

## RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE INFORMATION

### MOST PEOPLE NEED ONE OF THE FOLLOWING RECREATIONAL LICENCE TAGS TO FISH IN ONTARIO

**Sport Fishing Licence Tag:** 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 Tag:** A reduced catch and possession limit licence tag that is ideal for anglers who want to live-release the majority of fish caught. Under this licence tag, 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 and 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. The Outdoors Card is a plastic, wallet-sized card valid for three calendar years and used for identification and administration purposes. The licence tag is carried either as a document separate from the Outdoors Card or printed on the back of the card when the licence and Outdoors Card are purchased or renewed at the same time. **Note: Outdoors Cards are not required with 1-day licences.**

Ontario Resident Outdoors Cards and fishing licence tags are available through licence issuers across Ontario, at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard) or the automated telephone licensing line at 1-800-288-1155 (for licence with Outdoors Card renewals only).

Canadian Resident Outdoors Cards and fishing licence tags are available through licence issuers across Ontario or at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://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. A resident of Ontario and Canada with a disability, eligible for and in possession of:
  - a valid Canadian National Institute for the Blind National Identity Card issued to them; or
  - A valid Ontario Accessible Parking Permit issued under the *Highway Traffic Act*; or
  - a black and white photocopy or printed version of an electronic copy of a valid Ontario Accessible Parking Permit issued under the

*Highway Traffic Act* 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. This individual must require the direct assistance of another person to fish and to follow applicable laws in respect of fishing because of 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.**

**Do not laminate your licence. The heat from this process will cause the licence to become unreadable.**

**Aboriginal people:** Many Aboriginal communities in Ontario hold Aboriginal or treaty rights to fish. MNRF is committed to respecting these constitutionally-protected rights. After conservation goals are met, Aboriginal and treaty rights to fish take priority before allocation and management of the resource for other purposes.

Aboriginal rights to fish stem from customs, practices or traditions that are integral to the distinctive culture of an Aboriginal community. Treaty rights to fish are reserved through treaties between the Crown and Aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal and treaty rights are collectively held and are associated with an Aboriginal community's traditional or treaty territory. These rights are not generic and different communities may hold different rights. Aboriginal and treaty rights to fish can be exercised using modern means.

Members of Aboriginal communities generally do not require an Ontario fishing licence when fishing for food, social or ceremonial purposes within their traditional or treaty territory. Aboriginal individuals should be prepared to provide identification showing their community membership if requested by a Conservation Officer. Members of Aboriginal communities fishing outside of their traditional or treaty area must hold a valid fishing licence and follow the corresponding seasons, limits, slot sizes and gear restrictions, or have written permission from a First Nation to fish within their traditional or treaty territory (R v. Shipman et al., 2007). This is also applicable to members of Aboriginal communities from the United States fishing in Ontario waters.

### 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.

**For Non-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 non-Canadian residents. The Outdoors Card is a plastic, wallet-sized card valid for three calendar years and used for identification and administration purposes. The licence tag is carried either as a document separate from the Outdoors Card or printed on the back of the card when the licence tag and Outdoors Card are purchased or renewed at the same time. **Note: Outdoors Cards are not required with 1-day licences.**

- Non-Canadian residents 18 years of age and over must purchase an Outdoors Card and fishing licence tag. **(NOTE: Non-Canadian residents 65 years of age or older are not exempt from requiring a licence.)**

## RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

- Non-Canadian residents under 18 years of age may fish without a licence if accompanied by a person who has a valid Sport 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 an Outdoors Card and fishing licence tag to have their own limits.
- Non-Canadian resident Outdoors Cards and fishing licence tags are available through licence issuers across Ontario and at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://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 participating ServiceOntario centres and licence issuers.

**NOTE:** Non-Canadian residents camping on Crown lands in northwestern Ontario are subject to conservation licence tag 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.**

### APPLYING FOR YOUR OUTDOORS CARD

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

#### What you need to know about your Outdoors Card:

- You must notify the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 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.

- 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.
- All fishing licence products are issued on a calendar-year basis: from January 1st to December 31st.
- 1-year fishing licence tags expire December 31st of the year printed on the licence tag.
- 3-year fishing licence tags expire at the same time as the Outdoors Card, on December 31st of their third year. Your card's expiry year is shown following the 15-digit card number.
- 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.
- If your Outdoors Card is lost or stolen, please visit a local issuer or ServiceOntario Centre that offers MNRF services for replacement. A fee will apply.
- New anglers are able to purchase their first Outdoors Card online at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard).
- If you require more information about your Outdoors Card or fishing licence tag, call the Outdoors Card Centre from anywhere in North America at 1-800-387-7011.

## LICENCE TAGS AND FEES

The 2017 annual licence tags and fees are in effect from January 1, 2017, until December 31, 2017.

For the location of the licence issuer nearest you, visit [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard) or call 1-800-387-7011. **Note:** A \$2 service fee (plus HST) will be applied to each product related to fishing for which a fee is charged.

### 2017 FEES (INCLUDES HST)

### PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

PRODUCTS	2017 FEES (INCLUDES HST)			PRODUCT AVAILABILITY		
	ONTARIO RESIDENTS	CANADIAN RESIDENTS	NON-CANADIAN RESIDENTS	INTERNET*	AUTOMATED TELEPHONE LICENSING LINE**	LICENCE ISSUER*
Outdoors Card	\$9.68	\$9.68	\$9.68	✓	✓	✓
3-Year Sport Fishing Licence Tag	\$88.38	\$165.47	\$249.81	✓	✓	✓
3-Year Conservation Fishing Licence Tag	\$50.24	\$98.07	\$154.96	✓	✓	✓
1-Year Sport Fishing Licence Tag	\$29.46	\$55.16	\$83.27	✓		✓
1-Year Conservation Fishing Licence Tag	\$16.75	\$32.69	\$51.65	✓		✓
1-Day Sport Fishing Licence (Outdoors Card not required with this licence)	\$13.51	\$13.51	\$23.01	✓		✓
8-Day Sport Fishing Licence Tag ***	N/A	N/A	\$53.54	✓		✓
8-Day Conservation Fishing Licence Tag ***	N/A	N/A	\$30.53	✓		✓
Non-Canadian Resident Angling Licence for a Member of an Organized Camp	N/A	N/A	\$6.26			✓

\*Licence transactions over the Internet or with licence issuers after the renewal of an Outdoors Card must be carried as a separate document. **Licences purchased on the Internet must be printed and carried with your valid Outdoors Card while fishing.**

\*\* Available to Ontario residents only. 3-year licence tag purchase is only available with Outdoors Card renewal when using this method.

\*\*\* 8-day fishing licences are valid for eight consecutive calendar days. A calendar day is a 24-hour period starting at 12:00 midnight.

# 100%

of your **licence fees** go towards protecting the future of fish and wildlife in Ontario. But what does that look like in the field?



## 25%

### Regulation

14 FMZ councils supporting sustainable management of Ontario fisheries

## 20%

### Science

Over 21,000 fish sampled to assess age, weight and health conditions

## 19%

### Enforcement

176,000 contacts in the field made by Conservation Officers

## 15%

### Conservation

Approximately 8 million fish stocked in over 2,100 lakes across Ontario

## 14%

### Licensing

Making it easier to renew fishing licences online

## 7%

### Education

7,730 Ontarians participated in our 2016 Learn to Fish program

[ontario.ca/fishhuntfees](http://ontario.ca/fishhuntfees)



# 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** – 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 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).

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 and Forestry of any address or name change within 10 days of the change. For additional information please see page 5 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 release boats for competitive fishing events must have a licence in order to transport the catches of multiple anglers and be in possession of more than an individual's possession limit of fish.

**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.

**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.**



## GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

**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.

**Immediate Release of Fish** – All fish that are caught unlawfully or are illegal to possess (e.g., during the closed season, of prohibited size, or are in excess of the catch and possession limits) must be immediately released at the place and time of capture. This includes fish that may be injured during catch. This rule does not apply to invasive species like goby which should be destroyed and not released back into any waters (see General Prohibitions).

**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 [www.ec.gc.ca/ffp-ppf/default.asp?lang=En&n=80A2A&AF-1](http://www.ec.gc.ca/ffp-ppf/default.asp?lang=En&n=80A2A&AF-1)

**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.

**Muskellunge** – For the purposes of this summary, Muskellunge includes Muskellunge and hybrids of Muskellunge and Northern Pike.

**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, other species of the genus *Lepomis* and their 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 and Forestry.
- 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 any species of fish listed as Endangered or Threatened under the provincial Endangered Species Act and/or federal Species at Risk Act.
- 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 device which uses a mechanical spring, other than the fishing rod under tension, to set 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 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 Angler's 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) are retained at any one time for fish caught under a Sport Fishing Licence, or,

- the Conservation Fishing Licence catch and retain limits for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass (or any combination) are not exceeded at any one time for fish caught under a Conservation Fishing Licence.

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. 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 catch limit and your possession 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 or store 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)

## ONTARIO'S PROVINCIAL POSSESSION LIMITS

While the regulations for a specific Fisheries Management Zone limit the number of fish an individual can catch and retain from that Zone, provincial possession limits limit the total number of fish of a given species a person can have in their possession (including storage)

which have been harvested from more than one Zone. Always check the regulations for the zone in which you are fishing to ensure that you aren't exceeding the catch and possession limit for that Zone.

SPECIES	PROVINCIAL POSSESSION LIMIT
Walleye or Sauger or any combination	6
Largemouth Bass or Smallmouth Bass or any combination	6
Northern Pike	6
Muskellunge	1

SPECIES	PROVINCIAL POSSESSION LIMIT
Yellow Perch	100
Crappie	30
Brook Trout	5
Brown Trout	5
Rainbow Trout	5
Lake Trout	3

SPECIES	PROVINCIAL POSSESSION LIMIT
Splake	5
Pacific Salmon	5
Atlantic Salmon	1
Lake Whitefish	25
Channel Catfish	12
Aurora Trout	1

### 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.	<p>Only resident anglers may capture baitfish, using the methods outlined below.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p><b>Dip-nets and baitfish traps may not be used in Algonquin Park.</b></p>
Leeches	120 Includes those caught and/or purchased.	<p>Only resident anglers may capture leeches, using the methods outlined below:</p> <p>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.</p>
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:

#### Minnnows

Blacknose Dace  
Blacknose Shiner  
Blackchin Shiner  
Bluntnose Minnow  
Brassy Minnow  
Central Stoneroller  
Common Shiner  
Creek Chub  
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 Redhorse  
Silver Redhorse  
White Sucker

#### Others

Central Mudminnow  
Lake Herring (Cisco)  
Trout-Perch

#### Sticklebacks

Brook Stickleback  
Ninespine Stickleback  
Threespine Stickleback

#### Sculpins

Mottled Sculpin  
Slimy Sculpin

#### Darters and Loggerperch

Blackside Darter  
Fantail Darter  
Iowa Darter  
Johnny Darter  
Least Darter  
Rainbow Darter  
River Darter  
Tessellated Darter  
Loggerperch

# GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

## GAME AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Holders of valid recreational fishing licences may catch and retain Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles during the open season. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is currently conducting a review of these seasons. For details on the current 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. Ice huts must be registered online ([ontario.ca/icefishing](http://ontario.ca/icefishing)). Once registered, an ice hut can be used anywhere in Ontario. Additional approvals may be required for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. Individuals only need to register once. Individuals with an existing ice hut registration number do not need to re-register.

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
<b>Smelt</b> 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
<b>White Sucker</b> 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
<b>Lake Whitefish</b> Dip net (day or night)	Oct. 1 to Dec. 15	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Same as angling limit in Zone
	Oct. 1 to Dec. 15	11, 15 (note in designated waters only; see <a href="http://ontario.ca/fishing">ontario.ca/fishing</a> or contact local MNRF 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
<b>Lake Herring</b> 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 <a href="http://ontario.ca/fishing">ontario.ca/fishing</a> or contact local MNRF 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
<b>Bowfin</b> 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
<b>Carp</b> 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°19'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

#### Camping on Crown Land and in Conservation Reserves

Most Crown land and conservation reserves are available year-round for personal, temporary use, at no cost.

Please note, however, that restrictions may apply in some areas as indicated by the posting of signs, or provided for in land use planning or management direction found at <http://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-use-policy-atlas> and <http://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-parks-and-conservation-reserves-planning>. In addition, some areas 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.

#### Canadian Residents

Canadian residents can camp on Crown land and conservation reserves for free up to 21 days on any one site in a calendar year. For the purposes of camping on Crown land and in a conservation reserve, a resident of Canada includes both Canadian citizens as defined in the Citizenship Act (Canada), as well as individuals who have resided in Canada for at least 7 months during the preceding 12 month period. You do not have to meet both requirements.

#### Non-Residents of Canada (see definition of resident of Canada above)

Non-residents of Canada 18 years of age or older, require a permit to camp on Crown land in Northern Ontario (north of the French and Mattawa rivers) and in a conservation reserve anywhere in Ontario. Non-resident Crown land camping permits are \$9.35 + tax per person per day and can be purchased online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/camping-crown-land>.

In addition to any local access restrictions, non-residents are also prohibited from camping in designated green zones 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 or can also visit <http://www.ontario.ca/page/camping-crown-land> to find a map of green zones. In some cases, non-residents do not need a permit, for example, if renting a camping unit (e.g., tent, trailer, etc.) from a person who conducts business in Ontario. There are additional situations that do not require a permit also listed at this website link.

#### Camping in Provincial Parks

For information on camping at a provincial park, visit the Ontario Parks website <http://www.ontarioparks.com>. Camping fees may apply.

#### Restrictions on Sport Fishing Licences for Non-Residents of Canada

Holders of non-Canadian resident recreational fishing licences who are camping on Crown land in Fisheries Management Zones (FMZs) 2, 4, 6 and parts of FMZ 5, may not take fish in excess of the conservation catch and possession limits. Non-Canadian resident anglers 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, Zones 2 and 4, that affect non-Canadian resident fishers (see exceptions for Zones 2, 4 and 5).

**BE FireSmart®**



[ontario.ca/fireprevention](http://ontario.ca/fireprevention)

**It's wildfire season, don't be the reason.**

Fresh fish cooked over an open fire, there's nothing quite like a shore lunch. Unless it turns into a wildfire!

Anglers, remember to put your shore lunch fire out. A wildfire can affect fish and wildlife habitat along a shoreline and can be very expensive to control.

**If you have a shore lunch fire, remember the rules:**

- Build the fire on bare soil or rock in a location sheltered from the wind.
- Make sure the fire is a safe distance from all flammable material, including overhanging branches.

- Keep the fire small and tend it at all times.
- Most importantly, put the fire out when you are done. Soak it with water, stir the ashes and soak it again. Repeat until the ashes are cold to the touch.

For more information, contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Fire Office.

## 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 aquatic invasive species, 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 live into any waters. Additionally, Grass Carp, Bighead Carp, Black Carp, Silver Carp and all species of snakehead may only be possessed, transported or released if they are dead and eviscerated (gutted).

### 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

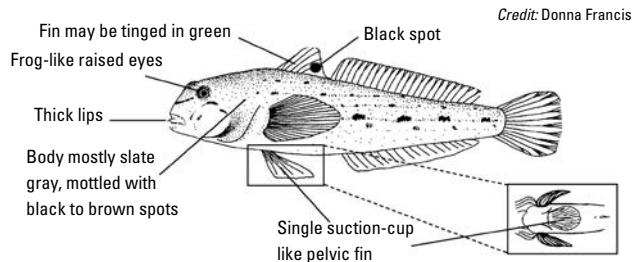
Never release or flush pets, plants or water from aquaria, backyard ponds or water gardens. It is illegal and can harm the environment. If you have an unwanted aquarium pet, you can return it to a local pet store, donate it to a school or contact the Fish Rescue Program at 519-771-3474.

### CRAYFISH

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

### ROUND GOBY

Round Goby have become widely introduced in southern Ontario and have negative impacts on native fish. 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 as it cannot be released alive into any waters.
- Always dispose of unwanted bait and the contents of bait buckets 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 illegal 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](http://www.invasivespecies.com).

### INVASIVE SPECIES ACT, 2015

The Ontario Invasive Species Act, 2015, came into force in November 2016. The new act aims to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species that negatively impact Ontario's biodiversity. For more information, please visit [www.ontario.ca/invasivespecies](http://www.ontario.ca/invasivespecies).

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.

Anglers are asked not to move bait from the VHS Management Zone or Lake Simcoe Management Zone to areas outside the Zones.

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.

More information is available at [ontario.ca/fishing](http://ontario.ca/fishing) or call the Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940.

# REPORT ASIAN CARP

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invasive Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711 |  Ontario