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**IDAPA 13  
TITLE 01  
CHAPTER 11**

**13.01.11 - RULES GOVERNING FISH**

**000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.**

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission is authorized under Sections 36-104(b) and 36-901, Idaho Code, to adopt rules concerning fishing, methods of take, seasons, and possession limits. (3-20-97)

**001. TITLE AND SCOPE.**

**01. Title.** These rules shall be cited in full as IDAPA 13.01.11.000, et seq., Idaho Fish and Game Commission Rules IDAPA 13.01.11, "Rules Governing Fish." (3-20-97)

**02. Scope.** These rules establish the methods of take, seasons, and possession limits for all non-commercial fishing. (3-20-97)

**002. WRITTEN INTERPRETATIONS.**

In accordance with Section 67-5201(19)(b)(iv), Idaho Code, this agency has written statements which pertain to the interpretation of the rules of this chapter, or to the documentation of compliance with the rules of this chapter. These documents are available for public inspection and copying at cost at the headquarters office at 600 South Walnut, Boise, Idaho. (3-20-97)

**003. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.**

All contested cases shall be governed by the provisions of IDAPA 13.01.01, "Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission." (3-20-97)

**004. DEFINITIONS.**

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms will be defined as follows: (3-20-97)

**01. Artificial Fly.** Any fly made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feather, fiber, or plastic by the method known as fly tying. (3-20-97)

**02. Artificial Lure.** Any device made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feather, fiber, or plastic with hook or hooks attached. (3-29-12)

**03. Bag Limit.** The maximum number of fish that may be lawfully taken by any one (1) person in one (1) day. The term "bag limit" shall be construed to be an individual, independent effort and shall not be interpreted in any manner as to allow one (1) individual to take more than his "bag limit" toward filling the "bag limit" of another. (3-25-16)

**04. Bait.** Organic substances, other than rubber, wood, feather, fiber, or plastic, attached to a hook to attract fish. Bait includes insects, insect larvae, worms, dead fish, fish parts, any other animal or vegetable matter, or scented synthetic materials. (Live fish prohibited.) (3-29-12)

**05. Barbless Hook.** A fish hook without barbs or on which barbs have been bent completely closed. (3-20-97)

**06. Catch-and-Release.** Effort, by permitted methods, to catch or attempt to catch a fish or species of fish is lawful, with the restriction that any fish so caught must be released immediately, unharmed, back to the water. NOTE: Species of fish not specifically listed as catch-and-release may be harvested under their appropriate limits. (3-30-07)

**07. Confluence of a Stream or River.** The point where two (2) rivers or streams come together. (3-20-97)

**08. Diversion.** A man-made structure designed to change the direction of flowing water in a stream. (3-29-12)

- 09. Diversion Pond.** A man-made pond holding water taken from a stream or reservoir. The diversion pond may be connected to the stream or reservoir by an open ditch or pipe. (3-29-12)
- 10. Drainage.** All water flowing into a common river or stream system, either above or below ground, due to area geography. (3-29-12)
- 11. Electric Motors Only.** When fishing waters listed “electric motors only,” gas (internal combustion) motors may be attached to the boat; but use of the gas motor is prohibited. (3-20-97)
- 12. Fishing.** Any effort made to take, kill, injure, capture, or catch any fish, crayfish, or bullfrog. (3-20-97)
- 13. Fish Trap.** Any man-made structure designed to capture fish. (3-29-12)
- 14. Fish Weir.** Any man-made structure placed in a water body to delay or divert migrating fish. (3-29-12)
- 15. Flat Water.** Water where there is no observable direction of flow. (3-29-12)
- 16. Float Tube.** A floating device that suspends a single occupant, from the seat down, in the water, and is not propelled by oars, paddles, or motors. (4-6-05)
- 17. Fly Fishing.** Fishing with a fly rod, fly reel, fly line, and artificial fly. (3-20-97)
- 18. Game Fish.** Brook, brown, bull (Dolly Varden), cutthroat, golden, lake (Mackinaw), rainbow (including steelhead), splake and sunapee trout; trout hybrids; Chinook, coho, Atlantic and kokanee (blueback) salmon; grayling; whitefish; cisco; crappie; perch; bass; catfish; bullheads; sunfish; sturgeon; northern pike; tiger muskie; walleye and sauger; and burbot (ling). Bullfrogs and crayfish are also defined as game fish. (4-6-05)
- 19. General Rules.** The seasons, gear, and bag limits adopted for the Department Region where you are fishing. (3-29-12)
- 20. Harvest.** Reduce a fish to possession. (3-20-97)
- 21. Hook.** A bent wire device, for the catching of fish, to which one (1), two (2), or three (3) points may be attached to a single shank. Up to five (5) hooks per line may be used, except where specifically prohibited. (3-20-97)
- 22. Hybrid Fish.** The offspring of two (2) different species or subspecies of fish. (3-29-12)
- 23. Ice Fishing.** Fishing through an opening broken or cut through the ice. (3-20-97)
- 24. Length.** The length between the tip of the nose or jaw and the tip of the tail fin. (3-20-97)
- 25. Limit is 0 (Zero).** Fishing is allowed but the species listed in the rule or proclamation must be released after landing and may not be reduced to possession. (3-29-12)
- 26. Motor.** Includes electric and internal combustion motors. (See Subsection 004.09 - Electric Motors Only.) (3-20-97)
- 27. Mouth of River or Stream.** The place where a river or stream enters a larger body of water. (3-20-97)
- 28. No Motors.** Fishing from a boat with a motor attached is prohibited. (3-20-97)
- 29. Possession Limit.** Maximum number of fish that may be lawfully in possession of any person.

“Possession limit” shall apply to fish while in the field or being transported to the final place of consumption or storage. (3-20-97)

**30. Reservoir.** The flat water level existing at any time within a reservoir basin. Unless noted otherwise, a stream flowing through the drawdown portion of a reservoir is not considered part of the reservoir. (3-20-97)

**31. Season Limit.** The maximum number of fish that may be lawfully taken in any declared season. (3-20-97)

**32. Section.** An area of a river, stream, or reservoir between specific boundary locations. (3-29-12)

**33. Single-Point Hook.** A bent wire device, for catching fish, with one (1) shank and one (1) point. (3-20-14)

**34. Sliding Sinker.** A method of attaching a sinker to a device that slides freely on the main line. The line used to attach the sinker to the sliding device must be of lower breaking strength than the main line. (3-2-10)

**35. Snagging.** Taking or attempting to take a fish by use of a hook or lure in any manner or method other than enticing or attracting a fish to strike with, and become hooked in, its mouth or jaw. Game fish which are hooked other than in the jaw or mouth must be released immediately. (4-6-05)

**36. Special Rule Waters.** Any water with a gear, season, or bag limit rule that is different from the regional general rules. (3-29-12)

**37. Steelhead.** Steelhead are defined as any rainbow trout longer than twenty (20) inches in rivers and streams in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage, and the Clearwater River drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam). Rainbow trout longer than twenty (20) inches in length with the adipose fin clipped (as evidenced by a healed scar) are defined as steelhead in the Snake River from Hells Canyon Dam upstream to Oxbow Dam, and in the Boise River from its mouth upstream to Barber Dam. (3-29-12)

**38. Tributary.** A stream flowing into a larger stream or lake. (3-20-97)

**39. Trout.** Includes the following trout family fishes: brown, cutthroat, golden, grayling, lake (Mackinaw), rainbow, splake, Sunapee; trout hybrids; and the landlocked forms of Chinook, coho, Atlantic and kokanee (blueback) salmon. (3-30-07)

**40. Unattended Line.** A line not under the immediate surveillance by the angler. (3-20-97)

**41. Unprotected Nongame Fish.** All fish species other than game fish and protected nongame fish. (3-30-07)

**42. Upstream.** Moving from a lower elevation towards a higher elevation point in the same stream. (3-29-12)

**43. Watercraft.** Those devices designed as a means of transportation on water. (3-20-14)

**005. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.**  
There are no documents that have been incorporated by reference into this rule. (3-30-01)

**006. OFFICE -- OFFICE HOURS -- MAILING ADDRESS AND STREET ADDRESS.**  
The principal place of business of the Department of Fish and Game is in Boise, Idaho. The office is located at 600 South Walnut, Boise, Idaho and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707. (3-30-01)

**007. -- 100. (RESERVED)**

**101. RELEASE OF FISH.**

No person shall release or allow the release of any species of live fish, or eggs thereof, in the state of Idaho without the permission of the director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, EXCEPT where no permission is required: (3-20-97)

**01. Same Location -- Fish.** When fish are being freed from a hook and released at the same time and place where caught. No released fish can be marked by any means, including with a tag, by removing fins or injuring with intent to leave a scar, without first obtaining a Scientific Collecting Permit. All sturgeon must be released at the same time and place where landed. Any sturgeon caught may not be removed from the water. (3-20-14)

**02. Same Location -- Crayfish.** When crayfish are being released from a trap and released at the same time and place where caught. (3-20-97)

**102. AREAS CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF FISH.**

No person shall take fish on or from any state or federal fish hatchery property in Idaho EXCEPT as posted. (3-20-97)

**103. FISHING HOURS.**

No restriction except where stated otherwise in the regional exceptions. (3-20-97)

**104. IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES AND SIZE IN POSSESSION AND DURING TRANSPORTATION OR SHIPMENT.**

**01. Length.** The length of a fish shall be determined by measuring the distance between the tip of the nose and the tip of the tail fin. (3-20-97)

**02. Restrictions.** No person shall have in the field or in transit any trout, tiger muskie, or bass from which the head or tail has been removed unless: (3-25-16)

**a.** The angler is ashore and done fishing for the day; (3-25-16)

**b.** The fish is processed or packaged with the skin naturally attached to the flesh; (3-25-16)

**c.** The fish must be processed or packaged in a manner that the number of fish harvested can be readily determined; and (3-25-16)

**d.** Processed trout, bass, and tiger muskie cannot be transported by boat. (3-25-16)

**03. Possession Limit.** Any processed trout, bass, or tiger muskie count towards an angler's possession limit while in the field or in transit. (3-25-16)

**105. POSSESSION AND TRANSPORTATION RESTRICTIONS.**

No person shall possess, transport or cause to be transported within the state of Idaho any live fish or fish eggs without having first obtained a permit from the director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. However, no permit is required to: (3-20-97)

**01. Game Fish.** Keep game fish, that can legally be reduced to possession, alive and in possession in a live well, net, or on a stringer while at the body of water from which they were taken. However, salmon and steelhead must either be immediately killed or released. (3-20-97)

**02. Aquarium Fish.** Possess ornamental or tropical aquarium fish of varieties commonly accepted for interstate shipment. (3-20-97)

**03. Private Ponds or Commercial Fish Facility.** Possess fish from a private pond or commercial fish facility when accompanied by sales receipt and written permission from the director, as provided in Chapter 7, Title 36, Idaho Code. (3-20-97)

**04. Between Commercial Fish Facilities.** Transport fish between commercial fish facilities licensed under Chapter 7, Title 36, Idaho Code. (3-20-97)

**106. -- 199. (RESERVED)**

**200. LICENSES.**

Any person fourteen (14) years of age or older must have a valid license or permit to fish for fish, bullfrogs or crayfish in Idaho. Nonresident children under fourteen (14) years of age must be accompanied by the holder of a valid fishing license and their fish must be included in license holder's limit in order to fish without a license. Resident children under fourteen (14) years of age need not be accompanied by the holder of a valid fishing license and they may have their own separate possession limit. Persons fourteen (14) years of age and older who do not qualify as residents must purchase a nonresident license. A person must be a bona fide resident domiciled within Idaho for at least six (6) months in order to qualify for a resident license. (3-20-97)

**201. FISHING METHODS AND GEAR.**

Unless modified by a regional exception, the following fishing methods and restrictions are applicable in all Idaho waters. (3-20-97)

**01. Archery and Spear Fishing.** Fishing with the use of bow and arrow, crossbow, spear or mechanical device, excluding firearms, is permitted for the taking of bullfrogs and unprotected nongame fish, and only in those waters during the season set for the taking of game fish. (7-1-99)

**02. Barbed Hooks.** It is unlawful to fish for sturgeon with barbed hooks. It is unlawful to fish for or take steelhead or salmon with barbed hooks in the Clearwater River drainage, Salmon River drainage, and Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam. (3-29-12)

**03. Fishing Gear.** It is unlawful to fish in any waters of Idaho with more than one (1) handline or pole with a line attached, except a person with a two (2) pole permit may use two (2) poles; or with more than five (5) lines while ice fishing; or by archery, spearfishing, snagging, hands, and netting except as permitted. Not more than five (5) hooks may be attached per line. The line or lines must be attended by the person fishing. In conjunction with the Angler Incentive Program, unlimited poles and lines may be used while fishing from a boat on Lake Pend Oreille. A sliding sinker must be used when fishing for sturgeon. (3-2-10)

**04. Fishing Shelters.** Any enclosure or shelter which is left unattended overnight on the ice of any waters of the state shall have the owner's name, telephone numbers, and current address legibly marked on two (2) opposing sides of the enclosure or shelter. (7-1-99)

**05. Gaff Hook.** It is unlawful to land fish of any species with a gaff hook except through a hole cut or broken in the ice in waters which have no length restrictions or harvest closures for that species or when landing nongame fish species taken with archery equipment. (3-29-12)

**06. Molesting Fish.** It is unlawful to molest any fish by shooting at it with a firearm or pellet gun, striking at it with a club, hands, rocks, or other objects, building obstructions for catching fish, or chasing fish up or downstream in any manner. (3-20-97)

**07. Snagging.** It is unlawful to snag game fish, unless otherwise stated by Commission rules/exceptions. Snagging of unprotected nongame fish species is permitted. (3-20-97)

**08. Trapping and Seining Minnows or Crayfish.** It is lawful to take unprotected nongame fish, crayfish, and yellow perch with a minnow net, seine, or up to five (5) traps, subject to the following restrictions: (3-2-10)

**a.** Unprotected nongame fish, yellow perch, and crayfish may be taken only in waters open to fishing; provided the seine or net does not exceed ten (10) feet in length or width and nets and seines must have three-eighths (3/8) inch square or smaller mesh; and the minnow or crayfish trap does not exceed two (2) feet in length, width or height. If the trap is of irregular dimension, but its volume does not exceed the volume of an eight (8) cubic foot trap, it is also lawful to use. (3-2-10)

**b.** Nets and seines may not be left unattended. Traps must be checked at least every forty-eight (48) hours. All game fish (except yellow perch) and protected nongame fish incidentally taken while trapping or seining must be immediately released alive. All fish so taken must immediately be killed except where stated otherwise. (3-2-10)

**c.** All traps must have a tag attached bearing the owner's name and address. (3-2-10)

**d.** Minnows and crayfish may only be taken during the season set for the taking of game fish in those waters. Crayfish may be taken alive to be used as bait ONLY on the water where captured. (3-2-10)

**09. Use of Bait.** It is unlawful to use live fish, leeches, frogs, salamanders, waterdogs or shrimp as bait, except that live crayfish and bull frogs may be used if caught on the body of water being fished. (5-8-09)

**10. Use of Hands.** It is lawful to take bull frogs and crayfish with the hands. (3-20-97)

**202. BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.**

**01. Bag Limit.** Maximum number of fish that may be lawfully taken by one (1) person in one (1) day. (3-25-16)

**02. Possession Limit.** Maximum number of fish that may be lawfully in possession of any one (1) person. Possession limit shall apply to fish while in the field or being transported. All fish that are hooked, landed and not immediately released shall be counted in the possession limit of the person hooking the fish. (3-20-97)

**03. Transport or Gift.** No person shall transport for another or accept as a gift any game fish unless a statement signed by taker accompanies the fish, showing the number and kinds, the date taken, the taker's name, address, and fishing license number. However, no person may claim ownership of more fish than allowed by the possession limit. (7-1-99)

**04. Table on Bag and Possession Limits for Specified Fish.** Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation, which includes regional bag and possession limits for specified fish. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-2-10)

**05. Special Limits.** No person shall fish in any waters while having fish in possession in excess of the limits for those waters. (7-1-99)

**203. -- 298. (RESERVED)**

**299. TWO POLE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS, SEASONS, WATERS, AND METHODS OF GEAR.**

**01. Bag and Possession Limits.** Holders of the two (2) pole permit shall have the same bag and possession limit as the general bag and possession limits and regional exceptions whether using one (1) or two (2) poles. Please see Fishing brochure, which contains the Commission's proclamation setting seasons, bag, and possession limits, and regional exceptions. (5-8-09)

**02. Seasons.** The two (2) pole permit shall only be valid on waters which are open to fishing under the general fishing seasons and regional exceptions. (5-8-09)

**03. Waters.** The two (2) pole permit is valid on all waters open to fishing under general rules and regional exceptions. (5-8-09)

**04. Methods and Gear.** The restrictions of Section 201 shall apply to the use of two (2) poles under the two (2) pole permit, except for the number of handlines or poles. (5-8-09)

**300. GENERAL FISHING SEASONS.**



The following general seasons apply to all waters of the state, except as listed in the Commission's proclamation. Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons, bag, possession, and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure and is available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-29-12)

**01. Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs (Including Alpine Lakes).** Extends ONLY to the edge of flat waters, excluding small, unnamed irrigation diversion ponds, beaver ponds and mill ponds. (3-20-97)  
OPEN ALL YEAR

**02. Ditches and Canals.** Man-made structures used to transport water for irrigation or hydropower purposes. (3-20-97)  
OPEN ALL YEAR

**03. Rivers and Streams.** Small, unnamed irrigation diversion ponds, beaver ponds and mill ponds have the same season as the river or stream on which they are located. (3-29-12)  
OPEN ALL YEAR

**04. General Whitefish Season.** Fishing gear or bait restrictions which apply to a river or stream section during the season open for other species apply during the whitefish season.

NOTE: Whitefish or brook trout may also be taken in any waters during seasons open for other species, including reduced bag limit or size restricted waters, closed to harvest, and catch-and-release waters. (3-29-12)

**05. General Steelhead Season.** See Rule Sections 400 through 499. (3-20-97)

**06. General Salmon Season.** See Rule Sections 500 through 599. (4-6-05)

**07. Bullfrogs, Crayfish and Nongame Fish.** Bullfrogs, crayfish, and nongame fish may be taken ONLY during the season set for the taking of game fish in those waters. (3-20-97)

**301. -- 309. (RESERVED)**

**310. PANHANDLE REGION EXCEPTIONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.**

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons, bag, possession, and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-2-10)

**311. -- 314. (RESERVED)**

**315. CLEARWATER REGION EXCEPTIONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.**

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons, bag, possession, and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-2-10)

**316. -- 319. (RESERVED)**

**320. SOUTHWEST REGION EXCEPTIONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.**

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons, bag, possession, and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-2-10)

**321. -- 324. (RESERVED)**

**325. MAGIC VALLEY REGION, EXCEPTIONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.**

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons, bag, possession, and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-2-10)

**326. -- 329. (RESERVED)**

**330. SOUTHEAST REGION EXCEPTIONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.**

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons, bag, possession, and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-2-10)

**331. -- 334. (RESERVED)**

**335. UPPER SNAKE REGION EXCEPTIONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.**

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons, bag, possession, and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-2-10)

**336. -- 339. (RESERVED)**

**340. SALMON REGION EXCEPTIONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS.**

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons, bag, possession, and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and through license vendors. (3-2-10)

**341. -- 344. (RESERVED)**

**345. FISHING IN BOUNDARY WATERS.**

**01. Bear Lake.** The holder of a valid Idaho or Utah fishing license may fish all of Bear Lake EXCEPT in areas CLOSED to all fishing by the respective states. Anglers are subject to the rules and regulations of the state in which they are fishing. (3-20-97)

**02. Snake River Between Idaho and Oregon or Washington.** The holder of a valid Idaho fishing license may fish the Snake River where it forms the boundary between the states of Idaho and Oregon or Washington, subject to the fish and game laws of Idaho but may not fish from the shoreline, sloughs or tributaries on the Oregon or Washington side. An Oregon or Washington license holder has the same rights and restrictions with reference to the Idaho side. (3-20-97)

**03. Limit for One License Only.** Any angler who fishes on the Snake River or any other water forming an Idaho boundary is entitled to have in possession only the limit allowed by one (1) license regardless of the number of licenses he may possess. (3-20-97)

**346. FISH SALVAGE.**

No salvage of fish from public waters will be allowed without specific Commission order or without authorization from the Director or the Regional Supervisor. Regional authorization allows public fish salvage without regard to usual possession limits. Fish may be taken by snagging, spearing, archery, dipnet, seines, or with the hands. Use of toxic chemicals, explosives, firearms, or electric current is prohibited. A valid fishing license is required. (3-20-97)

**347. -- 399. (RESERVED)**

**400. STEELHEAD TROUT.**

**401. STEELHEAD DEFINITION.**

See Subsection 004.36. (3-29-12)

**402. STEELHEAD LICENSES, TAGS AND PERMITS.**

**01. Licenses.** Any person fishing for steelhead, except those expressly exempt, must have in his or her possession a valid fishing license and a steelhead permit. (4-6-05)

**02. Permits.** Any person fishing for, reducing to possession, or catching and releasing steelhead must have a valid steelhead permit in his or her possession. However, when a steelhead is immediately released unharmed, as in no harvest fishing, the angler is not required to make an entry on the permit. (3-20-97)

**403. PERMIT VALIDATION.**

When a steelhead trout has been hooked, landed, and reduced to possession, the angler hooking the fish must immediately do the following: (3-20-97)

**01. Permit.** Completely remove one (1) numbered notch from the permit. (3-20-97)

**02. Number Code.** Look up the number code from the location code list and write it in the space provided.

<b>RIVER LOCATION CODES</b>	
<b>SNAKE RIVER</b>	
Snake River, downstream from Salmon River	01
Snake River, from Salmon River to Hells Canyon Dam	02
Snake River, Hells Canyon Dam to Oxbow Dam	27
<b>CLEARWATER RIVER</b>	
Clearwater River, downstream from Orofino Bridge	03
Clearwater River, upstream from Orofino Bridge	04
North Fork Clearwater River	05
Middle Fork Clearwater River	06
South Fork Clearwater River	07
Lochsa River	08
<b>SALMON RIVER</b>	
Salmon River, downstream from Whitebird Creek	10
Salmon River, Whitebird Creek to Little Salmon	11
Salmon River, Little Salmon to Vinegar Creek	12
Salmon River, Vinegar Creek to South Fork	13
Salmon River, South Fork to Middle Fork	14
Salmon River, Middle Fork to North Fork	15
Salmon River, North Fork to Lemhi River	16
Salmon River, Lemhi River to Pahsimeroi River	17
Salmon River, Pahsimeroi River to East Fork	18
Salmon River, upstream from the East Fork	19
<b>OTHER</b>	
Little Salmon River	20
South Fork Salmon River	21
Panther Creek	24

RIVER LOCATION CODES	
Boise River	28

(3-25-16)

**03. Date Entry.** Enter the month and day the fish was caught. (4-6-05)

**03. Date Entry.** Enter the month and day the fish was caught. (4-6-05)

**404. IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES IN POSSESSION AND DURING TRANSPORTATION OR SHIPMENT.**

**01. Provisions for Processing and Transporting Steelhead.** No person shall have in the field or in transit hatchery-produced anadromous steelhead trout that has been processed by removing the head and tail unless the following conditions are met: (3-29-12)

**a.** The fish has been recorded on the taker's steelhead permit; (3-29-12)

**b.** The fish is processed and packaged with the skin naturally attached to the flesh including a portion with a healed, clipped, adipose fin scar; and (3-29-12)

**c.** The fish must be packaged in a manner that the number of fish harvested can be readily determined. (3-29-12)

**02. Restrictions on Processing and Transporting Steelhead.** No person shall process steelhead until they are ashore and done fishing for the day. No person shall transport processed steelhead via boat. Any processed steelhead count towards an angler's possession limit while in the field or in transit. (3-29-12)

**405. STEELHEAD METHODS OF TAKE.**

**01. Hooks.** It is unlawful to use any hook larger than five-eighths (5/8) inch measured from the point of the hook to the shank. Steelhead may be taken only with barbless hooks in the Salmon, Clearwater, and Snake River drainages. Bending the barb down to the shank of a single, double, or treble hook will meet this requirement. Steelhead may be taken with barbed hooks in the Boise River drainages, and the Snake River between Hells Canyon and Oxbow Dams. (3-2-10)

**02. Snagging.** No person shall kill or retain in possession any steelhead which has been hooked other than in the mouth or jaw. Any steelhead hooked other than in the mouth or jaw must be immediately released unharmed. (4-6-05)

**03. Legal Catch.** Any steelhead caught in a legal manner must be either released or killed immediately after it is landed. (3-20-97)

**04. Cease Fishing.** Once an angler has attained his bag, possession or season limit on those waters with steelhead limits, he must cease fishing for steelhead, including catch-and-release fishing. (4-6-05)

**05. No Harvest or Closed to Harvest.** Effort, by permitted methods, to catch or attempt to catch a steelhead is lawful with the restriction that any steelhead so caught must be released immediately, unharmed, back to the water. (3-20-97)

**06. Keeping Marked Fish.** Only steelhead which have been marked by clipping the adipose fin, as evidenced by a HEALED scar may be kept in the Salmon, Clearwater, and Snake River drainage. (3-20-97)

**07. Fish Counted in Limit.** All fish that are hooked, landed, and reduced to possession shall be counted in the limits of the person hooking the fish. (3-2-10)

**08. Special Limits.** No person shall fish in waters having special limits while possessing fish of those species in excess of the special limits. (3-20-97)

**406. STEELHEAD SEASONS AND LIMITS.**

Pursuant to Section 36-105(3), Idaho Code, the Commission now sets the seasons and regional exceptions by proclamation. The proclamation is published in a brochure available at Department offices and license vendors. (3-2-10)

**407. (RESERVED)**

**408. STEELHEAD PURCHASE REPORT.**

**01. Filing Purchase Report.** Persons holding a wholesale or retail steelhead trout buyer's license shall report sales and purchases of steelhead on an Idaho Steelhead Purchase Report to be filed with the Administration Bureau of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, Idaho, on or before December 31 of each year. (3-20-97)

**02. Inaccurate Reporting.** Failure to provide complete and accurate information on the report or failure to file the report on or before December 31 shall be grounds for revocation of the wholesale or retail license. (3-20-97)

**03. Procedure for Revocation of License.** All such cases shall be conducted as a contested case under the Administrative Procedures Act. (3-20-97)

**409. -- 499. (RESERVED)**

**500. SALMON.**

**501. ANADROMOUS SALMON DEFINITIONS.**

**01. Chinook Salmon.** Anadromous (ocean run) salmon of the species *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage, and the Clearwater River drainage, (excluding lakes and the North Fork of the Clearwater River above Dworshak Dam), and the Boise River Drainages. (3-2-10)

**02. Coho Salmon.** Anadromous (ocean run) salmon of the species *Oncorhynchus kisutch* in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage, and Clearwater River drainage (excluding lakes and the North Fork of the Clearwater River above Dworshak Dam). (3-29-12)

**03. Sockeye Salmon.** Anadromous (ocean run) salmon of the species *Oncorhynchus nerka* in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam and the Salmon River drainage. (3-29-12)

**502. SALMON LICENSES AND PERMITS.**

**01. Licenses.** Any person fishing for salmon, except those expressly exempt, must have in his or her possession a valid fishing license. (4-6-05)

**02. Permits.** Any person fishing for, reducing to possession, or catching and releasing salmon must have a valid salmon permit in his or her possession. However, when a salmon is immediately released unharmed, or a jack salmon is reduced to possession, the angler is not required to make an entry on the permit. (3-29-12)

**503. PERMIT VALIDATION.**

When an adult salmon has been hooked, landed, and reduced to possession, the angler hooking the fish must immediately complete the following: (3-29-12)

**01. Permit.** Cut out and completely remove one (1) numbered notch from the permit. (3-20-97)

**02. Number Code.** Look up the number code from the location code list in Subsection 403.02 of these

rules and write it in the space provided. (4-6-05)

**03. Date Entry.** Enter in the space provided, the month, and day the fish was caught. (3-20-97)

**504. IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES IN POSSESSION AND DURING TRANSPORTATION OR SHIPMENT.**

**01. Provisions for Processing and Transporting Salmon.** No person shall have in the field or in transit hatchery-produced adult anadromous salmon that has been processed by removing the head and tail unless the following conditions are met: (3-29-12)

- a.** The fish has been recorded on the taker's salmon permit; (3-29-12)
- b.** The fish is processed and packaged with the skin naturally attached to the flesh including a portion with a healed, clipped, adipose fin scar or the adipose fin; and (3-25-16)
- c.** The fish must be packaged in a manner that the number of fish harvested can be readily determined. (3-29-12)

**02. Restrictions on Processing and Transporting Salmon.** No person shall process salmon until they are ashore and done fishing for the day. No person shall transport processed salmon via boat. Jack salmon may not be processed while in the field or in transit. Any processed salmon count towards an angler's possession limit while in the field or in transit. (3-29-12)

**505. SALMON SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS.**

**01. Method of Take.** It is unlawful to use any hook larger than five-eighths (5/8) inch measured from the point of the hook to the shank. Salmon may be taken only with barbless hooks in the Salmon, Clearwater, and Snake River drainages. Bending the barb down to the shank of a single, double, or treble hook will meet this requirement. Salmon may be taken with barbed hooks in the Boise River drainages, and the Snake River between Hells Canyon and Oxbow Dams. (3-2-10)

**02. Snagging.** No person shall kill or retain in possession any salmon which has been hooked other than in the mouth or jaw. Any salmon hooked other than in the mouth or jaw must be immediately released unharmed. (4-6-05)

**03. Legal Catch.** Any salmon caught in a legal manner must be either released or killed immediately after it is landed. (4-6-05)

**04. Cease Fishing.** Once an angler has attained his bag, possession, or season limit on those waters with salmon limits, he must cease fishing for salmon. (3-20-97)

**05. No Harvest or Closed to Harvest.** Effort, by permitted methods, to catch or attempt to catch a salmon is lawful with the restriction that any salmon so caught must be released immediately, unharmed, back to the water. (4-6-05)

**06. Keeping Unmarked Fish.** Anglers may retain salmon with an intact adipose fin as set by Commission season proclamation. (3-29-17)

**07. Fish Counted in Limit.** All fish that are hooked, landed, and not immediately released shall be counted in the limits of the person hooking the fish. (4-6-05)

**08. Special Limits.** No person shall fish in waters having special limits while possessing fish of those species in excess of the special limits. (4-6-05)

**507. -- 999. (RESERVED)**

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