

The following table lists the known or expected spawning times for most fishes in Montana. This table was prepared for the purpose of identifying periods when “early life stages” of fish may be present. EPA has defined the early life stage for salmonids to be 30 days after emergence/swim-up; for all other species it is 34 days after spawning. This information is necessary when applying Dissolved Oxygen and Ammonia water quality standards to individual waterbodies.

SPAWNING TIMES OF MONTANA FISHES, Prepared by Don Skaar, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 3/6/01. This table is a combination of known spawning times for fish in Montana and estimates based on spawning times reported in other areas in North America of similar latitude. Sources used for this table include G.C. Becker, Fishes of Wisconsin; C.J.D. Brown, Fishes of Montana; K.D. Carlander, Handbook of freshwater fishery biology, volumes 1 and 2; R.S. Wydoski, and R.R. Whitney. Inland fishes of Washington; Scott and Crossman. Freshwater fishes of Canada; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks fisheries biologists.

The code for the table is as follows: J1,J2, F1, F2 refer to the half month increments of January 1-15, January 16-31, February 1-14, February 15-29, and so on. In the table S=spawning period, I = incubation period for eggs of salmonids, E=time period in which salmonid sac-fry are in the gravels

Species	J1	J2	F1	F2	M1	M2	A1	A2	M1	M2	J1	J2	J1	J2	A1	A2	S1	S2	O1	O2	N1	N2	D1	D2
White sturgeon									S	S	S	S												
Pallid sturgeon										S	S	S	S	S										
Shovel. sturgeon										S	S	S	S	S										
Paddlefish									S	S	S	S	S	S										
Goldeye						S	S	S	S	S	S													
Cisco	I	I	I	I	I	I															S	S	S	S
Lake whitefish	I	I	I	I	I	I													S	S	S	S	S	S
Mount. whitefish	I	I	I	I	I	I											S	S	S	S	S	S	I	I
Pygmy whitefish																					S	S	S	S
Kokanee	I	I	I	I	I												S	S	S	S	S	S	I	I
Chinook salmon																			S	S				
Golden trout											S	S	S	S	I	I,E								
Cutthroat trout							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	E								
Rainbow trout					S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	E									
Brook trout	I	I	I	I	E	E	E	E	E								S	S	S	S	I	I	I	I
Bull trout	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E							S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	I
Lake trout	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I											S	S	S	S	S	I

Brown trout	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	I,E										S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Species	J1	J2	F1	F2	M1	M2	A1	A2	M1	M2	J1	J2	J1	J2	A1	A2	S1	S2	O1	O2	N1	N2	D1	D2
A. grayling								S	S	S	S	S	S,I											
Redband trout												S	S	I										
Northern pike					S	S	S	S	S															
Carp									S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S								
Golden shiner									S	S	S	S	S	S										
Pearl dace																								
Creek chub						S	S	S	S	S	S	S												
N. redbelly dace									S	S	S	S	S	S										
Finescale dace							S	S	S	S														
Utah chub									S	S	S	S	S	S										
Flathead chub									S	S	S	S	S	S	S									
Sturgeon chub										S	S	S	S	S	S									
Lake chub										S	S													
Sicklefin chub											S	S	S	S	S	S								
Peamouth									S	S	S	S												
Emerald shiner													S	S	S	S								
Spottail shiner											S	S	S	S	S	S								
Sand shiner									S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S								
Brassy minnow									S	S	S	S												
Plains minnow							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S									
WSilveryminnow									S	S	S	S	S	S										
Fathead minnow									S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S								
N. Pike minnow									S	S	S	S	S											
Longnose dace									S	S	S	S	S	S	S									
Redside shiner										S	S	S	S	S	S									
River carpsucker									S	S	S	S												
Blue sucker							S	S	S	S	S													
Small. Buffalo									S	S	S													
Big. Buffalo									S	S	S	S	S											
Short. Redhorse							S	S	S	S	S	S												

Longnose sucker						S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S												
White sucker							S	S	S	S	S	S														
Species	J1	J2	F1	F2	M1	M2	A1	A2	M1	M2	J1	J2	J1	J2	A1	A2	S1	S2	O1	O2	N1	N2	D1	D2		
Largesc. Sucker							S	S	S	S																
Mountain sucker											S	S	S	S												
Black bullhead									S	S	S	S	S													
Yellow bullhead									S	S	S	S	S													
Channel catfish									S	S	S	S	S													
Stonecat											S	S	S	S	S	S										
Burbot			S	S	S	S																				
Brook stickleback									S	S	S	S														
Rock bass									S	S	S	S														
Green sunfish									S	S	S	S	S													
Pumpkinseed									S	S	S															
Bluegill									S	S	S	S	S													
Smallmouth bass									S	S	S	S														
Largemouth bass									S	S	S	S	S													
White crappie									S	S	S	S	S													
Black crappie									S	S	S	S														
Yellow perch						S	S	S	S	S	S	S														
Sauger						S	S	S	S	S																
Walleye							S	S	S	S																
Iowa darter									S	S	S	S	S													
Mottled sculpin									S	S	S	S														
Slimy sculpin																										
Torrent sculpin																										
Shorthead sculpin																										
Spoonhead sculpin																										