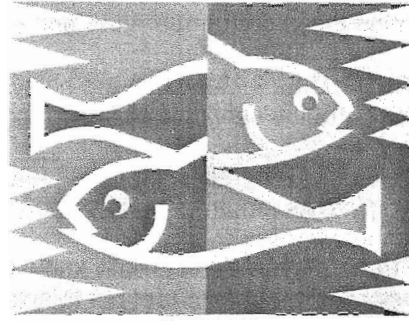


FISHY FACTS

- ***Arroyo Chub** (*Gila orcutti*)
- Carp** (*Cyprinus spp.*)
- Black Crappie** (*Pomoxius nigromaculatus*)
- Bluegill** (*Lepomis macrochirus*)
- Green Sunfish** (*Lepomis cyanellus*)
- Bullhead Catfish** (*Ictalurus melas*)
- Channel Catfish** (*Ictalurus punctatus*)
- Largemouth Bass** (*Micropterus salmoides*)
- ***Pacific Sea Lamprey** (*Entosphenus tridentatus*)
- ***Rainbow Trout** (*Salmo gairdnerii*)
- ***Steelhead Rainbow Trout** (*Salmo salmo gairdnerii*)



* California Native Species

Only four of the fish listed above are native to Malibu Creek. The Steelhead Rainbow Trout and the Pacific Sea lamprey are found only below Rindge dam. Both migrate to the ocean (like Salmon) where they mature. They then return to the creek to spawn. Rainbow trout, while native to other parts of California, do not occur naturally in Malibu Creek. They were once stocked from the Department of Fish and Game's hatchery at Fillmore during the cooler months. Trout like cold water and Malibu Creek is too warm for them during the summer. There might be a few left in Century Lake. (The lake is also the only place in the Park that you might be able to find Smallmouth Bass.) The little Arroyo Chub is especially interesting since it is native to the Santa Monica Mountains.

The non-native fish – carp, panfish, catfish, and bass – were introduced in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century during the time that the land that is now the Park belonged to the Craggs Country Club.



Another "fish" that is in the creek in the Crayfish, which isn't a fish at all. It is a crustacean and looks like a miniature Maine lobster. They aren't native to the creek, either. Small crayfish are sometimes used as bait and some escape the hook. Malibu Creek is an ideal home for them – with no predators to keep their numbers in check they have increased greatly in number and now are a major ecological disaster. One of the biggest problems is they eat the eggs of the native amphibians. Now several of our native salamanders are endangered, all because of someone's bait!

HOW DO FISH BREATHE? Fish breathe by using the oxygen found in water. Water is taken in through the mouth and expelled through the gills. The gill tissues contain many tiny blood vessels close to the surface that absorb oxygen and give off the waste gas carbon dioxide.

CAN FISH SMELL? Many fish have an acute sense of smell. Fish do have nostrils. Four nostrils are located close to the top of the snout, one pair on each side. Each pair opens to a small sac below the skin which is lined with cells able to detect odors in the water passing over them.

HOW WELL DO FISH SEE? The eyes of a fish are very similar to our eyes but the pupil cannot change in size as ours can. Since the intensity of the underwater light does not change much, the fish has no need of a pupil that can change in size. The lens in the fish's eye is rounder than ours and moves backwards and forwards to focus. Our lens focuses by getting fatter and thinner. The clarity of the water has a great deal to do with how far the fish can see.

CAN FISH RECOGNIZE COLOR? Experiments have shown that fish can recognize color. When it is associated with food, largemouth bass and trout can quickly learn to distinguish red and can also recognize green, blue, and yellow. There is evidence that some fish prefer one color over another.

DO FISH SLEEP? Although fish have no eyelids and cannot close their eyes, they do sleep. Some fish lie on their sides, others slip into crevasse or lean against a rock, others wriggle their way into soft ooze to take a nap.

FISH HAVE A SIXTH SENSE Fish have a line of sensitive cells, called a *lateral line* running the length of their bodies on both sides and often extending over the head and tail. This lateral line can detect tiny changes in water pressure and has the ability to determine the direction of currents in the water and the presence of nearby objects. It also helps the fish to determine the water temperature and to find its way at night or through murky water.

DO FISH MAKE NOISE? Many fish are noisy. They make rasping, squeaking, and grunting noises. Some fish grind their teeth, their mouths serving as sound boxes to amplify the sound.

CAN FISH TASTE? Generally, fish have taste buds located in the skin of the snout, lips, mouth, and throat. The fish will take something into its mouth to taste it and spit it out they do not like it.

DO FISH FEEL PAIN? We don't really know whether or not fish feel pain. Fish have a nervous system and sensory organs so they must be able to feel but they lack the part of the brain that deals with memory, as humans do. Maybe they feel pain but have little or no memory of it, which may explain why a fish will take the same hook twice.

MAY I FISH AT MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK? Fishing is allowed in the Park. People 16 years of age and older must have a valid California State Fishing License and have it clearly visible on their person above the waist at all times while fishing. Children under 16 do not need a license. Each angler may have only one pole or line, and must "closely attend" it at all times. No other devices (such as nets or spears) for taking fish are allowed.

Each angler is allowed no more than five (5) fish in total: Example 1: 2 Bass, 2 Bluegill, 1 Carp = 5 fish total

There is no limit on Crayfish

Example 2: 2 Bass, 3 Bluegill = 5 fish total

Example 3: 5 Bluegill = 5 fish total

Per Subsection (f) of Section 7.00(Title 14 California Code of Regulations)

POSSESSION AND DISPLAY OF LICENSE Section 700(Title 14 California Code of Regulations)

"(a) Display of Sport Fishing License: Every person, while engaged in taking any fish...shall display their valid sport "fishing license by attaching it to their outer clothing at or above the waistline so that it is plainly visible..."

LICENSE PROVISIONS: "Anyone 16 years and older must have a fishing license to take any kind of fish, mollusk, invertebrate, amphibian or "crustacean in California, except for persons angling from a public pier in ocean or bay waters."

2.00 FISHING METHODS, GENERAL: "All fish may be taken only by angling with one closely attended rod and line, or one hand line..."

2.09 POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL GEAR ..."no person shall use...any nets, except standard landing-type nets...gaffs, spears, or other devices defined as unlawful to use, in or within 100 yards of any river, stream, lake, or reservoir."

All quotes are from California's 2004 Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations Booklet. For further information or fishing regulations, see the California State Department of Fish and Game at:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2006/06freshfishregbook.pdf

Malibu Creek Docents 1988, rev. 2007