

# Cherokee Reservation "General" Fishing Regulations

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## GENERAL FISHING ON ENTERPRISE WATERS:

Only a tribal permit is required to fish within the Reservation property, known as the [Qualla Boundary](#). Outside the Boundary you must have a valid [North Carolina fishing license](#). A [Tennessee fishing license](#) is valid for only inside the [Smoky Mountains National Park](#). Dozens of local businesses in [Cherokee](#) are authorized to sell fishing permits. The permit applies to Enterprise Waters only, which are managed by the Tribal Fisheries and Wildlife Management Program. Enterprise Waters include most of the Ravens Fork, [Oconaluftee River](#) and Soco Watersheds. All remaining waters on the reservation may only be fished by members of the tribe and are off-limits to the general public.

## FISHING PERMIT:

\$7.00 per day - Tribal permit for each person 12 years of age and over for streams and ponds. No other fishing permit or license is accepted (including North Carolina & Tennessee Licenses). Children under the age of 12 are allowed to fish with a permit carrying adult. Two, three and five-day permits are available at a reduced rate of \$14.00 for a two-day, \$20.00 for a three-day and \$28.00 for a five-day. A single season's permit is available for \$150.00.

## FISHING SEASON:

The general [fishing](#) season for all "Enterprise Waters" (except Catch & Release areas) runs from the *last Saturday in March until the last day of April*, closing for only a few weeks. Catch & Release areas are opened year-round (also, see [Catch & Release Fishing Regulations PDF](#)). Fishing is allowed from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

## LIMIT:

Daily limit is ten (10) trout per permit holder (includes catch of children fishing under a supervising adult's permit). So, if a supervised child catches 3 trout and the permit carrying adult catches 7, the limit has been reached. No size limits.

## TACKLE & LURE REGULATIONS:

There is no bait or lure restriction. There is no size limit restriction.

