

General Regulations

Native Trout Conservation Area

All native fish must be released unharmed. No possession limit for nonnative fish, including brown, brook, rainbow, and lake trout (p. 8–15).

- All rainbow trout, brook trout, and identifiable cutthroat × rainbow hybrids caught in the Lamar River drainage (including portions of Slough and Soda Butte creeks) and the Yellowstone River drainage below Lower Falls and above Knowles Falls ***must be killed—it is illegal to release them alive*** (p. 10).
- All lake trout caught from Yellowstone Lake ***must be killed—it is illegal to release them alive***.
- All smallmouth bass caught in Yellowstone Park ***must be killed and reported—it is illegal to release them alive***.

Nonnative Trout Tolerance Area

All native fish must be released unharmed. Possession limits exist for nonnative fish in this area. An angler must cease fishing in the area immediately after filling the possession limit (p. 9 and 12).

- Firehole River, Madison River, lower Gibbon River (downstream of Gibbon Falls)—possession of up to five brook trout is allowed. Catch and release all rainbow and brown trout. Whitefish are an important native species in the Madison River and they must be released.
- Lewis River system above Lewis Falls, including Lewis and Shoshone lakes and their tributaries—possession of five combined brook, brown or lake trout; only one of which may be a brown trout.

It is the responsibility of the angler to be able to identify fish by species. Unintentionally killed fish should be returned to the water so they can be consumed by wildlife.



Brook trout markings.

Evidence of species in possession

Skin must remain attached so the fish species can be visibly identified. Gills and entrails may be removed in the field, but must be discarded only within the waters where the fish were caught.

Disposal of fish and entrails

Dispose of fish and/or fish entrails within the waters where the fish was caught but not within 100 feet (30.5 m) of boat ramps, docks, or backcountry campsites. Fish can also be disposed of in park trash cans.

Bridge, marina, and boat dock restrictions

No fishing from any road bridge, marina, or boat dock.* Accessible fishing platforms and ramps are located near Madison Junction (p. 8) and at Grant Village boat launch (p. 14).

**Fishing is permissible from boat docks at backcountry sites on Yellowstone Lake.*