



WALLEYE FISHING SPOTS

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has an Internet page that can help you plan a fishing trip to some walleye spots and learn where state fishing accesses are located throughout the state. You can find the page at: www.fwp.state.mt.us/fishing/plan.asp.

Here is a sampling of walleye waters you might try:

Bighorn Lake: Always a place that holds a few huge walleyes, this lake that straddles the Montana-Wyoming state line has come on strong with big walleyes in the past few years. It's fished primarily with jigs near the steep banks, or with trolled crankbaits for suspended walleyes.

Cooney Reservoir: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks stocks walleyes, as well as rainbow trout, in this Carbon County water, west of Boyd. Some grow huge. In fact, a past state record was caught there.

Yellowstone River: From the Hysham area downstream there is good fishing for both walleyes and sauger. Fishing is often best in the late summer, fall and into the winter as long as the river stays ice-free.

Fort Peck Reservoir: Undoubtedly the best walleye water in Montana, it's big and takes a good-sized boat for safety's sake. Fishing is best in the reservoir's upper reaches and the Big Dry Arm in May and early June. As summer progresses, fishing in those areas slows down and the middle reaches and dam area of the lake are best.

Nelson Reservoir: Located east of Malta, it's a very good water for walleyes, perch and northern pike. June is typically one of the better months to fish Nelson and the lake generally ice fishes very well, too.

Missouri River: Anglers fish the Missouri both above and below Fort Peck Reservoir. Above the lake, it's a great fall fishery clear to ice-up. Below the lake, there's good fishing in the winter and into the spring.

Tongue River Reservoir: Some good walleyes are caught out of this Bighorn County water. Better known for its crappies and with good smallmouth bass numbers, it produces plenty of walleyes, too, for those who know it well.

Fresno Reservoir: Located near Havre on the Milk River, this reservoir historically has produced plenty of decent-sized walleyes. It has been hit hard by drought the past few years, but remains a good place for walleyes, sauger and northern pike.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir: Strong walleye hatches came off in 1996 and 1997 resulting in plenty of walleyes running 22 to 25 inches. The best bite is in June. Just look for the crowds of boats on the south end of the lake.

Boysen Reservoir: This Wyoming reservoir near Thermopolis is a fine walleye water, especially into the month of June. You can fish the points with jigs or spinners or troll crankbaits out in the middle for suspended walleyes.

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