

PICACHO STATE RECREATION AREA

FISHING REGULATIONS

All laws and regulations reproduced here are from the Fish & Game Code or Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, (CCR). All anglers are encouraged to read the complete California Sport Fishing Regulations available where fishing licenses are sold or from the California Dept. of Fish & Game.

Anglers are responsible for knowing and following **ALL** applicable regulations.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Every person while engaged in taking **ANY** fish, mollusk or amphibian shall have in their possession a valid license.

The law now provides for a fine of not less than \$100.00 for fishing without a license. Anyone **16 years** and older must have a license to fish.

A **California Sport Fishing License** is required for California residents to fish from the bank on the CA side of the river, (Picacho).

Arizona residents may fish the California shore, (Picacho), with a valid Arizona fishing license

The striped bass stamp is **NOT** required to keep striped bass.

Fishing is allowed anytime day or night.

California licenses are usually available in Winterhaven or Bard.

METHODS OF TAKE

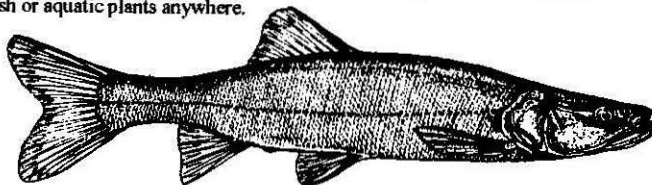
Use only one closely attended rod and line or one hand line with not more than three hooks nor more than three artificial lures permitted. Each lure may have up to three hooks attached.

Gaffs are not allowed to land fish on the Colorado River and its backwaters.

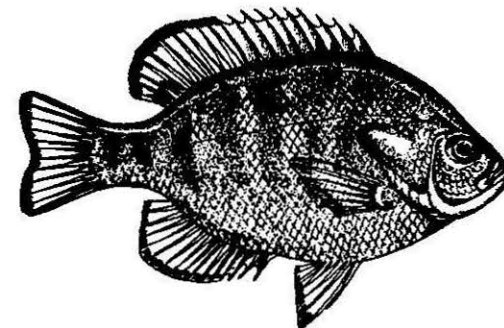
Bow and Arrow allowed to take only carp, mullet, or goldfish.

Spearfishing allowed to take only carp, mullet or goldfish.

Live fish may not be transported. **DON'T** move live finfish from one body of water to another. **DON'T** try to stock fish or aquatic plants anywhere.



Colorado River Squawfish



BAIT REGULATIONS

Live bait fish permitted for the Colorado River: golden shiner, fathead minnow, red shiner, mosquitofish, longjaw mudsucker, threadfin shad, carp, goldfish, sunfish, molly, sargo, bairdella.

Live carp may be used only at the location where taken.

Tilapia may be caught and used for bait. They cannot be imported for bait.

Waterdogs over three inches in length may be used.

Approved baitfish may no longer be taken by hand. Bait traps and dip nets have specific size requirements. Check the regulation booklet if you want to use a trap or dip net.

SPECIES REGULATIONS

BLACK BASS : (Large and Smallmouth Bass) : MINIMUM SIZE 13 inches; LIMIT six.

STRIPED BASS : No minimum size; LIMIT ten.

CRAPPIE, SUNFISH, TILAPIA, PERCH : No minimum size; LIMIT 25.

CATFISH : No minimum size; LIMIT ten in combination.

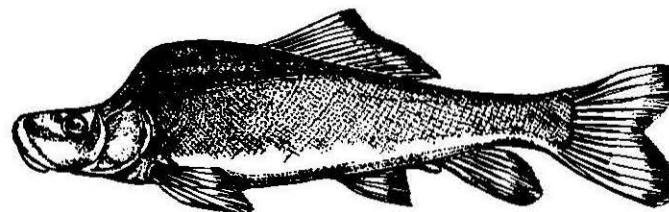
BULLFROGS : Open season is all year; No limit. Bullfrogs may be taken by lights, spears, gigs, grabs, paddles, hook & line, dip net, bow & arrow, fishing tackle and by hand.

FRESHWATER CLAMS : Open season all year. Limit 50 pounds in shell. Clams may be taken only by hand, spade, shovel, hoe, rake or other hand appliance.

CRAYFISH : Open season all year. Crayfish may be taken by hand, hook & line, dip net or with traps not over three feet in dimension.

SPINY SOFTSHELL TURTLE : Open season all year; Limit five. Spiny softshell turtles may be taken only by the methods outlined in CCR 2.00 Fishing.

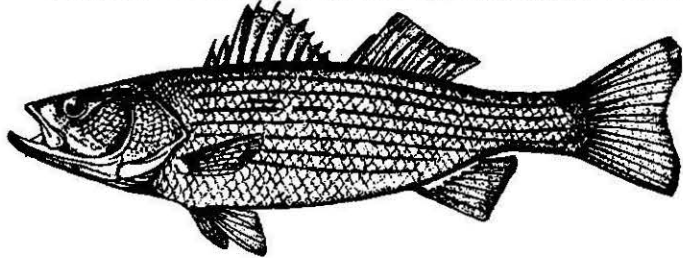
CCR 5.93 - FULLY PROTECTED FISH : NONE of the following may be taken or possessed at any time: Colorado squawfish, Mohave tui chub, Lost River sucker, Modoc sucker, razorback sucker, or shortnose sucker.



Razorback Sucker

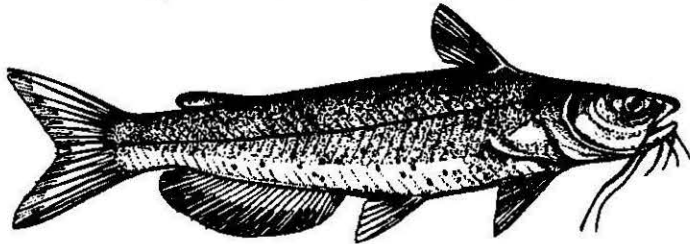
FISHING PICACHO

Fishing at Picacho and on the Colorado River is great! You don't necessarily need a boat to land nice fish. Try the upper dock next to the fish cleaning station. Some beautiful channel catfish and stripers have been caught there. Nightcrawlers, cut bait, and chicken livers are all very reliable baits. Bass fishing is best from a boat or float tube on backwater lakes. Huge Flathead and Blue catfish have been caught off both Picacho docks! When fishing at night, be prepared to bring in a large fish.



STRIPED BASS
(*Morone saxatilis*)

Plentiful in the Picacho area, 'stripers' are a popular gamefish. They move and feed in schools. Catch stripers on cut bait like mackerel, anchovies and worms. Trolled lures and chicken liver work well also. Stripers bite year-round all day and night. Good fishing off of both docks, the meat is excellent eating.

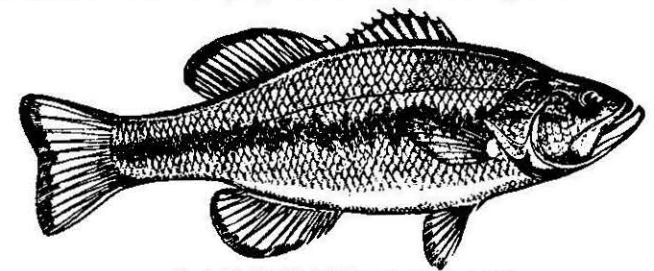


CHANNEL CATFISH
(*Ictalurus punctatus*)

Channel catfish have a deeply forked tail. The "whiskers" are harmless, but the dorsal and pectoral fins are sharp and can inflict a painful poke. Channels will eat almost anything dead or alive. They bite year-round on stink bait, cut bait, and chicken livers. Fish along the banks with light tackle for a good fight. Channels reach up to 30 pounds in this area.

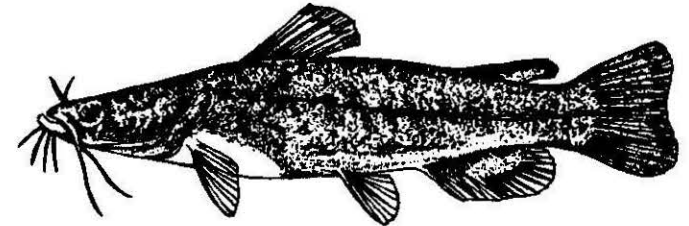
PICACHO ANGLER'S CODE OF ETHICS

1. I will help protect the outdoors. I will not litter. I will properly dispose of all fishing line, and bait containers.
2. I will respect other people's privacy, property and fishing space.
3. I will buy and carry the appropriate license if I am 16 or older.
4. I will know and follow the fishing laws. I will report violators to the rangers.
5. I will keep only those fish I plan to eat. I will carefully release all others right away.
6. I will properly care for the fish I plan to eat. This means keeping them alive, or putting them on ice. I will not waste fish.
7. I will share my fishing knowledge with others, particularly kids.



LARGEMOUTH BASS
(*Micropterus salmoides*)

Largemouth bass hide along weedy edges and cover waiting to attack their prey. These fish are caught on a variety of baits, both natural and artificial. In an effort to preserve these elusive fish, there is a minimum size of 13 inches and a limit of six fish per angler. The river record was set in 1996 and is 16 pounds 14 ounces!



FLATHEAD CATFISH
(*Ptychocheilichthys olivaris*)

Introduced to the lower Colorado River in 1962, these hard-fighting catfish have reached weights of over 100 pounds!! The river record flathead was caught at Picacho in 1995. It weighed just over 64 pounds. These catfish, lay in deep holes ambushing prey. Fish with heavy rod and reel at night with live bait for flatheads. The firm, white meat is excellent eating.