



## Approved Commercial Bait Fish Seining Waters – 2024

### PROPOSED

The list of approved commercial bait fish seining waters is provided with the Commercial Bait Seining License Application. Approved seining waters are regularly monitored for AIS and pathogens and have adequate population abundance to accommodate collection as bait. Proposed changes are highlighted in yellow, waterbody removals are indicated by ~~strike through~~, and waterbody additions are indicated in *italics*.

### LIST OF PROPOSED COMMERCIAL BAIT SEINING WATERS, 2025-2026

#### **Western Fishing District**

No fish species may be collected or used as live bait in the Western Fishing District. Only non-game fish native to the Western Fishing District (largescale sucker, longnose sucker, northern pikeminnow, peamouth chub, redbelt shiner, and longnose dace) may be captured and used as dead bait and may be taken from the following waters:

- Ashley Creek
- Burnt Lake, Flathead County
- Dog Creek (tributary to Stillwater River)
- Fish Lake, Lincoln County
- Flathead Lake (north half only)
- Flathead River (mouth to Highway 2 Bridge) plus adjacent sloughs
- Flathead River (Flathead Reservation boundary to confluence with Clark Fork River)
- Herrig Creek (Little Bitterroot Lake tributary), closed from April 15 to June 1 between Little Bitterroot Lake and the first road crossing (Pleasant Valley Road)
- Horseshoe Lake (near Happy's Inn)

#### **Central Fishing District**

Nongame fish species that may be collected possessed and used as live bait in the Central Fishing District are: fathead minnow, flathead chub, western silvery minnow, plains minnow, emerald shiner, longnose dace, lake chub, creek chub, longnose sucker, and white sucker. These species may be taken from the following waters:

- Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
- Bighorn River -- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area
- Clarks Fork Yellowstone River and tributaries, except the Rock Creek drainage -- downstream from the bridge at Bridger
- ~~Helena Valley Irrigation Canal~~
- Kammerzell Reservoir
- Marias River downstream of Tiber Dam
- Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam
- Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals
- Reservoirs in Arrow Creek Drainage
- Yellowstone River and all streams and ditches in the drainage downstream from the Highway 212 Bridge near Laurel (except the section of the Bighorn River between the cable 600 feet downstream from Afterbay Dam and the Bighorn FAS)

- Teton River & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15

**Eastern Fishing District**

Nongame fish species that may be collected and used as live bait in the Eastern Fishing District are: fathead minnow, flathead chub, western silvery minnow, plains minnow, emerald shiner, longnose dace, lake chub, creek chub, longnose sucker, and white sucker.

**Streams** -- Nongame bait fish may be taken from all streams in the Eastern District **except** the following:

- Milk River and tributaries above Fresno Dam
- Big Dry Creek downstream of the confluence with Little Dry Creek
- Hanging Woman Creek downstream from the Birney Road to its confluence with the Tongue River
- Otter Creek downstream from Highway #212 to its confluence with Tongue River
- Lone Tree Creek and Fox Creek in Richland County
- Missouri River downstream from the mouth of the Milk River

All irrigation canals and ditches in the Eastern Fishing District are open year around for taking nongame bait fish.

Nongame bait fish **may** be taken from the following reservoirs in the Eastern Fishing District:

**WATER**

Anita Reservoir  
 Bainville Railroad Ponds  
 Baker Lake  
 Bearpaw Lake  
 Beaver Creek Reservoir  
 BLM Reservoirs  
 BLM Reservoirs south of Hwy 2  
 Box Elder Reservoir  
 Cole Ponds  
 Coal Creek Reservoir  
 Dry Fork Reservoir  
 Engstrom Reservoir  
 Frenchman Reservoir  
 Gartside Reservoir  
 Hedstrom Reservoir  
 Killenbeck Reservoir  
 Lindsay Reservoir  
 Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
 Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam  
 Petrolia Reservoir  
 Raymond Reservoir  
 Spotted Eagle Pond  
 Tongue River Reservoir  
 Wards Reservoir  
 Whitetail Reservoir  
 Wibaux Pond

**COUNTY**

Yellowstone  
 Roosevelt  
 Fallon  
 Hill  
 Hill  
 Blaine, Phillips  
 Valley  
 Sheridan  
 Phillips  
 Prairie  
 Blaine  
 Sheridan  
 Phillips  
 Richland  
 McCone  
 Daniels  
 Dawson  
 Sheridan  
  
 Petroleum  
 Sheridan  
 Custer  
 Big Horn  
 Valley  
 Daniels  
 Wibaux