

2008-2009 FISHING RULES FOR
 IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION ACTION
 ACTION ITEM WOULD CONSIST OF APPROVING EXISTING FISHING RULES
 ALONG WITH RECOMMENDED CHANGES (LISTED BELOW)
 IDAPA 13.01.11

Statewide Rules

202. BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.

04. Table on Bag and Possession Limits for Specified Fish.

GENERAL BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS			
SPECIES			BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS
BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth)	<u>North of and including the Salmon River drainage (Panhandle, Clearwater, Salmon and northern part of Southwest regions)</u>	6*	In the aggregate of both species, NONE under 12 inches.
BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth)	<u>South and east of the Salmon River drainage (Upper Snake, Southeast, Magic Valley and southern part of Southwest regions)</u>	6*	In the aggregate of both species, NONE under 12 inches.
<i>Rationale:</i> Over harvest of bass has not been a problem in many north Idaho waters. In some cases, smallmouth bass can be detrimental to native fish populations. Quality fishing rules for bass will still be listed as exceptions. This will reduce entries in the regional exceptions for anadromous fish waters because these waters already have a no size limit rule on bass.			

201. FISHING METHODS AND GEAR.

<p>09. Trapping and Seining Minnows or Crayfish. It is lawful to take the young of unprotected nongame fish, crayfish, and yellow perch with a minnow net, seine, or up to five (5) traps, provided the seine or net does not exceed four (4) <u>ten (10)</u> feet in length or width, and the minnow or crayfish trap does not exceed eighteen (18) inches in length or twelve (12) inches in diameter or width <u>two (2) feet in length, width or height</u>. If the trap is of irregular dimension, but its volume does not exceed the volume of an eighteen by twelve by twelve inches (18"x12"x12") <u>eight (8) cubic foot</u> trap, it is also lawful to use. All fish so taken must immediately be killed except where stated otherwise. All traps must have a tag attached bearing the owner's name and address. Minnows and crayfish may only be taken during the season set for the taking of game fish in those waters.</p>
<p><i>Rationale:</i> Due to limited availability of nets and traps of the smaller sizes, anglers have requested increasing net and trap size to allow the use of available manufactured gear. The Department does not expect to see any biological impacts from using larger gear.</p>

10. Use of Bait. It is unlawful to use live fish, leeches, frogs, salamanders, waterdogs or shrimp as bait, except that live crayfish ~~and bullfrogs~~ may be used if caught on the body of water being fished.

Rationale: Aquatic nuisance species are thought to have been introduced by anglers and this proposal will reduce the potential of illegal introductions of harmful species into Idaho waters. This will also reduce the potential for transferring diseases into Idaho waters.

310. PANHANDLE REGION EXCEPTIONS.

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and license vendors.

<p><u>WINTER STREAM SEASON IN THE PANHANDLE REGION IS FROM DECEMBER 1 THROUGH THE FRIDAY BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.</u></p> <p>WINTER STREAM SEASON APPLIES IN:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coeur d'Alene River • Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River • Moyie River • <u>South Fork Coeur d'Alene River</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Fork Coeur d'Alene River • St. Joe River • St. Maries River • <u>Spokane River, from stateline upstream to Post Falls Dam</u>
<p><i>Rationale:</i> Increase opportunity for stream fishing. Restrictive harvest during Winter Season rules reduces biological impacts. Moyie River is proposed to be open year round.</p>	

Daily Bag Limit Exceptions to Water Species Exceptions General Seasons Special Rules

Note: Waters with the same rule proposals as 2006-2007 are not listed.

Water	Species	Daily Bag Limit Exceptions	Exceptions to General Season	Special Rules
<p>ANDERSON LAKE, includes the channel to, but does not extend into the Coeur d'Alene River.</p>	<p>Bass Bass</p>	<p>0 2 <u>6</u></p>	<p>Jan 1 - June 30 July 1 - Dec 31</p>	<p>Catch and Release None between 12"-16" <u>Only 2 may be largemouth bass. No largemouth bass under 16".</u></p>
<p><i>Rationale:</i> If the north Idaho largemouth bass rule in the statewide rules is approved, the above listed water would be considered for a quality bass rule exceptions. Over harvest of bass has not been a problem in many north Idaho waters. In some cases, smallmouth bass can be detrimental to native fish populations.</p>				
<p>BLUE LAKE, includes the channel to, but does not extend into the Coeur d'Alene River</p>	<p>Bass</p>	<p>2 <u>6</u></p>		<p>None under 20". <u>Only 2 may be largemouth bass. No largemouth bass under 16".</u></p>
<p><i>Rationale:</i> North Idaho quality bass rule water.</p>				
<p>BONNER LAKE</p>	<p>Trout Bass</p>	<p>2 No limit</p>	<p>Open last Saturday in Apr - Nov 30</p>	<p>Electric motors only No bait, barbless hooks None under 14" Any size bass may be kept</p>
<p><i>Rationale:</i> Bonner Lake is not producing trout of quality size as anticipated, so a six (6) fish limit will provide a better fishing experience for anglers who want to take fish home.</p>				

CHASE LAKE	Bass	0 ≥ 6	Jan 1—June 30 July 1—Dec 31	Electric motors only Catch-and-Release None between 12"–16" Only 2 may be largemouth bass. No largemouth bass under 16".
<i>Rationale:</i> North Idaho quality bass rule water.				
CLARK FORK RIVER	Cutthroat	≥ 0	Open all year	None under 16" Catch-and-release
	Kokanee Lake and rainbow trout	0 No limit		Catch-and-release
<i>Rationale:</i> The goal is to protect populations of westslope cutthroat trout, provide quality angling opportunity, and to simplify fishing rules in the Clark Fork River and Lake Pend Oreille.				
COEUR D'ALENE (SPOKANE) DRAINAGE , except listed Family Fishing Waters and mountain lakes.	Cutthroat	0		Catch-and-release, see listed waters below for gear restrictions.
COEUR D'ALENE LAKE (The lake extends to State Highway 97 on the east; to the dike road on Mica Creek, to Highway 95 on Cougar Creek and the Spokane River, and to the markers on Lake and Plummer creeks on the west; and includes Hidden, Round, Chatcolet and Benewah lakes, as well as the St. Joe River to State Highway 3 Bridge at St. Maries on the south).	Cutthroat	≥ 0		None between 8"–16" Catch-and-release
	Kokanee and Chinook	6		
COEUR D'ALENE LAKE TRIBUTARIES NOTE: Mouths of streams for a radius of 100 yards into the lake have the same season as the particular stream. Benewah, and Lake, and Wolf Lodge creeks are closed to fishing.	Cutthroat	≥ 0		None between 8"–16" Catch-and-release

COEUR D'ALENE RIVER DRAINAGE , including the North Fork, Little North Fork, South Fork and Coeur d'Alene rivers and all tributaries, except in catch-and-release waters. <u>but not</u> NOTE: Tributaries do not include ing mountain lakes or the lateral lakes and connecting channels to lateral lakes associated with the river.	Cutthroat	2 <u>0</u>		<u>None between 8" - 16"</u> <u>Catch-and-release</u>
	Chinook	2		
COEUR D'ALENE RIVER, LITTLE NORTH FORK , entire drainage upstream from and including Laverne Creek.	Trout <u>Cutthroat</u>	0		No bait, barbless hooks Catch-and-release
COEUR D'ALENE RIVER, NORTH FORK , entire drainage upstream from and including Yellow Dog Creek.	Trout <u>Cutthroat</u>	0		No bait, barbless hooks Catch-and-release
<i>Rationale:</i> The goal is to protect populations of westslope cutthroat trout, provide quality angling opportunity, and to simplify fishing rules in the Spokane (Coeur d'Alene) River system. Existing rule exceptions in Little North Fork CDA River, North Fork CDA River, and St. Joe River upstream from Avery would remain as they currently are listed.				
HAYDEN CREEK, and its tributaries			Closed to fishing	
<i>Rationale:</i> The removal of closures on Hayden Lake tributaries simplifies rules and should have limited biological impacts to trout populations.				
HAYDEN LAKE	Bass	0 2 <u>6</u>	Jan 1 – June 30 July 1 – Dec 31	Catch and Release <u>None between 12" - 16"</u> <u>Only 2 may be largemouth bass. No largemouth bass under 16".</u>
	Crappie	45 <u>6</u>		None under 10
	Trout	0	Dec 1 – Last Friday in Apr	Catch and Release
	Trout	2	Open last Saturday in Apr – Nov 30	<u>None under 14"</u> <u>None under 16"</u>
HAYDEN LAKE INLETS, includes tributaries and all waters extending into the lake to markers at mouths of Hayden, Mokins, and Yellowbanks creeks			Closed to fishing	
<i>Rationale:</i> North Idaho quality bass rule water. Additionally, changes to rules at Hayden Lake and its tributaries would simplify rules and spread out the harvest of crappie over the season. The removal of closures on Hayden Lake tributaries simplifies rules and should have limited biological impacts to trout populations.				

MOKINS CREEK, and its tributaries			Closed to fishing	
<i>Rationale:</i> The removal of closures on Hayden Lake tributaries simplifies rules and should have limited biological impacts to trout populations.				
MOYIE RIVER Downstream from dam	Trout	2	Open all year Open all year	
<i>Rationale:</i> The current rules state the Moyie River is open year-round downstream from Moyie Dam. This change would increase opportunity for stream fishing above the dam and simplify rules.				
PEND OREILLE LAKE, mouths of streams for a radius of 100 yards into the lake, or to the orange markers, have the same seasons as the streams. Clark Fork and Pack rivers, Gold, Granite, Grouse, Lightning, North and West Gold, Rapid Lightning, and Trestle creeks have special seasons and limits	Cutthroat	≥ 0		It is lawful to have lake trout and rainbow trout in possession in the field or in transit with the head removed; tails must remain attached. Up to four (4) rods per angler are legal with a two-pole permit None under 16" <u>Catch-and-release</u>
	Kokanee	0		Catch-and-release
	Lake and rainbow trout	No limit		
	<u>Bass</u>	6		<u>Only 2 may be largemouth bass. No largemouth bass under 16".</u>
<i>Rationale:</i> North Idaho quality bass rule water. Also, the goal is to protect populations of westslope cutthroat trout, provide quality angling opportunity, and to simplify fishing rules in the Clark Fork River and Lake Pend Oreille.				
PEND OREILLE RIVER, downstream from the railroad bridge at Sandpoint	<u>Bass</u>	6	Open all year	<u>Only 2 may be largemouth bass. No largemouth bass under 16".</u>
<i>Rationale:</i> North Idaho quality bass rule water.				
ROBINSON LAKE	Bass	0	Jan 1 – June 30	Electric motors only Catch-and-Release
		≥ 6	July 1 – Dec 31	None between 12"-16" <u>Only 2 may be largemouth bass. No largemouth bass under 16".</u>
<i>Rationale:</i> North Idaho quality bass rule water.				

ST. JOE RIVER DRAINAGE , including St. Maries rivers and all tributaries, except in catch-and-release waters and Benewah Creek (excluding mountain lakes).	Cutthroat Chinook	≥ 0 2	See St. Joe River	None between 8" 16" <u>Catch-and-release</u>
ST. JOE , entire drainage upstream from the North Fork St. Joe River at Avery, including tributaries (excluding mountain lakes).	Trout <u>Cutthroat</u>	0		No bait, barbless hooks Catch-and-release
ST. MARIES RIVER DRAINAGE , including tributaries (excluding mountain lakes).	Cutthroat	≥ 0	See St. Maries River	None between 8" 16" <u>Catch-and-release</u>
SPOKANE RIVER from Post Falls Dam upstream to Coeur d'Alene Lake	Cutthroat	≥ 0	Open all year	None between 8" 16" <u>Catch-and-release</u>
<i>Rationale:</i> The goal is to protect populations of westslope cutthroat trout, provide quality angling opportunity, and to simplify fishing rules in the Spokane (Coeur d'Alene) River system. Existing rule exceptions in Little North Fork CDA River, North Fork CDA River, and St. Joe River upstream from Avery would remain as they currently are listed.				
WOLF LODGE CREEK, and its tributaries, including sloughs and connecting waters downstream to State Hwy. 97 bridge.			Closed to fishing	
<i>Rationale:</i> Establishing a catch-and-release cutthroat trout rule for the drainage eliminates the need for the closure.				
YELLOWBANKS CREEK, and its tributaries			Closed to fishing	
<i>Rationale:</i> The removal of closures on Hayden Lake tributaries simplifies rules and should have limited biological impacts to trout populations				

315. CLEARWATER REGION EXCEPTIONS.

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and license vendors.

<p>WINTER STREAM SEASON applies to all rivers and streams unless otherwise excepted below. <u>The use of insects and insect larvae is permitted during winter stream season in waters with no bait rules during the general stream season.</u></p>				
<p><i>Rationale:</i> This rule change would restore a traditional fishing method for mountain whitefish in some streams located in the Clearwater Region.</p>				
<p>FAMILY FISHING WATERS: Campbell's Pond, Deer Creek Reservoir, Fenn Pond, Hoedoo Lake, Moose Creek Reservoir*, Palouse River, Red River Pond, Soldiers Meadow Reservoir, Spring Valley Reservoir*, Tolo Lake*, Winchester Lake*. * Electric Motors Only — Gas motor may be attached to boat, but may not be used while fishing.</p>				
<p><i>Rationale:</i> These waters did not meet our expectations for Family Fishing Waters. This change will not actually result in a change in fishing opportunity since the general trout and bass limits would still apply.</p>				
Water	Species	Daily Bag Limit Exceptions	Exceptions to General Season	Special Rules
<p>CLEARWATER RIVER, NORTH FORK, from the upper end of flat water in Dworshak Reservoir upstream.</p>	Trout	2		No bait, barbless hooks <u>The use of insects and insect larvae is permitted during winter stream season</u>
				No cutthroat under 14"
<p>LOCHSA RIVER, from mouth upstream to Wilderness Gateway Campground Motor Bridge (near Highway 12 milepost 122).</p>	Trout	2		No bait, barbless hooks <u>The use of insects and insect larvae is permitted during winter stream season</u>
				None under 14"
<p><i>Rationale:</i> This rule change would restore a traditional fishing method for mountain whitefish in these streams.</p>				
<p>MANN LAKE</p>	Bass	6		None under 12" Electric motors only. No boats from Oct 1 – Dec 31
<p><i>Rationale:</i> This is no change from the 2006-07 rules, but will be listed as an exception if the proposed no minimum size on bass rule is passed.</p>				
<p>PALOUSE RIVER, and its tributaries.</p>			Open all year	Family Fishing Water
<p><i>Rationale:</i> This water did not meet our expectations for Family Fishing Waters. This change will not actually result in a change in fishing opportunity since the general limits and year round season would still apply.</p>				
<p>SELWAY RIVER, from mouth upstream to Selway Falls cable car.</p>				No bait, barbless hooks <u>The use of insects and insect larvae is permitted</u>

				during winter stream season
	Trout	2		None under 14"
<i>Rationale:</i> This rule change would restore a traditional fishing method for mountain whitefish in these streams.				
WAHA LAKE	Bass	6		None under 12"
<i>Rationale:</i> Waha Lake will conform to the general north Idaho bass rule proposal of 6 bass, no size limit.				

320. SOUTHWEST REGION EXCEPTIONS.

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and license vendors.

Water	Species	Daily Bag Limit Exceptions	Exceptions to General Season	Special Rules
CASCADE AQUARIUM			<u>Closed to fishing</u>	
<i>Rationale:</i> This will be an educational facility only and no fishing should be allowed.				
BLACKWELL LAKE (an alpine lake in the Payette Lake drainage)	Trout	2		No bait, barbless hooks None under 20"
<i>Rationale:</i> Blackwell Lake does not have the ability to grow 20" trout as the Department anticipated. Seven other mountain lakes in the region should satisfy the trophy trout component.				
LITTLE SALMON RIVER , from its mouth to 400 yards above the mouth of Rapid River.			Open July 16 – Nov 30	
<i>Rationale:</i> To simplify rules and liberalize fishing opportunity. The general fishing season would open Memorial Day Weekend instead of July 16.				

325. MAGIC VALLEY REGION EXCEPTIONS.

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and license vendors.

Water	Species	Daily Bag Limit Exceptions	Exceptions to General Season	Special Rules
LIME CREEK , and its tributaries	Trout	2		
<i>Rationale:</i> This will result in rule simplification. Since there is limited use by anglers in this drainage, the Department is not concerned about excessive harvest at this time.				

330. SOUTHEAST REGION EXCEPTIONS.

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and license vendors.

FAMILY FISHING WATERS: Alexander Reservoir, Crowthers Reservoir, <u>Devil Creek Reservoir</u> , McTucker Ponds, and Twin Lakes Reservoir (access fee charged by landowner).
<i>Rationale:</i> Devil Creek Reservoir will make a suitable Family Fishing water.

Water	Species	Daily Bag Limit Exceptions	Exceptions to General Season	Special Rules
BEAR LAKE				Not more than 2 baited hooks, flies or lures per line. One line only when ice fishing. <u>Two lines permitted when ice fishing with a Two-Pole Permit.</u>
<i>Rationale:</i> Rule will be consistent with State of Utah (Boundary water agreement).				
BLACKFOOT RIVER Mainstem and its tributaries upstream from boundary on Blackfoot Reservoir (boundary is defined as a line of buoys and shoreline markers approximately 4 miles below the Highway 34 Bridge) except Trail Creek upstream from the Caribou National Forest boundary.	Cutthroat	0	Open July 1 - Nov 30	No bait, barbless hooks Catch-and-release
<i>Rationale:</i> Removing the Trail Creek exception would result in rule simplification and greater protection of limited numbers of Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Blackfoot River drainage.				
SNAKE RIVER from the downriver (western) boundary of the Gifford Springs boat fishing zone upstream to Eagle Rock	Cutthroat Bass	2 2	Open all year	None under 16" <u>Any size</u>
SNAKE RIVER from Eagle Rock upstream to American Falls Dam	Trout (<u>including cutthroat</u>) Cutthroat Bass	6 2 2	Open Saturday of Memorial Day weekend - Oct 31	Only 2 over 16" None under 16" <u>Any size</u>
<i>Rationale:</i> Reducing bass harvest will provide better stock densities and provide for additional quality size bass. Cutthroat added for clarity, no rule change.				
TRAIL CREEK (Blackfoot River drainage) Upstream from the Caribou National Forest Boundary.	Cutthroat	2		
<i>Rationale:</i> Removing the Trail Creek exception to Blackfoot River rules would result in rule simplification and greater protection of limited numbers of Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Blackfoot River drainage. Rule for the water would be cutthroat 0, catch-and-release.				

TREASURETON (STONGARM) RESERVOIR	Trout	2		No bait, barbless hooks One line only when ice fishing None under 46" 20"
<i>Rationale:</i> Increasing the minimum size restriction will increase the potential for catching trophy sized trout.				
WINDER RESERVOIR				No fishing from rafts or boats. Float tubes permissible. No motors.
<i>Rationale:</i> This will result in rule simplification and allow more fishing opportunity.				

335. UPPER SNAKE REGION EXCEPTIONS.

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and license vendors.

Water	Species	Daily Bag Limit Exceptions	Exceptions to General Season	Special Rules
DRY BEDS , beginning at Big Feeder Irrigation Diversion.	<u>Cutthroat and other trout</u>	<u>6</u>	Open all year.	<u>No size restriction.</u>
<i>Rationale:</i> This is not a rule change, but a clarification.				
HENRYS LAKE TRIBUTARIES , all except Hatchery Creek.	Trout and Brook trout	2	Open Aug 1 — Aug 31 July 1 - Nov 30	Brook trout must be counted in trout limit.
<i>Rationale:</i> This will result in rule simplification. Recent information has demonstrated that natural brook trout production contributes very little to the fishery, so the August 30 closure serves no purpose. A July 1 opener is consistent with protection for other cutthroat spawning streams. This rule would provide more fishing opportunity and eliminate an unnecessarily restricted season.				
RIRIE RESERVOIR			Open May 1 — Nov 30	Ice fishing is restricted to the area from the dam to the posted boundary approximately 1 mile upstream
From the dam to posted boundary (approximately 1 mile upstream)			Open Dec 1 Mar 31	Ice Fishing Only
<i>Rationale:</i> Currently the reservoir is closed to fishing (but not boating) for the month of April to prevent disturbance to wintering wildlife. Wildlife biologists no longer see a need for the April closure as long as the Blacktail Access area is closed until May. In fact, boating and angling activity could be more disturbing to elk than deer, which is consistent with efforts to prevent elk from wintering in the Willow Creek canyon. Ice fishing restrictions reflect a county ordinance on the reservoir.				
FISHPOLE LAKE	<u>Trout</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>None under 20"</u>
LONG LAKE	<u>Trout</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>None under 20"</u>
SWAUGER LAKE	<u>Trout</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>None under 20"</u>
<i>Rationale:</i> This rule change would provide more diverse fishing opportunity to meet public desires reflected in the 2006 angler opinion survey. These alpine lakes are located near several other lakes with general rules for harvest opportunity. Swauger Lake is in the Little Lost drainage and Fishpole and Long lakes are in the Big Lost drainage.				

340. SALMON REGION EXCEPTIONS.

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and license vendors.

No rule changes proposed.