

HOW TO USE THIS SUMMARY

For recreational fishing purposes, Ontario is divided into 20 Fisheries Management Zones (Zones). The map below indicates the general location of these Zones within Ontario.

Please follow these step-by-step instructions to be sure that you comply with the regulations.

1. **Make sure that you have a valid Ontario fishing licence.**
2. **Carefully read the general fishing regulations section.**

Here you will find information that applies to fishing in all Zones, including general prohibitions, definitions, as well as information on ice fishing, bait, transporting fish, non-angling methods and laws to help stop the spread of invading species.

3. **Using the map below, determine the Zone in which you plan to fish. For more detailed information, see the Zone section in which you plan to fish. For detailed maps of the Zone boundaries please visit ontario.ca/fishing.**

4. **Check the Zone regulations table to determine:**

- the open season for fishing for any species you plan to target in that Zone.
- the catch and possession limits and size limits, if applicable, for those species in that Zone.

5. **Remember that most catch and possession limits and some size limits are different for a holder of a Sport Fishing Licence than for a holder of a Conservation Fishing Licence.**

- **S** - refers to limits under a Sport Fishing Licence Tag.
For example: S – 4 = catch and possession limit of four.

- **C** - refers to limits under a Conservation Fishing Licence Tag.
For example: C – 2 = catch and possession limit of two.

NOTE: all size limits refer to total length – refer to Angler's Guide to Fishing Regulations, page 7.

6. **Also, don't forget to check the additional fishing opportunities for each Zone to make the most of your fishing experience.**

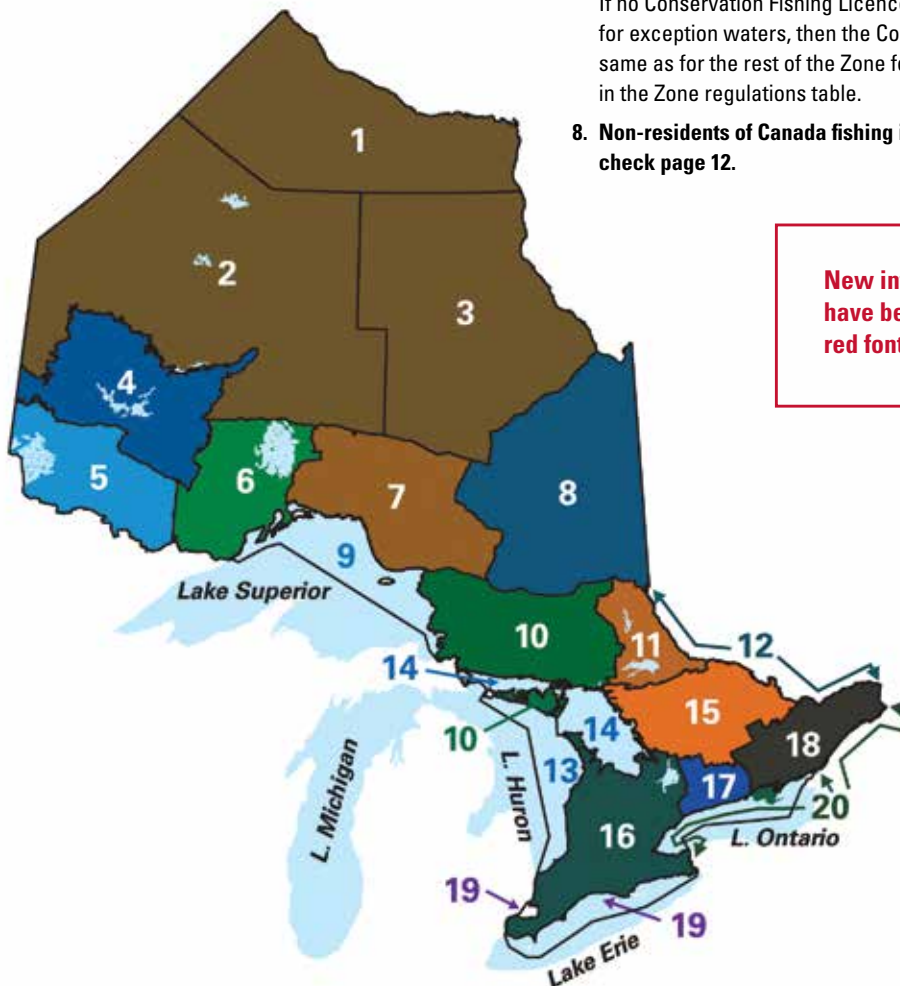
THEN YOU MUST

7. **Check the exceptions to the general Zone regulations for the waters or general area in which you will be fishing.**

- If there are any exceptions to the general rule for the Zone, you must comply with those exceptions.

NOTE: In some cases, lower limits or size limits stated in the exceptions apply only to Sport Fishing Licence Tag holders. If no Conservation Fishing Licence Tag limit or size limit is stated for exception waters, then the Conservation Licence Tag limit is the same as for the rest of the Zone for that species and can be found in the Zone regulations table.

8. **Non-residents of Canada fishing in northwestern Ontario must also check page 12.**



New information and changes have been highlighted in bold red font for your convenience.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Government of Ontario	2
---	----------

How to Use this Summary	3
--------------------------------	----------

Recreational Fishing Licence Information	4
---	----------

General Fishing Regulations	7
------------------------------------	----------

Angler's Guide to Fishing Regulations	7
---------------------------------------	---

General Prohibitions – It is Illegal To	8
---	---

Transporting Fish	9
-------------------	---

Ontario's Provincial Possession Limits	10
--	----

Bait	10
------	----

Ice Fishing	11
-------------	----

Non-angling Methods	11
---------------------	----

Provincial Boundary Waters	12
----------------------------	----

Crown Land Camping	12
--------------------	----

Laws to Help Stop the Spread of Invading Species	13
---	-----------

VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia)	13
---	-----------

ZONE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

Zones 1, 2 & 3	14
---------------------------	-----------

Zone 4	18
---------------	-----------

Zone 5 (including Border Waters Regulations for Non-Canadian Resident Anglers)	22
---	-----------

Zone 6	28
---------------	-----------

Zone 7	34
---------------	-----------

Zone 8	42
---------------	-----------

Zone 9	48
---------------	-----------

Zone 10	50
----------------	-----------

Zone 11	58
----------------	-----------

Zone 12	62
----------------	-----------

Zones 13 & 14	64
--------------------------	-----------

Zone 15	68
----------------	-----------

Zone 16	78
----------------	-----------

Zone 17	84
----------------	-----------

Zone 18	87
----------------	-----------

Zone 19	90
----------------	-----------

Zone 20	92
----------------	-----------

Government Offices	96
---------------------------	-----------

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is a summary of information dealing with fishing licences and fishing laws. This summary is neither a legal document nor a complete collection of the current regulations. It is meant to be a convenient reference only.

For details on the current regulations see:

- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and regulations
- Federal Fisheries Act
- Endangered Species Act and regulations
- Federal Species at Risk Act
- Ontario Fishery Regulations
 - Close times, fishing quotas and limits on the size of fish established in the Ontario Fishery Regulations may be changed through Variation Orders which are available at ontario.ca/fishing.

The maps presented in this summary are provided as a guide only. Due to the scale of the maps, the official plan (detailed information) for the boundaries of the Zones cannot be provided in this summary.

You can obtain specific details of the regulations, including more detailed maps of Zone boundaries, from ontario.ca/fishing or local MNRF offices.

Find the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at:
ontario.ca/mnrf

Visit the ministry's fishing website:
ontario.ca/fishing

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Recreational fishing is one of the most popular outdoor activities for Ontario residents and visitors alike. A time-honoured tradition that can be pursued year-round, it is both exciting and challenging. Ontario's quarter million lakes and innumerable rivers and streams mean there are angling opportunities for every outdoor enthusiast.

Fishing can also help strengthen families, foster a greater appreciation of nature, and be a great way to spend some peaceful time outdoors. Ontario offers two opportunities each year for new anglers to try their hand at fishing without having to buy a licence. The Family Fishing Weekend in February, which coincides with the Family Day long weekend, and the Family Fishing Week in July let Canadians fish licence-free.

In 2017, Canada will mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Ontario is one of Canada's founding provinces and will be joining in the nation-wide celebrations of this milestone. Angling is an activity with a long and proud history dating back even before 1867, and the province is working to ensure that angling continues to be a favourite outdoor pursuit for years to come.

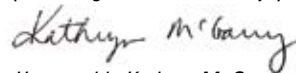
Our Learn to Fish program continues to grow in popularity. The two-hour program helps new anglers learn the basics of fishing, including fish handling, live release of fish, safety and more. It is offered in conjunction with Learn to Camp at six provincial parks, and at a range of community events throughout the summer. Find out more at ontario.ca/learntofish.

Significant upgrades have been made to Fish ON-Line, the Ministry's electronic guide to fishing in Ontario. It is now easier to access on mobile devices and, for the first time, includes some 4,000 rivers and streams in addition to the 14,000 lakes already available.

In response to the continuing threat posed by invasive species, Ontario passed the Invasive Species Act. The legislation is an important tool in the fight against invasive species as it supports the prevention, early detection, rapid response and eradication of these species. Ontario is the only jurisdiction in Canada to have enacted standalone invasive species legislation.

The use and movement of live bait brings with it the potential to spread invasive species and diseases. Ontario is reviewing ways to reduce the risks associated with the use of live bait while trying to simplify the rules for anglers and the bait industry. We continue to make every effort to inform anglers of the risks posed by the transfer of non-baitfish species and other aquatic organisms and seek to minimize risks by promoting compliance with the rules.

We all need to do our part to keep the province's world-class recreational fisheries both healthy and sustainable. Please follow the rules outlined in this summary, and respect the environment and each other. By working together, we can help make the province a great place to get outside and enjoy our wonderful natural resources.



Honourable Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

Our Cover

Forty-four inches (112 cm) is a lot of Muskellunge – and back in the water it went, carefully handled and quickly released.

Angler adoption of proper handling and live release techniques has been a significant factor in the health of Ontario's Muskellunge fishery, and in recent years the catch rate in Ontario has definitely improved. Why? In 2001 the science of Dr. John Casselman led to changes in Ontario's Muskellunge regulations to put an emphasis on minimum sizes to protect the fishery. These regulations are based on the growth potential of fish in a particular waterbody. Each of Ontario's 400+ Muskellunge waters has one of three designations to guide its management:



High density populations include those waters which provide good opportunities to catch Muskellunge, most of which are smaller in size.

Enhanced size fisheries are those waters which are able to produce larger-than-average fish so an angler can try for a personal trophy. Ontario also has some **record class fisheries** waters which can produce very large fish of world record size. These are managed with a high size limit on Muskellunge.

Ontario has nearly one third of the world's naturally reproducing Muskellunge. The partnership of anglers and fishery managers has helped lead to more fish and an increase in large fish. For information on what you can do to continue this trend, refer to the web page on fishing limits, size restrictions and catch and release at ontario.ca/mnrf.

Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission

The Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission was created in 2002 to advise the Minister on promoting hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities, funding of the Fish and Wildlife Program, and other matters as requested by the Minister. The commission consists of ten members, including the chair, who represent a cross-section of key interests in the sustainable use of our fish and wildlife resources. The commission continues to work on a number of important issues, including the development of strategies to engage youth in our fishing and hunting heritage and the continued effective management of the Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account.

ONTARIO 150

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Confederation in Canada. As one of the founding provinces of Confederation, Ontario is celebrating with events and programs across the province showcasing Ontario's innovative spirit, culture and diversity, and leaving a lasting legacy for the next 150 years. Visit Ontario.ca/150 to learn more.