

Fishing License Requirements

Fishing is a fun pastime for everyone, but the City of Tempe and the State of Arizona have procedures that must be followed. Arizona Revised Statutes, Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rules and Orders, City of Tempe Code and Town Lake operating policies apply. Those ages 14 and older must have a valid Arizona Fishing License to cast a line into Tempe Town Lake. Any of the following state fishing licenses are valid at Tempe Town Lake:

Class A

General Fishing (valid for all species except trout)

Trout Stamp

(Only necessary for Class A license holders fishing for trout)

Class B

Non-resident Four Month Fishing (valid for all species)

Class C

Non-resident Five-day Fishing (valid for all species)

Class D

One-day Fishing (valid for all species)

Class F

Combination Hunting and Fishing
(valid for all species)

Class I

Family Fishing (valid for all species)

Two Pole

(allows one person two fishing poles -valid Stamp with any other license)

Pioneer

(valid for all species) Free if holder is 70 years or older and an Arizona resident for more than 25 years

100% Disabled Veteran

(valid for all species) Free

Fishing licenses can be purchased at any Arizona Game and Fish office, at most fishing supply stores or sporting good stores. Children ages 13 years and younger are not required to have a fishing license or to be accompanied by a licensed adult. Anglers fishing for trout with a Class A license, must also have a valid Trout Stamp.

Tempe Town Lake has not been specifically designated as part of the Arizona Urban Fishing Program. Town Lake falls under state jurisdiction, therefore a state fishing license is required. A Class U (Urban Fishing) License is not valid.

For further details on general fishing rules and regulations, please refer to the Arizona Fishing Regulations found at all fishing license dealers and at the City of Tempe Recreation Services office, 480-350-8625.



For more information about
fishing at Town Lake

(480) 350-8625
www.tempe.gov/lake



A Guide to Fishing on Tempe Town Lake on the Rio Salado

Welcome to Tempe Town Lake on the Rio Salado. Tempe Town Lake offers an opportunity to get back to nature without leaving the Phoenix metropolitan area. Just minutes from Sky Harbor Airport off the Hohokam Freeway, Tempe Town Lake is a phenomenal setting for recreation, new business locations, shopping and condo living.

Fishing is one of many activities available at Tempe Town Lake. Trout, bass, catfish and sunfish can all be found in the lake's waters. For the angler who prefers fine dining after casting a line, a variety of restaurants are within walking distance in downtown Tempe.

Stroll around the shoreline, watch a concert or rent a boat. For more great activities the lake offers, check the website at www.tempe.gov/lake or call (480) 350-8625.

Fishing Areas

Tempe Town Lake serves a variety of purposes. To ensure a safe and pleasant experience for everyone, fishing is allowed in the areas marked on the map below. Fishing is allowed on boats that have a valid boat permit attached to the vessel. To obtain a boat permit, contact the Recreation Services office at 480-350-8625

Lake Hours

Tempe Town Lake is open for permitted boats from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. with appropriate lighting. Those fishing from shore may do so from 5 a.m. until midnight.

Lake Stocking

Arizona Game and Fish will attempt to stock trout in Tempe Town Lake every month from November until February, depending on water conditions. Warm temperatures do not allow trout stocking, but bass, catfish and sunfish may be caught year-round. For the latest schedule, call 602-942-3000 or visit www.azgfd.gov

Fishing Etiquette

Fishing is only one of many activities that takes place on the shores of Tempe Town Lake. The lake's unique environment makes it an attractive place for running, rowing, sailing, walking, rollerblading, bicycling and paddling. To ensure all these activities remain compatible, the City of Tempe asks that anglers follow some basic etiquette while fishing:

- Fishing hooks and lures left on the shore can cause a safety hazard. Please dispose of unwanted line, hooks, bait containers or lures in marked trash containers.
- Boats have the right of way at Town Lake. For safety's sake, please do not cast your line if a boat is within reach.
- Cleaning of fish at Tempe Town Lake is not allowed. Fish remains left on the shore can attract insects and create foul smells. Please do not clean fish at Tempe Town Lake.
- It is the goal of the City of Tempe to keep the lake as clean as possible. Please take all cans, bottles, food packaging, newspapers or other debris to a marked trash container.
- Respect the rights of others enjoying the lake. Keep the volume down on music or radios.
- Keep a respectful distance between you and other anglers.
- Conserve the bounty of Tempe Town Lake. Safely release any fish you do not intend to eat into the lake right away. Properly care for the fish you want by keeping them alive or putting them on ice until it is time to take them home.
- Obtain the appropriate fishing licenses and do not exceed the limit of fish you are allowed to take. If you see others abusing these privileges, call Tempe Police Department dispatch at (480) 350-8311, or Operation Game Thief at (800) 352-0700.

Fish in Tempe Town Lake

While Arizona Game and Fish stocks Tempe Town Lake with trout, anglers can expect to find many other kinds of fish that have made their way to the lake through the Salt River Project canals and Indian Bend Wash. Here are some fish that might dangle at the end of a hook:

Rainbow Trout

This fish has silvery, very fine scales and a spotted body with a horizontal pink streak on the sides. Most trout are from 9 to 12 inches. These fish are not easily fooled. To successfully catch trout, cover the hook completely and use a clear, fine weight line. Powerbait, salmon eggs, worms and cheese are the most enticing baits. The legal limit is 4 fish of any size for licensed fishermen and two for children.



Channel Catfish

These fish have spineless scales and their tails are deeply forked. The younger fish are silvery with black spots, while older ones are bluish-black with white bellies. These fish can weigh from 1 to 6 pounds. The legal limit is 4 fish of any size. To catch these, fish at night, dawn or dusk and use worms, liver, shrimp or hotdogs.



Sunfish

Sunfish have small mouths and short, flat bodies ranging from 4 to 8 inches. The legal limit is 10 fish of any size. These are easily caught using mealworms.



Largemouth Bass

Bass are known by the wide, dark mottled bar on the sides of the body. They tend to be dark green on top and white on the belly. The legal limit of bass is 4, but lake biologists prefer these to be released, as the hardy nature of the species allows it to be caught many times. Bass are the only species in the lake with a size limit. They must be at least 13 inches before they can be kept. Bass feed predominantly on other fish, especially bluegill, but they can be caught on crank baits and worms.



Israeli Carp

They are still the same species as common carp, but these were specially bred to have fewer scales and grow faster. The majority of their diet is made up of aquatic insects and the larvae of insects who deposit their eggs / larvae in water. They will also consume some degree of water growing weeds. They are stocked into Tempe Town Lake as midge control and are quite effective. They can be caught with hook and line with corn and to a lesser extent bread like common carp. There is no size limit and are unlimited with respect to daily and possession bag limits.

