

Nebraska

FISHING REGULATIONS

1959

STATE OF NEBRASKA
GAME, FORESTATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
LINCOLN 9

SPORT FISHING

OPEN AREA: Entire state except those areas closed by Federal or State law or city ordinance.

SIZE LIMITS: None.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT	POSSESSIO LIMIT
TROUT.....	Entire year	7	7
BLACK BASS.....	Entire year	10	10
WHITE BASS.....	Entire year	50	50
CRAPPIE.....	Entire year	50	50
ROCK BASS.....	Entire year	15	15
except in Gavins Point Reservoir and the Missouri River in Boyd, Cedar, and Knox Counties, where limits on rock bass are:			
		50	50
BULLHEADS.....	Entire year	50	50
except in following state-owned lakes—Niobrara Park Lake (Knox County), Bowman Lake (Sherman), Ravenna Lake (Buffalo), Dead Timber Lake (Dodge), Memphis Lake (Saunders), State Lakes (Jefferson), Hord Lake (Merrick), Victoria Springs Lake (Custer), Fremont Lake No. 3 (Dodge), Louisville Lakes Nos. 2 and 3 (Cass), and Crystal Lake, Ayr (Adams), where limits on bullheads are:			
		10	10
PERCH.....	Entire year	No limit	No limit
WALLEYE.....	Entire year	6	12
SAUGER.....	Entire year	10	10
NORTHERN PIKE.....	Entire year	5	5
except in Gavins Point Reservoir and the Missouri River in Boyd, Cedar, and Knox Counties, where limits on northern pike are:			
		6	6
BLUEGILL and SUNFISH..	Entire year	No limit	No limit
(green, orange-spotted, pumpkin-seed and redear)			
FRESHWATER DRUM.....			
STURGEON.....			

CATFISH.....	Entire year	10	10
(channel, blue, yellow)			
PADDLEFISH.....	July 1 to Feb. 28	2	4
(spoonbill catfish)			
BULLFROGS.....	July 1 to Nov. 1	12	12
BAIT MINNOWS.....	Entire year	100	100
NONGAME FISH.....	Entire year	No limit	No limit

except in following state-owned carp lakes where the daily bag and possession limits on carp are 10 and 10: Litchfield Lake (Sherman County) Fremont No. 6, east of residence (Dodge), Fremont Carp Lake, east of Victory (Dodge), Louisville West No. 3 Lake (Cass).

BULLFROGS

The holder of a fishing permit may take bullfrogs by the means of hand, hand net, gig, or hook and line.



BOW-AND-ARROW FISHING

Nongame fish may be taken by bow and arrow from April 1 to December 1, from sunrise to sunset.

Only the long bow, drawn by hand, is legal. The use of the crossbow or similar device shall be unlawful.



GENERAL REGULATIONS

DAILY BAG LIMIT shall mean fish taken from midnight to midnight.

POSSESSION LIMIT shall mean fish in the possession of any person at any time.

IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL:

(1) for any person to leave any fish, either game or nongame, on the banks of any stream, lake, or other body of water in this state.

(2) for any person to place or use any fishing house, shanty, or other structure upon the ice in Gavins Point Reservoir or the Missouri River unless the name and address of the owner is plainly marked on the exterior, and the door constructed to permit entry at all times except when unoccupied and locked from the outside.

(3) for any person to use glass floats on float lines.

(4) for any person to take fish from Gavins Point Reservoir or the Missouri River unless he or she carries a valid fishing license issued by the state from which he or she enters or returns from the waters.



MINNOWS

TRANSPORTING MINNOWS OUT OF THE STATE: It shall be unlawful for any person to transport minnows, taken from the waters of Nebraska, out of the state in any manner, except: (1) Minnows which have been artificially propagated in man-made impoundments by licensed fish culturists, and (2) Not more than 100 minnows may be exported by a resident of Nebraska for his personal use in fishing outside the state, if these minnows are taken from waters where it is legal to catch minnows for fishing.

IMPORTATION OF LIVE BAIT MINNOWS INTO NEBRASKA: (1) Bait minnows shall include all live species of the minnow family (Cyprinidae), and all other fishes used as bait; (2) No person shall import or transport in any manner live bait minnows into the State of Nebraska for commercial purposes, or in excess of 100 minnows, without first complying with the following requirements:

(a) Before any bait minnows as defined above are brought into the state, the shipper shall supply a "certificate of inspection" from his State Game and Fish Commission which certifies that the fish to be brought into this state are free from disease and parasites.

(b) A copy of the certificate of inspection shall accompany the shipment of fish and the original sent to the Director of the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission not less than three days before the shipment of fish is made. At the time the certificate of inspection is submitted the shipper shall also furnish information as to the time, date, and place the fish will enter the state so inspection can be made, if desired, by the State.

(3) It shall be unlawful to import or transport carp or goldfish into the State for use as bait.



RESTRICTED AREAS

1. Lakes and streams or portions thereof may be closed to fishing at any time when posted with the proper notice as required by law, Section 37-405.

2. The main channel of the Nemaha River and the Little Nemaha River and within one mile of the mouth of any of the tributaries running into said rivers in Gage, Lancaster, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties shall be closed to the taking of bait at all times. Bait seining will be permitted in the tributaries one mile above the mouth of each tributary to the source.

3. Valentine National Wildlife Refuge Lakes in Cherry County: Fishing is permitted during daylight hours on Clear, Dewey, Hackberry, Pelican, Watts, and Willow Lakes except during the open season for migratory waterfowl, or when closed by posting by Federal officers. Motor boats are not permitted.

4. Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge Lakes in Garden County: Fishing is permitted during daylight hours in Crane, Island, and Hackberry Lakes except during the open season for migratory waterfowl. Smith Lake will be open to fishing in that part designated by posting from July 1 to Labor Day, inclusive. Motor boat operation, seining for bait, and the use of minnows or fish or any part thereof for bait are all prohibited.

5. It shall be unlawful to seine for or otherwise take minnows or bait below any dam, check, spillway, or other artificial obstruction and for a distance of 200 yards below such obstruction; provided, however, dip nets with an opening of not over 16 inches in diameter and having one-fourth inch mesh only of nonmetallic material may be used by individuals for their own use, but no minnows or bait may be taken for commercial use.

6. The following streams are closed to the seining or taking of minnows or bait in any manner.

ANTELOPE COUNTY: Verdigre Creek and all tributaries. **BROWN COUNTY:** Long Pine Creek, Plum Creek and tributaries, Calamus River, Goose Creek. **BOX BUTTE COUNTY:** Niobrara River. **CHASE COUNTY:** Frenchman River from Enders Lake to Imperial Light Plant Lake. **CHERRY COUNTY:**

North Loup River and tributaries, Schlagel Creek, Fairfield Creek, Cedar Creeks, Snake River and tributaries, Plum Creek and tributaries, Bear Creek, Goose Creek. **CUSTER COUNTY:** South Loup River above Arnold.

DAWES COUNTY: Chadron Creek, Big Bordeaux Creek, Little Bordeaux Creek, White River above Crawford, Dead Horse Creek, White Clay Creek, Niobrara River from Box Butte Reservoir west to the Wyoming line, and all tributaries. **DUNDY COUNTY:** Buffalo Creek, Rock Creek. **GARDEN COUNTY:** Blue Creek. **GARFIELD COUNTY:** Cedar River and tributaries. **HITCHCOCK COUNTY:** Republican River from Swanson Lake west to the Stratton bridge. **HOLT COUNTY:** Steel Creek, Brush Creek, Red Bird Creek, Eagle Creek, Big Sandy Creek, Cedar River and tributaries, North, Middle, and South Branches of Verdigre.

HOOVER COUNTY: Dismal River and tributaries. **KEITH COUNTY:** Otter Creek, White Tail Creek, Lonergin Creek and tributaries. **KIMBALL COUNTY:** Lodgepole Creek and tributaries west of the west Kimball Reservoir. **KNOX COUNTY:** Steel Creek, North, Middle, and South Verdigras, and all tributaries above the town of Verdigre. **LINCOLN COUNTY:** Hershey Drains—No. 1 North Ditch, No. 2 Middle Ditch, No. 3 South Ditch. **LOGAN COUNTY:** South Loup River. **LOUP COUNTY:** Gracie Creek. **MORRILL COUNTY:** Cedar Creek, Red Willow Drain, Pumpkin Creek and tributaries, Wild Horse Creek, Lyman Drain, Miller Drain, Myrtle Hill Drain, North and South Drains, Suhr Drain.

ROCK COUNTY: Calamus River, Long Pine Creek. **SIOUX COUNTY:** Sheep Creek Drain, Dry Sheep Creek Drain, Dry Spotted Tail Drain, Spotted Tail Drain, Niobrara River and tributaries, White River and tributaries, Monroe Creek, Sow Belly Creek, Hat Creek, Squaw Creek. **THOMAS COUNTY:** Dismal River. **SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY:** All streams and tributaries except the main channel of the North Platte River. **SHERIDAN COUNTY:** Snake River, Larabee Creek, White Clay Creek, Pine Creek, Deer Creek, Little Bordeaux Creek. **WEBSTER COUNTY:** Elm Creek. **WHEELER COUNTY:** Cedar River and tributaries.



STATE AREAS

The following regulations are in effect on all state-owned and controlled areas:

1. **DESTROYING OR DAMAGING STATE PROPERTY:** It will be unlawful to injure trees or shrubs, to pick flowers or fruits, to mar, deface, or remove any of the natural or structural features in any state-owned and controlled area.
2. **STRUCTURES:** It shall be unlawful to erect or maintain any shack, fence, or other structure.
3. **BAIT:** Digging or seining for bait is prohibited.
4. **MOTOR BOATS:** Motor boats are not permitted except on Victory Lake at Fremont and Cottonmill Lake at Kearney; provided, however, outboard motors of not over 6 (six) H.P. may be used for fishing purposes on Long Lake, Brown County; Rat and Beaver Lakes, Cherry County; Shell Lake, Cherry County; and Smith Lake, Sheridan County.
5. **STATE LAKE NO. 1** of the Fremont sandpits located along State Highway #30 about four miles west of Fremont in Sec. 13, T 17N, R 7E, Dodge County, shall be restricted to the use of artificial lures from January 1 to June 30, inclusive.
6. **SWIMMING** is prohibited at Memphis State Lake in Saunders County.
7. **FIREARMS:** The use of firearms is prohibited on state recreation areas from April 1 to September 30, inclusive. The use of firearms is prohibited at all times on state parks, hatcheries, and reserves.
8. **SPEED LIMIT** is 20 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted.



LEGAL NETS, TRAPS, AND OTHER DEVICES

The possession or use of any and all nets, traps, or other devices shall be unlawful with the following exceptions:

- (1) Commercial nets used in the Missouri River under special provisions of Sections 37-502.
- (2) Minnow nets of nonmetallic mesh, one-fourth inch square measure and not over twenty feet long and four feet deep.

(3) Minnow dip nets of non-metallic mesh, one-fourth inch square measure, and with a throat of not over sixteen inches in diameter.

(4) Landing nets, made of nonmetallic mesh, used only for landing fish caught on hook and line, with a throat of eighteen inches or less, and with a handle of not over four feet in length.

(5) Minnow and bait traps with a length not to exceed twenty-four inches and a diameter of not to exceed sixteen inches with the opening in the throat of the trap not larger than one and one-half inches in diameter. All minnow traps shall be raised and minnows removed from them at least every twenty-four hours.



NOTES

JUG FISHING and float lines (except jugs or floats made of glass) and throw lines, trot lines, and bank lines are legal, unless otherwise posted. Hook and line limits as listed below also apply to this type of fishing.

HOOKS AND LINES: It shall be unlawful for any person to use, while fishing in this state in any lake, pond or reservoir or in their inlets, outlets and canals within one-half mile of such lake, pond, or reservoir, more than two lines with two hooks on each line. One hook shall mean a single, double, or treble pointed hook, and all hooks attached as a part of an artificial bait or lure shall be counted as one hook. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO ICE FISHING.

ICE FISHING: Stream fishing regulations of 15 hooks apply to ice fishing.

STREAM FISHING: In stream fishing, it shall be unlawful for anyone to fish with a line having more than five hooks thereon, or more than 15 hooks in the aggregate or with artificial bait having more than three triple-ganghooks.

SPEARING: Carp, buffalo, suckers and other nongame fish may be speared between sunrise and sunset from April 1 to December 1.

AGE: All persons sixteen years of age or older must have a fishing permit for the current year. All nonresidents must purchase a permit except those anglers under 16 years of age who are accompanied by a parent or guardian possessing a nonresident fishing permit.

BAIT VENDOR'S PERMIT: Individuals, either resident or nonresident, over 16 years of age, selling minnows as bait for profit shall be required to purchase a bait vendor's permit. Cost is \$10.

SHORT TERM PERMITS: Short-term nonresident permits are available. Cost is \$3.00 for a 10-day permit.

TRANSFER OF PERMIT: It is unlawful for any person to borrow or use the permit of another or to lend or transfer his permit to another.

ANISE OIL and other scents that do not stun, kill, or harm fish are legal to use.

GAME FISH AS BAIT: Any game fish, taken by a legal method, may be used for bait. No seining of game fish of any size is legal.

EXTRA MINNOWS: Take them with you; don't dump them into lake. Some of the minnows may be rough fish, and this could give the undesirable species a foothold in the lake involved. Do not release fish caught in one water in another, for this could upset the balance of fish.



ANGLING TIPS

WALLEYE: Troll deep and slow. Lure should not be more than 18 inches off the bottom. Stop boat after strike and plug back into the school. It is beneficial in some cases to have a trail lure of a different type behind the first lure. Distance apart from 18 inches to 3 feet.

WHITE BASS: Trolling is very effective in May and June. This fish schools and feeds in a zig-zag line. Live minnows on light spinning rigs are very effective, just where the shallow water breaks over into the deep water. When casting with minnows, leads should not be used. Lead should be used with minnows when trolling.

CRAPPIE: Black crappie usually prefer cold, quiet water, a hard bottom with some aquatic vegetation; white crappie like slow, sluggish, warm or cold water, with soft or mud bottom. Corks and leads when using minnows should be of the lightest, smallest type, since they are usually light biters. Crappie can be taken on lures of small size with little or no action. A slow retrieve is usually most productive.

In baiting worms hook the worm through the middle and

thread for about one inch, allowing both ends to be free to wiggle.

There are right and wrong ways to put minnows on hooks. When fishing with live minnows, where holes are deep and no casting is to be done, hook the minnow through the lip or just in front of the top (dorsal) fin. If hooking in the lips, be careful not to set the hook too far back into the lips, the hook will pierce the brain of the minnow.

To place a grasshopper in the hook, turn the hopper belly up and insert the hook under the breast armor. Bring the hook out toward the back of the chest. Turn the hopper over so the point faces the belly, then push it through and out of the back. The point of the hook should just protrude from the back between the wings. The weight of the hook being on the underside keeps the hopper right side up. To make hoppers more attractive it is best to pinch off their outer wings. This leaves the hopper's bright yellow or red wings showing.

Insects are not only an occasional tidbit but are almost constantly a part of the regular diet of all fresh water game fish. This is particularly evident in mid-summer when, in flagrant disregard of minnows and imitations alike, fish of every species break water in obvious quest of insect food.



GENERAL HINTS

1. The lighter the tackle, the more thrilling it is to catch a fish and is usually more productive on panfishes.
2. Always use leader of some type when plugging or bait fishing with the nylon type of lines.
3. When using corks while fishing, try to ease them in the water whenever possible.
4. A slow, frequent movement of the bait will catch more fish.
5. Take as many different baits with you fishing as possible.
6. On windy days fish the lee side of the lake, or fish the calm water and deeper than usual in windy weather.
7. On lakes where there are a lot of boats during the day, fish early in the mornings, late in the evenings or at night.
8. Keep in mind the spawning times of different species of fishes and fish where they are likely to be spawning.

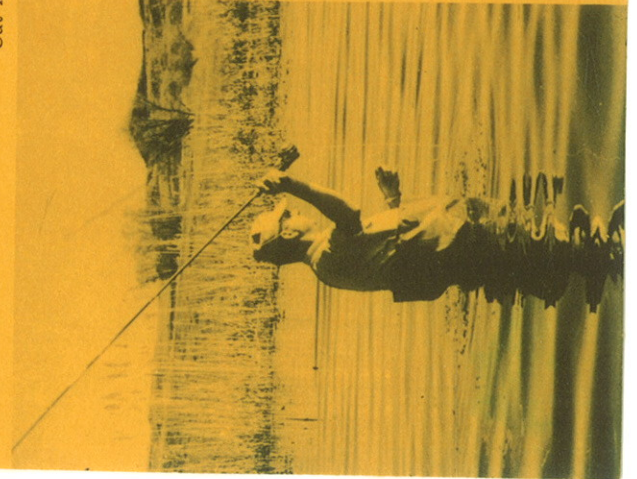
Cut Along This Line

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