

## 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](http://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.**

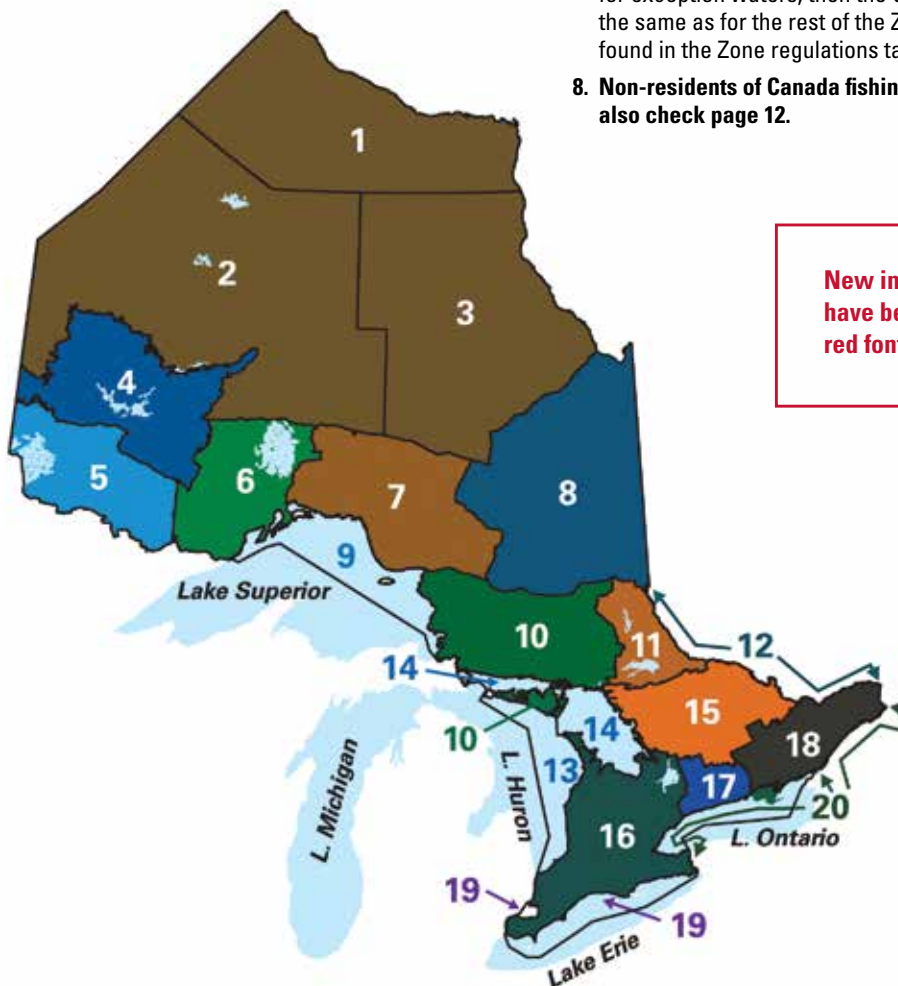
### THEN YOU MUST

**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.**

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Cover photo credit: Julie Ritchie

## 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](http://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](http://ontario.ca/fishing) or local MNRF offices.

Find the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at:  
[ontario.ca/mnrf](http://ontario.ca/mnrf)

Visit the ministry's fishing website:  
[ontario.ca/fishing](http://ontario.ca/fishing)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

One of Ontario's most popular outdoor activities for residents and visitors alike is recreational fishing. The province has been blessed with over a quarter of a million lakes and innumerable rivers and streams, which means there are fishing opportunities for every kind of outdoor enthusiast. An all-season pursuit that is available everywhere from city piers to remote fly-in resorts, angling has long been a source of enjoyment and satisfaction to millions.

The benefits of fishing are numerous, including the chance to spend time together as families, developing an appreciation for the great outdoors, and getting away from everyday distractions. A great opportunity to encourage young people and new anglers to discover fishing without needing to buy a licence is the Family Fishing Weekend in February, which coincides with the Family Day long weekend from February 17 to 19, and the Family Fishing Week from June 30 to July 8.

Ontario is developing a new fishing and hunting licensing system as part of our ongoing commitment to improved customer service. In addition to providing a more user-friendly experience and enhanced search capabilities, the new system will be easier to navigate with fewer webpages and more flexible when adding or removing products from the shopping cart. The plan is to implement the new system in November 2018.

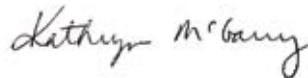
Putting the new licensing system in place also provided us with an opportunity to make updates to licensing regulations, which would come into effect in November 2018. All fishing licences and Outdoors Cards purchased before the new system is in place will remain valid until they expire. Some of the proposed regulatory changes would include replacing the different versions of the

Outdoors Card with one single card, and moving to a single Licence Summary that lists all fishing and hunting licences possessed by a card holder. Anglers would be able to print their Licence Summary in the comfort of their own home or at one of the many licence issuer locations across Ontario.

The Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account, which receives revenue from licence fees, royalties and fines, provides more than \$71 million each year toward protecting the future of fish and wildlife. This funding supports such projects as fisheries assessments, stream rehabilitation and fish stocking across the province from Kenora to Cornwall, and from Point Pelee to Moosonee.

The ministry continues to upgrade and improve Fish ON-Line, its electronic guide to fishing in Ontario. In addition to providing information on over 16,000 waterbodies, Fish ON-Line can even tell you where to get a licence, find the type of fish you want to catch, and learn what lakes the ministry is stocking with fish.

Each of us has a role to play in keeping the province's world-class recreational fisheries sustainable and healthy. Please familiarize yourself with the Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary and follow the rules. In respecting the natural environment and each other, we help to make Ontario a wonderful place to get outside and appreciate Ontario's fisheries resource.



Honourable Kathryn McGarry  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

### Our Cover

Fishing is a great way to spend family time on the water. Morgan McNevin caught this bass on a fishing trip with her dad, Steve, and sister, Olivia, last summer on Roblin Lake, part of the Lake Ontario watershed in eastern Ontario.

The ministry's Lake Ontario Management Unit is working hard to make sure such angling opportunities can continue. The unit is part of an international team that includes scientists and stakeholders on both sides of the lake, all working to maintain and improve the fishery. Among other things, the unit gathers data on the health and diversity of Lake Ontario fish. It looks at the big picture, studying such things as predator-prey relationships; year class strength; and the stomach contents, age and growth of Lake Ontario fish. The unit has been instrumental in providing a world-class fishery for over 40 years. Its work is closely linked to the recreational fishery through the support of the Fisheries Management Zone 20 council, as well as angling clubs and individuals from around the lake.

The dollars anglers and hunters invest in Outdoors Cards and licences go into Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account. This account partly funds the staff time needed to collect data in support of fisheries management.



The Fish and Wildlife Program has a new look! You will see the distinct design of our new visual identifier on our publications, programs, services, and digital platforms. This new look will increase the visibility of our program, make our materials easily identifiable and help you to connect our many initiatives.



Under our new branding, we will effectively communicate key findings and initiatives, like our Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account, with a view to increasing engagement and demonstrating how your licence dollars are going toward improving hunting and fishing opportunities.

### 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.