



ANGLERS' HANDBOOK

and 2023 Summary of Regulations



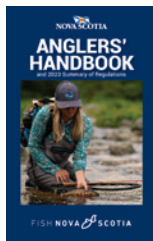
FISH NOVA  SCOTIA

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Please Take Note

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of the anglers of Nova Scotia and has no legal force or effect. Consult the Wildlife Act, the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, and the Federal Fisheries Act and regulations when interpreting and applying the law. These regulations can change at any time.



On the Cover: Kate Sherin
releasing a native brook trout.
Photo by: Scotty Sherin

Message from Honourable Steve Craig, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture



More Nova Scotians than ever are discovering the unique connection sportfishing provides to our beautiful and natural landscape. With over 70,000 anglers participating in sportfishing last year, it continues to be a popular and healthy recreational activity for people to enjoy across the province.

Sportfishing offers something for everyone – families looking for healthy outdoor activities, seasoned anglers looking for that fish or experience of a lifetime, and new Nova Scotians exploring the beauty of our lakes and rivers for the first time.

Whatever the experience is you're looking for, Fish Nova Scotia is an excellent resource for planning your next fishing adventure. I encourage you to consider hiring a fishing guide before wetting a line this year. Many work closely with tourism partners across the province to ensure visitors to Nova Scotia have more opportunities to experience sportfishing.

Sportfishing generates around \$70 million for the provincial economy and we are committed to the industry's continued growth. We are also committed to goals of conservation to ensure future generations can benefit from a sustainable and vibrant sportfishing industry for years to come. We value the collaboration with many partners across Nova Scotia to help us strike this balance. This year's Anglers' Handbook highlights many areas where regulations are in place to ensure conservation is a priority.

I would also like to highlight the contribution of anglers to the Sportfish Habitat Fund. The fund has now surpassed \$5 million and is supporting community groups with important work like the restoration of fish habitat, improved fish passage, and mitigating the impacts of climate change and acidification through the Adopt a Stream Program.

Anglers and volunteer organizations have also made significant contributions assisting with the Learn to Fish program, helping at provincial hatcheries and partnering with us on research and invasive species projects. Your contributions are valued and truly make a difference.

I wish you all the best as you enjoy another year of sportfishing in Nova Scotia. Don't forget to check conditions before heading out and use personal floatation devices when you are on the water. Also, be conservation minded, respect our natural resources and be considerate of others.

Please enjoy a safe and successful sportfishing season; in Nova Scotia, *memories are calling.*

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Craig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Regulation Changes

Location, County	Changes or additions
Ingram Brook, Inverness Co.	<p>New Special Trout Management Area</p> <p>From the confluence with the Margaree River (at the Margaree Fish Hatchery) upstream to East Big Interval Road. Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35cm (13.8 in.) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in.) total length.</p>
Guysborough (Milford Haven) River, Guysborough Co.	<p>Extended Season for Brown Trout</p> <p>Within the Special Trout Management Area - Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly, only.</p>
Musquodoboit River, Halifax Co.	<p>Change of the upstream boundary of the Special Trout Management Area</p> <p>Boundary moved upstream to the confluence (joining) of the North and South Branches of the Musquodoboit River near the village of Dean.</p>
Wallace River, Cumberland Co.	<p>Expanded Special Trout Management Area</p> <p>Upstream from Kerrs Mill Bridge to Barclay Rd. (near Ski Wentworth) on the Main branch and Greenville Road (at Superline Fuels) on the West branch.</p> <p>Single hook lure or artificial fly, only. No bait permitted.</p>

Proposed Regulation Changes

The following regulation has been proposed by The LaHave River Salmon Association West Branch, LaHave River, Lunenburg County

The Special Trout Management Area would extend from the confluence of the West Branch LaHave River with the LaHave River (main branch) near Mossman Corner, upstream including all lakes and tributaries of the West Branch.

- Apr 1 to May 25. Single hook lure or artificial fly, only.
- Increased bag limit for smallmouth bass to one hundred (100) fish per day.

The following regulation has been proposed by the Northumberland Strait Sportfishing Association

- Live fish prohibited for use as bait in all inland waters.

For more information on any of the regulation changes or proposed regulation changes, please contact the Inland Fisheries Division at 902-485-5056 or inland@novascotia.ca

Community Group Profile

PICTOU COUNTY RIVERS ASSOCIATION

The Pictou County Rivers Association (PCRA) was founded in 1990 in Westville, by Parker Wong, Neil Watson, and Bob Ferguson. The small group of anglers and fly tiers were dedicated to the protection and conservation of Pictou County waterways through organized volunteer work and education. The association is involved in several ongoing projects which focus on fish habitat, enhancement, and recreational angling.

Each season, the association conducts habitat restoration projects that include clearing debris, improvements to fish migration, and installing in stream structures such as digger logs and bank deflectors to improve fish habitat in various rivers. Summer crews also plant trees and vegetation along stream edges to help stabilize banks. Since 2003, PCRA has also been an active contributor to the CAMP program which monitors the health of the bays and estuaries in the southern Gulf of St.

Lawrence. PCRA has been conducting water quality monitoring to assess environmental impacts in the region since 2014, and has recently expanded to include seasonal temperature loggers in all seven watersheds.

PCRA volunteers are active in local schools, delivering the Fish Friends Program to Grade 4, 5, and 6 students. The program teaches youth about the life cycle of Atlantic salmon and trout. Other programs which involve youth include an annual Fisharama at Trenton Park in May and the Bob Ferguson Memorial Ice Fishing Derby at Gairloch Lake during the Nova Scotia Free Fishing Weekend in February.

Congratulations to Pictou County Rivers Association for more than 30 years of dedication to the sportfishery of Nova Scotia. To learn more about this organization visit: www.pictoucountyrivers.com



Photo: Parker Wong



FISH NOVA SCOTIA
proudly celebrates women in fishing



COVID-19

Stay informed on recent covid-19 guidance by visiting

novascotia.ca/coronavirus

Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas have been used to reduce harvest and improve angling opportunities for both trout and smallmouth bass. Anglers have reported that some speckled trout fisheries have changed and overfishing is one of the factors believed to be responsible for declines in fisheries in some areas. Other important factors include habitat loss and competition with aquatic invasive species such as smallmouth bass and chain pickerel.

Studies in Nova Scotia and in other provinces and states indicate that special management regulations have been successful in improving recreational fisheries by increasing the number of larger fish caught by anglers. Since the establishment of the Special Management Area initiative, provincial catches, catch and releases, and licence sales have increased. Regulations in Special Management Areas may affect bag limit, season length, length limit of fish retained, and gear type. Sea run trout

fisheries seem to benefit most from changes in regulations and the need for a consistent approach in regulation design has been requested by anglers. In response, the Inland Fisheries Division has implemented some changes to sea run trout fisheries that are currently under special management.

Anglers have identified potential locations for Special Management Areas through the Recreational Fishery Advisory Council process. Anglers who are interested in regulation changes or other issues related to management of fisheries are encouraged to participate in the Recreation Fishing Advisory Councils (see page 22 for more info).

For additional information, please review the Trout Management Plan and additional reports and publications available on our website www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing or by contacting the Inland Fisheries Division, (902) 485-5056



Photo: Tyler Bigelow

Catch & Release



Photo: Scotty Sherin

Conservation minded anglers are becoming more aware of the increased pressures and stress on Nova Scotia's fisheries resources. Studies have shown that adopting proper catch and release techniques, and careful handling helps to ensure fish health and survival.

- 1) Using artificial flies and lures increases the chances of survival. Live bait is often swallowed deeply which increases the risk of injury to the fish. Cut the line if a hook is swallowed deeply, the fish will work the hook out with time.
- 2) Using circle hooks or barbless hooks can reduce harm to released fish.
- 3) Do not play a fish until exhaustion. Use equipment heavy enough to retrieve a fish rapidly.
- 4) Keep air exposure to a minimum. Avoid beaching a fish as this will remove the protective coating and can lead to infection later.
- 5) Do not lift the fish out of the water by the tail. This can damage the spine of the fish.
- 6) Avoid squeezing the fish between the pectoral (chest) fins, this is where the heart is situated.
- 7) Do not touch the gills and avoid placing fingers under the gill plate.
- 8) Take the time to revive the fish. Support the fish by placing a hand under the belly and keep the fish underwater. If in moving water, face the fish into the current while continuing to support it. Keep a relaxed grip on the tail and when it is ready, the fish will swim away.



Nova Scotia's Conservation Officer Service

Our Vision

The responsible use of fish, wildlife, natural environments and other resources for today and the future

Our Mission

To conserve, protect and promote our fish, wildlife, natural environments and other resources through safety, education and law enforcement

Call 1-800-565-2224 to report illegal activity
novascotia.ca/natr/enforcement/fillout-form.asp



Seasons, Bag Limits, and Size Limits

For all species, the possession limit is the same as the bag limit, regardless of the number of days of fishing. The daily bag limits apply in the aggregate. This means that the number of fish that may be retained in any one day applies regardless of the number of areas fished. Caught and released fish are not considered as part of the bag limit, except for Atlantic Salmon. All season dates are inclusive.

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Season: Apr 1 to Sep 30

Sep 1 to Sep 30, No speckled trout may be retained.

Bag limit: 5 fish, of any one species or any combination of Brook Trout, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout species.

EXCEPTIONS:

Specific bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions, and seasons are in effect on several waters that are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area. From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and the use of natural bait is prohibited for all trout species in all waters, including Special Management Areas, exceptions are listed under Recreational Fishing Areas.

LAKE (GREY) TROUT

Season: Apr 1 to Sep 30

CATCH AND RELEASE, only.

Note: Lake (grey) trout are found in **Sherbrooke Lake, Lunenburg County** and **Dollar Lake, Halifax County**. Trout found in other lakes are normally speckled (brook) trout.

SMALLMOUTH (BLACK) BASS

The season and bag limit for smallmouth bass varies in each RFA. Please refer to the season and bag limits listed specific to each RFA.

LANDLOCKED SALMON CLOSED ALL YEAR

Except for the following waters and dates:

Apr 15 to Sep 30, Gabarus Lake, Cape Breton County.

OPEN ALL YEAR, Goose Harbour Lake, Guysborough County.

Apr 1 to Sep 30, Lake Charles, Lake Williams, Lake Thomas, Fletchers Lake, Shubenacadie Grand Lake, Little Grand Lake, Scraggy Lake, Lake Charlotte, Mill Lake and Cox Flowage, Halifax County.

Bag limit: 2 fish. Minimum size limit, not less than 35 cm (13.8 in), measured from the end of the nose to the fork of the tail (see diagram page 69). All salmon over 63 cm (24.8 in) must be released. It is no longer required to tag landlocked salmon between 48cm and 63cm.

WHITE PERCH, YELLOW PERCH, BROWN BULLHEAD, AND WHITE SUCKER

Open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. Extended seasons specific to perch are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area.

Bag limit: 25 fish.

CHAIN PICKEREL

The season for chain pickerel varies in each RFA. Please refer to the season listed specific to each RFA. In areas open for chain pickerel, **Bag limit: 100 fish.**

ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The management of marine and sea going (anadromous) Atlantic salmon, striped bass, eel, shad, mackerel, sturgeon, gaspereau, Atlantic whitefish and smelt is the responsibility of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture manages all other freshwater fish species. Enforcement of sportfishing and salmon fishing regulations falls under the jurisdiction of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Nova Scotia Natural Resources and Renewables. (see page 23).

LAKE WHITEFISH

The open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. **Bag limit: 8 fish.**

PRIVATE PONDS AND U-FISH OPERATIONS

There are no bag limits, season restrictions, gear or size regulations for fish caught in a legally constructed private pond or a licenced commercial U-fish operation; however, a receipt from the pond operator is required during transportation and storage of the fish.

ATLANTIC SALMON

The Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations is available upon request or with the purchase of an Atlantic salmon licence.

WARM WATER PROTOCOL

Please visit the following link www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/recreational-fisheries to see if there are any closures in effect on the Margaree River. The

purpose of the protocol is an in-season conservation measures for Atlantic salmon during environmentally stressful conditions in the Margaree River.

For changes to Margaree River angling seasons, please contact the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at 902-224-2017.

STRIPED BASS GULF REGION

The tidal and non-tidal waters of the Northumberland Strait from the New Brunswick border to Cape North.

At the time this handbook was printed, information on management measures and seasons for Southern Gulf Striped bass was not available. Please consult the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Gulf Region's Internet page for details about Striped bass regulations at www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/recreational-fisheries Recreational-Fisheries or search by keywords: "DFO Gulf Region recreational fisheries."

STRIPED BASS MARITIMES REGION

The inland and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, from Cape North Maritimes Region along the Atlantic coast and the waters of the Bay of Fundy, to the New Brunswick border.

Bag limit: 1 fish, with a minimum size limit, not less than 68 cm (26.8 in) overall length, not more than 150 cm (59.1 in) overall length, measured from the tip of nose to the tip of tail. Tidal waters open all year, except closed



Apr 1 to Jun 30 on the **Annapolis River** from Hebbs Landing near the confluence of Ray Brook (grid reference 0313214 4964708, map 21A/14) upstream to the highway bridge at Lawrencetown. The open season for striped bass in inland waters corresponds to the open season for sportfish (salmon, trout, and smallmouth bass) in those waters.

Shubenacadie River from a point 200 m upstream from the Highway 102 bridge in Enfield, NS, to a point 25 m downstream from the Highway 2 bridge in Enfield. Closed to all angling for all species **April 1 to May 9**.

From **May 10 to Jun 10**, the daily fishing quota for striped bass in the waters of **Grand Lake** and the **Shubenacadie River** downstream to its confluence with the Stewiacke River, and the Stewiacke River downstream from the highway bridge (Pollock Bridge) in Stewiacke East to its confluence with the Shubenacadie River, will be zero (0) fish per day (hook and release only).

From **May 10 to Jun 10**, only artificial fly, and unbaited lure with a single hook may be used when angling in the waters of the **Shubenacadie River** downstream from the CN Railway Bridge at East Milford to its confluence

with the Stewiacke River, and **Stewiacke River** downstream from the highway bridge (Pollock Bridge) in Stewiacke East to its confluence with the Shubenacadie River.

The **Shubenacadie River** in the area of Indian School Road remains **CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING**. Contact DFO for details.

SHAD

No closed season for angling in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. **Bag limit: 5 fish.**

GASPEREAU

No closed season for angling in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. Bag limit applies to netting and angling. For dip netting, no license is required, but yearly and weekly times apply. **Bag limit: 20 fish.**

SMELT

Except in waters closed to angling for all fish species, tidal waters are open **Aug 1 to May 31** (closed **Jun 1 to Jul 31**).

Kennetcook River, Gaspereau River, Meander River, Herbert River, St. Croix River and Avon River, Hants County, dip netting permitted **Apr 1 to Jun 15** except closed Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Other areas, dip-netting permitted **Apr 1 to Jun 15** except closed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Fishing for smelt by dip net and spear is prohibited from **Jan 1 to Dec 31** (all year), in all inland and tidal waters flowing into Jeddore Harbour and Musquodoboit Harbour, Halifax County, Lingan Bay, Cape Breton County, Bain's Brook, at New Campbellton, Victoria County, and Morrison's Brook at New Harris Forks, Victoria County. **Bag limit: 60** maximum possession, not more than 30 of which may be harvested by dip net. **Grand Lake**, Halifax County, open **Jan 1 to Sep 30**, bag limit reduced to 24 smelt by angling.

EEL

No closed season in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. The waters along the Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence from the New Brunswick border to Cape North, minimum size limit, not less than 53 cm (21 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail.

The inland and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, from Cape North along the Atlantic coast and the waters of the Bay of Fundy, to the New Brunswick border, minimum size limit, not less than 35 cm (13.8 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. **Maritime Region bag limit: 10 fish. Gulf Region bag limit: 5 fish.**

NOTE: Special provisions and winter seasons may be in place for trout, smallmouth bass, white perch, yellow perch, and chain pickerel in selected waters. Consult each Recreational Fishing Area for expanded angling opportunities for some of these species. The Datum type used for grid references to identify boundaries for specific fishing areas is NAD 27.

Inland waters: The boundary between inland and tidal waters is defined under Schedule II of the Maritime Provinces Fishery Regulations. A list of the inland water boundaries for the major rivers in Nova Scotia can be found at <https://novascotia.ca/fish/documents/ns-inland-water-boundaries.pdf>. For the locations of other inland water boundaries not on the list, please consult the local office of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Photo: Colton Taylor

Licence of a Lifetime



Nova Scotia Federation of
Anglers & Hunters

**The Super Licence includes Fishing and
Small Game & Deer Hunting**

**You could spend the rest of your life fishing and
hunting all over Nova Scotia—Free!**

Announcing the **2023 Licence of a Lifetime Lottery** from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. This year, we will be awarding two (2) lifetime licences to two (2) lucky applicants.

That's right, you could hunt and fish from Sydney to Yarmouth, from Amherst to Canso – all over the province, every year, for the rest of your life. And best of all, you'll never have to buy another Fishing*, Small Game** or Deer† hunting licence.

Again this year you can buy a ticket as a gift for a friend or relative by entering their name in the "Gift for" section of the ticket **at the time of purchase. A great stocking stuffer for Christmas.**

PRICES FOR 2023 TICKETS: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Visit NSFAH.com for contest rules, membership information, and a list of affiliate clubs.

Rules

- Open to Nova Scotia residents only.
- Winner must have a valid Wildlife Resource Card (WRC)
- The licensee is subject to the laws respecting hunting in the same manner as with any hunting licence.
- This licence is not transferrable, and may be cancelled, suspended, or forfeited in accordance with the law.
- Incomplete, illegible, or improperly filled out entries will not be accepted, and entrants will not be notified or have fees refunded.
- Draw date is Feb 2, 2024.
- * Not including salmon—sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- ** Not including migratory birds
- † The Deer and Small Game Licences are sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables.



Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

NSFAH.com nsfah1930@outlook.com

Facebook: NovaScotiaFederationOfAnglersAndHunters

Non-profit organization of hunters, anglers, and outdoors people dedicated to conservation and the wise use of our natural resources.

As demands on wildlife increase sports people in Nova Scotia need a solid, firm, and experienced voice to air their concerns. The NSFAH has been that voice since 1930. Your support is needed to assure that quality hunting and angling continue in the future.

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

NOVA SCOTIA



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

The ASCF is a non-profit organization established through a grant from the Government of Canada. Income generated by this trust fund supports projects and activities contributing to conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat.

The Foundation helps achieve healthy and sustainable wild Atlantic salmon stocks in Atlantic Canada and Québec through active working partnerships among volunteer conservation groups, Indigenous organizations, governments and others.



Nova Scotia projects funded by the ASCF in 2022 were led by:

Antigonish Rivers Association	\$18,500	Inverness South	
Atlantic Coastal Action Program		Anglers Association	\$22,000
Cape Breton	\$31,000	Nova Scotia	
Bluenose Coastal		Salmon Association	\$48,966
Action Foundation	\$24,000	Sackville Rivers Association	\$21,628
Cheticamp River		The Confederacy of Mainland	
Salmon Association	\$12,000	Mi'kmaq – Mi'kmaq	
Dalhousie University (Kurylyk)	\$20,000	Conservation Group	\$10,000

For more information, including details of these projects, please visit our website:

www.salmonconservation.ca

General Regulations

FISHING METHODS AND EQUIPMENT

No one is allowed to:

- possess fish that were caught by any person while fishing for recreational purposes or sport purposes and that have been skinned, cut, packed or otherwise dealt with in such a manner that (a) the species cannot be readily determined; (b) the number of fish cannot be readily determined; (c) where weight is used to determine catch limits, the weight of the fish cannot be readily determined; and (d) where size limits are applicable, the size of the fish cannot be readily determined.
- possess live fish of any species except under circumstances outlined in the Live Fish Possession Regulations <https://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/fcrlivefish.htm>
- use an artificial light or flame of any kind (including light emitting lures), for fishing in non-tidal waters, or while fishing for salmon in tidal waters.
- use a set-line or trawl for fishing in non-tidal waters.
- fish in non-tidal waters by jigging, snaring, spearing, or using a bow and arrow, or assist in landing any fish caught by such means.
- use dynamite or any other explosive for fishing or destroying fish, or use anything that might cause unnecessary destruction of fish.
- use a gaff of any kind to land a sportfish caught by angling.
- angle for Atlantic salmon except with a barbless artificial fly.
- angle in non-tidal waters with more than 1 fishing line or with a fishing line having more than 3 separate hooks.
- angle in tidal waters for sportfish with more than 1 fishing line or with a fishing line to which more than 3 hooks are attached.
- angle in tidal waters for non-sportfish with more than 5 fishing lines or with a fishing line to which more than 6 hooks are attached.
- keep any sportfish if it is hooked in any part of the body other than the mouth. The fish shall immediately be returned alive to the water from which it was taken.
- angle in non-tidal waters unless an open season for sportfish is in effect in those waters.
- angle for sportfish during that part of the day beginning 2 hours after sunset and ending 2 hours before sunrise. This does not apply when angling for smallmouth bass or brown trout during any of the night fishing seasons listed for each Recreational Fishing Area.
- fish caught out of season must be released immediately and with the least amount of harm.
- fish with an artificial fly that has more than 2 hooks.
- fish for, kill, or retain any spent or slink salmon or salmon fry, parr, or smolt (see drawings page 54).
- fish within 23 m (26 yds) downstream of any fish ladder or leap.

GUIDES

Non-residents do not need a guide to fish in Nova Scotia. However, guided fishing trips can significantly increase your angling experience. Consider hiring a professional guide for your next trip.

ACCESS TO WATER

Certain rights and responsibilities of anglers and protections for landowners are provided in the Angling Act. Any resident of the Province has the right to go on foot along the banks of any river, stream or lake, upon and across any uncultivated lands and Crown lands for the purpose of lawfully fishing with rod and line in such rivers, streams or lakes. Uncultivated land means land that is in its natural wild state, and includes also land that has been wholly or partially cleared, but is otherwise in its natural state. **The rights of anglers under the Act therefore does not extend to cultivated land such as farmland.**

The rights of anglers under the Act also does not in any way limit or restrict the right of any owner or occupant of land to compensation for actual damages caused by any person going upon or across such lands for the purpose of angling and shall not be construed to give the right to build any fires upon such lands.

SPECIAL NOTES

No one is allowed to fish within the posted boundaries of a licensed aquaculture site or a privately owned fish pond without permission of the owner. Angling is not permitted in many municipal watersheds or water supply areas. Please check with your local municipal authority before venturing into these areas.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Any fish taken by recreational fishing is for domestic use only and may not be sold or bartered.
- No person who is fishing for personal use or sport purposes may waste any fish that is suitable for human consumption.

Choose to have many best friends.



Photos: Sophie Locke

*Celebrating our ongoing friendship with wild,
native fish thriving in Nova Scotia waters.*

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association is celebrating its 60th anniversary as a leader in the conservation of Atlantic Salmon, Native Brook Trout, and other freshwater aquatic species – as well as freshwater habitat restoration and management. We champion the actions of passionate anglers and conservationists to ensure the survival of our native fish, rivers, and recreation.

Join us for free at **NSSalmon.ca** #novascotiasalmon



Licences

You are required to purchase a general fishing licence or a salmon fishing licence to angle in the waters of Nova Scotia, with the following exceptions:

If you are required to possess a licence, you must carry it with you while fishing.

- No licence is required to angle in tidal waters; however, seasons and bag limits are still in effect. (See details for each Recreational Fishing Area, and Seasons, Bag Limits, and Size Limits (pages 9-12), for more information.) The boundaries of tidal waters are defined by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and are listed on the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture website. Check each Recreational Fishing Area for tidal water closures.
- No licence is required to fish in legally constructed private ponds or U-fish operations, nor do seasons or bag limits apply. Permission to fish must be obtained from the owner.
- Residents 65 years of age and older may purchase a General Fishing Licence at a reduced rate.
- Residents and non-residents under the age of 16 years do not require a licence.
- Residents and non-residents with permanent disabilities may qualify for a General Fishing Licence at no cost which is available from Department of Lands and Forestry offices.
- No licence is required for recreational dip-netting of smelt or gaspereau. Seasons and bag limits are still in effect.
- Lost licences can be replaced at your local Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry office. 2023 fishing licences are valid from the date of issue to March 31, 2024.
- A provincial fishing licence is not valid in a national park. A special licence may be required. Check with a federal park warden or contact one of the national parks listed on page 23.
- It is an offence not to have your signature and address on a licence.
- Non-residents may purchase a full season licence or any number of one-day general fishing licences.

YOUTH LICENCES

Residents and non-residents age 16 and 17 years are eligible for a general or salmon fishing licence at no cost.



Reporting

You are required by law to return your completed licence stub at the end of the fishing season. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture relies upon anglers to provide the information needed to manage fish populations.

The information on the licence stubs is used to indicate overall trends in

fish catches around the province. It is important that you send in your licence stub even if you did not fish, so that we can get an accurate picture of the status of sportfish catches.

To complete your licence stub online:

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/general-fishing-licence-report-card-sportfishing>

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO NATIVE SPECIES SUCH AS SPECKLED TROUT

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

LIVE POSSESSION AND ILLEGAL INTRODUCTIONS

The intentional or accidental introduction of fish, particularly smallmouth bass and chain pickerel, or other aquatic organisms from one lake or stream to another can negatively affect local fish populations through competition, disease, or genetic changes.

Under the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, no one is allowed to possess live fish in Nova Scotia unless authorized under the Live Fish Possession Regulations or release live fish into the waters of the province except under licence by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

LIVE BAIT

Unwanted fish species can be accidentally spread by releasing unused live bait therefore threatening local fish populations. Do not discard bait. It is illegal to use certain species as bait or to possess them for bait (whether alive or dead). These include *chain pickerel*, *smallmouth bass*, *goldfish*, *yellow perch*, *brown bullhead*, *white perch*, or any fish not taken from provincial waters.

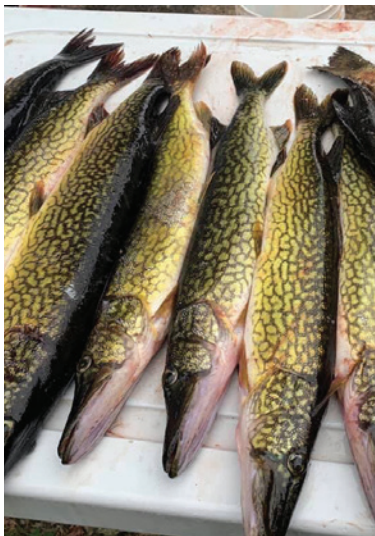


Photo: Matt Szeto

REPORT INVASIVES

Report illegal introductions or sightings of introduced species by calling 902-485-5056 or email inland@novascotia.ca or call 1-888-435-4040 or email XMARinvasive@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

If possible please provide a date, location and picture.



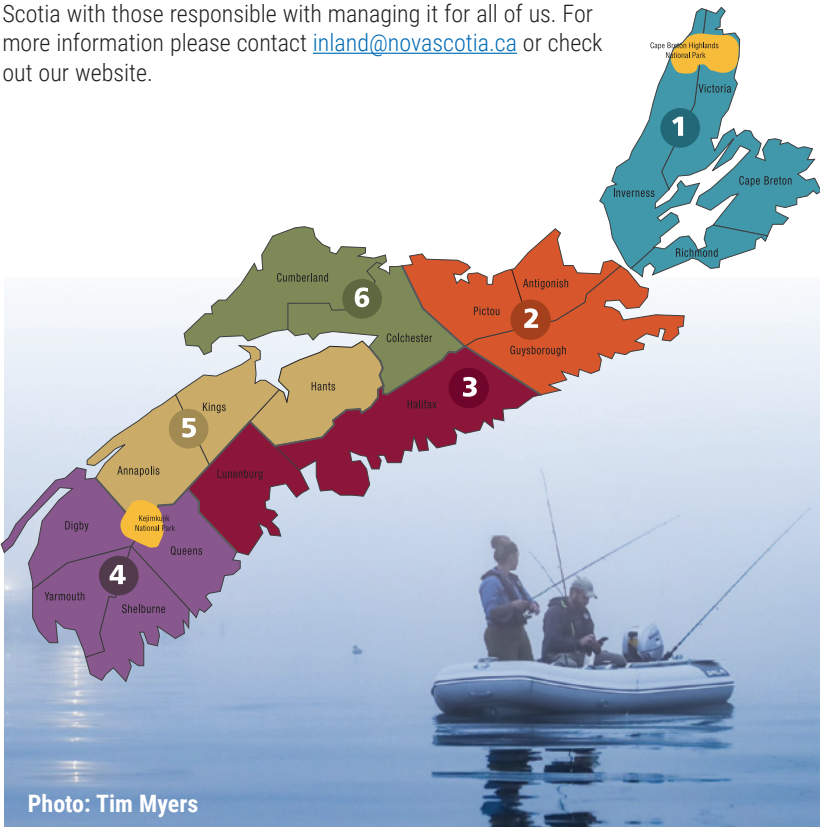
Photo: Government of Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Recreational Fishing Areas

To allow management on a regional basis, the province is divided into six Recreational Fishing Areas (RFA's) currently determined by County boundaries. Sportfishing regulations in Kejimikujik and Cape Breton Highlands national parks is the responsibility of Parks Canada.

Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council (RFAC)

The RFAC is a way for you to participate in the fisheries management process. Inland Fisheries staff host meetings for each of the Recreational Fishing Areas, usually in the fall, to update the public on our yearly activities and to receive feedback from you, the angling community. This is a unique opportunity to discuss your questions, comments, and concerns about the recreational fishery in Nova Scotia with those responsible with managing it for all of us. For more information please contact inland@novascotia.ca or check out our website.



Report illegal fishing activities to Nova Scotia Natural Resources and Renewables at 1-800-565-2224, Fisheries and Oceans Canada at 1-800-565-1633, or Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Important Addresses, Phone Numbers and Websites

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Inland Fisheries Division (Provincial)

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

Phone: (902) 485-5056

Fax: (902) 485-4014

www.novascotia.ca/fish/

E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/recreational-recreative/maritimes/index-eng.html

Maritimes Region Conservation and Protection Detachments

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/contact/regions/maritimes-eng.html

Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site

PO Box 236, Maitland Bridge,
NS B0T 1B0

(902) 682-2770

Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (Head Office)

Founders Square

1701 Hollis Street, PO Box 698

Halifax NS B3J 2T9

Phone: 902-424-5935

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/glef/en/recreational-fisheries

Gulf Region

Conservation and Protection Detachments

Antigonish Phone: (902) 863-1142

Cheticamp Phone: (902) 224-2017

Pictou Phone: (902) 485-5413

Cape Breton Highlands National Park

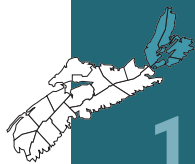
PO Box 158,

Cheticamp, NS B0E 1H0

(902) 224-2306



Photo: Tim Myers



Cape Breton, Inverness, Richmond and Victoria Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 1

SEASONS

Speckled (Brook) Trout, Brown Trout, and Rainbow Trout

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Inland Waters and the **Bras d'Or Lake - Apr 1 to Sep 30** except the waters referred to in the listings below.

From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas except the Cape Breton Highlands Management Area and those waters with extended seasons for trout. The use of natural bait is permitted year round in Bras d'Or Lakes.

LANDLOCKED SALMON

Apr 15 to Sep 30. Gabarus Lake, Cape Breton County.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not** apply to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

CAPE BRETON COUNTY

The following waters are open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

Belfry Lake.

Catalone River, downstream from the outlet of Belle Lake, including Catalone Lake.

Gabarus Lake.

Gaspereau River, downstream from the outlet of Gaspereau Lake.

Gerratt Brook, downstream from the outlet of Kelly Lake.

Lorraine Brook, downstream from the outlet of MacVickers Lake.

Mira River, downstream from the highway bridge at Victoria Bridge.

Salmon River, downstream from the stillwater at Silver Mine.

INVERNESS COUNTY

The following waters are open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

Margaree River, downstream from the highway bridges at East Margaree.

Southwest Margaree River, downstream from the Scotsville bridge to the bridge at Margaree Forks.

Northeast Margaree River, (see *Special Trout Management Area* page 26).

Skye River, downstream from the lower East Skye Glen Bridge to the Highway 105 Bridge.

RICHMOND COUNTY

The following waters are open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

Framboise River, including Middle River Framboise, Northeast Framboise River, and Bagnells River.

Grand River, downstream from the highway bridge at the head of Loch Lomond.

L'Archeveque Lake.

Marie Joseph Brook, downstream from the outlet of Upper Marie Joseph Lake.

River Inhabitants, downstream from the Highway 105 bridge at Kingsville.

River Tillard, downstream from the bridge at Sporting Mountain.

Rory's Pond.

St. Esprit Lake.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Ingonish River, downstream to the Cabot Trail Highway bridge, including tributaries, open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

Cape Breton Highlands National Park

A National Parks general fishing permit or National Parks salmon licence as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office. (see page 23).

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND SPECKLED TROUT OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to **two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.**

Petite Lac, Inverness County.

Levers Lake, # 20 Dam Pond, Cape Breton County.

Eco-Trail Pond, Isle Madame, Richmond County.

Dalem (Round) Lake, Victoria County.

Grant's Pond, Victoria County.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND BROWN TROUT OPEN ALL YEAR, ANY GEAR.

The bag limit is reduced to **two (2) trout, Oct 1 to Mar 31. Minimum size limit for rainbow trout is 35 cm (13.8 in), ALL YEAR.** The tidal waters of the **Bras d'Or Lakes, St. Patrick's Channel, St. Andrews Channel, and Sydney River** (between the dam and a line drawn between Point Edward and Liscomb Point), **NOT INCLUDING WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES.**

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

Salmon River, Cape Breton County, downstream from the highway bridge near Rock Elm to its confluence with the **Mira River, Apr 15 to Aug 31.**

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

(1) waters of the Baddeck River upstream from the Hwy 105 bridge; (2) Northeast (inside) of the East Bay Sandbar; and (3) waters upstream from Black River bridge in Dundee; (4) waters upstream from Crowdis Bridge in river Deny's Basin; and (5) waters upstream from Mackenzie Brook Bridge near South Side Basin of River Deny's which remain closed to all angling for all species, **Jan 1 to Mar 31.**

Waters inside the Boom Channel including **River Denys** and all of **River Denys Basin** are closed to trout angling, **Oct 1 to Mar 31, CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES Apr 1 to Apr 30.**

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: **Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit twenty-five (25) bass. Blacketts Lake**, Cape Breton County. **Lake Ainslie**, Inverness County.

CHAIN PICKEREL

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: **Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit 100 fish. Blacketts Lake**, Cape Breton County.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 9)



Photo: Scotty Sherin

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

MARGAREE RIVER, INVERNESS COUNTY

Upstream from the highway bridges at East Margaree to the bridges at Big Intervale on the Northeast Margaree and to the bridge at Margaree Forks on the Southwest Margaree and the Gallant River upstream from its confluence with the Margaree River to the highway bridge on the East Margaree Road.

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons: artificial fly only. During the artificial fly season, angling is only permitted between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm for all species.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) greater than 35 cm (13.8 in).

Northeast Margaree River, upstream from the bridges at Big Intervale. **CLOSED ALL YEAR FOR ALL SPECIES.**

INGRAM BROOK, INVERNESS CO.

Upstream from the confluence with the Margaree River (at the Margaree Fish Hatchery) to East Big Interval Road.

Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35cm (13.8 in.) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in.) total length.

LAKE O'LAUW BROOK, INVERNESS COUNTY

Upstream from its confluence with the Northeast Margaree River to the outlet of First Lake O'Law.

Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

RIVER DENYS, INVERNESS COUNTY

Including tributaries, Denys Basin and Indian Pond, downstream to a line drawn true north from Martin Point on the western end of Boom Island to grid reference 653148 508498 on the opposite shore across the Boom Channel.

Apr 1 to Apr 30, closed to all angling for all species.

May 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

contd. on page 27

TROUT BROOK, INVERNESS COUNTY

From a point 96 m upstream from the Highway 395 Bridge to a point 137 m downstream from the same bridge lying between two markers set 45m apart in Lake Ainslie.

Apr 1 to Aug 31, artificial fly only, **bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Upstream waters including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR FOR ALL SPECIES.**

GRAND RIVER, RICHMOND COUNTY

From the highway bridge at the community of Grand River, upstream to the highway bridge at the outflow of Loch Lomond (including Black River Pond), not including tributaries.

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to May 31, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Jun 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, **Bag limit one (1) trout** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. **Bag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow)**, which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Downstream from the highway bridge at Grand River to a line drawn between Red Head (grid reference 684988 5052445) and Black Point (grid reference 687315 5053249),

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. Bag limit one (1) trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. **Bag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow)**, which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly.

NORTH ASPY RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the Bay St. Lawrence Highway bridge to the Cape Breton Highlands Park boundary.

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to May 31, **bag limit five (5) trout.**

Jun 1 to Aug 31, **bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly only.

contd. on page 28

BADDECK RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the 105 Highway bridge including the North Branch Baddeck River, Peter's Brook and Cains Pond.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, **bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) trout may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly only.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

MIDDLE RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the Highway 105 Bridge to the Cabot Trail Highway Bridge near Finlayson, including tributaries except Indian Brook.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, **bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) trout may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in), single hook lure or artificial fly only.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Upstream from the Cabot Trail Highway Bridge near Findlayson, including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR FOR ALL SPECIES.**

NORTH RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the tidal pool to a point at the benches marked by a fishery officer, including tributaries.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Sep 30, artificial fly only, **bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Jul 15 to Aug 31, upstream from the Little Falls pool, as marked by a fishery officer, to the Benches, as marked by a fishery officer, closed to all angling for all species.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. **Bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Waters upstream from the benches marked by a fishery officer including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR FOR ALL SPECIES.**

contd. on page 29

KEY

Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area

- OPEN ALL YEAR
bag limit ten (10) speckled trout,
natural bait allowed all season.



CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS

This management area is the area enclosed by the following boundaries:

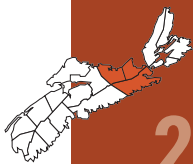
105 highway from the St. Anns exit (exit 11) to the Hunters Mountain exit (exit 7); Cabot Trail Highway from the Hunters Mountain exit (exit 7) to the Victoria/Inverness County line; Victoria/Inverness County line to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park boundary; Cape Breton Highlands National Park boundary to the Cabot Trail Highway at Ingonish; The Cabot Trail Highway at Ingonish to the 105 Highway at St. Anns (exit 11).

OPEN ALL YEAR, bag limit ten (10) speckled trout, natural bait allowed all season.

Note: The following waters are not included in the Cape Breton Highlands Management Area.

Baddeck River, North Branch Baddeck River, Peters Brook and Cains Pond, not including tributaries to those rivers. **Barachois River**, not including tributaries.

Indian Brook, downstream from the confluence of the east and west branches, not including tributaries. **Ingonish River**, not including tributaries. **North River**, downstream from a point at the benches marked by a fishery officer, not including tributaries. **Middle River**, including tributaries. **Grant's Pond**.



Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 2

SEASONS

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Inland Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below. From **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

ANTIGONISH COUNTY

The following waters are open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

Brierly Brook, downstream from the bridge on the Schoolhouse Road.

Pomquet River, downstream from the 104 Highway bridge.

Tracadie River, from the highway 4 bridge at Monastery to a point located 400m downstream, marked by a Fishery Officer.

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Country Harbour River, downstream from the highway bridge on the Borneo Road, including Country Harbour Lake to a point 300m downstream of the Iron Bridge, open **May 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to May 14**.

Ecum Secum River, downstream from the outlet of Judd's Pool near New Chester, open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

Liscomb River, downstream from the outlet of Big Stillwater Lake, open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

Liscomb River, from a point 70 m upstream from the highway bridge at Liscomb Mills to a point 23 m downstream from the entrance to the fish ladder, not including tributaries, Jun 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

PICTOU COUNTY

The following waters are open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

Barneys River, downstream from the bridge at Avondale Crossing Road.

French River, downstream from the confluence of the East and West branches.

River John, downstream from the confluence of the East and West branches including the Salmon Hole.

Sutherlands River, downstream from Park Falls.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/ OR SPECKLED TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to **two (2) trout**, either species or combined, **Oct 1 to Mar 31**.

Cameron Lake and **Gillis Lake**, Antigonish County.

Goose Harbour Lake, **McKeen Lake** and **Pringle Lake**, Guysborough County.

Dryden Lake and **Gairloch Lake**, Pictou County.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

James River, Antigonish County, from the water supply dam at grid reference 568078, 5050765 downstream to its confluence with the West River,

Apr 15 to Aug 31.

River John, Pictou County, from the West Branch Bridge downstream to the Welsford Bridge near Welsford, **Apr 15 to Aug 31.**

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following:

Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit twenty-five (25) bass.

Lansdowne Lake and **Middle River**, including **Middle River Reservoir**, Pictou County.

CHAIN PICKEREL

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following:

Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit 100 fish.

Black Lake and **West Branch Lake**, Pictou County.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the following

which are which are **OPEN ALL YEAR:**

Cameron Lake, Gillis Lake, Antigonish County, **Goose Harbour Lake, McKeen Lake, Pringle Lake**, Guysborough County. **Gairloch Lake**, Pictou County.

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

The following waters are closed to all angling due to the recent introduction of Smallmouth Bass:

Piper Lake, Pictou County, **Dobsons Lake**, Guysborough County.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 9)

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

GUYSBOROUGH (MILFORD HAVEN) RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Downstream from the bridge at West Interval to the Highway 16 bridge near Boylston.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly.

ST. MARY'S RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Upstream from the highway bridge at Sherbrooke to the 347 Bridge near Aspen on the East River, St. Mary's and upstream to the highway bridge at Review Glenelg and Melrose Lakes on the West River, St. Mary's.

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to Sep 30, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout**

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(brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Upstream from the 347 bridge near Aspen on the East River, St. Mary's to the Guysborough County boundary and upstream from the highway bridge at Glenelg on the West River, St Mary's, to South Brook near Trafalgar:

Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

May 26 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Pools closed to all angling, **Jun 15 to Sep 30**, include: **Cumminger Pool, Foot Bridge Pool, Ford Pool, Indian Man Pool, McKeen Pool, Silvers Pool, Sutherlands Pool**, details of pool closures are available from DFO.

SALMON RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

From the outlet of **Salmon River Lake** downstream to its confluence with Chedabucto Bay.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, not including tributaries.

Jul 1 to Sep 30, downstream from a point 50 m below the Highway 16 Bridge at Cooks Cove, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, of which only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly.

ST. FRANCIS HARBOUR RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

From the outlet of Goose Harbour Lake downstream to its confluence with Chedabucto Bay.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit one (1) trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow)** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Single hook lure or artificial fly.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, **bag limit one (1) rainbow trout** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, barbless artificial fly only.

contd. on page 33

EAST RIVER, PICTOU COUNTY

From a line drawn from Dunbar Point to Pine Point (including Big Gut) upstream to the Springville Bridge on the East Branch, **Apr 1 to May 14**, closed to all angling for all species. **May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

From Springville Bridge on the East Branch upstream to and including Hunters Lake, and from the confluence of the West Branch upstream to the outflow of West Branch Lake. **Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

WEST RIVER, PICTOU COUNTY

Downstream from the Highway 104 bridge, **Apr 1 to May 14**, closed to all angling for all species. **May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

SOUTH RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY *See map page 32*

From the bridge that marks the outlet of **Loch Katrine (South River Lake)** to the Sunrise Trail (old highway 104 bridge), **Apr 1 to Apr 14**, closed to all angling for all species. Open **Apr 15 to Oct 31**.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit five (5) trout (brown or rainbow)**.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, **bag limit two (2) trout (brown or rainbow)**.

From the Sunrise Trail (old highway 104 bridge) to the Williams Point boundary of the West River Management Area and to the outflow of Antigonish Harbour, **Apr 1 to Apr 14**, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, **bag limit two (2) trout (brown or rainbow)**.

From the dam immediately upstream from **Fraser's Mill Fish Hatchery** downstream to the bridge over the Old Pinevale Road, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**.

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KEY

West/South River Special Trout Management Area

- Open May 15 - Sep 30
Natural bait prohibited. Artificial fly and unbaited lure only
- Open May 15 - Sep 30
Artificial Fly only
- Open Apr 15 - Aug 31
Bag: bag three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in)
- Sep 1 - Sep 30
Bag: bag three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited
- Open Apr 15 - Oct 31




WEST RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY

The **Ohio River**, downstream from the bridge at the outlet of St. Joseph Lake, and the **Beaver River**, downstream from the outlet of MacEacherns Lake (excluding Cameron Lakes), to the bridge on the West River at Addington Forks, **Apr 1 to May 14**, closed to all angling for all species. **May 15 to Sep 30**, artificial fly only. **Bag limit one (1) trout** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Downstream from the bridge at **Addington Forks** to a line drawn true north from grid reference 583545 5054009 at Williams Point to the opposite shore, **Apr 1 to May 14**, closed to all angling for all species. **May 15 to Sep 30**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. **Bag limit one (1) trout** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow)** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.



Live streaming since before live streaming was a thing.

Photo: Tim Meyers

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt A Stream program provides funding, training, and technical expertise to support local community groups, river associations, Mi'kmaw communities, and Indigenous organizations with one common goal – restoring and protecting Nova Scotia's precious waterways.

Visit nssalmon.ca & adoptastream.ca

adopt
a stream

NOVA SCOTIA





Halifax and Lunenburg Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 3

SEASONS

SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal waters of Halifax County (Halifax Harbour and East) - Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Tidal waters of Halifax County (West of Halifax Harbour) and Lunenburg County - Apr 1 to Sep 30.

Inland waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

From **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, no speckled trout may be retained and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except for waters with extended seasons for trout.

LAKE (GREY) TROUT

Apr 1 to Sep 30. All lake (grey) trout must be released. **Bag limit zero (0) lake trout.**

LANDLOCKED SALMON

Apr 1 to Sep 30.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE TO PROTECT ENDANGERED ATLANTIC WHITEFISH WHILE ANGLING OTHER SPECIES IN LUNENBURG COUNTY

The waters of **Minamkeak Lake**, **Milipsigate Lake** and **Hebb Lake** upstream from the dam at its outlet, including the waters joining these lakes but not including other tributaries to them except the waters of an unnamed tributary to Hebb Lake

that are downstream from a straight line across that tributary from grid reference 374167 4909763 to grid reference 374183 4909763 as marked by a fishery officer.

Angling season open only from **Jul 1 to Sep 30**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. **Jan 1 to Jun 30 and Oct 1 to Dec 31**, closed to all angling for all species.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Note: these lakes are open to white perch and yellow perch.

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, **Oct 1 to Mar 31.**

Albro Lake, Lewis Lake and Round Lake at Jerry Lawrence Park, **Maynard Lake, Penhorn Lake, First Lake, Cow Bay Pond, Williams Lake**, Halifax County. **Beck Lake, Hutt Lake, and Sucker Lake**, Lunenburg County.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31. Bag limit five (5) bass, except for waters referred to in the listings below: All waters east of the Highway 102 from its junction with the Highway 104, to Highway 118 to Highway 107 to Highway 328 (Ross Road) near Upper Lawrencetown, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**, except the following lakes: **Lake Egmont, Porters Lake, Loon Lake and Miller Lake**, **Apr 1 to Sept 30.**

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Dec 31. Bag limit three (3) bass. **Banook Lake and Micmac Lake**, Halifax County.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Grand Lake (Shubenacadie), Halifax County, including those portions occurring in Hants County.

Morris Lake, Halifax County.

Big Mushamush Lake, Lunenburg County.

Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35cm (13.8 in.), except from **May 1 to Jun 15**, no smallmouth bass may be retained.

Note that all lakes with extended seasons for chain pickerel are also open for smallmouth bass. See list below.

CHAIN PICKEREL

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except for waters referred to in the listings below: All waters east of the Highway 102 from Its junction with the Highway 104, to Highway 118 to Highway 107 to Highway 328 (Ross Road) near Upper Lawrencetown, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**.

Lake Egmont, Halifax County. **Apr 1 to Sep 30**.

Banook Lake, Micmac Lake, Red Bridge Pond, Grand Lake (Shubenacadie), Powder Mill Lake, Morris Lake, Russell Lake, Kinsac Lake, Fish Lake (near Oakfield), **Bisset Lake, Beaver Bank Lake, Beaver Pond** (near Kinsac Lake), Halifax County, **OPEN ALL YEAR**.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

The season corresponds with the open season for smallmouth bass or trout. In areas with extended seasons, perch may also be retained. **Bag Limit, twenty-five (25) fish**.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See Page 9)

ARTIFICIAL FLY ONLY

Fishing is permitted with artificial flies only in the sections of the following rivers during the times listed. Other methods are permitted during the remainder of the open season. If in doubt as to the extent of these restrictions, please contact the local Federal fishery officer.

HALIFAX COUNTY

Moser River, upstream from the highway bridge at Moser River, not including tributaries, **May 26 to end of all fishing seasons**.

Sackville River, from a point 50 m below the Shore Drive Bridge, near Bedford, upstream to a point 200 m upstream from the Lucasville Road Bridge, not including tributaries, **Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons**.

Little Sackville River, from the confluence with the Sackville River upstream to the outlet of Feely Lake, not including tributaries, **Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons**.



Photo: Myrie Boyd

West River Sheet Harbour, from the concrete piers located downstream of the Highway 7 Bridge upstream to the Killag River, not including tributaries, **May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.**

LUNenburg COUNTY

Gold River, from the highway 3 bridge upstream to the Larder River, not including tributaries, **May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.**

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

HALIFAX COUNTY

East River Sheet Harbour from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada barrier dam upstream to Malay Falls, including tributaries, closed **Apr 1 to Apr 14.**

East River Sheet Harbour, from the Powerhouse at Ruth Falls downstream 200 m, including tributaries, closed **Jun 1 to Sep 30.**

Ingram River, from a point 23 m downstream from the Highway 3 bridge to

a point 23 m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR.**

Kirby River, from a point 15 m downstream from the Highway 24 bridge to 15 m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, closed **Jun 1 to Sep 30.**

West River Sheet Harbour, from the Highway 7 bridge downstream to the foot bridge, closed to all angling for all species, **Jun 15 to July 31.**

LUNenburg COUNTY

Gold River, from a point 200 m upstream from the Highway 3 Bridge upstream to the Larder River, including tributaries, closed **Apr 1 to May 14.**

Gold River, the Dipping Pool located between the Cable Pool and the Kill Devil Pool, including tributaries, closed **May 15 to Aug 15.**

Wallace Brook, from Petite Riviere at Crousetown to a point 180 m upstream, including tributaries, closed **Apr 1 to Sep 30.**



Photo: Scotty Sherin



SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

EAST TAYLOR BAY LAKE, HALIFAX COUNTY

Including all lakes and tributaries flowing into East Taylor Bay Lake. **Bag Limit two (2) speckled trout, Apr 1 to Aug 31. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.**

MUSQUODOBOIT RIVER, HALIFAX COUNTY

From the mouth of Musquodoboit Harbour to Chapel Island, **Apr 1 to Apr 30, closed to all angling for all species. Open May 1 to Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31.** From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 Bridge to Chapel Island, **Apr 1 to May 31, closed to all angling for all species. Open Jun 1 to Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31.**

From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 Bridge (including Tom Vaughans Pool), upstream (including Bayer Lake) to a point 100 m above Crawfords Bridge, **Apr 1 to Apr 30, closed to all angling for all species. Open May 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.** From a point 100 m above Crawfords Bridge upstream to the confluence of the North and South branches near Dean, **Apr 1 to Apr 30, closed to all angling for all species. Open May 1 to Aug 31, any gear.**

From the mouth of Musquodoboit Harbour upstream to the confluence of the North and South branches near Dean, **bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.**

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

contd. on page 40

KEY

LaHave River Sections

- Morgan Falls
- █ Single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited
Apr 1 to May 25
- █ Artificial fly only May 26 to end of all fishing seasons
- █ Lakes not included in Special Management Area



LAHAVE RIVER, LUNENBURG COUNTY

LaHave River from Silver Hill Brook upstream to the South end of Wentzells Lake, **Apr 1 to May 25**, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

From **May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons**, artificial fly only. **Bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

LaHave River upstream from north end of Wentzells Lake to south end of New Germany Lake, West Branch of the LaHave River to Rhynos Lake, North Branch of the LaHave River upstream from north end of Wentzells Lake to south end of Sherbrooke Lake, **Apr 1 to May 25**, any gear. **May 26 to end of all fishing seasons**, artificial fly only. LaHave River from Morgans Falls to a point 90 m downstream **Apr 1 to May 25**, any gear. **May 26 to May 31**, artificial fly only. **Jun 1 to end of all fishing seasons**, closed to all angling for all species.

Bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Note: Does not include lakes and tributaries. **Wentzells Lake, Rhyno Lake, Texas Lake, Indian Lake, Lake Peter, Lake William** and **New Germany Lake** are not included in Special Trout Management Area.

Pools closed to all angling, **Jun 15 to Oct 31**, are: **Cooks Falls, Veinotes Pool, Oak Run, Bruhms Bridge Pool, Dauphinees Run, Wentzells Eddy, Foot of Wentzells Lake, Cemetery Pool, Fancys Pool**, details of pool closures are available from DFO.

contd. on page 41

PETITE RIVIERE, LUNENBURG COUNTY

From the Highway 331 Bridge upstream to Hebb Lake, not including Fancys Lake or tributaries. **Apr 1 to Jun 14**, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited. **Jun 15 to end of all fishing seasons**, artificial fly only. **Bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS

The following lakes in Halifax County are catch and release only: **Birch Hill Lake, Blueberry Lake, East Duck Lake, Five Island Lake, Five Island Lake Run, Frederick Lake, Holland Marsh Lake, Hubley Big Lake, Jacket Lake, Lizard Lake, Sheldrake Lake** and **Woodens River** (downstream from the outflow of Hubley Big Lake, including all lakes and tributaries). Single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO FRESHWATER AND MARINE HABITAT

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

INFORMATION FOR ANGLERS AND BOATERS

Invasive species are non-native plants and animals that may spread rapidly and cause harm. They pose a significant threat to biodiversity and are costly to manage and control once established. Prevention of new introductions is the highest priority. Some aquatic species can survive more than two weeks out of water. Adopting the following recommendations will help reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species.

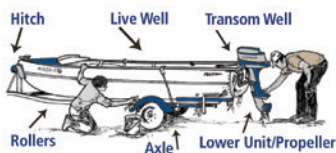
- **CLEAN** your boat, motor, trailer, and boating equipment such as anchors and fishing gear, centerboards, rollers, and axles. Remove any animals and plants that are visible before leaving any waterbody. Rinse your boat and equipment that normally gets wet with hot tap water (greater than 40°C), or spray your boat and trailer with high pressure water (250 psi).
- **DRAIN** water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land immediately before leaving the waterbody.

- **DRY** your boots, waders, boat, tackle, trailer, and other boating equipment in the sun for 5 days (recommended) to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch.

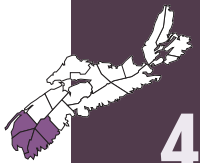


**CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY**

WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



**Nova Scotia
invasive
Species Council**



Digby, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 4

SEASONS

SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Inland and Tidal Waters - **Apr 1 to Sep 30** except the waters referred to in the listings below.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations do not apply to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

First, Second, Third, and Fourth Christopher lakes, Queens County. **Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit two (2) trout. Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released.

Big Meadow Brook, Tusket River, Yarmouth County. Upstream from Highway 203 near East Kemptville, **Apr 1 to Sep 30**. Catch and release only, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to **two (2) trout**, either species or combined, **Oct 1 to Mar 31**.

Everitts Lake, Digby County.

Hidden Hills Lake and **Victoria Lake**, Queens County.

Beaver Dam Lake, Shelburne County.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

Mersey River, Queens County, downstream from Lake Rossignol to the dam at Cowie Falls, **Apr 1 to Oct 31**.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31, bag limit five (5) bass, except the Special Bass Management Areas and Extended Seasons.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Salmon River Lake, Digby County. **Ten Mile Lake, Little Ten Mile Lake**, and the **Mersey River**, Queens County. **Kemptback Lake, Ogden, Parr, and Petes Lakes** and **Lake Vaughan Reservoir**, Yarmouth County.

Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35 cm (13.8 in.), except from **May 1 to Jun 15** no smallmouth bass may be retained. Night fishing is only permitted during the open season in **Salmon River Lake, Ogden, Parr, and Petes lakes** and the **Mersey River**, downstream from Lake Rossignol to the dam at Cowie Falls.

EXTENDED SEASON FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Dec 31. Wentworth Lake, Digby County. **Doctors Lake, Lake Milo, Middle Lake** and **Raynards Lake**, Yarmouth County.

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except the following which are **OPEN ALL YEAR**:

Annis River and **Kiack Brook**, Yarmouth County, including all lakes and tributaries.

Walls Lake, The Ponds in Port Latour, **Bakers Flats** on Cape Sable Island, and **Lake George**, Shelburne County.

Louis Lake, Queens County.

Meteghan River, Digby County, including all lakes and tributaries.

ARTIFICIAL FLY ONLY

Fishing is permitted with artificial flies only in the sections of the following rivers during the times listed. Other methods are permitted during the remainder of the open season. If in doubt as to the extent of these restrictions, please contact the local Federal fishery officer.

QUEENS COUNTY

Medway River, from the Highway 103 bridge upstream to McGowan Lake, not including Ponhook Lake or tributaries, **May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.**

Mersey River, from the upstream abutment of the highway bridge on Bridge Street in Milton to the dam at Cowie Falls, **May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.**

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

DIGBY COUNTY

Salmon River, downstream from the Route 1 Highway Bridge approximately 500 m to a line drawn across the Salmon River from grid reference 726822 4881333 to grid reference 726803 4881420, including tributaries, **May 1 to Dec 31.**

QUEENS COUNTY

Medway River, from a point 100m downstream from the highway bridge on the Old Westfield Road near Harmony Mills upstream to, but excluding McGowan Lake, including tributaries, **Jun 1 to Dec 31.**

Medway River, the "Lake Pool", upstream from the highway bridge at highway 210 at Greenfield, to a straight line drawn from grid reference 352032 4903571 to grid reference 352155 4903817 (immediately above the small island at the outlet of Ponhook Lake), **Jun 15 to Dec 31.**

Medway River, from the highway 210 bridge at Greenfield downstream to the highway 103 bridge, **Jun 15 to July 31.**

YARMOUTH COUNTY

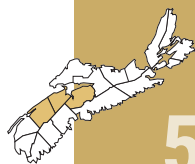
Tusket River, from the highway bridge crossing the canal at the southern end of Lake Vaughan Reservoir downstream to the powerhouse dam, including tributaries, **Apr 1 to Jun 30.**

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 9)

NOTE: *Kejimikujik National Park & National Historic Site.* A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 23).





Annapolis, Hants and Kings Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 5

SEASONS

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Inland and Tidal Waters - Apr 1 to

Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

The bag limit is reduced to **two (2) trout**, either species or combined, **Oct 1 to Mar 31**.

Rumsey Lake, Annapolis County, **May 15 to Oct 31**.

Sunken Lake, Kings County, **May 15 to Oct 31** and **Jan 1 to Mar 31**.

Silver Lake near Lakeville, Kings County, **Apr 1 to Sep 30** and **Jan 1 to Mar 31**.

Meadow Pond, Hants County, **OPEN ALL YEAR**.

Note: not all lakes contain rainbow trout.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

Cornwallis River, Kings County, **Apr 1 to Oct 31**.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except Special Bass Management Areas and Extended Seasons. Annapolis County, **bag limit five (5) bass**. Kings County, **bag limit five (5) bass**. Hants County, **bag limit twenty-five (25) bass**.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Black River Lake, **Little River Lake**, **Methals Lake**, and **Aylesford Lake** (including **Loon Lake**), Kings County.

Panuke Lake, Hants County.

Apr 1 to Dec 31, **bag limit three (3) bass**, maximum length 35 cm (13.8 in) except from **May 1 to Jun 15** **no smallmouth bass may be retained**, night fishing is permitted.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Gaspereau Lake, Kings County. **Apr 1 to Dec 31**.

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except in the following which are **OPEN ALL YEAR**:

Lily Lake (Cogmagun Pond), Hants County. **Lake Paul**, **Lake George**, **Nicholas Lake**, and **North River Lake**, Kings County.



Photo: Becky-Anne Nickerson

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

CORNWALLIS RIVER, KINGS COUNTY

Downstream from the South Bishop Road bridge to the Highway 101 Bridge, **Apr 1 to Aug 31**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, **bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled)** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit one (1) brown trout** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly.

Entire river Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout only, catch and release, artificial fly only.

THE UPPER MEDWAY SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREA, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY

The following lakes and the waters that connect these lakes within the Upper Medway Lakes Wilderness Area: **Lake of Five Hardwood Hills, Small Spectacle Lakes, Alma Lake, Croker Lakes, Mistake Lake, Hendry Lake, Handshaw Lakes, Birch Lakes, Medway Lake, McVicker Lake, Frog Lake, Bear Lake, George Lake, First Lake, Lohnes Lake, Gull Lake, Upper Gull Lake, Allison Lake, Rocky Lake, Thomas Lake, Gang Lake, Elder Lake, Sunrise Lake, First Branch Lake.** **Apr 1 to Aug 30**, Bag limit (2) trout, **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit (2) trout (brown or rainbow)**, natural bait is prohibited.

THE UPPER MEDWAY SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREA

Graywood

Milford

South Milford

KEY TO THE LAKES

- 1 Lake of Five Hardwood Hills
- 2 Small Spectacle Lakes
- 3 Alma Lake
- 4 Croker Lakes
- 5 Mistake Lake
- 6 Hendry Lake
- 7 Handshaw Lakes
- 8 Birch Lakes

- 9 Medway Lake
- 10 McVicker Lake
- 11 Frog Lake
- 12 Bear Lake
- 13 George Lake
- 14 First Lake
- 15 Lohnes Lake
- 16 Gull Lake

- 17 Upper Gull Lake
- 18 Allison Lake
- 19 Rocky Lake
- 20 Thomas Lake
- 21 Gang Lake
- 22 Elder Lake
- 23 Sunrise Lake
- 24 First Branch Lake

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except in the following which are **OPEN ALL YEAR**:
Springfield Lake, Annapolis County.
Woodward Sandford Lake, Hants County.


NOTE: Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 23).

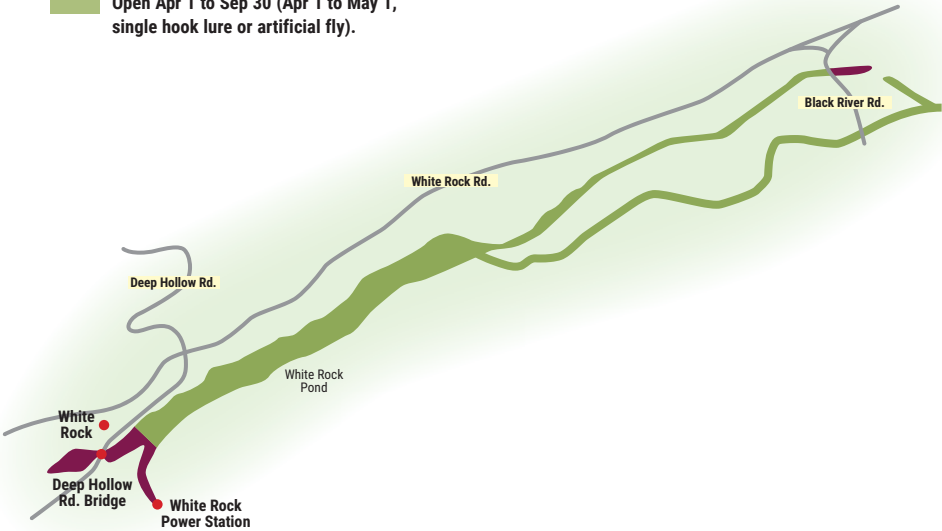
WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

KEY

Gaspereau River

 Closed all year

 Open Apr 1 to Sep 30 (Apr 1 to May 1, single hook lure or artificial fly).



KINGS COUNTY

Gaspereau River, from the White Rock power station upstream to the first highway bridge, including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**.

Gaspereau River, White Rock Pond, from a point 152 m downstream from the bridge at White Rock (Deep Hollow Road Bridge), downstream to the first highway bridge upstream from the White Rock Power Station, Open **Apr 1 to Sep 30 (Apr 1 to May 1)**, single hook lure or artificial fly).

Gaspereau River, from a point 152 m downstream from the highway bridge at White Rock (Deep Hollow Road Bridge) to point 213 m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 9)



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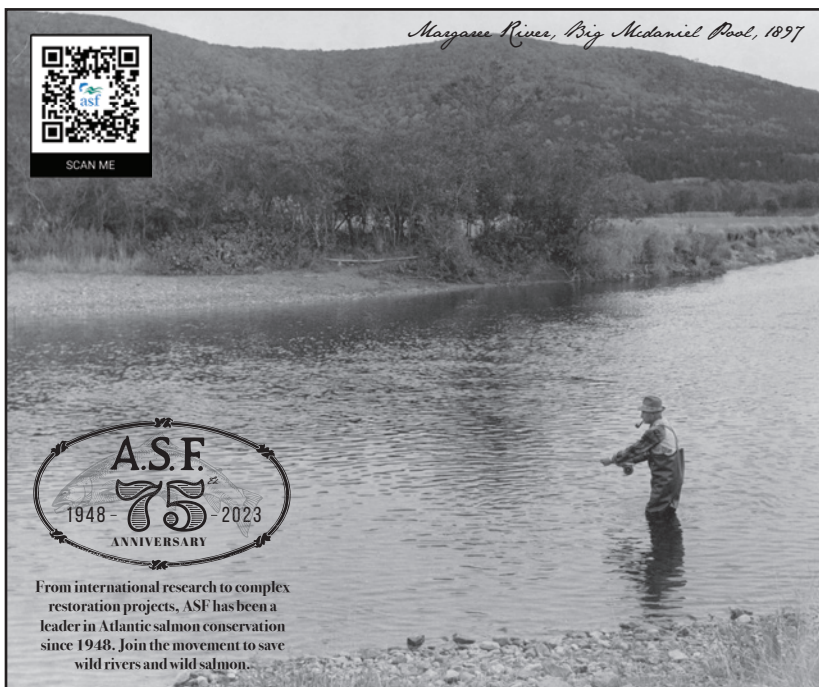
"The Voice for Canada's Water"

tucanada.org
tuc@tucanada.org


Trout Unlimited
CANADA




Truite limitée
CANADA



Margaree River, Big Medaniel Pool, 1897



SCAN ME



From international research to complex restoration projects, ASF has been a leader in Atlantic salmon conservation since 1948. Join the movement to save wild rivers and wild salmon.



Colchester and Cumberland Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 6

SEASONS

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Inland Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the waters referred to in the listings below.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except in waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

COLCHESTER COUNTY

The following waters are open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

French River, downstream from the 246 Highway Bridge at Oliver.

Waugh's River, downstream from the 256 Highway Bridge at The Falls.

The following waters are open **May 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to May 15**.

Chiganois River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge at Belmont, including tributaries.

Debert River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge, including tributaries.

Economy River, downstream from the confluence with Callaghan Brook, including tributaries.

Folly River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge, including tributaries.

Great Village River, downstream from the confluence with Spencers Brook, including tributaries.

North River, downstream from the confluence of the West Branch North River, including tributaries.

Portapique River, downstream from the confluence with Matheson Brook, including tributaries.

Salmon River, downstream from the confluence with Greenfield Brook, including tributaries.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Shinimicas River, downstream from the No. 6 Highway bridge, including tributaries, open **Apr 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to Apr 14**.

River Hebert, downstream from the bridge near the tree nursery in the Chignecto Game Sanctuary, including tributaries, open **May 15 to Sep 30**, closed to all angling for all species **Apr 1 to May 14**.

Pugwash River, Apr 1 to Sept 30

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to **two (2) trout**, either species or combined, **Oct 1 to Mar 31**.

Angevine (Dewars) Lake, Harrison Lake, and Isaac Lake, Cumberland County.

Deyarmont Lake, Colchester County.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: **Apr 1 to Sep 30**, bag limit **twenty-five (25) bass**.

Angevine Lake, Big Lake, and Mattatall Lake, Cumberland County.

Round Lake, Colchester County.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Shortts Lake, Colchester County,
Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3)
bass, maximum length 35cm (13.8
in.), except from **May 1 to Jun 15** no
smallmouth bass may be retained.

CHAIN PICKEREL

Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit: 100 fish.
except the following: **Shortt's Lake**,
Colchester County, **OPEN ALL YEAR.**

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except in the following:
Smiths Lakes and **Long Lake**,
Cumberland County, **Jan 1 to Sep 30.**
Angevine (Dewar) Lake, Harrison Lake,
and **Issac Lake**, Cumberland County,
OPEN ALL YEAR.
Shortt's Lake, Colchester County, **OPEN**
ALL YEAR.

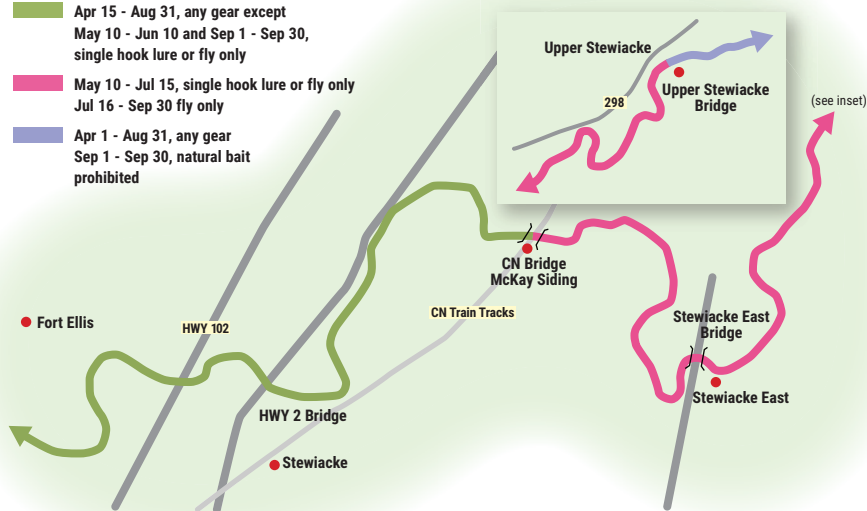
ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 9)

KEY

Stewiacke River Sections

- █ Apr 15 - Aug 31, any gear except
May 10 - Jun 10 and Sep 1 - Sep 30,
single hook lure or fly only
- █ May 10 - Jul 15, single hook lure or fly only
Jul 16 - Sep 30 fly only
- █ Apr 1 - Aug 31, any gear
Sep 1 - Sep 30, natural bait
prohibited



SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

STEWIACKE RIVER, COLCHESTER COUNTY

Downstream from the CN railway bridge near McKay Siding, **Apr 1 to Apr 14,**
closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to May 9 and **Jun 11 to Aug 31**, any gear permitted.

May 10 to Jun 10, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait prohibited.

contd. on page 50

STEWIACKE RIVER, CONTINUED

Upstream from the CN railway bridge near McKay Siding to the highway bridge farthest upstream in Upper Stewiacke, not including tributaries, **Apr 1 to May 9, closed to all angling for all species.**

May 10 to Jul 15, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Jul 16 to Aug 31, artificial fly only.

May 10 to Aug 31, Bag limit one (1) trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or rainbow)** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Upstream from the highway bridge farthest upstream in Upper Stewiacke, **Apr 1 to Aug 31**, any gear permitted.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

Night angling for brown trout is permitted from the Lansdowne bridge downstream to the bridge in Stewiacke East during the open season.

RIVER PHILIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the Mountain Road Bridge (Spencers Bridge) in the Community of River Phillip.

Apr 1 to May 14, catch and release only, artificial fly only.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, any gear permitted.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, **bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow)**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

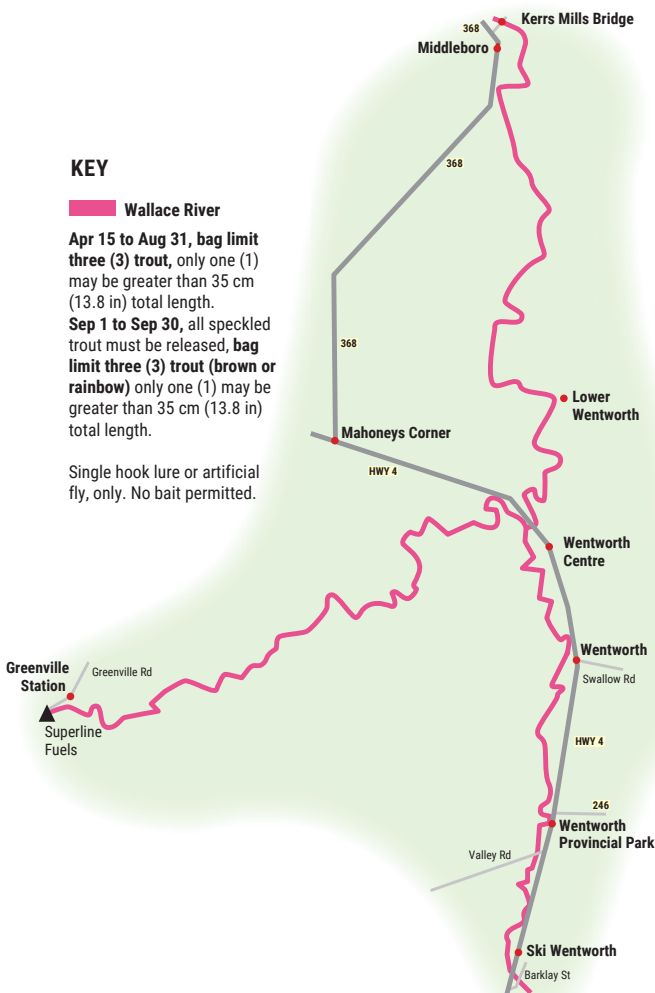
Night angling for brown trout is permitted upstream from the Mountain Road Bridge (Spencers Bridge) not including tributaries, **May 15 to Aug 31.**

MACCAN RIVER, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the highway 2 bridge at Southampton, **Apr 1 to May 14**, catch and release only, artificial fly only. **May 15 to Aug 15, bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, any gear permitted.

Aug 16 to Sep 30, catch and release only, artificial fly only.

contd. on page 51



WALLACE RIVER, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge at Wentworth Center, **Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.**

Downstream from Barclay Rd. (near Ski Wentworth) on the Main branch and Greenville Road (at Superline Fuels) on the West branch to Kerrs Mills Bridge, **Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Single hook lure or artificial fly, only. No bait permitted.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow) only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Single hook lure or artificial fly, only. No bait permitted.



We are a provincial group of recreational smallmouth bass anglers whose mission is to promote all freshwater fishery resources and support smallmouth angling opportunities.

www.rbans.ca

19 Hampton Court Bridgewater, NS. B4V 8W6



Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure and pride that we introduce to you in this insert the Mi'kmaq concept and tradition of NETUKULIMK.

Grand Council of Mi'kmaq

The Mi'kmaq Aboriginal people of Nova Scotia have been harvesting animal, fowl, fish and plant life for over 10,000 years. We have managed this harvest within our own communities since time immemorial and continue to do so today. Our past, present and future Mi'kmaq society and economy is based on the use of the natural resources. Conservation and management of these resources have and still are an important part of Mi'kmaq culture. We have an intimate knowledge of the land, waters and natural life in and around Mi'kma'ki, our traditional territory, part of which is present day Nova Scotia.

After European contact some 500 years ago, the Mi'kmaq and the British established formal agreement for a co-existence and friendship relationship through a series of Nation to Nation Treaties.

"When the English began to make their new homes in our land our fore fathers protected the livelihood and survival of the Mi'kmaq by signing Treaties with their Kings. Throughout the seasons the Treaties have remained."

Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. October 1, 1986

Today the Mi'kmaq harvest the natural resources through a concept known as Netukulimk. Netukulimk includes the use of the natural bounty, provided by the Creator, for the self-support and well being of the individual and the community at large. Without limiting the meaning of the concept of Netukulimk, the objective includes achieving adequate standards of

community nutrition and economic well being, without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity or productivity of our native environment.

The Constitution of Canada has entrenched Aboriginal and Treaty Rights within the laws of Canada. As a result of this, the courts have upheld the rights contained in the Treaty of 1752 and the underlying Aboriginal right that the Mi'kmaq have to harvest natural resources in Nova Scotia under their traditional authority and guidelines.

Article 4 of the Treaty of 1752 states in part:

"It is agreed that the said Tribe of Indians (Mi'kmaq) shall not be hindered from, but have free liberty of hunting, fishing and fowling as usual..."

On October 1, 1993 the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Honourable John Savage formally proclaimed on behalf of Nova Scotia 'the Government of Nova Scotia recognizes all Treaties which were signed in good faith between the Crown and the Mi'kmaq."

In Nova Scotia there are some 70,000 sportfishermen and some 77,000 sport hunters within the non-native community. The total Aboriginal harvesting community represents 1/2 of 1 per cent of the total non-native population hunting and fishing today.

We have made our peace and friendship and we have agreed to co-exist and co-share. Today it is time to work together to ensure that all our children will have the same right or privilege to access animal, fowl, fish, and plant life in the future.

For more information about our work and concerns about our natural environment contact:

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Main Office

57 Martin Crescent, PO Box 1590
Truro, NS, B2N 5V3
Tel: 902-895-6385, Toll Free. 1-877-892-2424
Fax: 902-893-1520

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

4102 Shore Road, Eskasoni, NS, B1W 1M4
Tel: (902) 379-2163, Fax (902) 379-2250

Native Council of Nova Scotia

129 Truro Heights Road, P.O. Box 1320
Truro, NS, B2N 5N2
Toll Free: 1-800-565-4372, Direct: 902-895-1523
Fax: 902-895-0024



NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH HABITAT FUND

In 2022, the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund provided \$340,000 through a \$5.91 levy on fishing licences. A total of \$305,000 was provided to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt-A-Stream Program which funded 21 fish habitat restoration projects undertaken by community and First Nation groups throughout the province. This work improved 90,000 m² of habitat and included planting 10,000 trees in important riparian zones to stabilize banks and reduce sedimentation. Since the inception of the program, projects like these have restored more than 1.2 million m² of spawning, rearing, over-wintering, and cool water summer refugia habitat for salmon and trout. Habitat connectivity continues to be an important component of several projects and fish passage was improved at 14 culvert crossings, increasing access to 32 km of habitat for migrating fish.



In addition to these projects, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association received \$15,000 for a liming project on the West River Sheet Harbour and \$25,000 for catchment liming by helicopter in the same watershed.

To learn more about the Fund visit our website:

<http://novascotia.ca/fish/funding-programs/>

Set Young Salmon and Trout Free

Note the differences in these fish:

Salmon Parr

- Black spots on back and sides, and a forked tail
- No markings on fins or tail
- Large eye



Salmon Smolt

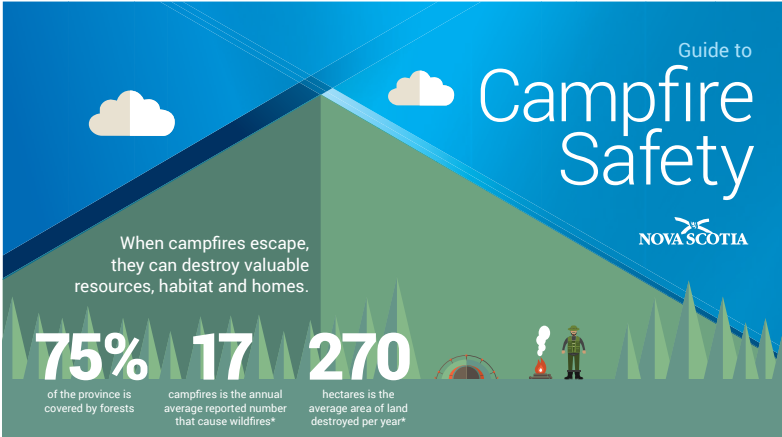
- Silvery with black spots on upper sides and cheeks and a forked tail
- Large eye



Brook (Speckled Trout)

- Tail is nearly square
- Large fin on back (dorsal) has irregular markings
- There are no black spots, and the eye is smaller
- Lower fins have a white leading edge





Guide to

Campfire Safety

NOVA SCOTIA

When campfires escape, they can destroy valuable resources, habitat and homes.

75%

of the province is covered by forests

17

campfires is the annual average reported number that cause wildfires*


270

hectares is the average area of land destroyed per year*


Building


Choose a safe site

STEP ONE:




Is burning allowed?
Check the daily burn restrictions at novascotia.ca/burnsafe or 1 855 564 2876






Use a fire pit if available or build on bare rock, soil/sand



Keep a 3 metre clearance around and above your fire




Prepare the site by scraping the ground down to bare soil (1m radius)


Burning

Doing it safely


Campfires should be less than 0.5m high x 0.5m wide. Small hot fires are easier to cook over and put out. Use fire starters, kindling and dry wood.




Never leave your campfire unattended



Keep a pail of water and a shovel nearby



Watch children and pets around fire




If it's windy, do not have a campfire


Extinguishing

Cold to the touch means you're done


Always put out your campfire before leaving the area. Your fire is out when the ash doesn't hiss, no smoke comes from the ashes and the remnants are cold to the touch.




Pour a lot of water on it



Stir in the water with a stick or shovel



Add water and stir until the ash is cold to the touch



March 15–October 15 campfires are not allowed between 8am-2pm. Check the daily burn restrictions at novascotia.ca/burnsafe or 1 855 564 2876. Abide by local municipal bylaws. To learn more visit novascotia.ca/campsafe

*Reported Nova Scotia average.

ANGLERS' HANDBOOK • 2023

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NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH REGISTRY

LIVE RELEASE CATEGORY

Species	Length x Girth	Year	Angler	Location	County
Brown Trout	31.5 in x 16.5 in	2022	Jordon Otterson	River Philip	Cumberland
Smallmouth Bass	23.0 in x 17.5 in	2021	Tyler Nickerson	Salmon Lake	Yarmouth
Speckled Trout	18.25 in x 10.5 in	2022	Joshua Swim	West River	Antigonish
Striped Bass	51.5 in x 28.5 in	2020	Skyler Jeddore	Gull Cove	Cape Breton

CATCH AND KEEP CATEGORY

Species	Weight	Year	Angler	Location	County
Rainbow Trout	11.33 lbs	2021	Dylon Turnbull	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
Brown Trout	18.20 lbs	2007	Charlie LaHey	Mira River	Cape Breton
Chain Pickerel	6.94 lbs	2016	Christopher Wood	Harris Lake	Yarmouth
Landlocked Salmon	4.40 lbs	1988	H. Macdonald	Grand Lake	Halifax
Smallmouth Bass	4.50 lbs	1990	Robert Hasenack	Kinsac Lake	Halifax
Speckled Trout	6.75 lbs	1945	Alex Stephens	Blackett's Lake	Cape Breton
Striped Bass	57.90 lbs	2008	Christian LeVatte	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
White Perch	2.22 lbs	2013	Sawyer Olmstead	Reiners Pit	Colchester
Yellow Perch	1.20 lbs	2013	Ryan Gould	Fish Lake	Halifax

YOUTH LIVE RELEASE CATEGORY

Species	Length x Girth	Year	Angler	Location	County
Brown Trout	20.0 in x 10.5 in	2013	Alex Graham	South River	Antigonish
Smallmouth Bass	20.0 in x 14.0 in	2009	Ian Keefe	Mattatall	Cumberland
Speckled Trout	16.7 in x 10.3 in	2009	Josh MacMillan	West River	Antigonish
Rainbow Trout	23.0 in x 13.5 in	2020	Riley MacKinnon	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton

YOUTH CATCH AND KEEP CATEGORY CATEGORY

Species	Weight	Year	Angler	Location	County
Brown Bullhead	1.08 lbs	2007	Alex Cunningham	Raynards Lake	Yarmouth
Brown Trout	6.69 lbs	2018	Matthew Musgrave	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
Chain Pickerel	3.99 lbs	2007	Marcel Boudreau	Hibbards Lake	Yarmouth
Rainbow Trout	8.38 lbs	1993	Katie Wareham	McAskills Brook	Cape Breton
Speckled Trout	3.40 lbs	2009	Aidan Doucet	Lochabor Lake	Antigonish
Yellow Perch	0.76 lbs	2016	Sarah Henderson	Mersey River	Queens

SMALLMOUTH BASS TOURNAMENT ANGLING (weight for 5-fish bag limits; all fish released)

Weight	Year	Angler	Location	County
17.26 lbs	2009	Rob Mailman, Peter Lavender	Mersey River	Queens
15.60 lbs	2008	Rod Goodwin, Ian Ross	Ogden, Parr, Petes Lakes	Yarmouth
15.56 lbs	2003	Conrad Corporon, Bernard Corporon	Lac d'en Bas	Digby
15.51 lbs	2005	Jim Langthorne, Ian Langthorne	Kempt Back Lake	Yarmouth

Nova Scotia Sportfish Registry PO Box 700 Pictou NS B0K 1H0 Phone: (902) 485-5056

Fax: (902) 485-4014 E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca Website: <http://novascotia.ca/fish/>

WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVA SCOTIA

For those who love the outdoors, winter fishing is an ideal recreational sport.

Fishing licences for 2023 are valid until Mar 31, 2024. If you anticipate taking part in a winter fishery, please keep your licence and return your completed licence stub at the end of March.

Season: Jan 1–Mar 31. Anglers are reminded that the following waters are open for angling in the winter regardless of ice cover; please check ice thickness before venturing out to fish. Waters open for trout are also open for perch species.

SPECKLED TROUT: BAG LIMIT 10 FISH

Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area.

RAINBOW TROUT & BROWN TROUT: BAG LIMIT TWO FISH

The tidal waters of the Bras d'Or Lakes, **NOT INCLUDING:** (1) waters of the Baddeck River upstream from the Hwy 105 bridge; (2) Northeast (inside) of the East Bay Sandbar; and (3) waters upstream from Black River bridge in Dundee; (4) waters upstream from Crowdis Bridge in River Deny's Basin; and (5) waters upstream from MacKenzie Brook bridge near South Side Basin of River Deny's, which remain closed to all angling. Waters inside the Boom Channel including River Denys and all of River Denys Basin are closed to trout angling from **Jan 1 to Mar 31.**

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

While there are health benefits to eating fish, there are some species in Nova Scotia that should only be eaten in smaller quantities or not at all if you are at higher risk.

Mercury

There are traces of mercury in certain species of freshwater fish in Nova Scotia. You should limit how much of these fish you eat:

- Brook trout
- Smallmouth bass
- White perch
- Yellow perch
- Chain pickerel

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

You should not eat fish taken from Five Island Lake or Sheldrake Lake. Fish in these lakes are known to be contaminated with PCBs.

Learn more at

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/fish-consumption-advisory.asp>



WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

SPECKLED TROUT AND RAINBOW TROUT

The daily bag limit for speckled and rainbow trout is two (2) fish.

County	Lake	Speckled Trout	Rainbow Trout
Antigonish	Cameron Lake	✓	✓
Antigonish	Gillis Lake	✓	✓
Cape Breton	Levers Lake	✓	✓
Cape Breton	No. 20 Dam (Beacon Street) Pond	✓	✓
Colechester	Deyarmont Lake	✓	
Cumberland	Angevine (Dewars) Lake	✓	✓
Cumberland	Isaac Lake	✓	
Cumberland	Harrison Lake	✓	✓
Digby	Everitts Lake	✓	✓
Guysborough	Goose Harbour Lake	✓	✓
Guysborough	McKeen Lake	✓	
Guysborough	Pringle Lake	✓	
Halifax	Albro Lake	✓	✓
Halifax	First Lake	✓	
Halifax	Cow Bay Pond	✓	
Halifax	Round Lake	✓	✓
Halifax	Lewis Lake	✓	✓
Halifax	Maynard Lake	✓	✓
Halifax	Penhorn Lake	✓	✓
Halifax	Williams Lake	✓	
Hants	Meadow Pond	✓	✓
Inverness	Petit Lac	✓	✓
Kings	Silver Lake	✓	✓
Kings	Sunken Lake	✓	✓
Lunenburg	Sucker Lake	✓	✓
Lunenburg	Hutt Lake	✓	
Lunenburg	Beck Lake	✓	
Pictou	Gairloch Lake	✓	✓
Pictou	Dryden Lake	✓	
Queens	Hidden Hills Lake	✓	✓
Queens	Victoria Lake	✓	
Richmond	Eco Trial Pond (Isle Madame)	✓	✓
Shelburne	Beaver Dam Lake	✓	✓
Victoria	Dalem (Round) Lake	✓	
Victoria	Grants Pond	✓	

WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

SMALLMOUTH BASS, CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH, AND YELLOW PERCH

The daily bag limit for Smallmouth Bass varies by RFA. The daily bag limit for Chain Pickerel is one hundred (100). The daily bag limit for White Perch and Yellow Perch is twenty-five (25).

NOTE: The daily bag limit for smallmouth bass is the same as during the summer season. Please refer to the bag limits listed in each RFA.

White and yellow perch may be harvested (25 fish, each species, per day) in all waters open to winter angling for trout.

County	Lake	Chain Pickerel	White Perch	Yellow Perch
Annapolis	Springfield Lake		✓	✓
Colchester	Shortts Lake	✓	✓	✓
Cumberland	Long Lake		✓	✓
Cumberland	Smiths Lake		✓	✓
Digby	Meteghan River, including all lakes and tributaries	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Morris Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Russel Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Grand Lake (Shubenacadie)	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Fish Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Bissett Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Powder Mill Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Micmac Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Red Bridge Pond	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Beaver Bank Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Beaver Pond (near Kinsac Lake)	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Kinsac Lake	✓	✓	✓
Hants	Lily Lake (Cogamun Pond)	✓	✓	✓
Hants	Woodward Sanford Lake		✓	✓
Kings	Lake George	✓	✓	✓
Kings	Nicholas Lake	✓	✓	✓
Kings	North River Lake	✓	✓	✓
Kings	Lake Paul	✓	✓	✓
Queens	Louis Lake	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	Walls Lake	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	Lake George	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	Ponds in Port LaTour and Bakers Flats, Cape Sable Island	✓	✓	✓
Yarmouth	Annis River, including all lakes and tributaries	✓	✓	✓
Yarmouth	Kiack Brook (Near Belleville South), including all lakes and tributaries	✓	✓	✓

THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES RESEARCH COOPERATIVE

The freshwater fishery in Nova Scotia has experienced changes associated with habitat loss, exploitation, and negative impacts of aquatic invasive species. In response, the Inland Fisheries Division has expanded research initiatives related to fish ecology, water quality, habitat, fisheries management, and Atlantic Salmon enhancement by creating the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC). This is the 16th consecutive year that fisheries management initiatives were supported by the FFRC. Reports of previous FFRC projects are available on novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing/resource-management/

Biology of Lake Trout in Sherbrooke Lake

Lake Trout, unlike Brook Trout, are only known to be present in a handful of lakes in Nova Scotia. This study is a follow up to the review of historical evidence to assess if Lake Trout populations are of wild origin in NS (Dr. Samuel Andrews and Matt Warner, Canadian Rivers Institute, University of New Brunswick). Dr. Michael Stokesbury and MSc. Candidate, Matt Warner, Acadia University, are evaluating the Lake Trout population in Sherbrooke Lake, Lunenburg County. Lake Trout prefer cooler water compared to Brook Trout. Thermal habitat usage by Lake Trout was measured with the aid of temperature/depth sensing acoustic tags and lake habitat mapping. Thermal restriction of habitat for Lake Trout was reduced to a small percentage of the overall habitat in Sherbrooke Lake for a prolonged period in summer.

Mercury Food Web Analysis

In a joint venture with researchers studying Lake Trout in Sherbrooke Lake and invasive species in the LaHave River, Brooke Nodding, Coastal Action Foundation, and Kaylee MacLeod, MSc. Candidate, St. Mary's University, evaluated the role of invasive Smallmouth Bass and Chain Pickerel in food webs. The methods included stable isotope analysis to evaluate mercury (Hg) accumulation and assess food web structure and trophodynamics in the LaHave River system. These data will compare with the human consumption guidelines laid out by Health Canada to assess both environmental and human risks.

The Last Frontier, Tracking Striped Bass Along Nova Scotia's Eastern Atlantic Coast

The Nova Scotia FFRC grant provided support to Dr. Samuel Andrews and Dr. Mike Stokesbury, Acadia University, to purchase 21 acoustic tracking tags for Striped Bass in eastern Nova Scotia. Eighteen Striped Bass have been implanted with acoustic transmitters that will last 6-10 years. Many receivers and arrays are used to detect tagged bass and other tagged species along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. When a tagged fish swims by a receiver, information associated with the implanted tag is downloaded, allowing identification of the tagged fish. There is limited information on the migratory habits and biology of Striped Bass in this region of Nova Scotia. In total, the FFRC grant spearheaded > \$150,000 in support for this initiative that continues to grow across eastern Nova Scotia.

Upper Medway / Mersey Aquatic Invasive Species Detection Survey

Thomas Sweeney, a biologist with the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, conducted angler surveys to evaluate the presence of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Anglers have expressed concern about the spread of invasive Smallmouth Bass and Chain Pickerel in the Upper Medway/Mersey region. A previous angler survey indicated that trout catches in the upper Medway region were comparable to Kejimikujik National Park and National

contd. on page 61

Historic Site (pre-AIS introduction) and the Tangier Grand Lake Wilderness Area and this information was used in the designation of the Upper Medway Special Trout Management Area. Recent detection of AIS in Kejimikujik National Park has certainly increased the need to evaluate AIS distribution. Results of roving creel surveys supported that no anglers reported catching AIS upstream of Kejimikujik National Park and in the Upper Medway Special Trout Management Area. Some anglers interviewed were unaware that Smallmouth Bass are not a native species in Nova Scotia and may therefore not use invasive species reporting tools. The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute shared invasive species communications pamphlets and resources with anglers.

Risky Refugia? Using Biotelemetry and Underwater Video to Quantify Effects of an Invasive Predator, Smallmouth Bass on Juvenile Atlantic Salmon Within Cold-Water Refugia

Cold water refugia are increasingly important to sustain salmonid species and are often created from cool groundwater entering the river bottom from springs or seeps. During the warm summer, salmonids may reside in refugia, often in crowded conditions, and these fish are often susceptible to predation and competition. Kristen Cyr, MSc. Candidate, University of Windsor, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Salmon Association is examining how aquatic invasive species are using/impacting cold-water refugia that are used by salmonid species to thermoregulate during elevated temperature events. Acoustic telemetry was used to compare the residency and occupancy of cold-water refugia by invasive Smallmouth Bass and juvenile Atlantic Salmon. Underwater video cameras will help to identify fine-scale use of cold-water refugia and evaluate predator avoidance or predation events. The LaHave River has been the focus of the study and Kristen may expand her study to include other systems. This study will help us understand some of these potential impacts of salmonids' use of cool water refugia in the presence of invasive Smallmouth Bass.

STAFF PROFILE, INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION, NSFA



Sabrina Wolthers is the Sportfish Development Officer of the Inland Fisheries Division. She works to promote and market recreational fishing to local anglers, visitors, and to the wider community. Responsible for the Fish Nova Scotia social media channels, website, and marketing campaigns, she never misses an opportunity to boast about the talent and kindness evident throughout the Nova Scotia angling community. Sabrina also coordinates the Learn to Fish program (L2F) and is passionate about helping kids and new anglers learn the joys of fishing.

While working with community groups and volunteers from across the province, her enthusiasm and dedication to the recreational fishing industry is fueled by the wonderful people she is fortunate enough to work with. Sabrina is particularly interested in supporting inclusive and safe spaces for women to learn and enjoy fishing.

A graduate from St Thomas University with a Bachelor of Arts, Sabrina began her career working with not-for-profit organizations before joining the provincial government 14 years ago. Initially part of the Department of Labour and Education, Sabrina made the move to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2019. She has been "hooked" ever since.

Inland Fisheries Division Activities

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

INLAND FISHERIES HATCHERY STOCKING PROGRAMS

Growing fish and delivering smiles is the mission of the Provincial fish hatcheries. The smiles could be on a seasoned angler, cradling an Atlantic salmon on the Margaree River, a Learn to Fish participant, catching their first pan-sized brookie, or an urban angler with a silver rainbow trout. The Province operates three enhancement facilities; Fraser's Mills Hatchery, in Antigonish Co., Margaree Hatchery, in Inverness Co. and McGowan Lake Hatchery in Queens Co. Stocking initiatives are probably the most visible and popular of Inland Fisheries' management activities.

Beginning in late March, approximately 200 lakes throughout Nova Scotia are stocked with Speckled (Brook) trout or Rainbow trout as part of our Spring Recreational Trout Stocking Program. Trout are generally of catchable size, and in addition to providing sportfishing opportunities, serve to reduce angling pressure on vulnerable wild stocks.

Many provincial and municipal parks are located on lakes which are stocked, as are many barrier-free fishing facilities. Typically, more than 50 derbies receive trout from our Provincial hatcheries. These social events are cherished by many organizers and communities as a means of introducing youngsters to the enjoyment and comradery that angling provides.

The Provincial Hatcheries also provide trout to several educational and outreach programs such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman, (BOW), Fish

Friends, and Learn 2 Fish (L2F). Becoming an Outdoors Woman is a 3-day workshop designed to introduce women 18 years and older to outdoor recreational activities, such as fishing and hunting. Fish Friends is delivered in the classroom. Students will have an opportunity to learn about trout habitat and conservation while raising speckled trout from fertilized egg to the fry stage. Learn 2 Fish typically hosts around 70 events annually, providing kids the opportunity to take up a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime.

An additional 175 lakes are stocked each fall, usually after the angling season closes, as part of our Fall Fisheries Enhancement Program. Speckled trout account for most of this effort, but Brown trout and sea-run Atlantic salmon populations are also enhanced at this time of year. The hatcheries also provide Rainbow and Speckled trout to 22 lakes in late fall to support the provinces winter trout fishery.

FRASER'S MILLS HATCHERY

Built in 1928 as part of the Government of Canada's hatchery system, Fraser's Mills has essentially been rebuilt since the Province of Nova Scotia took over its operation, in 1982. The site has outdoor raceways and circular ponds as well as hatchery buildings. Four species of salmonids are grown at this hatchery; Speckled (Brook) trout, Brown trout, Rainbow trout and sea-run Atlantic salmon. This is the primary trout broodstock (adult parent fish) facility in Nova Scotia; and is an excellent place to view the thousands of broodstock

required to supply eggs for the stocking program. Annual distribution from this hatchery usually exceeds 1,000,000 eggs, fry, parr, yearlings and adult fish.

MCGOWAN LAKE HATCHERY

The McGowan Lake Hatchery, built in 1987, has helped to ensure the future of speckled trout fishing in western Nova Scotia, a region with many acid-stressed lakes and streams. This hatchery utilizes a unique water treatment facility to counteract the acidic nature (low pH) of the McGowan Lake water supply and an oxygen generation and injection system. Each year, close to 1,000,000 Speckled trout eggs are incubated here and later released as fry, fall fingerlings, yearlings, and adult fish.

MARGAREE FISH HATCHERY

The historic Margaree hatchery first opened in 1902 and has been supporting the economically and culturally important Atlantic salmon and trout fishery for over a century, as well as attracting visitors, from around the world, to the scenic Margaree Valley. The Province of Nova Scotia has operated this hatchery since 2008, providing approximately 250,000 salmon parr and smolt for the Margaree and other Atlantic salmon rivers and 250,000 trout, for selected lakes on Cape Breton Island.

ATLANTIC SALMON ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The cultural and economic importance of the Atlantic salmon fishery is recognized by the Province of Nova Scotia. The Inland Fisheries Division's Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program was developed in 2006. This program involves on-going consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

and other stakeholders around the Province. The objective of the program is to provide increased opportunities to angle Atlantic salmon. The rivers selected have salmon populations which are relatively stable but could benefit from additional enhancement. The Department relies heavily on the assistance from volunteer groups (NSSA affiliates, river associations, watershed stewardship organizations, etc.) to help with broodstock collection, stocking juvenile salmon and to provide local traditional knowledge.

Since the inception of the Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program, eight rivers have had their populations enhanced with fry, parr or smolt from the Fraser's Mills or Margaree fish hatcheries. These rivers are Graham River, Mabou River, Margaree River (Inverness Co.), Baddeck River, Middle River (Victoria Co.) River Philip (Cumberland Co.), St. Francis Harbour River (Guysborough Co.), West River (Antigonish Co.), West River (Pictou Co.), and Waugh's River (Colchester Co.). Hatchery enhancement is an important consideration in maintaining an open catch and release fall season on the Baddeck and Middle Rivers. In the fall of 2022, eggs were obtained from wild broodstock collected from Baddeck River, Mabou River Margaree River, and Middle River on Cape Breton Island. From mainland Nova Scotia, Waugh's River and West River, Pictou.

For information on any of the above programs, visit our website: www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing or contact Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division at (902) 485-5056.

All our hatcheries have visitor interpretation centres which are open to the public. These provide an opportunity to learn more about the hatchery operations and other aspects of recreational angling in Nova Scotia. Schools and other groups can call to arrange a tour, view photographs, posters, artifacts and displays on a variety of subjects.

**FOR WEEKLY SPRING STOCKING
UPDATES OR A COMPLETE LIST OF
STOCKED LAKES PLEASE VISIT:**
www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing

You may contact our hatcheries at the telephone number below:



Fraser's Mills Fish Hatchery
Antigonish Co., NS (902) 783-2926

McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery
Queens Co., NS (902) 682-2576

Margaree Fish Hatchery
Inverness Co., NS (902) 248-2845

OUR MISSION: TO RESTORE SALMON TO THEIR NATIVE RIVERS

PLEASE JOIN - HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN

 WWW.WILDSALMONUNLIMITED.COM
 WILDSALMONUNLIMITED@GMAIL.COM



Sportfish Resource Management

Trout Management

In the face of threats such as warming trends and the rapid spread of invasive species, a major focus of the Resource Management Unit is the stewardship of wild Speckled Trout populations across the province to ensure preservation of Nova Scotia's angling heritage. Our staff frequently collaborate with external research groups and community organizations, some partially funded through the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative, to undertake various initiatives that advance Speckled Trout science and inform our management decisions. Our projects often utilize the expertise of angler organizations and benefit from numerous volunteers contributing their local knowledge.

Smallmouth Bass Management

Nova Scotia is divided into two management zones for Smallmouth Bass. In the western zone, where populations currently exist, Smallmouth Bass contribute to the sportfishery of the province. Management projects for this species focus on assessing regulations, evaluating changes in populations over time, population estimates and lake ecology. In the eastern zone, high quality salmonid habitat remains abundant, and we continue to work on control and eradication projects in several watersheds. Our goal in both management zones is to ensure Smallmouth Bass do not negatively affect vulnerable species and no further illegal introductions occur.

Tournament Monitoring

Smallmouth Bass tournaments are required to submit catch and participation data to Inland Fisheries. Data is collected to monitor changes and trends in population structure, fish size, and the

effectiveness of management measures throughout Nova Scotia. The Department continues to work cooperatively with Smallmouth Bass organizations to control the spread of smallmouth bass and protect the fishery for native species.

Invasive Species Initiatives

Effective sportfish management must also consider the importance of preventing further illegal introductions of aquatic invasive species. We are working with Mi'kmaq communities, angling associations, and provincial and federal enforcement agencies to develop effective strategies. Ongoing outreach and education, risk assessment, and research focusses on documenting and understanding the impacts of invasive species on native fish communities.

Documenting the Spread

Smallmouth Bass and Chain Pickerel have large impacts to the trout resource and the natural integrity of freshwater systems in Nova Scotia. These invasive species impact native fish communities and threaten biodiversity. The spread of Smallmouth Bass and Chain Pickerel is occurring at a rapid rate and more resources are required to confirm their presence in new habitats. Most of this spread occurs from illegal introductions, migration, and colonization of new habitats. It may take years for invasive species to establish a population and for anglers to catch and report a new occurrence. The Department will continue to monitor and confirm the spread of invasive species throughout the province. To report the presence of aquatic invasive species, please contact Inland Fisheries at inland@novascotia.ca with photo record, if possible, or call (902) 485-5056.

Piper Lake Smallmouth Bass Eradication Project

In July 2019, Smallmouth Bass were detected in Piper Lake, Pictou County during routine invasive species checks. In 2020, rotenone was used to eradicate Smallmouth Bass from Piper Lake and protect the St. Mary's River watershed. In 2022, Inland Fisheries staff collected post treatment data to be certain that Smallmouth Bass did not survive the treatment, and to gauge the impact on non-target species. No fish were found in the lake; however, staff found that the impact on other aquatic life has been minimal. Aquatic invertebrates and amphibians were present in the lake in good numbers, and several native fish species were observed immediately below the barrier. The barrier has been removed and natural connectivity has been restored. Inland Fisheries will continue to monitor the natural recolonization of native fish species for several years.

Dobsons Lake Smallmouth Bass Eradication Project

In May 2020, Smallmouth Bass were discovered in Dobsons Lake, a 54-hectare headwater lake in the Cole Harbour River, Guysborough County. A rapid response was initiated with containment using temporary barriers. Fish assessments using electrofishing, netting, angling, and environmental DNA analysis were conducted throughout the system. It was initially determined that Smallmouth Bass were confined to Dobsons Lake, however, in 2021 juveniles were detected in an adjacent still-water, Black Duck Run. A decision to pursue chemical eradication was made in 2021 to protect the integrity of the Cole Harbour River system, located between Bonnet Lake Barrens and Canso Coastal Barrens wilderness areas, and to

prevent Smallmouth Bass from this system to be used as source fish for future illegal introductions. Rotenone toxin was used to treat Dobsons Lake and Black Duck Run in September 2022. Waters flowing out of the treatment area were deactivated using potassium permanganate until deactivation efforts were disrupted by Hurricane Fiona. Evidence for rotenone toxicity was not observed in downstream waters (Panhandle Lake) and indicated the first successful deactivation of rotenone treated waters in Nova Scotia. The treatment area's prolonged toxicity to fish and lack of downstream mortality suggests successful eradication of Smallmouth Bass while protecting the waters outside of the treatment area. Further study will be required to monitor the absence of Smallmouth Bass. The project would not have been successful without the support of the community, the Eastern Guysborough County Dobsons Lake/Cooneycoff Volunteer Association, and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Other important contributors included the Antigonish Rivers Association, Ecology Action Centre, and Port Morien Wildlife Association.

Wallace River Creel Survey

Creel surveys are a common method used in fisheries science during which information is gathered via angler interviews regarding their catch (i.e., species composition, angling effort, harvest levels, fishing gear preferences). This information, in turn, is used to assess the status of a sport fishery and provide insight when making management decisions. Inland Staff conducted a creel survey on Cumberland County's Wallace River in Spring 2022, in response to a submitted proposal to change current regulations on the river, and for comparison to a similar creel completed on the Wallace in 2000.

Growing the Nova Scotia Sportfishing Industry

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is committed to supporting learning opportunities for new anglers and increasing participation of women, youth, and visiting anglers on Nova Scotia's lakes, shores, and rivers. Through our work with various communities and organizations, we strive to create engaging and meaningful initiatives that encourage and support the growth of our angling community. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has the chance to experience the joys of fishing and to foster a greater appreciation of Nova Scotia's natural resources.

Throughout the season, Fish Nova Scotia was marketed to anglers in other parts of the world while spotlighting the unique recreational fishing opportunities available across the province. Facebook and Instagram provide an interactive method to connect with anglers and visitors. The fishnovascotia.ca website is a new tool to help plan your next fishing trip. Research species, locations, and available guides to ensure your best chance at getting hooked on fishing.

There is a real and exciting movement in the province to increase the presence of women anglers on our waters. Our team is proud to support these inclusive and welcoming environments for all. Thank you to the Atlantic Women on the Fly, BOW, and other groups and volunteers that continue to work together to ensure everyone can explore and experience the outdoors.

Congratulations to the Nova Scotian Guides Service for their hard work. We appreciate all the dedication and effort they have put into

their projects. After the latest FishNS Guides workshop in April, there are now 80 guides (or soon to be guides) that have participated in the professionalization program. The weekend includes safe food handling certification, training on social media and photography, as well as discussions on inclusion and diversity. The 2nd annual Indigenous Learning Day for Fishing Guides and Anglers was held in Debert. We had 20 participants come join Mi'kmaw elders and staff from Lnu Affairs while they shared their knowledge on Netukulimk, culture, fishing, and treaties. Wela'in to everyone who took part. Guide Safety Training was an opportunity for guides to learn in depth and industry specific safety skills. Adventure and Safety Atlantic offered the tailored training course in the spring. Additional training and workshops were delivered for guides to increase their knowledge and offer the best possible experience for their clients.

Learn to Fish Program is back!

Coordinated by provincial staff, community organizations, schools, and volunteers, the Learn to Fish Program (L2F) recruits the next generation of stewards of our aquatic resources, by teaching safe and ethical angling skills to youth. After 2 years of not being able to deliver the program because of travel and gathering restrictions, we worked with the schools and community groups across the province to offer this fun and hands-on program once again. Community groups also delivered L2F events. Hundreds of new anglers were able to cast a line and feel that tug because of dedicated and talented volunteers. Thank you!



Tagged Fish

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada tag fish throughout the province as part of their management programs.

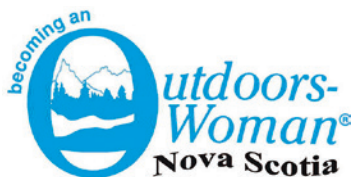
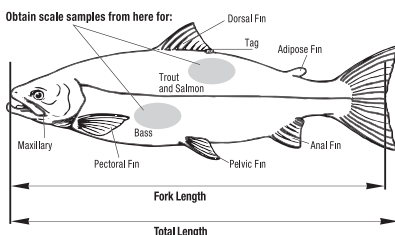
If you catch a tagged fish, please note the tag number, length of fish, date and place of capture.

A sample of scales (taken from the area just behind and below the top or dorsal fin), the fork length of the fish (from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail), and the weight of the fish are useful measurements to understand growth rates (see diagram below). Although some of this information is impossible to obtain if the fish is released, the Department would still like to hear from

you. For trout and smallmouth bass, please contact the Inland Fisheries office in Pictou at the address on page 23. They will tell you the history of the fish including where and when it was tagged.

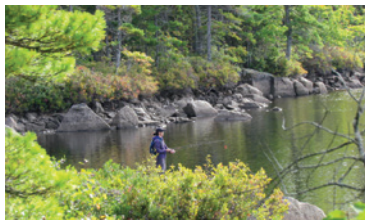
Please report tags found on Atlantic salmon by returning the tags to the address printed on them.

Obtaining scales and measuring length



The Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshops offer:

- A 3 day workshop designed for women 18 years and older
- Classes introduce participants to a variety of fishing, hunting and other outdoor experiences
- Instructors who are willing to share their knowledge and passion in a fun and comfortable environment



This workshop is for you if.....

- You are a beginner and want to try something new but don't know how to get started
- You know how to do some activities and would like to improve on these or try others
- You are looking for fun and fellowship in the great outdoors, with like-minded people

If you would like more information, please contact us at:
bownovascotia@gmail.com or visit us online www.bownovascotia.com

Definitions

ANGLING - fishing with a line to which one or more hooks are attached and that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES - an aquatic organism that, when or if introduced into Canadian fisheries waters, has or is likely to have harmful consequences to fish or fish habitat or the use of fish.

ARTIFICIAL FLY - a single hook or double hook or two single hooks dressed with materials likely to attract fish, and to which no weight, spinning device, or natural bait is attached.

FLY FISHING - angling by the use of an artificial fly or flies that are attached to a line or to a leader that is attached to a line.

HOOK - a single, double, or treble hook with or without barbs on one shank or shaft.

CIRCLE HOOK - type of fish hook which is sharply curved back in a circular shape.

JIGGING - fishing by manipulating one or more hooks so as to pierce a fish in any

part of its body instead of luring the fish to take the hook or hooks into its mouth.

NATURAL BAIT - any form of bait in its natural form. Natural bait includes, but is not limited to: worms, minnows, corn nibblets, pork rind.

NON-RESIDENT - anyone who is not a resident of Nova Scotia.

PROVINCIAL WATERS - waters upon any shore or land, or on, or in any lake, river, stream or watercourse, wholly or partially within the province, or over which the province has authority to legislate with respect to fishing within the province.

RESIDENT - anyone who permanently or ordinarily lives in Nova Scotia for the last 2 months. A resident also includes officers of the diplomatic or consular service of any foreign country stationed in Nova Scotia and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Canadian Armed Forces stationed or born in Nova Scotia. Anyone born in the Province of Nova Scotia who owns real property in the province is considered a resident.

SPORTFISH - Atlantic salmon, landlocked salmon, trout, and smallmouth bass.

TOTAL LENGTH - The length of a fish measured from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail.

SINGLE HOOK LURE - a lure with only one hook attached – see above definition for hook.

LAKE INVENTORY PROGRAM

The Lake Inventory Program produces detailed information sheets on various lakes throughout the province. These information sheets contain a bathymetric (depth) map as well as data on water quality, stocking and fish species present. With information sheets currently available for over 1000 lakes, innovative GIS technologies are also now being utilized to expand the analysis capabilities on provincial waters, enhance data accuracy and provide a modern cartographic product. Bathymetric maps for many popular lakes and an index of information sheets are available, online at:

www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing

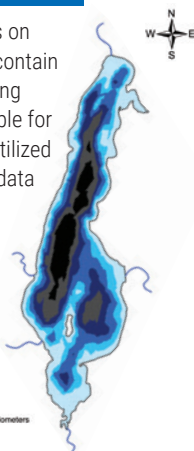
Information sheets are available, free of charge, by writing to:

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries Aquaculture

Attention: Information Officer

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

Tel: (902) 485-5056 E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca



Is it a Salmon or a Brown Trout?

Atlantic Salmon

Inside Upper



Vomerine Teeth
Small and arranged in a single row along the vomerine shaft. Absent or very sparse on the vomerine head.

Inside Lower



Tongue
Tapered and round.



Maxillary

Maxillary usually extends to rear edge of eye or slightly beyond.

Juvenile Salmon

Maxillary reaches middle of the eye.
Tail fin tips are pointed and the adipose fin is clear.



Adipose fin

Brown Trout

Inside Upper



Vomerine Teeth
Well developed on both the vomerine head and shaft. Arranged in a zig-zag fashion along the shaft.

Inside Lower



Tongue
Broad and square.



Maxillary

Maxillary usually extends well past rear edge of eye.

Juvenile Brown Trout

Maxillary reaches rear edge eye.
Tail fin tips are rounded. Adipose fin is orange or yellow.



Adipose fin