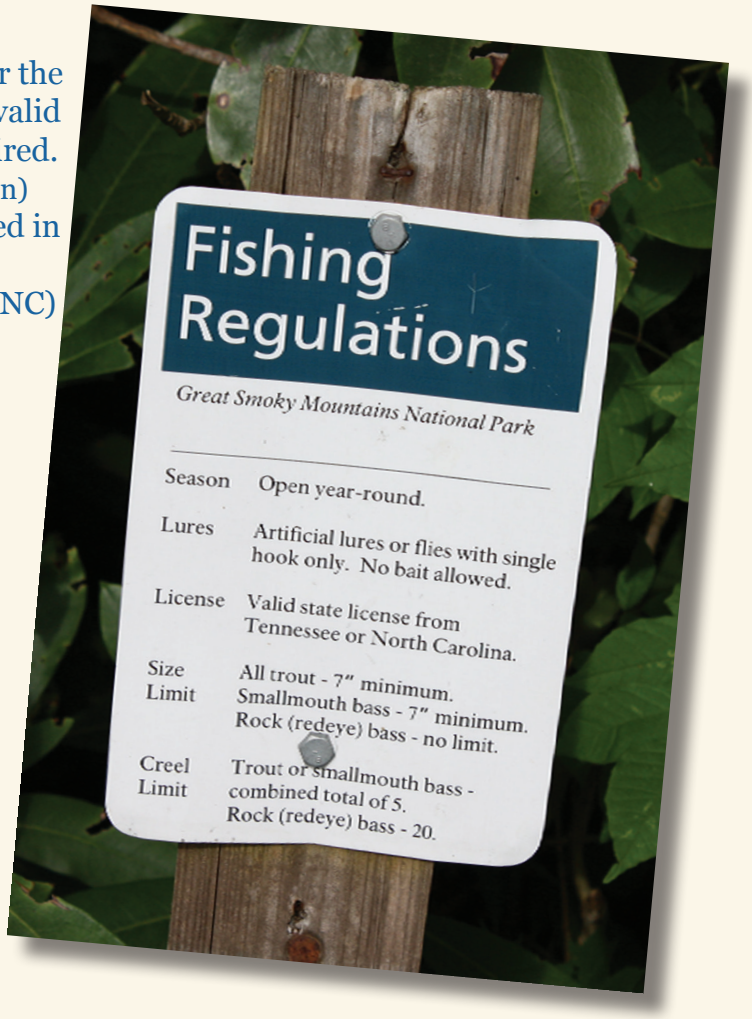
Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fishing Info & Regulations

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:



You must possess a valid fishing license or permit from either the state of Tennessee or North Carolina. Either state license is valid no matter where you are in the park. No trout stamp is required. Fishing licenses (see also WNC License Agents PDF in this section) and permits are not available in the park but can be purchased in nearby towns or online at:
www.ncwildlife.org/Apps/Purchase/LicenseSelection1.asp. (NC)
www3.wildlifelicense.com/tn/ (TN)
Special permits are required for Gatlinburg (TN) and Cherokee (NC).

*** (NC) Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older need a license. Residents age 70 and older may obtain a special license from the state at link above.*
*** (TN) Residents and nonresidents age 13 and older need a license. Residents age 65 and older may obtain a special license from the state at link above.*

SEASON:

Fishing is allowed year-round in open waters.

TIME:

Fishing is allowed from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS:

Five (5) Brook*, Rainbow or Brown Trout, Smallmouth Bass
or a combination of these, each day or in possession,
regardless of whether they are fresh, stored in an ice chest, or otherwise preserved.
The combined total must not exceed five (5) fish. Twenty (20) rock bass may be kept in addition to the above limit. A person must stop fishing immediately after obtaining the limit.
*Be sure to check for any creek closings before fishing in a Native Brook trout stream. In 2006 the park reopened Brook trout fishing and harvesting for the first time since 1976.

SIZE LIMITS:

Brook, Rainbow and Brown Trout: 7 inch minimum. Smallmouth Bass: 7 inch minimum. Rockbass: No minimum.

LURES, BAIT AND EQUIPMENT:

Fishing is permitted only by the use of one (1) hand held rod. ONLY artificial flies or lures with a single hook may be used. Dropper flies may be used. Up to two flies on a leader. Fishing tackle and equipment, including creels and fish in possession, are subject to inspection by authorized personnel.