

Anglers

SHARE YOUR SUGGESTIONS

Montana Fishing Regulation Considerations for 2016-2019

You are invited to review ideas and issues identified by FWP that might change fishing regulations for 2016-2019. You are also invited to provide your thoughts on possible regulation changes. Please take time to review these items and provide comments to FWP by May 31. FWP will begin drafting specific regulations to address many of these ideas in early June for the Fish & Wildlife Commission's consideration in July. Your participation is especially important! Tentative regulations proposals will be available for public review in August.

Please comment
by
May 31, 2015



FISHING DISTRICT CONSIDERATIONS

Western Fishing District

- Lowering the burbot standard harvest limit
- Increasing the lake trout standard harvest limit
- Changing Cutthroat Trout standard harvest limit to include some fish larger than 10 inches

Central Fishing District

- Expanding the Central District Standard combined trout limits and including one cutthroat trout as part of the combined limit
- Allowing 6 lines through the ice to fish for Northern Pike
- Keeping fishing season in rivers and streams open all year

Eastern Fishing District

- Requiring mandatory paddlefish harvest reporting
- Specifying fish species that can be used as live bait

Look below for Region-specific items which are listed separately for your review

Contact your Regional FWP office with questions or comments: We want to hear from you!



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
406-444-2449
fwp.mt.gov

If you like, **Submit** your suggestions online:
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/>

You might also **Contact** your regional office for more or submit your comments to the regional office nearest you:

REGION 1

490 North Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501

REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-5500

REGION 3

1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-994-4042

HELENA Area Resource Office (HARO)

930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
406-495-3260

BUTTE Area Office Resource (BARO)

1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
406-494-1953

REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5840

LEWISTOWN Area Resource Office (LARO)

215 W Aztec Dr
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-4658

REGION 5

2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
406-247-2940

REGION 6

54078 US Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-3700

HAVRE Area Resource Office (HvARO)

2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
406-265-6177

REGION 7

PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
406-234-0900

STATE HEADQUARTERS

Fisheries, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Hearing Impaired (use Montana Relay)
7-1-1 or 800-253-4091

←Region 1

- Applying more angling restrictions at bull trout spawner staging locations near tributary mouths of the Kootenai and Swan river systems
- Standardizing stream angling closures in bull trout streams in the Kootenai drainage
- Changing cutthroat trout regulations in the Flathead River sloughs to agree with those in the Flathead River
- Changing bass regulations in the Flathead River to match more restrictive regulations in Flathead River Sloughs
- Applying size limits on yellow perch in Flathead Lake, Smith Lake, and Lower Stillwater Lake
- Allowing bull trout harvest again on Lake Kooocanusa
- Expanding rainbow trout harvest at Frank Lake and Loon Lake (Ferndale)
- Increasing the northern pike harvest limit at Smith Lake
- Removing the brown trout limit in Lake Creek
- Removing the brown trout limit in portions of the Kootenai River
- Applying same seasonal closures to Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs
- Bringing Lake Mary Ronan fishing closures into agreement with other region lakes

←Region 2

- Reducing harvest limit and placing size restrictions on brook trout in Georgetown Lake
- Increasing kokanee harvest limits in Lake Alva, Lake Inez and Seeley Lake
- Opening reach from Lake Alva outlet to Lake Inez inlet to kokanee snagging
- Applying Western Fishing District standard regulations instead of catch-and-release for bass in Lake Alva, Lake Inez, and Salmon Lake, and in the Clearwater River section downstream of the Salmon Lake outlet
- Standardizing several size limits and harvest limits on trout to eliminate unnecessary exceptions

- Increasing size limit on cutthroat trout in streams to be consistent with Wilderness regulations and to reduce exceptions

←Region 3

- Allowing rainbow trout harvest on the Jefferson River
- Reducing the number and removing obsolete special regulations on the Madison and Big Hole rivers
- Removing the limit on brook trout in the Shields River from the Crandall Creek confluence, upstream

←Region 4

- Reducing the daily large trout harvest allowed in Willow Creek Reservoir, near Augusta
- Changing from catch-and-release to Central District standard harvest limits at several locations: Bean Lake, Big Spring Creek near Lewistown, East Fork Big Spring Creek near Lewistown
- Increasing the number of sauger allowed in the combined walleye/sauger catch in portions of the Missouri River above Fort Peck Reservoir, and standardizing the walleye/sauger limits in the Judith River and the Musselshell River to agree with new limits proposed above Fort Peck
- Adding spearing for northern pike in East Fork Reservoir

←Region 5

- Allowing salmon snagging earlier in the year at Deadman's Basin Reservoir
- Increasing the number of sauger allowed in the combined walleye/sauger catch in portions of the Missouri River above Fort Peck Reservoir, and standardizing the walleye/sauger limits in the Judith River and the Musselshell River to agree with new limits proposed above Fort Peck
- Extending the sauger and walleye combined catch limit on the lower Yellowstone River upstream to the Yellowstone National Park boundary

- Simplifying existing trout harvest regulations on Yellowstone River tributaries to more closely agree with the main river regulations, and allowing one or more cutthroat trout in the daily catch.
- Increasing the allowable harvest for smallmouth bass in the region's portion of the Eastern Fishing District
- Including Lightning Creek among streams and rivers open all year to angling
- Specifying the fish species that can be used as live bait
- Applying proposed Eastern District standard regulations to many waters currently listed as exceptions

←Region 6

- Specifying more clearly the lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and impoundments where use of live bait is allowed
- Implementing a lottery tag allocation system for the Upper Missouri River paddlefish season
- Prohibiting bow fishing for shortnose gar in the Fort Peck Dredge Cuts
- Adjusting the number of sauger in the combined daily catch and possession limit of walleye and sauger to agree with regulations proposed for the Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Reservoir
- Applying District standard regulations to Bearpaw and Beaver Creek Reservoirs
- Increasing the possession limit for lake trout

←Region 7

- Specifying fish species that can be used as live bait in Tongue River Reservoir
- Increasing the harvest limit for smallmouth bass in the Yellowstone River

For more information, see Montana's **Statewide Fisheries Management Plan**. It provides the framework and directions for managing the state's fishery resources and is available on our website: fwp.mt.gov/fishing/