

COMMISSION ORDER 40: FISH MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
OUT OF CYCLE INTERNAL PROPOSALS
CALENDAR YEARS 2025 & 2026

Submitted by: Region 3

Submission Date: 10/02/2025

1. Title of Proposed Change: Standardized fishing regulations on Lake Mead

Proposed Regulation Change: For Lake Mead, it is proposed to remove the current 20 fish limit on striped bass over 20 inches in length, making striped bass harvest unlimited regardless of size and to increase the daily bag limit for catfish from 10 to 25 fish.

If approved the new regulation under “Lake Mead” would read:

The limit is 5 trout; unlimited for striped bass; the limit is 15 crappie, the limit is 25 catfish.

If approved the new regulation under the first bullet point under “Colorado River below Davis Dam” would read:

From *Separation Canyon to Hoover Dam (including Lake Mead)*. The limit is 5 trout; unlimited for striped bass; the limit is 15 crappie; the limit is 25 catfish.

Current Regulation Language: Lake Mead The limit is 5 trout; the limit is 20 striped bass 20 inches in length or larger; unlimited for striped bass under 20 inches in length; the limit is 15 crappie. **Colorado River below Davis Dam** From *Separation Canyon to Hoover Dam (including Lake Mead)*. The limit is 5 trout; the limit is 20 striped bass 20 inches in length or larger; unlimited for striped bass under 20 inches in length; the limit is 15 crappie.

Justification: This regulation change is proposed to ensure consistency with Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) fishing regulations on waters that have shared jurisdiction.

NDOW’s regulation that will go into effect on January 1, 2026 is:

Daily Limit: 5 trout, 6 black bass, 25 catfish, and 15 crappie. No limit on striped bass and other game fish. Possession Limit: 10 trout, 12 black bass, 50 catfish, and 30 crappie. No limit on striped bass and other game fish.

NDOW's justification to remove the 20 fish limit for striped bass regulation is that it did not significantly affect the population structure as intended. Research has shown that striped bass were not growing larger with the removal of smaller striped bass and that growth was more dependent on forage availability. Additionally, angler surveys indicate that a majority of the fishermen do not harvest the limit of 20 striped bass, therefore removing the limit and simplifying the regulation was recommended.

In 2015, the Arizona Game and Fish Department changed the statewide catfish limit to 10, which changed the limit at Lake Mead. The change is inconsistent with NDOW's limit of 25 catfish at Lake Mead. The proposed regulation change will ensure consistency with NDOW.

Potential Benefits: The regulation change aligns with the new NDOW fishing regulations. The change simplifies both the interpretation and enforcement of fishing regulations on Lake Mead. Additionally, the change in regulation removes potential angler confusion by standardizing regulations across jurisdictional boundaries.

Potential Drawbacks: Some anglers may be concerned that this will reduce the population of striped bass and catfish. This is a perceived drawback and not likely to actually occur based on data collected by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and NDOW.

Submitted by: Region 3

Submission Date: 10/02/2025

2. Title of Proposed Change: Standardized fishing regulations on Lake Mohave

Proposed Regulation Change Language: For Lake Mohave, it is proposed to remove the current 20-fish limit on striped bass over 20 inches in length, making striped bass harvest unlimited regardless of size, and to increase the daily bag limit for catfish from 10 to 25 fish.

If approved the new regulation under "Lake Mohave" would read:

The limit is 5 trout; unlimited for striped bass, striped bass may be taken by spear or spear gun from that portion of Lake Mohave between Hoover Dam and Cottonwood Landing; the limit is 15 crappie; the limit is 25 catfish.

If approved the new regulation under the second bullet point under "Colorado River below Davis Dam" would read:

From *Hoover Dam to Davis Dam (including Lake Mohave and Willow Beach)* the limit is 5 trout in any combination; unlimited for striped bass; striped bass may be taken by spear or spear gun from that portion of Lake Mohave between Hoover Dam and Cottonwood Landing; the limit is 15 crappie; the limit is 25 catfish.

Current Regulation Language: The limit is 5 trout in any combination; the limit is 20 for striped bass 20 inches in length or larger; unlimited for striped bass under 20 inches in length; striped bass may be taken by spear or spear gun from that portion of Lake Mohave between Hoover Dam and Cottonwood Landing.

Justification: This regulation change is proposed to ensure consistency with NDOW fishing regulations on waters that have shared jurisdiction.

NDOW's regulation that will go into effect on January 1, 2026 is:

Daily Limit: 5 trout, 6 black bass, 25 catfish, and 15 crappie. No limit on striped bass and other game fish. Possession Limit: 10 trout, 12 black bass, 50 catfish, and 30 crappie. No limit on striped bass and other game fish.

NDOW's justification to remove the 20 fish limit for striped bass regulation is that it did not significantly affect the population structure as intended. Research has shown that striped bass were not growing larger with the removal of smaller striped bass and that growth was more dependent on forage availability. Additionally, angler surveys indicate that a majority of the fishermen do not harvest the limit of 20 striped bass, therefore removing the limit and simplifying the regulation was recommended.

In 2015 the Arizona Game and Fish Department changed the statewide catfish limit to 10, which changed the limit at Lake Mohave. The change is inconsistent with NDOW's limit of 25 catfish at Lake Mohave. The proposed regulation change will ensure consistency with NDOW.

Potential Benefits: The regulation change aligns with the new NDOW fishing regulations. The change simplifies both the interpretation and enforcement of fishing regulations on Lake Mohave. Additionally, the change in regulation removes potential angler confusion by standardizing regulations across jurisdictional boundaries.

Potential Drawbacks: Some anglers may be concerned that this will reduce the population of striped bass and catfish. This is a perceived drawback and not likely to actually occur based on data collected by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and NDOW.