2005 Regulations now at printers

Western District

Dead Bait

- Nongame fish that are freshly killed or have been preserved by freezing, salting or pickling may be used whole or in pieces as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial flies and lures. Sculpins (genus *Cottus*) may not be used live or dead as bait in the Western Fishing District.
- Whole game fish may not be used as bait.
- Parts/pieces of bass, burbot (ling), black crappie, northern pike, or yellow perch may be used as bait if edible portions are not wasted.
- The eggs of char, cisco, grayling, salmon or trout may be used as bait. Parts/pieces of salmonids may not be used as bait.

Live Bait

- Live animals such as meal worms, red worms, night crawlers, leeches, maggots, crayfish, reptiles, amphibians and insects may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artifical flies and lures. Leeches may only be imported into Montana from FWP-approved leech dealers and may be aquired from approved bait dealers in Montana. Anglers who import leeches must have in their possession a bill-of-sale from the approved out-of-state leech dealer when fishing with leeches in Montana. A list of approved out-of-state leech dealers may be obtained from FWP by calling 406-452-6181.

WARM WATER GAME FISH STAMP

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a warm water game fish stamp. The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Western District:

Blanchard Lake, Flathead County
Echo Lake, Flathead County
Half Moon Lake, Flathead County
Island Lake (Happy's Inn), Lincoln Cnty
Loon Lake (Ferndale), Lake County
Loon Lake (Happy's Inn), Lincoln Cnty
Lower Thompson Lake, Lincoln Cnty
Murphy Lake, Lincoln County
Savage Lake, Lincoln County
Spencer Lake, Flathead County

DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Possession limit means the number of fish that you may possess at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved. It is illegal to preserve fish (salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved) before taking them to your permanent residence (the physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence) unless those fish can be counted. Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, tents or storage/freezer lockers do not qualify as permanent residences. No person may sell or take for the purpose of sale any fish except as authorized in commercial fishing regulations.

Daily limit means the number of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the water body where you are fishing specify a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch-and-release is allowed, fish released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the daily limit of the person originally hooking the fish, even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit. You may possess the daily limit allowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing.

Handling and Transporting Legally Taken Fish

While a person is fishing, or while on the water or on the ice:

- All fish in possession must be visibly identifiable to species.
- For a species of fish where size limits apply, all fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, fins and tail attached. Gills and entrails may be removed.

Fish may be dressed and filleted for immediate consumption.

Fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to your permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:

- All fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.
- Salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish): the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.
- Non-salmonids: a minimum of one inch by one inch square shoulder patch of skin with scales must remain attached to each fillet for identification.

WESTERN DISTRICT STANDARD DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- Each angler may take all of the limits listed in the chart, unless otherwise noted in the Western District Exceptions. For species not listed, there are no limits on the number of fish that may be taken or possessed.
- Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess the limit of fish allowed only for the water on which they are currently fishing.

Species	Daily and Possession Limits
Trout	
Brook trout	20 daily and in possession
Bull trout	All waters are closed to angling for bull trout and all fish must be immediately released unless otherwise authorized in the Western District Exceptions. See Special License requirements on page 6. Note: Federal law prohibits the attempted take of bull trout unless specifically authorized by state or tribal regulation.
Combined Trout (includes brown trout, rainbow trout, golden trout and grayling)	Lakes/Reservoirs: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 22 inches Rivers/Streams: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 14 inches
Combined Trout in Bob Marshall Complex Wilderness Areas[1] and South Fork Flathead (includes rainbow, brown, grayling and cutthroat trout)	Lakes/Reservoirs: 5 daily and in possession, no size limit Rivers/Streams: 5 daily and in possession, none over 12 inches [1] Applies to all rivers, streams and lakes within the Western Fishing District in the South Fork Flathead River drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to the wilderness boundary and all waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat wilderness areas unless otherwise specified in the Western District Exceptions.
Cutthroat trout	Lakes/Reservoirs: 5 daily and in possession, no size limit Rivers/Streams: 5 daily and in possession, none over 10 inches
Lake trout	10 daily and in possession
Bass	5 daily and in possession, no size limit. Third Saturday in May through June 30: 1 daily and in possession, must be over 22 inches
Burbot (ling)	5 daily and in possession
Kokanee salmon	20 daily and 40 in possession
Northern pike	15 daily and in possession
White sturgeon	0 - this is an endangered species and all fish must be released immediately
Whitefish	100 daily and in possession

STANDARD FISHING SEASONS AND HOURS

Fishing Hours

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

Fishing Season: Rivers and Streams

Open third Saturday in May through November 30 unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

Fishing Season: Lakes and Reservoirs

Open entire year unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

Western District

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 3-10
2-18

Spearing

In all waters open to fishing, nongame fish may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged. Rubber or spring-propelled spears may be used only by persons swimming or submerged in the water and may be used only for designated species in designated waters.

BAIT REGULATIONS

- Game fish, including yellow perch, may not be used as bait (live or dead) except as authorized below under Dead Bait.
- Possession of live nongame fish is prohibited on waters closed to using live fish as bait.
- It is illegal to release live bait of any kind into Montana waters; do not empty any live bait containers at your fishing site.
- Where live fish may be used as bait (see list below under Live Bait), legal nongame fish may be taken for use as bait in the following manner:
  - with hook and line; or
  - with seines no larger than 12 feet by 4 feet; or
  - with minnow traps (the dimensions shall not exceed 24 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches); or
  - with cast nets (maximum 6-foot radius) and dip nets (no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet).
- Nongame fish, except sculpins (genus *Cottus*) which must be killed prior to transport, may only be transported live to or from:
  - waters where live nongame fish may be used as bait in the Central Fishing District, or
  - anywhere within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.
- On waters within the Central Fishing District that do not allow the use of live bait and are not restricted to artificial flies and lures, sculpins (genus *Cottus*) may be collected and used as dead bait. Collection screens or nets may not exceed four (4) feet in length on any side. Sculpins must be killed immediately upon collection and may not be used as live bait. *[Note: Sculpins (genus Cottus) may not be used for bait in the Western Fishing District.]*
- See Commercial Fishing License requirements for information on commercial harvest permits.

Live Bait

- Live bait fish may not be imported into Montana, except by permit for use in Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir. Bait fish collected in the Bighorn River drainage of Wyoming may be imported under a permit issued by FWP. For a permit, contact the FWP Fisheries Division at 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings MT 59105 or call (406)247-2940.
- Live animals such as meal worms, red worms, night crawlers, leeches, maggots, crayfish, reptiles, amphibians and insects may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artifical flies and lures. Leeches may only be imported into Montana from FWP-approved leech dealers and may be aquired from approved bait dealers in Montana. Anglers who import leeches must have in their possession a bill-of-sale from the approved out-of-state leech dealer when fishing with leeches in Montana. A list of approved out-of-state leech dealers may be obtained from FWP by calling 406-452-6181.
- Nongame fish that may be used as live bait in the Central Fishing District include all nongame species except black bullheads, bluegill, carp, goldfish, green sunfish, pumpkinseed, rainbow smelt, sculpins, stonecats and yellow bullheads.
- Live nongame fish may be used as bait only in the following waters:
  - Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
  - Bighorn River—Afterbay Dam to the cable 600 feet downstream, and downstream from the Bighorn FAS
  - Clarks Fork Yellowstone River—downstream from the bridge at Bridger
  - Marias River and tributaries downstream from I-15
  - Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam
  - Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals
  - Teton River and tributaries downstream from I-15
  - Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell), Toole and Liberty counties
  - Yellowstone River and all streams and ditches in the drainage downstream from the mouth of the Clarks Fork (except the section of the Bighorn River between the cable 600 feet downstream from Afterbay Dam and the Bighorn FAS)

Dead Bait

- Nongame fish that are freshly killed or have been preserved by freezing, salting or pickling may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial flies and lures. Heads and entrails of non-game fish may also be used as bait.
- Whole game fish may not be used as bait.
- Parts/pieces of bass, burbot (ling), channel catfish, crappie, northern pike, paddlefish, sauger, shovelnose sturgeon, tiger muskellunge, walleye, or yellow perch may be used as bait if edible portions are not wasted.
- The eggs of char, cisco, grayling, salmon or trout may be used as bait. Parts/pieces of salmonids may not be used as bait.

WARM WATER GAME FISH STAMP

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a warm water game fish stamp. The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Central District:

Big Casino Creek Reservoir, Fergus County
Bighorn Lake, Carbon & Big Horn Counties
Bynum Reservoir, Teton County
Cooney Reservoir, Carbon County
Dailey Lake, Park County
Deadmans Basin Reservoir, Wheatland County
Kolar Reservoir #1, Judith Basin County
Kolar Reservoir #2, Judith Basin County
Kolar Reservoir #8, Judith Basin County
Lake Frances, Pondera County
Lake Josephine, Yellowstone County
Lower Carter Pond, Fergus County
Morony Dam Lake, Cascade County
Schoonover Reservoir #1, Chouteau County
Silvan Pond, Chouteau County
Tunis Reservoir, Chouteau County
Wadsworth Reservoir, Cascade County
Warm Springs Creek, Fergus County

DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Possession limit means the number of fish that you may possess at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved. It is illegal to preserve fish (salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved) before taking them to your permanent residence (the physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence) unless those fish can be counted. Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, tents or storage/freezer lockers do not qualify as permanent residences. No person may sell or take for the purpose of sale any fish except as authorized in commercial fishing regulations.

Daily limit means the number of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the water body where you are fishing specify a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch and release is allowed, fish released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the daily limit of the person originally hooking the fish, even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit. You may possess the daily limit allowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing.

Handling and Transporting Legally Taken Fish

While a person is fishing, or while on the water, or on the ice:

- All fish in possession must be visibly identifiable to species.
- For a species of fish where size limits apply, all fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, fins and tail attached. Gills and entrails may be removed.
- Fish may be dressed and filleted for immediate consumption.
- Fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to your permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:
- All fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.
- Salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish): the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.
- Non-salmonids: a minimum of one inch by one inch square shoulder patch of skin with scales must remain attached to each fillet for identification.
  - In areas where it is necessary to distinguish between sauger and walleye, fish must be kept whole for identification while on the water (see District Exceptions). Gills and entrails may be removed. Sauger and walleye may be filleted (unless size limits apply) only when you are off the water and done fishing for the day.

Live Bait

- Live bait fish may not be imported into Montana, except by permit for use in the Tongue River Reservoir. Bait fish collected in the Tongue River drainage of Wyoming may be imported under a permit issued by FWP. For a permit, contact the FWP Fisheries Division at Box 1630, Miles City MT 59301 or call (406)234-0914.
- Live animals such as meal worms, red worms, night crawlers, leeches, maggots, crayfish, reptiles, amphibians and insects may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artifical lures. Leeches may only be imported into Montana from FWP-approved leech dealers and may be aquired from approved bait delaers in Montana. Anglers who import leeches must have in their possession a bill-of-sale from the approved out-of-state leech dealer when fishing with leeches in Montana. A list of approved out-of-state leech dealers may be obtained from FWP by calling 406-452-6181.
- Nongame fish that may be used as live bait in the Eastern District include all nongame species except black bullheads, bluegill, carp, goldfish, green sunfish, pumpkinseed, rainbow smelt, sculpins, stonecats and yellow bullheads.
- Live nongame fish may be used as bait only in the following waters:

  - **Rivers and Streams**

    All streams and rivers in the Eastern Fishing District except:
    - Milk River and its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam.
    - Beaver Creek upstream from Beaver Creek Reservoir.

  - **Lakes, Reservoirs, Ponds and Impoundments**

    Big Horn County - Tongue River Reservoir
    Blaine County - Cow Creek Reservoir, Dry Fork Reservoir, Lyons Reservoir, and all BLM reservoirs
    Carter County - Doug Gardner #2 Reservoir, Talcott Pond
    Custer County - Spotted Eagle Pond
    Daniels County - Whitetail Reservoir
    Dawson County - Johnson Reservoir, Lee (Sam) Reservoir, Lindsay Reservoir
    Fallon County - Baker Lake, South Sandstone Reservoir
    Fort Peck Reservoir
    Garfield County - Whiteside Reservoir
    Hill County - Beaver Creek Reservoir, Bailey Reservoir
    McCone County - Flat Lake, Hedstrom Reservoir
    Milk River impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam
    Petroleum County - Petrolia Reservoir
    Phillips County - Cole Ponds, Ester Reservoir, Frenchman Reservoir, Little Warm Reservoir, McChesney Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, and all BLM reservoirs
    Richland County - Buxbaum West Reservoir, Gartside Reservoir, Kuester Reservoir
    Roosevelt Co.- Bainville Railroad Ponds
    Rosebud County - Castle Rock Lake, Schlesinger Perch Pond
    Sheridan County - Box Elder Reservoir, Engstrom Reservoir, Medicine Lake Nat. Wildlife Refuge, Raymond Reservoir
    Valley County - Fort Peck Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Grub Reservoir, Gut Shot Reservoir, Shoot Reservoir, Triple Crossing Reservoir, Valley Reservoir, VR2 Reservoir, Wards Res., and all BLM reservoirs in the Willow Creek Drainage
    Wibaux County - Lame Steer Reservoir
    Yellowstone County - Anita Reservoir

WARM WATER GAME FISH STAMP

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a warm water game fish stamp. The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Eastern Fishing District:

Anita Reservoir, Yellowstone County
Arapooish Pond, Big Horn County
Bailey Reservoir, Hill County
Baker Lake, Fallon County
Bearpaw Lake, Hill County
Beaver Creek, Wibaux County
Beaver Creek Reservoir, Hill County
Box Elder Creek Reservoir, Sheridan County
Castle Rock Lake, Rosebud County
Catfish Reservoir, Fergus County
Conter's Bass Pond, Yellowstone County
Cow Creek Reservoir, Blaine County
Dry Fork Reservoir, Blaine County
Engdahl Cottonwood Reservoir, Garfield County
Ester Lake, Phillips County
Fort Peck Reservoir
Fort Peck Dredge Cut Pond, Valley County
Fresno Reservoir, Hill County
Gartside Lake, Richland County
Haughian (Dan Haughian) Reservoir, Custer County
Hollands Reservoir, Fergus County
Homestead Reservoir, Prairie County
Hopalong Reservoir, Fergus County
Iliad Reservoir, Chouteau County
Johnson Dam, Dawson County
Lake Elmo, Yellowstone County
Little Warm Reservoir, Phillips County
Maier Reservoir, Fallon County
Nelson Reservoir, Phillips County
Payola Reservoir, Petroleum County
Petrolia Reservoir, Petroleum County
Schlesinger Reservoir #1, Rosebud County
Silvertip Reservoir, Prairie County
South Fork Dry Blood Reservoir, Petroleum County
South Sandstone Reservoir, Fallon County
Talcott Pond, Carter County
Tongue River Reservoir, Big Horn County
Trumbo Pond, Garfield County
Upper Wolf Coulee Reservoir, Fergus County
Wapiti Reservoir, Phillips County
Warm Springs Creek, Fergus County