

Statewide Freshwater Rules

Using Freshwater Rules

1 • • • • • Read:

The Statewide Freshwater Rules and Statewide Freshwater Species Rules (pages 14-15). Determine seasons and general rules applying to the species for which you intend to fish.

2 • • • • • Check Special Rules for your location:

Special Rules (pages 17-94), list areas where the Statewide Rules have been modified. These are divided into multiple areas: Puget Sound and Coastal Rivers, Columbia Basin Rivers, Westside and Eastside lakes.

RIVERS lists rivers, streams, and beaver ponds. **LAKES** lists lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. For the purposes of this pamphlet, the COLUMBIA and SNAKE RIVERS are rivers (not reservoirs), and any Special Rules that apply are listed in the Columbia Basin section.

If a freshwater area is not listed in Special Rules, follow the Statewide Freshwater Rules.

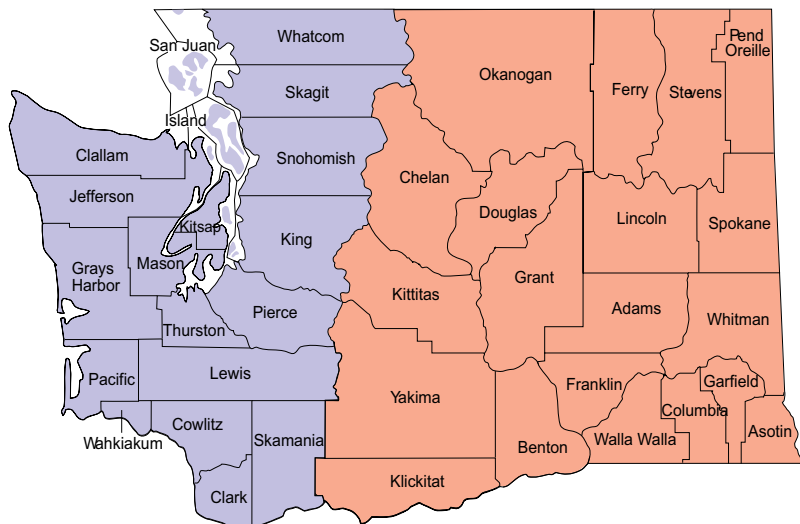
3 • • • • • Check for Emergency Rules:

Which can be found by calling the WDFW Fishing Hotline at (360) 902-2500, by contacting statewide customer service at (360) 902-2700, or by visiting the WDFW website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov>.

Puget Sound and Coastal Rivers
Pages 17-42



Westside Lakes
Pages 78-84



Columbia Basin Rivers
Pages 44-76

Eastside Lakes
Pages 86-94

Statewide Freshwater Rules

★ The following Statewide Freshwater Rules and seasons apply (pages 14-15) unless listed otherwise in the Special Rules (pages 17-94).

Areas/Seasons

Areas listed within Special Rules (pages 17-94), show **ALL** Game Fish and SALMON fishing opportunities for the specific area listed.

All freshwater areas are **CLOSED** to the harvest of any fish not classified as a Food Fish or Game Fish (see definitions page 10) except for NORTHERN PIKE.

Freshwater areas are open 24 hours per day when open.

All freshwater areas are **CLOSED** to fishing for SALMON, DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT, LAMPREY, and GRASS CARP.

Fishing for COMMON CARP, SHAD, or FORAGE FISH is open only during open Game Fish or SALMON seasons.

LAKES, PONDS, and RESERVOIRS are **OPEN** to fishing for Game Fish (except DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT and GRASS CARP) **year-round**.

RIVERS, STREAMS, and BEAVER PONDS are **OPEN** the Saturday before Memorial Day through October 31.

Beaver ponds located within or connected to streams listed as open to TROUT and Other Game Fish follow the same rules as the stream.

Tackle

Hook and line angling only. Barbed or barbless hooks may be used, and a hook may be single-point, double, or treble, but not more than one line with up to three hooks per angler may be used.

Single-point barbless hooks are required in areas designated as "fly fishing only" or "selective gear rules."

All fishing gear must be kept in immediate control and may not be left unattended while fishing. Rodholders may be used, but the rod must be easily removed without delay; rod may be left in holder while playing the fish.

A club or dipnet may be used to assist landing a legal fish taken by legal gear. A gaff hook may not be used.

It is unlawful to possess a fish taken from freshwater that was not hooked inside the mouth or on the head. The head is defined as any portion forward of the rear margin of the gill plate.

Bait Rules

It is unlawful to chum, broadcast, feed, or distribute into freshwater any bait or other substance capable of attracting fish unless specifically authorized in Special Rules.

Where use of bait is prohibited, or where lures or flies are used voluntarily, Game Fish may be caught and released until the daily limit is retained.

It is unlawful to possess or use live aquatic animals as bait, except:

1. Live aquatic animals (other than fish) collected from the water being fished.
2. Live sand shrimp.
3. Live forage fish in the Columbia River (downstream of Rocky Point/Tongue Point).

Sturgeon

GREEN STURGEON may not be retained.

WHITE STURGEON open for catch-and-release fishing during open Game Fish or SALMON seasons.

Catch-and-release fishing ONLY in the Columbia River from Bonneville Dam downstream, and from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam, Snake River from Ice Harbor Dam upstream, coastal and Puget Sound waters including their tributaries.

Annual WHITE STURGEON limit is 2 fish even if the angler holds both a Washington and Oregon license.

Anglers may continue to fish catch-and-release after retaining a daily limit.

After an annual limit has been retained, catch-and-release fishing is allowed only in waters of the Columbia River forming the Oregon/Washington boundary.

Catch Record Cards are required statewide.

Only one single-point barbless hook and bait is allowed when fishing for STURGEON. In the field, eggs must be retained with intact carcass of fish from which they came. **Night closure in effect for all STURGEON (except Chehalis River)**. Any STURGEON not to be retained must be released immediately. Oversized STURGEON cannot be removed totally or in part from the water.

Tagged STURGEON: Do not remove tags from fish not of legal size or not to be retained, but record: tag number and color, date, location of catch, fish length, your name and address. If fish is retained, remove tag and send with above information to the address below.

WDFW Region 5 Office
5525 S 11th St.
Ridgefield, WA 98642

Special Rules Instructions

The Special Rules (pages 17-94), list freshwater areas where the Statewide Rules have been modified.

Unless otherwise listed in the Special Rules, you must follow the Statewide Rules.

Areas listed within Special Rules, show **ALL** Game Fish and SALMON fishing opportunities for the specific area listed.

Common regulation terms and definitions can be found on pages 10-11.

The terms "**TROUT**", "**All Game Fish**", and "**Other Game Fish**" include the TROUT and Game Fish species on the definitions pages 10-11, except DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT and GRASS CARP.

When Landlocked Salmon rules apply, landlocked ATLANTIC, COHO, and CHINOOK SALMON are regulated as TROUT. See definition page 11.

County references after lakes or streams are noted to make it easier to locate the waters listed, or to differentiate between two places with the same name. They do not mean that the rules apply only to the portion of water in that county.

In Grant, Adams, Okanogan, and Douglas counties, you may fish up to the base of all man-made dams or other obstructions (in listed and unlisted areas), except Zosel Dam.

Lakes with this icon have a public boat ramp.



Lakes with this icon are excluded from the Two-Pole Endorsement.



Waters annotated with: **Col. R. Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement**, require a Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement when fishing for SALMON or STEELHEAD. See: https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/crss_endorsement

Waters annotated with: **Barbless hooks required for Salmon/Steelhead**, require the use of barbless hooks when fishing for SALMON and STEELHEAD within the Columbia River and its tributaries.

Statewide Freshwater Species Rules

Game Fish

Possession Limit for Game Fish is 2 Daily Limits in any form.

BASS (See DOH advisory, page 16)
May be caught, retained, and released alive from a livewell until a daily limit is in possession.

• **LARGEMOUTH BASS:**

No min. size. Only LARGEMOUTH BASS less than 12" may be retained, except 1 over 17" may be retained. Daily limit 5. No size restriction/daily limit in waters of Columbia River downstream of Chief Joseph Dam including all tributaries and their tributaries.

• **SMALLMOUTH BASS:**

No min. size. Only 1 SMALLMOUTH BASS over 14" may be retained. Daily limit 10. No size restriction/daily limit in waters of Columbia River downstream of Chief Joseph Dam including all tributaries and their tributaries.

WALLEYE:

Min. size 12". Daily limit 8. Only 1 over 22" may be retained. May be caught, retained, and released alive from a livewell until daily limit is in possession. No min. size/daily limit in waters of Columbia River downstream of Chief Joseph Dam including all tributaries and their tributaries.

CHANNEL CATFISH:

No min. size. Daily limit 5. No min. size/daily limit in waters of Columbia River downstream of Chief Joseph Dam including all tributaries and their tributaries.

BURBOT (FRESHWATER LING):

No min. size. Daily limit 5.

BULLFROGS:

(no license required)
No min. size. No daily limit. Must be taken by angling, hand-dip netting, spearing (gigging), or with bow-and-arrow.

CRAPPIE, NORTHERN PIKEMINNOW, PEAMOUTH CHUB, PERCH, SUCKERS, SUNFISH, CATFISH (except CHANNEL), ROCK BASS, STRIPED BASS:

No min. size. No daily limit.

GRASS CARP:

CLOSED unless otherwise listed in Special Rules.

KOKANEE:

No min. size. Daily limit 10.

TIGER MUSKELLUNGE (TIGER MUSKIE):

Min. size 50". Daily limit 1.

WHITEFISH:

No min. size. Daily limit 15.

STEELHEAD:

Release all wild STEELHEAD.

Min. size 20". Daily limit 2. Open during SALMON or Game Fish seasons unless as otherwise listed.

TROUT The combined daily limit for an angler that fishes in both rivers and lakes on the same day is 5 TROUT, no more than 2 may be from rivers.

EASTERN BROOK TROUT do not count towards TROUT daily limit unless as otherwise listed.

When fishing with bait, all TROUT equal to or greater than the minimum size are counted as part of the daily limit whether kept or released.

• **BROWN TROUT, CUTTHROAT TROUT, RAINBOW TROUT, LAKE TROUT, GOLDEN TROUT, TIGER TROUT, and GRAYLING:**

In rivers, streams, and beaver ponds:
Min. size 8". Daily limit 2.

In lakes, ponds, and reservoirs:
No min. size. Daily limit 5.

• **EASTERN BROOK TROUT (EBT):**

No min. size. No daily limit.

• **DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT:**

CLOSED unless otherwise listed in Special Rules.

Game Fish

Freshwater Rules

Food Fish

COMMON CARP:

No license required. No min. size. No daily limit. No possession limit. May also be taken by spear or bow-and-arrow.

SHAD:

No min. size. No daily limit. No possession limit.

SALMON:

Anglers may not continue to fish for SALMON after the adult portion of the daily limit has been retained. Possession limit - 2 daily limits in fresh form. An additional 40 pounds of SALMON may be possessed in frozen or processed form (see pages 10-11). ATLANTIC SALMON may be retained during any open TROUT or SALMON fishery. There is no size limit or daily limit for ATLANTIC SALMON.

FORAGE FISH:

No min. size. Daily limit is 10 lbs. in the aggregate with HERRING, SARDINES, SANDLANCE, and ANCHOVIES. Possession limit - 1 daily limit in fresh form. Additional SMELT may be possessed in a frozen or processed form. All SMELT caught must be kept and count toward the daily limit. SMELT may be taken by dip net. **Statewide CLOSURE of EULACHON (Columbia River smelt).** EULACHON may not be retained unless authorized by emergency rule. Check for announcements in late January.

WHITE STURGEON:

Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam including tributaries, and Snake River upstream to Ice Harbor Dam

Min. size 38" fork length in waters downstream of The Dalles Dam, and min. size 43" fork length in waters upstream of The Dalles Dam. Max. size 54" fork length. Daily limit 1. Possession limit: 2 daily limits. Annual limit 2 STURGEON statewide per license year (April 1-March 31). Unless specifically noted in special rules, open only during open Game Fish or SALMON seasons. **Please note rules on page 14.**

Columbia River from Bonneville Dam downstream, and from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam, Snake River from Ice Harbor Dam upstream, coastal, and Puget Sound waters including their tributaries.

Catch-and-release ONLY. Open only during open Game Fish or SALMON seasons unless specifically noted in special rules. **Please note rules on page 14.**

GREEN STURGEON:

CLOSED.

Food Fish

Other

LAMPREY:

It is unlawful to take, fish for, or possess PACIFIC LAMPREY, WESTERN BROOK LAMPREY, or RIVER LAMPREY or to use any species of LAMPREY as fishing bait.

NORTHERN PIKE:

No min. size. No daily limit. No possession limit. Must be dead before being removed from riparian area (immediate vicinity of water body).

Other fish not classified as Game Fish or Food Fish:
CLOSED. See definitions on page 10.

Other

"Eat Fish: Advice from Department of Health"



Eat Fish, Choose Wisely

Washington State Department of Health and the American Heart Association recommend eating at least two seafood meals per week as part of a heart healthy diet. Fish are a nutritious source of protein and Omega-3 fatty acids. It is best to eat fish from a variety of sources and choose fish low in contaminants like mercury and PCBs. **Before you fish, check advisories at www.doh.wa.gov/fish or 1-877-485-7316.**

Tips to Reduce Contaminants



- Eat a variety of fish from a variety of sources
- Eat younger and small fish (within legal limits)
- Remove skin, organs, and fat before cooking

FISH ADVISORIES		CONSUMPTION ADVICE	
This advice is important for everyone, especially women who are or might become pregnant, nursing mothers, and children. If there is no advisory, Department of Health recommends eating up to 1 fish meal per week. A meal is 8 oz. of uncooked fish for an adult.			
Body of Water	Fish Species	Women (Childbearing Age) and Children	Everyone Else
Statewide (Lakes and Rivers) Mercury Advisory	Northern Pikeminnow	DO NOT EAT	No restrictions
	Bass	2 meals per month	No restrictions
Columbia River • Lower - Former Vanalco Plant • Middle - Bradford Island (Bonneville Dam to Fort Raines) • Middle - Fort Raines to McNary Dam • Middle - McNary to I-90 • Upper - Lake Roosevelt (Grand Coulee Dam to Canada Border)	Clams	DO NOT EAT	
	Bass, Bluegill, Carp, Catfish, Crappie, Sucker, Sturgeon, Walleye, Yellow Perch	DO NOT EAT	
	Bass, Bluegill, Carp, Catfish, Crappie, Sucker, Sturgeon, Walleye, Yellow Perch	4 meals per month (any combination)	
	Carp, Sturgeon, Mt. Whitefish Bridgelip Sucker, Walleye Smallmouth Bass	1 meal per month 2 meals per month 4 meals per month	
	Largescale Sucker Largemouth Bass Burbot, Longnose Sucker, Mountain Whitefish, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye	2 meals per month 2 meals per month 4 meals per month (any combination)	4 meals per month No restrictions No restrictions
Duwamish River (Lower)	All resident fish, Shellfish, Crab	DO NOT EAT	
Green Lake	Carp	1 meal per month	
Lake Chelan	Lake Trout	4 meals per month	
Lake Washington	Carp, Northern Pikeminnow	DO NOT EAT	
	Cutthroat Trout	1 meal per month	
	Yellow Perch	4 meals per month	
Lake Whatcom	Smallmouth Bass	DO NOT EAT	No restrictions
	Yellow Perch	4 meals per month	No restrictions
Okanogan River Malott Bridge to Brewster Bridge; Chief Joseph State Park (Lake Pateros)	Carp	1 meal per month	
Olympic National Park • Lake Ozette • Mountain Lakes	Largemouth Bass, Northern Pikeminnow Yellow Perch, Bullhead Catfish	DO NOT EAT	
	Brook Trout, Cutthroat Trout	4 meals per month 4 meals per month	No restrictions No restrictions
Pend Oreille River Newport to Canadian border	Northern Pike (more than 24 inches)	DO NOT EAT	No restrictions
	Northern Pike (less than 24 inches)	2 meals per month	No restrictions
Puget Sound	All species	Visit www.doh.wa.gov/fish for advice by marine area	
Spokane River • Idaho Border to Upriver Dam • Upriver Dam to Nine Mile Dam • Lake Spokane (Long Lake)	All Species	DO NOT EAT	
	Largescale Sucker	DO NOT EAT	
	All other species	1 meal per month	
	Carp	DO NOT EAT	
	Largescale Sucker, Brown Trout Mountain Whitefish	1 meal per month 4 meals per month	
Walla Walla River (Dry Creek to Columbia River)	Carp	1 meal per month	
Wenatchee River (Icicle Creek to Columbia River)	Mountain Whitefish	DO NOT EAT	
Yakima River (Prosser to Columbia River)	Carp	4 meals per month	