

## Recreational Fishing Licence Information

**Ontario has introduced a new Fish and Wildlife Licensing Service. Please read the following section carefully as there are new rules and regulations for anyone fishing in Ontario.**

Most people require a Recreational Fishing Licence or deemed licence to legally fish in Ontario. You must carry your Outdoors Card or Temporary Outdoors Card accompanied by a valid Recreational Fishing Licence or Licence Summary whenever you are fishing. If requested, you must present these documents to a conservation officer. An **Outdoors Card** is a plastic, wallet-sized card valid for three calendar years and used for administration purposes. In addition to your Outdoors Card, you will need to carry the following when you are fishing, depending on when you purchased your fishing licence.

If purchased before November 19, 2018, and valid throughout the 2019 and/or 2020 calendar year:

- **Fishing Licence:** Yellow plasticized paper indicating that it is a Sport or Conservation Fishing Licence. The box printed on the back of your Outdoors Card indicating a 3-year fishing licence is also valid.

If purchased after November 25, 2018:

- **Licence Summary:** A document that lists all valid fishing and hunting licences. The Licence Summary can be either a printed copy or saved as a digital format. The box printed on the back of your Outdoors Card indicating a 3- or 1-year fishing licence is also valid.

The province of Ontario sells two different types of Recreational Fishing Licences.

- **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. In

this summary, C refers to limits under a Conservation Fishing Licence (e.g., C-2 = catch and possession limit of 2).

For more information on purchasing an Ontario fishing licence, visit [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard), or call 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940.

### Residency Definitions

**Ontario Resident:** A person whose primary residence is in Ontario and has lived in Ontario for a period of at least six consecutive months during the twelve months immediately before applying for a licence.

**This also includes a member or civilian employee of the RCMP or armed forces of Canada, or their immediate family, who is stationed and resides in Ontario for at least one month.**

**Canadian Resident:** A person who is not an Ontario resident, whose primary residence is in any part of Canada and has lived in Canada for a period of at least six consecutive months during the twelve months immediately before applying for a licence.

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

### Deemed Licences

Some Ontario and Canadian residents qualify to use other documents instead of purchasing and carrying an Outdoors Card and Recreational Fishing Licence. Catch and possession limits for a Sport Fishing Licence apply in these situations. A person listed below may engage in fishing provided that they carry a licence, permit, certificate or identification card issued by a federal, provincial or territorial government of Canada that indicates their name and date of birth, and meet the following criteria:

1. Individuals who are under 18 or 65 years of age or older.
2. Individuals who have been issued an accessible parking permit under the *Highway Traffic Act*. A valid permit, black

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and white photocopy or printed version of the accessible parking permit are also required to be carried.

3. Individuals who require the direct assistance of another person to fish and to follow applicable laws due to a disability defined in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. The accompanying person does not require a fishing licence if they are only assisting, but must have a licence if they wish to engage in fishing.
4. Individuals who have been issued a national identity card by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). Government issued identification is not required when carrying a CNIB national identity card.

Work is underway to amend fishing regulations so veterans and active Canadian Armed Forces members who reside in Ontario can enjoy free recreational fishing by early 2019. For more information on this initiative please call the Natural Resources Information and Support Centre at 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940.

### Family Fishing Opportunities

Ontario and Canadian residents are also provided four opportunities throughout the year to fish without having to purchase a fishing licence. These dates include:

- Ontario Family Day Weekend (February 16-18, 2019)
- Mother's Day Weekend (May 11-12, 2019)
- Father's Day Weekend (June 15-16, 2019)
- The week of Canada Day (June 29 to July 7, 2019)

Government issued identification is required and anglers must follow catch and possession limits for Conservation Fishing Licences. For more information on these fishing opportunities, contact the Natural Resources Information and Support Centre or visit [ontario.ca/page/licence-free-family-fishing](http://ontario.ca/page/licence-free-family-fishing) or call 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940.

### 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 Outdoors Card and 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 conservation officers. 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 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.

### Non-Canadian Residents

Anyone who is not an Ontario or Canadian resident is considered a non-Canadian resident for the purposes of fishing licence regulations. Most non-Canadian residents require an Outdoors Card and Recreational Fishing Licence to fish in Ontario, including

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those 65 years of age or older. The following exceptions apply:

- Non-Canadian residents under 18 years of age may fish without an Outdoors Card and licence if accompanied by a person who has a valid Ontario Recreational Fishing Licence. Any fish kept are part of the catch and possession limit of the person who holds the licence. Alternatively, non-Canadian residents under 18 years of age may purchase an Outdoors Card and Recreational Fishing Licence to have their own limits.
- **Non-Canadian youth, under 18 years of age, attending an organized camp that provides meals and accommodates a minimum of five campers may use a government issued photo identification (or a photocopy) together with a camp identification card as a deemed licence to fish. The camp identification card must state the name and location of the camp, the name and date of birth of the camper and the dates that the camper is at the camp. These campers must follow conservation limits.**

Non-Canadian residents camping on Crown lands in northwestern Ontario are subject to Conservation Fishing Licence limits. See Crown Land Camping Regulations for more details.

### Applying for your Outdoors Card and Licence

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 or have additional questions related to your Outdoors Cards, call 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940. The following are rules about Outdoors Cards:

- You must notify the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry within 10 days of any changes to your name, contact information, address and/or residency. You can update your information by calling the Natural Resources Information and

Support Centre, or online at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard).

- Your Outdoors Card, Recreational Fishing Licence or Licence Summary is not transferable to another person – they provide privileges to you alone.
- All fishing licence products are issued on a calendar year basis from January 1st to December 31st.
- 1 year fishing licences expire December 31st of the year printed on the licence, while 3-year fishing licences expire December 31st of its third year.
- It is an offence to attempt to obtain more than one Outdoors Card or provide false information when applying for your Outdoors Card, Recreational Fishing Licence or Licence Summary.
- If your Outdoors Card, Recreational Fishing Licence or Licence Summary is lost or stolen, you can reprint your Licence Summary online at no charge and/or order a replacement plastic card for a fee. You can also visit a local issuer or ServiceOntario Centre that offers MNRF services for replacement.
- New anglers are able to purchase their first Outdoors Card online at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard).
- Outdoors Cards are not required when purchasing a 1-day licence.

### Licence Fees

The 2019 annual licence fees are in effect from January 1 to December 31, 2019. For the location of the licence issuer nearest you, visit [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard) or call 1-800-387-7011 or 1-800-667-1940.

The following licences are available on the internet or through all licence issuers. 3-year Sport and Conservation Fishing Licences can also be purchased through our automated telephone licensing line when renewing your Outdoors Card (1-800-288-1155). All products with a fee are subject to HST.

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- **Outdoors Card** \$8.57 for Ontario, Canadian, and Non-Canadian residents.
- **Ontario Residents**
  - 3-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$79.71)
  - 1-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$26.57)
  - 3-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$45.21)
  - 1-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$15.07)
  - 1-day Sport Fishing Licence (\$12.21)
- **Canadian Residents**
  - 3-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$158.43)
  - 1-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$52.81)
  - 3-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$95.79)
  - 1-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$31.93)
  - 1-day Sport Fishing Licence (\$14.46)
- **Non-Canadian Residents**
  - 3-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$236.07)
  - 1-year Sport Fishing Licence (\$78.69)
  - 3-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$149.13)
  - 1-year Conservation Fishing Licence (\$49.71)
  - 1-day Sport Fishing Licence (\$23.36)
  - 8-day Sport Fishing Licence (\$51.38)
  - 8-day Conservation Fishing Licence (\$30.02)

# Has your Outdoors Card expired?

More than 358,000 Ontario resident fishing and hunting Outdoors Cards expired on

## December 31, 2018

If your Outdoors Card has expired, renew it today:

- **Online:** [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard)
- **By phone:** 1-800-288-1155
- **In person:** at a licence issuer





## Glossary of Terms

### **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 and open all year seasons. Often these additional opportunities are provided through fish stocking.

### **Aggregate (Combined) Limits** –

Aggregate or combined 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 are referred to as combined limits and apply to Walleye and Sauger, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, and Black and White Crappie.

### **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). In addition to the aggregate limit, you may not exceed individual species limits where they are otherwise stated.

**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 single or multi-pointed hook dressed with lightweight silk, wool, fur, feathers or similar material, but does not include other types of artificial lures or organic bait. Wet flies, dry flies and streamers are all considered artificial flies.

**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** – Bait includes live or dead animals, plants or parts. There are some areas of the province where the use of any form of bait is not allowed. See Bait (see page 19) for more details.

**Baitfish** – There are 48 species of fish that may be used as bait. See Bait (see page 19) for more details.

**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. If you catch a fish after reaching the daily catch or possession limit for that species, the fish must be released immediately. If the limit is zero, anglers may practice catch and release only, and any fish caught must be released immediately.

**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 waterbodies or for particular species, there are exceptions to the general regulations established for each Zone. These include species exceptions (e.g., size, limits, seasons), Waterbody Exceptions (e.g., a combination of species exceptions, fish sanctuaries, gear or bait restrictions), bait restrictions and fish sanctuaries.

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, upon leaving Ontario, take no more than the designated limits of fish.

**Fish Sanctuaries** – 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 (FMZ) for which there are general regulations that establish seasons, limits and size limits for popular fish species.

**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 and for ice fishing in many areas. 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, prohibited size, exceed 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 (e.g., goby), which should be destroyed and not released back into any waters.

**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.

## General Fishing Regulations

**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. Fish in holding boxes are part of your catch and retain or possession limits. Always monitor fish in your possession; allowing fish to waste is an offence.

**Livewell** – A livewell is a compartment designed to keep fish alive. 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 aerated at all times when live fish are being held in it. Livewells should be drained and emptied of all contents, including live fish, before being transported overland.

**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 (e.g. Rock Bass) have a year-round open season for angling.

**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.

**Sunfish** – For the purpose of this summary, Sunfish includes Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Northern Sunfish, Orange-spotted Sunfish and their hybrids.

**Units of Measure** – Provincial regulations use the metric system. Converting from metric units to imperial units can be done using the following conversion ratios:

- 1 centimetre (cm) is equal to 0.39 inches
- 1 metre (m) is equal to 3.28 feet
- 1 kilometre is equal to 0.62 miles

### General Prohibitions

**In Ontario, it is illegal to:**

- Transport live fish, other than baitfish, taken from Ontario waters or to transfer or stock any live fish or spawn into Ontario's waters without a special licence to transport or stock fish.
- 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 or fish eggs. Only holders of commercial fishing or commercial bait licences may sell their catch.

## Commercial Fisheries in Ontario

Commercial fisheries are part of Ontario's heritage, providing healthy food, creating hundreds of jobs and contributing to the province's economy. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is committed to managing for sustainable fish populations that support subsistence, recreational and commercial fisheries. Interference with commercial fishing in any way, including tampering with fishing gear, nets, and traps, is prohibited under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. To report a natural resources violation, call the MNRF TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667.

[ontario.ca/page/commercial-fishing](http://ontario.ca/page/commercial-fishing)



## General Fishing Regulations

- Possess or take fish with a spring gaff, snare, snagger or spear gun within 30 m 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. A spear is only permitted within 30 m of any waters when it is being used in accordance with Non-angling methods of capturing fish (page 16).
- Catch or retain a fish by impaling or snagging it with a hook through any part of the body other than the mouth. Fish hooked in this way must be released immediately.
- Take fish by any means other than angling, spear, bow and arrow, dip or seine net or baitfish trap. See Non-angling methods of capturing fish (page 16) and Bait (page 19) for more information.
- Use artificial lights to attract fish except when fishing for Rainbow Smelt, Lake Whitefish or Lake Herring (cisco) using a dip net or 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 of a pound net or cage in which fish are held for culture.
- Fish in any manner within 23 m downstream from the lower entrance to

any fishway, obstruction, or leap.

- Abandon fish or permit the flesh to spoil, if the fish is suitable for human consumption.

## Provincial Possession Limits

While the regulations for a specific 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.

- Atlantic Salmon - 1
- Aurora Trout - 1
- Brook Trout - 5
- Brown Trout - 5
- Channel Catfish - 12
- Crappie - 30
- Lake Trout - 3
- Lake Whitefish - 25
- Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass combined - 6
- Muskellunge - 1
- Northern Pike - 6
- Pacific Salmon - 5
- Rainbow Trout - 5
- Splake - 5
- Walleye or Sauger combined - 6
- Yellow Perch - 10





## General Fishing Regulations

### 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.
- 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 and Smallmouth Bass (combined) are held at any one time for fish caught under a Sport Fishing Licence.
- The Conservation Fishing Licence catch and retain limits for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass (combined) 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 and possession limit.

### Transporting Sport Fish

It is illegal to stock or transport live fish, other than baitfish, without a permit. Fish transported overland should be dead and transported on ice, not in a livewell filled with water. 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, but must be readily measurable at all times if they are from waterbodies where size limits exist, 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

### Tips for Packaging Fish

1. All fish must be packaged so that they can be easily counted and identified, not just those with limits.
2. 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 container or a large lump frozen together in bags.
3. Since anglers often transport or store various species of fish, it is 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 (cisco)) may require additional identifying features such as the head.
4. 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.
5. If a conservation officer inspects fish captured through sport fishing and you are transporting them improperly packaged your catch may be seized for evidence, you could get a ticket and be fined and/or you may have to attend court close to where the inspection took place, which may be far from where you live.
6. The following pictures demonstrate examples of improperly packaged fish since they are frozen in a clump, cannot be identified or counted and no skin is attached to the fillets.

## General Fishing Regulations



7. The following pictures demonstrate examples of properly packaged fish since they can be identified and counted easily, the skin is attached to the fillets and they are not frozen in a large clump.



### Bullfrogs

Holders of valid Recreational Fishing Licences may catch and retain Bullfrogs during the open season. 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. You must be within 60 m 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 of any waters.

### Ice Hut Registration

Ice fishing huts must be registered online ([ontario.ca/icefishing](http://ontario.ca/icefishing)) if they are being used in the following Zones and must be removed by the dates indicated below. 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. If your ice hut already has a registration number then you do not need to re-register. You do not need to register an ice hut that is a tent made of cloth or synthetic fabric that has a base area of seven square metres or less when erected.

- March 1 - Zones 17 and 20
- March 15 - Zones 14, 16, 18, 19 and 12 (below Timiskaming Dam)
- March 31 - Zones 9, 10, 11, 15 and 12 (above Timiskaming Dam)
- Removal dates and registration do not apply in Zones 1-8 and 13

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

**New Ice Fishing Hut?**  
Register online at  
[ontario.ca/icefishing](http://ontario.ca/icefishing)

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

## General Fishing Regulations

### Non-Angling Methods of Capturing Fish

Ontario and Canadian 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. If the Zone is not identified below, then there is no open season for that species.

**Dip nets:** may be no more than 183 cm on each side if angular, or 183 cm in diameter if circular.

**Seine nets:** may be no more than 10 m long and 2 m high.

**Spears:** cannot be possessed on or within 30 m of the edge of any waterbody except when fishing for carp and White Sucker as described on this page.

**Bow and arrow:** includes all longbows. Longbows are considered a firearm under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

People fishing with a longbow who handle or discharge it without due care for people or property may be liable to a fine and/or imprisonment. Any injury requiring treatment by a physician that is caused by the discharge of a firearm while it was possessed for fishing must be reported to a conservation officer.

### Bowfin

**Season:** May 1 to July 31 in Zones 10, 13, 14, 19

**Method:** Bow and arrow during daylight hours only

**Limit:** No limit

### Common Carp

**Season:** May 1 to July 31 in Zones 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20

**Season:** second Saturday in May to July 31 in Zone 17

**Method:** Bow and arrow, spear, and dip net during daylight hours only

**Limit:** No limit

### Lake Herring (cisco)

**Season:** October 1 to December 15 in Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15 (in designated waters only in Zones 11 and 15; contact local district office for details)

**Method:** Dip net day or night

**Limit:** No limit

### Lake Whitefish

**Season:** October 1 to December 15 in Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 (in designated waters only in Zones 11 and 15; contact local district office for details)

**Method:** Dip net day or night

**Limit:** Same as angling limit in Zone

### Rainbow Smelt

**Season:** March 1 to May 31 in Zones 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20

**Season:** second Saturday in May to May 31 in Zone 17

**Method:** Dip net and seine day or night

**Limit:** No limit

Be careful when cleaning Rainbow Smelt and do not rinse or dump entrails into a lake or river as fertilized eggs can easily invade new waters.

### White Sucker

**Season:** March 1 to May 31 in Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (except Algonquin Park), 16, 18, 19, 20

**Season:** second Saturday in May to May 31 in Zone 17

**Method:** Bow and arrow, spear, and dip net during daylight hours only

**Limit:** No limit

## General Fishing Regulations

### 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.

### 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.).
- Lake St. Francis (45°08'N., 74°25'W.) and the waters of the St. Lawrence River between the easterly side of the dam at the Robert H. Saunders Generating Station and the Ontario-Quebec boundary.
- Lake Timiskaming (47°20'N., 79°30'W.).
- Ottawa River (45°34'N., 74°23'W.) lying south of the dam situated in Temiscamingue, Quebec.
- Raven Lake (48°03'N., 79°33'W.).

### Ontario-Manitoba Boundary

Anglers may fish in the following waters with either an Ontario Resident Fishing Licence or Manitoba Resident Fishing Licence and must follow conservation or sport possession limits applicable within their respective province.

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

### Crown Land Camping Regulations

Most Crown land and Conservation Reserves are available year-round for personal, temporary use, at no cost. Restrictions may apply in some areas as indicated by the posting of signs, or land use planning or management direction, which is accessible on [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) by searching the "Crown Land Use Policy Atlas" or the "Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Planning" webpages. 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 or a Conservation Reserve, a resident of Canada includes both Canadian citizens as defined in the *Citizenship Act (Canada)* or individuals who have resided in Canada for at least 7 months during the preceding 12 month period.



# THIS just got easier

Now you can buy your non-resident of Canada **Crown land camping permit** online, before leaving home.

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





## General Fishing Regulations

### Non-Canadian Residents

Non-Canadian residents 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-Canadian Resident Crown land camping permits are \$9.35 (plus tax) per person per day. In addition to any local access restrictions, non-Canadian residents are also prohibited from camping in designated green zones in Northern Ontario at any time of year. For more information on purchasing a permit, a map of green zones in Northern Ontario and other restrictions and exemptions related to Non-Canadian Resident Crown land camping, visit [ontario.ca/page/camping-crown-land](http://ontario.ca/page/camping-crown-land).

### Fishing Restrictions for Non-Canadian Residents

Holders of non-Canadian resident fishing licences who are camping on Crown land in Zones 2, 4, 6 and the portion of Zone 5 that lies outside of the Border Waters Area, may not take fish in excess of the conservation catch and possession limits. Holders of non-Canadian resident fishing licences camping on Crown land in the part of Zone 5 identified as the Border Waters Area must follow the Zone 5 regulations. For more information on the boundary of these waters and applicable fishing limits, contact the nearest ministry office or visit [ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-zone-5-fmz-5](http://ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-zone-5-fmz-5).

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 Waterbody Exceptions for Zones 2, 4 and 5 for details.



# Learn to fish

## 3 Ways to Learn:

- 1 Take a Learn to Fish Program  
[ontario.ca/learntofish](http://ontario.ca/learntofish)
- 2 Participate in Ontario Family Fishing Events  
[www.ontariofamilyfishing.com](http://www.ontariofamilyfishing.com)
- 3 Borrow fishing equipment for free  
[www.tackleshare.com](http://www.tackleshare.com)

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



# Bait, Invasive Species and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

## Bait

Only individuals with a valid bait licence can sell baitfish and leeches. The capture and use of live bait is not allowed in some waters. Anglers with a valid Recreational Fishing Licence may capture their own bait for personal use as follows:

### Baitfish

**Limit:** 120 (includes those caught or purchased)

Only Ontario and Canadian resident anglers may capture baitfish using the following methods:

- One baitfish trap no more than 51 cm long and 31 cm 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 on each side if angular or 183 cm 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

**Limit:** 120 (includes those caught or purchased)

Only Ontario and Canadian resident anglers may capture leeches using the following methods:

- Only one leech trap no more than 45 cm 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

**Limit:** 36

- Must be used in same water body where caught.
- May not be transported overland.
- May be captured using methods outlined for baitfish above.

## Frogs

**Limit:** 12

- Only Northern Leopard Frogs may be captured or used as bait.

## Salamanders

- May not be captured, imported, or used as bait in Ontario.

It is illegal to bring any crayfish, salamanders, live fish or leeches into Ontario for use as bait. It is also 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, including depositing bait bucket contents on ice.

## Permitted Baitfish

Bait regulations protect rare and endangered species, conserve biodiversity and prevent the spread of invasive species. 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, including:

### Minnows

- 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

## Bait, Invasive Species and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

- 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 Logperch

- Blackside Darter
- Fantail Darter
- Iowa Darter
- Johnny Darter
- Least Darter
- Rainbow Darter
- River Darter (northwestern Ontario only)
- Tessellated Darter
- Logperch



## If you catch a tagged fish...

**Please record and report**

- species of tagged fish
- location of capture
- tag number(s) and colour
- date and method of capture
- did you keep the fish?
- length of fish from head to tip of tail

Report by phone, mail or email at [mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca](mailto:mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca) – or drop off the tags and info to the MNRF office nearest you. Provide your name and contact information.

## Invasive Species

Invasive species are often spread unknowingly. As an angler or boater, you should always take precautions to help stop invasive species. Ontario's *Invasive Species Act* has regulated a number of species to prevent the introduction and spread of species that negatively affect Ontario's biodiversity. Federal regulations also prohibit the introduction of all aquatic species to an area where they are not naturally found.

For more information on invasive species laws and regulations in Ontario, visit [ontario.ca/invasivespecies](http://ontario.ca/invasivespecies). To report a sighting call the Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711 or visit [eddmaps.org/Ontario](http://eddmaps.org/Ontario).

## Prohibited Species List

In Ontario, it's illegal to import, possess, deposit, release, transport, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade these species:

### Fish

- Asian carps (Bighead, Black, Grass and Silver Carp)
- Snakeheads (all species in the snakehead family)
- Stone Moroko
- Wels Catfish
- Zander

### Invertebrates

- Golden mussel
- Killer shrimp
- Common yabby (a crayfish)

## Plants

- Brazilian elodea (Brazilian waterweed)
- European water chestnut
- Hydrilla
- Parrot feather
- Water soldier

Additionally, it's against the law to possess, transport or release live Round or Tubenose Gobies, Rudd or Ruffe in Ontario or to import zebra or quagga mussels in Canada.

## Sale of Fish

Only dead and gutted Asian carps, Zander and/or snakeheads may be imported, transported, bought or sold.

## Boating

If boating where European water chestnut or water soldier are found, you must:

- Avoid boating through the infested area
- Prevent spreading these plants to another waterbody by removing them from your boat, motor and trailer before travelling over land
- Dispose of plants so they don't end up back in the waterbody

In general, avoid running boats through aquatic plants as propellers can break aquatic plants loose and spread invasive species. Always clean, drain and dry your boat, motor and trailer when travelling between waterbodies.

**REPORT INVASIVE  
SPECIES**

Online: [EDDMapS.org/Ontario](http://EDDMapS.org/Ontario)

Phone: [Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711](tel:1-800-563-7711)





# Bait, Invasive Species and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

## Fishing

If you happen to catch a prohibited fish, invertebrate or plant, you must immediately destroy it in a way that ensures it cannot reproduce or grow. Always use baitfish on the permitted species list and dispose of unwanted bait and the contents of bait buckets on land or in the trash. It is illegal to dump the contents of bait buckets into any waters or within 30 m of any waters.

## Round Goby

Round Goby have become widely established in southern Ontario and Lake Huron and have negative impacts on native fish. It is illegal to use gobies as bait or have live gobies in your possession. Anglers should know how to identify Round Goby since these aggressive fish are easily caught by hook and line. If you catch a Round Goby (or any invasive species) it should be destroyed as it cannot be released live into any waters. Report any new sightings.

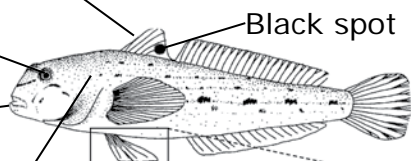
### Goby

Fin may be tinged in green

Frog-like raised eyes

Thick lips

Body mostly slate gray, mottled with black to brown spots



Single suction-cup like pelvic fin

*Credit: Donna Francis*

## Help Slow the Spread of VHS

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



To help reduce the spread of VHS, anglers are asked to buy or harvest their bait from the area where it will be used.

More information is available at [ontario.ca/page/viral-hemorrhagic-septicemia-vhs](http://ontario.ca/page/viral-hemorrhagic-septicemia-vhs) or call the Natural Resources and Information Support Centre at 1-800-667-1940.



## GREAT FISHING STARTS HERE

Visit [OntarioParks.com](http://OntarioParks.com) to plan your day trip or book a campsite.

   @OntarioParks

 Ontario

# 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?



## 22%

### Regulation

15 Fisheries Management Zone councils supporting sustainable management of Ontario fisheries

## 19%

### Science

Surveyed 762 lakes over the last five years to better understand the health of our lakes and fisheries resources

## 18%

### Enforcement

217,180 contacts made by Conservation Officers

## 17%

### Licensing

Making it easier to renew fishing licences online

## 16%

### Conservation

Approximately 8 million fish weighing over 200 metric tons stocked in more than 1,200 waterbodies each year

## 8%

### Education

Over 7,900 individuals participated in the Learn to Fish program last year



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

