

Hunting, Fishing, and Recreation Regulations for **MEMBERS**

of **THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES** **2026 – 2027 SEASON**

March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027

These regulations are issued pursuant to Tribal Ordinance 44D, the hunting, fishing, and recreation laws of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. These regulations will be applied in such a manner as to avoid interference with the cultural and religious practices of Tribal members, as protected by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.

If you have questions, need more information, or wish to report violations,
please contact the:

**DIVISION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION
BOX 278**

Pablo, Montana 59855 (406) 675-2700 or (406) 883-2888

Office: 406 6th Avenue East, Polson, MT 59860

or

(406) 675-4700 after 5:30 p.m. and on weekends

These regulations are enacted to implement the provisions of Tribal Ordinance 44D.
Please refer to that ordinance for additional information and for definitions of
terms used in these regulations. Unless defined otherwise, all words and
phrases in these regulations shall be given their plain and simple meaning.



Scan this QR Code to learn more about
CSKT Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation

Help Protect Native Species

Know the Flathead Reservations

Native Fish

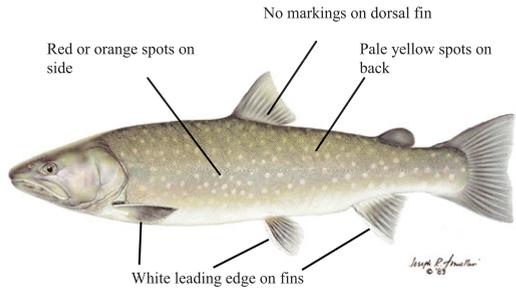
On the Flathead Indian Reservation, there is a growing concern for several of our native fish species, primarily the BULL trout, and the WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT trout. Populations of these fish are in decline across the Reservation, and it is important for anglers to properly identify BULL and WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT trout and understand the regulations protecting them.

When handling fish, be sure to wet your hands, and keep the fish in the water if possible. If in doubt about the identity of your fish, do not take a chance- release it!

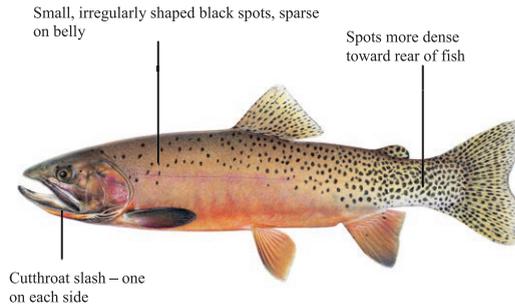
NATIVE FISH

Bull Trout – Species of Special Concern

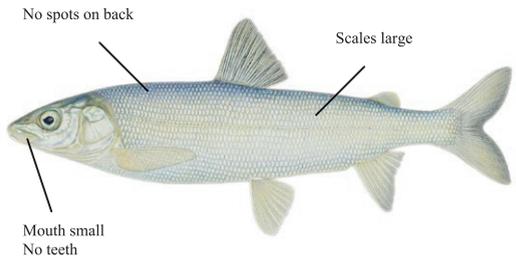
A Threatened Species listed under the Endangered Species Act
“NO BLACK, PUT IT BACK”



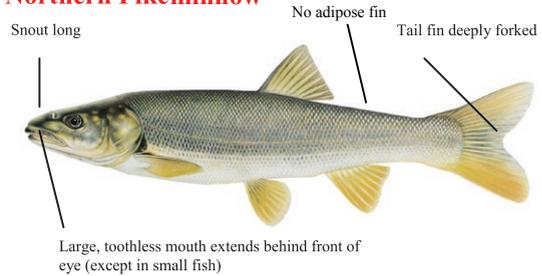
Westslope Cutthroat Trout – Species of Special Concern



Mountain Whitefish

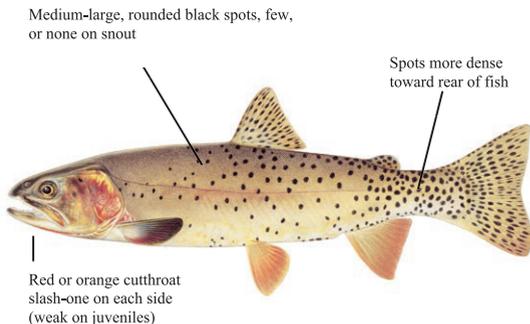


Northern Pikeminnow

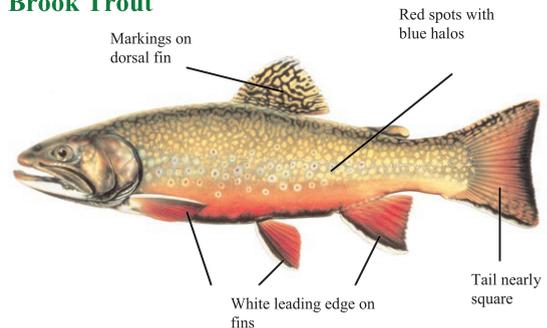


NON-NATIVE FISH

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout – Species of Special Concern



Brook Trout



FWP LAUNCHES NEW “LICENSE AMBASSADOR” PROGRAM

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is launching a new **License Ambassador** program increasing license sales opportunities for hunting and fishing sales across Montana.

The program partners with local businesses and uses a secure, web-based system—eliminating the need for outdated, specialized equipment. This allows more retailers to sell licenses and gives hunters and anglers more convenient places to buy in person.

Licenses and permits can also be purchased or applied for online using the same system.

The CSKT DFWRC office in Polson, 406 6th Ave East, will have access to purchase and assistance for navigating the new system. This new system is cashless, so we will not be able to accept cash or checks for the purchase of licenses. Our office can assist Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00pm.

Learn more: fwp.mt.gov/buyandapply

ATTENTION: Please double-check your purchase or application prior to the final submission. **Once an application has been entered, or an over the counter license has been purchased, it is final and cannot be changed.**

All anglers are encouraged to check the fish consumption guidelines on page 13.

PART I HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS MEMBERS	1
1. GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS	1
2. ELK HUNTING IN THE FERRY BASIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT	2
3. BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING IN THE LITTLE MONEY (CAMAS) WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT	3
4. RESTRICTED AREAS	3
5. OFF-RESERVATION HUNTING	4
6. MOOSE HUNTING	4
7. BIRD HUNTING	4
8. FURBEARERS	5
9. OFF-RESERVATION WILD BISON HUNTING	5
 PART II FISHING REGULATIONS MEMBERS	 5
1. RESERVATION-WIDE FISHING REGULATIONS	5
2. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT UNIT REGULATIONS	6
 PART III RECREATION REGULATIONS MEMBERS	 7
1. REGULATIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION	7
2. MISSION MOUNTAINS TRIBAL WILDERNESS REGULATIONS	9
3. LIVESTOCK (RIDING AND PACK ANIMALS)	9
4. OFF-ROAD MOTOR VEHICLE USE	9
5. BOATING AND WATER SPORTS	10
6. BLUE BAY CAMPGROUND SPECIAL REGULATIONS	10
7. BISON RANGE SPECIAL REGULATIONS	11
 PART IV ACCESS TO HUNTING AND FISHING AREAS	 12
 PART V CULTURE AND RELIGION	 12
 GENERAL INFORMATION	 12
RIVER ETIQUETTE	12
TRAIL ETIQUETTE	12
YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK	12
BEAR SAFETY AND AWARENESS	13
HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ..	13
FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES	13
PROTECT OUR HERDS & PREVENT SPREAD OF CWD	14
DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY	14
FOOD BANKS & COMMUNITY KITCHENS	14
LEAD FACTS	15
TAGGED FISH	16
RELEASING A FISH	17
AMERICAN BULLFROGS	18
KNOW YOUR NOXIOUS WEEDS	18
FOUR POINTS ABOUT ANTLER COLLECTING	19
FISH IDENTIFICATION TABLE	FRONT/BACK COVERS

PART I
HUNTING AND TRAPPING
REGULATIONS MEMBERS

1. *General Hunting Regulations*

- A. The use of a motor or engine propelled boat or watercraft to hunt wildlife is lawful only when all motion caused by such motor or engine has ceased. A boat motor may be no larger than 15 horsepower except on Flathead Lake upstream from Seliš Ksanka Qlispe (SKQ) Dam (formerly Kerr Dam).
- B. The use or aid of airborne craft, snow vehicles, dogs (except dogs for hunting migratory waterfowl, pheasants and gray partridge), set guns, and spotlights and other similar devices for hunting is prohibited. (See exceptions for Wild Bison Hunting).
- C. The use, assistance, or reliance upon any radio communication device or cell phone(s) to drive, harass, hunt or take wildlife is prohibited. (Cell phone exception for wild bison hunting).
- D. Hunters must stop and report at Tribal check stations if a check station is on the hunters route of travel to or from the hunting area.
- E. Waste or sale of big game meat is prohibited. Hides or antlers not in velvet may be sold. Failure to redeem the meat of any wildlife submitted to a processing business within one month after the completion of processing shall be deemed waste.
- F. The purchase, sale, or acquisition through barter or trade of antlers in velvet is prohibited.
- G. It is unlawful to hunt black bears when it involves bait.
- H. All big game and furbearing animals shall be field dressed in such a manner as to allow positive identification of species and sex.
- I. Females of all big game species shall not be hunted or taken from February 1 to August 31 (see exceptions in Part 1 Section 2, item B - Elk Hunting in Ferry Basin Wildlife Management Unit). Black bears that are not lactating or not accompanied by cubs may be taken throughout the year. However, female black bears that are obviously lactating or accompanied by cubs may not be taken during any time of the year. If a lactating female black bear is taken by mistake, the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation must be notified within 24 hours and an effort must be made to locate and capture the cubs.
- J. Hunts for religious, cultural or spiritual purposes that are otherwise prohibited by regulation may be engaged in if approved by the appropriate Tribal Culture Committee and or the Tribal Council.
- K. Tribal Members hunting big game on the Reservation are required to have their valid Tribal I.D. on their person to do so, and shall not do so in the company, nor may they be assisted by non-members in any aspect of the pursuit, kill, field dressing or transportation of unprocessed game from the place of taking to the place of the hunter's dwelling unless authorized by the Tribal Council. Provided, however, that non-member first generation descendant children under 18 years of age may accompany their Tribal Member immediate family member in these activities with the following exceptions:
 - (1) The descendant may not kill the animal.
 - (2) The descendant may not accompany their Tribal member immediate family members in these activities within the designated Tribal Primitive Areas.
- L. It is unlawful to give the meat of game animals to non-members other than immediate family. Non-members at cultural events may consume such meat. For the purpose of this provision 'immediate family' shall mean parents, grandparents, children and members of the individual's immediate household.
- M. The Rattlesnake Wilderness Area off of the Reservation is closed to hunting or otherwise taking mountain goats. This closure is enacted to facilitate efforts to reestablish a viable population in that area.
- N. Some roads on forest management lands are under administrative closure to protect game populations. Use of these roads involving motor vehicles is prohibited.
- O. Use of motorized vehicles off designated open roads within Tribal Wildlife Mitigation Areas is prohibited to protect habitat restoration projects and nesting wildlife and to maintain habitat security and quality.
- P. The following species of game animals are closed to hunting and taking within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation: grizzly bear, pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, mountain goats (see exceptions in item U.)
- Q. It is unlawful to take live or dead wildlife within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation and offer it for sale, trade, exchange, or barter, with the exception of permitted trapping. Wildlife means any big game, fish, migratory waterfowl, pheasant, upland game bird, aquatic life, furbearing animal, or non-game animal.

- R. Hunting or otherwise taking bighorn sheep on the Reservation is prohibited except as regulated by Tribal Council and Part 1 Section 3. Possession of bighorn sheep ram heads is prohibited except for those taken or possessed pursuant to Part 1 Section 3. All bighorn sheep ram heads taken or possessed without a permit must be delivered to the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation for Investigation within 5 days of discovery. All ram heads, whether taken under permit or not, must be plugged by the Tribal Wildlife Management Program.
- S. It is unlawful to shoot firearms from or across public roadways and/or public rights-of-way.
- T. Wildlife transportation tags are available for the transportation of harvested game. They may be obtained upon inspection of collected animals by Tribal officials.
- U. The hunting or other taking of mountain lions and Northern gray wolves on the Reservation is prohibited unless otherwise regulated by Tribal Council action. However, mountain lions may be harassed or killed if they are directly threatening a person or domestic animals and northern gray wolves may be harassed or killed if they are directly threatening a person or domestic animal as described in the Conflict Section of the Northern Gray Wolf Management Plan for the Flathead Indian Reservation.
- V. Hunting for northern gray wolves on the Reservation may be authorized annually by Tribal Council action and may include specific areas open to hunting and regulations regarding method of take, open seasons, and other applicable regulation for exception. (see Item U) (1) See annual GRAY WOLF TRAPPING AND HARVEST REGULATIONS booklet (available online and at our permitting office) for current seasons and regulations.
- W. It is unlawful to possess or otherwise have in a person's control or custody any live big game animals or fur bearers which are otherwise closed or restricted by Tribal regulations.
- X. Hunting of big game (mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose and black bear) is prohibited within 200 yards of the openings of wildlife crossing structures on U.S. Highway 93.
- Y. Hunting is prohibited within Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, and the Bison Range.
- Z. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a residence while hunting without residents' permission.

- AA. The American bullfrog is an invasive species on the Reservation. Bullfrogs may be legally taken any time of day or night by dip net, gig, hook and line or hand. Any other method of taking bullfrogs is prohibited. Clear identification of a bullfrog from native frog or toad species is required before any take of a bullfrog. Do not move or transplant bullfrogs, it is unlawful to move a bullfrog from one source of water to another.

Note: It is not illegal to harvest big game animals that have radio collars, neckbands or markers, but it would be preferable that these animals not be taken. If a marked animal is taken, radios or other markers should be returned to the Tribal Wildlife Management Program at Polson.

2. Elk Hunting in the Ferry Basin Wildlife Management Unit

- A. The Ferry Basin Wildlife Management Unit is described as: A point beginning at Sloan's Bridge, then west on the Ronan – Hot Springs Road, until the Schmidt Lookout Road, then west on the Schmidt Lookout Road to Highway 382, then south on Highway 382 to the Flathead River, then easterly and northerly along the north and west bank of the Flathead River to Sloan's Bridge, the point of origin. The islands along the Flathead River, along the southern border are within the Ferry Basin Management Unit, therefore, a Ferry basin bull permit is required. Private landowners within the Unit may allow Tribal Member elk hunting on their property.
- B. Hunting of bull elk within the Ferry Basin Wildlife Management Unit is restricted by these regulations, annual harvest quotas and special annual regulations set by the Tribal Council. Permits are NOT required for hunting antlerless elk (cow or calves) within the Ferry Basin Wildlife Management Unit between September 1 and December 31.

See annual FERRY BASIN ELK HARVEST SEASONS AND REGULATIONS booklet (available online and at our permitting office) for current season, permitting and general Ferry Basin Elk Hunting Regulations.

- C. Antlerless elk are defined to be female elk, calf elk or juvenile male elk that has not developed antlers less than 8 inches in length as measured from the top of the skull. Hunters who inadvertently take an elk with antlers of 8 inches in length or less will not be considered in violation of this regulation. Hunters must have a bull/ either sex tag for the Ferry Basin WMU if they take a branched antlered bull, or bull with antlers greater than 8 inches.

- D. It is recommended to have each harvested elk and big game animal tested for Chronic Wasting Disease before consumption. See GENERAL INFORMATION section for testing options and CWD safety guidelines.

3. *Bighorn Sheep Hunting in the Little Money (Camas) Wildlife Management Unit*

- A. The Little Money (Camas) Wildlife Management Unit is described as: At a point beginning at Perma Bridge, then west on the north side of the Flathead River to the Reservation Boundary, then north to Highway 28 then east along Highway 28 to Highway 382, then South on Highway 382 to the Flathead River, the point of origin.
- B. Hunting bighorn sheep on the Reservation and within the Little Money (Camas) Wildlife Management Unit is by permit only and are restricted by these regulations, annual harvest quotas and special annual regulations set by the Tribal Council.

See annual LITTLE MONEY/CAMAS BIGHORN SHEEP HARVEST SEASONS AND REGULATIONS booklet (available online and at our permitting office) for current seasons, permitting and general Bighorn Sheep Hunting Regulations on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

- C. Any found or taken Bighorn sheep heads must be brought to the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation office within 5 days of discovery for documentation, investigation, and “plugging” of the animal.
- (1) A limit of 3 found ram heads will be permitted to each Tribal member. This 3 found ram head limit does not apply to legally harvested animals taken through the permitted Little Money (Camas) Bighorn Sheep hunt.
- D. Emergency Closure: The Little Money (Camas) Wildlife Management Unit may be closed by Tribal Council action under emergency conditions which would cause unusual vulnerability and harvest of bighorn sheep (severe weather, drought, food shortage, food attraction, poor condition of animals, etc.). Closures will be implemented within 48 hours of Tribal Council action and such closures shall be announced through the local media, and posted in the area.
- E. Permit Transfer: Hunters are prohibited from transferring their permit to another person or using a permit issued to another person. Elders or handicapped persons who receive a permit may request, from Tribal Administration, authorization for a designated hunter who is a Tribal

member to hunt for them. If such authorization is granted, the valid Permit is then transferred to the designated hunter.

4. *Restricted Areas*

- A. Access and usage of the Flathead River and shoreline up to 560 feet upriver from SKQ Dam and within 250 feet downstream from SKQ Dam powerhouse is prohibited.
- B. The following areas are closed to entry to non-members of the Tribes, except that a non-member spouse and non-member children of a member of the Tribes may accompany that member for purposes other than hunting and fishing, provided such non-members, if of age, possess a valid recreation permit.
- (1) The South Fork Jocko Primitive Area, described as: That portion of the South Fork of the Jocko River Area beginning at the point of where the Reservation boundary intersects the Jocko-Seeley Swan Road, thence south and west along the Reservation Boundary to the intersection with the north drainage divide ridge of the East Fork of Finley Creek, thence west along said ridge to the intersection of the section line common to Sections 34 and 35, T.16N, R.19W, thence north along the section line to the intersection with the south bank of the Upper Jocko “S” Canal, thence north east along the southeast bank of said canal to the intersection with the Jocko River, thence east along the South bank of the Jocko River and South Fork of the Jocko River, thence along the Jocko-Seeley Swan Road that swings northeast from the South Fork of the Jocko River to the point of beginning.
- (2) The Kitqwanukxu’ - (Lozeau) Special Management Area, described as: That northwest portion of the Flathead Indian Reservation beginning at the intersection of the Reservation Boundary and Hubbard Dam Road located in the N1/2, Section 34, T25N, R24W; Thence southerly and easterly along said road to its intersection with Trip Road; Thence westerly and southerly along Trip Road to its intersection with West Road; Thence southerly and westerly along West Road to it’s intersection with Far West Road; Thence due west to the 1/4 corner located in the center of the NE1/4 of Section 33, T.24N., R.24W.; Thence in a straight line southerly and westerly to the highest point on the ridge in the center of Section 33, T.24N., R.24W.; Thence southerly and westerly to the highest point along the southerly

drainage divide of Mill Creek located in the SW1/4, NE1/4, Section 5, T.23N., R.24W.; Thence westerly and southerly along said drainage divide to its intersection with the L-2050 Road; Thence southerly along the L-1000 Road to its intersection with the Reservation Boundary; Thence northerly, westerly and easterly along said boundary to the point of beginning.

- (3) The Wolf Point Tribal Park near Polson, Montana.
- (4) The Kupawicqnuq Tribal Park near Elmo, Montana.
- (5) The Polson Tribal Park in Polson, Montana.

5. *Off-Reservation Hunting*

- A. Members may take any animal that is permitted to be taken under Tribal and federal law. All on-Reservation Tribal restrictions, seasons and bag limits shall apply to Tribal members who engage in off-Reservation treaty hunting activities. See annually updated SEASONS AND REGULATIONS booklets for elk, bighorn sheep, moose, wolf and Yellowstone bison (available online and at our permitting office) for current season regulations. Tribal members engaging in hunting activities both on and off-Reservation are required to have a valid Tribal I.D. on their person to do so.
- B. Members may engage in off-Reservation treaty hunting on open and unclaimed lands. TRIBAL MEMBERS ENGAGED IN OFF-RESERVATION TREATY HUNTING SHALL NOT DO SO IN THE COMPANY OF NON-MEMBERS. See Section 10, item A (13) for exceptions.
- C. Hunters must stop and report at Tribal check stations, if a check station is on the hunters route of travel to and from the hunting area.

6. *Moose Hunting*

- A. Hunting moose within the Flathead Indian Reservation and on open and unclaimed lands off of the Flathead Reservation is by permit only and are restricted by these regulations, annual harvest quotas and special annual regulations set by the Tribal Council.

See annual FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBAL MEMBER MOOSE HARVEST SEASONS AND REGULATIONS booklet (available online and at our permitting office) for current seasons, permitting and general Moose Hunting Regulations on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

- B. It is recommended to have each harvested moose and big game animal tested for Chronic Wasting Disease before consumption. See GENERAL INFORMATION section for testing options and CWD safety guidelines.

7. *Bird Hunting*

- A. Waterfowl, or any other migratory game bird, may not be hunted by the aid of baiting on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.
- B. All game birds taken on Reservation lands shall be field dressed in such a manner as to retain at least one fully feathered wing and one foot attached to the body.
- C. Federally-approved non-toxic shot types legal for use in shotguns are the only legal shotgun loads permitted to hunt migratory birds.
- D. The following species of waterfowl and game birds are closed to hunting or taking within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation: Tundra swans, trumpeter swans, harlequin ducks, common snipe, common loons, sandhill cranes, sharp-tailed grouse and white-tailed ptarmigan are closed to harvest on the Reservation.
- E. Members must comply with regulations on means of taking and evidence of species and sex. The hunting season for migratory waterfowl by Tribal members shall be in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Tribal members shall not hunt or take migratory waterfowl between March 10 and September 1 of any year.
- F. All bird hunting is closed in Safe Harbor Marsh and the Millie's Woods area as posted.
- G. Leaving artificial floating decoys (with line connections) unattended is prohibited.
- H. Decontaminate waders and decoys before transporting gear to a new wetland area. Be sure to clean all debris and dry equipment to prevent the spread of AIS.

8. *Furbearers*

- A. Members who wish to engage in trapping or otherwise taking furbearing animals must obtain a trapping permit from the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation prior to commencement of trapping. All traps must be clearly marked with the name and address of the owner permanently attached.
- B. All furbearing animals shall be field dressed in such a manner as to allow positive identification of species and sex.
- C. The Reservation is closed to trapping or otherwise taking of river otters, wolverines, Canadian lynx, fishers, bobcats, and gray wolves (see exception in Part I, Section 1, item U.)

9. *Off-Reservation Wild Bison Hunting*

- A. Hunting off-reservation wild bison on open and unclaimed lands, off of the Flathead Reservation, is by permit only and are restricted by these regulations, annual harvest quotas and special annual regulations set by the Tribal Council.

See annual FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBAL MEMBER YELLOWSTONE BISON HUNT REGULATIONS booklet (available online and at our permitting office) for current seasons, permitting and general Yellowstone Bison Hunting Regulations for Tribal Members of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

- B. Non-Tribal Members may only help with the transport of downed bison while they are in accompaniment of the permitted Tribal Member, therefore, a Tribal Member cannot send a downed bison back to the Flathead Reservation with a Non-Member if the Tribal Member remains in Yellowstone to hunt.
- C. There are no known wild populations of bison within the Reservation. Privately owned bison, at-large, are not legal take within the boundaries of the Reservation, unless coordinated with the owner.

PART II

FISHING REGULATIONS MEMBERS

1. *Reservation-Wide Fishing Regulations*

- A. Seasons:
 - (1) Tribal members may fish in any waters not closed to fishing at any time of the year. Please refer to special management unit regulations for waters closed or restricted to fishing.
- B. Creel limits:
 - (1) BULL TROUT MAY NOT BE TAKEN FROM OR TARGETED IN ANY RESERVATION WATERS.
 - (2) Fish species not specifically listed herein may be taken in any number unless otherwise specified in Section 2. Special Management Unit Regulations.
- C. It is Unlawful:
 - (1) To fish or take fish within 200 feet upstream or downstream from any fish passage (ladder) or fish protection (screen) structure.
 - (2) To transport or introduce any viable fish or viable fish eggs into any waters.
 - (3) To leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any property where public recreation is permitted.
 - (4) To use electricity or use any carbide, lime, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any water body where fish are found for the purpose of stunning or killing fish.
 - (5) To waste any part of fish suitable for food (see food consumption guidelines on page 14).
 - (6) To use boats, float tubes or other flotation devices on Ninepipe, Pablo Reservoirs, or Safe Harbor Marsh.
 - (7) When ice fishing, to cut larger than the maximum size hole allowable of 144 square inches measured at the surface of the ice.
 - (8) To remove fish from any research sampling gear (fish traps, gill nets, etc.).
- D. Lures and Bait:
 - (1) Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not

include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural or artificial baits or any natural or man made food, or any man made lures that have been treated with a natural or artificial fish attractant or feeding stimulant.

- (2) Leeches, worms, insects, and larvae may be used as bait except in water limited to artificial lures only.
- (3) Live Bait: Any locally occurring native species, except bull or cutthroat trout that exists within a water body may be used as live bait in that water body, except in waters limited to artificial lures only. Live bait harvested from one water body and used for bait in another water body is prohibited because it may transmit whirling disease and introduce a new species.
- (4) Dead Bait: Any fish may be used dead as bait except bull trout, cutthroat trout, lake whitefish, and mountain whitefish, except in water limited to artificial lures only.

E. Check Stations: Anglers must stop and report at Tribal check stations if a check station is on the angler's route of travel to or from the fishing area.

F. Commercial Fishing: Tribal members may engage in commercial fishing activities and offer for sale fish harvested from such activities when such activities are conducted pursuant to a duly authorized "Commercial Fishing Permit" and permit conditions contained therein.

2. Special Management Unit Regulations

A. Management Unit 1 - Jocko River Drainage excluding lakes and reservoirs:

- (1) Certain watercourses are closed to non-members (See Part 1, Section 2 of these regulations for specific details).
- (2) Trout fishing in the North and Middle Forks of the Jocko River and the main Jocko River is limited to fishing with artificial flies and lures only.
 - (a) Catch and release fishing only for cutthroat trout.

B. Management Unit 2 - Post and Mission Creek Drainage:

- (1) Dry Lake Creek upstream from St. Mary's Lake (Tabor Reservoir) to the concrete weir and St. Mary's Lake within 200 feet of the mouth of Dry Lake Creek, are closed to fishing or taking fish the entire year.
- (2) Upper Post Creek, upstream from McDonald

Lake (Reservoir) to the confluence of its northern (from Moon Lake) and southern (from First Lake) tributaries and McDonald Lake within 200 feet of the mouth of Post Creek are closed to fishing the entire year.

C. Management Unit 5 - Flathead River:

- (1) Catch and release fishing only for cutthroat trout, from SKQ Dam to the Clark Fork River.

D. Management Unit 8 - Reservoirs:

- (1) Kicking Horse Reservoir shall be closed to fishing or taking fish at all times that the reservoir is drawn down in surface elevation below 3050 feet above mean sea level, and such closure shall be posted.

(2) Ninepipe Reservoir:

(A) Ninepipe Reservoir is a National Wildlife Refuge set aside for use by wildlife. The following fishing regulations are for the protection of wildlife:

- (i) No flotation devices may be used.
- (ii) The reservoir is closed to fishing during waterfowl season.
- (iii) From the close of waterfowl season until March 1 fishing is allowed on the entire reservoir including ice fishing.
- (iv) From March 1-July 15 fishing is allowed in two areas along the shorelines as follows:
 - (a) from the picnic area, located near the south west corner of the reservoir, north and east around the reservoir to the posted sign and;
 - (b) from the Highway 93 bridge, located on the east side of the reservoir north and west around the reservoir to the posted sign.
- (v) From July 16 until waterfowl season the entire reservoir is open to fishing.
- (vi) Ninepipe Family Fishing Pond is open to fishing to all anglers, with a catch and release provision for anglers age 15 and older.

(B) Shall be closed to fishing or taking fish at all times when the reservoir is drawn down in surface elevation below 2,998 feet above mean sea level, and such closure shall be posted.

- (3) Pablo Reservoir:
 - (A) The entire reservoir is closed during migratory waterfowl hunting season. It is open the balance of the year along the north and east shorelines from the inlet canal to the south end of the dike as posted. Ice fishing is permitted on the entire reservoir.
 - (B) Pablo Reservoir shall be closed to fishing or taking fish at all times when the reservoir is down in surface elevation below 3,190 feet above mean sea level, and such closure shall be posted.
- (4) Mission Reservoir shall be closed to fishing or taking fish at all times that the reservoir is drawn down in surface elevation below 3360 feet above mean sea level and such closure shall be posted.
- (5) St. Mary's Lake
 - (a) St. Mary's Lake (Tabor Reservoir) is closed to the use of float tubes, boats or other flotation devices during August, September and October and fishing during those months is restricted to the dam face.
 - (b) Dry Lake Creek, which flows into St. Mary's Lake, and the lake within 200 feet of Dry Lake Creek, is closed to fishing.
- (6) McDonald Lake
 - (a) McDonald Lake within 200 feet of the mouth of Post Creek and Post Creek, upstream from McDonald Lake (Reservoir) to the confluence of its northern (from Moon Lake) and southern (from First Lake) tributaries are closed to fishing the entire year.

PART III

RECREATION REGULATIONS MEMBERS

1. Regulations of General Application

The following acts are prohibited while engaged in recreation activities, including but not limited to hiking, camping, boating, snowmobiling, packing with livestock, and related activities:

- A. Certain Tribal campgrounds and recreation sites may have special regulations, which are posted, on site. (Blue Bay & Bison Range)
- B. Leaving a camp unattended for more than seven (7) days and camping in any single campground or other

single location longer than 30 consecutive days during a calendar year.

- C. Discharging any firearms in a negligent manner or in any designated campground, trailhead, boat launch, or parking lot.
- D. Discharge of Pyrotechnics and Fireworks. It is hereby declared unlawful for any individual or corporation to discharge or cause to be discharged any pyrotechnics or fireworks on tribal-owned Recreation Areas. This does not include Tribal homesites. The prohibition encompasses various circumstances, including but not limited to:
 - (1) Within the exterior boundaries of a Wilderness Area, tribal forest area, tribal park, or any tribal recreation area, such as campgrounds, lakes, boat launches, day use areas, etc.
 - (2) In the vicinity of another person, group of people, or any animal in a manner likely to expose them to the risk of injury.
- E. Leaving refuse, litter, or waste materials and disposal of any refuse other than human waste in sanitation units. (Pack it in, Pack it out)
- F. Guiding, outfitting or any form of commercial activity, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Tribes.
- G. A metal fire ring must be used if present at campsites. No leaving campfires unattended.
- H. Using or cutting live vegetation and trees for campfires.
- I. Allowing pets or livestock to run unattended.
 - (1) All dogs in the Kicking Horse Reservoir and posted Wildlife Habitat Mitigation and Conservation areas must be on a leash under the direct and physical control of a person during the period of **March 1 through August 31** of each year. The Kicking Horse area is defined as all Tribal lands within a mile of the high water line of Kicking Horse Reservoir. The use of electronic collars does not constitute direct or physical control nor does it constitute a leash.
- J. Disposal of human body wastes other than in sanitation facilities when available.
- K. Following recreation areas are restricted to day use only:
 - (1) Kupawicqnuq Tribal Park.
 - (2) Hoskins Landing (Dixon) River Access area.
 - (3) Wolf Point Tribal Park.
 - (4) Bison Range.

- L. The following recreation areas are restricted to a 10:00 PM curfew for those people not engaged in hiking, camping, boating, snowmobiling, horse riding, or fishing activities:
- (1) Mission Dam Recreation Area.
 - (2) North Crow Creek Campground.
- M. No person shall destroy, deface, injure, remove, or otherwise damage any natural or improved Tribal property or cut, destroy or mutilate any tree, shrub, plant, sign, or any geological, historical, or archaeological feature. This shall not be interpreted to preclude picking berries.
- N. Driving automobiles, trucks, jeeps, campers and similar enclosed passenger vehicles on the ice of frozen water bodies is prohibited.
- O. The use of hang-gliders or para-gliders on Tribal lands unless authorized in writing by the Tribes.
- P. The use of fireworks at the Blue Bay Grounds is prohibited.
- Q. The Tribes reserve the right to post Tribal lands and waters to additional regulations and restrictions not contained herein pertaining to environmental protection, conservation, public safety and regulation pursuant to recommendations of the Tribal Natural Resources Department.
- R. No swimming above developed boat-launch ramps.
- S. Backcountry Food Storage Regulations
- (1) Keep a clean camp. Do not attract bears or other wildlife. Do not burn waste in fire rings or leave litter around your camp.
 - (2) Campers without vehicles must secure items in food lockers, bear-resistant containers, or use hanging devices.
 - (3) When not in immediate use, all food, garbage, cooking appliances, utensils, storage containers (empty or full), this includes coolers and beverage containers regardless of use or contents, and pet items or any attractants that may provide a reward to wildlife, must be stored in a bear resistant manner in one of the following ways if unattended:
 - a. Secured in a closed hard-sided camper, vehicle's trunk, cab, or trailer cab, day or night.
 - b. Secured in a hard-sided dwelling or storage building;
 - c. Suspended at least 10 feet up (from the bottom of the suspended item) and 4 feet out from any upright support, i.e. tree, pole;
 - d. Stored in an approved bear-resistant container;
 - e. Stored within an approved and operating electric fence;
 - f. Stored in any combination of these methods;
 - g. Or stored by methods other than those described herein and approved in writing by the Tribal Council.
- (4) Backcountry Food Storage Definitions:
- a. Attractant: Food as defined below and garbage from human, livestock or pet foods.
 - b. Food: Any nourishing substance, which includes human food or drink (canned, solid or liquid), livestock feed (except baled or cubed hay without additives) and pet food.
 - c. Bear Resistant Containers: Approved bear-resistant containers shall meet the following criteria: A securable container constructed of solid material capable of withstanding 200 foot-pounds of energy applied by direct impact. The containers, when secured and under stress, will not have any openings greater than one-quarter (1/4) inch that would allow a bear to gain entry by biting or pulling with its claws. A bear-resistant container developed commercially must be approved by the USDA, Forest Service, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC).
- T. Human disturbance is a major cause of decline in cave-dwelling bats in the United States. With bat populations all across the globe facing the threat of catastrophic decline from White-nose syndrome, it will become increasingly important to limit disturbance to cave-dwelling bats during months when solitude is critical to bat survival. Lick cave located in the Northeast portion of the Flathead Indian Reservation will be closed to recreational activity from **November 1 to April 1** to protect an annual hibernaculum for several sensitive bat species.
- U. Anyone visiting caves outside the region or moving from cave to cave is asked to thoroughly clean and decontaminate their cave gear and clothing to limit the spread of White-nose syndrome and other diseases.

2. *Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness Regulations*

- A. Grizzly Bear Management Zone:
- (1) The Special Grizzly Bear Management Zone, commonly referred to as the McDonald Peak Grizzly Bear Closure Area, is closed to all recreational use from **July 15 to October 1** each year unless posted otherwise. (See Reservation map for location)
 - (2) The Ashley Lake drainage from the Lakes to the Pablo A canal is restricted to day use only when the Grizzly Bear Management Zone is open to recreation use. (See Reservation map for location)
- B. The entire Wilderness Area is closed to all livestock use between March 1 and June 30. This spring closure includes all pack and riding stock.
- C. The picketing or restraint of livestock shall be at least 100 feet from any water body or established campsite. Livestock shall be kept at least 10 feet from the base of any tree.
- D. The use of feed other than prepared horse pellets, grain or certified weed seed free hay, and leaving unused feed is unlawful.
- E. General Regulations:

The following acts are prohibited within the Wilderness:

- (1) The use of any motorized or mechanical vehicles or devices such as motorcycles, electric bicycles or mountain bicycles.
- (2) The cutting of any live trees or vegetation.
- (3) Littering (PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT).
- (4) The construction of new trails or any permanent structure.
- (5) Camping in an area posted for rehabilitation.
- (6) The gathering of fuel wood and the disposal of human wastes within 100 feet of a water source, trail or campsite.
- (7) The use of any cleaners other than biodegradable soap.
- (8) Dogs may only be in the wilderness when accompanied by their owners and must be under the owners control.

3. *Livestock (riding and pack animals)*

- A. The following activities involving the use of livestock are prohibited:
- (1) Allowing livestock to proceed in excess of a slow walk when passing in the immediate vicinity of persons on foot.
 - (2) The picketing or restraint of livestock within 100 feet of any water body or established campsite, or by use of other than established corrals or picket areas. A 30 foot picket line stretched between two trees is the recommended method of restraining livestock.
- B. In the event that any person observes dead or disabled livestock or other animals in the wilderness or near trails or campsites, please notify the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation.

4. *Off-Road Motor Vehicle Use, Motorcycles, ATVs, Snowmobiles and Electric Bicycles*

- A. Motorized vehicle use off of authorized roadways is allowed for retrieval of downed game or previously cut forest products, only. All other off road motor vehicle use is prohibited. For this purpose an authorized roadway is defined as a route specifically built as authorized by the Tribes for the purpose of motor vehicle use.
- B. A motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle may not be operated below the high-water mark in rivers, streams, and lakes on tribal land, even if a road is present. The only exceptions to this regulation are as follows:
- (1) Man-made bodies of water where established roads are present, such as Saint Mary's Lake, Lone Pine Reservoir, Mission Dam & Lower Crow Reservoir.
 - (2) If you are launching a boat on Flathead River or McDonald Lake, you may temporarily travel below the high-water mark at established boat launch sites for the sole purpose of unloading and loading your vessel.
- C. Certain Tribal roads may be closed to motorcycle, ATV, or motorized use. These roads will be posted.
- D. Operating motorcycles/ATV's in a negligent manner is prohibited.
- E. The use of motorcycles/ATV's by persons under 15 years of age without adult supervision is prohibited.
- F. Snowmobiling.

The following activities involving snowmobiles are prohibited:

- (1) Operating a snowmobile with the possession of firearms, bows, or crossbows with exceptions detailed in the Wild Bison Hunting Regulation.
- (2) Operating snowmobiles in a negligent manner.
- (3) The use of snowmobiles by persons under 15 years of age without adult supervision.
- (4) Use of snowmobiles for the purpose of photographing, pursuing, or harassing wildlife.
- (5) The use of snowmobiles within the South Fork of the Jocko Primitive Area or within the Kitqwanukxu' - (Lozeau) Special Management Area.

5. Boating and Water Sports

The following boating and water sport activities are prohibited:

- A. The use of motors in excess of fifteen horsepower on all bodies of water with the exception of Flathead Lake upstream from SKQ Dam.
- B. Use of motorized boats on Turtle Lake & Twin Lakes.
- C. The use of any boat or flotation device on Pablo Reservoir and Ninepipe Reservoir and Safe Harbor Marsh.
- D. Operating watercraft in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb, or damage the property of any person or pursuing or harassing wildlife.
- E. Floating the Flathead River without Coast Guard approved life jackets.
- F. Water skiing or the use of jet propelled personal watercraft (including jet skis and wave runners) on all water bodies except Flathead Lake. No jet-propelled personal watercraft allowed on Blue Bay property or within the buoys.
- G. Discharge or disposal of any waste material.
- H. All boaters must comply with regulations of the United States Coast Guard Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, including, but not limited to, the use of personal flotation devices and boater safety.
- I. Access and usage of the Flathead River and shoreline within 560 feet upriver from SKQ Dam and within 250 feet downstream from SKQ Dam powerhouse is prohibited.
- J. All boats and watercraft entering the Flathead Basin

watershed must be inspected for aquatic invasive species (AIS) and certified clean of any AIS by a Tribal, State, or other authorized agency AIS inspector. Operators of the boats or watercraft must possess proof (certificate, decal or receipt) of an inspection at all times and show it upon request from any law enforcement personnel of any competent jurisdiction.

- (1) Boat motors, other than electric motors, are not permitted on or used with any boat on all water bodies of the Flathead Reservation, with the exception of Flathead Lake (unlimited hp motors) and the Lower Flathead River (15 hp motor limit.)
- (2) Boat trailers are not permitted to enter Flathead Reservation water bodies with the exception of Flathead Lake and the Lower Flathead River.
- (3) All persons hauling or trailering boats and watercraft must stop at any open boat AIS check station along their travel route.
- (4) The use of felt soled waders in any water bodies of the Flathead Reservation is prohibited.
- (5) All water use gear and equipment must be clear, drained and dry before use on any water body of the Flathead Reservation.

6. Blue Bay Campground Special Regulations

- A. All vehicles must fill out a vehicle use permit registration envelope, including members of the CSKT and the general public.
- B. Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited in all areas of the campgrounds.
- C. No firearms or fireworks are allowed on Blue Bay grounds.
- D. No jet skis/ATVs in the Bay or on the grounds.
- E. No draining of grey water in the campground.
- F. Checkout time for campers is 2pm unless registered for the night.
- G. Quiet hours are from 10pm to 7am. Campground gate is closed during quiet hours. No vehicle entry, walk-in only.
- H. This campground is first come first serve, no reservations.
- I. Camps must be occupied nightly or your belongings will be removed. Keep a clean camp during your stay. You are required to clean the site before leaving.
- J. Be "Bear Aware". All food/coolers and attractants must be in vehicles or hard-sided campers whenever someone is not present or while sleeping.

- K. Camping is allowed for no more than 10 consecutive days at a time, and then you must wait 7 days to return.
- L. No campers under the age of 18 without adult supervision.
- M. Camps in electric sites will be charged a full-service rate.
- N. Do not cut any vegetation and/or trees. Firewood for campfires is available for designated campground areas. Do not leave campfires unattended.
- O. Pets may not be left unattended and must be on a leash at all times, see our Pet Policy.
- P. No lifeguard on duty, swim at own risk. No one allowed under the age of 14 can swim without adult supervision. Do not swim or play on or around boat ramp docks.
- Q. Speed limit for everyone is 10mph. Drive safe and slowly or you will be removed from the grounds.
- R. In order to qualify for the free rate for a CSKT member (basic camping) or a CSKT elder (full-service camping), the Member or Elder must be staying at the site that they originally signed up for. If the CSKT member does not stay at the campsite for which the fee was waived, the current occupant of the campsite, if not a CSKT member, will be charged the non-member rates. As well as if a CSKT member is using a full-service site, they will be charged accordingly.
- S. The Blue Bay staff and Law Enforcement officials are authorized to immediately remove a person or persons that violate the rules. Furthermore, if deemed necessary for the safety of the public and staff you can be permanently removed from Blue Bay. Any violence or threatening acts toward staff or the public will result in permanent removal from the grounds. If you cause property damage or are a nuisance to other users, future loss of privileges to enter and use Blue Bay grounds may result from those regulation violations.

7. Bison Range Special Regulations

- A. CSKT Tribal Members do not pay a fee for entry to the Bison Range. Stopping at the Visitor Center before starting the drive is recommended for important updates or information.
- B. The Bison Range is a pay to enter daily fee use area, all visitors are required to secure a respective day use pass or annual pass.
- C. All activities are restricted to daylight hours only, additional use hours and days may be determined by

current weather and road conditions. Please check entrance areas & visitor center for open use times & days.

- D. Large vehicles over 30 feet long and those towing trailers, along with motorcycles, ATV, UTVs, and bicycles are not allowed on Red Sleep Drive or Prairie Drive.
- E. The use of motorized vehicles off designated open roads is prohibited.
- F. All passengers are required to be seated inside of enclosed passenger vehicles while the vehicle is in motion. Passengers are not allowed to ride in the bed of a pickup truck vehicle.
- G. Impeding vehicle traffic while parked is prohibited.
- H. Walking away from your personal vehicle is only allowable at the visitor center area, on designated foot trails, picnic areas, at sanitation stations and in designated fishing areas.
- I. Approaching animals on foot is prohibited at all times. Persons must remain at least 100 yards (91m) away from bears, wolves and mountain lions, and at least 25 yards (23m) away from all other animals including bison, deer and elk.
- J. All pets must be on a leash and under control at all times.
- K. The use of drones is prohibited unless authorized by Tribal Council.
- L. Engaging in any hunting or related activities and the carrying, possessing, or utilizing the following items is prohibited: firearms, cross bows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, fireworks, explosives or other weapons is prohibited unless authorized by the Tribal Council.
- M. Disturbing, injuring, killing, poisoning, destroying, collecting or attempting to disturb, destroy or collect any plant, animal or parts thereof (I.e. antlers) is prohibited, unless authorized by the Tribal Council.
- N. Visitors must comply with all special use regulations posted on site.

PART IV

ACCESS TO HUNTING AND FISHING AREAS

1. *Access to hunting and fishing areas*

- A. Unless otherwise restricted by these regulations or other applicable law, a person may hunt or fish on lands not posted to prohibit hunting or fishing activities. An owner of land may post his land to prohibit hunting or fishing or both by one of the following methods:
- (1) Placement of signs greater than 50 square inches in size prohibiting hunting, or fishing, or both.
 - (2) Painting fence posts with not less than 50 square inches of fluorescent orange paint, except when metal fence posts are used the entire post must be painted fluorescent orange.
- B. The posting provisions of Part A above must be placed at each outer gate and normal point of access to the property, including both sides of a water body crossing the property wherever the water body intersects an outer boundary line and at other conspicuous locations.
- C. Lessees of land owned by the Tribes may, upon written approval of the Tribal Council, post the leased land to prohibit hunting, or fishing, or both on an annual basis.
- D. The presence of green paint or signs on fence posts denotes Tribal land. Not all Tribal land is marked.

PART V

CULTURE AND RELIGION

These regulations will be applied in such a manner as to avoid interference with the cultural and religious practices of Tribal members, as protected by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.

1. *Disposition of Human Remains*

- A. No entity or individual may engage in the internment or any disposition of human remains on the surface or below the surface of CSKT controlled lands or waters, whether or not such party holds a Tribal land use agreement, except on lands expressly designated for burial by the Tribal Council. For purposes of this section, human remains refers to and includes whole or partial human bodies, ashes from cremation or other products of treatment of human remains, or funerary objects related to or part of a human body. Per the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Land Ordinance 45C, Section 3, subsection C.

GENERAL INFORMATION

RIVER ETIQUETTE

Be aware that boat access areas can be busy places; you may wish to fish in a location that is less congested.

Do not encroach on another angler's space. Use the "visual rule of crowding" and attempt to keep out of sight of other anglers, if at all possible.

Try not to monopolize a good fishing spot on the river, fish for a while, and then move on.

Understand that there are going to be instances when the wading angler should yield to floaters, because there is no other channel for the floaters to navigate.

When possible, avoid using the stream-bed as a pathway. This type of foot traffic can cause damage to the fragile aquatic habitat. Anglers should use the shoreline to travel from one point to the other, if doing so doesn't violate trespass laws.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Leave gates as you find them. Obey gate closure and regulatory signs. Minimize impacts by staying on designated trails. Avoid muddy conditions, or cutting switchbacks

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

Fisheries:

- Tribal Creel Clerks from the Tribal Fisheries Program contacted thousands of anglers. This information is used to improve the fishing opportunities on the Reservation and is very valuable. If you come into contact with a Tribal Creel Clerk, please understand the interview is strictly used to improve the fisheries on the Reservation. Your cooperation is appreciated.
- Over 100,000 fish are typically stocked in Reservation waters to provide fishing opportunities for anglers.

Recreation:

- Numerous projects were completed to provide recreational, fishing, and bird hunting opportunities on the Reservation. The program also continued trail and campground maintenance.
- Vandalism is a serious problem. Last year, the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation spent considerable resources to repair damage to Tribal land, structures, and resources as a direct result of vandalism. If you observe vandalism taking place, please call 675-4700.

Wildlife:

- Operated bird hunter check stations. Maintained Canada goose structures. Continued population surveys for big game, waterfowl, upland game birds, small mammals, forest carnivores, neotropical migrant birds, raptors, amphibians, and reptiles. Continued with numerous wildlife nuisance and depredation complaints. Commenced acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wildlife mitigation parcels.

Enforcement:

- Last year, Tribal Game wardens contacted thousands of anglers, bird hunters, and recreationists to improve compliance with regulations and protect Reservation resources.

BEAR SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Both black and grizzly bears are present on the Flathead Reservation. The majority of human-bear conflicts involve bears protecting their young or a food source. Many of these encounters can be avoided by following a few simple Bear Safe practices:

- Stay alert while recreating and look for bear activity, especially where visibility or hearing is limited (woods, brushy areas, streams)
- Travel in a group and keep members together (especially kids)
- Keep pets on a leash while on trail
- Make noise whenever possible to avoid surprising a bear, especially where visibility or hearing is limited
- Carry bear spray close at hand and know how to use it
- Avoid traveling at night, dawn or dusk
- Avoid carcass sites and scavenger concentrations

Never feed wildlife, especially bears. Bears that become food conditioned lose their natural foraging behavior and pose a threat to human safety. It is unlawful to feed bears in Montana and the Flathead Reservation. Loud noises, such as banging pots and pans, using an air horn or car alarm, or shouting is a simple, effective short-term way to deter a bear on private property. Securing common, household attractants will reduce household conflicts. Properly secure garbage, pet food, bird feeders, small livestock and pets.

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) pose an ever-increasing threat to the health of the Reservation. Currently Reservation waters are testing negative Dreissenid (Zebra and Quagga mussels). AIS are also known as “nuisance” species or “exotic” species and the terms are often used interchangeably. Stop the spread of aquatic invasive species by following these three steps: Clean – Remove all plants, animals, mud and thoroughly wash everything, especially all crevices, waders and other hidden areas. Drain – Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water. Dry – Allow sufficient time for your boat or waders to completely dry before use in other waters. Do not dispose of aquatic animals such as aquarium pets into natural waterbodies. If it survives, your pet becomes an invasive species that native wildlife may not have the defenses to compete against.

FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

These guidelines are intended to assist individuals make personal decisions regarding the consumption of fish. They are not intended to discourage anglers from eating fish, but rather to provide information so anglers can make informed choices. Fish can make important contributions to a healthy diet because they are high in protein, omega-3’s, and other nutrients. Regular consumption of fish has been shown to reduce the incidence of heart disease and cholesterol, and to improve brain and eye development in children. Unfortunately, fish also accumulate contaminants from the environment, such as mercury and PCB’s, which can be very harmful to human health. Individuals therefore must be aware of how to obtain the benefits of fish without unnecessary risk from contaminants. The following suggestions are intended to help with these decisions:

- ***Keep smaller fish for eating*** - Because fish accumulate contaminants over time, smaller fish of the same species will usually have fewer contaminants than larger fish.
- ***Clean and cook your fish to minimize contaminants*** - Because some contaminants like PCB’s are deposited in fat, they can be reduced by trimming fat and cooking fish so that juices drain away from the meat.
- ***Be aware of high risk individuals*** – Children less than 14, nursing mothers and childbearing women are at the greatest risk of having developmental problems caused by contaminants, so these individuals should give extra attention to choosing the safest fish to eat.

Table 1. (page 16) Meal advice for individuals eating fish from the Flathead Indian Reservation and consuming fish throughout the year. These guidelines are less restrictive if fish are only eaten on a seasonal basis or for short periods. Fish smaller than those listed should have very low risk for consumption. Meals consist of 8 oz. servings.

PROTECT OUR HERDS AND PREVENT SPREAD OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected twice on the Flathead Reservation. Additionally, it has been detected across much of Montana and in surrounding Hunting Districts in hunted aboriginal territories. CWD is a progressive, fatal neurological disease that affects deer, elk and moose. The CDC recommends not consuming meat from an animal known to be infected with CWD.

- Have your big game tested for CWD before consumption - our office in Polson (406 6th Ave. East) provides FREE TESTING to ANYONE who brings in harvested big game. We are available Monday-Thursday (7am-5pm) to collect samples from carcasses; there is also a drop-box for hunters to leave the heads during evenings or weekends for sampling at this location. We also have check stations open from September to February for anyone to stop by to have their big game tested for CWD at multiple locations across the Flathead Reservation. Please see our website for me specific hours and locations of CWD Check stations. CSKT Tribal Wildlife still needs hunter help to increase surveillance for CWD on the Flathead Reservation.
- Do not dispose of or dump carcasses/bone piles in forests - CWD can be spread by carcass dumping; any part of the carcass can transmit the disease to healthy big game for more than 2 years. Off-reservation harvested animals may be positive with CWD. If that carcass is disposed of in our forests, our Reservation big game populations could be exposed. Leave all non-meat parts in the field where harvested or dispose of at the Lake County Landfill sites. Follow carcass disposal guidelines to prevent spread of CWD.
- Hunter Safety - wear gloves while field dressing animals, avoid cutting through bone or spinal cord, bone out meat from animals, and do not eat any meat from animals who appear sick or test positive with CWD.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

The waste humans create while enjoying outdoor spaces can have severe impacts if not disposed of properly. It is crucial to anticipate the types of waste you will need to dispose of and know the proper techniques for disposing of each type of waste in the area you are visiting. Leave No Trace encourages outdoor enthusiasts to consider the impacts they leave behind, which will undoubtedly affect other people, water, and wildlife.

The Basics:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled food. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Burning trash is never recommended.
- Deposit solid human waste in facilities, when available, if in a primitive area use catholes dug 6-8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Bury toilet paper deep in a cathole or pack the toilet paper out along with hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

FOOD BANKS AND COMMUNITY KITCHENS

Please consider contributing your catch of lake trout and lake whitefish to the following community service centers. Please call the center nearest you to ask about how to prepare your catch and where to go to contribute it. Some facilities may or may not accept fish. Although most facilities will accept fresh or frozen, cleaned, or filleted fish. Call the nearest facility to you for more details.

Tribal Commodities Office	745-4115
Ronan Bread Basket	676-4357
Bigfork Food Bank	837-2297
Flathead Food Bank	752-3662
Lakeside Pantry	844-2779
Missoula Food Bank	549-0543
Polson Fish and Loaves	883-6864
Jocko Valley Food Pantry	726-5550
Mission Valley Food Pantry	745-5484
Sylvia's Store	675-2700
Whitefish Food Bank	862-5863

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Hotline Connection

Our customers can access information on a variety of topics including fishing, wildlife, and recreation. Email our Information and Education Specialist at stephanie.gillin@cskt.org

Fax and Customer Service

Customers can send a fax to CSKT, Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation to 406-883-2848 for general information. Those seeking nonresident hunting license information should call 406-675-2700 or 406-883-2888 and ask for Amanda Bourdon, CSKT License Agent. Email Amanda at amanda.bourdon@cskt.org

Regulations are available on-line at www.cskt.org.



LEAD

KNOW THE FACTS BEFORE YOU HUNT



LEAD PARTICLES FROM LEAD AMMUNITION CAN BE TOXIC IF INGESTED AND POISON WILDLIFE SCAVENGING FROM GUT PILES.

WHY USE NON-LEAD?

- NON-LEAD BULLETS ARE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE
- ENSURE THE HIGHEST QUALITY MEAT FROM A HARVEST
- PREVENT LETHAL COLLATERAL DAMAGE TO WILDLIFE

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NON-LEAD AMMUNITION, VISIT:

NONLEADPARTNERSHIP.ORG
HUNTINGWITHNONLEAD.ORG

MEMBERS

- HUNTERS CAN VOLUNTARILY CHOOSE TO USE NON-LEAD, COPPER OR OTHER HIGH-WEIGHT RETENTION AMMUNITION.
- NON-LEAD AMMUNITION IS NOT REQUIRED BUT STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.



MEMBER REGS

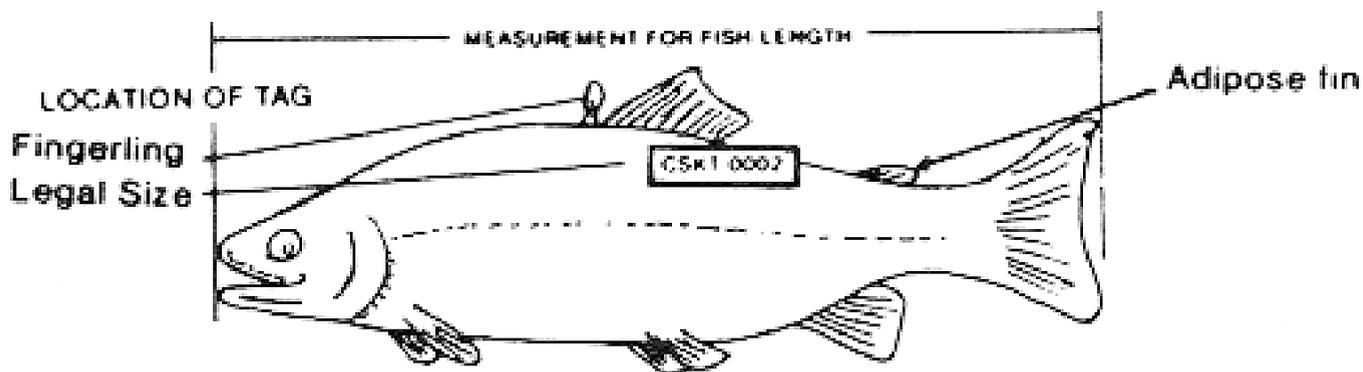
Vulnerability Groups	Species	Avoid	One Meal Per Month	One Meal Per Week	Two Meals Per Week
Children less than age 14, and women who are pregnant, will become pregnant, or are breast feeding	Lake Trout	>25"	20" to 25"	14" to 20"	<14"
	Northern Pike	>25"	20" to 25"	16" to 20"	12" to 16"
	Bass	>20"	18" to 20"	15" to 17"	12" to 14"
	Lake Whitefish		20" to 22"	17" to 19"	<16"
Adult Men and Adult Women above child-bearing age	Lake Trout	>30"	25" to 30"	22" to 25"	<22"
	Northern Pike		>36"	28" to 36"	26" to 27"
	Bass		>22"	20" to 21"	18" to 19"
	Lake Whitefish			>20"	18" to 19"

For more information on the health risks/benefits of fish consumption, call the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Fisheries Program at (406) 675-2700, or the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services at (406) 444-3986 or go to the following websites:

www.epa.gov/ost/fish

www.cfsan.fda.gov

www.epa.gov/fishadvisories/advice



TAGGED FISH

Anglers, We Need Your Cooperation

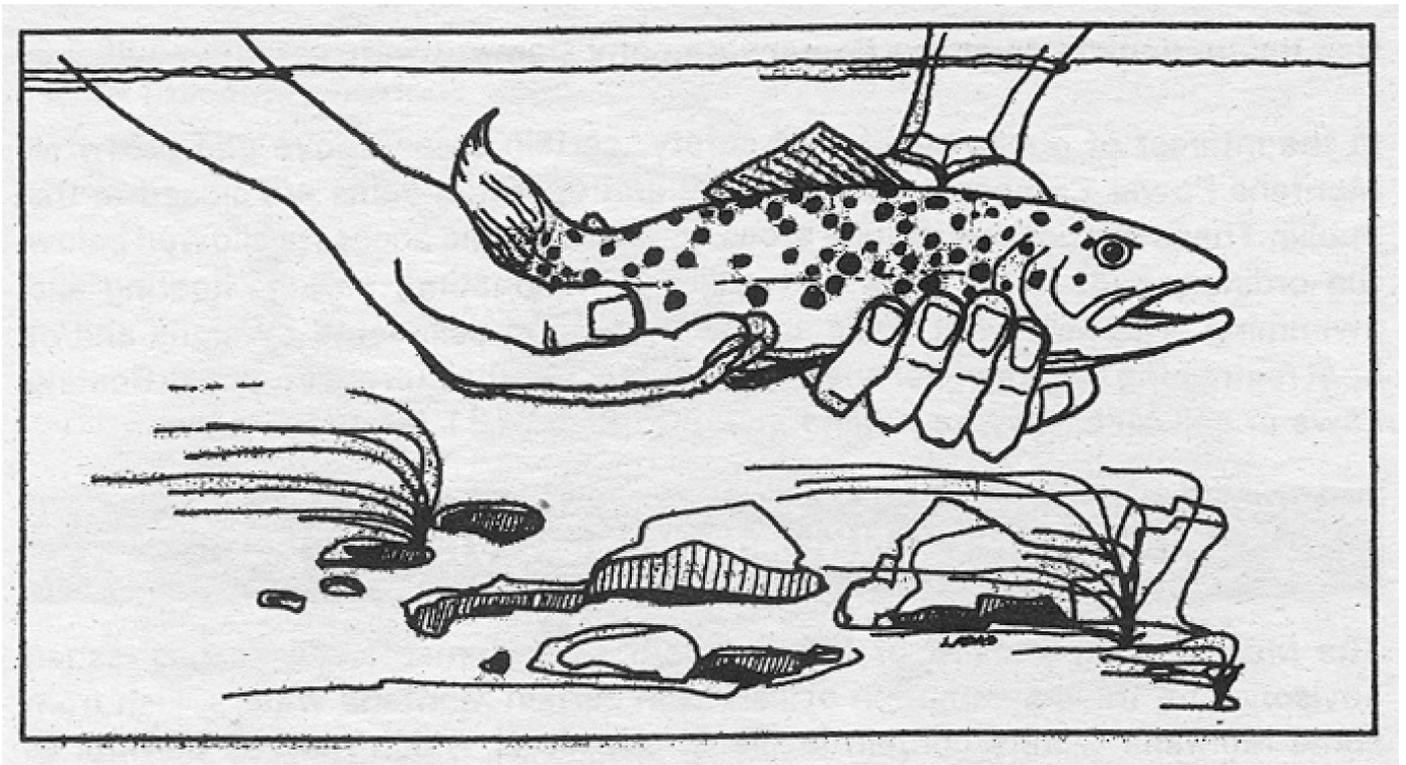
If you catch a tagged fish, please report the following information to any of the following locations:

- Tribes' Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation in Polson, MT.
- Tribal Fish and Game Wardens in Polson, MT

Information requested:

1. tag number and color;
2. date the fish was caught;
3. species of the fish;
4. fish's length and weight (close as possible);
5. location of the catch (body of water and distance from nearest landmark);
6. if the fish was kept or release; and
7. name and address of the angler

Fishing can be improved through use of this information. Accuracy and completeness of your report is essential.



RELEASING FISH

- To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival:
- Play the fish as rapidly as possible. Do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove the hook gently. Do not squeeze the fish or put your fingers in its gills.
- If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after it has gained its equilibrium. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright in the current facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

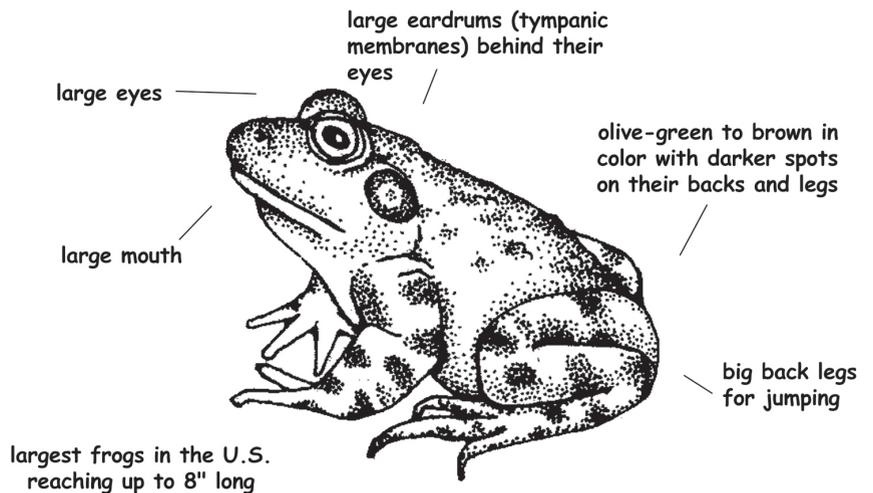
DEEP-WATER CATCH AND RELEASE:

- Plan ahead. Have pliers, cameras, etc., ready.
- Do not fight fish to exhaustion.
- Bring fish up slowly the last 30 feet to let them “burp.”
- Protect the fish’s slime coating and fins. Use soft rubber or mesh nets. Do not let the fish bounce on carpeting, etc. Wet your hands.
- Leave the fish in the water. Grab the hook with your pliers, reverse the angle and pop the hook out.
- If you take a picture, hold the fish horizontally with both hands.
- Hold exhausted fish upright in the water until they start to struggle. Gently move them forwards and backwards.
- Burping: Hold the fish horizontally and gently squeeze from the vent forward. Only go halfway up the belly and do not force if the fish can’t “burp.”
- The Plunge: Hold the fish horizontally and vigorously plunge it head first into the water.
- If a fish is bleeding and is legal, keep it. If it is bleeding and is not legal, turn it loose, many of them will survive.

KNOW YOUR FROG!
ONLY AMERICAN BULL FROGS ARE OPEN FOR TAKE. PLEASE DO NOT KILL NATIVE AMPHIBIANS.

American Bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana



©Sheri Amsel
www.exploringnature.org

KNOW YOUR NOXIOUS WEEDS

**BE A GOOD LAND STEWARD. LEARN TO IDENTIFY NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES.
PREVENT THEIR SPREAD. SUPPORT NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT EFFORTS**



Dalmatian Toadflax



Leafy Spurge



Spotted Knapweed

Four Points about Antler Collecting

Antlers are an important part of the ecosystem, even after they've fallen off big game! Please consider leaving some antlers on the landscape to benefit wildlife and other ecosystem functions.



Other animals need them too!!

Mice, chipmunks, squirrels and raccoons will gnaw on antlers during the winter months for nutrients such as calcium, phosphorous and protein.



Teething Porcupines

Similar to other rodents, the porcupine chew on antlers for a nutrient boost during difficult times of the year, but they also use them to wear down their ever-growing teeth!



Sharing the Nutrients

Coyotes, bears, and even deer have been documented chewing on antlers for their calcium.



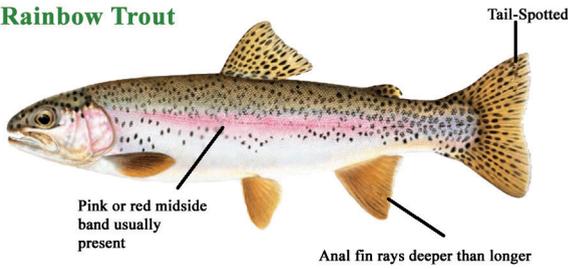
Healthy Environment

Leaving antler sheds in the environment provides important nutrients to wildlife during sensitive times of the year. They also break down into the environment to allow calcium into the soil to be absorbed by plants and trees.

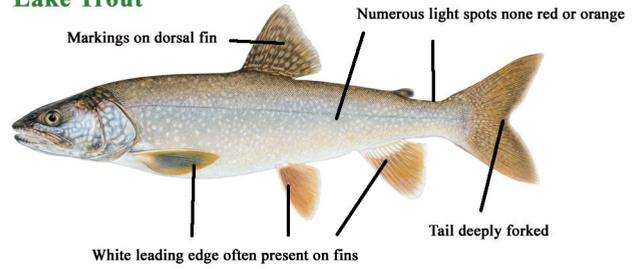


NON-NATIVE FISH

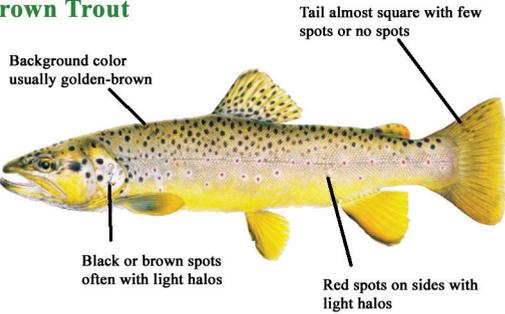
Rainbow Trout



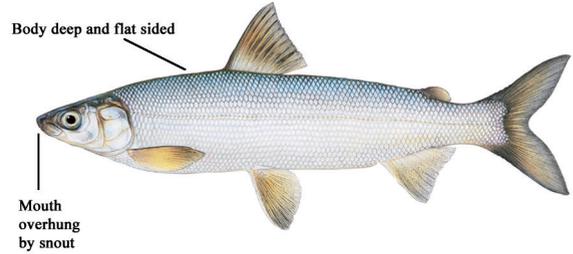
Lake Trout



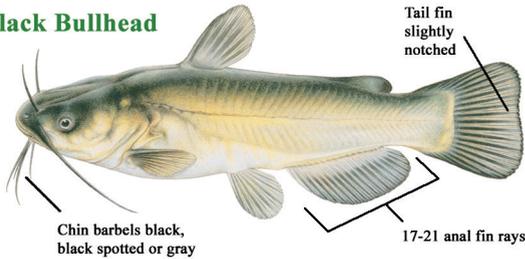
Brown Trout



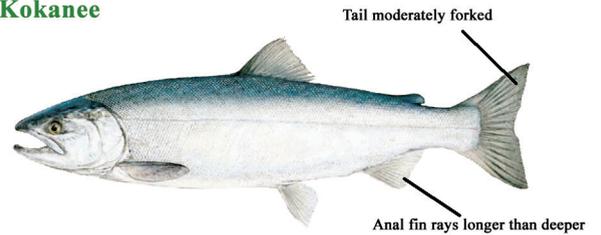
Lake Whitefish



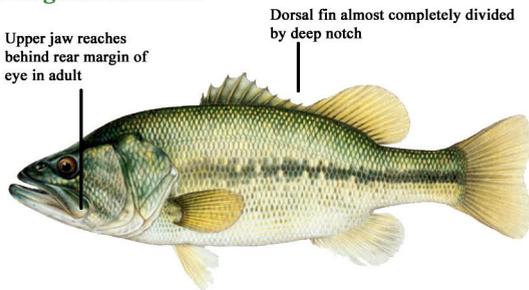
Black Bullhead



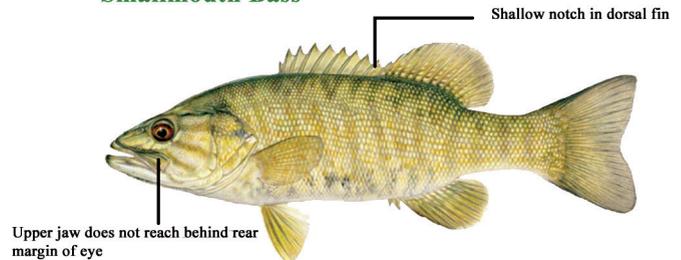
Kokanee



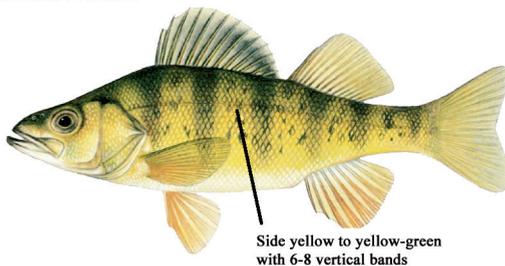
Largemouth Bass



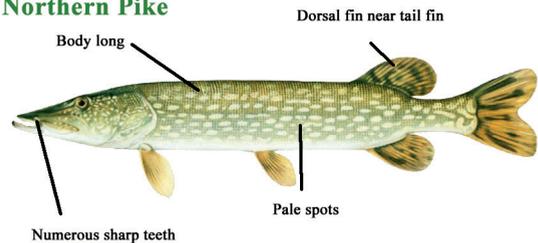
Smallmouth Bass



Yellow Perch



Northern Pike





Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation

