



Fishing Regulations Made Easy

Sequoia National Forest

Kern River Ranger District



Everyone 16 years old or older must have a California fishing license. Those under 16 years old must still obey all limits and size restrictions.

Lake Isabella:

Fishing on Lake Isabella is open all year and 24 hours a day. Limits are as follows:

Black Bass- 2 fish with a 15 inch minimum total length
(Large mouth Bass)
(Small mouth Bass)

Trout and Salmon-5 fish limit - combined.

Crappie- 25 fish Limit - 25 fish in possession

Catfish- No Limit

Bluegill and other Sunfish- No Limit

Carp- No Limit

Pike minnow- No Limit

(Fishing regulations for the Valley District apply)

North Fork of the Kern River:

A. From Lake Isabella to the Johnsondale Bridge.

Fishing on this section of river is open all year. Lures, bait, flies etc. may be used. The regular California Fish and Game regulations for the Sierra District apply (5 trout limit and 5 trout in possession).

B. From the Johnsondale Bridge upstream 5.2 miles to trail number 33E30 is a special regulation area.

Fishing season on this section of river starts on the last Saturday in April and runs through the 15th of November. There is a minimum size limit of 14 inches total length and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. There is a two fish limit with two fish in possession.

Also between November 16th and the Friday before the last Saturday in April you may fish with artificial lures with barbless hooks and the limit is zero (only catch and release).

C. From trail 33E30 upstream to the mouth of Tyndall Creek is a special regulation area.

Fishing season on this section of river also runs from the last Saturday in April to the 15th of November. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. There is a 10-inch maximum size limit on Rainbow Trout with no size limit on Brown Trout on this section of river. The daily limit is 2 fish and 2 fish in possession combined.

Tributaries of the Kern River– North and South Forks:

Fishing season on these tributaries is open from the last Saturday in April through the 15th of November. Lures, bait, flies etc. may be used. The regular California Fish and Wildlife regulations for the Sierra District apply (5 trout limit and 5 trout in possession).

South Fork of the Kern River:

On the South Fork of the Kern River outside of the Golden Trout Wilderness fishing season starts on the last Saturday in April and continues until the 15th of November. Regular California fishing regulations for the Sierra District apply. The daily limit is 5 fish with 5 fish in possession.

Golden Trout Wilderness: (Excluding the main stem of the Kern River.)

Fishing season in the Golden Trout Wilderness is open the last Saturday in April through November 15th. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. The limit is 5 trout a day and 5 trout in possession.

Regulation information taken from the California Sport Fishing Regulations California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

For more information please contact CA Fish and Wildlife at [\(559\) 243-4005](tel:5592434005)

