

# FISHING REGULATIONS FOR INYO COUNTY

EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2021

## FISHING REGULATIONS

This map / guide is available to assist anglers, however fishing regulations are subject to change without notice. It is each angler’s responsibility to look up and ensure they are aware of the most current fishing regulations immediately prior to fishing on the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife web page – <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland>

## OPEN YEAR-ROUND

Inland lakes and reservoirs (i.e. Diaz Lake, Tinemaha, Pleasant Valley Reservoir, Intake II, North Lake, Topaz Lake and back-country lakes), and ponds entirely on private lands, except those listed in Special Regs Section 7.50, are open to fishing all year with a **five trout daily bag limit, and 10 trout possession limit**. This excludes the 20 resort lakes and others listed in Section 7.50b. The 20 resort lakes are listed to the right in the Winter Season section.

## WHAT ABOUT THE OWENS RIVER?

The entire Owens River is open year-round but special regs and restrictions apply to the following sections based mostly on seasonality. See chart below:

## WINTER SEASON:

November 16 to Friday preceding the last Saturday in April  
rivers, creeks, streams and canals are catch-and-release only.  
Unscented artificial lures/barbless hooks. (Unless listed in “Special Regs Section 750(b)”).

Resort lakes are closed completely during the winter season. The closed resort lakes include Bridgeport Reservoir and tributaries; Convict Lake; Crowley Lake; Lake George; Grant Lake; Gull Lake; Horseshoe Lake; June Lake; Lundy Lake; Lake Mamie; Lake Mary; Rock Creek Lake; Lake Sabrina; Silver Lake; South Lake; Twin Lakes (Mammoth); Twin Lakes, Lower and Upper (Bridgeport); Virginia Lake, Lower and Upper.

## TRADITIONAL SUMMER “FISHMAS” SEASON:

Last Saturday in April through November 15  
All lakes, streams, rivers and canals are open to catch-and-keep fishing with **5 bag/10 in possession** unless listed in Section 7.50b, the alphabetical list of trout waters, and/or geographic areas with Special Regulations.

Note that in Section 7.50b, the resort lakes listed below are open to catch-and-keep fishing with 5 bag / 5 in possession limit during the summer season. They include Bridgeport Reservoir and tributaries; Convict Lake; Crowley Lake; Lake George; Grant Lake; Gull Lake; Horseshoe Lake; June Lake; Lundy Lake; Lake Mamie; Lake Mary; Rock Creek Lake; Lake Sabrina; Silver Lake; South Lake; Twin Lakes (Mammoth); Twin Lakes, Lower and Upper (Bridgeport); Virginia Lake, Lower and Upper.

BODY OF WATER	FISHING REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2021	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>Upper Owens River</b> — from Benton Crossing bridge (on Benton Crossing Road) upstream to Big Springs. Above Big Springs, see Deadman Creek 7.50(41) (Mono County)	All year. Only unscented artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
<b>Upper Owens River</b> — from Benton Crossing bridge (on Benton Crossing Road) downstream to Crowley Lake (Mono County)	Last Saturday in April through July 31.	5 trout per day, 5 in possession
<b>Upper Owens River</b> <i>continued</i>	August 1 through November 15. Only unscented artificial lures may be used. Minimum size limit: 18 inches total length.	2 trout per day, 2 in possession
<b>The “Gorge”</b> — Crowley Lake Dam to PVR/DWP station (Mono and Inyo counties)	Open year-round.	5 trout per day, 5 in possession
<b>Lower Owens River</b> — from Pleasant Valley Dam downstream to footbridge at lower end of Pleasant Valley Campground (Inyo County)	Last Saturday in April through November 15.	2 trout per day, 4 in possession
<b>Lower Owens River</b> <i>continued</i>	November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only unscented artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
<b>Lower Owens River</b> — from footbridge below Pleasant Valley Campground east (downstream) to 5 Bridges Road (Inyo County)	All year. Only unscented artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
<b>Lower Owens River</b> — from 5 Bridges Road to DWP pumpback pond at bottom end of river (Inyo County)	All year.	5 trout per day, 5 in possession

## SUSTAINABLE FISHING

**JOIN THE EFFORT** to keep our Eastern Sierra fisheries healthy and sustainable so that trout can thrive to trophy sizes — not only for your next fishing trip but for your great grandkids and their great grandkids! It’s simple:

### TIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND CATCH-AND-RELEASE BEST PRACTICES:

- 1. Land your fish as carefully and quickly as possible.**  
If you plan to release the fish, do not pull it up or land it on dry land — sand, rocks and vegetation damage the trout’s slime covering that helps keep the fish healthy.
- 2. Avoid moving fish from the water** — unhook and release the fish while it is still under water.
- 3. Only use wet hands and limit overall handling of fish.** Never use a rag, and never squeeze the fish or touch its eyes or gills.
- 4. Gently remove hooks you can see** — otherwise, clip the line near the mouth on a deep hooked fish. (The hook will rust and dissolve over time.)
- 5. Use artificial lures** (no bait) to minimize deep hooking. Barbless hooks or hooks with flattened barbs make unhooking easier and less stressful on the fish.
- 6. When cleaning your fish** always dispose fish waste at a designated fish cleaning station or a bear-safe approved trash can.
- 7. Leave no trace.** Fishing line and hooks left behind can harm pets, wildlife and other people (often children who are wading, swimming or playing on the shore). Please collect and recycle fishing line and hooks at your local tackle shop and at fishing line disposal tubes at lakes and marinas throughout the Eastern Sierra.
- 8. Recreate responsibly in the “Big Backyard.”** When fishing and camping in the Eastern Sierra, please take all trash out with you, including pet and human waste, stay on the beaten path, and follow all wildfire safety prevention regulations to avoid causing a devastating forest fire. Thank you!



*Fish species found in the Eastern Sierra:*

- Rainbow trout**  
**Brown trout**  
**Brook trout**  
**Golden trout**
- Small mouth bass**  
**Catfish**  
**Bluegill**

### Derbies, events and free fishing days

California Department of Fish and Wildlife offers two **FREE FISHING DAYS** each year, usually in July and September. On these days, you can fish without 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 on free fishing days. The Blake Jones Trout Derby held mid-March in Bishop has been popular with visitors and locals for over 50 years. Communities of Lone Pine, Independence and Big Pine also host annual derbies. Check the calendar of events on [www.bishopvisitor.com](http://www.bishopvisitor.com).

*Please keep only what you need –*

**Release the rest** so they may reproduce, grow and transform into trophy-sized beauties!

**Bishop Chamber of Commerce & Information Center**  
690 N. Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514  
760-873-8405 | [BishopVisitor.com](http://BishopVisitor.com)

**Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce**  
120 S. Main Street, Lone Pine, CA 93545  
760-876-4444 | [LonePineChamber.org](http://LonePineChamber.org)

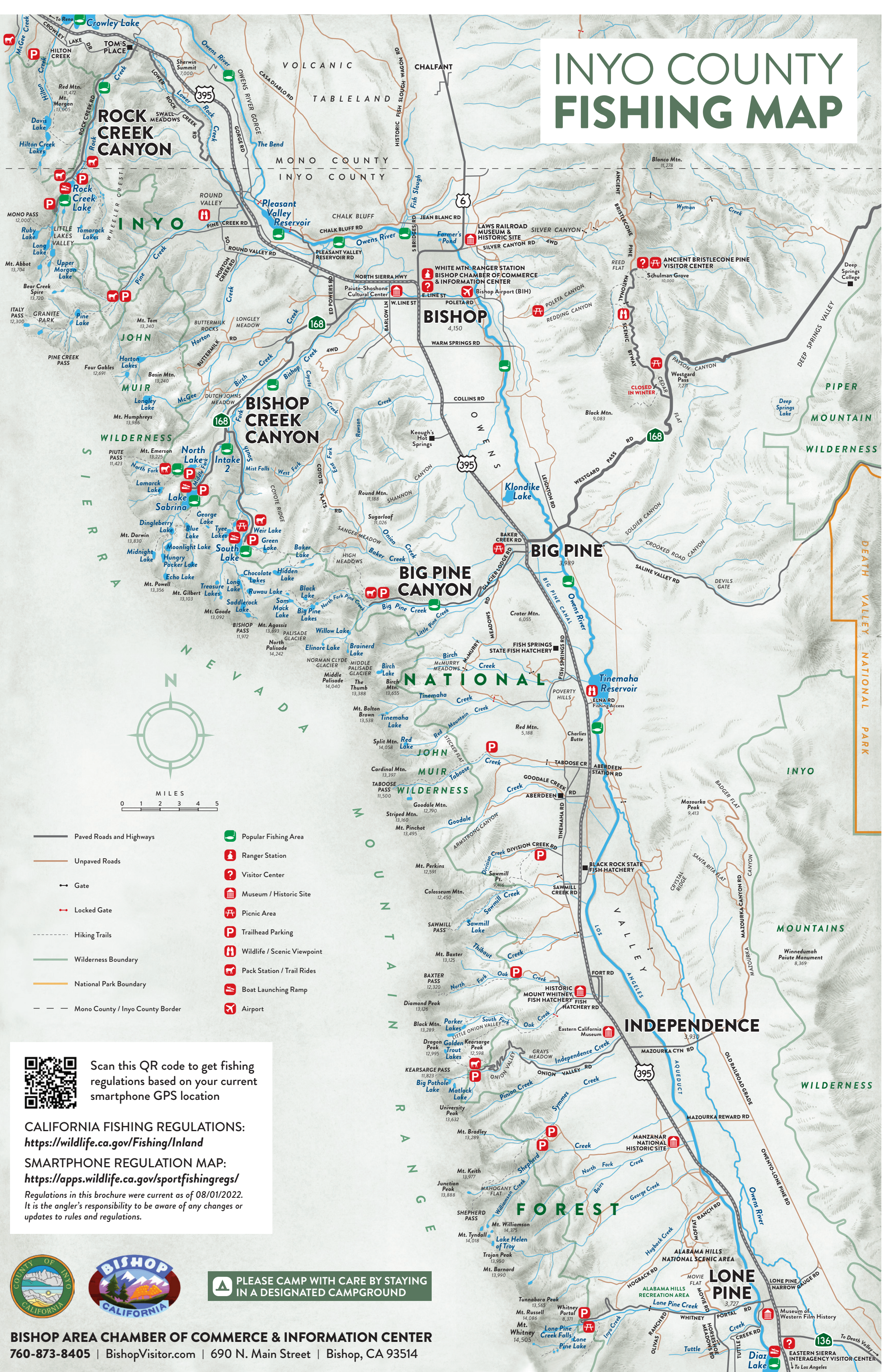
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
Bishop Field Office | 760-872-1171 | [Wildlife.ca.gov](http://Wildlife.ca.gov)



FRONT COVER: OWENS RIVER © PATTUCCI PHOTO • BACK COVER: RAINBOW TROUT © ALEXANDER ROTH/ISTOCK



# INYO COUNTY FISHING MAP



Scan this QR code to get fishing regulations based on your current smartphone GPS location

## CALIFORNIA FISHING REGULATIONS:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland>

## SMARTPHONE REGULATION MAP:

<https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/sportfishingregs/>

*Regulations in this brochure were current as of 08/01/2022. It is the angler's responsibility to be aware of any changes or updates to rules and regulations.*



**PLEASE CAMP WITH CARE BY STAYING  
IN A DESIGNATED CAMPGROUND**

**BISHOP AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INFORMATION CENTER**

**760-873-8405** | [BishopVisitor.com](http://BishopVisitor.com) | 690 N. Main Street | Bishop, CA 93514