

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-13. Taking Fish and Crayfish.

R657-13-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections ~~[23-14-18]~~[\[23A-2-305\]](#) and ~~[23-14-19]~~[\[23A-2-304\]](#), the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking fish and crayfish.

(2) Specific dates, areas, methods of take, requirements and other administrative details which may change annually and are pertinent are published in the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking fish and crayfish.

R657-13-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section ~~[23-13-2]~~[\[23A-1-101\]](#).

(2) In addition:

(a) "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.

(b) "Angling" means fishing with a rod, pole, tipup, handline, or trollboard 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.

(c)(i) "Artificial fly" means a fly made by the method known as fly tying.

(ii) "Artificial fly" does not mean a weighted jig, lure, spinner, attractor blade, or bait.

(d) "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.

(e) "Daily limit" means the maximum limit, in number or amount, of protected aquatic wildlife that one person may legally take during one day.

(f) "Bait" means a digestible substance, including corn, 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.

(g) "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.

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

(i) "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.

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

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

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

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

(n) "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.

(o) "Gaff" means a spear or hook, with or without a handle, used for holding or lifting fish.

(p) "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.

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

(r) "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.

(s) "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.

(t) "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.

(u) "Liftnet" means a small net that is drawn vertically through the water column to take fish or crayfish.

(v) "Motor" means an electric or internal combustion engine.

(w) "Nongame fish" means species of fish not listed as game fish.

(x) "Permanent residence" means, for the purposes of this rule only, the domicile an individual claims pursuant to Utah Code 23-13-2(13).

(y) "Possession limit" means, for purposes of this rule only, two daily limits, including fish in a cooler, camper, tent, freezer, livewell or any other place of storage, excluding fish stored in an individual's permanent residence.

(z) "Protected aquatic wildlife" means, for purposes of this rule only, all species of fish, crustaceans, or amphibians.

- (aa) "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.
- (bb) "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.
- (cc) "Setline" means a line anchored to a non-moving object and not attached to a fishing pole.
- (dd) "Single hook" means a hook or multiple hooks having a common shank.
- (ee) "Snagging" or "gaffing" means to take a fish in a manner that the fish does not take the hook voluntarily into its mouth.
- (ff) "Spear" means a long-shafted, sharply pointed, hand held instrument with or without barbs used to spear fish from above the surface of the water.
- (gg) "Tributary" means a stream flowing into a larger stream, lake, or reservoir.
- (hh)(i) "Trout" means species of the family Salmonidae, including rainbow, albino, cutthroat, brown, golden, brook, tiger, lake (mackinaw), splake, kokanee salmon, and grayling or any hybrid of the foregoing.
- (ii) "Trout" does not include whitefish or Bonneville cisco.
- (ii) "Underwater spearfishing" means fishing by a person swimming, snorkeling, or [SCUBA](#) 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.

R657-13-9. Underwater Spearfishing.

- (1) A person possessing a valid Utah fishing or combination license may engage in underwater spearfishing, only as provided in this section.
- (2) The following waters are open to underwater spearfishing from January 1 through December 31 for all species of game fish, unless specified otherwise by individual water:
 - (a) Big Sand Wash Reservoir (Duchesne County);
 - (b) Brown's Draw Reservoir (Duchesne County);
 - (c) Causey Reservoir (Weber County);
 - (d) Deer Creek Reservoir (Wasatch County), except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June;
 - (e) East Canyon Reservoir (Morgan County), except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June;
 - (f) Echo Reservoir (Summit County), except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June;
 - (g) Electric Lake (Emery County);
 - (h) Fish Lake (Sevier County), except underwater spearfishing for any game fish is closed from September 10 to the first Saturday in June the following year;
 - (i) Flaming Gorge Reservoir (Daggett County), except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June;
 - (j) Grantsville Reservoir (Tooele County);
 - (k) [Jordan River, for northern pike only \(Salt Lake and Utah counties\)](#);
 - (l) Lake Powell (Garfield, Kane and San Juan Counties), except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June;
 - (~~m~~) Newcastle Reservoir (Iron County), except underwater spearfishing is closed for all species of game fish other than wipers and rainbow trout;
 - (~~n~~) Pineview Reservoir (Weber County), except underwater spearfishing is closed for:
 - (i) largemouth and small mouth bass from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June; and
 - (ii) tiger musky year round.
 - (~~o~~) Porcupine Reservoir (Cache County);
 - (~~p~~) [Recapture Quail Creek Reservoir](#) (~~San Juan~~), [for smallmouth bass only \(Washington County\)](#);
 - (~~q~~) [Red Fleet Recapture Reservoir](#) (~~Uintah~~) [San Juan County](#));
 - (~~r~~) [Red Fleet Reservoir \(Uintah County\)](#);
 - (s) Rockport Reservoir (Summit County), except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June;
 - (~~t~~) Sand Lake (Uintah County);
 - (~~u~~) Smith-Moorehouse [Reservoir \(Summit County\)](#);
 - (~~v~~) [Starvation Reservoir](#) (~~Duchesne~~) [Summit County](#)) [~~except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June~~];
 - (~~w~~) [Steinaker Starvation Reservoir](#) (~~Uintah~~) [Duchesne County](#)), except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June;
 - (~~x~~)
 - (w) [Steinaker Reservoir \(Uintah County\), except underwater spearfishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is closed from April 1 through the fourth Saturday in June](#);

- (x) Utah Lake, for northern pike and white bass only (Utah County);
(y) Utah Lake tributaries, including but not limited to the following tributaries, west of I-15: American Fork, Creek, Beer Creek, Dry Creek, Hobble Creek, Spanish Fork River, Spring Creek and Spring Run Creek, for northern pike only (Utah County). Spearfishing is not permitted on the Provo River or Provo River Delta;
(z) Willard Bay Reservoir (Box Elder County); and
([w]aa) Yuba Reservoir (Juab and Sanpete Counties).
- (3) Nongame fish, excluding prohibited species listed in Section R657-13-13, may be taken by underwater spearfishing:
- (a) in the waters listed in Subsection (2) and at Blue Lake (Tooele County) for tilapia and pacu only; and
 - (b) during the open angling season set for a given body of water.
- (4) The waters listed in Subsections (2) and (3)(a) are the only waters open to underwater spearfishing for game or nongame fish, except carp may be taken by underwater spearfishing from any water open to angling during the open angling season set for a given body of water.
- (5)(a) Underwater spearfishing is permitted from official sunrise to official sunset only, except burbot may be taken by underwater spearfishing at Flaming Gorge Reservoir (Daggett County) between official sunset and official sunrise.
- (b) No other species of fish may be taken with underwater spearfishing techniques at Flaming Gorge Reservoir or any other water in the state between official sunset and official sunrise.
- (6)(a) Use of artificial light is unlawful while engaged in underwater spearfishing, except artificial light may be used when underwater spearfishing for burbot at Flaming Gorge Reservoir (Daggett County).
- (b) Artificial light may not be used when underwater spearfishing for fish species other than burbot at Flaming Gorge Reservoir.
- (7) Free shafting is prohibited while engaged in underwater spearfishing.
- (8) The daily limit and possession limit for underwater spearfishing is the same as the daily limit and possession limit applied to anglers using other techniques in the waters listed in Subsections (2) and (3)(a), and as identified in the annual Utah Fishing Guidebook issued by the Utah Wildlife Board.

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