

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK
Fishing Regulations
May 1, 1996 - April 30, 1997

All waters within Olympic National Park are closed to the removal of any species of fish or wildlife except as provided below.

Licenses

- ◆ A Washington State Personal Use Food Fish License is NOT required to fish in Olympic National Park EXCEPT when fishing in the Pacific Ocean from shore.
- ◆ A Washington State catch record card is REQUIRED to fish for salmon or steelhead and must be accounted for as if caught in state waters.
- ◆ A Washington State Shellfish/Seaweed license is REQUIRED for harvest of shellfish from the Pacific Coastal Area.

Legal Gear

Fishing may only be conducted with a single rod, reel and line and shall be under immediate control. The use of nets, seines, traps, drugs, or explosives is prohibited.

Fishing from boats or rafts on the following rivers is permitted: ◆ Ozette ◆ Queets below Tshletsy Creek, ◆ Hoh downstream from launch site approximately 1/2 mile from the park boundary and near confluence of the South Fork and in the Pacific Coastal area, ◆ Quinault below the North Shore Quinault River Bridge, ◆ Elwha below Glines Canyon Dam. Motorized craft are only allowed on the Quillayute and Dickey rivers.

Waters Closed to Fishing

- ◆ That portion of Kalaloch Creek used for domestic water supply (as posted).
- ◆ Elwha River from the Lake Mills spillway downstream 400 feet.
- ◆ North Fork Skokomish from the park boundary to Dolly Pool Falls after August 31.
- ◆ Sol Duc River from 100 yards upstream to 250 yards downstream (or as posted) of the Salmon Cascades from August 1 through October 31.

Bait

Bait is defined as any artificial or natural substance which attracts fish by scent and/or flavor. Artificial lures are made of metal, wood, feathers, hair, fiber, leather, cork, rubber or plastic. Some areas of Olympic National Park are managed as Selective or Quality fishing areas where bait is not allowed. Areas closed to bait fishing are listed under "Exceptions to General Season and Limits." The following are prohibited in all park waters: live or dead minnows, chub or other bait fish; attracting, collecting or feeding fish by placing fish eggs or roe, food or other substances in park waters; possession of illegal bait; digging for bait. Note: harvest or digging of any intertidal organism from the Pacific Coastal Area is prohibited except for regulated species as governed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Catch-and-Release Requirements

To improve the quality of the fisheries and conserve certain depleted stocks and their gene pools, some "catch-and-release" and "wild release" areas have been adopted within the park. These areas are noted under "Exceptions to General Seasons and Limits." The following species must be released in all park waters:

- ◆ Wild steelhead (rainbow trout more than 20 inches long) caught between June 1 - November 30. Hatchery steelhead may be kept and are identified by a healed scar where the adipose or ventral fin has been removed.
- ◆ Dolly Varden and bull trout.

If handled properly, fish have an excellent chance for survival after they are released. Please follow these guidelines:

- 1) Land the fish as quickly as possible to minimize fatigue.
- 2) Leave the fish in the water while removing the hook.
- 3) Wet hands and do not squeeze or hold the fish by the eyes or gills.
- 4) If hooked deeply, cut the line and leave the hook in the fish.
- 5) Before releasing the fish, gently move it back and forth in the water until it attempts to swim away.

Marine Fish and Shellfish

Harvest of marine fish, shellfish and intertidal organisms from the Pacific Coastal Area is only allowed in accordance with Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife seasons and limits (360-902-2200). All other intertidal and shoreline species, including seaweed, are protected.

Seasons and Limits

All rivers and streams in the Pacific Coastal strip of Olympic National Park are open in conformance with adjoining state waters. See the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's 1996 regulation pamphlet.

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Seasons and Limits - Continued

General Seasons and Limits apply to all other waters except those areas listed under "Waters Closed to Fishing" or below under "Exceptions to General Seasons and Limits." Note: all Dolly Varden and bull trout caught at any time and all wild steelhead caught between June 1 - November 30 must be released.

General Seasons: Lakes, ponds, and reservoirs: April 26 - Oct. 31.

Rivers, streams, and beaver ponds: June 1 - Oct. 31.

Salmon fishing is only allowed on certain rivers and during specified season which are listed under Exceptions to General Seasons and Limits.

Size Limits: Minimum size for trout and whitefish is 8". No minimum for Eastern brook trout, yellow perch, bass or squawfish. In areas open to salmon fishing the following size limits apply: minimum size limit is 12" and adults are chinook over 24" and coho over 20". Salmon between 12" and the adult minimum size are considered "jacks."

Daily Limit: 2 trout, steelhead or whitefish. There are no daily limits for Eastern brook trout, yellow perch, bass or squawfish.

Possession Limit: No more than the equivalent of two daily limits.

Exceptions to General Seasons and Limits

General Seasons, Size, Daily and Possession limits listed above apply to the following waters with these exceptions:

BOGACHIEL RIVER: below the junction of the North and Main forks, 14" minimum size limit on trout. **Winter steelhead**: mainstem, Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, wild release.

CALAWAH RIVER, SOUTH FORK: 14" minimum size limit on trout.

CRESCENT, LAKE: artificial lures only, 20" minimum size limit.

DOSEWALLIPS RIVER: below the falls at river mile 14.5, 14" minimum size limit on trout.

ELWHA RIVER: and its tributaries, 12" minimum size limit, single barbless hooks, artificial lures only.

GREY WOLF RIVER: 14" minimum size limit on trout, artificial lures only.

HOH RIVER: below Glacier Creek, June 1 - Oct. 31, 14" minimum size limit on trout. **Salmon**: below the South Fork, May 16 - Aug. 31, 6 jack salmon. **Winter steelhead**: mainstem above the South Fork, Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, wild release; mainstem below the South Fork, Nov. 1 - April 15, wild release.

SOUTH FORK HOH: wild release, artificial lures only.

IRELY LAKE: catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

MILLS RESERVOIR: 12" minimum size, artificial lures only, single barbless hooks.

OZETTE, LAKE: 14" minimum size limit on trout, closed to kokanee.

OZETTE RIVER: 14" minimum size limit on trout. **Salmon**: July 1 - Oct. 31, 6 jack salmon. **Winter steelhead**: mainstem, Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, 14" minimum size limit on trout.

QUEETS RIVER: mainstem and tributaries, wild release, artificial lures only. **Salmon**: mainstem below Streaters Crossing Boat Launch, bait allowed when salmon fishing, June 1 - August 31, up to 6 salmon provided no more than 2 are adults. **Winter steelhead**: bait allowed; mainstem from Tshletshy Creek to Hartzell Boat Launch, Nov. 1 - April 15, wild release; mainstem from Hartzell Boat Launch to park boundary, Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, 14" minimum size limit on trout; mainstem from Hartzell Boat Launch to park boundary, March 1 - April 15, wild release.

SALMON RIVER: wild release, artificial lures only. **Salmon**: closed. **Winter steelhead**: Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, bait allowed, 14" minimum size limit on trout.

QUINULT RIVER: mainstem, North Fork below Kimta Creek, and East Fork below Fire Creek, 14" minimum size limit on trout. **Salmon**: mainstem below the North Shore Quinault River Bridge, July 1 - Oct. 31, 6 jack salmon. **Winter steelhead**: mainstem below the North Shore Quinault River Bridge to park boundary, Nov. 1 - March 31, 14" minimum size limit on trout.

SKOKOMISH RIVER, NORTH FORK: mainstem and tributaries, catch-and-release, artificial lures only. **Note**: closed from the park boundary to Dolly Pool Falls after August 31.

SOL DUC RIVER: below Sol Duc Falls, 14" minimum size limit on trout.