

How to use this summary

For recreational fishing purposes, Ontario is divided into 20 Fisheries Management Zones. 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 by reviewing the **Recreational Fishing Licence Information** section (page 6).
2. Carefully read the **General Fishing Regulations** (page 10) and **Bait, Invasive Species and VHS** (page 19) sections. Here you will find information that applies to fishing in all Zones, including the following:
 - Glossary of Terms
 - General Prohibitions
 - Provincial Possession Limits
 - Catch and Retain Rules
 - Transporting and Packaging Fish
 - Ice Fishing and Huts
 - Non-Angling Methods of Fishing
 - Boundary Waters
 - Crown Land Camping Regulations
3. Using the **Fisheries Management Zones Map** (page 5), determine the Zone in which you plan to fish. For a more detailed map, see the Zone section to identify the Zone's boundaries.
4. At the start of each Zone, the **General Information** section indicates regulations and information that are applicable to the Zone. Regulations are then broken down into five distinct categories. The following categories and descriptions will assist you in identifying the regulations that are applicable to your waterbody:
 - Zone-wide Seasons and Limits**
 - Defines the season and limits for all species present in the Zone. Unless otherwise stated in the species or waterbody exceptions, these seasons and limits apply to all waterbodies within the Zone.
 - Species Exceptions**
 - If a waterbody's limits and/or seasons for a particular species are different from the rest of the Zone, this will be indicated in the Species Exceptions.

Additional Fishing Opportunities, which provide anglers with increased limits and/or extended seasons, are also included as Species Exceptions.

Waterbody Exceptions

- Some waterbodies have regulations that are unique to them and very different from other waterbodies in a Zone. In many cases, these waterbodies have a combination of various regulations including species exceptions, bait restrictions, gear restrictions and/or fish sanctuaries. Where applicable, these waterbodies are indicated in the Waterbody Exceptions and highlighted under the General Information at the beginning of each Zone.

Bait Restrictions

- There are some areas and waterbodies within the province where the use and/or possession of live bait is prohibited. Where this is the case, these areas and waterbodies are indicated in the Bait Restrictions section. Zone-wide Bait Restrictions in Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 are indicated in the General Information section.

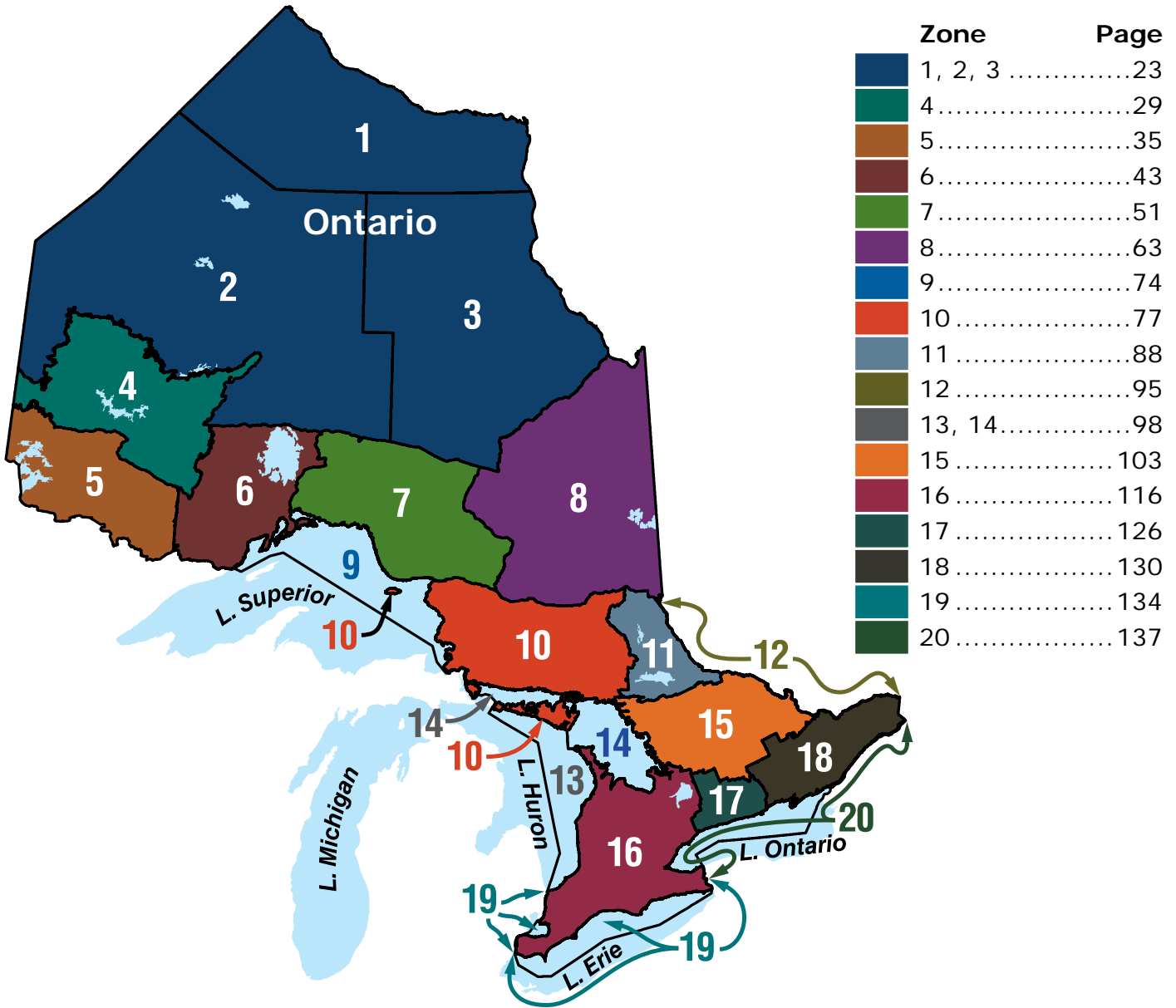
Fish Sanctuaries

- Fish sanctuaries include waterbodies or portions of a waterbody where no fishing of any kind is permitted for all or part of the year. Where applicable, these areas and waterbodies are indicated in the Fish Sanctuaries section.

It is important to note that some waterbodies listed as Additional Fishing Opportunities in Zones 5, 10, 11 and 15 may also be listed under Bait Restrictions and/or Fish Sanctuaries. In all other Zones, waterbodies are only listed under one section.

5. If you are a non-Canadian resident fishing in northwestern Ontario, there are additional regulations that are applicable to you. Refer to the **General Fishing Regulations** section for more information.

New regulations and information in the 2019 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary have been highlighted in bold red font for your convenience. Fishing Regulations Summary 2019



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


















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.
- Put the fire out. Soak it with water, stir the ashes and soak again until the ashes are cold to the touch.

ontario.ca/fireprevention



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Cover photo: MNRF staff. Assessment work in the Great Lakes is done to understand the diversity and health of fish populations. This Largemouth Bass taken from Toronto Harbour by staff is evidence of the high quality fisheries in and around Ontario's urban centres. Back in the water it went!

All proceeds from the sale of advertisements appearing in this summary support fish and wildlife management programs in Ontario. The Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry neither endorse products or services offered in advertisements nor accept any liability arising from the use of such products or services.

This summary is meant as a convenient reference only, and is neither a legal document nor a complete collection of the current laws. For details on the current rules, see the federal *Fisheries Act*, *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*, *Ontario Fishery Regulations* and *Variation Orders*, and *Species at Risk Act*, as well as the provincial *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and regulations, *Invasive Species Act*, and *Endangered Species Act*. The maps in this summary are intended as a guide only, with more detailed maps of Zone boundaries available at ontario.ca/fishing or local MNRF offices.

Message from the Minister

Recreational fishing is one of the most popular outdoor activities for residents of Ontario, as well as for visitors to the province. A four-season pursuit that appeals to both young and old alike, it is an exciting and challenging tradition with a long and storied history. Ontario has been blessed with over a quarter of a million lakes and countless streams and rivers, which means the angling opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts are almost endless.

Fishing is a great way to spend time together as families and can help promote a lifelong interest in nature and the outdoors. The ministry is pleased to provide four special opportunities to introduce new anglers and young people to fishing without needing to buy a licence. The Family Fishing Weekend, which coincides with the Family Day long weekend from February 16 to 18, 2019, and the Family Fishing Week, which runs from June 29 to July 7, 2019, are two such opportunities. New for 2019, people will also be able to fish without needing to purchase a licence on the weekends of Mother's Day, from May 11 to 12, 2019, and Father's Day, from June 15 to 16, 2019. In addition, participants in the ministry's Learn to Fish program can fish on the day of their instruction without buying a licence.

The annual Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary is one of the helpful tools that Ontario anglers are encouraged to use when fishing in the province. A number of format and design features of the summary have been changed for 2019 to make it more accessible for people with disabilities and the general public. These include the use of a larger font for text, more detailed maps, a new layout and other improvements. Ontario is committed to removing barriers to those with disabilities so they can participate in recreational fishing as well as access goods, services and facilities.

Ontario is planning to honour past and present members of the Canadian Armed Forces, who have sacrificed so much for the people of Ontario and Canada. Work is under way to amend fishing regulations so veterans and active Canadian Armed Forces members who reside in Ontario can enjoy free recreational fishing by early 2019 without having to buy a fishing licence. This change is a small token of appreciation for those who gave and continue to give so honourably with their service.

Ontario's new Fish and Wildlife Licensing Service was launched in November 2018 as part of Ontario's commitment to improved customer service. The new mobile-friendly service is easier to navigate and gives users more flexibility. To find out more, visit ontario.ca/outdoorscard.

Fish stocking remains a priority with an average of eight million fish of 12 different species being raised and stocked into more than 1,200 waterbodies each year, including the Great Lakes. More than 500 of these waterbodies have extended open seasons or increased possession limits. Within the summary, these lakes are referred to as Additional Fishing Opportunities and exist in most Fisheries Management Zones throughout the province. To make it easier for anglers to take advantage of these opportunities, the geographic information describing the location of the lakes has been updated.

We can all do our part to ensure the province's recreational fisheries remain healthy and sustainable. Please follow the rules described in this summary, and respect the environment and each other. As we work together, we can help make Ontario a great place to get outdoors and to enjoy all that our bountiful natural resources have to offer.

Honourable John Yakabuski

Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry