

# FISHING RULES

**Fort Lewis, Washington**

***Keep Fort Lewis Clean  
Pick up Your Trash & Bait Cans***

*Northwest Adventure Center*

**Bldg 8050, NCO Beach Rd  
(253) 967-5415/7744**

## **1. PURPOSE:**

This regulation outlines policies and procedures for fishing on Fort Lewis Military Reservation (hereinafter referred to as Fort Lewis).

## **2. APPLICABILITY:**

This regulation is applicable to all personnel engaged in fishing at Fort Lewis. IAW Fort Lewis regulation 215-1 and IAW Fort Lewis regulation 350-30.

## **3. POLICY:**

### **A. Fishing on Fort Lewis is a privilege and not a right!**

- B. All personnel engaged in fishing on Fort Lewis will comply with applicable regulations to include the Federal Migratory Treaty Act, Revised Code of Washington, the Game and Fisheries Codes of the State of Washington, as well as all Fort Lewis Regulations. This includes taking and possession limits. Federal laws prevail in all cases.
- C. All personnel engaged in fishing on Fort Lewis must have valid Washington State fishing licenses and must cooperate fully with the Military Police, Federal Game Wardens and Washington State Game Agents.
- D. Military personnel in violation of the provisions of this regulation are subject to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Those military personnel who are subject to prosecution in Magistrate Court and all civilians will be prosecuted by the Magistrate Court System or the District Court.
- E. All personnel are subject to suspension or revocation of their fishing privileges for violations of this regulation. Civilian personnel may be permanently barred from reentering the installation for serious infractions of federal, state or installation regulations.

## **4. FISHING AND BOATING:**

- A. Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and their family members may fish all the lakes and streams on Fort Lewis unless the area is otherwise posted, closed by a Daily Bulletin announcement or as written in Fort Lewis Regulation 215-1, the State Fishing Pamphlet or the Fort Lewis Game Fishing Pamphlet.
  - 1) Area Access Recreational Use Permits for fishing are not required for active duty military, retired military, appropriated and non-appropriated fund employees, their immediate family members or the accompanied guests of these valid identification (ID) card holders.
  - 2) Two guests are authorized per ID card holder.
  - 3) The vehicle used will have a valid DoD sticker.
- B. Area Access Recreational Use Permits for fishing are required for individuals other than active duty military, retired military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund employees, the immediate family members of these personnel or their guests.
  - 1) Area Access Recreational Use Permits for fishing are required for access to any water located on or adjacent to Fort Lewis obtained by crossing Fort Lewis property.
  - 2) Fishing and boating for individuals identified in 4B above are restricted to American Lake, Chambers Lake and the Nisqually River.
  - 3) **Area Access Recreational Use Permits** for fishing may be obtained at the Range Control Area Access Section, Bldg 4074, phone (253)967-6277. Guidance for permit application is outlined in Fort Lewis regulation 350-30.
  - 4) The Area Access Recreational Use Permit will be displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle at all times while the vehicle is on Fort Lewis property.
  - 5) Non-DoD personnel must check in daily with the Area Access Section IAW Fort Lewis Regulation 350-30.
  - 6) The following access restrictions apply to all vehicles that **do not have** a valid DoD sticker.
    - a.* Access to and the use of Solo Point on Puget Sound, the boat launch adjacent to the Family Beach on American Lake and the Community Recreation Division (CRD) Beach Boat Launch on American Lake is prohibited.
    - b.* Access to American and Chambers Lakes or the Nisqually River is restricted to a direct route on paved roads only. These are the only freshwaters **civilians are authorized to fish.**
  - 7) The following fishing and boating restrictions are in effect on Fort Lewis.
    - a.* All personnel 15 years of age and older must possess a valid Washington State fishing license, except those persons exempted by the State of Washington.

- b. Nisqually Lake is closed.
- c. Sears Lake is open year round only for juveniles that are family members or guests of DoD personnel and under 15 years of age (in accordance with the Washington State Fishing Regulations).
- d. American Lake, Fiander Lake, Cat Lake, Chambers Lake, Sequelitchew Lake, Vietnam Marsh, Johnson Marsh, Spanaway Marsh and Shannon Marsh are open on a year-round basis, except when closed for training.
- e. The northern section of Spanaway Marsh, north of East West Grid Line 15.0, is closed from December 1st through August 31st of each year. This section will be marked by Public Works.
- f. The potholes in Area 15 along South Creek have been defined as **Sloughs** (see the Washington Game Fishing Pamphlet). These sloughs open June 1. Note: South Creek and the potholes in Area 15 are tributaries of Muck Creek and are for Trout catch-and-release only. The selective fishery regulations as outlined in the Washington State Game Fishing Regulations apply.
- g. It is unlawful to fish within 400 feet downstream of any fish ladder, man-made dams or fish weirs.
- h. It is unlawful to take Salmon from \*spawning tributaries of the Nisqually River. \*Refer to state regulations for stream seasons.
- i. It is unlawful to fish with more than one line or rod and/or the use of more than two hooks, flies or lures in combination of the same.
- j. All boats utilized on Fort Lewis will conform to Pierce and Thurston County Watercraft Regulations. Gasoline-powered boats are prohibited except for use on American Lake, Nisqually River and Puget Sound. If your boat is equipped with a gasoline motor, it must be in the up position with the fuel line disconnected. Electric motors are authorized on all Fort Lewis waters.

## **5. TRESPASSERS:**

Individuals violating the above policies are trespassing on a controlled access federal reservation and they are subject to citation by the Military Police. Trespassers may be barred from subsequent authorized access to the installation.

## **6. MISCELLANEOUS:**

- A. **Camping on Fort Lewis:** The only authorized overnight camping sites on Fort Lewis are located at the Lewis Lake Campground, the southeast side of Chambers Lake and the Fort Lewis Travel Camp. All other camping is prohibited unless specifically authorized by letter from Range Control Division or by a realty instrument issued by Public Works under provision of Army Regulation 405-80. There is a 14-day stay limit on camping on Fort Lewis.
- B. **Community Recreation Division (CRD)** campsites and picnic area policies. Quiet hours will be from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. at campsites. No loud radios, stereos or other noise will be allowed. Fireworks are prohibited. Dog/cats will be controlled/leashed. Owner will clean up after his/her animal.
- C. **CRD facilities:** Non-DoD use of CRD picnic facilities, camping areas and athletic fields is prohibited. DoD identification card holders are authorized two guests each.
- D. Chambers Lake (within the Fort Lewis Military Reservation). Trout catch-and-release only. Selective Fishing Regulations as outlined in the Washington State Fishing Regulation apply, except electric motors are allowed. Only artificial flies or lures with a barbless single pointed hook are allowed. Live bait is prohibited. These rules apply to all species of fish in Chambers Lake. Note: Non-trout species may be kept.
- E. Muck Creek and tributaries within the Fort Lewis Military Reservation (tributaries include: Lacomus Creek, Johnson Creek, South Creek and South Creek Potholes, as well as, Halverson Marsh). Trout catch-and-release only. Selective Fishery Regulations as outlined in the Washington Fishing Regulation Guide apply.
- F. A freshwater license is required to fish for any species in freshwater, including \*Salmon, \*Sturgeon, Trout, Bass, etc. A saltwater license is required to fish for any species in saltwater, including \*Salmon, \*Steelhead, \*Sturgeon, \*Halibut, Rockfish, etc. A shellfish/seaweed license is required to harvest the following shellfish: crab, oysters, shrimp, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, cockles, mussels, hard and soft shell clams, geoduck, crawfish, goose barnacles, scallops, squid, octopus, razor clams and Hood Canal shrimp. The Washington Fishing Regulation Guide is the official source of information on fishing and food fish water.

\* = Must have a valid catch record card for this species.

- G. Night fishing, when authorized by State Law. Fishing by DoD personnel at night will be allowed in all lakes except in the South Rainier Training Area, e.g. No Name, Fiander and Cat Lakes.
- H. **HUNTING:** Waterfowl hunting period is October through January. IAW Fort Lewis Regulation 215-1 and Fort Lewis Regulation 350-30.

# Fort Lewis Fishing Opportunities

Many lakes on Fort Lewis are available for fishing. These lakes provide opportunities to catch a variety of fish, including Trout, Salmon and many warm-water species. The following information is provided as a service to Fort Lewis anglers.

**American Lake** is 1,123 acres, 347 acres of which are on Fort Lewis, and the maximum depth is 90 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Rainbow Trout and Rock Bass are abundant, including the occasional Trout over 16 inches. Cutthroat Trout, a native fish, and Kokanee salmon average 13-14 inches and are common catch. Largemouth Bass and Brown Bullhead (Catfish) are present as well as an occasional Smallmouth. **Outlook:** Outdoor Recreation will release 60,000 Rainbow. Bill's Boathouse is scheduled to release approximately 20,000 Rainbows. **Best Bet:** Rainbow Trout should be very good once the water warms. Kokanee fishing is best in June to early July. Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass and Yellow Perch should provide excellent summer fishing.

**Cat Lake** is 4 acres with maximum depth of 25 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie and Brown Bullhead (Catfish) are present. **Outlook:** Rainbow carry-over is poor. **Best Bet:** None

**Chambers Lake** is 100 acres with maximum depth of 10 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Selective fishing regulations as outlined in the Washington State Game Fish Regulations. Trout catch-and-release only. Electric motors are allowed. Only artificial flies or lures with a barbless single-point hook are allowed, live bait is prohibited. Non-Trout species may be kept. Other species that are common include: Bass, Bullhead, Catfish and Pumpkinseed. Good for frog gigging in late summer. **Outlook:** Fair Cutthroat in upper reaches for catch-and-release only. **Best Bet:** Float tube and a fly rod for Spiny-rays.

**Fiander Lake** is 30 acres with maximum depth of 8 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Black Crappie and Largemouth bass are common. Brown Bullhead (Catfish) and very large Carp are present. **Outlook:** Spiny-ray population should provide for fair fishing.

**Johnson's Marsh** is 125 acres with a maximum depth of 10 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Black Crappie, Cutthroat Trout and Coho Salmon are uncommon, native fish from Johnson and Muck Creeks. Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed Sunfish and Brown Bullhead (Catfish) are common. **Outlook:** Fair for Trout and Bass. **Best Bet:** None. Area managed for water-fowl protection. **Note:** Wild cutthroat release. There must be a healed scar in the location of the missing fin. Catch-and-release only on Johnson and Muck creeks.

**Lewis Lake** is 54 acres with a maximum depth of 8 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Largemouth Bass and Pumpkinseed Sunfish are common. **Outlook:** No stocking scheduled. **Best Bet:** Good early Bass season. Coho planted in 1997.

**Sears Lake** is 4 acres with a maximum depth of 8 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed Sunfish and Black Crappie are common; Rainbow Trout, Rock Bass, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill Sunfish and Brown Bullhead (Catfish) are uncommon. **Outlook:** Weeds are thick in late summer. **Best Bet:** Yellow Perch.

**Sequalitchew Lake** is 60 acres with a maximum depth of 10 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Largemouth Bass are common. Coho Salmon are present in the lake and provide good angling. Pumpkinseed Sunfish are abundant and Black Crappie are present. Blue Gill Sunfish, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch and Brown Bullhead (Catfish) are uncommon but large size if you do catch one. **Outlook:** Rainbow carry-overs are scarce. This lake can be very weedy once the weather warms up. **Best Bet:** Bass should be fair. Coho planted in 1997.

**Spanaway Marsh** is 360 acres with a maximum depth of 10 feet. This newly developed wetland has a small, but growing Spiny-ray population. This population will continue to improve in the future years due to natural reproduction. The northern section of the marsh is closed from 1 December until 31 August of each year. This section will be marked by Public Works (EW grid 15.0).

**Vietnam Village Marsh** is 69 acres with a maximum depth of 10 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Largemouth Bass and some large Pumpkinseed Sunfish are common but Black Crappie are uncommon. **Outlook:** Spiny-ray population. **Best Bet:** Your choice. Early spring Bass fishing can be good but watch for pot holes when wading. Coho planted in 1997.

**Wright's Marsh** is 11 acres with a maximum depth of 6 feet. **Fish Population Status:** Largemouth Bass are uncommon; Pumpkinseed Sunfish are abundant; Black Crappie are Common but small; Brown Bullhead (Catfish) and Bluegill Sunfish are present. **Outlook:** No stocking scheduled. **Best Bet:** Panfish are fair.

## Adventure Programs

**Our trips include sea kayaking, whitewater rafting, hiking, caving, float trips, fishing, crabbing and clamming. Plus, new programs are added all the time. Pick up a calendar for dates.**

## Free Fishing Weekend

**Every June Washington state offers a weekend where no fishing license is required on any lake. Contact the Northwest Adventure Center or Russell Landing for dates. Come to Russell Landing and rent one of our fishing boats. No fishing allowed on boat ramps.**

## Deep-Sea Fishing

**Check out our Adventure Calendar for trips Chartered Bottom Fishing and Salmon Fishing Trips to Westport.**

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