

# Purpose of Yellowstone Fishing Regulations

Fishing regulations in Yellowstone National Park are structured to strongly support native fish conservation goals. Cutthroat trout are the sole, native trout of the park and were the dominant fish species here prior to Euroamerican settlement. Cutthroat trout, Arctic grayling, mountain whitefish, and other native fishes are important to the ecology of Yellowstone.

## Introduced nonnative fish cause loss of native fish

The abundance of native fish has been reduced because of impacts by introduced nonnative fish, including brook, brown, lake, and rainbow trout. These nonnative species continue to contribute to the decline in the park's native fish population by competing for food and habitat, preying on native fish, and degrading the genetic integrity of native fish through hybridization.

## Anglers assist with native species conservation

Angling is one way that the nonnative fish can be selectively removed from an area without damaging the native fishery. Within the Native Trout Conservation Area, anglers are strongly encouraged, and in some cases required, to harvest nonnative fishes. This harvest will help to save the native fish and the natural ecosystems they support.

## Stay Safe and Legal

You are responsible for following all park regulations. Consult Yellowstone's park newspaper, Backcountry Trip Planner, or rangers at visitor centers and backcountry offices to learn more.

- Stay on established trails in thermal areas for your safety and to protect these fragile areas.
- Do not discard fish carcasses or entrails along stream banks or the lake shore as they will attract bears.
- Do not feed any animals, including birds, squirrels, and coyotes.

**Bear Warning** • Bears and other wildlife may appear in areas frequented by people—even on trails, boardwalks, and along roads. Do not approach wildlife and remain at least 100 yards (92 meters) away from bears and wolves, and 25 yards (23 meters) away from all other wildlife.

- **Be alert**—watch for bears and bear sign, like fresh tracks or scat.
- **Make noise** in areas where visibility is limited.
- **Carry bear spray** and know how to use it.
- **Avoid hiking or fishing alone.** Try to stay with a group of three or more people.
- **DO NOT RUN** if you encounter a bear.

