

FISHING



Regulations

- Fishers 16 years or older must have a California or Nevada fishing license to fish in Lake Tahoe. If your visit will be short, temporary licenses are available.

- California Department of Fish and Game holds Free Fishing Days this season on July 4 and Sept. 6. On these days only, anglers may fish without having to buy a sport fishing license. All fishing regulations, such as bag and size limits, gear restrictions, report card requirements, fishing hours and stream closures remain in effect.

- Fishing is closed in Lake Tahoe within 300 feet of its tributaries and upstream to the first lake from Oct. 1 to June 30. Lake Tahoe is open year-round from 1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset. No fishing is allowed within 300 feet of the mouth of any stream. Most Sierra lakes are open all year. No live bait unless it is taken from the lake.

- No fish may be used for bait or possessed for use as bait in Lake Tahoe, Fallen Leaf Lake or Donner Lake unless taken from that lake. Live bait in these lakes is limited to the following: Lahontan redbside shiner, Tui chub, Tahoe sucker, Lahontan mountain sucker, Piute sculpin and Lahontan speckled dace. Chumming is illegal.

- There is a two-fish limit on Mackinaws, and a limit of five fish on Lake Tahoe.

Hot Spots

LAKE TAHOE: Avoid fishing during times of mirror-like calm, unless fishing deep for Mackinaw. Even a slight surface riffle will break up shadows cast on the bottom and will partially obliterate the angler from view. Use a light monofilament line. Use long line for trolling or make long casts if fishing from shore.

Cave Rock on the East Shore of the lake is a good location for Rainbow and Brown if you don't want to venture far. **Tackle/bait: Worms, spinners, marshmallows, eggs.**

Fishing for Rainbows from the shore is best May through July. If you're on the North Shore, the Kings Beach and Lake Forest areas are planted throughout the summer. **Tackle/bait: Flashy lures such as Kastmasters, spinners or spoons. Salmon eggs, power bait or worms are best for stocked rainbows.**

TRUCKEE RIVER: Lake Tahoe's only outlet, fishing is closed year-round from the dam in Tahoe City to 1,000 feet downstream. Certain other sections of the Truckee are closed year-round. Check the fishing regulations for specific information.

Fish the deep pools during the early part of the season. Best bets are to fish the section of the river between Tahoe City and River Ranch (Highway 89 and Alpine Meadows Road). **Tackle/bait: Use power bait, salmon eggs and worms. Artificial lures or flies only in Wild Trout area from Trout Creek in Truckee to the Boca Bridge.**

SPOONER LAKE: Spooner Lake is managed as a trophy fishery. It is open all year for catch and release with a limit of five trout. Rowboats, inflatable rafts and float tubes may be used, but no motorized boats. **Tackle/bait: Artificial lures with single barbless hooks only. Parking \$10, \$8 Nev. residents.**

PROSSER CREEK RESERVOIR: Among the best trout fishing in California, especially for Rainbow and Brown. **Tackle/bait: Power bait, nightcrawlers and salmon eggs. Trollers successful with flasher/worm**

combinations and minnow-imitating lures. Olive or black woolly buggers, nymphs and midges for fly fishing.

STAMPEDE RESERVOIR: Holds a large number of trophy class Rainbow and Brown trout. Shore fishing nets Browns and Rainbow, with Kokanee when trolling. **Tackle/bait: Nightcrawlers, power bait or salmon eggs. Flasher/wedding rings and white corn combos for trolling. Woolly buggers, nymphs and midges for fly fishing.**

DONNER LAKE: Brown and Rainbow can be expected when shore fishing with good spots at the boat ramp or the west end of the beach. Mackinaws can be found in the shallows during the early season. **Tackle/bait: Nightcrawlers, power bait or salmon eggs for shore fishing. Top liners use flash/worm combinations or minnow imitating lures. Trollers use minnow-imitating lures or jig.**

BOCA RESERVOIR: Boca is good for early and late shore fishing and is popular for trolling for Rainbow, Brown and Brook. Shore fish the rocky sections of the stream inlet. **Tackle/bait: Nightcrawlers for trout near the dam and inlet, power bait and salmon eggs for Rainbow. Flashers and Kokanee bugs are good for trolling for Kokanee.**

MARTIS CREEK RESERVOIR: Rainbow, brown and Lahontan cutthroat trout. Catch and release only using artificial lures with barbless hooks and no bait. No motorized boats. **Tackle: Nymphs that imitate small fish, woolly buggers.**

DESOLATION WILDERNESS: If you are up for a hike, Desolation may be the perfect place to fish. Although it gets crowded, its many lakes are not over fished. You will want to fish early in the morning or just before dusk, when the fish are feeding on the surface close to shore. The lakes in this area are stocked with fingerlings that grow to catchable size. Streams in the area are not large and therefore do not produce large trout. However, these streams are not heavily fished and do provide the angler the opportunity to catch many fish.

Private Fishing Lakes

SAWMILL LAKE: Sawmill Lake is a secluded 10-acre reservoir stocked with hundreds of bright, fighting rainbow trout, and is reserved for catch and release fly-fishing only. Located at Northstar at Tahoe, fishing is limited to four rods at a time and reservations are required. (530) 582-5393.

OLYMPIC VALLEY: For the angler wanting to improve their fly fishing technique, the Fly Fishing Center at Resort at Squaw Creek offers instruction from the basics to guided trips led by certified instructor Matt Heron, who has more than 24 years of experience. Anglers can learn the fundamentals at the Resort's private, trout-stocked pond, no fishing license is required. The pond is exclusively catch and release and is regularly stocked with trout up to 20 inches. Fly fishing classes and excursions are offered, as well as instruction for all ages. (530) 583-6300.

A brochure by the California and Nevada Game Departments may be obtained at any sporting goods store in the area. Mountain Hardware and Sports at 11320 Donner Pass Road in Truckee and Swigard's True Value Hardware 200 N. Lake Blvd. in Tahoe City both have excellent fishing departments and knowledgeable staffs to assist you.