

General Regulations

Fishing

Fishing/angling is defined as any activity using an attended single rod or line for the purpose of attempting to attract, capture, or possess any fish from waters within Yellowstone National Park. All other methods to attract, capture, or possess fish are prohibited.

Fishing hours and season dates

The season begins the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend (usually the last weekend in May) and extends through the first Sunday in November. Exceptions are listed on pages 6–13.

Hours are daily from sunrise to sunset. Fishing with an artificial light is prohibited. Some areas are closed to human entry, have trail or seasonal closures, off-trail travel and daylight hour limitations, or party size recommendations. See the Bear Management Area restrictions in the Backcountry Trip Planner for specific rules and information.

Streams may be temporarily closed due to low water levels and high water temperatures to protect fish populations.

Fishing permits

Anglers 16 years of age or older must be in possession of a valid Yellowstone National Park fishing permit to fish in the park.

Park rangers may check permits and inspect tackle, fish, creels, or other containers where fish or tackle may be stored.



Anglers 15 years of age or younger have two options:

1. Children 15 or younger may fish without a permit if they are fishing under the direct supervision of an adult who has a valid park fishing permit.
2. Children 15 or younger may obtain a free permit that must be signed by a responsible adult; with this permit, a child can fish without direct adult supervision.

With either option, the accompanying adult is responsible for the child's actions and must ensure the child complies with all fishing regulations and provisions.

Felt-soled Footgear Prohibited

To reduce the potential for introduction or spread of aquatic invasive species, footgear with absorbent felt or other fibrous material on the soles are prohibited while fishing in Yellowstone.