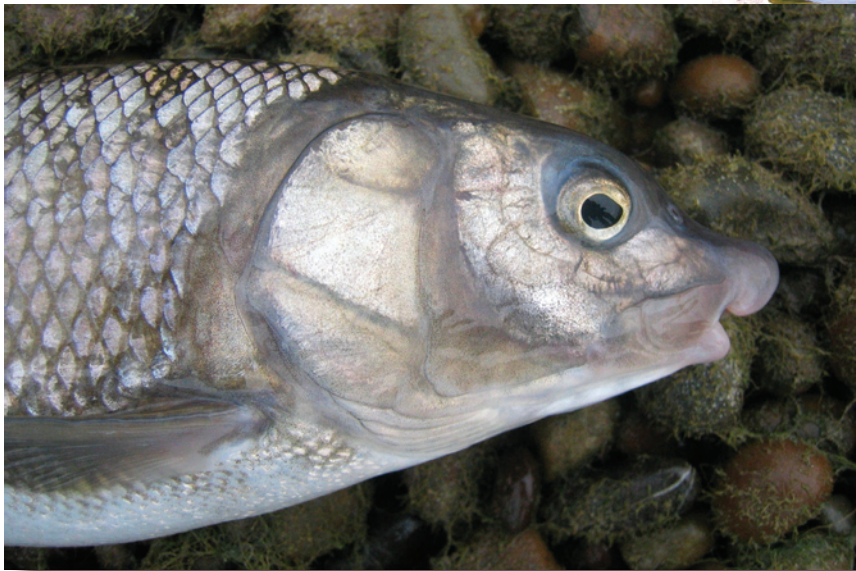
While most Idaho anglers sing the praises of salmon, steelhead and resident trout, only a handful focus much attention on another member of the trout family, the mountain whitefish. Whitefish are more widely distributed and occur in higher numbers than any other member of Idaho's trout/salmon family. Despite their abundance, whitefish are either overlooked or avoided by Idaho anglers because – despite their kinship – they don't resemble or fight like a trout.

Mountain whitefish tend to be more abundant than trout, in part because they produce so many eggs. Spawning in October and November, whitefish may deposit 20,000 to 40,000 eggs, compared with 2,000 to 4,000 for an average trout. Whitefish can also live more than 15 years and can tolerate warmer water than most trout.

Although whitefish do not jump like a trout when on the end of your line, they do put up a pretty fair fight. To target whitefish with a rod and reel, remember that they tend to run in schools during most of the year, usually in pools and deeper runs below fast water riffles. In winter months, this schooling behavior becomes even stronger. So when you find one whitefish, you have probably found a bunch.



Evin Oneale, IDFG



Evin Oneale, IDFG

Mountain whitefish are best pursued using small hooks fished near the bottom of deep pools

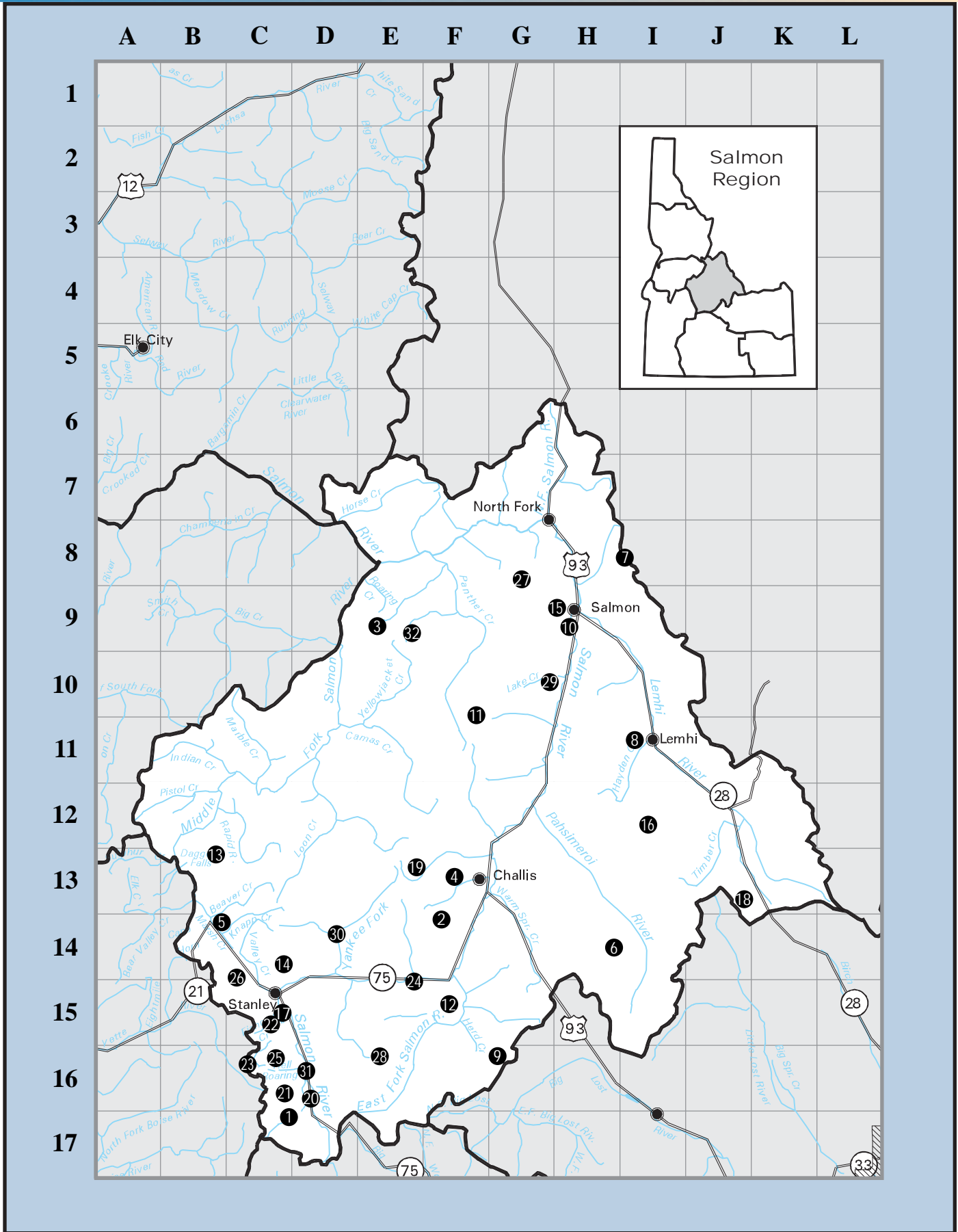
Because so few anglers target mountain whitefish, they represent an underutilized harvest opportunity for anglers desiring to take some fish home. In most locations, whitefish limits are 25 per day. If keeping whitefish is of no interest, you may choose to pursue them on a catch and release basis.

Whitefish tend to focus their feeding on aquatic insects, on or near the river bottom. To catch them, bait anglers fish on the bottom, using smaller hooks with grubs, a single salmon egg or a small piece of worm. Fly anglers often use weight to get a midge, caddis or even stonefly imitation near the bottom. In the summer, whitefish can be found feeding on small mayflies at the tailouts of pools or runs, making them vulnerable to a well-placed dry fly.

If you keep some whitefish for eating, they can be prepared using just about any trout recipe. Whitefish have a slightly higher oil content to their flesh, making them great for smoking, and they are delicious battered and deep fried. And folks who enjoy pickled fish swear by pickled whitefish.



Salmon Region Fisheries



Salmon Region Fisheries

Lakes and Reservoirs (Size in acres)	Map Location	Cold Water Fish										Warm Water Fish						Facilities									
		Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Golden Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Bull Trout	Chinook Salmon	Kokanee Salmon	Grayling	Steelhead	White Sturgeon	Mtn. Whitefish	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Crappie	Bluegill	Yellow Perch	Channel Catfish	Bullhead Catfish	Pumpkinseed	Motor Restriction	Boat Ramps	Docks	Toilets	Camping	ADA Access
1. Alturas Lake (825)	C17	◆	◆			◆	◆															◆		◆	◆		
2. Bayhorse Lakes (22)*	F14	◆																				◆		◆	◆	◆	
3. Bighorn Crags Mountain Lakes	E9	◆	◆	◆	◆				◆																		
4. Blue Mountain Pond (1)*	F13	◆																							◆		
5. Capehorn Lake (15)*	B14	◆			◆																	◆					
6. Carlson Lake (6)	H14				◆																	◆					
7. Divide Mountain Lakes	I8	◆	◆																								
8. Hayden Ponds (2)*	I11	◆																							◆		
9. Herd Lake (12)	G16	◆																							◆	◆	
10. Hyde Creek Pond (1)*	H9	◆																									
11. Iron Lake (17)*	F11	◆																				◆		◆	◆		
12. Jimmy Smith Lake (50)	F15	◆																							◆	◆	
13. Josephus Lake (2)	B13	◆																							◆	◆	
14. Kelly Creek Pond (2)*	C14	◆																									
15. Kids Creek Pond (1)*	H9	◆																						◆	◆		
16. Lemhi Range Mountain Lakes	I12	◆	◆						◆																		
17. Little Redfish Lake (68)	C15				◆	◆																◆		◆	◆		
18. Meadow Lake (12)*	J13	◆																				◆		◆	◆		
19. Mosquito Flat Reservoir (35)	E13	◆			◆																		◆	◆	◆	◆	
20. Perkins Lake (50)	D16	◆			◆	◆																◆		◆	◆	◆	
21. Pettit Lake (400)	C16	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆																◆	◆	◆	◆	
22. Redfish Lake (1,500)	C15					◆	◆																◆	◆	◆	◆	
23. Sawtooth Mountain Lakes	C16	◆	◆	◆	◆				◆																		
24. Squaw Creek Pond (2)	E15	◆																							◆		
25. Stanley Basin Mountain Lakes	C16	◆	◆		◆																						
26. Stanley Lake (180)*	C14	◆	◆		◆	◆			◆														◆		◆	◆	
27. Wallace Lake (6)*	G8	◆																				◆		◆	◆		
28. Whitecloud Mountain Lakes	E16	◆	◆						◆																		
29. Williams Lake (180)	G10	◆				◆																	◆	◆	◆	◆	
30. Yankee Fork Ponds (2)	D14	◆																									
31. Yellowbelly Lake (200)	D16	◆	◆		◆	◆																◆				◆	
32. Yellowjacket Lake (20)	E9	◆	◆																			◆		◆	◆	◆	
Rivers and Streams																											
Lemhi River	I11	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆					◆													◆	◆	
Pahsimeroi River	H13	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆					◆													◆	◆	◆
Salmon River - Corn Creek to North Fork	E8	◆	◆			◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆										◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Salmon River, East Fork	E16	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆														◆	◆	
Salmon River, East Fork - Headwaters	E16	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆												◆		◆	◆	◆
Salmon River, Middle Fork	D11	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆											◆			◆	◆	◆
Salmon River, North Fork	G7	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆														◆	◆	◆
Salmon River - North Fork to East Fork	G12	◆	◆			◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆										◆		◆	◆	◆
Salmon River, Yankee Fork	E13	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆														◆	◆	◆

* Family Fishing Waters

Mountain Lakes Fishing

Anglers are attracted to Idaho mountain (alpine) lakes for a variety of reasons including solitude and spectacular views – in addition to great fishing. Whatever the reason, Idaho alpine lakes are tremendously popular.

Idaho has more than 3,000 alpine lakes of which about 1,300 are stocked or have natural fish populations. Fish and Game typically stocks these lakes via airplane, but some lakes are stocked by horseback or backpack. Stocked species include rainbow trout, grayling, golden trout, and cutthroat trout to name a few. Some of these fish species are exclusive to mountain lakes – yet another reason to give them a try.



Joe Kozfay, IDFG



Martin Koenig, IDFG

Mountain lakes are special places *that can produce trophy trout*

In most cases, mountain lakes are stocked with trout fry on a three-year cycle. The lakes are cold, pristine and often so clear you can see the bottom. In these conditions, fish grow slowly; it may take 3 to 4 years for a fish to reach “keeper” size. Limited natural food further slows growth rates, but makes these fish eager to bite.

Use the Idaho Fish Planner - located on the Fish and Game website - to help choose where to fish based on fish species of interest, access, fish stocking history and recent fish sampling. Remember that some mountain lakes were stocked years ago and those fish are reproducing on their own so there may

be great fishing even though a lake has not been stocked recently.

Most mountain lakes can be reached only on foot or by horseback, while a handful are accessible by vehicle. Some are along well-marked trails. Many others are in truly remote, backcountry locations. The more remote the lake, the less likely you’ll be sharing it with other anglers. A good set of topographic maps, a compass and a GPS unit will help you find your destination.

Mountain lakes fishing equipment should include a break-down fishing rod in a sturdy case. Many anglers pack in a lightweight float tube which allows for easier fishing. Fly anglers should consider bringing both floating and sinking fly line and a small assortment of wet and dry flies. Remember that these fish are looking for food and usually aren’t too finicky. Spin anglers should bring along a small selection of flashy spinners, spoons or crankbaits.

Natural baits, including grasshoppers, beetles and stonefly larvae, can also be used.

As with other types of fishing, check the regulations before you go. Most mountain lakes have general rules, but some have special gear, size or bag limit restrictions. Handle fish properly when catch and release fishing. And please help preserve these special places by packing out your trash.

