Inland Warmwater Fishes

California Fishing Passport

Warmwater fishing in California covers a broad range of fish and fishing techniques. At one extreme is the simplicity of a youngster fishing for bluegill in a farm pond with a willow pole and a worm on a hook. At the other end of the scale may be the finesse and sophistication of a tournament bass angler in search of a 'kicker' fish, tearing across the lake in a fiberglass boat full of a variety of rods and reels, fish finders, and the latest custom-colored, handmade, artificial lures.

The common link among warmwater fishing experiences is that the anglers target fish that prefer water temperatures generally too warm for trout. This is not to say that trout and warmwater fish cannot occur in the same body of water. Many of California's lakes and reservoirs support excellent "two-story" fisheries where warmwater species such as bass and sunfish can be caught in warmer surface waters and trout in deeper, cooler areas.

Warmwater fish can be found throughout California in urban and rural streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs, and can provide excellent sport and good table fare. They have not only introduced millions to the sport of fishing, they continue to provide a lifetime of angling challenges for many.

Largemouth Bass

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Redeye Bass

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Smallmouth Bass

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Spotted Bass

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Inland Warmwater Fishes

Striped Bass (landlocked)

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

White Bass

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Black Bullhead

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Brown Bullhead

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Yellow Bullhead

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch

Witness signature

place stamp here

Blue Catfish

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch

Witness signature

place stamp here

Channel Catfish

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch

Witness signature

place stamp here

Flathead Catfish

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch

Witness signature

place stamp here

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White Catfish

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Common Carp

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Black Crappie

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

White Crappie

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Sacramento Perch

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Tule Perch

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Yellow Perch

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Bluegill

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

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Pumpkinseed

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Green Sunfish

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Redear Sunfish

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Warmouth

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Tilapia

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

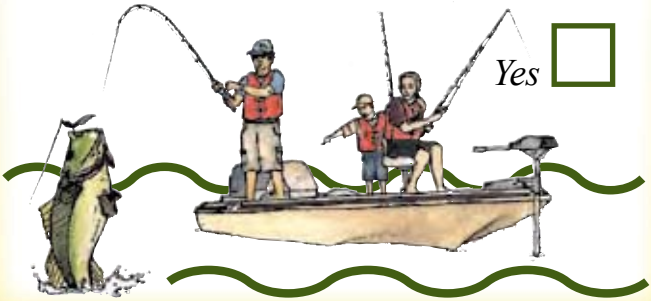
Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Practice Safe and Responsible Fishing

I do not transport fish, live bait, or water plants between waterways – it can be harmful and it is illegal.

Yes ☐



Trophy Black Bass Recognition Program

courtesy J. Banacky

Hankering to catch a trophy-sized bass? You're in the right state! Twenty-two of the 25 heftiest largemouth caught in the U.S. were taken from California waters.

To recognize anglers who land California's monster black bass, the Department created the Trophy Black Bass recognition program as part of the Black Bass Conservation and Management Act of 1980. This program:

- Recognizes the extraordinary accomplishment of landing a trophy bass
- Helps the Department maintain records of trophy bass landings
- Assists Department managers in producing more trophy bass in designated waters

To qualify, bass must meet or exceed the following weight criteria:

largemouth bass: 10 lb. smallmouth bass: 6 lb. spotted bass: 6 lb.

Two witnesses are required to the weighing and measuring of the fish. The Department will award a certificate of recognition, suitable for framing, to anglers who catch verified trophy black bass; anglers who catch and release their trophy bass also receive a California Trophy Bass catch-and-release hat or lapel pin.

If you've successfully caught a trophy-sized black bass, complete and mail a Trophy Black Bass application form along with supporting documentation to the Department. Application forms are available on the Trophy Black Bass Angler Recognition Web site and at all Department offices. For more information about the Trophy Black Bass Angler Recognition Program, call (916) 358-2847 or visit

www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing