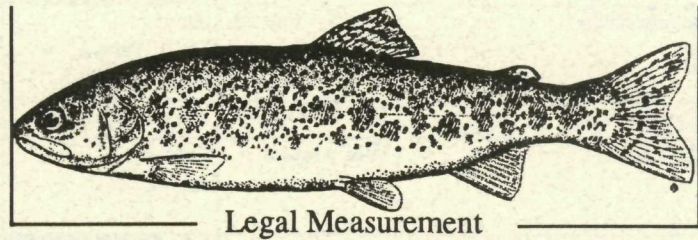


## Fishing



### Fishing in a Special Place

Archaeological records prove humans have been fishing in the Cascade Mountains for at least 8,000 years. The rivers, streams, ponds, and alpine lakes of North Cascades National Park and Lake Chelan and Ross Lake National Recreation Areas provide opportunities to fish in the spectacular and unspoiled natural environment of the Cascades. Fishing regulations have been adopted to help protect and restore natural aquatic habitats and the abundance and distribution of fish species. Special regulations limiting the use of bait have been adopted throughout the park and recreation areas. Studies show that up to half the fish caught using bait don't survive hook-removal and handling. Certain waters are closed to fishing to protect critical spawning habitat. Please remember that fish are an integral part of the natural ecosystem of the park. Enjoy your fishing experience in the pristine waters of the North Cascades and help to maintain a healthy and wild fish population for this and future generations. Good fishing!

### Regulations

- A valid Washington State Fishing License is required. It must be in your possession and displayed upon request of a ranger or wildlife officer.
- All Washington Game Fish regulations, seasons, and catch limits apply.
- The use of baitfish, amphibians, and nonpreserved fish eggs is prohibited. Many lakes and streams have special regulations that prohibit any bait.
- You are limited to one line, with up to three hooks, under your immediate control.
- It is unlawful to feed or chum with any substance to attract sportfish.
- Fish may be gutted in the field, but throughout transport must be left intact so that size and species can be determined.
- It is illegal to dispose of fish remains within 200 feet of docks or campsites. Please puncture the bladder and dispose of remains in deep or swift current.

### Bull Trout

Bull trout have disappeared from most of their former range. Their numbers have dwindled to the point where they are in danger of extinction. This trout has been red-tagged a species of concern by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and is a candidate species for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service list of threatened and endangered species. Restrictive fishing regulations are in effect in most places for bull trout to help restore a wild and healthy population. These regulations also apply to Dolly Varden trout, because they are difficult to distinguish from bull trout.

### What You Can Do To Help



Catch and Release

- **Switch to catch and release fishing.** Any fish you release is one more to spawn and one more for other anglers to enjoy.
- Fish with artificial lures or flies. Fish swallow them less deeply and are more likely to survive after being released.
- Many anglers use barbless hooks. Barbless hooks hold quite well, snag the bottom less often and allow fish to be released without being handled. Consider replacing treble hooks on lures with a single hook.
- **Hold the fish gently.** Leave the fish in the water while removing the hook and handle as little as possible. Don't squeeze the fish, touch the gills or hold it by the gill covers.
- If you can't easily remove a hook, cut the leader. The hook will dissolve.
- If the fish is exhausted, hold it upright in the swimming position in the water and move water through its gills by gently moving the fish back and forth through the water until it regains its equilibrium.



# SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Water	Season	Species	Catch Limit	Min. Size	Special Regulations
Big Beaver Creek, beaver ponds & tributary streams From ¼ mile marker upstream	July 1 - Oct 31	All gamefish	0	-	CATCH & RELEASE ONLY. * Selective fishery regulations apply.
Ross Lake to ¼ mile upstream	Closed Waters				
Cascade River	June 1 - Feb 28	Trout Dolly Varden Other gamefish	2 STWD	14" 20" STWD	Legal to retain Dolly Varden\bull trout as part of the catch limit.
Hozomeen Lake	July 1 - Oct 31	All gamefish	STWD	STWD	
Lake Chelan	Year Around	Salmon All gamefish	2 STWD	15" STWD	A personal use food fish license is required to retain salmon. Only natural bait with two single hooks per bait; only one hook on sinking lines.
Newhalem Ponds	Closed Waters				
Nooksack River	Nov 1 - Mar 15	Trout	2	14"	Wild steelhead release.
Ridley Lake	July 1 - Oct 31	Trout Other gamefish	1 STWD	18" STWD	* Selective fishery regulations apply. Trout possession limit - 1.
Ross Lake	July 1 - Oct 31	Trout Other gamefish	3 STWD	13" STWD	* Selective fishery regulations apply. All other tributaries are closed from Lake to 1 mile upstream.
Ruby Creek	Closed Waters				
Skagit River Bacon Creek to Gorge Powerhouse	June 1 - Feb 28	Trout Dolly Varden Steelhead Other gamefish	2 0 STWD	14" 20" STWD	Legal to retain Dolly Varden\bull trout as part of the catch limit. Retaining steelhead is prohibited.
Gorge powerhouse to Dam	Closed Waters				
Stehekin River Mouth to Agnes Creek Above Agnes Creek	Mar 1 - Jun 30 July 1 - Oct 30	All gamefish Trout Other gamefish	0 2 STWD	- 15" STWD	CATCH & RELEASE ONLY. * Selective fishery regulations apply.
Stetattle Creek Mouth to Bucket Creek	Closed Waters				
Trapper Lake	Year Around	Trout Other gamefish	2 STWD	None STWD	
Willow Lake	July 1 - Oct 31	Trout Other gamefish	1 STWD	18" STWD	* Selective fishery regulations apply. Trout possession limit - 1.

# STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

These statewide regulations apply to all waters not listed above under special regulations.

Water	Season	Species	Catch Limit	Min. Size	Special Regulations
All Waters	Closed	Chinook salmon			All park & recreation area waters are closed to the harvest of salmon except for Lake Chelan.
Statewide Lakes & Ponds (unless covered by special regulation listed above)	Year Around	Trout	5	None	The combined daily catch limit for all trout (including eastern brook trout and dolly varden) is 5. Possession limit is 10.
	Year Around	Eastern brook trout	5	None	
Abbreviated - STWD	Year Around	Whitefish	15	None	It is illegal to take bull trout from any lake or pond within the park & recreation areas.
	Closed	Dolly Varden\bull trout			
Statewide Rivers, Streams & Beaver Ponds (unless covered by special regulation listed above.)	June 1 - Oct 31	Trout	2	8"	These count as part of the combined daily catch limit of 5 for all trout (including eastern brook trout and dolly varden) Possession limit is 10.
	June 1 - Oct 31	Eastern brook trout	5	None	
	June 1 - Oct 31	Whitefish	15	None	
Abbreviated - STWD	June 1 - Nov 30	Steelhead	2	20"	These count as part of the combined daily catch limit of 5 for all trout.
	June 1 - Oct 31	Dolly Varden\bull trout			All streams and rivers are closed to fishing for Dolly Varden\bull trout except for the Skagit and Cascade Rivers.

\* **Selective Fishery Regulations** = Only an artificial flies or lures with a single barbless hook are allowed. You must stop fishing after you possess the catch limit. Bait is prohibited, including any substance which attracts fish by scent or flavor.

**Trout** = Cutthroat, golden, kokanee, lake, and rainbow trout but not eastern brook trout, steelhead, Dolly Varden or bull trout.

**Gamefish** = Bass, burbot, catfish, crappie, grayling, perch, sunfish, all trout, kokanee, and steelhead but not salmon.

This handout presents a summary of the commonly used Washington State fishing regulations in effect within the boundaries of North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan and Ross Lake National Recreation Areas. For more complete information, please consult the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife *Game Fish Regulations* pamphlet that is available wherever fishing licenses are sold.