Approved Commercial Bait Fish Seining Waters – 2027

PROPOSED

The list of approved commercial bait fish seining waters is provided with the Commercial Bait Seining License Application. Approved seining waters are regularly monitored for AIS and pathogens and have adequate population abundance to accommodate collection as bait. Proposed changes are highlighted in yellow, waterbody removals are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~, and waterbody additions are indicated in *italics*.

LIST OF PROPOSED COMMERCIAL BAIT SEINING WATERS, 2027-2028

Western Fishing District

No fish species may be collected or used as live bait in the Western Fishing District. Only non-game fish native to the Western Fishing District (largescale sucker, longnose sucker, northern pikeminnow, peamouth chub, redside shiner, and longnose dace) may be captured and used as dead bait and may be taken from the following waters:

- Ashley Creek
- Burnt Lake, Flathead County
- Dog Creek (tributary to Stillwater River)
- Fish Lake, Lincoln County
- Flathead Lake (north half only)
- Flathead River (mouth to Highway 2 Bridge) plus adjacent sloughs
- Flathead River (Flathead Reservation boundary to confluence with Clark Fork River)
- Herrig Creek (Little Bitterroot Lake tributary), closed from April 15 to June 1 between Little Bitterroot Lake and the first road crossing (Pleasant Valley Road)
- Horseshoe Lake (near Happy's Inn)

Central Fishing District

Nongame fish species that may be collected possessed and used as live bait in the Central Fishing District are: fathead minnow, flathead chub, western silvery minnow, plains minnow, emerald shiner, longnose dace, lake chub, creek chub, longnose sucker, and white sucker. These species may be taken from the following waters:

- Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
- Bighorn River -- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area
- Clarks Fork Yellowstone River and tributaries, except the Rock Creek drainage -- downstream from the bridge at Bridger
- Kammerzell Reservoir
- *Box Elder Creek and Tributaries*
- ~~Marias River downstream of Tiber Dam~~
- Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam
- Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals
- Reservoirs in Arrow Creek Drainage
- Yellowstone River and all streams and ditches in the drainage downstream from the Highway 212 Bridge near Laurel (*except Spring Creek/Chub Ditch in Billings* ~~the section of the Bighorn River between the cable 600 feet downstream from Afterbay Dam and the Bighorn FAS~~)

- Teton River & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15

Eastern Fishing District

Nongame fish species that may be collected and used as live bait in the Eastern Fishing District are: fathead minnow, flathead chub, western silvery minnow, plains minnow, emerald shiner, longnose dace, lake chub, creek chub, longnose sucker, and white sucker.

Streams -- Nongame bait fish may be taken from all streams in the Eastern District **except** the following:

- Milk River and tributaries above Fresno Dam
- Big Dry Creek downstream of the confluence with Little Dry Creek
- Hanging Woman Creek downstream from the Birney Road to its confluence with the Tongue River
- Otter Creek downstream from Highway #212 to its confluence with Tongue River
- Lone Tree Creek and Fox Creek in Richland County
- Missouri River downstream from the mouth of the Milk River
- *Parrot Creek downstream of the Number 4 Road to its confluence with the Musselshell River*

All irrigation canals and ditches in the Eastern Fishing District are open year around for taking nongame bait fish.

Nongame bait fish **may** be taken from the following reservoirs in the Eastern Fishing District:

WATER	**COUNTY**
Anita Reservoir	Yellowstone
~~Bainville Railroad Ponds~~	~~Roosevelt~~
Bearpaw Lake	Hill
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hill
BLM Reservoirs	Blaine, Phillips
BLM Reservoirs south of Hwy 2	Valley
Box Elder Reservoir	Sheridan
Cole Ponds	Phillips
Coal Creek Reservoir	Prairie
Dry Fork Reservoir	Blaine
Engstrom Reservoir	Sheridan
Frenchman Reservoir	Phillips
Hedstrom Reservoir	McCone
Killenbeck Reservoir	Daniels
Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge	Sheridan
Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam	
Petrolia Reservoir	Petroleum
Raymond Reservoir	Sheridan
Spotted Eagle Pond	Custer
Tongue River Reservoir	Big Horn
Wards Reservoir	Valley
~~Whitetail Reservoir~~	~~Daniels~~
Wibaux Pond	Wibaux