Have you ever been fishing in Montana? Do you have a favorite fishing hole or fishing lake? Fishing provided an important food source for many Native American tribes in Montana as well as early settlers to the region. Now, many people come to Montana just to fish in our lakes and streams. The state of Montana’s tourism website (www.visitmt.com) invites anglers to visit Montana with these words: “Fishing in Montana is a dream come true. Wade into crystal clear lakes or pebble-filled trout streams. Cast your line in the Paradise Valley or on Flathead Lake, only two of many prized locations for anglers in Big Sky Country.”

The Flathead Basin has 31 different species of fish living in its lakes and rivers. These fish include our important native species such as bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Many of the fishing guides around Flathead Lake take their clients on day-long fishing trips for the lake trout living in the cool, deep waters of Flathead Lake. Many other valuable native fish species live throughout Montana including white sturgeon, mountain whitefish, and grayling. Several non-native game fish were introduced into Montana to provide a variety of angling opportunities throughout the state.

In a recent poll, 87% of Montanan are outdoor recreation enthusiasts and 96% believe that the outdoor recreation economy is important to the economic future of the state (2018 MTOOR Economic Report). In 2017, anglers spent $919.3 million fishing in the state. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks estimates that people spend over 1 million “angler days” fishing in our lakes and reservoirs (an angler day is defined as the time spent fishing by one person for any part of a day).

Recreation is important to Montanans’ quality of life and the local economy. It’s also the reason many visitors come to the state. Invasive mussels can devastate Montana’s premier fisheries—impacting tourism and recreational angling—and can damage boats, motors, and other recreational equipment. Additionally, infestation can make recreation difficult, as mussels can establish on docks, beachlines, boat ramps, and watercraft.

The direct impact of invasive mussels to recreation is estimated to be $122 million per year (source: dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/docs/misac-docs/dnrc_econ_one_pager_final_0119.pdf).

Short PSA video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuNx6JG7Ji4
Managing AIS

Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing in:

Montana

374,770 anglers spent $494 million
while fishing in Montana.

Statewide Contributions by
Montana Anglers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Output</th>
<th>Jobs Supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$707 Million</td>
<td>6,414 Jobs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Contributions by
U.S. Anglers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Output</th>
<th>Jobs Supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$125 Billion</td>
<td>802,000 Jobs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Angler Contributions to Conservation:

License Sales $724 Million + Excise Taxes $628 Million + Donations $275 Million = Total $1.6 Billion

In the U.S. there are:

- 12 Million Saltwater Anglers
- 2.5 Million Great Lakes Anglers
- 41 Million Freshwater Anglers

49 Million Total Anglers