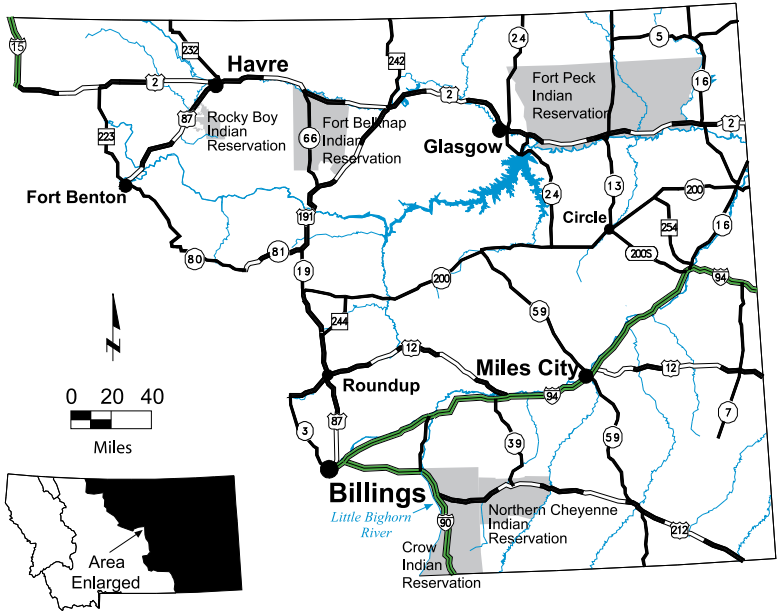


## Eastern Fishing District



Areas excluded from fishing districts.  
 Additional regulations may apply.  
 Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

**The Eastern Fishing District includes all waters lying east of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District, page 47.**

**Note:** Roadways that are used as boundaries between the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts are interpreted to be in the Central Fishing District. See description of the Central and Eastern Fishing District boundary on page 47.

For additional information regarding the boundaries of this district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.:

<b>Billings</b> .....	<b>406-247-2940</b>
<b>Glasgow</b> .....	<b>406-228-3700</b>
<b>Great Falls</b> .....	<b>406-454-5840</b>
<b>Havre Area Resource Office</b> .....	<b>406-265-6177</b>
<b>Lewistown Area Office</b> .....	<b>406-538-4658</b>
<b>Miles City</b> .....	<b>406-234-0900</b>
<b>FWP Headquarters</b> .....	<b>406-444-2449</b>
<b>Hearing Impaired (use Montana Relay)</b> .....	<b>7-1-1 or 1-800-253-4091</b>

## Eastern District Standard Regulations

**Closed Waters:** Waters operated as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds by FWP and the US Fish and Wildlife Service shall be closed to fishing at all times. Waters in which FWP operates fish traps and other structures are closed to fishing as posted. Certain water-supply lakes, streams and hazardous areas are also closed as posted.

**Dam Closures and Restrictions:** In the interest of public health and safety, certain areas above and below most dams are closed to the public. These restrictions include areas where no public access is allowed below the ordinary high-water mark. The restricted areas are identified and delineated by signs and/or boat restraining systems. The following dams are closed to all boating, sailing, floating, swimming, fishing or other recreational activity as marked by boat restraining systems or as posted to restrict access. Other dams not listed here may also be posted for restricted access. For more information call the FWP Fishing Access Coordinator at 406-444-2449, or contact the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) at 406-247-7296 or the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) 406-293-7751.

Anita Dam (BOR, Yellowstone County)  
Fort Peck Dam (ACOE, Valley County)  
Fresno Dam (BOR, Hill County)  
Tongue River Reservoir (DNRC, Big Horn County)

**Beaver Ponds:** Beaver ponds on streams are governed by the same regulations that govern the streams.

**Fort Peck Reservation - Tribal Boundary Water Regulations:** Non-tribal members licensed through the State of Montana and/or Fort Peck Tribes that are fishing in waters that form the exterior boundaries of the Reservation -- Big Muddy Creek, Missouri River and/or Milk River -- are permitted to harvest the following limits:

Burbot (Ling)	5 daily and in possession
Channel Catfish	10 daily and 20 in possession
Northern Pike	10 daily and in possession
Paddlefish	1 per season and in possession
Sauger/Walleye	5 daily and 10 in possession
Pallid Sturgeon	0 (all waters are closed to fishing for Pallid Sturgeon)
Shovelnose Sturgeon	5 daily and in possession

These harvest limits cannot be exceeded, even if the angler possesses both tribal and state licenses, and fishes on and/or off the reservation on the same day.

Non-tribal members licensed through the State of Montana and/or the Fort Peck Tribes, that are fishing in exterior boundary waters — Big Muddy Creek, Missouri River and/or Milk River — are limited to a maximum of 6 lines with 6 hooks per line. Unattended lines are required to be identified with the angler's name and/or license number. Setlines shall not be attached to jugs or floating devices.

**Irrigation Canals and Ditches:** Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open year round unless stated otherwise in exceptions to standard regulations. The same daily and possession limits apply to them as for rivers/streams. Please refer to "Irrigation Canals and Ditches" on page 20 for more details.

**Reservoirs:** Under normal operations, reservoir pool elevation, surface acreage and the mouths of the inlet stream(s) are expected to vary throughout the year. An imaginary line connecting the reservoir shoreline across the mouth of the stream marks the boundary between reservoir and stream/river, and the boundary will move as reservoir levels change. Streams are defined by a sloped streambed that results in a defined current flow between two discernible stream banks. Stream regulations apply upstream from the mouth on the reservoir and often are managed under seasons, limits and special regulations that differ from the reservoir regulations.

## Eastern District Standard Regulations

### Transporting Live Fish

An import permit is required to bring live fish of any kind into Montana. It is unlawful to possess or transport any live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken without authorization from FWP with the following exceptions:

- 1) Transportation of fish for authorized commercial purposes (e.g. Baitfish Seining Permit, Commercial Fish Ponds, Commercial Fishing, etc.).
- 2) Use as live bait subject to restrictions imposed by the F&W Commission for the taking, transport and use of live baitfish (see **“Bait Regulations”** for Eastern Fishing District) below; or
- 3) Within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District. It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish, other than authorized baitfish, on roadways that form the boundary between the Eastern and Central fishing districts.
- 4) Transport of live baitfish to and from areas contaminated with Eurasian watermilfoil (Fort Peck Reservoir, Fort Peck Dredge Cut Ponds, and the Missouri River from Fort Peck Dam to the mouth of the Milk River) is allowed ONLY in clean water (e.g. transport minnows in well water).

**Boat and Motor Restrictions:** A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws may be obtained by contacting any FWP office or any FWP license agent. All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times when the boat is in motion if the boat is less than 26 feet long. A wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD must be available for each occupant of any boat.

### Methods of Taking Fish

- A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.
- Spears and bows are counted as lines for purposes of determining line limits.
- When multiple lines are allowed on a body of water, the number of lines shall not exceed the combination of attended lines, setlines, or spears. For example, while spearing for Northern Pike on Tongue River Reservoir in the winter (where the limit is 6 lines through the ice), an angler may only have 5 setlines in use.
- All unattended fishing devices (crayfish traps, minnow traps, fish traps, setlines, etc.) must have the angler’s name and phone number or name and ALS# attached.

### Hook and Line Limits

#### Open Water

#### **Rivers and Streams**

- 6 lines with 6 hooks per line. The line(s) must be attended and in the angler’s immediate control unless they are used as setlines. See regulations for Setlines below.

#### **Lakes and Reservoirs**

- 2 lines with 2 hooks per line or as noted under Exceptions to Standard Regulations. All lines must be attended and in the angler’s immediate control unless they are used as setlines. See regulations for Setlines below.

#### Ice Fishing

#### **Lakes, Reservoirs, Rivers and Streams**

- 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice. When a line is used through the ice, the angler need not be in immediate control but must be in the vicinity and in visual contact with the line unless they are used as setlines. See regulations for Setlines.

**Size of Hole:** There is no size limit for a hole used for ice fishing or with a spear.

**Shelters:** It is unlawful to use any ice fishing shelter not conforming to the following rules:

Definition/use: Any hut or enclosure constructed of any material, except ice or snow, for the purpose of ice fishing.

Identification: Identification must be painted on or otherwise affixed to all unattended shelters in legible, 2-inch letters plainly visible at a distance of 100 feet. Identification must include the owner's name and address, name and phone number, or 9/10-digit ALS number. Attended shelters at Bearpaw Lake and Beaver Creek Reservoir must also be identified.

Inspection: Each closed shelter shall have a door that an officer may readily open from the outside for inspection when it is occupied.

Waste and Rubbish Disposal: Owners and occupants of shelters are required to keep their shelters (and the area immediately around them) free from rubbish and trash. Anglers must remove waste materials before they leave for the day.

Removal After the Season: The owner of an ice fishing shelter shall remove it from the ice before it becomes irretrievable at the end of the season, **or by March 1. Shelters may remain on the ice after March 1 but must be removed daily if not occupied overnight.**

### Setlines

- Number of lines is the same as for Hook and Line Limits. Setlines may be used in all waters unless prohibited in the District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.
- Setlines (unattended lines) must be checked by the owner at least once every 24 hours.
- The angler's name and phone number or name and 9/10-digit ALS# must be attached to each setline.
- Setlines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

**Bow and Arrow:** Unless otherwise noted in the exceptions to the standard regulations, ***all waters open to angling are open to taking non-game fish by bow and arrow. Paddlefish can be harvested by bow and arrow anglers with a valid Paddlefish tag and during an open Paddlefish harvest day (see General and Standard Paddlefish Regulations).***

**Crossbows:** Unlawful.

**Nets and Traps:** Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish. See Bait Regulations for use of nets to harvest bait fish.

### Hoop Nets

- The use of hoop nets is permitted in certain areas of the Eastern Fishing District.
- The use of hoop nets is limited to licensed resident anglers.
- A permit is required. Permit applications and rules are available at FWP offices in Billings, Miles City and Glasgow.
- Closed statewide March 1 thru May 15

**Snagging allowed for: 1) Chinook Salmon on Fort Peck Reservoir only from October 1 through November 30; 2) Paddlefish by anglers with a valid Paddlefish tag/license during an open Paddlefish season (see General and Standard Paddlefish Regulations); and 3) non-game fish on all open waters in the Eastern District except on the Missouri River downstream from Fort Benton to the North Dakota border, the Yellowstone River downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River, and Powder River downstream of Highway 10 bridge.**

**Spearing:** In all waters open to fishing, non-game fish, Northern Pike, Burbot (Ling), Walleye and Whitefish may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled

spears by persons swimming or submerged. Spears or gigs may be used through the ice for non-game fish, Northern Pike, Walleye, Sauger and Burbot (Ling).

## Bait Regulations

- Game fish, including Yellow Perch, may not be used as bait except as authorized below under Dead Bait.
  - Possession of live bait fish is prohibited on waters closed to using live bait.
  - It is unlawful to release live bait of any kind into Montana waters; do not empty any live bait containers at your fishing site.
  - Where live fish may be used as bait (see list below under Live Bait), legal non-game fish may be taken for use as bait in the following manner:
    - with hook and line; or
    - with seines no larger than 12 feet by 4 feet; or
    - with minnow traps (the dimensions shall not exceed 24 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches); or
    - with cast nets (maximum 6-foot radius) and dip nets (no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet).
  - Legal non-game fish, except Sculpins (genus *Cottus*) which must be killed prior to transport, may only be transported live:
    - to or from waters where live fish may be used as bait in the Central Fishing District, or
    - anywhere within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.
- Note: Sculpins (genus *Cottus*) may not be used for bait in the Western District.
- Landowner permission is required to capture live bait from privately owned ponds.
  - See Commercial Fishing License (page 89) requirements for information on commercial harvest permits.
  - All unattended fishing devices (crayfish traps, minnow traps, fish traps, setlines, etc.) must have the angler's name and phone number or name and ALS# attached.
  - Areas within the Eastern Fishing District that have been identified as contaminated with Eurasian watermilfoil have additional bait restrictions as described below.

## Dead Bait

- Non-game fish that are freshly killed or have been preserved by freezing, salting or pickling may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial lures only. Heads and entrails of non-game fish may also be used as bait.
- Whole game fish may not be used as bait.
- Parts/pieces of Bass, Burbot (Ling), Channel Catfish, Crappie, Northern Pike, Paddlefish, Sauger, Shovelnose Sturgeon, Tiger Muskie, Walleye, or Yellow Perch may be used as bait if edible portions are not wasted.
- The eggs of Char, Cisco, Arctic Grayling, Salmon or Trout may be used as bait. Parts/pieces of Salmonids may not be used as bait.

## Live Bait

- Live bait fish may not be imported into Montana.
- Live animals such as meal worms, red worms, night crawlers, leeches, maggots, crayfish, reptiles, amphibians and insects may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial lures only.
- Leeches may only be imported into Montana from FWP-approved leech dealers. Anglers who import leeches must have in their possession a bill-of-sale (a receipt) from the approved out-of-state leech dealer when fishing with leeches in Montana. A list of approved out-of-state leech

dealers may be obtained from FWP by calling 406-452-6181.

- Fish species that may be collected and used as live bait in the Eastern Fishing District include only the following: Fathead Minnow, Flathead Chub, Western Silvery Minnow, Plains Minnow, Emerald Shiner, Longnose Dace, Lake Chub, Creek Chub, Longnose Sucker, and White Sucker. See pages 94-95 for live bait fish identification.
- These species may be used as live bait only in the following waters:

**Lakes, Reservoirs, Ponds and Impoundments (listed by County):**

Big Horn Co. – Tongue River Reservoir (see exceptions to standard regulations)

Blaine Co. – Cow Creek Reservoir, Dry Fork Reservoir, Anita Reservoir, Reser Reservoir

Carter Co. – Doug Gardner #2 Reservoir, Talcott Pond

Custer Co. – Spotted Eagle Pond, Haughan Pond

Daniels Co. – Whitetail Reservoir

Dawson Co. – Hollecker Pond, Johnson Reservoir, Lindsey Reservoir

Fallon Co. – Baker Lake, South Sandstone Reservoir

Garfield Co. – Fort Peck Reservoir, Whiteside Reservoir

Hill Co. – Beaver Creek Reservoir, Bailey Reservoir

McCone Co. – Flat Lake, Fort Peck Reservoir, Hedstrom Reservoir

Petroleum Co. – Fort Peck Reservoir, Petrolia Reservoir

Prairie Co. – Grants Reservoir, Homestead Reservoir

Phillips Co. – Bison Bone Reservoir, Big McNeil Slough, Cole Ponds, Ester Reservoir, Fort Peck Reservoir, Frenchman Reservoir, Little Warm Reservoir, McChesney Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Wildhorse Reservoir

Richland Co. – Buxbaum West Reservoir, Gartside Reservoir, Kuester Reservoir

Roosevelt Co. – Bainville Railroad Ponds

Rosebud Co. – Castle Rock Lake, Lee Pond

Sheridan Co. – Box Elder Reservoir, Engstrom Reservoir, Medicine Lake Nat. Wildlife Refuge, Raymond Reservoir

Valley Co. – Fort Peck Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Fort Peck Reservoir, Grub Reservoir, Gut Shot Reservoir, Shoot Reservoir, Triple Crossing Reservoir, Valley Reservoir, VR2 Reservoir, Wards Res., and all BLM reservoirs in the Willow Creek Drainage

Wibaux Co. – Wibaux Pond

**Rivers and Streams:** All streams and rivers in the Eastern Fishing District except:

Milk River and its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam.

Beaver Creek upstream from Beaver Creek Reservoir.

**Bait restrictions in Eurasian watermilfoil contaminated areas**

Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive aquatic plant species that has become established in some Montana waters. This water weed is easily spread from one body of water to another primarily by plant fragments. Areas within the Eastern Fishing District that have been identified as contaminated with Eurasian watermilfoil are:

- Fort Peck Reservoir
- Fort Peck Dredge Cut Ponds
- Missouri River from Fort Peck Dam to the mouth of the Milk River

The additional bait restrictions within the contaminated areas are:

- Commercial collection of bait animals is not permitted.
- Transport of live aquatic bait animals to and from these contaminated areas is allowed only in clean water (e.g. transport minnows and leeches in well water).

Anglers shall inspect all bait buckets and live wells to ensure that **NO PLANT FRAGMENTS** are present when leaving a body of water. It takes only a small fragment of Eurasian watermilfoil (less than 2 inches) to start a new plant and infest a body of water.

## General Regulations

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

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

### Handling and Transporting Legally Taken Fish

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

- All fish in possession must be visibly identifiable to species.
- All fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, fins and tail attached. Gills and entrails may be removed. This doesn't prohibit the consumption of fish on the ice or water. However, the fish consumed are part of your daily limit (see Disposal of Dead Fish and Fish Entrails on page 16).
- This doesn't prohibit the consumption of fish on the ice or water. However, the fish consumed are part of your daily limit.

Once off the water or ice, fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to your permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:

- All fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.
- Salmonids (Trout, Salmon, Arctic Grayling, Char and Whitefish): the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

## General Fishing Seasons and Hours

### Fishing Hours

- Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

### Fishing Season: Lakes/Reservoirs and Rivers/Streams

- All waters open entire year unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

## Paddlefish Season Summary by River and River Section

River	River Section	Color	Season Dates	Harvest Days	C&R Days
Missouri River	Ft Peck Dam to Ft Benton	white	May 1 - Jun 15	all	all
	Ft Peck Dredge Cuts - no snagging	blue	July 1 - Aug 31	all - bow & arrow harvest only	none
	Ft Peck Dam to ND Line	yellow	May 15 - Jun 30	Tue,Wed,Fri,Sat	none
Yellowstone River	Big Horn R to Intake Dam	yellow	May 15 - Jun 30	Tue,Wed,Fri,Sat	none
	Intake FAS	yellow	May 15 - Jun 30	Tue,Wed,Fri,Sat	Sun, Mon,Thur
	Downstream of Intake FAS to ND Line	yellow	May 15 - Jun 30	Tue,Wed,Fri,Sat	none
<b>FAS = Fishing Access Site</b>			<b>C&amp;R = Catch-and-release</b>		

### General Paddlefish Regulations for ALL Areas

- All Paddlefish anglers must purchase a Paddlefish tag, a conservation license, and the required fishing license (see License Requirements pages 12-13). All licenses must be in the angler's immediate possession while fishing.
- Each angler must cast for, hook and reel in his or her own Paddlefish. It is unlawful for another person to do so. It is unlawful to loan tags or use another angler's tag.
- It is unlawful to snag Paddlefish via boat trolling; casting from an anchored or drifting boat is lawful.
- Any fish other than Paddlefish caught while Paddlefishing must be immediately released alive.
- Bow and arrow: lawful on harvest days in sections of river open to harvest or in a bow fishing only area; unlawful for catch-and-release.
- Hook size is limited to 8/0 and smaller for all Paddlefish snagging.
- Gaffs, no longer than 4.5 feet in length, may be used to land a Paddlefish that will be harvested. Gaffs may not be used to land a Paddlefish that will be released.
- Any angler tag locked shut prior to attachment to a Paddlefish shall be void and is not replaceable. Any altered or modified tag shall be void. **Voided or lost tags are not replaceable.**
- Paddlefish must be tagged immediately upon harvest.

#### Tagging a Paddlefish

- Cut a small hole in the base of the dorsal fin.
- Insert the metal loop portion of the plastic self-locking tag through this hole and seal tag.
- The metal loop must penetrate the fish so as to make the plastic self-locking tag non-removable when tag is sealed.
- The plastic self-locking tag must be completely sealed so it cannot be reopened. Any fish not tagged in accordance with these instructions shall be considered to be untagged.





- When a Paddlefish is captured and tagged, the fish must be removed from the river by the end of the day (9:00 PM MST).
- Anglers are required to report the harvest of any Paddlefish within 48 hours of harvest.
- Reporting options include on-site at fisheries check station or roving crews, phone hotline (1-877-FWPWILD or 406-444-0356), or online at [myfwp.mt.gov/](http://myfwp.mt.gov/).
- Anglers reporting a harvested Paddlefish will provide the following information: Angler tag number, jaw tag number (if present), length (eye-tail fork), sex, date of harvest and harvest location. Additional information that may be collected on-site includes weight and age structure (jaw section).
- Anglers not reporting a harvested Paddlefish will not be eligible to purchase a Paddlefish tag the following year.
- It is unlawful to possess an untagged Paddlefish or part of one. If anglers fillet a Paddlefish, they must keep the part of the fish back and dorsal fin (back fin) where the tag is attached and sealed to the fish.
- Angler tag must remain with processed fish until consumed.
- It is unlawful for an individual to sell any portion of a Paddlefish including eggs (processed or unprocessed) as prescribed by the Fish & Wildlife Commission.

### Standard Paddlefish Regulations

**Daily and Possession Limits and Tags:** One Paddlefish per season per angler. Anglers may select only one of the following three areas, and may only fish in the area selected:

#### 1) Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton (White Tag)

Upper Missouri Paddlefish Drawing: Paddlefish harvest tags will be available via lottery draw for the Upper Missouri River Paddlefish season (White Tag). Anglers need to apply individually or as a party (up to five people). Applications can be submitted either on-line at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov), at an FWP office (see page 11 for addresses) or mailed. ***You may purchase one bonus point per year; either at the time of application or between July 1 and September 30 of the current year. If you do choose to purchase a bonus point at the time of application, you may not purchase one from July - September.***

- Applications must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 PM March 27, 2020.
- Unsuccessful applicants can still catch-and-release Paddlefish with their Conservation, Fishing and Paddlefish Licenses.
- Paddlefish Snagging: open May 1 to June 15 from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM (MST) daily.
- Catch-and-release snagging: open May 1 to June 15 from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Proof of purchase of a white (or Upper Missouri River) Paddlefish license is required for catch-and-release fishing.
- All Paddlefish caught while catch-and-release fishing must be released immediately, may not be gaffed, and must remain at least partially submerged in water at all times (to avoid injury to the fish).

#### 2) Fort Peck Dredge Cuts (west of Park Grove Bridge and Nelson Dredge) (Blue Tag)

- Bow and Arrow: open July 1 through August 31 for Paddlefish. One Paddlefish per angler. An unused blue Paddlefish tag is required to fish for Paddlefish.
- Snagging: no snagging allowed, this is an archery only season.

**3) Yellowstone River from Bighorn River confluence to Intake Dam (not including Intake Fishing Access Site), downstream of Intake Fishing Access Site to North Dakota State Line, Powder River downstream of Highway 10 bridge, and Missouri River downstream of Fort Peck Dam (Yellow Tag)**

- Fishery is managed under a harvest target so annual harvest will not exceed 1,000 Paddlefish. FWP will announce a 24-hour closure of the harvest season through a public news release. Closure can be immediate at Intake FAS (Intake Dam to ½ mile downstream) to prevent exceeding the estimated harvest target. Other yellow tag areas will close as noted in the 24-hour notice. For current information on harvest status call the Miles City FWP office at 406-234-0900.
- Following announcement of the harvest closure, catch-and-release snagging will be allowed, at Intake Fishing Access Site only, for 10 consecutive calendar days or through June 30, whichever comes first.
- The Montana nonprofit corporation designated to accept Paddlefish egg donations in exchange for a free fish cleaning service, in accordance with guidelines developed and implemented through the annual Memorandum of Understanding, is authorized to accept and transport lawfully taken and tagged Paddlefish donated by the angler. Paddlefish harvested on the Yellowstone River between the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge at Glendive and the North Dakota state line are eligible for donation to the cleaning station at Intake FAS.
- **Paddlefish Harvest Days:** open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from May 15 through June 30 from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM (MST) daily, unless closed earlier by FWP.
- It is unlawful to release a Paddlefish on a harvest day during the Paddlefish season.
- An unused yellow Paddlefish tag is required to fish for Paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first Paddlefish caught and landed.
- Paddlefishing closed Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays (see exception under Intake Fishing Access Site below).

**Intake Fishing Access Site (Intake Dam to ½ mile downstream)**

- **Paddlefish Catch-and-Release Days:** open Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays from May 15 through June 30 from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM (MST) daily, unless closed earlier by FWP.
  - All Paddlefish caught on catch-and-release days must be released immediately, may not be gaffed, and must remain at least partially submerged in water at all times (to avoid injury to the fish).
  - Evidence of purchasing a current year yellow Paddlefish tag must be in possession to catch-and-release snag for Paddlefish.
  - Bow and arrow fishing unlawful on catch-and-release days.
- **Paddlefish Harvest Days:** open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from May 15 through June 30 from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM (MST) daily, unless closed to harvest earlier by FWP.
  - It is unlawful to release a Paddlefish on a harvest day during the Paddlefish season.
  - An unused yellow Paddlefish tag is required to fish for Paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first Paddlefish caught and landed
  - Closed to fishing, snagging or landing Paddlefish from boats/vessels during the open Paddlefish season (i.e. May 15 through June 30 or earlier as posted on site).

## Eastern District Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the limits listed in the chart, unless otherwise noted in the Eastern District Exceptions. For species not listed, there are no limits on the number of fish that may be taken or possessed.

Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess the limit of fish allowed only for the water on which they are currently fishing.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p.84.

	Species	Daily and Possession Limits
<b>T R O U T</b>	<b>Brook Trout</b>	10 daily and in possession.
	<b>Combined Trout</b> includes Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Golden Trout and Arctic Grayling	Lakes/Reservoirs: 5 daily and 10 in possession, includes Cutthroat Trout.  Rivers/Streams: 5 daily and in possession.
	<b>Cutthroat Trout</b>	Lakes/Reservoirs: included in the "Combined Trout" daily and possession limit.  Rivers/Streams: all Cutthroat Trout must be released immediately.
	<b>Lake Trout</b>	3 daily and 6 in possession.
	<b>Bass</b>	5 daily and in possession.
	<b>Burbot (Ling)</b>	5 daily and in possession.
	<b>Channel Catfish</b>	10 daily and 20 in possession.
	<b>Crappie</b>	15 daily and 30 in possession.
	<b>Northern Pike</b>	10 daily and in possession.
	<b>Paddlefish</b>	1 per season and in possession. Tag required.
	<b>Pallid Sturgeon</b>	None - this is an endangered species and all fish must be released immediately. All waters are closed to fishing for Pallid Sturgeon.
	<b>Salmon</b> (Kokanee & Chinook)	5 daily and 10 in possession.
	<b>Sauger/Walleye</b>	5 daily and 10 in possession.
	<b>Shovelnose Sturgeon</b>	5 daily and in possession, none over 40 inches.
	<b>Tiger Muskie</b>	1 daily and in possession, must be over 40 inches.
	<b>Whitefish</b>	20 daily and 40 in possession.

### 2020 GENERAL FISHING SEASON

<b>Eastern District</b>	Rivers and Streams	Lakes and Reservoirs
	Open all year	Open all year

If you don't find the water you are looking for listed in the district exceptions, use the standard regulations for the district you are fishing in.

## Eastern District Exceptions To Standard Regulations

Check the following list of waters for the body of water you intend to fish in the Eastern District. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Exceptions, all of the Eastern District standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply. Standard regulations apply for species not listed in the Exceptions.

### Waterbody/Section

### Exceptions to Standard Regulations

#### BIGHORN RIVER (east of Billings) -----

##### Entire river

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only **2** may be a Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only **4** may be Sauger.

#### BOXELDER RESERVOIR aka Bolster Dam (Sheridan County) -----

- Yellow Perch: 25 daily and 50 in possession.

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

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

#### FORT PECK KIDS POND (near Downstream Campground) -----

- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age or younger only. One rod per child.

#### FORT PECK RESERVOIR -----

##### Fort Peck Dam to Beauchamp Creek and CMR Trail 837

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 2 may be a Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 4 may be Sauger.
- Spearing: Chinook Salmon and Lake Trout may be taken by spear or gig through the ice December 1 through March 31.
- Snagging: allowed only for Chinook Salmon from October 1 through November 30.

#### HOME RUN POND (Glasgow) -----

- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age or younger only. One rod per child.

#### JUDITH RIVER (from Hwy 81 downstream to mouth) -----

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 2 may be Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 4 may be Sauger.

#### LAKE ELMO -----

- Bow fishing prohibited.

#### MARIAS RIVER -----

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily only 2 may be a Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 4 may be Sauger.
- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches.

#### MEDICINE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Sheridan County) -----

- **Refuge open to fishing year-round.**
- **Consult refuge specific regulations available at the office, informational kiosks, or online: [fws.gov/refuge/Medicine\\_Lake/visit/rules\\_and\\_regulations.html](https://fws.gov/refuge/Medicine_Lake/visit/rules_and_regulations.html)**

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p.84.

Eastern District

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 84.

## Missouri River Upstream from Fort Peck Dam

### Waterbody/Section

MISSOURI RIVER 

### Exceptions to Standard Regulations

#### Entire river

- Snagging: it is unlawful to snag for fish other than Paddlefish on the Missouri River downstream from Fort Benton; any fish other than Paddlefish must be immediately released alive.

#### Upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton

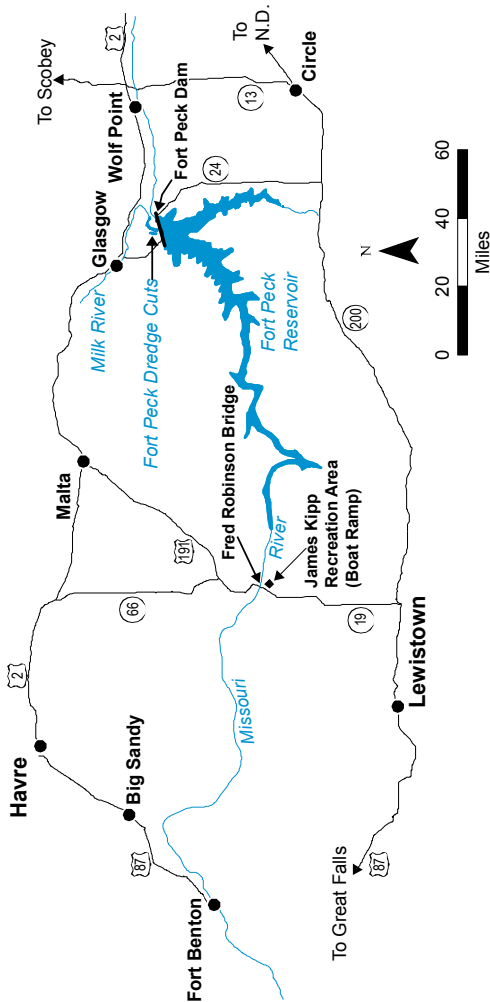
- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 2 may be a Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 4 may be Sauger.

#### Fort Peck Dam to the mouth of the Milk River

- Combined trout: 2 trout daily and in possession.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line on open water and 6 lines with 6 hooks per line through the ice.

#### Downstream from Fort Peck Dam near Duck Island as posted

- Closed from March 1 through July 31 to fishing and wading as posted.



 AIS Status: Eurasian watermilfoil (Fort Peck) and Curlyleaf pondweed



If you see this icon, turn to page 17 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

**MUSSELSHELL RIVER****Downstream from where North and South forks meet to Confluence with Fort Peck**

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 2 may be Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 4 may be Sauger.
- Channel Catfish: 10 daily and in possession

**POWDER RIVER****Downstream from Highway 10 Bridge**

- Snagging: unlawful to snag for fish other than Paddlefish; any fish other than Paddlefish must be immediately released alive.

**ROSS RESERVOIR (Blaine County)**

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

**SPOTTED EAGLE POND (Miles City)**

- 5 fish daily and in possession, any combination of species.

**TONGUE RIVER****Tongue River Reservoir to Wyoming State Border**

- Fish species allowed for use as live bait are: Fathead Minnow, Flathead Chub, Longnose Dace, Lake Chub, Creek Chub, White Sucker, and Longnose Sucker.
- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily only 1 may be a Sauger and 10 in possession only 2 may be Sauger.

**Twelve Mile Dam Fishing Access Site (T&Y Dam)**

- Hook and Line/Setlines: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line all year.

**TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR**

- Fish species allowed for use as live bait are: Fathead Minnow, Flathead Chub, Longnose Dace, Lake Chub, Creek Chub, White Sucker, and Longnose Sucker.
- Crappie: 30 daily and 60 in possession.
- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily only 1 may be a Sauger and 10 in possession only 2 may be Sauger.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 6 hooks per line through the ice.

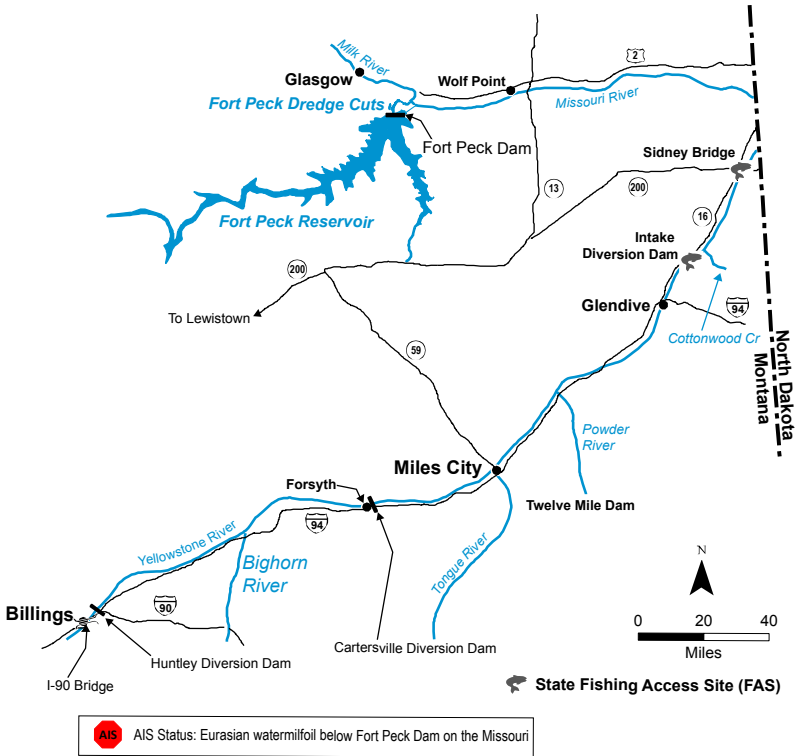
**WARM SPRINGS CREEK (Fergus County)**

- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches.

**WIND CREEK (Blaine County)**

- Closed entire year from Clear Creek road crossing to Ross Reservoir Dam.

# Yellowstone & Lower Missouri Rivers



If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 84.

## YELLOWSTONE RIVER

### Entire River

- Smallmouth Bass: 10 daily and in possession.

### I-90 Bridge at Billings to the mouth of the Bighorn River

- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches, all may be Cutthroat Trout.
- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily only **2** may be a Sauger and 10 in possession only **4** may be Sauger.

### Mouth of the Bighorn River to Cartersville Diversion Dam at Forsyth

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily only **2** may be a Sauger and 10 in possession only **4** may be Sauger.

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

- Snagging: unlawful to snag for fish other than Paddlefish; any fish other than Paddlefish must be immediately released alive.

### Intake Fishing Access Site

- Hook and Line/Setlines: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line all year.