Definitions

ANGLING/FISHING
Angling or fishing means to capture or attempt to capture fish, or the act of a person possessing any instrument, article or substance for the purpose of taking fish in any location that a fish might inhabit.

ARTIFICIAL LURE
Any manmade lure(including flies) that imitates natural bait. Artificial lures may have a scent infused or applied. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs, any natural or artificial food such as corn and marshmallows, any products that are derivatives of natural foods, any chemically treated or processed natural bait such as salted minnows, nor any artificial dough, paste or edible baits.

ATTENDED LINE
A line with/without a pole held in hand or under immediate control. When 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.

CALENDAR DAY
A 24-hour period from midnight to midnight.

DAILY LIMIT
The number of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the bag 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.

DRAINAGE
All of the waters comprising a watershed, including tributary rivers, streams, sloughs, ponds and lakes that contribute to the water supply of the watershed.

DRESSED FISH
A fish which has been cleaned by removing the entrails. Dressed fish also may be filleted and/or have their head, gills and scales removed.

ENDANGERED SPECIES
Species in imminent danger of extinction throughout their range and listed by state or federal regulation.

FISHING ACCESS SITE (FAS)
An area adjacent to a stream or lake which has been acquired by FWP to allow anglers access to a water body. Fishing access sites are funded in part by fishing license fees.

FISHING FROM BOATS/VESSELS
Means fishing while on any boat or vessel. When a water is designated as closed to fishing from boats/vessels, anglers may not fish from a boat or vessel, but may use a boat or vessel to access wade fishing opportunities. An angler must be completely out of the boat or vessel while wade fishing.

FLOAT FISHING
Means any fishing from a boat or vessel, or wade fishing when fishing access is gained by boat or vessel. When a water is designated as closed to float fishing, an angler may not fish from a boat, and may not wade fish in the river or stream, or from the bank or shoreline of the river or stream, when access is gained by boat or vessel.

FLOAT OUTFITTING
Means the operation of any boat or vessel for the commercial purpose of float fishing by a fishing outfitter or fishing guide.

GAFF
A hook attached directly to a pole (metal or wooden shaft) or other device. Use of gaffs is permitted only to help land a fish that was lawfully hooked.

GAME FISH

All species of the family Salmonidae (trout, salmon, grayling, whitefish, cisco and chars); all species of the genus *Sander* (sauger and walleye); all species of the genus *Esox* (northern pike and tiger muskellunge); all species of the genus *Micropterus* (bass); all species of the genus *Polyodon* (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); the genus *Lota* (burbot or ling); the species *Perca flavescens* (Yellow perch); all species of the genus *Pomoxis* (crappie); and the species *Ictalurus punctatus* (channel catfish).

- Bull trout are defined as any trout with white leading margins on the lower fins and no markings on the dorsal fin. (Note: it is unlawful to intentionally fish for bull trout in any waters unless specifically authorized in the Western Fishing District Regulations.)
- Sauger are defined as any *Sander* (sauger/walleye) with multiple small, distinct black spots on the spiny (first) dorsal fin ray membranes.

HOOK

A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still considered a single hook.

HOOP NET

Hoop net: a cylindrical or conical net distended by a series of hoops or frames, covered by web netting. The net has one or more internal funnel-shaped throats whose tapered ends are directed inward from the mouth

LEGALLY TAKEN

Any fish caught using legal methods and not immediately released alive.

LENGTH

Fish length is measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail fin.

LIVE BAIT

All non-game fish may be used as live bait except black bullheads, carp, goldfish, rainbow smelt, sculpins, stonecats and yellow bullheads. Sculpins may not be used as bait live or dead in the Western Fishing District. 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 artifical flies and lures.

MAINSTEM

In a drainage, the mainstem is the primary stream or river into which most tributaries flow.

MOTORBOAT

A vessel, including a personal watercraft or pontoon, propelled by any machinery/motor/engine of any description, whether or not the machinery/motor/engine is the principal source of propulsion. The term includes boats temporarily equipped with detachable motors/engines.

NON-GAME FISH

Any wild fish not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation of this state.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

The physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence. A person may have only one permanent residence.

POSSESSION LIMIT

The number of fish that may be possessed at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or preserved.

RESERVOIR

A body of water artificially impounded behind a man-made dam that extends upstream to the mouth of its inlet stream(s) or river. Reservoirs do not include waters incidentally impounded on a stream or river by a structure such as a check dam for irrigation, a headgate to divert water for irrigation, or similar structures.

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.

SALMONID

Any species of trout, char, salmon, grayling, cisco, or whitefish. All salmonid fish have an adipose fin (small, fleshy fin on the back near the tail).

SEINE

A net, usually suspended between two poles, which is pulled through the water to capture fish for bait. Seines used for this purpose must not exceed 12 feet in length and four feet in width.

SETLINE

A line or lines with or without a pole set to catch fish without the angler being present or within immediate control. The angler's name and phone number, or 9 or 10 digit ALS # must be attached.

SNAGGING

A technique of angling in which a hook or hooks are cast, trolled or lowered into the water and manipulated to embed the hook or hooks into the body of the fish. You have snagged a fish if: (a) you are fishing in a manner that the fish does not voluntarily take the hook in its mouth, or (b) if you accidentally hook the fish in a part of the body other than the mouth.

SPEAR

Any sharp-pointed instrument, with or without barbs, used to capture and/or kill fish by penetrating the body. Usually a spear consists of a shaft with a sharp head or point. Spears may be hand-propelled or propelled with a spring or rubber band.

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Native Montana species with limited habitats and/or limited numbers in the state. Such species are at risk of becoming threatened.

STREAM MOUTH

The downstream point defined as a straight line running from the most downstream extremity on one stream bank to the most downstream extremity on the other stream bank or a point defined and marked by FWP. (also see Reservoir definition)

THREATENED SPECIES

Species that may become endangered within the foreseeable future without conservation measures.

TRIBUTARY

Any watercourse that flows into a body of water, including tributaries to a tributary.

VESSEL

Every type of watercraft or boat capable of being used as a means of transportation on water except devices that are propelled entirely by kicking fins and the floater sits in the water, such as inner tubes (motor vehicle type), float tubes (belly boats), air mattresses and sailboards when used without mechanical propulsion by an individual. Contact your local warden for more information.

WARM WATER GAME FISH

Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, sauger, black crappie, white crappie, channel catfish, yellow perch, northern pike, pallid sturgeon, paddlefish and tiger muskie.

WASTE OF FISH OR GAME

To purposely waste any part of a game fish suitable for food by transporting, hanging, or storing the carcass or flesh in a manner that renders it unfit for human consumption; or, to abandon or dispose of, in the field or water, the carcass or flesh of any game fish suitable for food; or, to use the carcass or flesh of any game fish as bait except as authorized in the bait regulations.