

Olympic National Park Fishing and Shellfish Regulations



Effective May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009

*Olympic National Park is managed as a natural area. The primary objectives of the fisheries management program at Olympic National Park are to preserve and restore native fishes and their habitats and provide recreational fishing opportunities for the enjoyment of park visitors. **All waters in Olympic National Park are closed to the removal of fish, shellfish, aquatic plants, and wildlife except as provided below.** All waters as described below are open to fishing from one hour before official sunrise to one hour after official sunset. To protect the park's fish and aquatic resources, these regulations are subject to change. Please see locally posted regulation changes and notices and visit the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/olymp/regs/fishregs.htm>.*

Licenses

A Washington State Recreational Fishing License is **NOT** required to fish in Olympic National Park **EXCEPT** when fishing in the Pacific Ocean from shore. No license is required to harvest surf smelt.

A Washington State catch record card is **REQUIRED** to fish for salmon or steelhead and they must be accounted for as if caught in State waters.

A Washington State Shellfish/Seaweed license is **REQUIRED** for harvest of shellfish from the Pacific Coastal Area. Harvest of seaweed, kelp, and unclassified species is prohibited (see Marine Fish and Shellfish Seasons and Limits).

Legal Gear

Recreational fishing in freshwater areas of Olympic National Park is restricted to artificial lures with single, barbless hooks (see Freshwater Seasons and Limits for exceptions); anglers must only use a single rod, reel and line that are under immediate control; the use of seines, traps, drugs, explosives, and nets are prohibited (except a knotless net may be used to land a legally hooked fish or dip-net smelt). Please report violators to 360-565-3115 or contact the nearest Park Ranger.

Fish Consumption Advisory. *Locations and Fish:* **PJ Lake** (brook trout), **Hoh Lake** (brook trout), and **Lake Ozette** (largemouth bass). *Pollutant:* Mercury. Some fish exceeded the human consumption threshold for mercury. The National Park Service recommends following the Washington Department of Health guidelines for safe consumption of recreationally caught fish (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/oehas/fish/>).

Boats and Rafts

Fishing from boats or other floating devices is permitted on the following rivers: Ozette, Queets below Tshletshy Creek, Hoh downstream from the launch site located near the park boundary above the South Fork confluence, Hoh in the Pacific Coastal area, Quinault below the North Shore Quinault River Bridge, Elwha below Glines Canyon Dam, Quillayute and Dickey rivers. Motorized craft are only allowed on the Quinault below the North Shore Quinault River Bridge, in the park's coastal portions of the Quillayute, Dickey, and Hoh Rivers (in the Pacific Coastal Area), and in Lake Mills, Lake Crescent, and Lake Ozette.

Bait

Bait is defined as any artificial or natural substance that attracts fish by scent and/or flavor. Most freshwater areas of Olympic National Park are managed as “Selective” or “Quality” fishing areas where bait is *prohibited*. Areas open to bait fishing are listed below under “Freshwater Seasons and Limits.” The following are prohibited in *all* park waters: possession of illegal bait; use of live or dead minnows, chub or other freshwater bait fish; attracting, collecting, or feeding fish by using fish eggs, roe, or food; and digging for bait.

Size and Possession Limits for Salmon

12 inch minimum size limit. *Adult* chinook are 24 inches or more and *adult* coho are 20 inches or more. *Jack* chinook are less than 24 inches and jack coho are less than 20 inches. Possession limit is two daily limits in fresh form.

Hatchery Fish Identification and Catch and Release

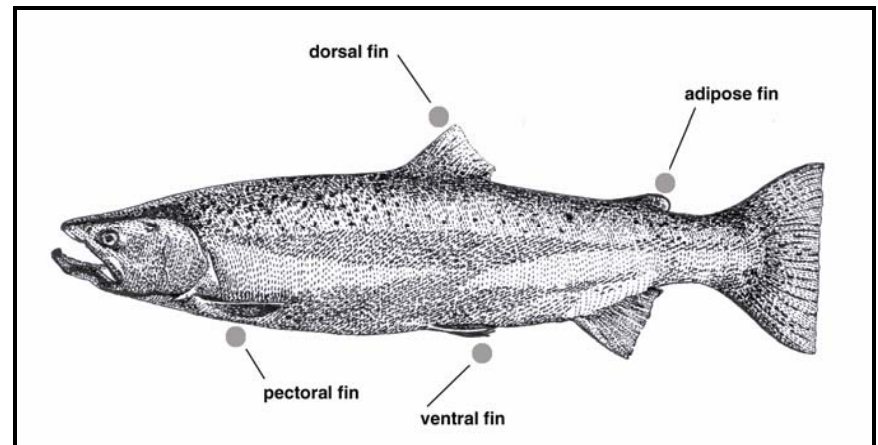
Hatchery salmon and steelhead are identified by a healed scar where the adipose or ventral fins have been removed, and harvest is only allowed in areas and seasons listed below. The only exception is in the Queets River where hatchery steelhead are identified by a dorsal fin height of less than 2 ¹/₈ inches between November 15 and February 28. All **wild** steelhead (unmarked and identified by intact adipose fin) must be released in Olympic National Park.

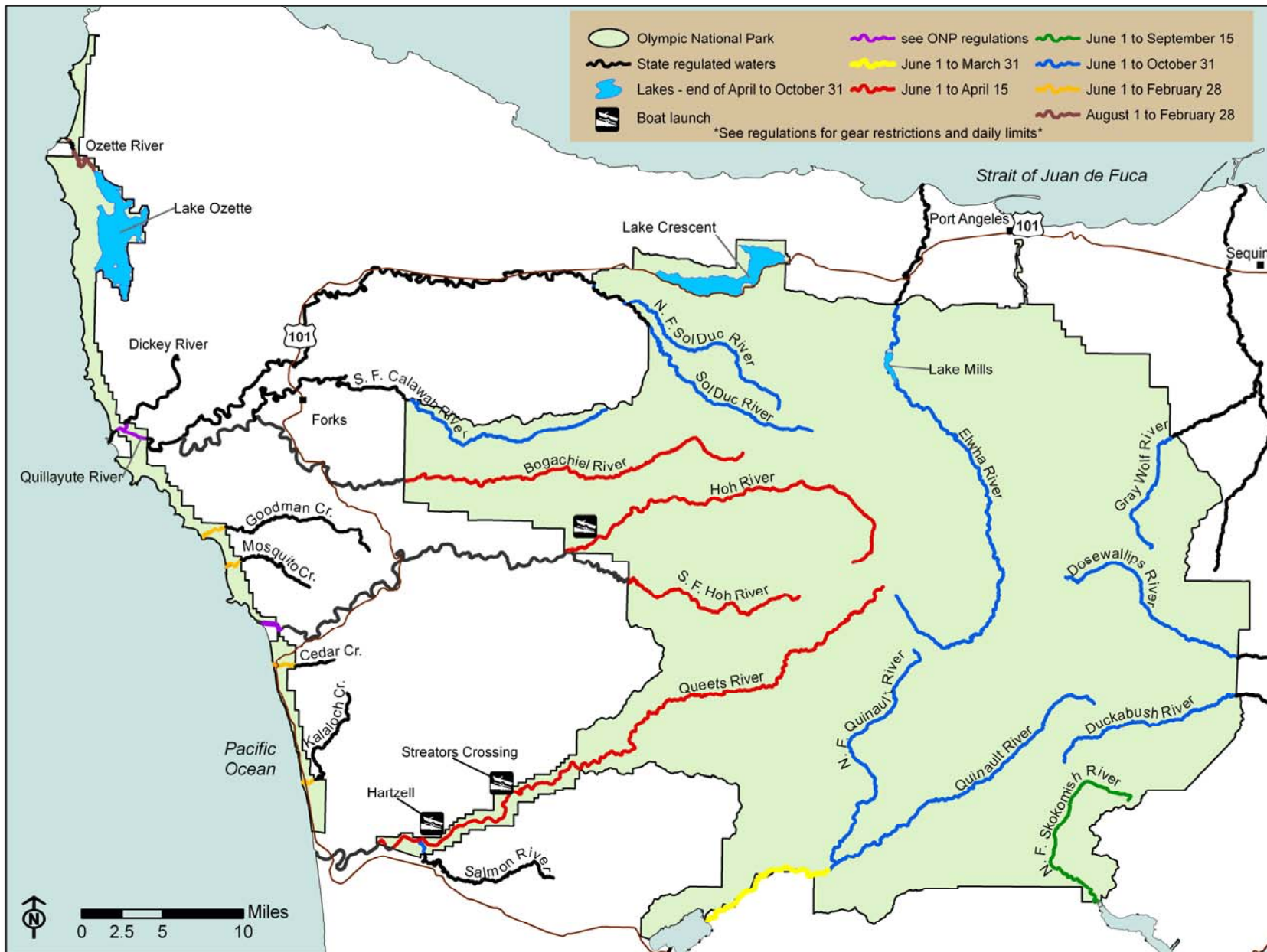
All other wild (unmarked) fish species must be released unless specifically allowed in Freshwater Season and Limits below. Fishing for bull trout and Dolly Varden is prohibited in all park waters, and these species must be safely released if incidentally captured.

RELEASING AND HANDLING FISH

It is unlawful to totally remove salmon, steelhead, or bull trout/Dolly Varden from the water if it is unlawful to retain those fish. Please follow these guidelines when releasing fish:

- 1) Land the fish as quickly as possible to minimize the fish’s fatigue.
- 2) Leave the fish in the water while removing the hook.
- 3) Wet your hands and do not squeeze or hold the fish by the eyes or gills. Minimize time out of water for photos.
- 4) If the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line and leave the hook in.
- 5) Safely release fish in quiet water, near point of capture.





Waters Closed to Fishing

- The portion of Kalaloch Creek downstream from Highway 101 bridge and the area used for domestic water supply (as posted).
- Elwha River from the Lake Mills spillway downstream 400 feet.
- Sol Duc River from 100 yard upstream to 250 yards downstream (or as posted) at the Salmon Cascades.

Freshwater Seasons and Limits

Area	Species	Season	Gear	Daily Limit
<i>All beaver ponds, streams, tributaries, and rivers (not listed below or under "Waters Closed to Fishing") including:</i> Dosewallips, Duckabush Elwha River, Gray Wolf, Quinault (East and North Forks), Sol Duc (North Fork and Mainstem), South Fork Calawah Rivers	All species	June 1 – Oct. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained
<i>Creeks in Coastal Area of ONP:</i> Cedar, Goodman, Kalaloch, and Mosquito Creeks	All species	June 1 – Feb. 28	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained
Bogachiel River, mainstem	All species	June 1 – Apr. 15	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained
Dickey River, Pacific Coastal Area	Salmon	July 1 – Aug. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook only from Mar. 1-Apr. 30 and from Sept. 1-Oct. 31. Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed all other dates.	Daily limit 6. No more than 2 adults may be retained. Release wild Chinook and wild coho.
		Sept. 1–Oct. 31		Daily limit 6. Up to 3 adults may be retained. Up to 2 adults may be Chinook. Release wild coho.
		Nov. 1–Nov. 30		Daily limit 6. Up to 3 adults may be retained. A total of 2 adults may be Chinook and wild coho.
	Steelhead & Trout	June 1 – Apr. 30		2 cutthroat trout or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each; 14 inch minimum size limit
Hoh River, Pacific Coastal Area	Salmon	May 16 – Aug. 31, Wednesday – Sunday only	Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed May 16-June 30 and Sept. 1 to Feb. 28.	no more than 1 adult; up to 6 total salmon including jacks; release wild Chinook.
		Sept. 1–Nov. 30		no more than 2 hatchery or wild adults; up to 6 total salmon including jacks
	Steelhead and Trout	May 16 – May 31, Wednesday – Sunday only		Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained
		June 1–Apr. 15		2 cutthroat trout or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each; 14 inch minimum size limit

Area	Species	Season	Gear	Daily Limit
Hoh River and South Fork Hoh River	All species	June 1–Apr. 15	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook. *Fly fishing only in portion of Hoh River from ¼ mile below Hoh Campground downstream to boat launch located above S. Fork confluence (fly with a single barbless hook that is ½ inch or smaller measured from point to shank, and a fly line; fixed spool reels, bait, and a weight attached to the leader or line are prohibited)	Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained
Ozette River	All species	Aug. 1 – Feb. 28	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained
Queets River, mainstem, below Hartzell boat launch	Salmon	Sept. 1–Nov. 30	Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed	no more than 2 hatchery or wild adults; up to 6 total salmon including jacks; release Chinook
	Steelhead	June 1–Aug. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release except 2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained
		Sept. 1-Nov. 14	Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed	2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained
		Nov. 15–Feb. 28	Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed	2 hatchery steelhead identified by dorsal fin height less than 2 1/8 inches (most credit cards are 2 1/8 inches wide) or with adipose or ventral clips may be retained
	March 1–Apr.15	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained	
All other species	June 1– April 15	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook. Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed Sept. 1 – Feb. 28	Catch-and-release	
Queets River, mainstem, from Hartzell boat launch upstream to Streaters Crossing boat launch	Steelhead	June 1– Nov. 14	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release except 2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained
		Nov. 15 –Feb. 28	Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed	2 hatchery steelhead with dorsal fin height less than 2 1/8 inches (most credit cards are 2 1/8 inches wide) or with adipose or ventral clips
		March 1–Apr.15	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained
	All other species including salmon	June 1 – Apr. 15	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook. Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed Nov. 15 – Feb. 28	Catch-and-release
Queets River, mainstem, from Streaters Crossing boat launch upstream	All species	June 1 – Feb. 28	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release except 2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained from Oct. 1-Nov. 14 and 2 hatchery steelhead identified by dorsal fin height less than 2 1/8 inches (most credit cards are 2 1/8 inches wide) or with adipose or ventral clips may be retained from Nov. 15-Feb. 28
		Mar. 1-Apr. 15	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained

Area	Species	Season	Gear	Daily Limit
Quillayute River, Pacific Coastal Area	Salmon	Feb. 1– Aug. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook only from Feb. 1-Apr. 30 and from Sept. 1-Oct. 31. Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed all other dates.	Daily limit 6. No more than 2 adults may be retained. Release wild Chinook and wild coho.
		Sept. 1–Oct. 31		Daily limit 6. Up to 3 adults may be retained. Up to 2 adults may be Chinook. Release wild coho.
		Nov. 1-Nov. 30		Daily limit 6. Up to 3 adults may be retained. A total of 2 adults may be Chinook and wild coho.
	Steelhead and Trout	May 1 – May 31		Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained
		June 1– Nov. 30		2 cutthroat trout or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each; 14 inch minimum size limit
		Dec. 1 – Apr.30		2 cutthroat trout or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each; 14 inch minimum size limit
Quinault River, mainstem, downstream from Upper Quinault Bridge	All Species	June 1– Mar. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release for all species except 2 hatchery adipose clipped steelhead may be retained
Salmon River (tributary to the Queets)	Salmon	Sept. 1–Nov. 30	Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed	Up to 3 adult coho may be retained; up to 6 total salmon including jacks; release Chinook
	Steelhead	June 1– Aug. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook.	Catch-and-release except 2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained
		Sept. 1 – Nov 14	Bait, treble, and barbed hooks allowed	2 adipose clipped hatchery steelhead may be retained
		Nov. 15-Feb. 28	Bait, treble, and barbed hooks allowed	2 hatchery steelhead identified by dorsal fin height less than 2 1/8 inches (most credit cards are 2 1/8 inches wide) or with adipose or ventral clips may be retained
	All other species	June 1 – Feb. 28	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook. Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed Sept. 1 – Feb. 28	Catch-and-release
Skokomish River, North Fork	All species	June 1–Sept. 15	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release

Lakes and Reservoirs

Area	Species	Season	Gear	Daily Limit
High elevation lakes (above 400 meters or 1,300 feet)	Rainbow and cutthroat trout	Last Saturday in April- Oct. 31	Bait, treble and barbed hooks allowed	5 trout, no minimum size limit.
	Eastern brook trout			No daily, size, or possession limits. See Fish Consumption Advisory.
Irely Lake	All species	Last Saturday in April- Oct. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release
Lake Crescent	All species	June 1 – Oct. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook, 2 ounce weight restriction	Catch-and-release
Lake Ozette	All species	Last Saturday in April- Oct. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release except no daily, size, or possession limits for yellow perch, bass, pikeminnow and bullhead. See Fish Consumption Advisory.
Mills Reservoir	All species	Last Saturday in April- Oct. 31	Artificial lures with barbless single point hook	Catch-and-release

Marine Fish and Shellfish Seasons and Limits General Regulations

- Harvest of Seaweed (algae) is prohibited.
- Harvest of unclassified invertebrates and fish is prohibited.
- While fishing from the intertidal zone, bait and barbed hooks may be used but the harvest of any organisms for use as bait is prohibited.
- Forage fish (Herring/Sardine/Sandlance/Anchovy/Surf smelt) may be harvested using a dip net, with a maximum mesh size of 1/2” stretched mesh. Only one dip net may be used at a time and must be held by the rigid handle at all times.
- Prior to harvesting shellfish, check current marine toxin conditions at the Washington Department of Health Marine Toxins/PSP Hotline (1-800-562-5632 or <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm>).

All coastal waters in the intertidal zone of Olympic National Park are closed to the taking of fish and shellfish except as provided below. Razor clams can only be harvested in the Kalaloch region during announced seasons. Harvesters may have in their possession the equivalent of one daily limit.

Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Season
MARINE FISH			
Herring/Sardine/Sandlance /Anchovy/Surf smelt	None	10 pounds all species combined	Year-round
Lingcod	24”	2 but no more than 15 bottomfish in the aggregate regardless of species	April 16 – Oct. 15
Rockfish	None	10 in aggregate. Release all canary and yelloweye rockfish. No more than 15 bottomfish in the aggregate regardless of species	Year-round
Greenling	None	15 but no more than 15 bottomfish in the aggregate regardless of species	Year round
Cabezon	None	2 but no more than 15 bottomfish in the aggregate regardless of species	Year-round

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Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Season
Surfperch	None	15 but no more than 15 bottomfish in the aggregate regardless of species	Year-round
All other intertidal fish (unclassified)	CLOSED		
<i>No harvest of any fish for bait use</i>	CLOSED		
INVERTEBRATES			
Goose neck barnacles	None	10 pounds whole or 5 lbs stalks	November 1 to March 31
Horse clams	None	7 (must keep first 7)	November 1 to March 31
Littleneck/ butter/ manila clams/ cockles	1 ½"	10 pounds in shell or 40 total clams	November 1 to March 31
Mussels	None	10 pounds in shell	November 1 to March 31
Razor clams	None	15 (must keep first 15)	To Be Announced
Dungeness crab	6"	6 males only, with no retention of soft-shell crabs	December 1 to September 15 for pots, other gear year-round
Red rock crab	5"	6 of either sex, with no retention of soft-shell crabs	December 1 to September 15 for pots, other gear year-round
Abalone	CLOSED		
Geoducks	CLOSED		
Octopus	CLOSED		
Oysters	CLOSED		
Sand shrimp	CLOSED		
Scallops (all species)	CLOSED		
Sea cucumbers	CLOSED		
Sea urchins (all species)	CLOSED		
Shrimp (all species)	CLOSED		
All other intertidal invertebrates (unclassified)	CLOSED		
<i>No harvest of any invertebrates for bait use</i>	CLOSED		