

RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE INFORMATION

MOST PEOPLE NEED ONE OF THE FOLLOWING RECREATIONAL LICENCES TO FISH IN ONTARIO

Sport Fishing Licence: For anglers who want full catch and possession fishing privileges. In this summary, S - refers to limits under a Sport Fishing Licence (e.g. S - 4 = catch and possession limit of 4).

Conservation Fishing Licence: A reduced catch and possession limit licence that is ideal for anglers who want to live-release the majority of fish caught. Under this licence, anglers must immediately release muskellunge, Atlantic salmon and aurora trout. In this summary, C - refers to limits under a Conservation Fishing Licence (e.g. C - 2 = catch and possession limit of 2).

Refer to the Zone tables and the exceptions for catch and possession limits.

RESIDENCY DEFINITIONS

Ontario Resident: An Ontario resident is defined as a person whose primary residence is in Ontario and who has lived in Ontario for a period of at least six consecutive months during the 12 months immediately before applying for a licence.

Canadian Resident: A Canadian resident is defined as a person who is a non-Ontario resident and whose primary residence is in any part of Canada and who has lived in Canada for a period of at least six consecutive months during the 12 months immediately before applying for a licence.

Non-Canadian Resident: A person who is neither an Ontario nor Canadian resident.

RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE INFORMATION FOR ONTARIO RESIDENTS AND CANADIAN RESIDENTS

For Ontario Residents, a complete and valid licence to fish consists of an Outdoors Card or a Temporary Outdoors Card accompanied by a valid fishing licence tag for Ontario residents. This is either carried as a separate document from the Outdoors Card or embossed on the back of the card.

Ontario Resident fishing licences are available through licence issuers across Ontario, the website ontario.ca/outdoorscard or the automated telephone licensing line at 1-800-288-1155 (renewals only).

For Canadian Residents, a complete and valid licence to fish consists of an Outdoors Card or a Temporary Outdoors Card accompanied by a valid fishing licence tag for Canadian residents. This is either carried as a separate document from the Outdoors Card or embossed on the back of the card.

The Outdoors Card is a plastic, wallet-sized card, valid for three calendar years and is used for identification and administration purposes.

Canadian Resident fishing licences are available through licence issuers across Ontario or at the website ontario.ca/outdoorscard.

A person is deemed to be the holder of a Recreational Fishing Licence if they are:

1. Residents of Ontario and Canada under 18 years old, or 65 years of age or older and in possession of any licence, permit, certificate or identification card issued by the Government of Canada or a provincial or territorial government of Canada that indicates their name and date of birth.

2. Disabled Ontario and Canadian residents eligible for and in possession of:

- a Canadian National Institute for the Blind National Identity Card issued to them; or,
- an Ontario Ministry of Transportation Accessible Parking Permit issued to them; or,
- a black and white photocopy or printed version of an electronic copy of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation Accessible Parking Permit accompanied by any licence, permit, certificate, or identification card issued by the Government of Canada or a provincial or territorial government of Canada that indicates the person's name and date of birth; or,
- any licence, permit, certificate or identification card issued by the Government of Canada or a provincial or territorial government of Canada that indicates the person's name and date of birth where the individual must be accompanied by and require the direct assistance of another person to fish and follow applicable fishing laws due to a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability, a learning disability or dysfunction, or a mental disorder. The person accompanying the above person does not require a fishing licence if they are only assisting, but must have a licence if they wish to engage in fishing.

Those who qualify to fish with a deemed licence must follow the same catch and possession limits as a Sport Fishing Licence.

Aboriginal people: Members of Ontario Aboriginal communities having established Aboriginal or treaty rights do not require an Outdoors Card or Ontario fishing licence tag to take fish for personal use within their traditional or treaty territory. Personal use means use for food, social or ceremonial purposes. Individuals should be prepared to provide identification when showing their community membership. Members of Aboriginal communities fishing outside of their traditional or treaty areas must have a valid Ontario Outdoors Card and fishing licence tag and follow the corresponding seasons, limits and exceptions.

RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE INFORMATION FOR NON-CANADIAN RESIDENTS

Anyone who is not an Ontario or Canadian resident (see residency definitions on this page) is considered a non-Canadian resident for the purposes of fishing licence regulations. Most non-Canadian residents require an Ontario fishing licence to fish in Ontario.

- Non-Canadian residents 18 years of age and over must purchase a fishing licence. **(NOTE: Non-Canadian residents 65 years of age or older are not exempt from requiring a licence.)**
- Non-Canadian residents under 18 years of age may fish without a licence if accompanied by a person who has a valid fishing licence. Any fish kept are part of the catch and possession limit of the person who holds the licence. As another option, non-Canadian residents under 18 years of age may purchase a licence to have their own limits.
- Non-Canadian resident fishing licences are available through licence issuers across Ontario or at the website ontario.ca/outdoorscard.
- For non-Canadian resident groups of children (at least five people under the age of 18 years), there is a special licence for members of an organized camp. This licence is available from ServiceOntario/Ministry of Natural Resources offices (see page 96).

RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

NOTE: Non-Canadian residents camping on Crown lands in northwestern Ontario are subject to conservation licence limits, except in the border waters area (see page 12).

***Canadian/non-Canadian resident anglers and hunters are reminded to bring their Outdoors Card when they return to Ontario to fish or hunt.**

NEW AUTOMATED LICENSING SYSTEM

In the fall of 2011, Ontario introduced a new automated licensing system for fishing and hunting licence sales. The new system will offer many benefits, including:

- an increased range of licences, available online and through the automated toll-free telephone system,
- new anglers will be able to purchase their first Outdoors Card online,
- easier replacement of lost or stolen licences and Outdoors Cards.

In addition to providing faster and easier access to licences, this system provides the ministry with better information for fish and wildlife management and enforcement, and increased administrative efficiency.

We will continue to expand licences available at licence issuing locations, the Internet and through the automated telephone line (IVR). Check back at ontario.ca/outdoorscard throughout spring as the list is updated.

APPLYING FOR YOUR OUTDOORS CARD

The delivery time for an Outdoors Card is approximately 20 days.

What you need to know about your Outdoors Card.

- You must notify the Ministry of Natural Resources of any address or name change **within 10 days** of the change. You can change your address or name by calling the Outdoors Card Centre at 1-800-387-7011.
- If your Outdoors Card is **lost** or **stolen** or if you need more information about Outdoors Cards or fishing licences, call the Outdoors Card Centre from anywhere in North America at 1-800-387-7011.
- You must carry your Outdoors Card/Temporary Outdoors Card and fishing licence tag with you whenever you are fishing. If a Conservation Officer asks to see your Outdoors Card, the law states you must show it.
- Your Outdoors Card is not transferable to another person – it provides privileges to you alone.
- It is an offence to attempt to obtain more than one card. It is also an offence to provide false information when applying for your Outdoors Card.
- One-year fishing licences expire December 31st of the year printed on the licence.
- Three-year fishing licences expire at the same time as the Outdoors Card, on December 31st of its third year. Your card's expiry year is shown in the two numbers following your 15-digit card number.
- If you've applied for an Outdoors Card and haven't received it within the stated timeframe, call the Outdoors Card Centre at 1-800-387-7011.

KNOW, CATCH AND CONSERVE

MUSKELLUNGE – NORTHERN PIKE

Know How To Tell The Difference

Muskellunge



Clear



Spotted



Barred

Hybrid "Tiger" Muskellunge



Northern Pike



THE MUSKELLUNGE

The muskellunge (muskie) is the top predator in the freshwater food chain. Muskie can weigh over 50 pounds and be 4 to 5 feet long. They are ferocious fighters and a highly sought after game fish. Since muskie are also rare, the size limits are accordingly high and the possession limits low.

It is very important for fishermen to know the difference between muskie and the much more common northern pike which has much lower size and higher possession limits.

Muskie are too valuable to have the joy of catching just once. Catch and release angling is strongly encouraged for anglers who catch a muskie. Capture your memory in a picture or fibreglass reproduction which will last forever.

Caught and released a muskie over 36 inches long? Submit the details to Muskies Canada and receive recognition of your fine catch and a release award sticker.

Visit the Muskies Canada website for more information
www.muskiescanada.ca



RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

The 2012 one-year licence fees listed in this summary are in effect from January 1, 2012, until December 31, 2012. The 2012 three-year licence fees are subject to change after August 31, 2012.


For the location of the licence issuer nearest you, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources. A list of Ministry of Natural Resources offices and ServiceOntario contact information is provided on page 96.

PRODUCTS	2012 FEES			PRODUCT AVAILABILITY		
	ONTARIO RESIDENTS	CANADIAN RESIDENTS	NON-CANADIAN RESIDENTS	INTERNET*	AUTOMATED TELEPHONE LICENSING LINE**	LICENCE ISSUER*
Outdoors Card	\$9.68	\$9.68	\$9.68	✓	✓	✓
Three-year Sport Fishing Licence Tag	\$83.29	\$155.30	\$234.55	✓	✓	✓
Three-year Conservation Fishing Licence Tag	\$47.70	\$92.99	\$144.79	✓	✓	✓
One-year Sport Fishing Licence Tag	\$27.76	\$51.77	\$78.18	✓		✓
One-year Conservation Fishing Licence Tag	\$15.90	\$31.00	\$48.26	✓		✓
One-day Sport Fishing Licence	\$12.67	\$12.67	\$21.31	✓		✓
Eight-day Sport Fishing Licence Tag ***	N/A	N/A	\$50.15	✓		✓
Eight-day Conservation Fishing Licence Tag ***	N/A	N/A	\$28.84	✓		✓
Non-Canadian Resident Angling Licence for a Member of an Organized Camp	N/A	N/A	\$5.41			✓

* Licence transactions over the Internet or with licence issuers after the renewal of an Outdoors Card will be carried as a separate document.

** Available to Ontario residents only. Three-year licence purchase is available with Outdoors Card renewal only.

*** Eight-day fishing licences are valid for eight consecutive calendar days. A calendar day is a 24-hour period starting at 12:00 Midnight.




Life!

Brought to you by biodiversity

All living things are connected and rely on each other to survive – that's biodiversity. Across Ontario, anglers and hunters help protect biodiversity by restoring habitat, monitoring wildlife and preventing the spread of invasive species. You can help too by learning more about biodiversity, why it's important, and how to conserve it.

ontario.ca/biodiversity



GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

ANGLER'S GUIDE TO FISHING REGULATIONS

NOTE: This section contains important information that anglers must understand to make sure they follow the regulations.

Additional Fishing Opportunities – There are some waters where regulations for certain species are more liberal than the Zone regulations. These include areas where anglers may fish for a species during part or all of the time when the season is generally closed in the Zone and include extended seasons or open all year seasons for some species. Often these additional opportunities are provided through fish stocking.

Aggregate Limits – Aggregate limits are catch and possession limits for a combination of fish species. Where there are aggregate limits, you may not catch and retain a separate limit of each species. In this summary, aggregate limits apply to: walleye and sauger; largemouth and smallmouth bass; and black and white crappie. The aggregate limits for these species can be found in the Zone-wide tables or in the exceptions for each Zone. See also Catch and Possession Limits, below.

Aggregate Limits for Trout and Salmon – In addition, throughout the province there are standard aggregate limits for all species of trout and salmon in combination. You may only catch and keep in one day or possess no more than five trout and salmon in total under a Sport Fishing Licence (**S** – 5) or two trout and salmon in total under a Conservation Fishing Licence (**C** – 2). **NOTE:** In addition to the aggregate limit, you may not exceed individual species limits where they are otherwise stated (e.g., the **S** limit for Atlantic salmon is one and you may not catch and keep or possess more than one Atlantic salmon at any time).

Angling – Angling means fishing with a line that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

Artificial fly - An artificial fly means a hook dressed with silk, wool, fur, feathers or similar material, but does not include other types of artificial lures.

Artificial Lure – An artificial lure means a spoon, plug, jig, artificial fly or other such device that is designed to catch fish by means of angling.

Bait – There are some areas of the province where the use of any form of bait is not allowed. Bait includes live or dead animals, plants or parts. See Bait (page 10), or exceptions to the Zone regulations for the Zone where you are fishing.

Baitfish – Some species of fish may be used as bait in some areas (see Bait, page 10).

Barbless Hook – A barbless hook means a hook without barbs or one that has barbs that are compressed so as to be completely in contact with the shaft of the hook.

Catch and Possession Limits – The **catch** limit is the number of fish you are allowed to **catch and keep in one day** and includes fish that are not immediately released and any fish eaten or given away. The **possession** limit is the number you are allowed to have in your possession on hand, in cold storage, in transit, or anywhere. Possession limits are the same as one day's catch limit except where otherwise specified.

In this summary:

- **S** – refers to limits under a Sport Fishing Licence (For example: S – 4 = catch and possession limit of four).
- **C** – refers to limits under a Conservation Fishing Licence (For example: C – 2 = catch and possession limit of two).

If you catch a fish after reaching the daily catch or possession limit for that species, the fish must be released immediately back to the water (see Ontario's Catch and Retain Rules, page 9). If the limit is zero, anglers may practise catch and release only, and any fish caught must be released immediately back into the water in a manner that does not harm the fish. For some species there are no limits and no reference will be made to a limit in this summary (see Size Limits, page 8).

Change of Address – An Outdoors Card holder must notify the Ministry of Natural Resources of any address or name change within 10 days of the change. For additional information please see page 4 of this summary.

Check Stations – Conservation officers operate random "Fish Check Stations" throughout the year. At these stations, conservation officers collect information on fish taken and make sure that regulations are being followed in order to better manage our fisheries resources. Remember to keep all licences, equipment and fish easily accessible for inspection.

Competitive Fishing Events – Live fish cannot be transported overland without a permit. Live release boats for competitive fishing events must have a permit in order to transport the catches of multiple anglers and be in possession of more than a daily catch limit.

Conservation Officers – Conservation officers enforce fisheries regulations in the Province of Ontario. They have powers of inspection, arrest, search and seizure under the various statutes they enforce, including the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the *Fisheries Act*. When carrying out their duties, conservation officers may:

- Stop and inspect a vehicle, boat or aircraft
- Ask questions relevant to the inspection
- Inspect buildings or other places
- Require assistance to complete inspections
- Enter onto private property to perform their duties
- Search with a warrant
- Search without a warrant in circumstances requiring immediate action
- Seize items related to an offence
- Arrest anyone they believe has committed, is committing, or is about to commit an offence.

Crappie – For the purpose of this summary, crappie includes both black crappie and white crappie.

Exceptions – In specified waters, there are exceptions to the general regulations established for each Zone. These include fish sanctuaries; bait and gear restrictions; and different seasons, limits and size limits for some species. **Anglers must check the exceptions for the waters where they will be fishing.**

NOTE: Some waters are grouped with other waters that have the same regulatory exceptions and these will generally be listed under the proper name for the largest or most significant water body. **If there is nothing stated in the exceptions, then the regulations for the Zone apply.**

Export of Fish – A person may, on leaving Ontario, take no more than the designated limits for fish.

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

Fish Sanctuaries – Fish sanctuaries are described in the exceptions to Zone regulations. No fishing of any kind is permitted in a fish sanctuary. Some bodies of water, or parts of them, are declared fish sanctuaries for all or part of the year. Fish sanctuaries are not always marked with signs. **Sanctuary dates are inclusive; all dates including the first and last dates stated in the summary are closed.**

Fisheries Management Zone or Zone – The province is divided into 20 Fisheries Management Zones for which there are general regulations that establish open seasons, limits and size limits (where applicable) for popular fish species (see also Exceptions, page 7).

Hook – A hook includes a single-pointed or multiple-pointed hook on a common shaft but does not include a snagger or spring gaff. The number of hooks includes any single-pointed or multiple-pointed hooks that are part of a lure.

Hooks and Lines – An angler may use only one line, unless otherwise stated in the regulations. Two lines may be used when angling from a boat in parts of the Great Lakes (see exceptions to the general regulations) and for ice fishing in many areas (see Ice Fishing, page 11). A fishing line must not have more than four hooks attached.

Lead Sinkers and Jigs – It is illegal to use or possess lead fishing sinkers or jigs in Canada's National Parks and National Wildlife Areas. Further information is available at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/flf-psp/index_e.cfm

Live Holding Boxes – If you use a live holding box or impounding device, it must be clearly marked with your name and address and it must be legible without having to lift the box, unless it forms part of or is attached to a boat. Any fish in holding boxes are part of your limit. Always monitor fish in your possession; allowing fish to waste is an offence. Catch and retain possession limits apply to live holding boxes.

Livewell – A livewell is a compartment designed to keep fish alive. For a livewell to be used to selectively release bass, walleye and northern pike, it must be attached to or form part of a boat, hold a total volume of not less than 46 litres (10 gallons) of water, have the capacity for water exchange and be mechanically aerated at all times when live fish are being held in it (see Ontario's catch and retain rules, page 9). **Remember, live fish may not be transported overland without a permit.** Livewells should be drained before leaving a waterbody.

Open Seasons – Fishing season opening and closing dates vary depending on the species and the area. Dates are inclusive; all dates including the first and last dates stated in the summary are open or closed. **It is illegal to attempt to catch fish for which the season is closed, even if you are going to release them.** Fish accidentally caught during the closed season must be immediately released back to the water. Unless stated otherwise, species that are not listed (such as sucker and rock bass) have a year-round open season.

Pacific Salmon – For the purpose of this summary, Pacific salmon include chinook salmon, coho salmon and pink salmon.

Size Limits – All size limits refer to **total length** which is a measure from the tip of the mouth with the jaws closed to the tip of the tail, **with the tail fin lobes compressed to give the maximum possible length.** Provincial regulations are established using the metric system.

NOTE: If you catch a fish in a restricted size range, you must release it immediately (see Units of Measure).

Sunfish – For the purpose of this summary, sunfish includes pumpkinseed, bluegill, green sunfish, warmouth, orange spotted sunfish, longear sunfish and *Lepomis* hybrids.

Units of Measure – There are many units of measure referred to in the summary. Provincial regulations are established using the metric system and converted to imperial measurement units for the convenience of anglers. The following short forms are used:

- km = kilometre (or mi. = mile)
- m = metre (or ft. = feet)
- cm = centimetre (or in. = inches)

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS – IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Transport live fish, other than baitfish, taken from Ontario waters or to transfer or stock any fish into Ontario's waters without a special licence to transport or stock fish.
- Transfer live fish or live spawn from one body of water to another without the authorization of the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Possess any of the following live invasive species: rudd, ruffe, bighead carp, black carp, grass carp, silver carp, round goby, tubenose goby or any member of the snakehead family.
- Use live fish other than those listed as baitfish (page 10) for bait.
- Fish for or possess the following specially protected fish species: American eel, cutlip minnow and redbreast dace.
- Sell or buy any recreationally-caught fish (including taxidermy mounts), crayfish, leeches, frogs, fish eggs or spawn. Only holders of commercial fishing or commercial bait licences may sell their catch.
- Possess a spring gaff, snagger or spear gun within 30 m (98 ft.) of any waters. A spring gaff includes any spring loaded device which sets the hook for an angler. No person shall take fish with a gaff, snare, snagger or spear gun. A gaff, other than a spring gaff, may be used to assist in landing fish caught by lawful means.
- Catch a fish by impaling or snagging it with a hook through any part of the body other than the mouth – any fish hooked in this way must be released immediately.
- Take fish by any means other than angling, spear, bow and arrow, net or bait fish trap.
- Possess a spear for the purpose of fishing on or within 30 m (98 ft.) of the edge of any waters except when fishing in accordance with the regulations (see Non-angling Methods, page 11).
- Use artificial lights to attract fish except:
 - to fish for smelt, or to fish for lake whitefish or lake herring with a dip net
 - if the light is part of a lure attached to a line used in angling.
- Use dynamite or other explosives to take or destroy fish.
- Fish within 25 m (81.8 ft.) of a pound net or fish culture cage.
- Fish within 22.9 m (75 ft.) downstream from the lower entrance to any fishway or canal, obstacle, or any device designed to assist fish around an obstacle.
- Abandon fish or permit the flesh to spoil, if the fish is suitable for human consumption.

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

ONTARIO'S CATCH AND RETAIN RULES

Generally, daily catch limits include all fish that are retained for any period of time and not **immediately** released.

Anglers fishing from a boat may now catch, hold, and selectively live release more walleye, northern pike, largemouth or smallmouth bass than the daily limit, **provided:**

- the fish are held in a livewell with a mechanical aerator operating at all times (see Anglers Guide, page 8, for livewell requirements),
- the fish comply with any applicable size limits,
- the Sport or Conservation Fishing Licence daily catch and retain limits for walleye or northern pike are not exceeded at any one time,
- no more than six largemouth or smallmouth bass (or any combination) caught under a Sport Fishing Licence are retained at any one time, and

- the Conservation Fishing Licence catch and retain limits for largemouth and smallmouth bass (or any combination) are not exceeded at any one time.

Anglers are reminded to closely monitor the condition of fish held in a livewell. Only fish that are in such a condition that they will survive may be released (see Tips on Live Release of Fish, page 10). Releasing a fish that will not survive and allowing the flesh of that fish to be wasted is an offence. **Any fish not live-released are part of your daily catch and retain limit.**

TRANSPORTING SPORT FISH IN ONTARIO

It is contrary to the *Ontario Fishery Regulations* to stock or transport live sport fish without a permit.

Anglers need to ensure they are transporting fish in compliance with the regulations, which are designed to protect fisheries resources. The fish that you catch and keep may be cleaned. However, please remember that **fish taken from waterbodies where size limits are in effect must be readily measurable at all times, unless** the fish are:

- Being prepared for immediate consumption
- Prepared at an overnight accommodation for storage
- Being transported on the water from a temporary overnight accommodation to your residence and you are not engaged in sport fishing

- Being transported overland.

Do not transport live fish overland in a livewell filled with water. Fish must be dead and should be transported on ice.

In addition, when packaging fish you must ensure that a conservation officer can easily determine:

- The number of fish in your possession
- The species of fish in your possession. This may require leaving a large patch of skin, the head, or some other identifying feature depending on the species of fish (e.g. lake whitefish vs. lake herring).

TIPS FOR PACKAGING FISH

- All fish must be packaged so that they can be easily counted and identified, not just those with limits.
- To ensure fish can be easily counted, package each fish separately, or arrange fillets spread flat in a clear freezer bag. **DO NOT** freeze fillets in a milk carton, margarine tub or other container. A large lump of fillets frozen together in bags is also unacceptable.
- Since anglers often transport various species of fish, it's their responsibility to ensure every fillet of their catch can be easily identified. Ensure you leave at least a large patch of skin on all fish fillets for identification purposes. Some species (e.g. lake whitefish or lake herring) may require additional identifying features such as the head.
- Conservation officers may inspect your catch at any time. Always have your fish and your licence easily accessible, and place coolers of fish where they can be easily inspected.
- If a conservation officer inspects the sport fish you're transporting and they are improperly packaged:
 - your catch may be seized for evidence
 - you could get a ticket and be fined
 - you may have to attend court, usually close to where the inspection took place, which may be far from where you live.



- Frozen fish fillets without skin attached
- Species cannot be identified
- Numbers can be counted



- Fillets form a frozen block
- Numbers cannot be counted
- Species cannot be determined on all fillets



- Walleye fillets properly packaged
- Whole skin attached
- Can be counted and identified



- Walleye fillets
- Patch of skin attached
- Can be counted and identified



- Perch and Walleye fillets
- Patch of skin attached



- Pike fillets
- Individually packaged

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

TIPS ON LIVE RELEASE OF FISH

Using proper handling and release techniques improves fish survival. Here are some tips for releasing fish.

1. Use barbless hooks and artificial lures (no organic bait) to prevent deep hooking.
2. Land fish as quickly as possible and use a rubber landing net if needed.
3. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible and handle the fish gently.
4. Wet your hands or use wet cloth gloves when handling fish out of water.
5. Do not touch the gills or eyes. Grasp the fish just behind the gill covers, or for fish without teeth (for example, bass or panfish), hold the fish by the lower lip.
6. Use long-nose pliers to remove the hook quickly without injuring the fish. If the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line and leave the hook in.
7. If you want to take a picture, be ready ahead of time. Hold the fish in a horizontal position supporting its weight with your arm and hands, and take pictures quickly, minimizing the time the fish is out of water.
8. When releasing the fish, hold it in the water so that it is facing into the current or if there is no current, gently move the fish in a forward direction so water flows through the gills.
9. When the fish begins to struggle, is breathing normally and can keep its balance, let it swim away.
10. Remember that all fish not immediately released count towards your daily catch or possession limits (also see Ontario's catch and retain rules, page 9).

BAIT

Only individuals with a valid bait licence can sell baitfish and leeches. Anglers with a valid recreational fishing licence may capture their own bait for personal use as follows:

BAIT	LIMIT	NOTES
Baitfish	120 Includes those caught and/or purchased. See list of permitted baitfish species.	Only resident anglers may capture baitfish, using the methods outlined below. One baitfish trap no more than 51 cm (20 in.) long and 31 cm (12.2 in.) wide can be used day or night. Baitfish traps must be clearly marked with the licence holder's name and address. One dip-net no more than 183 cm (6 ft.) on each side if square, or 183 cm (6 ft.) across if circular, during daylight hours only (after sunrise and before sunset). Dip-nets and baitfish traps may not be used in Algonquin Park.
Leeches	120 Includes those caught and/or purchased.	Only one leech trap no more than 45 cm (17.7 in.) in any dimension can be used day or night to capture leeches. Leech traps must be clearly marked with the licence holder's name.
Crayfish	36	Must be used in same water body where caught. May not be transported overland. May be captured using the methods outlined for baitfish above.
Frogs	12	Only northern leopard frogs may be captured or used as bait.

NOTE: The capture and use of bait is not allowed in some waters (see other Zone regulations or exceptions for the Zone you are fishing in).

SALAMANDERS CANNOT BE CAPTURED, IMPORTED, OR USED AS BAIT IN ONTARIO.

IMPORT OF BAIT

It is illegal to bring any crayfish, salamanders, live fish or leeches into Ontario for use as bait.

NO RELEASE OF BAIT

It is illegal to release any live bait or dump the contents of a bait bucket, including the water, into any waters or within 30 m of any waters (see page 13).

BAITFISH

Please note that a number of changes have been made to bait regulations to protect rare and endangered species, conserve biodiversity and prevent the spread of invasive species. Anglers may not use live yellow perch and alewife as bait anywhere in Ontario.

Baitfish

Anglers are responsible to ensure that any baitfish in their possession are permitted baitfish. Only the fish species listed below may be used as live bait:

Minnows

Blacknose shiner
Blackchin shiner
Bluntnose minnow
Brassy minnow
Central stoneroller
Common shiner
Creek chub
Eastern blacknose dace
Emerald shiner
Fallfish
Fathead minnow
Finescale dace
Golden shiner
Hornyhead chub
Lake chub
Longnose dace
Mimic shiner
Northern redbelly dace
Pearl dace
Redfin shiner
River chub
Rosyface shiner
Sand shiner
Spotfin shiner
Spottail shiner
Striped shiner

Suckers

Longnose sucker
Northern hog sucker
Shorthead redbhorse
Silver redbhorse
White sucker

Others

Central mudminnow
Lake herring (cisco)
Trout-Perch

Sticklebacks

Brook stickleback
Ninespine stickleback
Threespine stickleback

Sculpins

Mottled sculpin
Slimy sculpin

Darters and Logperch

Blackside darter
Fantail darter
Iowa darter
Johnny darter
Least darter
Rainbow darter
River darter
Tessellated darter
Logperch

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

GAME AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Holders of valid recreational fishing licences may catch and retain bullfrogs and snapping turtles during open seasons. For details on harvest areas, season dates and catch and possession limits, see the Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary.

ICE FISHING

Two lines may be used for ice fishing except in a limited number of waters (see the exceptions for the Zone in which you are fishing). You must be within 60 m (197 ft.) at all times of any line or tip-up you are using when ice fishing and you must have a clear and unobstructed view of the lines being used at all times. Any spring-loaded device which sets the hook for an angler may not be possessed within 30 m (98 ft.) of any waters.

ICE HUT REGISTRATION

Ice fishing huts must be registered if they are being used in the following Fisheries Management Zones and must be removed by the dates indicated below. To register an ice fishing hut contact your local MNR office. Once registered, an ice fishing hut can be used anywhere in Ontario.

ZONES IN WHICH ICE HUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED	ICE HUT REMOVAL DATE
17, 20	March 1
14, 16, 18, 19	March 15
9, 10, 11, 15	March 31
12	Above Lake Timiskaming Dam - March 31 Below Lake Timiskaming Dam - March 15

Ice hut registration numbers must be at least 6.3 cm (2.5 in.) in height and clearly displayed on the outside of the hut.

You do not need to register your ice hut or abide by specific removal dates:

- in Zones 1-8 and 13, or
- if your ice hut is a tent made of cloth or synthetic fabric that has a base area of seven square metres (75.4 square feet) or less when erected.

Note: It is an offence under the Public Lands Act to leave your ice hut out after ice break up, regardless of whether registration and removal dates apply.

NON-ANGLING METHODS OF CAPTURING FISH

Residents and non-Canadian residents with a valid recreational fishing licence may fish with one dip net, one seine net, one spear or a bow and arrow for the species and during the periods outlined below.

Dip nets may be no more than 183 cm (6 ft.) on each side if square, or 183 cm (6 ft.) in diameter, if circular.

Seine nets may be no more than 10 m (32.8 ft.) long and 2 m (6.5 ft.) high.

Spears cannot be possessed on or within 30 m (98 ft.) of the edge of any waterbody except when fishing for carp and white sucker as described on this page. **Northern pike spearing is not allowed.**

Bow and arrow: includes all longbows.

SPECIES AND GEAR TYPE	OPEN SEASON	ZONE	LIMIT
Smelt Dip net and seine (day or night)	March 1 to May 31	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20	No limit
	2nd Saturday in May to May 31	17	No limit
	No open season	1,2,3, 4, 5, Algonquin Park in Zone 15	N/A
White Sucker Bow and arrow, spear and dip net (during daylight hours only)	March 1 to May 31	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20	No limit
	2nd Saturday in May to May 31	17	No limit
	No open season	Algonquin Park in Zone 15	N/A
Lake Whitefish Dip net (day or night)	Oct. 1 to Dec. 15	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Same as angling limit in Zone
	Oct. 1 to Dec. 15	10, 11, 15 (note in designated waters only; see ontario.ca/fishing or contact local MNR office for locations)	Same as angling limit in Zone
	No open season	12, 13, 14, Algonquin Park in Zone 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	N/A
Lake Herring Dip net (day or night)	Oct. 1 to Dec. 15	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15 (note in designated waters only; see ontario.ca/fishing or contact local MNR office for locations)	No limit
	No open season	9, 12, 13, 14, Algonquin Park in Zone 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	N/A

SPECIES AND GEAR TYPE	OPEN SEASON	ZONE	LIMIT
Bowfin Bow and arrow (during daylight hours only)	May 1 to July 31	10, 13, 14, 19	No limit
	No open season	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20	N/A
Carp Bow and arrow, spear and dip net (during daylight hours only)	May 1 to July 31	5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20	No limit
	2nd Saturday in May to July 31	17	No limit
	No open season	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, Algonquin Park in Zone 15	N/A

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

BOUNDARY WATERS

Licences for Provincial Boundary Waters

Ontario-Quebec Boundary

Anglers may fish in the following waters with either an Ontario Resident Fishing Licence or a Quebec Resident Fishing Licence.

- Clarice Lake (48°20'N., 79°32'W.).
- Labyrinth Lake (48°14'N., 79°31'W.).
- Raven Lake (48°03'N., 79°33'W.).
- Lake Timiskaming (47°20'N., 79°30'W.).
- Ottawa River (45°34'N., 74°23'W.).
- Lake St. Francis (45°08'N., 74°25'W.) and the waters of the St. Lawrence River between the dam at the Robert H. Saunders Generating Station and the Ontario-Quebec boundary.

Ontario-Manitoba Boundary

Anglers may fish in the following waters with either an Ontario Resident Fishing Licence or a Manitoba Resident Fishing Licence.

- Garner Lake (50°48'N., 95°11'W.).
- Davidson Lake (50°21'N., 95°09'W.).
- Ryerson Lake (50°23'N., 95°09'W.).
- Mantario Lake (49°95'N., 95°10'W.).
- Frances Lake (51°43'N., 95°08'W.).
- Moar Lake (52°00'N., 95°07'W.).
- High Lake (49°42'N., 95°08'W.).

Limits in Boundary Waters

Anglers who fish in waters that lie both in Ontario and another province or state must include the total number of fish caught anywhere in those waters as part of the number caught and kept or possessed under the Ontario recreational fishing regulations when bringing those fish into Ontario.

CROWN LAND CAMPING AND BORDER WATERS AREA REGULATIONS

Crown Land Camping

In Ontario, travel for recreational purposes on Crown lands and waters is generally free and unrestricted. On most Crown land, camping is allowed free for Canadian residents at any individual site for up to 21 days each calendar year. After 21 days, campers must move a minimum of 100 m to a new site. Please note, camping may be prohibited or additional restrictions may be placed on some areas of Crown land; these locations are signed and regulated under the authority of the Public Lands Act. As well, some Crown lands may have restricted-travel zones for forest fire prevention, officially closed forest-access roads or specific areas posted with signs to prohibit all or certain kinds of uses or travel.

Non-residents of Canada 18 years of age or older, except those using a camping unit rented from a person who carries on an Ontario-based business (commercial outfitter), require a permit to camp on Crown land in Northern Ontario (north of the French and Mattawa rivers). There are some additional exceptions to the requirement for a permit. Contact your local MNR office for more information. A camping unit is defined as equipment used for the purpose of outdoor accommodation and includes a tent, trailer, tent-trailer, recreational vehicle, camper-back and any watercraft equipped for overnight accommodation. Contact a ServiceOntario Centre or licence issuer for permits.

Non-residents are prohibited from camping on some specific areas of Crown land in Northern Ontario at any time of year. These areas are generally well signed; however, anglers are advised to check with the local ministry office for complete information on areas where non-resident camping is prohibited.

If a non-Canadian resident is camping on Crown land in FMZs 2, 4, 6 and parts of FMZ 5, he or she may not take fish in excess of the conservation catch and possession limits. Non-Canadian residents camping on Crown land in FMZ 5 within the "Areas affected by International Border Water Regulations" (see map page 22) have different catch and possession limits for walleye, sauger and lake trout. For more information on the exact boundary of these waters and the applicable fishing limits, contact the nearest ministry office.

Winnipeg River and the Sydney Lake Area

There are also exceptions for the Winnipeg River, Zone 5 and the Sydney Lake Area, Zone 2 and 4 that affect non-Canadian resident anglers (see exceptions for Zones 2, 4 and 5).

BE FireSmart®



ontario.ca/fireprevention

Build a safe campfire not a wildfire

Safe Campfires are:

1. built on bare soil or exposed rock
2. sheltered from the wind
3. located at least three metres from the forest, overhanging branches or other flammable material.

Safe Campfires have:

4. a pail of water and a shovel at hand to control the fire
5. someone tending them all the time.

Safe Campfires are:

6. small. A small fire is best for cooking, and is easier to control and put out. The forest is no place for a bonfire.
7. put out as soon as possible. How? Douse with water then stir the ashes with a stick or shovel to uncover hot coals, and douse again.

For more information contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources Fire Office or visit us at ontario.ca/fireprevention.

LAWS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVADING SPECIES

Harmful introduced species are often spread unknowingly. As an angler or boater, you should always take precautions to help stop the spread of invading species. The following laws are in place to prevent unauthorized introductions.

POSSESSING LIVE FISH

It is illegal to possess live invasive fish, including round goby, tubenose goby, grass carp, bighead carp, black carp, silver carp, rudd, ruffe and any species of snakehead. If any of these species are caught, they should be destroyed and not released back into any waters.

MOVING LIVE FISH

Many new populations of fish have been established through unauthorized stocking. This practice is illegal and can cause great harm to existing fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. **A licence is required for all fish (including live spawn) transfers and stocking into Ontario waters, and a licence is required to ship or transport live fish, other than baitfish, taken from Ontario waters.** Also, take care when cleaning smelt. Do not rinse equipment or dump entrails into a lake or river. Fertilized smelt eggs can easily invade new waters.

AQUARIUM FISH

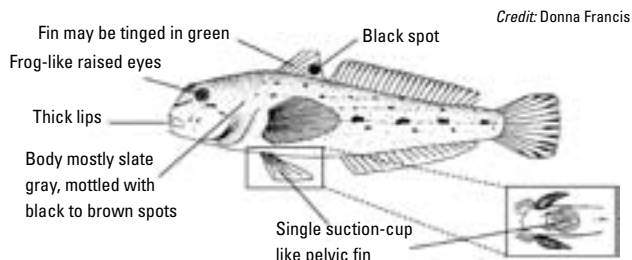
Never release or flush pets, plants or water from aquaria, backyard ponds or water gardens. It is illegal and can harm the environment. If you have an unwanted aquarium pet, you can return it to a local pet store, donate it to a school or contact the Fish Rescue Program at **1-800-563-7711**.

CRAYFISH

Crayfish can only be used for bait in the waterbody in which they were caught and they cannot be transported overland.

ROUND GOBY

The round goby is frequently caught by anglers. It is just one of the many serious threats to North American waters. Since its discovery in the St. Clair River in 1990, this bottom-dwelling fish has rapidly spread to many areas of the Great Lakes and inland waters. The round goby can displace native fish from optimal habitat, eat their eggs and young, and spawn multiple times a season. Anglers should know how to identify the round goby - these aggressive fish are easily caught by hook and line.



WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Report new sightings. If you catch a round goby it should be destroyed and not released back into any waters.
- Always dispose of your unwanted bait and the contents of your bait bucket or bait bucket water on land or in the trash. It is illegal to dump the contents of a bait bucket into any waters or within 30 metres of any waters.
- Never use gobies as bait. It is against the law to use gobies as bait or have live gobies in your possession.

For more information or to report a sighting, call the **Invasive Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711** or visit www.invasivespecies.com.

BY SPREADING THE WORD AND TAKING ACTION AGAINST INVADING SPECIES YOU CAN HELP CONSERVE ONTARIO'S HEALTHY FISHERIES!

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT VHS

Help Slow the Spread of VHS

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is an infectious disease of fish. VHS is not a threat to human health. Fish carrying the VHS virus are safe to eat and handle.

You can help slow the spread of this virus and other invasive species by following the laws outlined above (Laws to Help

Stop the Spread of Invasive Species) and the guidelines on page 57 (Keep All Our Lakes Great).

Anglers are asked not to move bait from the VHS management zone to areas outside the zone.

More information is available at ontario.ca/fishing or call the Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940.

A Message from Ontario's Conservation Officers

Know your **daily** fishing limit for the waters you intend to fish. You may only catch your own limit. There are no provisions for "party" fishing or excluding fish that you may have consumed or plan to consume that day.

1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)

