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# Fishing

# 2010 UTAH FISHING GUIDEBOOK

UTAH DNR

# Fishing in Utah

For decades, a Utah fishing trip meant that you would bring home a stringer full of fat rainbow trout.

Today, you can still catch tasty rainbows, but you can also come home with native cutthroats, walleye, striped bass, catfish, wipers and many other species of fish. To learn more about these fish, see the articles on pages 39–41.

Over the past year, there have been some exciting developments in the Division's efforts to raise tiger muskie here in Utah. You can read about the past and future of this program in the article on page 41.

You should also be aware of an important regulation change that will improve opportunity for all anglers at Utah's community fishing ponds. You'll find details in the article on page 46.

Anglers of all ages and ability levels find adventure in Utah's diverse fisheries.

To preview some of these great fishing spots—and to plan future trips—visit the Division's YouTube site at *www.youtube.com/UDWR*. There, you'll find videos about native cutthroats at Strawberry, splake in Fish Lake, tiger muskie at Pineview and more.

This guidebook is a proclamation of the Utah Wildlife Board. Please be aware that it's only a summary of the rules and laws that govern Utah fishing. For an in-depth look at the state's fishing regulations, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/rules* or the nearest Division office.

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**On the cover:** Keith Kimball from Richfield, Utah with the four-pound largemouth bass he caught at Warm Creek in Lake Powell. Photo courtesy of Mike McNabb.

## CONTACT US

**Offices are open 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.**

### Division offices

*Salt Lake Office*
1594 W North Temple
Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
(801) 538-4700

*Southeastern Region*
319 N Carbonville Road, Ste A
Price, UT 84501
(435) 613-3700

*Southern Region*
1470 N Airport Road
Cedar City, UT 84721
(435) 865-6100

*Central Region*
1115 N Main Street
Springville, UT 84663
(801) 491-5678

*Northeastern Region*
152 E 100 N
Vernal, UT 84078
(435) 781-9453

*Northern Region*
515 E 5300 S
Ogden, UT 84405
(801) 476-2740

### Wildlife Board members


Jake Albrecht
Del Brady
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Rick Woodard, *Chair*
Ernie Perkins, *Vice Chair*
James F. Karpowitz, *Division Director Executive Secretary*


## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDEBOOK

1. Review the general rules (licenses, fishing methods and transportation) on pages 5–16.
2. Check general season dates and bag and possession limits on pages 15–16.
3. Look up a specific water on pages 18–32. (If the water you're looking for is **not** listed here, it is subject to the general rules.)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### What's new this season?

**Free Fishing Day:** This year, Free Fishing Day will be held on June 5. It's a great opportunity to share your favorite fishing spot with a friend or family member. For more information, see page 5.

**Lower limit at community fisheries:** The daily limit has been lowered to two fish at Utah's community fisheries. This change will give anglers a better chance to catch fish at these popular lakes and ponds. For more information on the regulation change, see the article on page 46.

**New community fisheries:** Four new community fisheries are now open to the public. They include Black Ridge Reservoir, Leigh Hill Reservoir, Millrace Park Pond and Sandy Urban Fishery. For a complete list of Utah's community fisheries, see the information box on page 21.

**More tiger muskie:** Last year, the Division stocked 15,000 tiger muskie in Utah reservoirs and launched Utah's first tiger muskie breeding program. For more information about the new breeding program and where to fish for tiger muskie, see the article on page 41.

**Increased yellow perch limit:** The statewide daily limit for yellow perch has increased to 50 fish.

**Invasive mussel larvae found in two waters:** In 2008, the Division identified zebra mussel larvae in Electric Lake and quagga mussel larvae

in Red Fleet Reservoir. To learn how you can help combat these mussels and other aquatic invasive species, see page 35.

**Underwater spearfishing changes at Fish Lake:** Beginning in 2010, the underwater spearfishing season at Fish Lake will close earlier than it did in 2009. The season now begins at 6 a.m. on June 5 and ends on Sept. 15.

**Regulation changes at Kolob Reservoir:** For many years, Kolob Reservoir could only be fished by anglers who used artificial flies and lures. This year, the reservoir will be open to bait fishing in the summer months. For a detailed look at this regulation—and the other rules specific to Kolob Reservoir—please see page 25.

**Accessing public waters:** If you plan to fish public water (a natural lake, river or stream) that's on private land, you must enter and exit the water from a public access point. To learn more, see the information box on page 11.

## And remember

**Buy your license on the phone:** You can now buy a Utah fishing license over the telephone. Just call 1-800-221-0659. The line is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to the fee for the license, you'll also be charged a $2 transaction fee for each item you buy.

**Community fisheries:** You can learn more about Utah's 41 community fisheries by picking up a copy of the Division's Utah Community Fishing booklet. The free booklet is available at *wildlife.utah.gov/cf* or at any Division office.

**Corrections:** If errors are found in the printed guidebook, the Division will correct them in the online version. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks* to view all of the Division's guidebooks and proclamations.

**Protection from discrimination:** The Division receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please write to:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office for Diversity and Civil Rights
Programs—External Programs
4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203

**Private lands:** The Division cannot guarantee access to any private land. You may only access cultivated or properly posted private land if you obtain WRITTEN permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative. For more information, see Trespassing on page 11.

**Division funding:** The Division is mostly funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and through federal aid made possible by an excise tax on the sale of firearms and other hunting- and fishing-related equipment.

### Take a closer look at the rules

This guidebook summarizes Utah's fishing laws and rules. Although it is a convenient quick-reference document for Utah fishing regulations, it is not an all-encompassing resource.

For an in-depth look at the state's fishing laws and rules, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/rules*.

You can use the references in the guidebook—such as Utah Administrative Rule R657-13-6 and Utah Code § 23-20-3—to search the Division's Web site for the detailed statute or rule that underpins the guidebook summary.

If you have questions about a particular rule, call or visit the nearest Division office.



# GENERAL RULES: LICENSES AND PERMITS

*Utah Code §§ 23-19-1 and 23-20-3*

Obtaining a fishing license is the first step to fishing in Utah. If you're under the age of 12, you don't need a license to fish unless you want to fish with two poles or use a setline. If you're 12 years of age or older, you must buy a license before you can fish. This section provides information about the different licenses that are available.

## Free Fishing Day

*Utah Code § 23-19-1 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-3*

The one day you don't need a license to fish in Utah is Saturday, June 5, 2010, which is Free Fishing Day. Everyone in Utah can fish for free that day, but please remember that all of the state's other fishing laws and rules still apply.

## Under 12 years of age

*Utah Code § 23-19-21 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-3*

If you're under 12 years of age, you do not need a fishing license to fish in Utah. You can fish without a license and take a full bag and possession limit.

The only exceptions are if you'd like to fish with a second pole or a setline. If you're under the age of 12 and would like to fish with either a second pole or a setline, you must purchase a Utah fishing or combination license and a second-pole or setline permit. Please see pages 9–10 of this guide for more information about second-pole and setline permits.

## 12 years of age and older

*Utah Code § 23-19-21 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-3*

If you're 12 years of age or older, you must purchase a fishing license or a combination license to fish in Utah. You can choose from four different licenses:

- One-day licenses allow you to fish for one day.
- Seven-day licenses allow you to fish for seven consecutive days.
- 365-day licenses allow you to fish for 365

### Don't lose your hunting and fishing privileges

If you commit a wildlife violation, you could lose the privilege of hunting and fishing in Utah. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources can suspend the license of anyone who knowingly, intentionally or recklessly violates wildlife laws. Your license can be suspended for a wildlife violation if:

- You are convicted.
- You plead guilty or no contest.
- You enter a plea in abeyance.

You will be notified of any action against your privilege after criminal proceedings conclude. And remember, if your license is suspended in Utah, you may not be permitted to hunt or fish in most other states. (Visit *ianrc.org* to see a map of participating states.)

consecutive days, including the day you buy the license.

- 365-day combination licenses allow you to do three things in Utah:
  - Fish
  - Hunt upland game and waterfowl
  - Apply for hunting permits

When you buy a combination license, you also get a price break compared to buying your hunting and fishing licenses separately.

Fishing and combination licenses are available at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices. You can also call 1-800-221-0659 to purchase your license by phone.

You must have your license with you while you're fishing, and you cannot alter your license or transfer it to another person.

## Fishing across state lines (interstate waters)—reciprocal fishing permits

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-5*

Utah shares three waters—Bear Lake, Flaming Gorge and Lake Powell—with other states. Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Arizona have entered into the following agreements to allow anglers to fish across state lines:

### Bear Lake ▲

If you have a valid Utah fishing or combination license, or a valid Idaho fishing or combination license, you can fish anywhere on Bear Lake that's open to fishing with one fishing pole. With the purchase of a valid Utah fishing or combination license and a Utah second-pole permit, or a valid Idaho fishing or combination license and an Idaho two-pole permit, an angler may fish with two poles anywhere on Bear Lake that is open to fishing. A second-pole or two-pole permit must be purchased from the state of original license purchase.

### Flaming Gorge Reservoir

To fish across state lines at Flaming Gorge, you must have a valid fishing license from one state and a reciprocal fishing permit from the other state. For example, if you buy a Utah resident or nonresident fishing license, you can fish the Utah portion of Flaming Gorge. After buying your Utah license, if you decide you also want to fish the Wyoming portion of the reservoir, you must buy a Wyoming reciprocal fishing permit.

For more information on obtaining a Wyoming reciprocal fishing permit, call the Wyoming Game and Fish Department at (307) 777-4600.

Utah reciprocal fishing permits are available at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources offices and license agents that sell Utah fishing licenses.

A Wyoming second-pole permit is not valid in Utah, even with a reciprocal fishing permit. A Utah second-pole permit must be purchased if you'd like to fish in Utah with two poles at the same time.

### Lake Powell

Reciprocal fishing permits for Lake Powell are available to Utah and Arizona residents only. To fish across the state line at Lake Powell, a resident of Utah or Arizona must have a valid fishing license from one state and a reciprocal fishing permit from the other state. For example, to fish the Arizona portion of the reservoir, a Utah resident needs a Utah resident fishing or combination license and a reciprocal fishing permit from Arizona.

Utah residents may obtain an Arizona reciprocal fishing permit at *gf.state.az.us.* Arizona residents may obtain a Utah reciprocal fishing permit at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from Division offices and license agents that sell Utah fishing licenses.

If you're not a resident of either state, you must purchase a Utah nonresident fishing license to fish the Utah portion of Lake Powell and an Arizona nonresident license to fish the Arizona portion of the reservoir.

An Arizona second-pole permit is not valid in Utah, even with a reciprocal fishing permit. A Utah second-pole permit must be purchased if you'd like to fish in Utah with two poles at the same time.

### More information about reciprocal permits

- Utah reciprocal fishing permits are valid for 365 days from the day you buy them.
- You must sign your name on your reciprocal permit the same way you signed your name on your fishing license.
- You are subject to the laws and rules of the state in which you're fishing.
- Only one bag limit may be taken and held in possession, even if you're licensed to fish in both states.

## Fishing contests

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-58*

You can hold a fishing contest in Utah, but you must follow the rules, many of which changed this year. For the current fishing contest rules, please see Utah Admin. Rule R657-58 at *wildlife.utah.gov/rules* or contact the nearest Division office.

If you plan to hold a fishing contest at a Utah State Park, you should also check with the park to see if there are any additional rules that apply to the area.

## Licenses for residents with special needs

*Utah Code § 23-19-36*

If you're a Utah resident and have certain physical or mental disabilities—or a terminal illness—you may qualify for a free fishing license. A child who has been placed in the custody of the state by a court order may also qualify. To learn if you qualify, please see Utah Code § 23-19-36 at *wildlife.utah.gov/rules* or contact your nearest Division office.

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.



# FEES

## Resident licenses

| | |
|---|---|
| 1-day (14 years of age or older) | $8 |
| 7-day (14 years of age or older) | $16 |
| 365-day youth (12–13) | $5 |
| 365-day (65 years of age or older) | $21 |
| 365-day (over 14 years of age and under 65 years of age) | $26 |
| 365-day combination | $30 |

## Nonresident licenses

| | |
|---|---|
| 1-day (14 years of age or older) | $12 |
| 7-day (14 years of age or older) | $32 |
| 365-day youth (12–13) | $5 |
| 365-day (14 years of age or older) | $70 |
| 365-day combination | $80 |

## Reciprocal fishing permits

| | |
|---|---|
| Flaming Gorge Reservoir (for use with a Wyoming fishing license — see page 6 for details) | $10 |
| Lake Powell (for use with an Arizona resident fishing license—see pages 6–7 for details) | $8 |

## Other fishing permits

| | |
|---|---|
| **Setline permit*** (residents and nonresidents) | $15 |
| **Second-pole permit#** (residents and nonresidents) | $15 |

** To learn more about setline permits, please see page 10 of this guide.*

*# To learn more about second-pole permits, please see pages 9–10 of this guide.*

# GENERAL RULES: FISHING METHODS

*Utah Code § 23-20-3*

There are laws and rules that govern fishing in Utah. By obeying these regulations and being an ethical angler, you will help keep fishing great for everyone.

Please be familiar with the following general rules for taking fish and crayfish. You'll find some exceptions to these rules in the Rules for Specific Waters section that begins on page 18.

## Taking game fish

You may take game fish using only the following methods:

### Angling

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-6*

You may not fish with more than one fishing line except when:

- You are fishing for crayfish. Please see page 12 of this guide for more information about fishing for crayfish.
- You have a second-pole or setline permit. Information about fishing with a second pole is available on page 9. Information about fishing with a setline is available on page 10.
- You are ice fishing at Flaming Gorge. Please see pages 22–23 for the rules specific to Flaming Gorge.

While fishing, you must be within sight of the equipment you're fishing with (this distance cannot exceed 100 feet). The only exception to this rule is if you have a setline permit. Please see page 10 for more information about fishing with a setline.

There are a few additional angling rules to keep in mind:

- No artificial lure may have more than three hooks.
- No line may have attached to it more than two baited hooks, two artificial flies or two artificial lures. The only exceptions to this rule are if you're using a setline or you're fishing at Flaming Gorge Reservoir or Lake Powell. Please see page 10 of this guide for more information about fishing with a setline. Information about fishing at Flaming Gorge is available on pages 22–23, and information about fishing at Lake Powell is available on page 25.
- When you're fishing through the ice, you may not fish through a hole that's more than 12 inches wide. The only exceptions are at Bear Lake, Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Fish Lake. For more information about ice fishing at these waters, please see the Rules for Specific Waters section that begins on page 18.

### Bait

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-12*

Several rules pertain to the use of bait in Utah:

- Use or possession of corn, hominy or live baitfish while fishing is unlawful.
- Use or possession of tiger salamanders (live or dead) while fishing is unlawful.
- Use or possession of any bait while fishing on waters designated artificial fly and lure only is unlawful.
- Use or possession of artificial baits which are commercially imbedded or covered with fish or fish parts while fishing is unlawful.
- Use or possession of bait in the form of fresh or frozen fish or fish parts while fishing is unlawful, except as provided below:
  - Dead Bonneville cisco may be used as bait only in Bear Lake.
  - Dead yellow perch may be used as bait only in Deer Creek, Echo, Fish Lake, Gunnison, Hyrum, Johnson, Jordanelle, Mantua, Mill Meadow, Newton, Pineview, Rockport, Starvation, Utah Lake, Willard Bay and Yuba reservoirs.
  - Dead white bass may be used as bait only in Utah Lake and the Jordan River.
  - Dead shad from Lake Powell may be used as bait only in Lake Powell. It is illegal to remove dead shad from the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.
  - Dead, fresh or frozen salt water species including sardines and anchovies may be used as bait in any water where bait is permitted.
  - Dead mountain sucker, white sucker, Utah sucker, redside shiner, speckled dace, mottled sculpin, fat head minnow, Utah chub and common carp may be used as bait in any water where bait is permitted.
  - The eggs of any species of fish caught in Utah, except prohibited fish, may be used in any water where bait is permitted.
- Use of live crayfish for bait is legal only on the water where the crayfish is captured. It is unlawful to transport live crayfish away from the water where they were captured.
- Commercially prepared and chemically treated baitfish or their parts may be used as bait in any water where bait is permitted.
- Manufactured, human-made items that may not be digestible—including items that have been chemically treated with food stuffs, chemical fish attractants or feeding stimulants—may not be used on waters where bait is prohibited.

### Restrictions on taking fish and crayfish

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-11*

You can use artificial light while fishing, unless you're underwater spearfishing. Use of artificial light is unlawful while engaged in underwater spearfishing, unless you are fishing for burbot at Flaming Gorge.

You may not obstruct a waterway or use any chemical, explosive, electricity, poison, crossbow, firearm, pellet gun or archery equipment to take fish or crayfish. The only exceptions are found in the Taking Nongame Fish section of this guide (pages 12–13) and the Rules for Specific Waters, Lake Powell section, on page 25.

You may not take or land a fish by snagging or gaffing, and you may not have a gaff in your possession while fishing. The only exception is Lake Powell, where you may use a gaff to land striped bass.

Chumming is prohibited on all waters except Lake Powell. (Chumming means to dislodge or deposit into the water any substance, not attached to a hook, line or trap, which may attract fish.) Please see the Rules for Specific Waters, Lake Powell section, on page 25 for more information about chumming at Lake Powell.

On some waters, you cannot fish from a float tube or a boat (please see the Watercraft Restrictions section on pages 33–34 for more information). In addition to the rules in this guide, boaters should be aware that other agencies may have placed additional restrictions on the use of float tubes, nonmotorized boats or boats with motors at some waters in Utah.

### Fishing with more than one pole

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-7*

If you have a valid Utah second-pole permit, and a valid fishing or combination license, you can fish with two poles at any water in the state during its open fishing season. You may keep only one limit of fish, however. A second-pole permit does NOT allow you to keep two limits of fish.

Second-pole permits are available for $15 at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

A second-pole permit is a 365-day permit, but you must also have an unexpired one-day, seven-day or 365-day Utah fishing or combination license in order to use it. (A second-pole permit is not valid unless it's accompanied by a valid fishing or combination license.) Only the person to whom the second-pole permit is issued can use the permit.

If you're under 12 years of age and would like to fish with a second pole, you must have a valid





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one-day, seven-day or 365-day Utah fishing or combination license, and a second-pole permit.

When fishing with a second pole, you must be within sight of the equipment you're fishing with (this distance cannot exceed 100 feet). See also "Interstate Waters" on pages 6–7.

A person may use up to six lines, poles or tip-ups—without a second-pole permit—when fishing at Flaming Gorge Reservoir through the ice. Please see pages 22–23 for more information.

### Setline fishing

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-8*

Setlines are lines that are anchored to a non-moving object and that are not attached to a fishing pole. If you obtain a setline permit, and a Utah fishing or combination license, you can use a setline to take fish from the following waters: the Bear River proper (downstream from the Idaho state line, including Cutler Reservoir and outlet canals); the Little Bear River below Valley View Highway (SR-30); the Malad River; and Utah Lake.

The following rules apply to setline fishing:

- You may not fish with more than one setline.
- A setline may not contain more than 15 hooks.
- When fishing with a setline, you must be within 100 yards of the surface or the bank of water you're fishing from.
- One end of your setline must be attached to a non-moving object that is not attached to a fishing pole. Your setline must also have a legible tag attached to it that includes your name, address and setline permit number.
- While fishing with a setline, you can also fish with one fishing pole. If you have a valid second-pole permit, you can fish with two fishing poles while you're also fishing with a setline.
- Setline permits are available for $15 at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.
- A setline permit is a 365-day permit, but you must also have an unexpired one-day, seven-day or 365-day Utah fishing or combination license in order to use it (a setline permit is not valid unless it's accompanied by a valid fishing or combination license).
- If you're under 12 years of age and would like to use a setline, you must have a valid one-day, seven-day or 365-day Utah fishing or combination license, and a setline permit.

### Dipnetting

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-10*

You can use a handheld dipnet to land game fish that you've legally taken by angling. However, you may not use a handheld dipnet to take game fish. The only exception is at Bear Lake, where handheld dipnets may be used to take Bonneville cisco.

When fishing for Bonneville cisco at Bear Lake, the opening of your dipnet may not exceed 18 inches. If you're dipnetting through the ice at Bear Lake, there is no restriction on the size of the hole you can drill in the ice. Please see the Rules for Specific Waters, Bear Lake section, on page 18 for more information.

You may also use a handheld dipnet to take crayfish and nongame fish, except prohibited fish. For a list of fish that are prohibited in Utah, please see page 12 of this guide.

### Underwater spearfishing

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-9*

You may underwater spearfish—for both game and nongame fish—from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of June through Nov. 30 at the following waters:

- Causey Reservoir (Weber County)
- Deer Creek Reservoir (Wasatch County)
- Flaming Gorge Reservoir (Daggett County)
- Jordanelle Reservoir (Wasatch County)
- Kens Lake (San Juan County)
- Lake Powell (Garfield, Kane and San Juan counties)
- Lost Creek Reservoir (Morgan County)
- Pineview Reservoir, with the exception of tiger muskie (Weber County)
- Red Fleet Reservoir (Uintah County)
- Starvation Reservoir (Duchesne County)
- Steinaker Reservoir (Uintah County)
- Willard Bay Reservoir (Box Elder County)
- Yuba Reservoir (Juab and Sanpete counties)

At Fish Lake (Sevier County), you may underwater spearfish for all fish species from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of June through Sept. 15.

Underwater spearfishing hours are from official sunrise to official sunset. It is illegal to use artificial light while underwater spearfishing, and free shafting is prohibited.

There are a few exceptions to these regulations:

- At Flaming Gorge, you can underwater spearfish for burbot from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 24 hours per day. You can also use artificial light while spearfishing for burbot at this reservoir. Please see pages 22–23 for rules specific to Flaming Gorge.
- At Lake Powell, you can underwater spearfish for carp and striped bass from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.
- At Pineview Reservoir, you **cannot** underwater spearfish for tiger muskie.
- At all waters open to angling—during their open seasons—you can underwater spearfish for carp.

The underwater spearfishing bag and possession limits are the same limits that apply to anglers who use other fishing techniques at the approved spearfishing waters.

### Trespassing

*Utah Code §§ 23-20-14 and 23-20-3.5*

While fishing or engaging in any wildlife-related activities, you may not:

- Enter upon privately owned land that is cultivated or properly posted without the permission of the landowner or land manager
- Refuse to immediately leave the private land if requested to do so by the landowner or land manager
- Obstruct any entrance or exit to private land

"Cultivated land" is land that is readily identifiable as land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops, land used for the raising of crops, or a pasture that is artificially irrigated.

"Permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private land that is cultivated or properly posted. Permission must include all of the following details:

- The signature of the landowner or land manager
- The name of the person being given permission
- The appropriate dates
- A general description of the land

"Properly posted" means that "No Trespassing" signs—or a minimum of 100 square inches of bright yellow, bright orange or fluorescent paint—are displayed at all corners, on fishing streams crossing property lines, and on roads,

### Obey access laws, show courtesy

In July 2008, the Utah Supreme Court issued an opinion (*Conatser v. Johnson*) recognizing the public's right to walk on privately owned riverbeds and streambeds while engaging in lawful recreational activities that use the state's waters.

Here are a few things to keep in mind if you plan to fish or boat in any areas affected by this decision:

- Enter and exit the water at a lawful access point, such as a highway right-of-way, public property or private property with the landowner's written permission.
- Behave responsibly and respect the landowner's rights.
- Pack out your trash, pick up any litter you see and be courteous to others.

It's important to note that the Supreme Court's ruling is not necessarily the final word on this subject. The Utah Legislature can choose to change the law at any time.

The Division's full explanation of this ruling is available online at *wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/waters_access.php*.





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gates and rights-of-way entering the land. If metal fence posts are used, the entire exterior side must be painted.

You may not post private property you do not own or legally control or land that is open to the public as provided by Utah Code § 23-21-4.

In addition, it is unlawful to take protected wildlife or their parts while trespassing in violation of Utah Code § 23-20-14.

### Native American Trust Lands

If you're fishing on land that belongs to any of the Native American tribes in Utah, you must observe tribal regulations concerning the taking of fish. These regulations are available from the Native American tribe that owns the land.

## Taking crayfish

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-15*

Fishing for crayfish (also called "crawdads") is a fun activity for the whole family.

If you're under the age of 12, you do not need a license to fish for crayfish. If you're 12 years of age or older, you must have a valid Utah fishing or combination license to fish for crayfish. You may take crayfish for personal, noncommercial purposes at any body of water where there's an open fishing season. You may not take crayfish if the fishing season at that water is closed, however.

You may take crayfish by hand or with a trap, dipnet, liftnet, handline, pole or seine. You must also obey all of the following rules:

- You may not use game fish or their parts for bait, or use any substance that is illegal for fishing.
- Seines (nets) may not exceed 10 feet in length or width.
- You may not use more than five lines, and not more than one of those lines can have hooks attached to it. (On the lines without hooks, simply tie your bait to the line so the crayfish can grasp the bait with its claw.)
- You may not transport live crayfish away from the body of water where you captured them.

## Prohibited fish

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-13*

The following nongame fish are prohibited, which means you can't take them or hold them in your possession. If you catch any of these fish, you must release them immediately:

- Bonytail
- Bluehead sucker
- Colorado pikeminnow (formerly, Colorado squawfish)
- Flannelmouth sucker
- Grass carp
- Humpback chub
- June sucker
- Least chub
- Northern leatherside chub
- Southern leatherside chub
- Razorback sucker
- Roundtail chub
- Virgin chub
- Virgin spinedace
- Woundfin

## Taking nongame fish

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-14*

If you have a valid Utah fishing or combination license, you may take nongame fish—EXCEPT those listed in the Prohibited Fish section above—for personal, noncommercial purposes, as long as you're fishing at a body of water during its open fishing season.

There are, however, more than a dozen waters where carp are the *only* nongame fish you may take. Those waters are listed in the Carp section on page 13.

To take nonprohibited nongame fish, you may use angling, traps, archery (excluding crossbows), dipnets, liftnets, seines or a handheld spear from above the surface of the water. When using these methods, please remember the following rules:

- Seines (nets) may not exceed 10 feet in length or width.
- Cast nets may not exceed 10 feet in diameter (a five-foot radius).
- Nongame fish that are legal to take must either be released or killed immediately after you remove them from the water. You may not leave them on the shoreline.

Underwater spearfishing for nongame fish (other than carp) is only allowed at the waters listed in the Underwater Spearfishing section on page 10–11.

### Carp

You may use a variety of techniques—including angling, archery (excluding crossbows), a spear from above the surface of the water, or underwater spearfishing—to take carp in any water during its open fishing season.

Carp are the *only* nongame fish you may take in the following waters:

- San Juan River
- Colorado River
- Green River (from the confluence with the Colorado River upstream to the Colorado state line in Dinosaur National Monument)
- Green River (from the Colorado state line in Browns Park upstream to Flaming Gorge Dam, including Gorge Creek, a tributary that enters the Green River at Little Hole)
- White River (Uintah County)
- Duchesne River (from the Myton SR-40 bridge to the confluence with the Green River)
- Virgin River (main stem and the north and east forks)
- Ash Creek
- Beaver Dam Wash
- Fort Pierce Wash
- La Verkin Creek
- Santa Clara River (from Pine Valley Reservoir downstream to the confluence with the Virgin River)
- Diamond Fork
- Thistle Creek
- Main Canyon Creek (tributary to Wallsburg Creek)
- South Fork of Provo River (below Deer Creek Dam)
- Snake Valley waters (west and north of US-6 and the part of US-6 and US-50 in Millard and Juab counties)

## Taking brine shrimp

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-52*

Many people who visit the Great Salt Lake want to take some of the lake's brine shrimp home with them. You may take brine shrimp from the lake without a fishing license, but you may not take more than one gallon in a seven-day period.

## Checkpoints and officer contacts

*Utah Code §§ 23-20-25 and 77-23-104*

The Division is the trustee and guardian of Utah's fish and wildlife. Division conservation officers monitor the taking and possession of fish, and the required licenses and equipment used for fishing. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists checking anglers at waters and at checkpoints across Utah.

If you meet a conservation officer, you must provide the items he or she asks for, including any licenses required for fishing, any devices used to participate in fishing and any fish that you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about fish populations in Utah.





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# GENERAL RULES: POSSESSION AND TRANSPORTATION

*Utah Code § 23-20-3*

Once you've taken a fish or crayfish, several rules apply to how you can use it. Please be familiar with the following general rules for possessing and transporting fish and crayfish.

## Dead fish and crayfish

*Utah Code § 4-37-305 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-16*

At most Utah waters, you can dress or fillet game fish, remove their heads or tails, or otherwise physically alter the fish at either of the following times:

- Immediately after you finish fishing (while still at the water where you caught the fish)
  –OR–
- After you reach a fish-cleaning station, a camp or your principal means of land transportation

**NOTE:** Do not dispose of entrails and carcasses on the bank. Leave them in the water where you caught the fish.

There are a few Utah waters where different filleting rules apply. Trout and/or salmon taken at Strawberry Reservoir, Scofield Reservoir and Panguitch Lake—and smallmouth bass taken at Jordanelle—may not be filleted, and their heads or tails may not be removed in the field or in transit.

While you are in the act of fishing, it is unlawful to possess fish that have been dressed or filleted. This does not apply to fish that are processed for immediate consumption or to fish held from a previous day's catch.

If you have a valid fishing or combination license, a legal limit of game fish or crayfish can accompany you as you travel within Utah or as you leave Utah.

You may possess or transport a legal limit of game fish or crayfish caught by another person if you have a donation letter from that person (please see the Donating section on page 15 for more information.)

If you have purchased or obtained fish from a registered commercial fishing installation, a private pond owner or a short-term fishing event, you may only possess or transport dead fish if you have a receipt. The receipt must include all of the following information:

- The species and number of fish
- The date the fish were caught
- The certificate of registration number of the installation, pond or short-term fishing event
- The name, address and telephone number of the seller

To help prevent the spread of disease, dead fish and crayfish may not be moved between waters.

## Live fish and crayfish

*Utah Code § 23-13-14 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-17*

- You may not release fish or crayfish into the wild except as provided in the Wildlife Code, rule, proclamation or order of the Wildlife Board. For example, you can release fish caught at Scofield Reservoir back into Scofield, but you cannot take live fish from Scofield and place those fish in another water. Any person who moves live fish from one body of water to another is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- You may use live fish stringers, live wells or holding cages to store fish or crayfish while fishing on the water where you caught them.
- A trout, salmon or grayling may not be released if it's been held on a stringer or in a fish basket, live well or any other type of device.
- You may not transport live fish or crayfish away from the water where they were taken.

## Release of tagged or marked fish

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-18*

You may not, without prior authorization from the Division, perform any of the following activities:

- Tag, mark or fin-clip fish for the purpose of offering a prize or reward as part of a contest
- Introduce a tagged, marked or fin-clipped fish into any water in the state
- Tag, mark or fin-clip a fish and return it to the water

## Disposal of aquatic wildlife

*Utah Code § 23-20-9*

### Donating

The following are the only places where you may donate or give protected aquatic wildlife or its parts to another person:

- The residence of the donor
- The residence of the recipient
- A meat locker
- A storage plant
- A meat-processing facility

You may ***not*** donate fish in the field.

A written statement of donation must be kept with the protected aquatic wildlife or parts that includes all of the following information:

- The number and species of protected aquatic wildlife or parts donated
- The date of donation
- The license or permit number of the donor
- The signature of the donor

### Purchasing or selling

*Utah Code § 23-20-3*

You may not purchase or sell protected aquatic wildlife or its parts except as provided in the Wildlife Code, rule, proclamation or order of the Wildlife Board.

### Wasting

*Utah Code § 23-20-8*

You may not waste any fish or crayfish or permit them to be wasted or spoiled. (Waste means to abandon a fish or crayfish or allow it to spoil or be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use. For example, using the meat of game fish as fertilizer or for trapping bait is not considered a beneficial use of the meat.)

## Season dates and bag and possession limits

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-19*

This section provides general rules for fishing in Utah. Many waters have localized and specific rules. These rules can be found in the Rules for Specific Waters section beginning on page 18.

On waters that have a specific rule, that rule takes precedence over the general rules below:

### Closed areas

All of the state's fish hatcheries are closed to fishing. All of the state's waterfowl management areas are also closed to fishing unless they're posted open to fishing or they're listed as open to fishing in the Rules for Specific Waters section that begins on page 18.

### Season dates

Utah's general fish and crayfish season is Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2010. Fish may be caught by angling or setline 24 hours a day. Underwater spearfishing is allowed from official sunrise to official sunset. See "Underwater Spearfishing" on pages 10–11 for details.

### Bag and possession limits

- Any trout, salmon or grayling that is not immediately released and that's held in your possession—whether the fish is dead or alive—is part of your bag and possession limit.
- A trout, salmon or grayling may not be released if it's been held in or on a stringer, fish basket, livewell or by any other device.
- Any fish that doesn't meet the size, bag or species rules for the water you're fishing must be returned to the water immediately.
- In Utah, the bag and possession limits are the same. For example, once you've har-





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vested a limit of trout, you cannot harvest any more trout until you've consumed or donated at least some of the trout you've harvested. So, if you eat one trout, you can harvest one more the next day; if you eat a full limit, you can harvest a full limit the next day.

- You may not fish at waters that have a specific bag or size limit if you possess fish in violation of that limit. For example, if the cutthroat trout limit at a river you'd like to fish is two cutthroats, and you harvested three cutthroats earlier that day at another water, you can't fish at that river until you consume at least one of the cutthroats you harvested earlier. You may continue to fish while in possession of a full limit, but you must immediately release any additional fish you catch.
- Residents and nonresidents who are under 12 years of age may fish without a license and take a full bag and possession limit.
- The following general bag and possession limits apply statewide, except as provided in the Rules for Specific Waters section that begins on page 18:

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

| | |
|---|---|
| Bluegill and green sunfish in the aggregate* | 50 |
| Bonneville cisco | 30 |
| Bullhead | 24 |
| Burbot (Anglers must not release any burbot they catch. All burbot caught must be immediately killed.) | No limit |
| Channel catfish* | 8 |
| Community fisheries (The limit includes fish of any species, but anglers are encouraged to release all largemouth bass. See the complete list of community waters on page 21.) | 2 |
| Crappie* | 50 |
| Crayfish | No limit |
| Largemouth and smallmouth bass in the aggregate* | 6 |
| Nongame species (except prohibited fish; see page 12 for a list of prohibited fish) | No limit |
| Northern pike* | 6 |
| Tiger muskellunge* | 1 over 40 inches |
| Sacramento perch | 10 |
| Striped bass | No limit |
| Trout, including salmon, grayling and hybrids in the aggregate, except no more than two can be lake trout/mackinaw. Also, you can take extra brook trout at some waters in the state.* | 4 |
| Walleye* | 10, only 1 over 24 inches |
| Whitefish* | 10 |
| White bass | No limit |
| Wiper* | 6 |
| Yellow perch* | 50 |

** On some waters, specific bag or size restrictions apply. Please see the Rules for Specific Waters section on pages 18–32 for variations.*





## FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Go online to learn about elevated mercury levels in some of Utah's fish.

Fish are an important part of a healthy diet, and most are safe to eat on a regular basis. You should, however, limit your intake of some fish populations found in certain Utah waters.

Why? Recent testing identified elevated levels of mercury in some populations of fish. Over time, eating these fish can be dangerous if consumed in large amounts.

Be sure to visit the Utah Fish Advisories Web site—*fishadvisories.utah.gov*—before eating the fish you catch. The advisory site is updated frequently and has the latest information about mercury levels in Utah's fish and waters.

If you decide to share your fish with family or friends, be sure to communicate any relevant advisories.

### The latest, most accurate data

Three government agencies work together closely to keep the Utah Fish Advisories Web site current.

First, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) obtain fish samples from lakes and rivers across the state. Then, the DEQ analyzes the samples and forwards the results to the Utah Department of Health (DOH). After reviewing the data, the DOH decides whether to issue a consumption advisory.

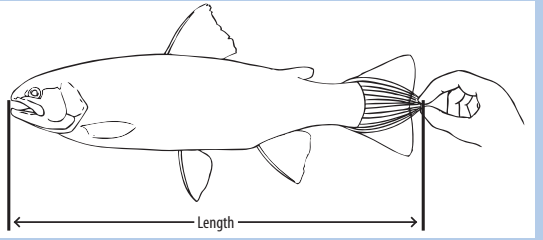
This tight partnership makes *fishadvisories.utah.gov* your best resource for accurate, up-to-date fish consumption advisories.

### For more information

To learn more about Utah's ongoing battle with mercury, visit *www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Mercury/workgroup.htm*. For more information about the health effects of mercury, visit *www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts46.html.*

## HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

1. Place the fish on its side with the jaw closed.
2. Squeeze the tail fin together or turn it so you obtain the maximum overall length.
3. Measure a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin.



# RULES FOR SPECIFIC WATERS

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-20*

The rules below take precedence over the general rules listed earlier in this guidebook. The seasons, bag limits and other restrictions in this section apply only to the waters listed below.

General rules apply to all of the waters **NOT** listed in this section (see the Bag and Possession Limits section on page 16 to learn more about catching and harvesting fish at waters that are **NOT** listed in this section):

**American Fork Creek**, Utah County
East from Utah Lake to I-15.
- CLOSED March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

**Ashley Creek**, Uintah County
Steinaker (Thornburg) diversion to the water treatment plant near the mouth of Ashley Gorge.
- Limit 2 trout.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Aspen-Mirror Lake**, Kane County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the third Saturday of April.
- Fishing from a boat or a float tube is unlawful.

**Badger Hollow**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Barney Lake**, Piute County
- Limit 2 trout.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Bear Lake**, Rich County ▲
- See Fishing Across State Lines on pages 6–7 for license requirements.
- Limit 2 trout.
- Cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings with all fins intact must be immediately released. Only cutthroat trout that have had one or more healed fins clipped may be kept.
- Cisco may be taken with a handheld dipnet. Net opening may not exceed 18 inches in any dimension. When dipnetting through the ice, the size of the hole is unrestricted.
- When ice fishing for fish other than cisco, the size of the hole may not exceed 18 inches.
- Anglers may keep foul-hooked Bonneville cisco that are taken through normal, legal fishing activities.
- A person may not possess a multipoint hook with a weight permanently or rigidly attached directly to the shank; or a weight suspended below a multipoint hook unless the hook is on an unweighted dropper line that is at least three inches long.

**Bear Lake tributaries**, Rich County
(a) Big Spring Creek from Lamborn Diversion (approximately 500 yards below SR-30) downstream to Bear Lake and that area extending from the mouth out into the lake 1,000 feet, or as buoyed.
- CLOSED April 15 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.
- CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY, AND ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY (Jan. 1 through April 14 and from 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July through Dec. 31).

(b) Swan Creek from the headwater spring downstream to Bear Lake and that area extending from the mouth out into the lake 1,000 feet, or as buoyed.
- CLOSED April 15 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.
- CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY, AND ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY (Jan. 1 through April 14 and from 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July through Dec. 31).

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.



**Beaver Creek**, Cache County
See *Logan River*.

**Beaver Creek**, San Juan County
Tributary to La Sal Creek.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- All cutthroat trout must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Beaver River**, Beaver County
From Minersville Reservoir upstream to the bridge at Greenville.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Beer Creek**, Utah County
Includes Benjamin Slough, east from Utah Lake to I-15.
- CLOSED March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

**Benches Pond tributaries**, Sanpete County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Bicknell Bottoms**, Wayne County
This area is along the Fremont River.
- OPEN to fishing, except where posted CLOSED.

**Big Spring Creek**, Rich County
See *Bear Lake tributaries*.

**Black Ridge Reservoir**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Blue Lake**, Tooele County
- No limit for tilapia.
- Anglers must not release any tilapia they catch.
- All tilapia must be immediately killed.

**Boulder Mountain streams and lakes**, Garfield and Wayne counties
***Bag and Possession Limits:*** Including the Dixie National Forest; Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts: general locations known as the North Boulder Slope, East Boulder Slope, South Boulder Slope, Griffin Top, Boulder Top, Escalante Mountain; EXCEPT Pine Lake, Wide Hollow Reservoir and Lower Bowns Reservoir in Garfield County where general rules apply, and EXCEPT Dougherty Basin Lake in Garfield County where separate specific rules apply.
- Limit 4 trout.
- Only 2 trout over 14 inches.
- Bonus limit of 4 brook trout (total limit of no more than 8 trout if at least 4 are brook trout).

***Seasonal Restrictions:*** The following restriction applies to most Boulder Mountain lakes, ponds and reservoirs.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the third Saturday of April and Nov. 1 through Dec. 31.

The above restriction does not apply to the following waters, which are OPEN year round: Barker Reservoir, Garkane East Fork Impoundment, Garkane Main Impoundment, Lower Barker Reservoir, Lower Bowns Reservoir, North Creek Reservoir, Pine Lake, Posey Lake, Oak Creek Reservoir and Wide Hollow Reservoir (all in Garfield County); and Blind Lake, Coleman Reservoir, Cook Lake, Donkey Reservoir, Miller Lake and Pine Creek Reservoir (all in Wayne County).

**Bountiful Lake**, Davis County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Broad Hollow**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Brough Reservoir**, Uintah County
- Limit 1 trout over 22 inches.
- All trout 22 inches or smaller must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Brown Duck Basin**, Duchesne County
Uinta Mountains—all streams in the Brown Duck Basin and the outlet of Clemments Reservoir to its confluence with Lake Fork Creek.

- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Bryants Fork**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Bullock Reservoir**, Uintah County
- Unlawful to use whole fish for bait. Cut baitfish must not be larger than one inch in any dimension and no more than one piece per hook.

**Calder Reservoir**, Uintah County
- Limit 1 trout over 22 inches.
- All trout 22 inches or smaller must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Canyon View Park Pond**, Utah County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Causey Reservoir**, Weber County
- CLOSED to the possession of kokanee salmon with any red color within the high water mark of the reservoir from Aug. 15 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of September.

**Causey Reservoir tributaries**, Weber County
Right and left forks of South Fork Ogden River.
- Limit 2 trout and salmon in the aggregate.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED Aug. 15 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of September.

**Chicken Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Chipman Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Clinton Pond**, Davis County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Clyde Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Cold Springs Lakes**, Box Elder County
Also called Honeyville Ponds.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

**Co-op Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Coal Canyon**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Colorado River**, Grand and San Juan counties
- Limit 24 channel catfish.
- Limit 12 northern pike.
- Species of threatened and endangered fish occur in the Colorado. See page 12 for a list of prohibited fish.

**Cottonwood Reservoir**, Uintah County
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 15 inches.
- Unlawful to use whole fish for bait. Cut baitfish must not be larger than one inch in any dimension, with no more than one piece per hook.

**Cove Pond**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Cow Hollow**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Currant Creek**, Wasatch County
From Water Hollow Creek upstream to the headwaters, including all tributaries to Currant Creek Reservoir, but not the reservoir itself.
- Limit 2 trout.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Deer Creek Reservoir**, Wasatch County ▲
- Limit 6 bass. All bass over 12 inches must be immediately released.

**Deer Valley Lakes**, Wasatch County
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.



## Community fishing waters

The following rules apply to all the fisheries listed below:
- Limit 2 fish. (Daily bag and possession limit is a combined total of 2 fish for all species. For example, you could catch and keep 1 trout and 1 channel catfish, or 2 trout, or 2 channel catfish, but no more than the limit of 2 fish per day.)
- Anglers are encouraged to voluntarily release all largemouth bass.
- Waters are open to fishing only when the community parks are open to the public.

**Box Elder County:** Mayors Pond and Pioneer Park Pond
**Cache County:** Skylars Pond (West Willow Pond)
**Carbon County:** Gigliotti Pond
**Davis County:** Bountiful Lake, Clinton Pond, Farmington Pond, Jensen Park Pond (Syracuse Pond), Kaysville Ponds, Mabey Pond and Steed Pond
**Emery County:** Green River State Park Golf Course Ponds and Huntington Game Farm Ponds
**Iron County:** Leigh Hill Reservoir, Parowan Pond and Woods Pond
**Juab County:** Burraston Ponds
**Salt Lake County:** Black Ridge Reservoir, Cove Pond, Kidney Pond, Midas Pond, Millrace Park Pond, Riverton Pond, Sandy Urban Fishery, Sunset Pond and Willow Park Pond
**Utah County:** Canyon View Park Pond, Highland Glen Park Pond, Manila Creek Pond, Salem Pond, Spanish Oaks Reservoir, Spring Lake and Vivian Park Pond (Note: Spanish Oaks Reservoir is closed Dec. 1 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of February.)
**Washington County:** Hurricane Pond (Grandpa's Pond), Razor Ridge Pond, Skyline Drive Pond and Tawa Ponds (Upper and Lower)
**Weber County:** Fort Buenaventura, Glassmans Pond and Meadow Creek Pond

Check the Community Fishing booklet or *visit wildlife.utah.gov/cf* for specific site recreation rules.

- Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY.
- Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, limit 2 trout under 16 inches.

**Dougherty Basin Lake**, Garfield County
Boulder Mountain—lake and outflow from dam downstream one-quarter mile.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Dry Creek**, Utah County
East from Utah Lake to I-15.
- CLOSED March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

**Duck Creek**, Kane County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the third Saturday of April.

**Duck Creek Springs Lake**, Kane County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the third Saturday of April.
- Fishing from a boat or a float tube is unlawful.

**Duck Fork Creek and other tributaries to Duck Fork Reservoir**, Sanpete County
- Limit 2 tiger trout.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Duck Fork Reservoir**, Sanpete County
- Limit 2 tiger trout.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**East Fork Little Bear River and its tributaries**, Cache County
Upstream from Porcupine Reservoir.
- CLOSED Aug. 15 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of September.

**East Fork Little Bear River**, Cache County
Porcupine Dam downstream to the Avon-Paradise County road (165), second stream crossing below reservoir.
- Limit 2 trout and salmon in the aggregate.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**East Fork Sevier River**, Garfield and Piute counties
(a) Feeder canal from the diversion near Antimony to Otter Creek Reservoir:
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

(b) From the BLM boundary (about four miles south of the town of Antimony) upstream to the confluence of Deer Creek:
- Limit 2 trout.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**East Fork Smiths Fork River**, Summit County
- CLOSED Aug. 15 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of September.

**Echo Reservoir**, Summit County
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 12 inches.

**Farmington Pond**, Davis County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Ferron Reservoir**, Sanpete County
- Limit 4 trout.
- Bonus limit of 4 brook trout (total limit of no more than 8 trout if at least 4 are brook trout).

**Ferron Reservoir tributaries**, Sanpete County
- Limit 4 trout.
- Bonus limit of 4 brook trout (total limit of no more than 8 trout if at least 4 are brook trout).
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Fish Lake**, Sevier County
- Limit 4 trout, no more than 2 may be lake trout/mackinaw and only 1 may be a lake trout/mackinaw larger than 20 inches.
- Underwater spearfishing is permitted from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of June through Sept. 15.
- When ice fishing, the size of the hole may not exceed 18 inches.

**Flaming Gorge Reservoir**, Daggett County
See *Fishing Across State Lines* on pages 6–7 for license and permit requirements.
- Limit 4 trout or kokanee salmon (EXCLUDING LAKE TROUT) in the aggregate, no more than 3 may be kokanee salmon.
- Limit 8 lake trout/mackinaw, only 1 may exceed 28 inches.
- All kokanee salmon caught from Sept. 10 through Nov. 30 must be immediately released.
- Linwood Bay, west of a line from the easternmost point of the south shore of Linwood Bay (mouth of canyon) to easternmost point of the north shore of Linwood Bay (Lucerne Point), CLOSED between official sunset and sunrise, Oct. 15 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of December.
- Limit 6 catfish.
- Limit 10 smallmouth and largemouth bass in the aggregate.
- No limit for burbot. Anglers must not release any burbot they catch. All burbot must be immediately killed.
- No line may have more than 3 baited hooks or artificial flies in series or more than 3 lures.
- When ice fishing, the hole size may not exceed 18 inches.
- A person may use up to six lines without a second-pole permit when fishing at Flaming Gorge Reservoir through the ice. When using more than two lines at Flaming Gorge Reservoir, the angler's name shall be attached to each line, pole or tip-up, and the angler shall check only their lines.
- Open to taking burbot by means of underwater spearfishing from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 24 hours each day. Artificial light is permitted while engaged in underwater spearfishing for burbot. Artificial light may not be used to take other fish species with spearfishing techniques. No other species of fish may be taken with underwater spearfishing techniques between official sunset and official sunrise.

**Gigliotti Pond**, Carbon County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Glassmans Pond**, Weber County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Gooseberry Creek**, Sanpete County
A Scofield Reservoir tributary.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Gooseberry Reservoir tributaries**, Sanpete County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Grandaddy Lake tributaries**, Duchesne County
Located in the Uinta Mountains.
- All tributaries to Grandaddy Lake CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Grantsville Reservoir**, Tooele County
- No limit for smallmouth bass.
- Anglers must not release any bass they catch.
- All bass must be immediately killed.

**Grassy Trail Reservoir**, Carbon County
- CLOSED TO FISHING.

**Green River**, Carbon, Daggett, Emery, Grand, San Juan, Uintah and Wayne counties
(a) From confluence with Colorado River upstream to Colorado state line in Dinosaur National Monument:
- Limit 24 channel catfish.
- Limit 12 northern pike.
- No limit for smallmouth bass. Anglers must not release any bass they catch. All bass must be immediately killed.

(b) From Colorado state line in Browns Park upstream to Flaming Gorge Dam; including Gorge Creek, a tributary entering the Green River at Little Hole:
- Limit 3 trout (2 under 15 inches and 1 over 22 inches).
- All trout from 15 to 22 inches must be immediately released.
- No limit for smallmouth bass.
- Anglers must not release any smallmouth bass they catch.
- All smallmouth bass must be immediately killed.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED to fishing from a boat with a motor between the Utah-Colorado state line and Flaming Gorge Dam.

**Green River State Park Golf Course Ponds**, Emery County ▲
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Gunlock Reservoir**, Washington County ▲
- Limit 6 largemouth bass: 4 may be under 10 inches, and 2 may be over 20 inches.
- All largemouth bass from 10 to 20 inches must be immediately released.

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.



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**Highland Glen Park Pond**, Utah County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Hobble Creek**, Utah County
East from Utah Lake to I-15.
- CLOSED March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

**Honeyville Ponds**, Box Elder County
Also called Cold Springs Lakes.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

**Horse Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Huntington Creek**, Emery County
Below Electric Lake.
(a) Right Fork (from Flood and Engineers canyons upstream to Electric Lake Dam):
- Limit 2 trout.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY.

(b) Left Fork (from top of USFS campground, near confluence with Right Fork, to the headwaters, including all tributaries: Scad Valley Creek, Rolfson Creek, Lake Creek, Staker Creek, Millers Flat Creek and Paradise Creek):
- Anglers are encouraged to harvest brown trout.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Huntington Game Farm Ponds**, Emery County
Emery Farm Harvey Place Wildlife Management Area.
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Huntington Reservoir**, Sanpete County
Near the top of Huntington Canyon.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.

**Huntington Reservoir tributaries**, Sanpete County
Near the top of Huntington Canyon.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- Anglers are encouraged to harvest tiger trout.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Huntington North Reservoir**, Emery County ▲
Near the city of Huntington.
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 12 inches.

**Hurricane Pond**, Washington County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Hyrum Reservoir**, Cache County ▲
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 12 inches.

**Indian Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Jensen Park Pond**, Davis County
Also called Syracuse Pond. See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Joes Valley Reservoir**, Emery County
- Limit 4 trout, only 1 trout may be over 18 inches.
- CLOSED Nov. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of December.

**Johnson Reservoir**, Sevier County
- Unlawful to use whole fish for bait. Cut baitfish must not be larger than one inch in any dimension and no more than one piece per hook.

**Jones Hole Creek**, Uintah County
- Limit 2 trout, only 1 may be a brown trout over 15 inches.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Jordanelle Reservoir**, Wasatch County ▲
- Limit 6 bass. All bass over 12 inches must be immediately released.

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.



- Bass may not be filleted, and the heads or tails may not be removed in the field or in transit.

**Kaysville Ponds**, Davis County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Kidney Pond**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Kolob Reservoir**, Washington County
- Limit 2 trout under 15 inches or over 22 inches.
- All trout from 15 to 22 inches must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY from Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the third Saturday in May, and from the second Saturday in September through Dec. 31.

**Kolob Reservoir tributaries**, Washington County
Upstream from Kolob Reservoir.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Lake Canyon Lake**, Duchesne County
- Limit 2 trout, only 1 may be a cutthroat trout over 22 inches.
- All cutthroat trout 22 inches or smaller must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Lake Powell**, Garfield, Kane and San Juan counties
See *Fishing Across State Lines* on pages 6–7 for license and permit requirements, and *Fishing Methods/Bait* on page 9 for use of dead shad as bait in Lake Powell.
- Limit 20 smallmouth bass.
- Limit 5 largemouth bass.
- Limit 10 crappie.
- Limit 25 channel catfish.
- No limit on striped bass.
- No line may have more than 3 baited hooks or more than 3 lures.
- Chumming is only allowed for taking striped bass. ONLY commercially prepared anchovies and sardines may be used for chumming.
- Gaffs may be used to land striped bass only.
- Carp and striped bass may be taken by means of underwater spearfishing year round.
- Archery and underwater spearfishing are prohibited within all of the following areas:
  - One-quarter mile of all existing developed areas, including shoreline campgrounds, docks, launch ramps, breakwaters and trailheads
  - One-quarter mile of any structure, including any building, shed, pump-out, boat dock, breakwater, permanent harbor fixture, camper, motor home, trailer, tent or vehicle
  - Rainbow Bridge National Monument
  - One-quarter mile of Dangling Rope Marina, including any land- or harbor-based structures
  - One hundred yards (300 feet) of any boats (unless the person owns, rents, leases or lawfully occupies the boat), or another boat moves into the 100-yard perimeter after the bow or spearfishing activity has commenced

**Leigh Hill Reservoir**, Iron County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Little Co-op Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Little Creek Reservoir**, Rich County
- Limit 8 trout from Aug. 1 through Oct. 31.
- Limit 4 trout from Jan. 1 through July 31 and from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31.

**Little Dell Reservoir**, Salt Lake County
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- All cutthroat trout must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.



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**Logan River**, Cache County
(a) From Card Canyon Bridge upstream to the highway bridge at Red Banks Campground, including all tributary streams in between:
- Limit 2 trout and whitefish in the aggregate.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

(b) From the highway bridge at Red Banks Campground upstream to the Idaho state line, including all tributaries:
- Limit 2 trout and whitefish in the aggregate.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Lost Creek**, Morgan County
The entire drainage upstream, beginning at the bridge (culvert) approximately one-quarter mile above Lost Creek Reservoir; EXCEPT Squaw Creek.
- CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Lost Creek Reservoir**, Morgan County
- CLOSED to fishing 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

**Lower Fish Creek (Price River)**, Carbon and Utah counties
From the railroad bridge (approximately one mile below the Scofield Reservoir dam) downstream to the confluence with the White River.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Mammoth Creek**, Garfield County
From the canal diversion (about three miles upstream from the Mammoth Creek Fish Hatchery), upstream 7.5 miles to the end of Hatch Meadow and the beginning of summer home sites.
- Limit 2 trout between 10 and 15 inches.
- All trout less than 10 inches and over 15 inches must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Manila Creek Pond**, Utah County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Manning Meadow Reservoir, tributaries and spillway**, Piute County
- Limit 1 trout over 22 inches.
- All trout 22 inches or smaller must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Mantua Reservoir**, Box Elder County
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 12 inches.

**Maybey Pond**, Davis County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Mayors Pond**, Box Elder County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Meadow Creek Pond**, Weber County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Midas Pond**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Mill Meadow Reservoir**, Sevier County
- Limit 8 tiger muskie of any size (no size restrictions on tiger muskie on this water).

**Millrace Park Pond**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Minersville Reservoir**, Beaver County
- Limit 1 trout over 22 inches.
- All trout 22 inches or smaller must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- Cement outlet channel between dam and spillway pond, approximately 55 feet long, is CLOSED.

**Moon Lake**, Duchesne County
- Limit 4 trout, only 2 may be splake.

**Mountain Dell Creek**, Salt Lake County
(a) From Mountain Dell Reservoir water line upstream to Little Dell Reservoir.
- CLOSED TO FISHING.

(b) From Little Dell Reservoir water line upstream to headwaters.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Mountain Dell Reservoir**, Salt Lake County
- CLOSED TO FISHING.

**Mud Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Newcastle Reservoir**, Iron County
- Limit 2 wiper.

**Newton Reservoir**, Cache County
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 12 inches.
- CLOSED to the possession of tiger muskie. All tiger muskie must be immediately released.
- Unlawful to use whole fish for bait. Cut bait fish must not be larger than one inch in any dimension and no more than one piece per hook.

**Ogden River**, Weber County
From Pineview Dam downstream to the first bridge, approximately one-half mile.
- CLOSED TO FISHING.

**Otter Creek Stream**, Piute County
From Otter Creek Reservoir upstream to the Angle Diversion.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Panguitch Lake**, Garfield County
- Limit 4 trout in the aggregate.
- No more than 2 may be cutthroat or tiger trout under 15 inches, and no more than 1 may be a cutthroat or tiger trout over 22 inches.
- All cutthroat and tiger trout from 15 to 22 inches must be immediately released.
- Trout may not be filleted and the heads or tails may not be removed in the field or in transit.
- Any trout with cutthroat markings is considered to be a cutthroat trout. To learn how to identify the fish in this water, see the detailed descriptions that begin on page 50.

**Panguitch Lake tributaries**, Garfield County
Excluding Blue Springs Creek upstream from Bunker Creek Road Bridge. (The bridge is approximately one mile upstream from Panguitch Lake.) Also excluding Clear Creek upstream from the Panguitch Lake North Shore Highway, located approximately one-quarter mile upstream from Panguitch Lake.
- Limit 4 trout in the aggregate.
- No more than 2 may be cutthroat or tiger trout under 15 inches, and no more than 1 may be a cutthroat or tiger trout over 22 inches.
- All cutthroat and tiger trout from 15 to 22 inches must be immediately released.
- Any trout with cutthroat markings is considered to be a cutthroat trout. To learn how to identify the fish in these waters, see the detailed descriptions that begin on page 50.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Paragonah (Red Creek) Reservoir**, Iron County
- Limit 8 trout.

**Paragonah (Red Creek) Reservoir tributaries**, Iron County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Parleys Creek**, Salt Lake County
(a) From Mountain Dell Reservoir to SR-65.
- CLOSED TO FISHING.



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(b) From SR-65 upstream to headwaters.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Parowan Pond**, Iron County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Pelican Lake**, Uintah County
- Limit 20 bluegill and green sunfish in the aggregate.
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 15 inches.

**Petes Hole Reservoir tributaries**, Sanpete County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Pine Hollow**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Pine Lake inflow**, Garfield County
Inflow including spawning channel.
- CLOSED TO FISHING.

**Pineview Reservoir**, Weber County
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 12 inches.
- Limit 20 crappie.
- CLOSED to the possession of tiger muskie. All tiger muskie must be immediately released.
- Tiger muskie may not be taken by means of underwater spearfishing.
- Unlawful to use whole fish for bait. Cut baitfish must not be larger than one inch in any dimension and no more than one piece per hook.
- CLOSED inside buoys by spillway near the dam.

**Pioneer Park Pond**, Box Elder County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Porcupine Reservoir**, Cache County
- Limit 12 trout and salmon, only 4 may be rainbow, cutthroat or brown trout in the aggregate. To take 12 fish, you must possess at least 8 salmon.
- CLOSED to the possession of kokanee salmon with any red color from Aug. 15 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of September.
- See EAST FORK LITTLE BEAR RIVER.

**Price River (Lower Fish Creek)**, Carbon and Utah counties
From the railroad bridge (approximately one mile below the Scofield Reservoir dam) downstream to the confluence with the White River.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Provo River**, Summit, Utah and Wasatch counties
(a) East from Center Street Bridge (entrance to Utah Lake State Park) to I-15 (Utah County):
- CLOSED to taking of nongame fish by methods other than angling.
- CLOSED March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

(b) Upstream from Olmstead Diversion Dam to Deer Creek Reservoir (Utah and Wasatch counties):
- Limit 2 trout under 15 inches.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

(c) From Legacy Bridge on Midway Lane (SR-113) in Midway upstream to the Jordanelle Dam (Wasatch County):
- Limit 2 trout under 15 inches.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

(d) From Jordanelle Reservoir upstream to the confluence of the South Fork Provo River (Wasatch County):
- Limit 2 brown trout under 15 inches.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat and rainbow trout and their hybrids. All cutthroat and rainbow trout and their hybrids must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Quail Creek Reservoir (Quail Lake)**, Washington County ▲
- Limit 6 largemouth bass: 4 may be under 10 inches, and 2 may be over 20 inches.
- All largemouth bass from 10 to 20 inches must be immediately released.

**Rainbow Reservoir**, Tooele County
- OPEN to fishing on the first Saturday of May through Oct. 31 during daylight hours. (A gate will be closed and locked from dusk to dawn.)
- Facility CLOSED Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 through April 30.
- Shore fishing only.

**Razor Ridge Pond**, Washington County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Red Butte Creek and Red Butte Reservoir**, Salt Lake County
- CLOSED TO FISHING.

**Red Fleet Reservoir**, Uintah County ▲
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 15 inches.
- No limit for walleye.
- Anglers must not release any walleye they catch.
- All walleye must be immediately killed.

**Right Fork of Logan River**, Cache County
See *Logan River*.

**Riverton Pond**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Road Hollow**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Rockport Reservoir (Wanship Reservoir)**, Summit County ▲
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 12 inches.

**Sage Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Salem Pond**, Utah County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**San Juan River**, San Juan County
- Limit 24 channel catfish.

**Sand Hollow Reservoir**, Washington County ▲
- Limit 6 largemouth bass, only 1 may be over 12 inches.

**Sandy Urban Fishery**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Scofield Reservoir**, Carbon and Utah counties ▲
- Limit 4 trout in the aggregate.
- No more than 2 may be cutthroat or tiger trout under 15 inches, and no more than 1 may be a cutthroat or tiger trout over 22 inches.
- All cutthroat and tiger trout from 15 to 22 inches must be immediately released.
- Trout may not be filleted, and the heads or tails may not be removed in the field or in transit.
- Any trout with cutthroat markings is considered to be a cutthroat trout. To learn how to identify the fish in this water, see the detailed descriptions that begin on page 50.

**Scofield Reservoir tributaries**, Carbon, Sanpete and Utah counties
Including Gooseberry Creek.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Sheep Creek**, Daggett County
From Flaming Gorge Reservoir upstream to the Ashley National Forest boundary.
- CLOSED Aug. 15 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of November.

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.



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**Sheep Creek Lake**, Daggett County
- Limit 2 trout, only 1 may be a cutthroat trout over 22 inches.
- All cutthroat trout 22 inches or smaller must be immediately released.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED near the spawning trap and portions of the lake and canal, as posted during the spring spawning operations.

**Skylars Pond (West Willow Pond)**, Cache County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Skyline Drive Pond**, Washington County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Soldier Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Spanish Fork River**, Utah County
East from Utah Lake to I-15.
- CLOSED to fishing March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

**Spanish Oaks Reservoir**, Utah County
- CLOSED to fishing Dec. 1 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of February.

See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Spring Creek**, Utah County
(a) East from Utah Lake to I-15:
- CLOSED to fishing March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

(b) Springville State Fish Hatchery and the Division's Central Region office grounds from the Mill Pond downstream to SR-75:
- CLOSED TO FISHING.

**Spring Lake**, Utah County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Spring Run Creek** Utah County
East from Utah Lake to I-15.
- CLOSED March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

**Squaw Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Steeds Pond**, Davis County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Steinaker Reservoir**, Uintah County ▲
- Limit 6 bass, only 1 bass may be over 15 inches.

**Strawberry Reservoir**, Wasatch County
- Limit 4 trout or kokanee salmon in the aggregate.
- No more than 2 may be cutthroat trout under 15 inches, and no more than 1 may be a cutthroat trout over 22 inches.
- All cutthroat trout from 15 to 22 inches must be immediately released.
- Trout and salmon may not be filleted, and the heads or tails may not be removed in the field or in transit.
- Anglers are encouraged to voluntarily release all cutthroat trout.
- Any trout with cutthroat characteristics (not necessarily jaw slashing) is considered to be a cutthroat trout. Slash marks under the jaw should not be used to distinguish Bear Lake cutthroat trout from rainbow trout at Strawberry. Slashing is sometimes absent on Bear Lake cutthroats and sometimes visible on rainbows. Better characteristics are deep orange pelvic and anal fins on the cutthroats, and white-tipped pink to gray-green pelvic and anal fins on the rainbows. Rainbows also have the pinkish lateral stripe on the sides (see fish descriptions beginning on page 50 of this guide for more information).

**Strawberry Reservoir tributaries**, Wasatch County
(a) Indian Creek and all tributaries to Indian Creek, Squaw Creek, Strawberry River from Strawberry Reservoir upstream to USFS Road 124 (Bull Springs Road), Co-op Creek from confluence with Strawberry River upstream to US-40, and the Central Utah Project Canal (commonly known as the "steps" or "ladders") from US-40 to Strawberry Reservoir, including that portion of the reservoir confined to the narrow "steps" or "ladders" channel.
- CLOSED TO FISHING YEAR ROUND.

(b) Strawberry River and its tributaries upstream from USFS Road 124 (Bull Springs Road) to its headwaters, Co-op Creek and its tributaries upstream from US-40 to its headwaters, Soldier Creek, Coal Canyon, Cow Hollow, Trout Creek, Sage Creek, Chicken Creek, Little Co-op Creek, Clyde Creek, Mud Creek, Bryants Fork, Horse Creek, Chipman Creek, Trail Hollow, Broad Hollow, Pine Hollow, Badger Hollow and Road Hollow.
- CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY. (All fish must be immediately released. It is illegal to fish if you have any fish in possession.)
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY. (The use or possession of bait while fishing is illegal.)
- CLOSED May 15 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July, and from Sept. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of October.

**Strawberry River**, Duchesne and Wasatch counties
From confluence with Red Creek, near Pinnacles, upstream to Soldier Creek Dam.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- No overnight camping on Division land.

**Sunset Pond**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Swan Creek**, Rich County
See *Bear Lake tributaries*.

**Syracuse Pond**, Davis County
Also called Jensen Park Pond. See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Tawa Ponds**, Washington County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Temple Fork**, Cache County
See *Logan River*.

**Trail Hollow**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Trout Creek**, Wasatch County
See *Strawberry Reservoir tributaries*.

**Twin Creek**, Sevier County
Tributary to Fish Lake.
- CLOSED TO FISHING.

**Uinta Mountains lakes and streams**, Daggett, Duchesne, Summit, Uintah and Wasatch counties
Covering streams and lakes in Utah within the boundary beginning on I-80 at the Utah-Wyoming state line southwest of Evanston, Wyoming and continuing southwest along I-80 to Highway 40 (near Park City); then east along Highway 40 to Vernal, Utah; then north along Highway 44 to Manila, Utah; then west on Highway 43 to the Wyoming state line; and then west and north along the Wyoming state line back to the beginning point at I-80.
- Limit 4 trout.
- Bonus limit of 4 brook trout (total limit of no more than 8 trout if at least 4 are brook trout).

**UM Creek**, Sevier and Wayne counties
Upstream from Forsyth Reservoir.
- CLOSED to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**Upper Kents Lake inflow**, Beaver County
Inflow, approximately 900 feet, from the mouth up to the waterfall.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Utah Lake**, Utah County ▲
- Limit 6 largemouth and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.



▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.

- All largemouth and smallmouth bass over 12 inches must be immediately released.
- All suckers must be immediately released.

**Utah Lake tributaries west of I-15**, Utah County
Including but not limited to: American Fork Creek, Beer Creek, Dry Creek, Hobble Creek, Provo River, Spanish Fork River, Spring Creek and Spring Run Creek.
- All suckers must be immediately released.
- CLOSED March 1 through 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of May.

**Weber River**, Summit County
From the first I-80 bridge upstream from Echo Reservoir (near Exit 164) upstream to the I-80 bridge near Wanship (near Exit 156).
- Limit 2 trout.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.

**West Fork Duchesne River**, Duchesne and Wasatch counties
From confluence with North Fork to headwaters, including Wolf Creek.
- Only 2 trout may be cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**West Willow Pond**, Cache County
See *Skylars Pond*.

**Wheeler Creek**, Weber County
- CLOSED for approximately one-quarter mile from SR-39 to confluence with Ogden River.

**White River**, Uintah County
- Limit 24 channel catfish.

**Whitney Reservoir tributaries**, Summit County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Willard Bay Reservoir**, Box Elder County ▲
- Limit 10 crappie.
- Limit 6 walleye, only 1 walleye may be over 24 inches.
- Possession of gizzard shad, dead or alive, is unlawful.

**Willard Bay Reservoir inlet channel**, Box Elder County ▲
From the buoyed start of the channel near the South Marina boat ramp up the channel to the second set of baffles. This does not include the South Marina proper or the normal boating channel out of the South Marina into the reservoir.
- Limit 10 crappie.
- Limit 6 walleye, only 1 walleye may be over 24 inches.
- Possession of gizzard shad, dead or alive, is unlawful.
- CLOSED March 1 through 6 a.m. on the last Saturday of April.

**Willow Park Pond**, Salt Lake County
See *Community Fishing Waters*.

**Wolf Creek**, Duchesne and Wasatch counties
- Limit 4 trout, only 2 trout may be cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.
- ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY.
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

**Yankee Meadow Reservoir inlet**, Iron County
- CLOSED Jan. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July.

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.



# WATERCRAFT RESTRICTIONS

Anglers should check with local, state and federal agencies regarding all watercraft restrictions. The following lists are provided as information only and may not include all of the waters that have restrictions.

**Fishing from any watercraft is PROHIBITED** on the following waters:
- Rock Creek/Upper Stillwater Reservoir (Duchesne County)

**Fishing from boats and float tubes is PROHIBITED** on the following waters:
- Aspen-Mirror Lake (Kane County)
- Duck Creek Springs Lake (Kane County)
- Farmington Pond (Davis County)
- Holmes Creek Reservoir (Davis County)
- Pine Valley Reservoir (Washington County)
- Settlement Canyon Reservoir (Tooele County)

Fishing from a **boat with a motor of any kind is PROHIBITED** on the following waters:
- Anderson Meadow Reservoir (Beaver County)
- Barney Lake (Monroe Mountain, Sevier County)
- Blanding Reservoir #3 (San Juan County)
- Blanding Reservoir #4 (San Juan County)
- Bonnie Lake (Duchesne River drainage)
- Boulder Mountain Lakes (Wayne and Garfield counties) (North Boulder Slope, East Boulder Slope, South Boulder Top, Griffin Top and Escalante Mountain; EXCEPT Pine Lake, Wide Hollow Reservoir and Lower Bowns Reservoir in Garfield County)
- Bud Lake (Duchesne County, Duchesne River drainage)
- Burraston Ponds (Juab County)
- Butterfly Lake (Duchesne County, Duchesne River drainage)
- Clinton Pond (Davis County)
- Duck Creek (Davis County)
- Fairview Lakes (Sanpete County)

## Utah's boating laws and rules

Boaters have the responsibility to practice and advocate safe and ethical use of our waterways. If you're planning to take your boat out on Utah waters, you should take the following safety measures:
- Wear your life jacket. Utah law requires those under 13 to wear their life jacket when on a boat, and it is recommended everyone wear one.
- Let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Carry the required boating safety equipment. For a detailed list of safety equipment, visit *stateparks.utah.gov/boating/checklist*.
- Keep your boat 150 feet away from a displayed diver-down flag (illustrated below). The flag means that someone is diving in the area.

By completing a Utah Boating Course, you may reduce your boat insurance premiums. For additional boating information, visit *stateparks.utah.gov/boating*.

*en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diver_down_flag*

- Foy Lake (San Juan County)
- Green River (Flaming Gorge Dam downstream to Utah-Colorado state line)
- Labaron Reservoir (Beaver County)
- Lily Lake (Summit County, Provo River drainage)
- Little Dell Reservoir (Salt Lake County)
- Little Reservoir (Beaver County)
- Maple Lake (Utah County)
- McClellan Reservoir (Utah County)
- Monticello Lake (San Juan County)
- Moosehorn Lake (Duchesne County, Duchesne River drainage)
- Pass Lake (Duchesne County, Duchesne River drainage)
- Payson Reservoir (Utah County)
- Red Creek Reservoir (Utah County, near Payson)
- Silver Lake Flat Reservoir (Utah County)
- Spanish Oaks Reservoir (Utah County)
- Teapot Lake (Summit County, Provo River drainage)
- Tibble Fork Reservoir (Utah County)
- Tony Grove Lake (Cache County)

Fishing from a **boat with a gas engine is PROHIBITED** (an electric motor may be used) on the following waters:

- Grantsville Reservoir (Tooele County)
- Kens Lake (San Juan County)
- Lost Lake (Wasatch/Summit counties, Provo River drainage)
- Lloyds Lake (South Creek Reservoir, San Juan County)
- Mirror Lake (Duchesne County, Duchesne River drainage)
- Palisade Lake ▲ (Sanpete County)
- Trial Lake (Summit County, Provo River drainage)
- Vernon Reservoir (Tooele County)
- Washington Lake (Summit County, Provo River drainage) (Note: Tail Lake is considered part of Washington Lake when boating can be done without lifting or dragging the boat between the two lakes.)

**Operating a boat above a wakeless speed is PROHIBITED** on the following waters:

- Causey Reservoir (Weber County)
- Lost Creek (Morgan County)
- Smith and Morehouse (Summit County)

**Operating a boat with a gas engine over 10 HP is PROHIBITED** on the following waters:

- Huntington (near the top of Huntington Canyon) (Sanpete County)

▲ A state park is associated with this water. Visit *stateparks.utah.gov* for more information.

If you want to fish it tomorrow,
help us protect it today.
UTiP
1-800-662-3337
Turn In a Poacher



# BATTLING INVASIVE SPECIES AND DISEASE

Make it a habit to clean, drain and dry your boat and all equipment.

Utah's rivers, lakes and reservoirs are critical to our quality of life. They store drinking water, support industry, nourish crops, sustain fisheries and provide popular recreation destinations.

That's why the state of Utah is committed to protecting our waters from invasive mussels, other invasive species and whirling disease.

## Invasive mussel damage

Invasive quagga and zebra mussels—thumbnail-sized clams—have been found in neighboring states' waterways. Test results indicate they are in Utah as well.

These animals reproduce rapidly and pose a huge threat to Utah's water resources. How serious is this problem? In other states, the mussels have:

- Cost billions of dollars to control
- Jeopardized essential power and water infrastructures
- Destroyed recreation areas and boating equipment
- Severely damaged ecosystems, displacing native and sport species

To combat the threat of quagga and zebra mussels, the Utah State Legislature and the Utah Wildlife Board made it unlawful to possess or transport them.

In their larval stage, the mussels are microscopic. They have hitchhiked across the country, stowing away on damp boats and equipment.

Unfortunately, in 2008, quagga mussel larvae and zebra mussel larvae were detected in Red Fleet Reservoir (Uintah County) and Electric Lake (Emery County), respectively.

If you have been in a mussel-affected water, you must decontaminate your boat and equipment before entering or traveling in Utah.

### Certify that your boat is mussel-free

When you visit a Utah lake or reservoir, be prepared to complete a Decontamination Certification Form. The form requests information about your recent boating trips and decontamination efforts. It is required by law and must be displayed in your launch vehicle.

Your answers will help you determine whether your boat needs to be professionally decontaminated prior to launch.

If you realize, while completing the form, that you need to decontaminate your boat, please do your part to keep Utah's waters free of quagga and zebra mussels.

For more information on invasive mussels and decontamination, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/mussels*.

## Other aquatic invasive species

Many other aquatic invasive species—such as the New Zealand mudsnail and Eurasian watermilfoil—either already inhabit Utah or threaten to arrive.

These species can crowd or outcompete our existing aquatic resources and have a profound, negative impact on our outdoor experience.

By routinely decontaminating your boat, wetted fishing gear and other recreational equipment, you can help limit the spread of all aquatic invasive species.

## The threat of whirling disease

Whirling disease is caused by a microscopic parasite. It can damage trout fisheries by attacking the tissue of a fish's head and spine. Young infected fish may swim in circles or later develop head and spinal deformities. These fish often die before they fully mature.

The good news is that you can help prevent whirling disease from spreading to uncontaminated Utah waters:

- Clean fish where you catch them. Do not transport fish—alive or dead—to a new water (or a different section of the same water) before cleaning them. Their discarded

organs and tissues could spread disease. Please note that whirling disease does not affect humans, and fish from affected waters are safe for human consumption.

- Waders, boots and wetted fishing gear or recreational equipment must be decontaminated before you enter any water. For example, if you spend the morning fishing one river, and then you move upstream or to another river, you could transport whirling disease spores (or aquatic invasive species) that are attached to your equipment.
  **Important tip:** Before you leave a fishing area and step into another water, rinse all the mud and other debris off of your waders, boots and wetted fishing gear or equipment. Then, generously spray all of it—especially the felt soles of waders—with Formula 409 (a popular household cleaner). This treatment will kill any whirling disease spores.
- Change your habits to protect our waters. After every outing, thoroughly decontaminate anything that entered the water or mud. You should also consider using waders and boots that do not have felt soles.

If you observe fish with possible whirling disease symptoms (e.g., a deformed head or spine, a black tail or a whirling method of swimming), please call a Division office.

## Decontaminate every time

Decontamination kills invasive mussels, other invasive species and whirling disease, and it needs to become routine among anglers and boaters. Whenever you leave a water body, you should decontaminate your boat, wetted fishing gear and recreational equipment by taking the following steps:

- Clean mud, plants, animals or other debris from your boat and equipment.
- Drain the ballast tanks, bilge, livewells and motor.
- Dry your boat and equipment for seven days in the summer or for 18 days in the spring or fall. If it is winter, the drying time is 30 days or you can choose to freeze a properly winterized boat and equipment for three consecutive days.

If you prefer professional decontamination, there are decontamination units at many Utah waters. At these units, certified personnel will decontaminate boats, trailers, wetted fishing gear and recreational equipment. Even your ballast tanks, bilge, livewells and motor will be thoroughly flushed with the high-pressure, scalding (140°F) water.

No matter which decontamination method you prefer, you should make a habit of completing the decontamination process after every fishing or boating trip. Your decontamination efforts are essential in protecting Utah waters and preserving our critical resources.

## Did it get wet? Decontaminate it!

When you go boating or fishing, some of your gear inevitably gets wet or muddy.

There are the obvious things: your boat, trailer, float tube, waders and fishing tackle. And there are the items you don't often think about: your shoes, net, knife, stringer and recreational toys.

All of these items provide good hiding places for microscopic invasive species or whirling disease spores.

Please make it routine to clean, drain and dry anything that got wet during your boating or fishing trip. If you make a habit of it, you will avoid spreading aquatic invasive species and whirling disease.

If you fish or boat multiple times per week, you should have your boat, trailer and equipment professionally decontaminated. The Division has decontamination units stationed at many local waters. These units deliver a high-pressure, scalding (140°F) wash—free of charge—that will leave your boat and gear safe for Utah waters.

## Catch-and-release fishing tips

The following tips will help you improve your catch-and-release techniques and greatly increase a fish's chance of survival:

- Make sure you have the necessary equipment: a landing net, forceps or pliers, and clippers.
- If you're fishing at a water with slot or length limits, bring a tape measure and use it routinely. To learn how to accurately measure a fish, see page 17.
- If a fish swallows a hook deeply, simply cut your line and leave the hook in the fish. Don't try to pull it out.
- Studies have shown that only 30 percent of deeply hooked fish die if you leave the hook alone. If you try to remove the hook, however, the fish's chance of dying jumps to 60 percent.
- When possible, fish with artificial flies or lures.
- It's easier to release fish if you use single hooks or bend the barbs on your hooks.
- If you're fishing with bait, you should remember to use unplated bait hooks and to keep your line tight.
- Try more active fishing techniques (e.g., tipped lures, pop gear and a worm, drift fishing with baits). These methods reduce the chance that a fish will swallow your hook deeply.
- Land fish as quickly as possible.
- Have your camera ready to go before you land a fish, and release the fish immediately.
- If possible, keep the fish in the water and use a pair of forceps or needle-nosed pliers to remove the hook.
- Wet your hands or a towel before handling the fish, and touch it as little as possible. Don't squeeze its body or eye sockets, and never touch its gills. Gently release the fish into quiet water.

If you decide to fish in July or August at a water where catch-and-release fishing is required, consider fishing during the late evening or early morning hours, when the water is the coolest. Fishing during this time will reduce stress on the fish and improve their survival odds.

*Photo courtesy of Drew Cushing*





Utah Fishing • 2010

# RESTORING UTAH'S RIVERS

Habitat work revitalizes the Strawberry River and many other fisheries.

You're planning a fishing trip, and you've narrowed your destination to a couple of nearby rivers.

One river is shallow and wide. It's full of cloudy, silt-laden water and has a trampled, barren bank. The other river is surrounded by plants of all kinds. It has deep, clear water that flows over large rocks and logs.

Where are you more likely to catch fish? It's a no-brainer—the second river has the vegetation, water quality and structure that provide outstanding fish habitat.

These are characteristics that Division biologists have worked to restore in many of the state's waters, including the popular Strawberry River.

## Riverbank erosion

From the late 1800s to the 1980s, unchecked grazing, water diversions and weed spraying took a toll on the grasses and plants that stabilized the bank of the Strawberry River.

As the vegetation died, the riverbank eroded and soil fell into the river. Water quality deteriorated, and the river grew wider and more shallow.

Biologist Justin Robinson explains why that was a problem, "Wide and shallow rivers heat up more quickly during warm months. Sometimes they get so hot that the fish can't survive."

The Division assessed the river over the years—noting which areas had healed on their own—and then began its targeted restoration efforts in 2002.

## Restoration efforts

The Division's biologists tackled restoration in phases and first focused on stabilizing the riverbank. They used heavy machinery to place large rocks and logs in the water, close to the banks.

Then, they covered those rocks and logs with soft, short-term structures like large willow plantings or biodegradable coconut matting.

Finally, the surrounding soil was planted and seeded. The new native vegetation grew strong roots, stabilizing the riverbank and limiting further erosion.

The biologists have used this process on three different sections of the Strawberry River, spending an average of three years on each area.

Craig Walker, the Division's aquatic habitat coordinator notes, "The actual restoration work can often be accomplished in a two-month period. However, the planning, permit-approval, monitoring, maintenance and fund-gathering activities can take multiple years."

## Measurable results

The restoration efforts have already made a difference.

Robinson observes, "We've seen a dramatic increase in the amount of fish cover and available food for trout. Also, our before and after photographs document the tremendous rate of revegetation along the restored areas."

And he points out that this work has also improved habitat for boreal toads, beavers and other creatures that rely on a healthy river ecosystem.

## Widespread work

Stream and river restoration is a high priority for the Division. The funding for this work comes from many sources, including state and federal agencies, conservation groups and members of the public who purchase fishing licenses.

The work on the Strawberry River represents only a small part of the total effort.

Habitat Coordinator Walker puts it in perspective, "During the past 10 years, we've restored nearly 30 miles of stream in the Weber and Sevier river drainages alone. We've also restored several miles in many other rivers and creeks.

For an in-depth look at all of the Division's habitat restoration projects, visit *wri.utah.gov*.



# FISH FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT

There's more to Utah fisheries than rainbow trout. Across the state, you'll find many unique fish species. Some are enormous and aggressive, while others have odd-looking fins and stunning colors (see the illustrations that begin on page 50). If you haven't already caught one of the following fish, make it a goal for the 2010 fishing season!

## Arctic grayling

*Where to find them:* You'll find grayling in more than 80 lakes in the Boulder, Manti, Thousand Lake, Uinta or Wasatch mountains.
*How to catch them:* Grayling feed on a variety of aquatic insects, so you can catch them easily on small flies, fished wet or dry.

## Tiger muskie

*Where to find them:* You'll find tiger muskie in all of the following reservoirs: Bullock, Cottonwood, Joes Valley, Johnson, Newton and Pineview.
*How to catch them:* Water clarity seems to have the greatest influence on what type of bait works best. Flies, spinners and jerk baits work best in clear water. Crankbaits work best when the water is murky or when the fish are suspended over deep water, which happens later in the season.

## Tiger trout

*Where to find them:* Tiger trout have been stocked in more than 100 lakes, reservoirs and streams across Utah. They can be found in waters as diverse as the Price River, Uinta Mountain lakes and Panguitch Lake. You'll also find them in the following reservoirs: Scofield, Joes Valley and Nine Mile.
*How to catch them:* Large tiger trout prey on other fish, so you can often catch them on tube jugs, crankbaits or other fish-imitating lures. Smaller tigers will strike at flies. During the early spring and fall, you can use bass techniques to catch tigers near the shoreline.

## Walleye

*Where to find them:* There are walleye in Deer Creek Reservoir, Yuba Reservoir, Starvation Reservoir, Willard Bay, Lake Powell and Utah Lake.
*How to catch them:* Walleye are susceptible to nightcrawlers in the spring and fall, and will strike crankbaits in the summer.

## Wipers (hybrid striped bass)

*Where to find them:* You'll find wipers in Willard Bay, Huntington North Reservoir and Newcastle Reservoir.
*How to catch them:* Wipers are very easy to catch if you use jigs or crankbaits that look like the fish they consume. Early in the fishing season, use small jigs and crankbaits, and fish slowly. As the summer progresses, move to larger jigs and crankbaits, and fish faster.

*A Scofield Reservoir tiger trout on ice, caught and photographed by Derek Elverud*

# A CLOSER LOOK AT CUTTHROATS

Once thought extinct, these native trout are now a fun, delicious option for anglers.

Utah's rivers and streams are known for their incredible trout fishing . What many people don't know is the exciting comeback story of Utah's native cutthroat trout.

## Trout native to Utah

There are three primary subspecies of cutthroat trout native to Utah. By the middle of the twentieth century, all three—the Bonneville cutthroat, the Colorado River cutthroat and the Yellowstone cutthroat—were thought to be extinct.

When a few isolated populations were discovered in Utah in the 1970s, biologists began an in-depth search.

## Amazing recovery

By the late 1970s, biologists identified six genetically pure populations of Bonneville cutthroat. Those populations became breeding stock to millions of additional fish.

Cutthroat recovery became a priority across the West. The urgency increased when the federal government began debating whether to list the various subspecies under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Today, after an aggressive, coordinated recovery effort by a multi-agency conservation team, there are more than 160 Bonneville cutthroat trout populations that occupy nearly 2,500 miles of stream in Utah and bordering states. Nearly 40 percent of historic cutthroat habitat is now occupied.

The Colorado River and Yellowstone cutthroat populations have also rebounded.

Because of this success, the federal government has decided that none of Utah's native trout should be listed under the ESA.

## Unique management role

Utah's fisheries are more diverse because of the cutthroats, and biologists have actually put some of the fish to work.

Bear Lake cutthroat trout, a lake-dwelling form of the Bonneville cutthroat, now play an active, important role in Utah's sportfish-management program.

These cutthroats have been stocked in some waters to limit the growth of the aggressive Utah chub and other fish that threaten sportfish populations.

## New discovery

Last year, there was a new development in Utah's native cutthroat story. A small population of greenback cutthroat trout was discovered in a stream in Utah's La Sal Mountains.

Biologists long believed the greenback to be native to only the Front Range in Colorado, but they have since found the fish in southwestern Colorado and eastern Utah.

Today, many biologists think the greenback is simply a lineage (or strain) of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

## Catch one today

If you've never caught a native cutthroat trout before, this is the year to do it. These brilliantly colored sportfish are easy to catch and a tasty favorite of many Utah anglers!

Where will you find cutthroats? They live in streams throughout Utah, including some fisheries that border the Wasatch Front. Many Uinta Mountain streams also contain abundant cutthroat populations.

To learn more about these fish and their remarkable recovery, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cutthroat/BCT/index.html*.



# MORE TIGER MUSKIE FOR UTAH

Biologists stock thousands of fish and launch new breeding program.

Last year was a milestone for Utah's tiger muskie program. It marked the return of tiger muskie to Utah and the beginning of the state's first tiger muskie breeding program.

The Division first began stocking tiger muskie in 1988, recognizing that these sterile, aggressive predators were a great tool for controlling the growth of other fish populations. They also became a favorite of anglers.

Utah purchased its tiger muskie from other states until 2005, when biologists became concerned about aquatic diseases in the Midwest. They stopped stocking muskie from other states until they could find a disease-free population.

## Stocking tiger muskie

It took four years and extensive testing, but biologists finally found two populations of healthy tiger muskie.

In 2009, Utah acquired 10,000 fingerling tiger muskie from Nebraska. These fish were stocked in Bullock, Cottonwood, Joes Valley, Johnson, Newton and Pineview reservoirs in July 2009.

Then, a second shipment of 5,000 tiger muskie arrived from South Dakota in September. These larger fish were stocked in Joes Valley and Pineview reservoirs, where they should provide excellent fishing over the next couple of years.

## New breeding program begins

Although the arrival of the tiger muskie was exciting, even more thrilling was the progress of Utah's first-ever tiger muskie breeding program.

In 2009, after years of testing to find healthy fish, the Division acquired 3,100 true muskie fingerlings from Nebraska, Minnesota and South Dakota.

These fish went into the new ponds at the Lee Kay Center warmwater hatchery in late July. When the true muskie mature, biologists will breed them with Northern pike to create Utah's own tiger muskie population.

"We expect to be producing our own tiger muskie within the next three years," notes Drew Cushing, the Division's warmwater sportfish coordinator.

At that point, the Division can stock tiger muskie in additional waters, using them to control the growth of other species such as carp and Utah chub.

To view videos about Utah's tiger muskie stocking and breeding efforts, visit *www.youtube.com/UDWR*.

# REPORT ILLEGAL STOCKING

Whether it's burbot at Flaming Gorge, gizzard shad at Lake Powell, walleye at Red Fleet or catfish in the Green River, the problem's the same: fish have been illegally introduced into waters across Utah.

A few rogue anglers—individuals who want to introduce the fish into new waters for selfish reasons—have negatively affected fishing for everyone.

What's so terrible about adding a few extra fish? You might be surprised.

## Ecosystems in turmoil

There are several reasons why moving fish illegally is bad for a fishery. One of the biggest reasons is that additional species affect the stability of existing fish populations in the lake or reservoir.

This occurred in Flaming Gorge when someone dumped burbot (a type of freshwater cod) above the reservoir. Burbot reproduce quickly and are notorious egg predators. Now, the burbot population—which feeds on kokanee eggs—threatens the future of Flaming Gorge as a world-class kokanee fishery.

Drew Cushing, warmwater fisheries coordinator for the Division, notes that it isn't just burbot. "Yellow perch, smallmouth bass and walleye can wreak havoc too," he notes.

"And although these four species are a challenge, **ANY** fish that's illegally stocked can cause problems and affect fishing."

## Invasive species and diseases

Diseases and aquatic invasive species are another reason why fish shouldn't be moved.

"Every year, we hear about a devastating disease or invasive species that's causing problems in another state," Cushing says. "Viral hemorrhagic septicemia, quagga mussels, Eurasian milfoil—we don't want them in our waters."

Cushing is concerned that fish brought into Utah from other states, or fish that are moved from one in-state water to another, will spread diseases and species that will lead to big problems for Utah's anglers.

## Endangered and native fish

In addition to affecting sport fish, Cushing says illegal introductions can also affect native and endangered fish.

"If the burbot in Flaming Gorge make their way into the Green River, that could become a big problem for endangered fish in the Green and Colorado river systems."

Native populations of cutthroat trout are also at risk if someone introduces the wrong species—or a disease—into the waters where they live.

## High removal costs

In the past, the Division used chemicals such as rotenone to eliminate all of the problem fish. This occurred on a large scale in 1990, when it cost the state $3.8 million to treat Strawberry Reservoir.

That treatment removed nearly all of the fish from the reservoir, not just the invasive species, and allowed the Division to start over with cutthroat trout and sterile rainbows. Although Strawberry is a success story, a rotenone treatment of that scope would not happen today.

Cushing notes that, "Rotenone has gotten very expensive. It costs a huge amount today to treat even a small water. And that high cost means we may never be able to treat the state's larger waters again."

## Managing illegally stocked fish

Going forward, the Division may stop managing fish that were illegally stocked.

According to Cushing, "Fish that are stocked illegally in a water may not be protected by limits. They'll be treated much the same as carp are treated."

## How you can help

Anglers are the best line of defense in keeping fishing great in Utah for years to come.

If you know that someone has placed fish in a water illegally, please call the Division's Utah Turn in Poachers (UTiP) hotline at 1-800-662-3337. The line is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You might even receive a reward for your effort to protect Utah's waters!

If you want to remain anonymous, wildlife officers will honor your request. You can also report illegal fish stocking online at *wildlife.utah.gov/law/hsp/pf.php*.

## Fines and jail time

Utah takes illegal fish stocking seriously. Releasing live fish into the wild is a class A misdemeanor. Those who violate this law can receive a fine of up to $2,500, spend up to one year in jail and may be held liable for any damage to the fishery.

## Did you know?

**Facts about Utah's community fisheries**

In 2001, Utah's community fishing program was just beginning to grow. Back then:

- There were 100 kids and 10 adult volunteers in the Youth Fishing Program.
- There were 19 community fisheries.
- The Division stocked 38,000 trout and did not stock channel catfish.

By 2009, the program could easily measure its growth and success. Last year:

- 1,500 kids completed the Youth Fishing Program with the help of 300 adult volunteers.
- There were 40 community fisheries.
- The Division stocked 183,900 trout and 46,700 channel catfish.

*Photo by Ed Kent*

**General facts about Utah fishing**

In Utah, anglers have changed their focus and habits over the past decade. Data from 2009 revealed that:

- Anglers now release 72 percent of their catch. (This is in stark contrast to the data from 2000, which showed a 75 percent harvest rate.)
- Anglers' support for restrictive limits has increased.
- Anglers now make fewer trips into the field, but the length of each trip has increased.

**Fun facts about fishing in the United States**

- One out of six people in the U.S. fish.
- Anglers spend more than $45 billion dollars per year on fishing-related purchases and retail sales.
- If all the dollars spent by anglers were attached end to end, they would reach to the moon and back nine times.
- The overall impact of angler expenditures would put sportfishing at number 32 on the Fortune 500 list of Americas largest companies (above Target, Sears and Johnson & Johnson).





Utah Fishing • 2010

# WARMWATER HATCHERIES OFFER DIVERSITY

On average, Utah's 12 state fish hatcheries produce and stock more than one million pounds of fish each year. Although many of those hatcheries grow coldwater species, such as trout, there are two warmwater hatcheries that have a very different focus.

## Wahweap Warmwater Hatchery

Located in Kane County, the Wahweap Warmwater Hatchery is primarily a native species facility. It's where the Division breeds Colorado River and Virgin River fishes that are in peril.

The hatchery grows sportfish, too. In 2009, hatchery personnel raised roughly 100,000 wipers that were stocked into Willard Bay.

Wahweap is also home to a population of brood channel catfish. These large fish produce more catfish for Utah's Community Fisheries and other lakes and reservoirs throughout the state.

There are currently ten ponds at Wahweap—each ranging from one-quarter to one-half acre—that are used for sportfish production.

## Lee Kay Center

Located in Salt Lake City, the Lee Kay Center is smaller than Wahweap. It currently has four ponds that are about one-quarter acre in size.

One pond contains northern pike. These fish will eventually be crossed with the true muskellunge (muskie) that are also at the facility. Their offspring will be Utah's first locally bred population of tiger muskie. Lee Kay currently houses 44 northern pike and 3,100 fingerling true muskie.

Utah chub from Joes Valley Reservoir were placed in the third pond, where they have successfully spawned. It looks like they will be a stable food source for both the pike and muskie.

In 2009, the Division used the fourth pond to raise 30,000 wipers that were stocked into Huntington North, Newcastle and Willard Bay. This wiper effort will continue until the pond is needed for muskie production.

To learn more about Utah's fish hatcheries, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/hatcheries*. To view an up-to-date list of recently stocked waters, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/stockingreports*.

## Utah Wildlife in Need

**Help protect Utah wildlife**

Protecting and preserving Utah's threatened wildlife is up to each of us, and together we can make a difference. Please join Utah Wildlife In Need as we work together to help ensure Utah's wildlife treasures are part of the legacy we leave for our children and grandchildren.

Visit *www.uwin.org* to learn more about Utah's threatened species and about how you can help sustain Utah wildlife for all to enjoy!



# STATE PARKS ANNUAL PASSES

Avid anglers should consider purchasing a Utah State Parks annual pass to access some of Utah's best fisheries. Annual passes are available for $75, or $35 to Utah seniors 62 and over. These passes allow the permit holder, and up to seven guests traveling in the same vehicle, day-use entrance to most of Utah's state parks.

Annual state park passes are valid for one year from the month they're purchased. Passes are available at all Utah state parks, the Utah State Parks administrative office in Salt Lake City and online at *stateparks.utah.gov.*

Utah State Parks and Recreation provides safe, quality recreation destinations and experiences. Set up a tent or park an RV in one of 2,000 Utah State Park campsites. Cozy up around a campfire after a day of fishing, a long hike, a round of golf, or a day of boating. Have peace of mind knowing a campsite, pavilion or boat slip is waiting. Reservations are accepted by telephone or may be made online:

Within Salt Lake 801-322-3770
Outside Salt Lake 1-800-322-3770
(801) 538-7220
877-UTPARKS
*stateparks.utah.gov*

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UTAH DNR STATE PARKS

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Utah State Park, 1594 West North Temple, SLC, UT 84116.
Offer expires 12/31/10
Promo Code: USPPRC

**877-UT-PARKS**
**www.stateparks.utah.gov**

# CHANGES AT COMMUNITY FISHERIES

Lower limit provides more opportunity for everyone.

Starting in 2010, you can catch and keep a daily limit of two fish at Utah's 41 community fishing waters.

For several years the limit was four fish, but Division biologists recommended the lower limit in 2009 after noting the ponds' increased popularity.

Chris Penne, the Division's community fisheries biologist, observed, "Anglers of all ages visit these local ponds to relax, spend time outdoors and catch some fish—and that's a good thing. It also puts these fisheries under tremendous pressure. We stock these waters weekly, but they see a lot of visitors, and the fish vanish quickly."

The Utah Wildlife Board agreed with the biologists' recommendation and approved the reduced limit.

This Division hopes this change will give more anglers the opportunity to catch and keep fish at their local fisheries.

## Release largemouth bass

Another way you can help your favorite community fishery is by releasing all largemouth bass you catch.

Penne explains, "Bass help keep bluegill populations under control and ensure that some bluegill grow to a decent size. Without the bass, the bluegill population would boom, producing thousands of tiny fish too small for an angler to keep."

This change isn't mandatory, but the Division encourages you to release all bass at community waters.

## Help mentor youth

You can also make a difference by volunteering to mentor youth in your community's youth fishing club.

These clubs are open to children six to 13 years of age. Sign-ups usually begin at city recreation departments in early March, and the clubs are typically full by the first of April.

The clubs meet at their local ponds beginning in early April. The children spend the first 30 minutes of each two-hour class learning about fish, angling techniques and habitat. Then, adult volunteers help the kids use their new skills to catch fish.

Adult volunteers are essential to this program. The clubs will be formed only if enough adults sign up to help. Volunteer training—which occurs in February and March—takes only a single evening to complete.

If you would like to volunteer, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cf/clubs.php* for more information or contact your local recreation department.

## Learn more

Additional information about Utah's community fisheries is available in the Division's Utah Community Fishing booklet. The free booklet is available online at *wildlife.utah.gov/cf*. The booklet is also available at Division offices and sporting goods stores across Utah.



## Suggest fishing changes

If you want to see a fishing regulation change in Utah in 2011, you should contact the Division before June 1, 2010. There are three easy ways to share your suggestions:

1. E-mail your idea to:
   *DWRComment@utah.gov*
2. Mail your idea to:
   Sport Fisheries Coordinator
   Division of Wildlife Resources
   P.O. Box 146301
   Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
3. Share your idea at your Regional Advisory Council meeting in May. Meeting dates, times and locations are available online at *wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings*.

Division biologists will finalize their recommendations for the 2011 fishing season in early summer.

After the biologists put their proposals together, they'll share them with the public at a series of Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meetings held across Utah in September.

The Utah Wildlife Board considers public input when it meets in October to approve Utah's 2011 Fishing Guidebook.

The Wildlife Board—not the Division—makes all wildlife policy in the state of Utah. If you'd like to discuss an issue with one or more board members before the October meeting, you can find their contact information at *wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/wb-members.php*.

The Division, the RACs and the Wildlife Board value your insights and suggestions—share them today!

# DEFINITIONS

*Utah Code § 23-13-2 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-13-2*

**Aggregate** means the combined total of two or more species of fish or two or more size classes of fish which are covered by a limit distinction (i.e., trout and salmon in the aggregate).

**Angling** means fishing with a rod, pole, tip-up, handline or troll board that has a single line with legal hooks, baits or lures attached to it, and is held in the hands of, or within sight (not to exceed 100 feet) of the person fishing.

**Artificial fly** means a fly made by the method known as fly tying. Artificial fly does not mean a weighted jig, lure, spinner, attractor blade or bait.

**Artificial lure** means a device made of rubber, wood, metal, glass, fiber, feathers, hair or plastic with a hook or hooks attached. Artificial lures (including artificial flies) do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural baits or any natural or human-made food, or any lures that have been treated with a natural or artificial fish attractant or feeding stimulant.

**Bag limit** means the maximum limit, in number or amount, of protected wildlife that one person may legally take during one day.

**Bait** means a digestible substance, including worms, cheese, salmon eggs, marshmallows or manufactured baits including human-made items that are chemically treated with food stuffs, chemical fish attractants or feeding stimulants.

**Camp** means, for the purposes of this rule, any place providing temporary overnight accommodation for anglers including a camper, campground, tent, trailer, cabin, houseboat, boat or hotel.

**Chumming** means dislodging or depositing in the water any substance not attached to a hook, line or trap, which may attract fish.

**Commercially prepared and chemically treated baitfish** means any fish species or fish parts which have been processed using a chemical or physical preservation technique other than freezing (including irradiation, salting, cooking, or oiling) and are marketed, sold or traded for financial gain as bait.

**Dipnet** means a small bag net with a handle that is used to scoop fish or crayfish from the water.

**Filleting** means the processing of fish for human consumption typically done by cutting away flesh from bones, skin and body.

**Fishing** means to take fish or crayfish by any means.

**Fishing contest** means any organized event or gathering where anglers are awarded prizes, points or money for their catch.

**Float tube** means an inflatable floating device less than 48 inches in any dimension, capable of supporting one person.

**Free shafting** means to release a pointed shaft that is not tethered or attached by physical means to the diver in an attempt to take fish while engaged in underwater spearfishing.

**Gaff** means a spear or hook, with or without a handle, used for holding or lifting fish.

**Game fish** means Bonneville cisco; bluegill; bullhead; channel catfish; crappie; green sunfish; largemouth bass; northern pike; Sacramento perch; smallmouth bass; striped bass, trout (rainbow, albino, cutthroat, brown, golden, brook, lake/mackinaw, kokanee salmon, and grayling or any hybrid of the foregoing); tiger muskellunge; walleye; white bass; whitefish; wiper; and yellow perch.

**Handline** means a piece of line held in the hand and not attached to a pole used for taking fish or crayfish.

**Harvest** means to catch and retain in possession for personal use.

**Immediately released** means that the fish should be quickly unhooked and released back into the water where caught. Fish that must be immediately released cannot be held on a stringer, or in a live well or any other container or restraining device.

**Lake** means the standing water level existing at any time within a lake basin. Unless posted otherwise, a stream flowing inside or within the high water mark is not considered part of the lake.

**Length measurement** means the greatest length between the tip of the head or snout and the tip of the caudal (tail) fin when the fin rays are squeezed together. Measurement is taken in a straight line and not over the curve of the body.

**Liftnet** means a small net that is drawn vertically through the water column to take fish or crayfish.

**Motor** means an electric or internal combustion engine.

**Nongame fish** means species of fish not listed as game fish. (Also see the Prohibited Fish section on page 12 for more information.)

**Nonresident** means a person who does not qualify as a resident.

**Possession** means actual or constructive possession.

**Possession limit** means, for purposes of this guide only, one bag limit, including fish at home, in a cooler, camper, tent, freezer, livewell, or any other place of storage.

**Protected aquatic wildlife** means, for purposes of this guide only, all species of fish, crustaceans or amphibians.

**Reservoir** means the standing water level existing at any time within a reservoir basin. Unless posted otherwise, a stream flowing inside or within the high water mark is not considered part of the reservoir.

**Resident** means a person who has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment in Utah for six consecutive months immediately preceding the purchase of a license or permit, AND DOES NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

An individual retains Utah residency if he or she leaves Utah to serve in the armed forces of the United States, or for religious or educational purposes, and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

Members of the armed forces of the United States and dependents are residents as of the date the member reports for duty under assigned orders in Utah, if:

- the member is NOT on temporary duty in Utah and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.
- the member presents a copy of his or her assignment orders to a Division office to verify the member's qualification as a resident.

A nonresident attending an institution of higher learning in Utah as a full-time student may qualify as a resident if the student has been present in Utah for 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the purchase of the license or permit and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

A Utah resident license or permit is invalid if a resident license for hunting, fishing or trapping is purchased in any other state or country.

An individual DOES NOT qualify as a resident if he or she is an absentee landowner paying property tax on land in Utah.

**Second pole** means fishing with one additional rod, pole, tip-up, handline or troll board that has a single line with legal hooks, bait or lures attached to it, and is held in the hands of, or within sight (not to exceed 100 feet) of the person fishing. (A valid fishing or combination license and second pole permit are required to use a second pole.)

**Seine** means a small mesh net, with a weighted line on the bottom and float line on the top, that is drawn through the water. This type of net is used to enclose fish when its ends are brought together.

**Setline** means a line anchored to a non-moving object and not attached to a fishing pole.

**Single hook** means a hook or multiple hooks having a common shank.

**Snagging** or **gaffing** means to take a fish in a manner that the fish does not take the hook voluntarily into its mouth.

**Spear** means a long-shafted, sharply pointed hand held instrument with or without barbs used to pierce fish from above the surface of the water.

**Spearfishing (underwater)** means fishing by a person swimming, snorkeling, or diving and using a mechanical device held in the hand, which uses a rubber band, spring, pneumatic power, or other device to propel a pointed shaft to take fish from under the surface of the water.

**Take** means to hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or attempt any of the aforementioned actions.

**Tributary** means a stream flowing into a larger stream, lake or reservoir.

**Trout** means species of the family Salmonidae, including rainbow, albino, cutthroat, brown, golden, brook, lake/mackinaw, kokanee salmon, and grayling or any hybrid of the foregoing. Trout does not include whitefish or Bonneville cisco.

**Waste** means to abandon protected wildlife or to allow protected wildlife to spoil or to be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use.

**Underwater spearfishing** (see *Spearfishing underwater*.)



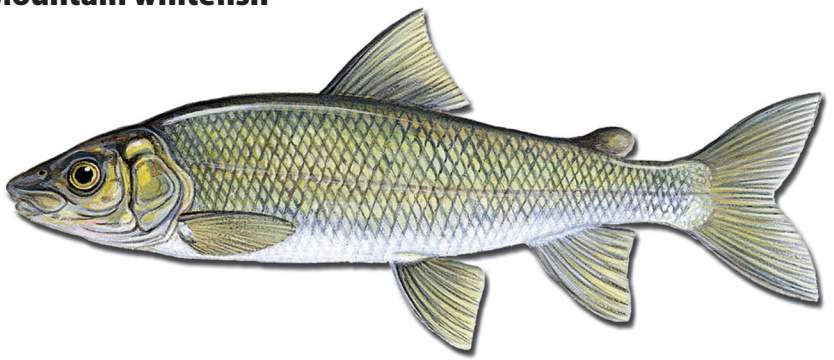


Utah Fishing • 2010

# IDENTIFYING UTAH'S NATIVE AND NONNATIVE FISH

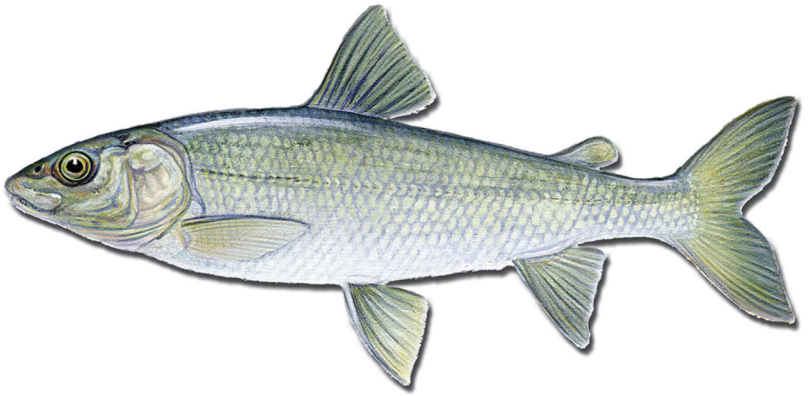
## Native coldwater sportfish

### Mountain whitefish



This fish is light brown on its back and fins and silver to white on its belly and sides. The lower jaw and snout are short and blunt, with a flap on each nostril.
**Angling record:** 1997; 4 lbs. 12 oz.; L: 21-1/2 in.; G: 14 in.; Roy L. Montoya, Deer Creek Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2004; L: 24 in.; Craig Shriner; Weber River.

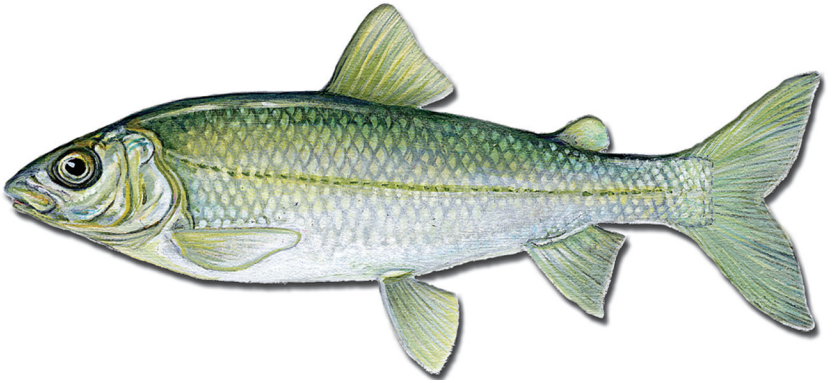
### Bonneville whitefish and Bear Lake whitefish



Find up-to-date fishing records online at *wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/recfish.php*

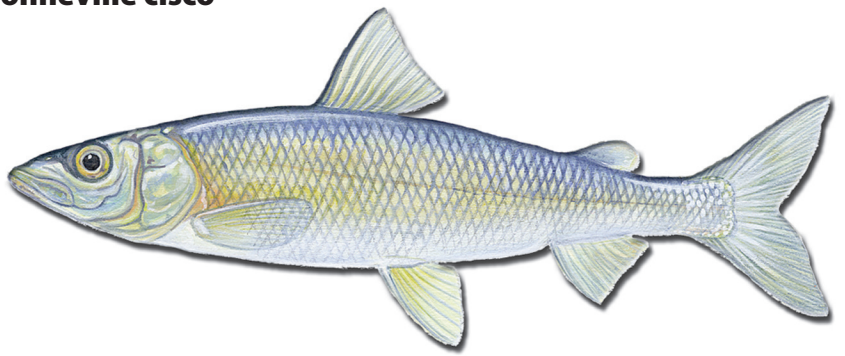






These two fish are indistinguishable below 10 inches in length. Bonneville whitefish have gray-blue spots along their sides. These whitefish are elongated, relatively cylindrical fish. They are silvery-white along their sides, grading into a charcoal gray to black on their backs. They have small delicate mouths that make them difficult to catch. Bonneville whitefish may reach four pounds and grow to 20 inches. Both species occur only in Bear Lake.
**Angling record:** 1982; 4 lbs. 4 oz.; L: 21 in.; G: 13-3/4 in.; Deon Sparks; Bear Lake.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2008; L: 20 in.; Eldon Robinson; Bear Lake.

### Bonneville cisco

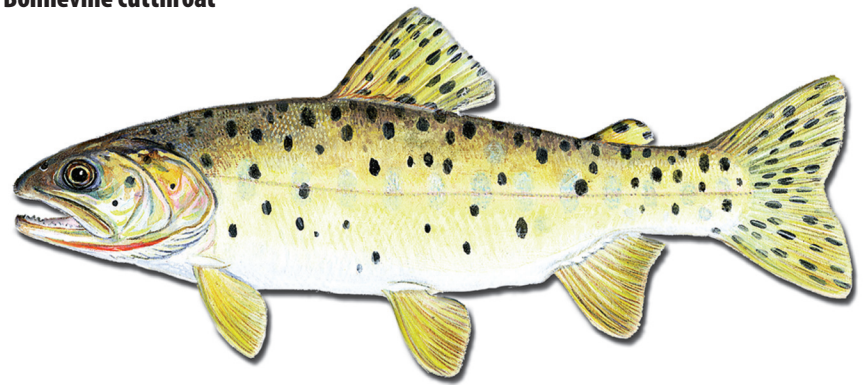


The Bonneville cisco is a long, slender, pearly-silver fish found only in Bear Lake. It rarely grows beyond seven inches. It has a dusky blue back and a brassy band along its flanks at spawning time. The snout is sharply pointed. It is noted for its mid-January spawning concentrations along a rocky beach on the east side of Bear Lake, where it is dipnetted in large numbers.

## Cutthroat trout

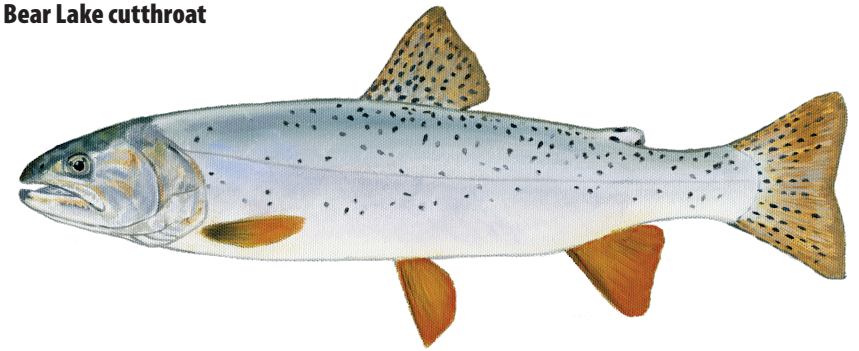
Three primary subspecies (strains) of native cutthroat trout are found in Utah, including Bonneville cutthroat trout, Colorado River cutthroat trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. The Bear Lake cutthroat trout is a lake-dwelling form of the Bonneville cutthroat trout. Except for Bear Lake cutthroat trout, cutthroats are best distinguished by their crimson slash along the lower jaw. Cutthroat trout lack the iridescent pink stripe or the white-tipped pelvic and anal fins of the rainbow trout.
**Angling record:** 1930; 26 lbs. 12 oz.; Mrs. E. Smith; Strawberry Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2002; L: 30 in.; Blaine Beazer; Bear Lake
**Spearfishing record:** 2008; 1 lb. 9 oz.; L: 16-1/2 in.; G: 8 in.; Russell Sexton; Causey Reservoir.

### Bonneville cutthroat



Bonneville cutthroat trout originally inhabited the Bonneville Basin. They have sparsely scattered, large and very distinctive round spots over the upper body, with few spots on or near the head. Bonneville cutthroat trout are a subdued silver-gray to charcoal color on the upper body, with shades of bronze and pink on their flanks during spawning.

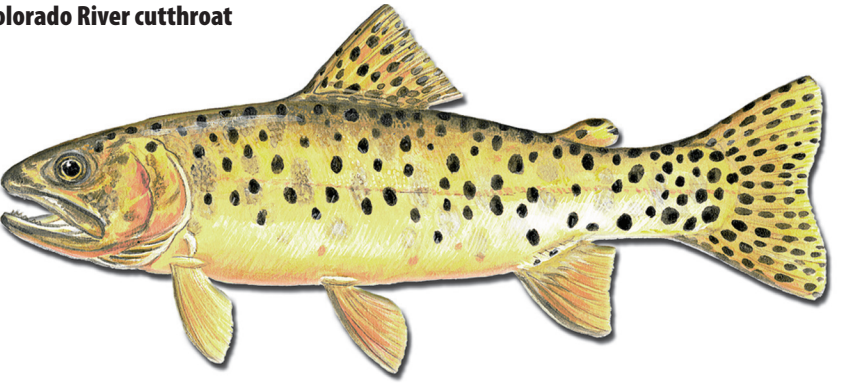
### Bear Lake cutthroat



Bear Lake cutthroat trout often lack the bright crimson jaw slash, which may at times be yellow, gray or non-existent. Deep orange pelvic and anal fins and the presence of few, if any, spots on the head readily distinguish Bear Lake cutthroat from rainbow trout (see rainbow trout description). Bear Lake cutthroat can exhibit a variety of spotting patterns, but spots are generally sparsely scattered, large and rounded in outline. Spotting is typically more concentrated near the tail. During the spawning season, Bear Lake cutthroat (particularly the males) take on a bronze color along the sides and lower body, and often develop rosy-colored gill plates.



### Colorado River cutthroat



Colorado River cutthroat trout are native to the Green and Colorado River watersheds and are noted for their brilliant coloration. The males, in spawning condition, have bright crimson stripes along the sides and the stomach. Spotting is usually concentrated toward the tail area.

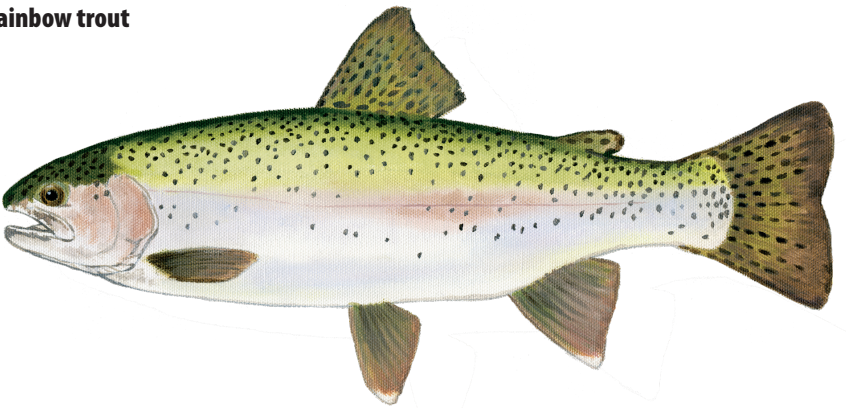
### Yellowstone cutthroat *(not pictured)*

Yellowstone cutthroat trout are native to the Snake River watershed in northwestern Utah, including the Raft River Mountains. Yellowstone cutthroat trout are lightly spotted, with distinctly round spots concentrated toward the tail area.

# Nonnative coldwater sportfish

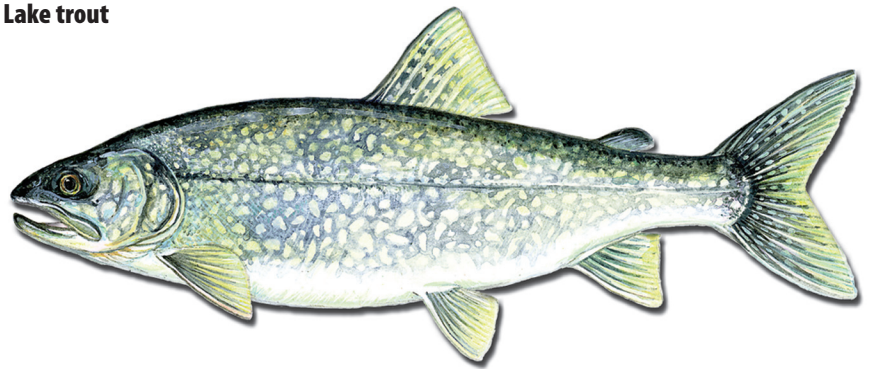
## Trout, char & salmon

### Rainbow trout



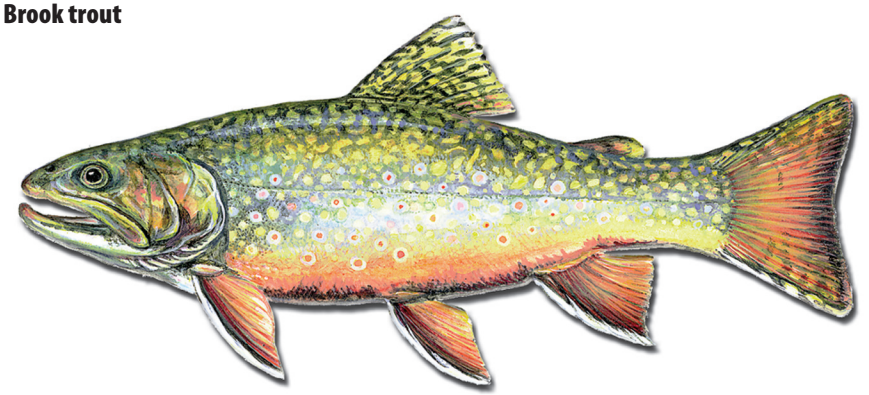
A rainbow trout is dark green to bluish on the back with silvery sides. The pinkish to reddish horizontal band typifies the species. The belly may be white to silvery. Irregular and profuse black spots are usually present on the head, back and sides. The pelvic and anal fins are translucent pink to gray-green and tipped in white. The coloration of a river-dwelling rainbow trout is often more vibrant than that of a lake dweller. Rainbow trout also tend to have a fairly blunt snout.
**Angling record:** 1979; 26 lbs. 2 oz.; Del Canty; Flaming Gorge Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2000; L: 29 in; Enich Mockli; East Canyon Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 1992; 3 lbs. 8 oz.; L: 19 in.; G: 9-1/2 in.; Paul Gibson; Fish Lake.

**Lake trout**



This species of char has a background color of gray-brown, overlaid with light spots that vary in intensity with age and environment. The background color covers the back, sides and fins, highlighting the lighter gray spots. Lake trout in large lakes are sometimes so silvery that the spots are difficult to see. Spotting is usually more intense on small fish. The caudal fin is deeply forked. The mouth is large and features strong teeth on both jaws.
**Angling record:** 1988; 51 lbs. 8 oz.; L: 45-1/8 in.; G: 31-3/4 in.; Curt Bilbey; Flaming Gorge Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 1998; L: 46-1/2 in.; Ray Johnson; Flaming Gorge Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 2008; 32 lbs. 7 oz.; L: 26-1/2 in.; Bruce A. Boyd; Fish Lake.

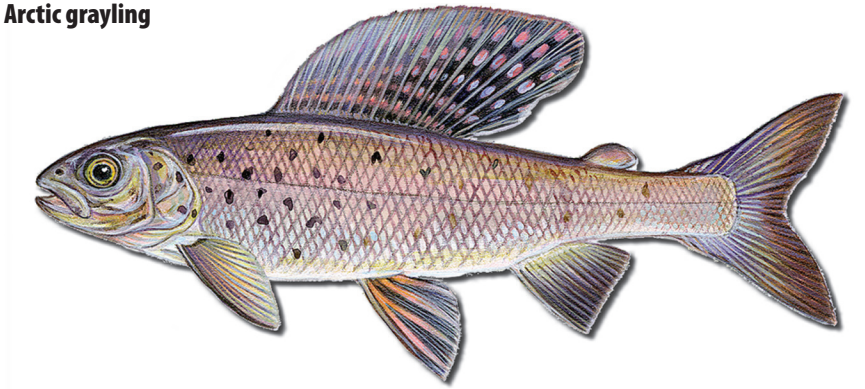
**Brook trout**



This species of char may be olive to blue-gray on its back and white on its belly. Red spots, usually with bluish halos around them, are present on the sides. Colors can vary greatly, depending on whether the fish lives in a stream or a lake. Characteristic light wavy marks on the back are a distinguishing feature. The obvious white-and-black striping pattern along the front edge of each of the lower fins makes it easier to distinguish brook trout from other trout species. The caudal fin is squared or lightly forked.
**Angling record:** 1971; 7 lbs. 8 oz.; Milton Taft; Boulder Mountain.
**Catch-and-release record:** 1997; L: 23 in.; Travis L. Clark; Boulder Mountain.

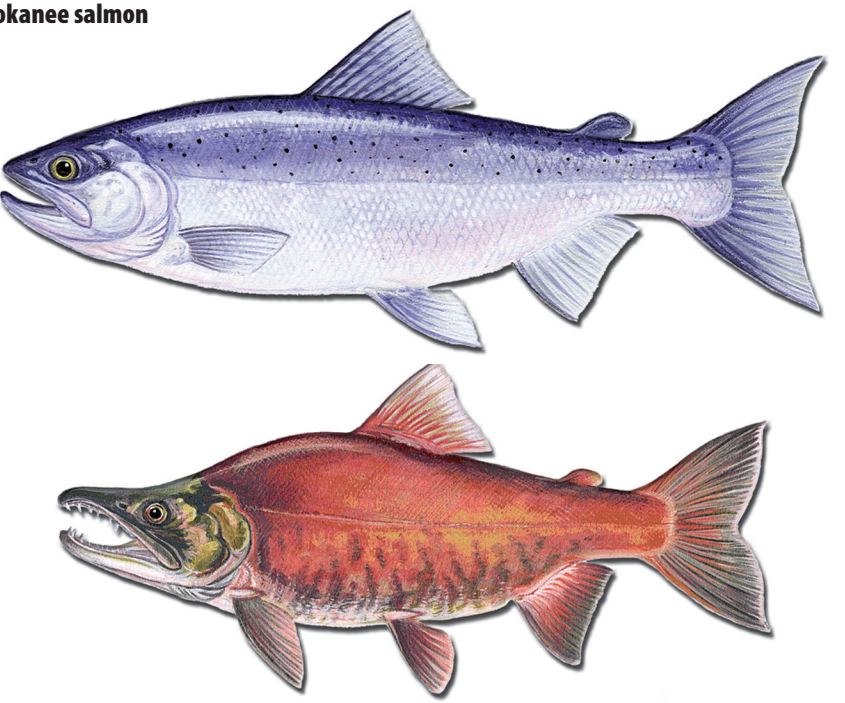


**Arctic grayling**



Arctic grayling are silvery to light purple on the sides and bluish-white on the belly. They are relatively slender and are most easily distinguished by their long, high, sail-like dorsal fin. The dorsal fin is brilliantly colored with shades of pink, green and purple.
**Angling record:** 1998; 1 lb. 12 oz.; L: 17-1/4 in.; G: 8-3/4 in.; Terry J. Fieldsted; Big Dog Lake, South Slope Uintas.
**Catch-and-release record:** 1999; L: 19 in.; Russell Lee, Jr.; Uinta Mountains.

**Kokanee salmon**



Kokanee are bright silvery fish with no definitive spotting pattern. Kokanee have a dark blue back with silvery sides. As the spawning season approaches, kokanee turn from silver to orange to deep red, and the male develops the characteristic hump on the back, elongated head and hooked jaw common to the



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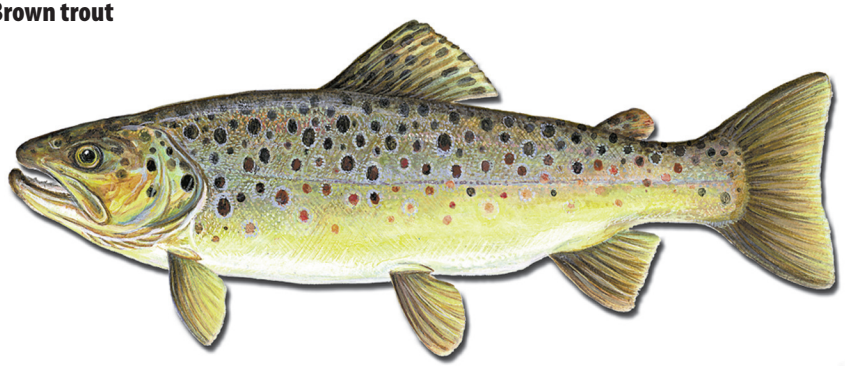
Pacific salmon. A deeply forked tail also distinguishes them from rainbow, cutthroat and brown trout.
**Angling record:** 1995; 6 lbs.; L: 25 in.; G: 16 in.; Todd Chikaraishi; Strawberry Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2004; L: 26-5/8 in.; Ray Johnson; Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

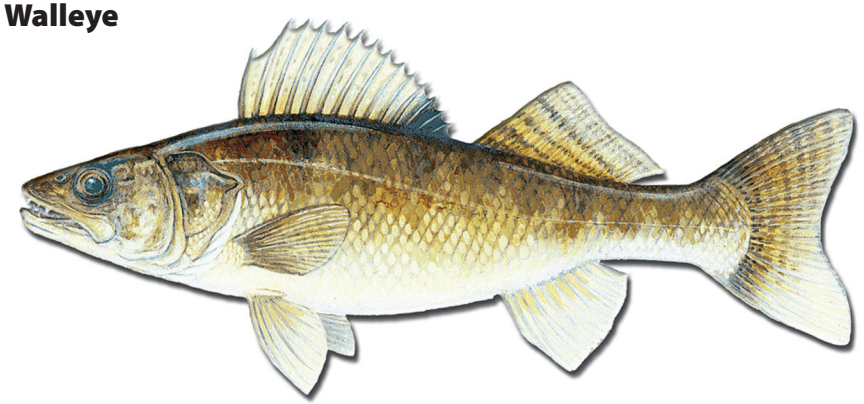
### Brown trout



Brown trout generally have golden brown hues with yellow underparts. During spawning, the males often feature brilliant crimson spots circled with blue halos. The upper body is usually dappled with large, irregular, dark-chocolate spots. Brown trout are carnivorous and sport a stronger, sharper set of teeth than most trout.
**Angling record:** 1977; 33 lbs. 10 oz.; L: 40 in.; G: 25 in.; Robert Bringhurst; Flaming Gorge Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2001; L: 32 in.; Cody Mortensen; Jordanelle Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 1983; 21 lbs. 12 oz.; L: 35 1/2 in.; Bruce Boyd; Fish Lake.

## Cool and warmwater sportfish

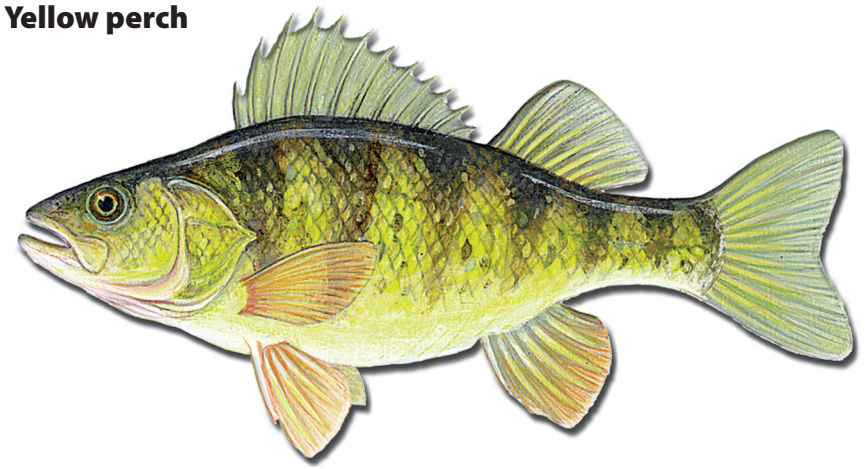
### Walleye



Prominent sharp teeth distinguish this big perch from its smaller cousin, the yellow perch. Walleye are a brassy olive buff color that sometimes shades to yellowish sides and a white underbelly. There is a large, dark blotch at the rear base of the first dorsal fin, and the lower lobe of the tail is white-tipped. The tail is moderately forked.
**Angling record:** 1991; 15 lbs. 9 oz.; L: 31-3/4 in.; G: 20-3/4 in.; Jeffery Tanner; Provo River.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2002; L: 31-1/2 in.; Enich Mockli; Starvation Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 2002; 11 lbs. 6 oz.; L: 31 in.; G: 18 in.; Mike McGuire; Deer Creek Reservoir.

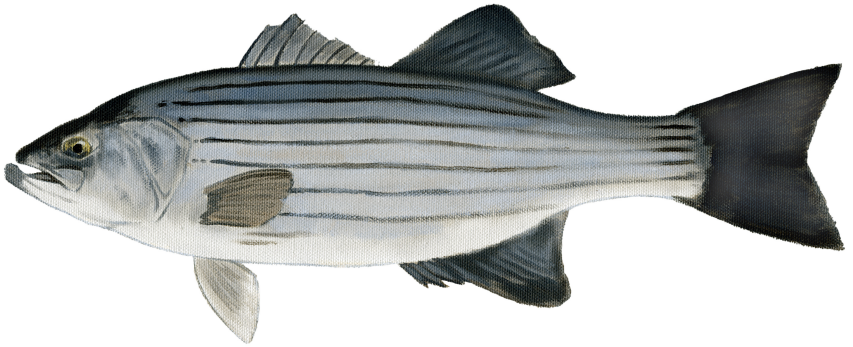


### Yellow perch



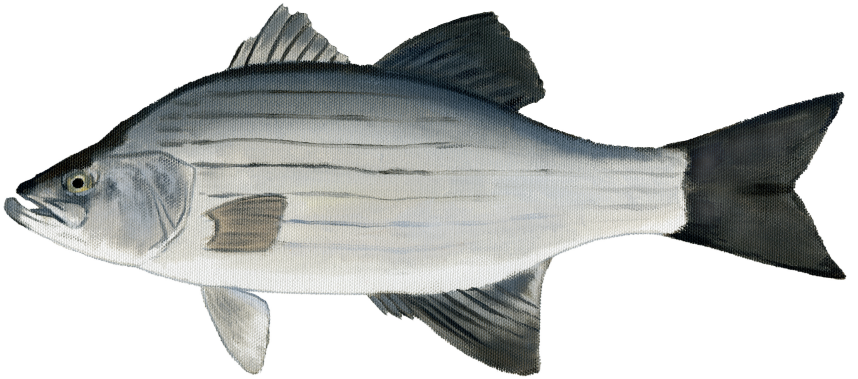
Yellow perch are yellowish with dark vertical bars. The caudal fin is forked, and the dorsal fin is divided.
**Angling record:** 1984; 2 lbs. 11 oz.; L: 15-1/8 in.; G: 9-3/4 in.; Ray Johnson; Yuba Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2000; L: 15-1/4 in.; Brad Cutler; Yuba Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 1988; 5 oz.; L: 8-1/4 in.; Rud Warner; Fish Lake.

### Striped bass



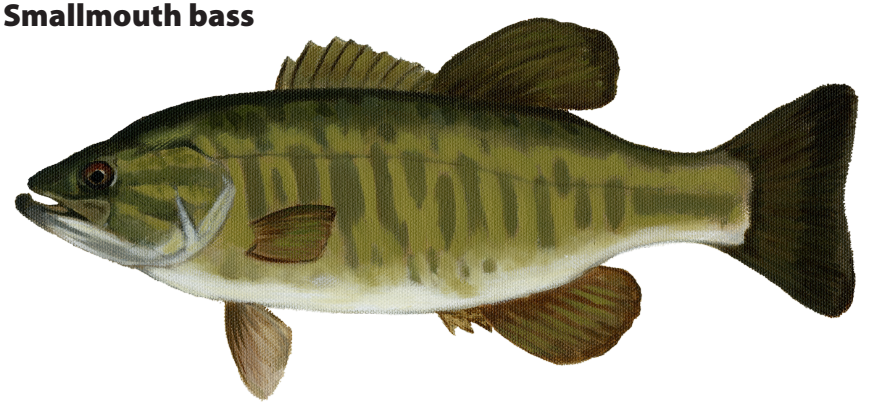
Striped bass coloration ranges from bluish-black to either dark grey or olive-green above. Their sides are silvery and their bellies white. Striped bass have seven to nine unbroken stripes along each side. The body is somewhat streamlined. The mouth is oblique, and the lower jaw longer than the upper. The dorsal fins are clearly separated. The caudal fin is forked.
**Angling record:** 1991; 48 lbs. 11 oz.; L: 45 in.; G: 31-1/4 in.; Travis T. Jensen; Lake Powell.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2000; L: 32-1/2 in.; Marty Peterson; Lake Powell.

## White bass



The back of a white bass is usually grey, charcoal or green. It typically has silvery sides and a white belly. It also has five to seven longitudinal stripes on each side. The body of a white bass is deeper and less streamlined than that of the striped bass.
**Angling record:** 1970; 4 lbs. 1 oz.; John R. Welcker; Utah Lake.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2005; L: 19 in.; Clint Lance; Salem Pond.

## Smallmouth bass

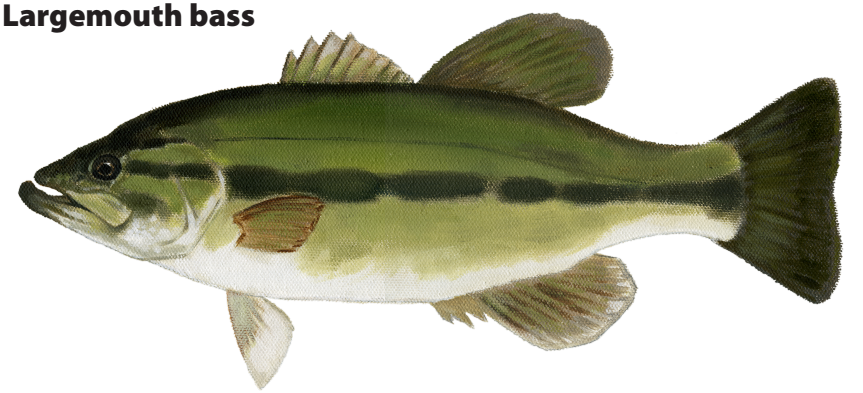


The snout is long and bluntly pointed, with the lower jaw slightly longer than the upper jaw. Smallmouth bass vary in color, depending on their habitat, but are normally dark olive/brown on the back. Their sides and belly are lighter and yellowish. There are 8 to 15 (average 9) dark vertical bars on the sides, which distinguish them from the largemouth bass. The anterior dorsal fin has 10 spines and is strongly joined to the soft dorsal. The anal fin has three spines.
**Angling record:** 1996; 7 lbs. 6 oz.; L: 22 in.; G: 16-1/2 in.; Alan Iorg; Midview Reservoir (Lake Borham).
**Catch-and-release record:** 2003; L: 23-1/2 in.; Clifford Sackett Jr.; Jordanelle Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 2007; 4 lbs.; L: 17-7/8 in.; G: 11-1/2 in.; Michael Weyland; Flaming Gorge Reservoir.



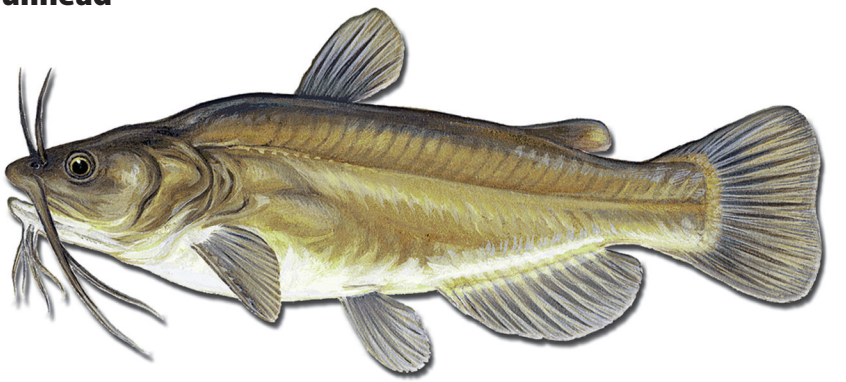


## Largemouth bass



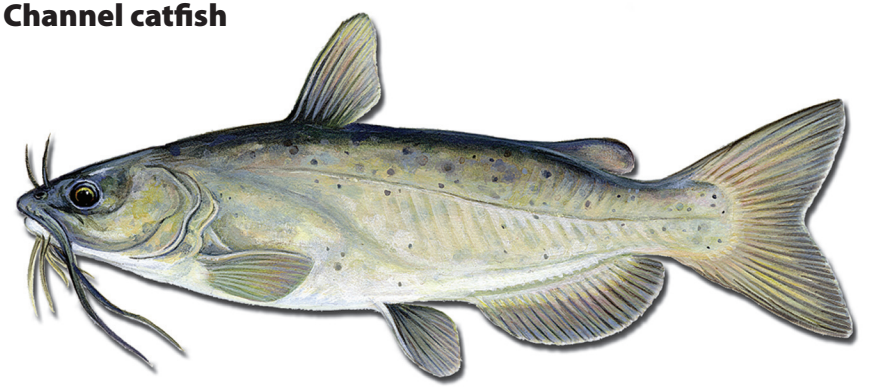
The head of a largemouth bass is large and long. Its mouth is also large, with an upper jaw that reaches past the center of the eye in adults. The upper parts of the body and head are greenish, with a silvery or brassy shine. The belly is white to yellow, and there is an irregular dark stripe along the sides. The eyes of a largemouth bass are brown.
**Angling record:** 1974; 10 lbs. 2 oz.; L: 24-1/4 in.; G: 20 in.; Sam Lamanna; Lake Powell.
**Catch-and-release record:** 1998; L: 27 in.; Dennis Miller; Quail Lake.
**Spearfishing record:** 2003; 6 lbs.; L: 19-1/3 in.; G: 17-1/4 in.; Jason Mull; Steinaker Reservoir.

## Bullhead



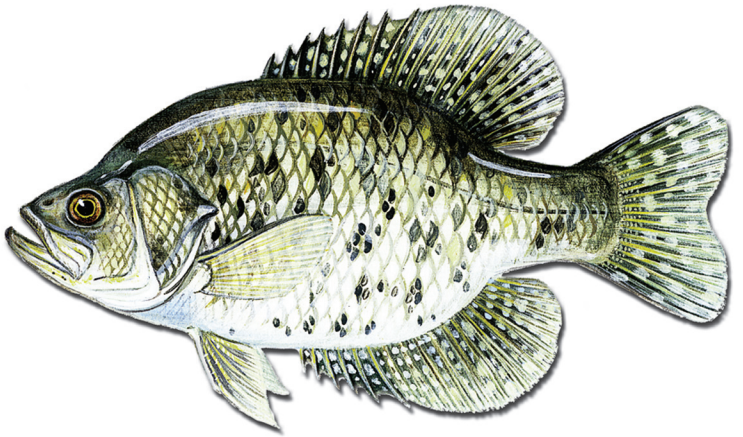
Adults are blackish, dark olive or dark brown on the back. The belly is greenish-white or bright yellow. The tail is not forked.
**Angling record:** 1999; 3 lbs. 4 oz.; L: 16 in.; G: 13 in.; Jack Gilgen; Cutler Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2009; L: 14 in.; Roman Chase; Pineview Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 2009; 1 lb. 3 oz.; L: 12-3/8 in.; G: 8-1/4 in.; Russell Sexton; Pineview Reservoir.

## Channel catfish



Channel catfish have a long anal fin and deeply forked tail that distinguish them from other catfish. The body is pale bluish-olive above and bluish-white below. They usually have spots but lose them with age. Both the dorsal and pectoral fins have strong, sharp spines. The mouth is short, wide and horizontal with chin and snout barbels.
**Angling record:** 1978; 32 lbs. 8 oz.; L: 39-3/4 in.; G: 22 in.; LeRoy Mortenson; Utah Lake.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2003; 34 in.; Blair Peterson; Davis Community Pond.
**Setline record:** 1975; 31 lbs.; L: 39 in.; Dorothy Lowenzen; Utah Lake.

## Crappie

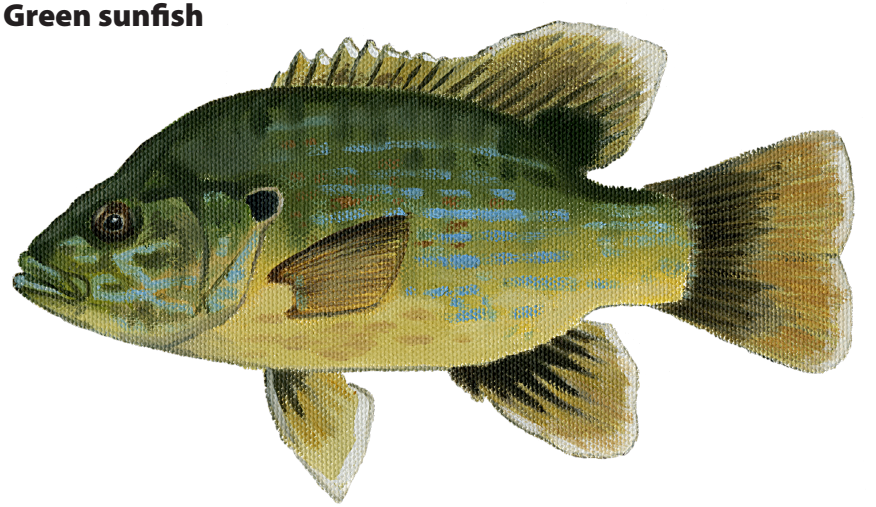


The crappie has two closely-joined dorsal fins. Crappie are silver-olive with numerous black or green splotches on the sides. Vertical bars, prominent in the young, are absent in adults. Their sides are light, iridescent green to silvery. The belly is silvery to white. Pelvic fins are opaque with some black on the tips of the membranes, and pectoral fins are dusky and transparent.
**Angling record:** 2009; 3 lbs. 5 oz.; L: 18-1/2 in.; G: 15-1/8 in.; James Maack; Lake Powell.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2007; L: 16 in.; Dustin Gunrud; Pineview Reservoir.



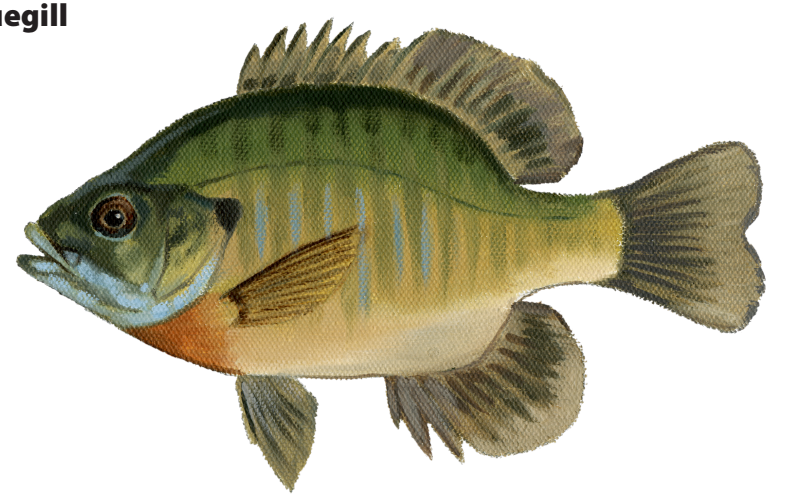


## Green sunfish



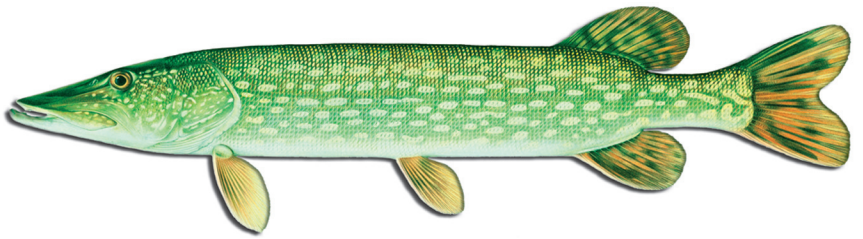
Green sunfish are brassy-green or blue-green on the back, sometimes with metallic-green flecks and dusky bars on the sides. The flap over the gills is a dark color.
**Angling record:** 2003; 15.5 oz.; L: 10-1/4 in.; G: 10 in.; Sean Buchanan; Glassman Pond.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2000; L: 10-1/2 in.; Jack Vincent; Pelican Lake.

## Bluegill



Bluegill are shorter, deep-bodied fish, whose name comes from the dark flap over the gills. The body is olive-green with vertical bars, and some blue and orange may be present.
**Angling record:** 1993; 2 lbs. 7 oz.; L: 11-1/2 in.; G: 14-5/8 in.; Jack Rask; Mantua Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2007; L: 11-5/8 in.; Derek Harryman; Pelican Lake.
**Spearfishing record:** 2009; 14 oz.; L: 9-3/4 in.; G: 10 in.; Tony Arbaney; Steinaker Reservoir.

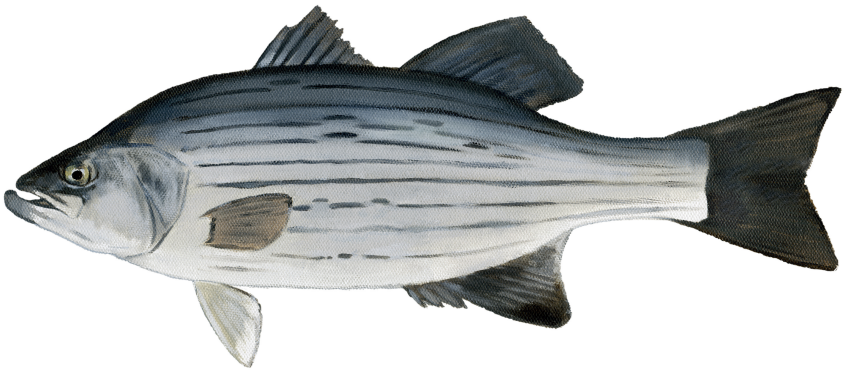
## Northern pike



Northern pike are characterized by a long, slender, torpedo-shaped body. They have a pattern of light-colored markings on each side of the body that form seven to nine horizontal rows on a dark background. The tail fins are rounded at the ends. The northern pike differs from other similar species in having fully scaled cheeks.
**Angling record:** 2002; 25 lbs.; L: 43-1/2 in.; G: 19-1/2 in.; Henry Fenning; Yuba Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 1998; L: 49-3/4 in.; Logan Hacking; Lake Powell.

# Hybrid sportfish

## Wiper

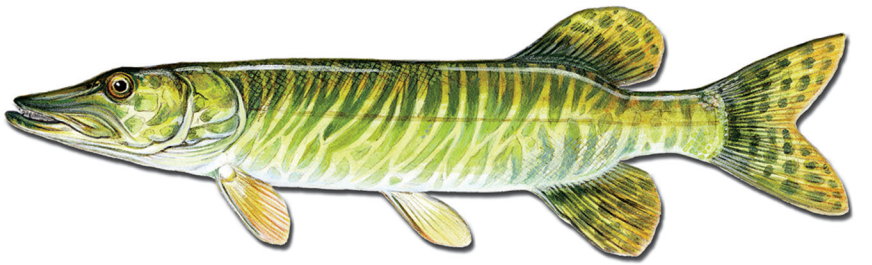


The wiper is a hybrid cross between a female striped bass and a male white bass. Its appearance reflects both parents. It has six to eight dark, horizontal broken stripes over a silver-white background, with a dark charcoal to black back. It has two dorsal fins, the anterior with eight to ten sharp spines. It is slightly heavier bodied than the striped bass and grows up to 12 pounds in weight and 24 inches in length.
**Angling record:** 2007; 9 lbs. 12 oz.; L: 26-1/8 in.; G: 19-1/4 in.; Rob Valdez; Willard Bay.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2005; L: 25 in.; Dale P. Tracy; Willard Bay.



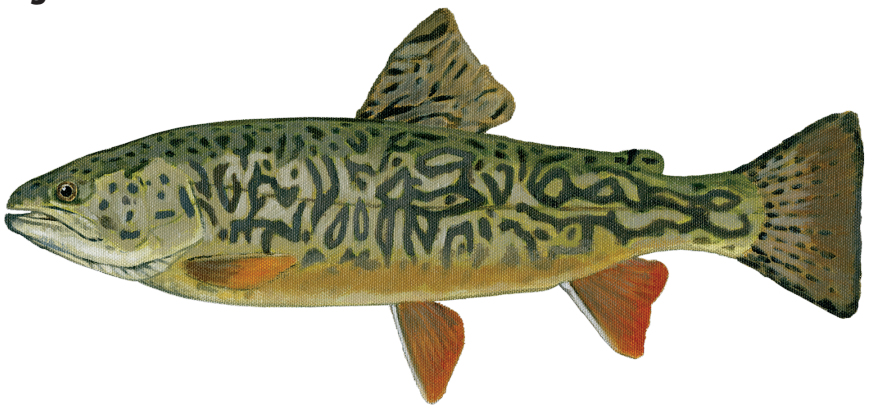


## Tiger muskellunge



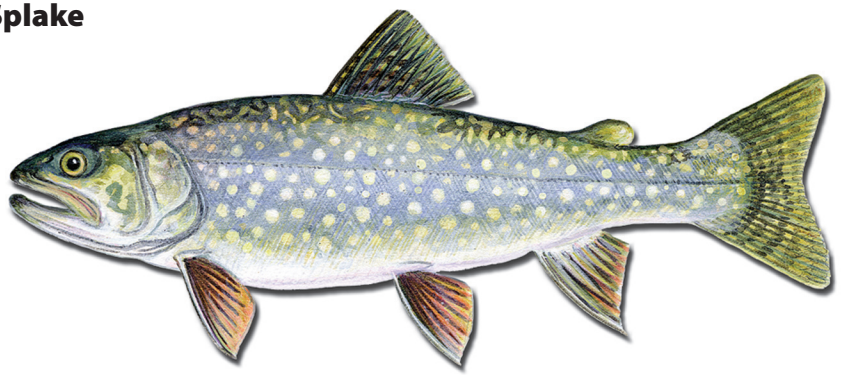
The tiger muskie is a hybrid cross between a muskellunge and northern pike. It features characteristics from both parents. It has a very elongated torpedo-like body. Its most notable features are the grey-green vertical bars along its sides. It can reach lengths of more than 50 inches and weigh more than 30 pounds.
**Angling record:** 2006; 33 lbs. 9 oz.; L: 49 in.; G: 21-1/2 in.; Kelly Parry; Pineview Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 1998; L: 53-1/4 in.; Ray Johnson; Pineview Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 2006; 14 lbs. 7 oz.; L: 37-1/2 in.; G: 16-1/2 in.; Matt Boyd; Fish Lake.

## Tiger trout



The tiger trout, a cross between a brown trout and a brook trout, has a unique, dark maze-like pattern all over its brownish, gray body. The belly is yellowish-orange as are the pectoral, pelvic and anal fins. The tail fin is square.
**Angling record:** 2007; 10 lbs. 12 oz.; L: 29-1/2 in.; G: 17-1/8 in.; Michael David Moon; Palisades Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2009; L: 26 in.; Ryan Hunter; Panguitch Lake.

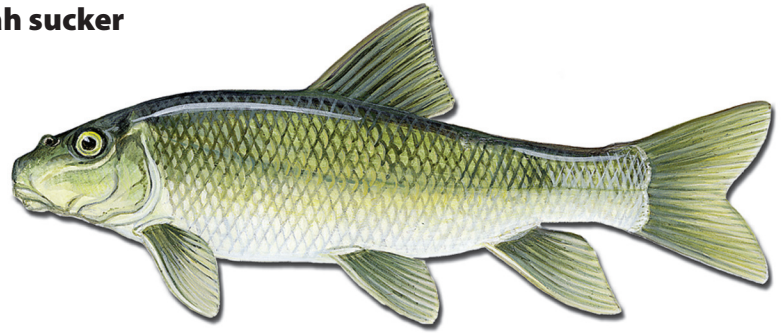
### Splake



A splake trout is the hybrid cross between lake trout and brook trout. It has a dark background with white spots. Its tail fin is not as deeply forked as that of a lake trout.
**Angling record:** 2006; 17 lbs. 4 oz.; L: 36-1/2 in.; G: 21-1/8 in.; Stacy S. Wilden; Fish Lake.
**Catch-and-release record:**2009; L: 27 in.; Ron Sorenson; Joes Valley Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 2005; 13 lbs. 5 oz.; L: 30-3/4 in.; G: 20-1/2 in.; Stacy S. Wilden; Fish Lake.

## Native nongame fish

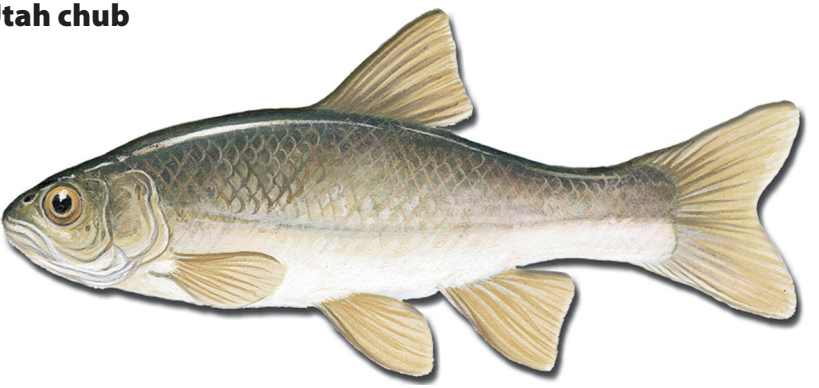
### Utah sucker



The Utah sucker is dark olive to copper, with dusky fins and a downward-facing mouth.
**Angling record:** 2003; 6 lbs. 6 oz.; L: 25-1/2 in.; G: 13-1/4 in.; Jamin C. Buttars; Weber River.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2005; L: 27 in.; John Sanders; Middle Provo River.
**Spearfishing record:** 2003; 4 lbs. 15 oz.; L: 23 in.; G: 11 in.; Mike McGuire; Fish Lake.
**Archery record:** 1992; 4 lbs. 5 oz.; L: 19-3/4 in.; G: 12 in.; David W. Stewart; Utah Lake.



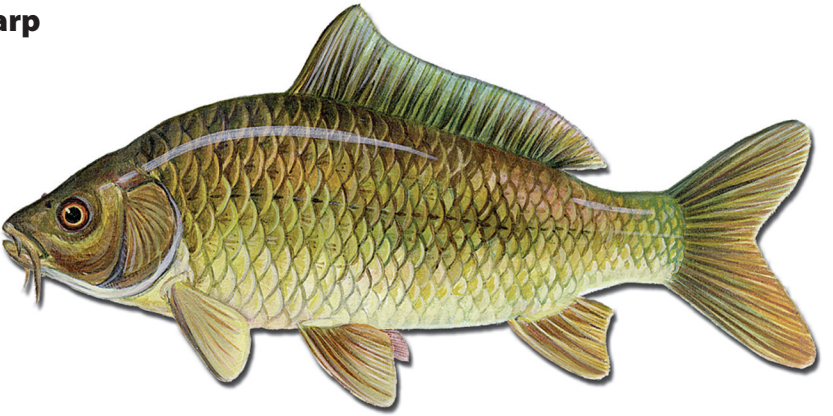
### Utah chub



Utah chub have robust bodies and large scales. Their coloration ranges from dark olive green or black on the upper back to silvery, brassy or golden sides. They can be distinguished by the way their fins align. The front edge of the dorsal fin (on the fish's back) aligns with the front edge of the middle fin on the fish's belly.
**Angling record:** 2009; 1 lb. 15 oz.; L: 13 in.; G: 10-3/4 in.; Krystal Rasmussen; Starvation Reservoir.
**Catch-and-release record:** 1997; L: 14-1/4 in.; Sue McGhie Troff; Flaming Gorge Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 2005; 1 lb.; L: 12-3/4 in.; G: 8-1/8 in.; Shane Forrester; Starvation Reservoir.

## Nonnative nongame fish

### Carp



Carp have deep, thick bodies that are gray to brassy green or yellowish green. The body is normally covered with large scales, and carp have fleshy barbels on each side of the mouth. A large spine is present at the front of the dorsal (top) fin.
**Angling record:** 1993; 32 lbs.; Couger Elfervig; Lake Powell.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2003; L: 35-1/2 in.; Lance Egan; Starvation Reservoir.
**Spearfishing record:** 2009; 29 lbs. 4 oz.; L: 37 in.; G: 24-1/4 in.; Daylen Lemmon; Starvation Reservoir.
**Archery record:** 2008; 29 lbs. 2 oz.; L: 40-1/4 in.; G: 23 in.; Zach Pierson; Bountiful Lake.



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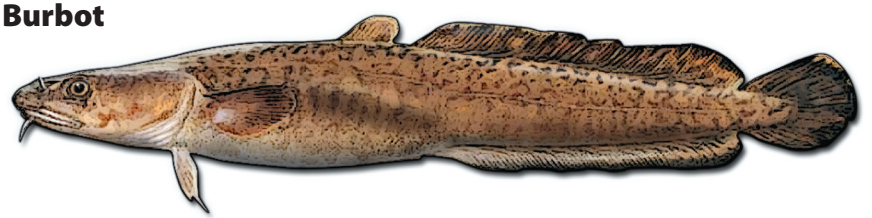
### Burbot



Burbot, or ling cod, were illegally introduced into Flaming Gorge Reservoir, where the population is rapidly expanding. Burbot are a slender, smooth-skinned fish with a large barbel in the middle of the chin and two dorsal fins, the second of which is half the length of the body and matched by an anal fin of about the same length. The coloring ranges from yellow to light brown with a wavy pattern of dark brown or black. Despite the odd, eel-like appearance, burbot have flaky white flesh that tastes excellent. All burbot caught in Flaming Gorge must be immediately killed (see pages 22–23).

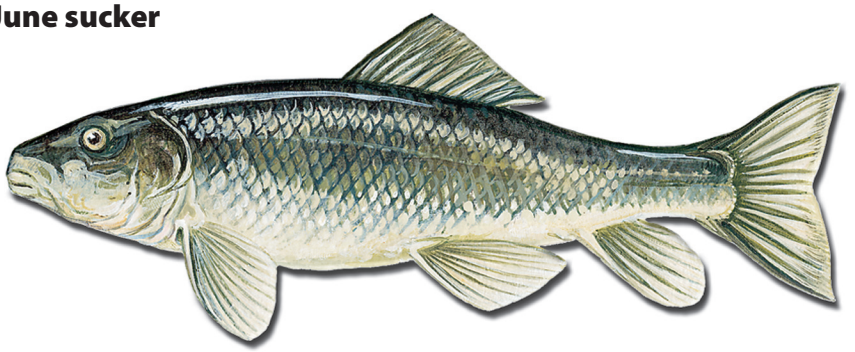
## Species not illustrated

### Golden trout

**Angling record:** 1977; 14 oz.; L: 14-1/2 in.; Breck Tuttle; Atwood Creek.
**Catch-and-release record:** 2008; L: 11-1/8 in.; Zachary Beames; Echo Lake.

## Utah's endangered fish

### June sucker



The June sucker occurs in Utah Lake and the Provo River. Although once abundant in Utah Lake, it is now rare. The June sucker is listed as endangered, and efforts to help recover the June sucker population are ongoing. Although June suckers are members of the sucker family, they are not bottom feeders. The jaw structure of the June sucker allows the species to feed on zooplankton in the middle of the water column.

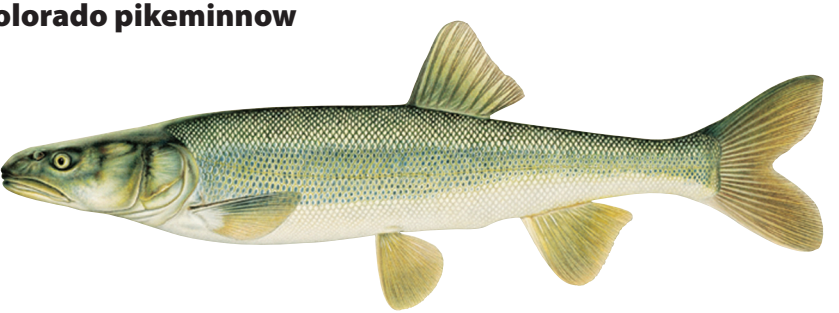




### Bonytail

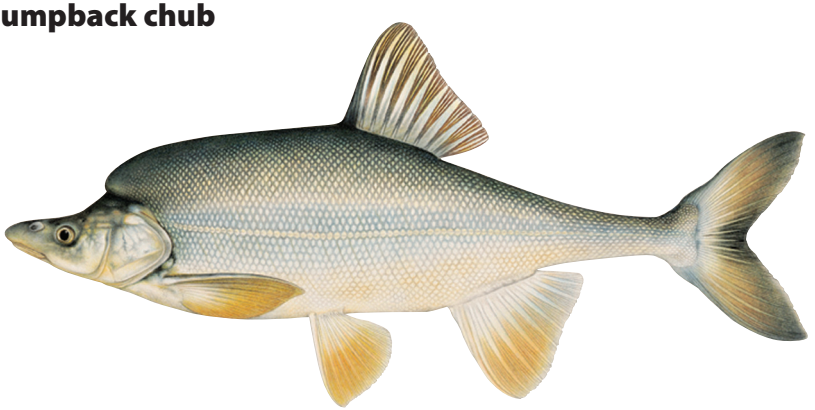
The bonytail is currently found in limited stretches of the Green and Colorado mainstem rivers, where the species is stocked by the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program. The species is endangered and, if caught, should be returned immediately to the water unharmed. The body is highly streamlined, with a bluish, dusky color above to pale below. The head is short and noticeably concave. The area just in front of the fish's tail fin is exremely narrow. Bonytail can reach lengths of 22 inches and weigh more than two pounds in the wild.

### Colorado pikeminnow



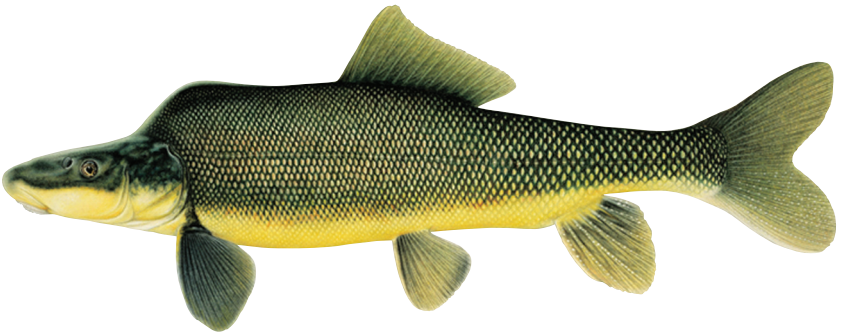
The Colorado pikeminnow is found predominantly in the Green, Colorado and San Juan rivers. The highly predacious pikeminnow has also been found in tributaries to these mainstem rivers, likely in an effort to spawn. The pikeminnow is an endangered species, and efforts are underway to protect the fish throughout its native range. The pikeminnow's body is long and slender, with a gray-green back and silver sides. The head is long and conical, with a large, horizontal mouth. The tail fin is large and deeply forked. The pikeminnow can reach lengths up to six feet and can weigh 80 pounds. It should be returned to the water immediately if caught.

## Humpback chub



The humpback chub is found in canyon-bound habitats of the Green and Colorado rivers. The species is probably the strangest-looking of the big-river, endangered fish, due to the fatty hump that is thought to keep the fish on the stream bottom and to stabilize it in fast, flowing waters. The humpback chub has a streamlined body, with a dark, olive-gray back and silver sides. The head is small. The area in front of its tail is slender, although thicker than that of the bonytail. The humpback chub can reach lengths up to 18 inches and can weigh up to two pounds.

## Razorback sucker



The razorback sucker is found in the mainstem Green, Colorado and San Juan rivers. Razorback suckers prefer shallow, off-channel habitats for spawning in the springtime. The razorback sucker is endangered and is stocked in many portions of its native range, including Utah, by the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program. The species normally has an olive-colored to brown or black back, brown to pinkish sides, and a white to yellow belly. Adults have a sharp-edged keel or "humpback." The mouth faces downward, and the lower lip is widely separated into two lobes by a deep groove. The razorback sucker can reach lengths up to 36 inches and can weigh up to 13 pounds.