

ANGLERS' HANDBOOK

and 2020 Summary of Regulations





Conservation Officers have authority to carry side arms, make arrests, and lay charges. They can also seize vehicles, equipment, weapons, and illegal fish & game.

We are Conservation Officers—Nova Scotia's game wardens. Here to protect you, and your natural resources.

Call 1-800-565-2224 to report illegal activity

novascotia.ca/nse/conservation-enforcement



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Please Take Note

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of the anglers of Nova Scotia and has no legal force or effect. Consult the Wildlife Act, the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, and the Federal Fisheries Act and regulations when interpreting and applying the law. These regulations can change at any time.





ON THE COVER: ROSE AND EWAN SHOWING OFF THEIR CATCH.

Photo by: Daniel MacNeil

Message from Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture



Sportfishing is a popular outdoor experience that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. The industry generates more than \$66 million annually and helps create prosperous rural communities. Approximately 65,000 resident and non-resident anglers took part in sportfishing in 2019.

As an angler myself, I am committed to seeing this industry grow to reach its full potential. We are continuing our efforts to attract anglers from the rest of Canada and abroad and we're positive that those who visit our province to fish will enjoy the sport just as much as we do. We are working with fishing guides, accommodations providers and tourism associations to create fishing packages and a new website that will showcase the fantastic fishing and outdoor activities

we have to offer the world. At the same time, we are also continuing to recruit children through the Learn-to-Fish program and are encouraging women to participate through the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program.

Opportunities for growth in this industry are dependent upon proper management of our resources. Our anglers have told us that conservation is important to them and that they regularly practice catch-and-release and limit their harvest. This clear vision for sustainability is key for managing both resources and growth and will help to protect the fishery for future generations.

I am very proud to announce that through contributions to the Sportfishing Habitat Fund, our anglers have helped to restore 1.2 million square metres of fish habitat and have helped support other worthy projects, such as the West River Sheet Harbour lime project and boat launches.

We are very excited to work with the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and other partners on a long-term restoration plan for trout and salmon on eight major rivers along the South Shore and Eastern Shore which have been negatively impacted by acid rain.

I would like to thank all the other volunteer organizations that have helped deliver promotional programs, stocked fish, collected broodstock, and those who help with our management projects. The department and I really appreciate all the hard work you do all year round.

This year, the free sportfishing weekends will be held on June 6 to 7, and February 13 to 15, 2021. I encourage you to introduce a friend, family member or a visitor to the excitement of sportfishing.

Whether you are an experienced angler or a beginner, I urge you to put safety first. Please use personal floatation devices when you are on or around the water, check the conditions before heading out and use common sense. Doing so will ensure that you have nothing but good experiences as you enjoy some of the best sportfishing in the country. Enjoy the fishing season.

Regulation Changes for 2020

The regulation changes for 2020 are primarily focused on standardizing and presenting a consistent approach to fishries management. Included in this year's changes are:

Location, County	Changes or additions Change of upstream boundary for Apr 15 opening to the bridge at Avondale.			
Barneys River, Pictou Co.				
Piper Lake, Pictou Co.	Closed to all angling.			
Medway Lakes Wilderness Area Annapolis Co.	Creation of a new Special Trout Management Area. Bag limit two (2) speckled trout.			
Change of Boundary for smallmouth bass management	Change and extend the current boundary beyond Halifax County. The new management boundary is to the west of the following line: Highway 102 from its junction with Highway 104, to Highway 118 to Highway 107 to Highway 328 (Ross Road) near Upper Lawrencetown.			
Lakes in RFA 1, 2, 3 and 6	Change of season for smallmouth bass and chain pickerel to coincide with the season for trout (Sep 30).			

The following lakes are be impacted by this change:

- · Lake Ainslie. Inverness Co.
- · Blacketts Lake, Cape Breton Co.
- · Angevine (Dewars) Lake, Cumberland Co.
- · Big Lake, Cumberland Co.
- Mattatall Lake, Cumberland Co.
- · Round Lake, Colchester Co.

- Lake Egmont, Halifax Co.
- · Porters Lake, Halifax Co.
- · Loon lake, Halifax Co.
- · Miller Lake, Halifax Co.
- Black Lake, Pictou Co. (winter pickerel)
- West Branch Lake, Pictou Co. (winter pickerel)

Winter fishery for smallmouth bass

Lakes to the west of the new management boundary which are open for chain pickerel in winter will also be open for smallmouth bass. Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils (RFACs). "See page 56 for more info on RFACs.

Proposed Changes for 2021

The following regulation changes are being considered for 2021. Several were initiated by anglers and sportfishing organizations through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils (RFACs). See page 56 for more info on RFACs.

Location	Proposed changes			
Beaver River, West River System, Antigonish Co	Fly fishing only downstream from the outlet of MacEacherns Lake, including the Cameron Lakes, to the confluence with the Ohio River, Antigonish.			
Mill Lake and Cox Flowage, Halifax Co.	Open Season for Landlocked Salmon. (Apr 1 to Sep 30).			
Reduced bag limit on Lake (Grey) Trout	Reduce the bag limit of Lake (Grey) Trout from five (5 fish per day to zero (0) fish per day.			

CATCH & RELEASE



Conservation minded anglers are becoming more aware of the increased pressures and stress on Nova Scotia's fisheries resources. Studies have shown that adopting proper catch and release techniques, and careful handling helps to ensure fish health and survival.

- Using artificial flies and lures increases the chances of survival. Live bait is often swallowed deeply which increases the risk of injury to the fish. Cut the line if a hook is swallowed deeply, the fish will work the hook out with time.
- 2) Using circle hooks or barbless hooks can reduce harm to released fish.
- 3) Do not play a fish until exhaustion. Use equipment heavy enough to play a fish rapidly.
- 4) Keep air exposure to a minimum. Avoid beaching a fish as this will remove the protective coating and can lead to infection later.
- 5) Do not lift the fish out of the water by the tail. This can damage the spine of the fish.
- Avoid squeezing the fish between the pectoral (chest) fins, this is where the heart is situated.
- 7) Do not touch the gills and avoid placing fingers under the gill plate.
- 8) Take the time to revive the fish. Support the fish by placing a hand under the belly and keep the fish underwater. If in moving water, face the fish into the current while continuing to support it. Keep a relaxed grip on the tail and when it is ready, the fish will swim away.

Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas have been used to reduce harvest and improve angling opportunities for both trout and smallmouth bass. Anglers have reported that some speckled trout fisheries have changed and overfishing is one of the factors believed to be responsible for declines in fisheries in some areas. Other important factors include habitat loss and competition with aquatic invasive species such as smallmouth bass and chain pickerel.

Studies in Nova Scotia and in other provinces and states indicate that special management regulations have been successful in improving recreational fisheries by increasing the number of larger fish caught by anglers. Since the establishment of the Special Management Area initiative, provincial catches, catch and releases, and licence sales have increased. Regulations in Special Management Areas may affect bag limit, season length, length limit of fish retained, and gear type. Sea run trout fisheries seem to benefit

most from changes in regulations and the need for a consistent approach in regulation design has been requested by anglers. In response, the Inland Fisheries Division has implemented some changes to sea run trout fisheries that are currently under special management.

Anglers have identified potential locations for Special Management Areas through the Recreational Fishery Advisory Council process. Anglers who are interested in regulation changes or other issues related to management of fisheries are encouraged to participate in the Recreation Fishing Advisory Councils (see page 56 for more info).

For additional information, please review the Trout Management Plan and additional reports and publications available on our website www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing or by contacting the Inland Fisheries Division, (902) 485-5056



Photo: Matt Dort

Seasons, Bag Limits, and Size Limits

For all species, the possession limit is the same as the bag limit, regardless of the number of days of fishing. The daily bag limits apply in the aggregate. This means that the number of fish that may be retained in any one day applies regardless of the number of areas fished. Caught and released fish are not considered as part of the bag limit, except for Atlantic Salmon. All season dates are inclusive.

SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, LAKE (GREY) TROUT AND RAINBOW TROUT

Season: Apr 1 to Sep 30

Sep 1 to Sep 30, No speckled trout may be retained

Bag limit: 5 fish, of any one species or any combination of trout species. Note: Lake (grey) trout are found in Sherbrooke Lake, Lunenburg County and Dollar Lake, Halifax County. Trout found in other lakes are normally speckled (brook) trout.

EXCEPTIONS:

Specific bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions, and seasons are in effect on several waters that are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area. From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and the use of natural bait is prohibited for all trout species in all waters, including Special Management Areas, exceptions are listed under Recreational Fishing Areas.

SMALLMOUTH (BLACK) BASS

The season and bag limit for smallmouth bass varies in each RFA. Please refer to the season and bag limits listed specific to each RFA.

LANDLOCKED SALMON CLOSED ALL YEAR.

Except for the following waters and dates: **Apr 15 to Sep 30,** Gabarus Lake, Cape Breton County.

OPEN ALL YEAR, Goose Harbour Lake, Guysborough County.

Apr 1 to Sep 30, Lake Charles, Lake Williams, Lake Thomas, Fletchers Lake, Shubenacadie Grand Lake, Little Grand Lake, Scraggy Lake, Lake Charlotte, Halifax County. **Bag limit: 2 fish.** Minimum size limit, not less than 35 cm (13.8 in.), measured from the end of the nose to the fork of the tail (see diagram page 56). All salmon over 63 cm (24.8 in.) must be released. It is no longer required to tag landlocked salmon between 48cm and 63cm.

WHITE PERCH, YELLOW PERCH, BROWN BULLHEAD, AND WHITE SUCKER.

Open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. Extended seasons specific to perch are listed in each Recreational Fishing Area. **Bag limit: 25 fish.**

CHAIN PICKEREL

The season for chain pickerel varies in each RFA. Please refer to the season listed specific to each RFA. In areas open for chain pickerel, **Baq limit: 100 fish**

LAKE WHITEFISH

The open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. **Bag limit: 8 fish.**

PRIVATE PONDS AND U-FISH OPERATIONS

There are no bag limits, season restrictions, gear or size regulations for fish caught in a legally constructed private pond or a licenced commercial U-fish operation; however, a receipt from the pond operator is required during transportation and storage of the fish.

ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The management of marine and sea going (anadromous) Atlantic salmon, striped bass, eel, shad, mackerel, sturgeon, gaspereau, Atlantic whitefish and smelt is the responsibility of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture manages all other freshwater fish species. Enforcement of sportfishing and salmon fishing regulations falls under the jurisdiction of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Nova Scotia Environment. (see page 12).

ATLANTIC SALMON

The *Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations* is available upon request or with the purchase of an Atlantic salmon licence.

Wam Water Protocol

Please visit the following link www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries/Salmon to see if there are any closures in effect on the Margaree River. The purpose of the protocol is an in-season conservation measures for Atlantic salmon during environmentally stressful conditions in the Margaree River.

For changes to angling seasons, please contact the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at (902) 221-7264.

STRIPED BASS Gulf Region

The tidal and non-tidal waters of the Northumberland Strait from the New Brunswick border to Cape North.

At the time this handbook was printed, information on management measures and seasons for Southern Gulf Striped bass was not available. Please consult the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Gulf Region's Internet page for details about Striped bass regulations at www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries/Striped-Bass Recreational-Fisheries or search by keywords: "DFO Gulf Region recreational fisheries".

Maritimes Region

The inland and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, from Cape North Maritimes Region along the Atlantic coast and the waters of the Bay of Fundy, to the New Brunswick border. **Bag limit: 1 fish,** with a minimum size limit, not less than 68 cm (26.8 inches) overall length, not more than 150 cm (59.1 inches) overall length, measured from the tip of nose to the tip of tail. Tidal waters open all year,

except closed Apr 1 to Jun 30 on the Annapolis River from Hebbs Landing near the confluence of Ray Brook (grid reference 0313214 4964708, map 21A/14) upstream to the highway bridge at Lawrencetown. The open season for striped bass in inland waters corresponds to the open season for sportfish (salmon, trout, and smallmouth bass) in those waters.

Shubenacadie River from a point 200 m upstream from the Highway 102 bridge in Enfield, N.S., to a point 25 m downstream from the Highway 2 bridge in Enfield. Closed to all angling for all species April 1 to May 9.

From May 10 to Jun 10, the daily fishing quota for striped bass in the waters of Grand Lake and the Shubenacadie River downstream to its confluence with the Stewiacke River, and the Stewiacke River downstream from the highway bridge (Pollock Bridge) in Stewiacke East to its confluence with the Shubenacadie River, will be zero (0) fish per day (hook and release only).

From May 10 to Jun 10, only artificial fly, and unbaited lure with a single hook may be used when angling in the waters of the Shubenacadie River downstream from the CN Railway Bridge at East Milford to its confluence with the Stewiacke River, and Stewiacke River downstream from the highway bridge (Pollock Bridge) in Stewiacke East to its confluence with the Shubenacadie River.

SHAD

No closed season for angling in tidal waters. For inland (non-tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass.

Bag limit: 5 fish.

GASPEREAU

No closed season for angling in tidal waters. For inland (non- tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. Bag limit applies to netting and angling. For dip netting, no license is required, but yearly and weekly times apply. Bag limit: 20 fish.

SMELT

Except in waters closed to angling for all fish species, tidal waters are open Aug 1 to May 31 (closed Jun 1 to Jul 31).

Kennetcook River, Gaspereau River, Meander River, Herbert River, St. Croix River and Avon River, Hants County, dip netting permitted Apr 1 to Jun 15 except closed Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Other areas, dip-netting permitted Apr 1 to Jun 15 except closed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Fishing for smelt by dip net and spear is prohibited from Jan 1 to Dec 31 (all year), in all inland and tidal waters flowing into Jeddore Harbour and Musquodoboit Harbour, Halifax County, Lingan Bay, Cape Breton County, Bain's Brook, at New Campbelton, Victoria County, and Morrison's Brook at New Harris Forks, Victoria County, Bag limit: 60 maximum possession, not more than 30 of which may be harvested by dip net. Grand Lake, Halifax County, open Jan 1 to Sep 30, bag limit reduced to 24 smelt by angling.

FFI

No closed season in tidal waters. For inland (non- tidal) waters, the open season coincides with an open season for a sportfish: salmon, trout, or smallmouth bass. The waters along the

Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence from the New Brunswick border to Cape North, minimum size limit, not less than 53 cm (21 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. The inland and coastal waters of Nova Scotia, from Cape North along the Atlantic coast and the waters of the Bay of Fundy, to the New Brunswick border, minimum size limit, not less that 35 cm (13.8 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. **Bag limit: 10 fish.**

NOTE:

Special provisions and winter seasons may be in place for trout, white perch, yellow perch and chain pickerel in selected waters. Consult each Recreational Fishing Area for expanded angling opportunities for some of these species. The Datum type used for grid references to identify boundaries for specific fishing areas is NAD 27.

Inland waters: The boundary between inland and tidal waters is defined under Schedule II of the Maritime Provinces Fishery Regulations. A list of the inland water boundaries for the major rivers in Nova Scotia can be found at www.novascotia.ca/fish/. For the locations of other inland water boundaries not on the list, please consult the local office of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

General Regulations

GUIDES

Non-residents do not need a guide to fish in Nova Scotia. For a list of guides, visit our website: www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing

FISHING METHODS AND EQUIPMENT No one is allowed to:

 possess fish that were caught by any person while fishing for recreational purposes or sport purposes and that have been skinned, cut, packed or otherwise dealt with in such a manner that (1) the species cannot be readily

- determined; (b) the number of fish cannot be readily determined; (c) where weight is used to determine catch limits, the weight of the fish cannot be readily determined; and (d) where size limits are applicable, the size of the fish cannot be readily determined.
- possess live fish of any species except under circumstances outlined in the Live Fish Possession Regulations http://www.novascotia.ca/JUST/Regulations/regs/fcrlivefish.htm.

- use an artificial light or flame of any kind (including light emitting lures), for fishing in non-tidal waters, or while fishing for salmon in tidal waters
- use a set-line or trawl for fishing in non-tidal waters.
- fish in non-tidal waters by jigging, snaring, spearing, or using a bow and arrow, or assist in landing any fish caught by such means.
- use dynamite or any other explosive for fishing or destroying fish, or use anything that might cause unnecessary destruction of fish.
- use a gaff of any kind to land a sportfish caught by angling.
- angle for Atlantic salmon except with a single barbless artificial fly.
- angle in non-tidal waters with more than 1 fishing line or with a fishing line having more than 3 separate hooks.
- angle in tidal waters for sportfish with more than 1 fishing line or with a fishing line to which more than 3 hooks are attached.
- angle in tidal waters for non-sportfish with more than 5 fishing lines or with a fishing line to which more than 6 hooks are attached.
- keep any sportfish if it is hooked in any part
 of the body other than the mouth. The fish
 shall immediately be returned alive to the
 water from which it was taken.
- angle in non-tidal waters unless an open season for sportfish is in effect in those waters
- angle for sportfish during that part of the day beginning 2 hours after sunset and ending 2 hours before sunrise. This does not apply when angling for smallmouth bass or brown trout during any of the night fishing seasons listed for each Recreational Fishing Area.

- Fish caught out of season must be released immediately and with the least amount of harm.
- fish with an artificial fly that has more than 2 hooks.
- fish for, kill, or retain any spent or slink salmon or salmon fry, parr, or smolt (see drawings page 33).
- fish within 23 m (26 yds) downstream of any fish ladder or leap.

ACCESS TO WATER

Certain rights and responsibilities of anglers and protections for landowners are provided in the Angling Act. Any resident of the Province has the right to go on foot along the banks of any river, stream or lake, upon and across any uncultivated lands and Crown lands for the purpose of lawfully fishing with rod and line in such rivers, streams or lakes. Uncultivated land means land that is in its natural wild state, and includes also land that has been wholly or partially cleared, but is otherwise in its natural state. The rights of anglers under the Act therefore does not extend to cultivated land such as farmland. The rights of anglers under the Act also does not in any way limit or restrict the right of any owner or occupant of land to compensation for actual damages caused by any person going upon or across such lands for the purpose of angling and shall not be construed to give the right to build any fires upon such lands.

SPECIAL NOTES

No one is allowed to fish within the posted boundaries of a licenced aquaculture site or a privately owned fish pond without permission of the owner. Angling is not permitted in many municipal watersheds or water supply areas. Please check with your local municipal authority before venturing into these areas.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Any fish taken by recreational fishing is for domestic use only and may not be sold or bartered
- No person who is fishing for personal use or sport purposes may waste any fish that is suitable for human consumption.

Licences

You are required to purchase a general fishing licence or a salmon fishing licence to angle in the waters of Nova Scotia, with the following exceptions:

If you are required to possess a licence, you must carry it with you while fishing.

- No licence is required to angle in tidal waters; however, seasons and bag limits are still in effect. (See details for each Recreational Fishing Area, and Seasons, Bag Limits, and Size Limits (pages 6-8), for more information.) The boundaries of tidal waters are defined by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and are listed on the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture website. Check each Recreational Fishing Area for tidal water closures.
- No licence is required to fish in legally constructed private ponds or U-fish operations (commercially licenced aquaculture operations), nor do seasons or bag limits apply. Permission to fish must be obtained from the owner.
- Residents 65 years of age and older may purchase a General Fishing Licence at a reduced rate.
- Residents and non-residents under the age of 16 years do not require a licence.
- Residents and non-residents with permanent disabilities may qualify for a General Fishing Licence at no cost which is available from Department of Lands and Forestry offices.

- No licence is required for recreational dip-netting of smelt or gaspereau. Seasons and bag limits are still in effect.
- Lost licences can be replaced at your local Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry office. 2020 fishing licences are valid from the date of issue to March 31, 2021.
- A provincial fishing licence is not valid in a national park. A special licence may be required. Check with a federal park warden or contact one of the national parks listed on page 12 and 13.
- It is an offence not to have your signature and address on a licence
- Non-residents may purchase a full season licence or any number of one-day general fishing licences.

YOUTH LICENCES

Residents and non-residents age 16 and 17 years are eligible for a general or salmon fishing licence at no cost.

Licence Stubs

You are required by law to return your completed licence stub at the end of the fishing season. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture relies upon anglers to provide the information needed to manage fish populations.

The information on the licence stubs is used to indicate overall trends in fish catches around the province. It is important that you send in your licence stub even if you did not fish, so that we can get an accurate picture of the status of sportfish catches. http://novascotia.ca/fish/secure/sportfish-rptcard.asp

Nova Scotia Recreational Fishing Areas

To allow management on a regional basis, the province is divided into six Recreational Fishing Areas (RFA's). Each RFA has a Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council that is open to the public and consists of anglers and volunteer sportfishing organizations with participation from other government agencies. The Inland Fisheries Division meets annually in each RFA to present research and discuss and develop regulations, enhancement opportunities and other sportfishing initiatives. (see page 56 for more info).

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Inland Fisheries Division (Provincial)

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0 Phone: (902) 485-5056, Fax: (902) 485-4014

www.novascotia.ca/fish/ E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca

Report illegal fishing activities to Nova Scotia Environment at 1-800-565-2224, Fisheries and Oceans Canada at 1-800-565-1633, or Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Department of Environment (Head Office)

Cumberland

Hants

Barrington Tower 1894 Barrington Street Suite 1800

PO Box 442

Halifax, NS B3J 2P8 Phone: (902) 424-3600

Fax: (Main) (902) 424-0501

Kings

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

http://www.inter.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Maritimes/ Recreational-Fisheries/Home

Phone: (902) 221-7264

Maritime Region

Conservation and Protection Detatchments Yarmouth Phone: (902) 742-0885

Sydney Phone: (902) 564-7211

Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic SitePO Box 236, Maitland Bridge,
NS BOT 1B0

(902) 682-2770



Queens

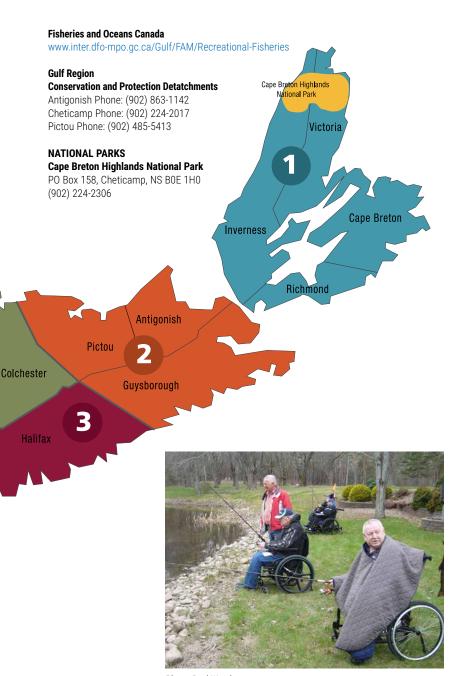


Photo: Paul Wood



The Nova Scotia Salmon
Association's Adopt A Stream
program supports and
celebrates the outstanding
commitment of local



community groups, river associations, First Nation communities and Indigenous organizations to restore and protect our waterways – and sends a million thanks to the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation for its title sponsorship between 2010-2019.

In those 10 years -

- 226 projects
- 1,370,430 m² restored aquatic habitat
- 755 km improved fish passage
- ❖ 68,685 trees planted
- 849 field jobs
- 4 69,000 volunteer hours



At the very heart of our efforts are anglers who contribute to the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund when they purchase recreational fishing licenses.

For more information about the program, current projects and how to get involved, visit adoptastream.ca and nssalmon.ca







Cape Breton, Inverness, Richmond and Victoria Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 1

SEASONS SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Inland Waters and the Bras d'Or Lake - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas except the Cape Breton Highlands Management Area and those waters with extended seasons for trout. The use of natural bait is permitted year round in Bras d'Or Lakes

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

CAPE BRETON COUNTY

The following waters are open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

Belfrv Lake.

Catalone River, downstream from the outlet of Belle Lake, including Catalone Lake.

Gabarus Lake.

Gaspereau River, downstream from the outlet of Gaspereau Lake.

Gerratt Brook, downstream from the outlet of Kelly Lake.

Lorraine Brook, downstream from the outlet of MacVickers Lake.

Mira River, downstream from the highway bridge at Victoria Bridge.

Salmon River, downstream from the stillwater at Silver Mine

INVERNESS COUNTY

The following waters are open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

Margaree River, downstream from the highway bridges at East Margaree.

Southwest Margaree River, downstream from the Scotsville bridge to the bridge at Margaree Forks.

Northeast Margaree River, (see Special Trout Management Area page 17).

Skye River, downstream from the lower East Skye Glen Bridge to the Highway 105 Bridge.

RICHMOND COUNTY

The following waters are open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

Framboise River, including Middle River Framboise, Northeast Framboise River, and Bagnells River.

Grand River, downstream from the highway bridge at the head of Loch Lomond.

L'Archeveque Lake.

Marie Joseph Brook, downstream from the outlet of Upper Marie Joseph Lake.

River Inhabitants, downstream from the Highway 105 bridge at Kingsville.

River Tillard, downstream from the bridge at Sporting Mountain.

Rory's Pond.

St. Esprit Lake.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Ingonish River, downstream to the Cabot Trail Highway bridge, including tributaries, open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

Cape Breton Highlands National Park

A National Parks general fishing permit or National Parks salmon licence as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office. (see page 13).

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

MARGAREE RIVER, INVERNESS COUNTY

Upstream from the highway bridges at East Margaree to the bridges at Big Intervale on the Northeast Margaree and to the bridge at Margaree Forks on the Southwest Margaree and the Gallant River upstream from its confluence with the Margaree River to the highway bridge on the East Margaree Road.

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons: artificial fly only. During the artificial fly season, angling is only permitted between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm for all species.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) greater than 35 cm (13.8 in).

Northeast Margaree River, upstream from the bridges at Big Intervale. CLOSED ALL YEAR FOR ALL SPECIES.

LAKE O'LAW BROOK, INVERNESS COUNTY

Upstream from its confluence with the Northeast Margaree River to the outlet of First Lake O'Law. Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

RIVER DENYS, INVERNESS COUNTY

Including tributaries, **Denys Basin** and **Indian Pond**, downstream to a line drawn true north from Martin Point on the western end of Boom Island to grid reference 653148 5084898 on the opposite shore across the Boom Channel.

Apr 1 to Apr 30, closed to all angling for all species.

May 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

TROUT BROOK, INVERNESS COUNTY

From a point 96 m upstream from the Highway 395 Bridge to a point 137 m downstream from the same bridge lying between two markers set 45m apart in Lake Ainslie.

Apr 1 to Aug 31, artificial fly only, **bag limit three (3) trout**, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Upstream waters including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR FOR ALL SPECIES.

GRAND RIVER. RICHMOND COUNTY

From the highway bridge at the community of Grand River, upstream to the highway bridge at the outflow of Loch Lomond (including Black River Pond), not including tributaries.

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to May 31, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Jun 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, Bag limit one (1) trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. Bag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow), which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Downstream from the highway bridge at Grand River to a line drawn between Red Head (grid reference 684988 5052445) and Black Point (grid reference 687315 5053249),

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. Bag limit one (1) trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. Bag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow), which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly.

NORTH ASPY RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the Bay St. Lawrence Highway bridge to the Cape Breton Highlands Park boundary. Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to May 31, bag limit five (5) trout.

Jun 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly only.

BADDECK RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the 105 Highway bridge including the North Branch Baddeck River, Peter's Brook and Canes Pond.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) trout may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly only.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

MIDDLE RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the Highway 105 Bridge to the Cabot Trail Highway Bridge near Finlayson, including tributaries except Indian Brook.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) trout may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in), single hook lure or artificial fly only.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Upstream from the Cabot Trail Highway Bridge near Findlayson, including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR FOR ALL SPECIES.

NORTH RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the tidal pool to a point at the benches marked by a fishery officer, including tributaries. Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Sep 30, artificial fly only, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Jul 15 to Aug 31, upstream from the Little Falls pool, as marked by a fishery officer, to the Benches, as marked by a fishery officer, **closed to all angling for all species**.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. Bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Waters upstream from the benches marked by a fishery officer including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR FOR ALL SPECIES.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS

This management area is the area enclosed by the following boundaries: 105 highway from the St. Anns exit (exit 11) to the Hunters Mountain exit (exit 7); Cabot Trail Highway from the Hunters Mountain exit (exit 7) to the Victoria/Inverness County line; Victoria/Inverness County line to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park boundary; Cape Breton Highlands National Park boundary to the Cabot Trail Highway at Ingonish; The Cabot Trail Highway at Ingonish to the 105 Highway at St. Anns (exit 11).

OPEN ALL YEAR, bag limit ten (10) speckled trout, natural bait allowed all season.

Note: The following waters are not included in the Cape Breton Highlands Management Area.

Baddeck River, North Branch Baddeck River, Peter's Brook and Canes Pond, not including tributaries to those rivers. Barachois River, not including tributaries. Indian Brook, downstream from the confluence of the east and west branches, not including tributaries. Ingonish River, not including tributaries. North River, downstream from a point at the benches marked by a fishery officer, not including tributaries. Middle River, including tributaries. Grant's Pond.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND SPECKLED TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Petite Lac, Inverness County. Levers Lake, # 20 Dam Pond, Cape Breton County.

Eco-Trail Pond, Isle Madame, Richmond County.

Dalem (Round) Lake, Victoria County.

Grant's Pond, Victoria County.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND BROWN TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR, ANY GEAR.

The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, Oct 1 to Mar 31. Minimum size limit for rainbow trout is 35cm (13.8 in), ALL YEAR. The tidal waters of the Bras d'Or Lakes, St. Patrick's Channel, St. Andrews Channel, and Sydney River (between the dam and a line drawn between Point Edward and Liscomb Point), NOT INCLUDING WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

Salmon River, Cape Breton County, downstream from the highway bridge near Rock Elm to its confluence with the Mira River, Apr 15 to Aug 31.

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

(1) waters of the Baddeck River upstream from the Hwy 105 bridge; (2) Northeast (inside) of the East Bay Sandbar; and (3) waters upstream from Black River bridge in Dundee; (4) waters upstream from Crowdis Bridge in river Deny's Basin; and (5) waters upstream from Mackenzie Brook Bridge near South Side Basin of River Deny's which remain closed to all angling for all species, Jan 1 to Mar 31.

Waters inside the Boom Channel including River Denys and all of River Denys Basin are closed to trout angling, Oct 1 to Mar 31, CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES Apr 1 to Apr 30.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit twenty-five (25) bass. Blacketts Lake, Cape Breton County. Lake Ainslie, Inverness County.

CHAIN PICKEREL

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit 100 fish. Blacketts Lake, Cape Breton County.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See page 6)

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AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO NATIVE SPECIES SUCH AS SPECKLED TROUT

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

LIVE POSSESSION AND ILLEGAL INTRODUCTIONS

The intentional or accidental introduction of fish or other aquatic organisms from one lake or stream to another can negatively affect local fish populations through competition, disease, or genetic changes. Under the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, no one is allowed to possess live fish in Nova Scotia unless authorized under the Live Fish Possession Regulations or release live fish into the waters of the province except under licence by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada

LIVE BAIT

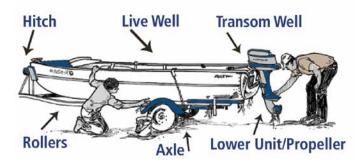
Unwanted fish species can be accidentally spread by releasing unused live bait therefore threatening local fish populations. Do not discard bait unless it was caught from the water body in which you are fishing. It is illegal to use certain species as bait or to possess them for bait (whether alive or dead). These include chain pickerel smallmouth bass, goldfish, yellow perch, brown bullhead, white perch or any fish not taken from provincial waters.

INFORMATION FOR BOATERS

Some aquatic species can survive more than two weeks out of water. Adopting the following recommendations will help reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species.

- CLEAN your boat, motor, trailer, and boating equipment such as anchors and fishing gear, centerboards, rollers, and axles. Remove any animals and plants that are visible before leaving any waterbody. Rinse your boat and equipment that normally gets wet with hot tap water (greater than 40°C), or spray your boat and trailer with high pressure water (250 psi).
- DRAIN water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land immediately before leaving the waterbody.
- DRY your boots, waders, boat, tackle, trailer, and other boating equipment in the sun for 5 days (recommended) to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch.

WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



REPORTING INVASIVES

Report illegal introductions or sightings of introduced species by calling 902-485-5056 or 1-888-435-4040 or email XMARinvasive@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca or inland@novascotia.ca. If possible please provide a date, location and picture.



Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 2

SEASONS SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.
Inland Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

ANTIGONISH COUNTY

The following waters are open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

Brierly Brook, downstream from the bridge on the Schoolhouse Road.

Pomquet River, downstream from the 104 Highway bridge.

Tracadie River, from the highway 4 bridge at Monastery to a point located 400m downstream, marked by a Fishery Officer.

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Country Harbour River, downstream from the highway bridge on the Borneo Road, including Country Harbour Lake to a point 300 m downstream of the Iron Bridge, open May 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to May 14.

Ecum Secum River, downstream from the outlet of Judd's Pool near New Chester, open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

Liscomb River, downstream from the outlet of Big Stillwater Lake, open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

Liscomb River, from a point 70 m upstream from the highway bridge at Liscomb Mills to a point 23 m downstream from the entrance to the fish ladder, not including tributaries, Jun 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

PICTOU COUNTY

The following waters are open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

Barney's River, downstream from the bridge at Avondale Crossing Road.

French River, downstream from the confluence of the East and West branches.

Piper Lake, closed to all angling, all year. River John, downstream from the confluence of the East and West branches including the Salmon Hole.

Sutherlands River, downstream from Park Falls.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/ OR SPECKLED TROUT

Open All Year. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31

Cameron Lake and Gillis Lake, Antigonish County. Goose Harbour Lake, McKeen Lake and Pringle Lake, Guysborough County.

Dryden Lake and Gairloch Lake, Pictou County.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

James River, Antigonish County, from the water supply dam at grid reference 568078, 5050765 downstream to its confluence with the West River, Apr 15 to Aug 31.

River John, Pictou County, from the West Branch Bridge downstream to the Welsford Bridge near Welsford, **Apr 15 to Aug 31**.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit twenty-five (25) bass. Lansdowne Lake and Middle River, including Middle River Reservoir, Pictou County.

CHAIN PICKEREL

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit 100 fish. Black Lake and West Branch Lake, Pictou County.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the following which are which are **OPEN ALL YEAR:**

Cameron Lake, Gillis Lake, Antigonish County, Goose Harbour Lake, McKeen Lake, Pringle Lake, Guysborough County. Gairloch Lake, Pictou County.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See Page 6)

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

GUYSBOROUGH (MILFORD HAVEN) RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Downstream from the bridge at West Interval to the Highway 16 bridge near Boylston.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

ST. MARY'S RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Upstream from the highway bridge at Sherbrooke to the 347 Bridge near Aspen on the East River, St. Mary's and upstream to the highway bridge at Glengelg on the West River, St. Mary's.

Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to Sep 30, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Upstream from the 347 bridge near Aspen on the East River, St. Mary's to the Guysborough County boundary and upstream from the highway bridge at Glenelg on the West River, St Mary's, to South Brook near Trafalgar:

Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. May 26 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Pools closed to all angling, Jun 15 to Sep 30, include: Cumminger Pool, Foot Bridge Pool, Ford Pool, Indian Man Pool, McKeen Pool, Silvers Pool, Sutherlands Pool, details of pool closures are available from DFO.

SALMON RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

From the outlet of Salmon River Lake downstream to its confluence with Chedabucto Bay.

Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, not including tributaries.

Jul 1 to Sep 30, downstream from a point 50 m below the Highway 16 Bridge at Cooks Cove, artificial fly only.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), of which only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly.

ST. FRANCIS HARBOUR RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

From the outlet of Goose Harbour Lake downstream to its confluence with Chedabucto Bay. Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit one (1) trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow) which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Single hook lure or artificial fly.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout, catch and release only, bag limit one (1) rainbow trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, barbless artificial fly only.

EAST RIVER. PICTOU COUNTY

From a line drawn from Dunbar Point to Pine Point (including Big Gut) upstream to the Springville Bridge on the East Branch, Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species. May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

From Springville Bridge on the East Branch upstream to and including Hunters Lake, and from the confluence of the West Branch upstream to the outflow of West Branch Lake. Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

WEST RIVER. PICTOU COUNTY

Downstream from the Highway 104 bridge, Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species. May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

WEST RIVER. ANTIGONISH COUNTY See map page 25

Beaver River, downstream from the outlet of MacEacherns Lake, including the Cameron Lakes to its confluence with the Ohio River, and the West River, downstream from the bridge at Addington Forks to a line drawn true north from grid reference 583545 5054009 at Williams Point to the opposite shore, Apr 1 to May 14, closed to all angling for all species. May 15 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

The **Ohio River**, downstream from the bridge at the outlet of St. Joseph Lake to the bridge on the West River at Addington Forks, **May 15 to Sep 30**, artificial fly only.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit one (1) trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit one (1) trout (brown or rainbow) which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.



SOUTH RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY See map above

From the bridge that marks the outlet of Loch Katrine (South River Lake) to the Sunrise Trail (old highway 104 bridge), Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species. Open Apr 15 to Oct 31. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit five (5) trout (brown or rainbow). Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, bag limit two (2) trout (brown or rainbow).

From the Sunrise Trail (old highway 104 bridge) to the Williams Point boundary of the West River Management Area and to the outflow of Antigonish Harbour, **Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species**.

Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, bag limit two (2) trout (brown or rainbow).

From the dam immediately upstream from Fraser's Mill Fish Hatchery downstream to the bridge over the Old Pinevale Road, CLOSED ALL YEAR.



Halifax and Lunenburg Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 3

SEASONS SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN TROUT, LAKE (GREY) TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal waters of Halifax County (Halifax Harbour and East) - Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Tidal waters of Halifax County (West of Halifax Harbour) and Lunenburg County - Apr 1 to Sep 30. Inland waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

From Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained and patural bait is prohibited in all

be retained and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except for waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE TO PROTECT ENDANGERED ATLANTIC WHITEFISH WHILE ANGLING OTHER SPECIES IN LUNENBURG COUNTY

The waters of Minamkeak Lake, Milipsigate Lake and Hebb Lake upstream from the dam at its outlet, including the waters joining these lakes but not including other tributaries to them except the waters of an unnamed tributary to Hebb Lake that are downstream from a straight line across that tributary from grid reference 374167 4909763 to grid reference 374183 4909763 as marked by a fishery officer. Angling season open only from Jul 1 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. Jan 1 to Jun 30 and Oct 1 to Dec 31, closed to all angling for all species.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Note: these lakes are open to white perch and yellow perch.

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Albro Lake, Lewis Lake and Round Lake at Jerry Lawrence Park, Maynard Lake, Penhorn Lake, First Lake, Cow Bay Pond, Halifax County. Beck Lake, Hutt Lake, and Sucker Lake, Lunenburg County.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31. Bag limit five (5) bass, except for waters referred to in the listings below: All waters east of the Highway 102 from Its junction with the Highway 104, to Highway 118 to Highway 107 to Highway 328 (Ross Road) near Upper Lawrencetown, CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following lakes: Lake Egmont, Porters Lake, Loon Lake and Miller Lake, Apr 1 to Sept 30.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Grand Lake (Shubenacadie), Halifax County, including those portions occurring in Hants County.

Morris Lake, Halifax County.

Big Mushamush Lake, Lunenburg County.

Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass,
maximum length 35cm (13.8 in.), except from

May 1 to Jun 15, no smallmouth bass may be
retained

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Dec 31. Bag limit three (3) bass.Banook Lake and Micmac Lake, Halifax County.

Note that all lakes with extended seasons for chain pickerel are also open for smallmouth bass. See list below.

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except for waters referred to in the listings below: All waters east of the Highway 102 from Its junction with the Highway 104, to Highway 118 to Highway 107 to Highway 328 (Ross Road) near Upper Lawrencetown, CLOSED ALL YEAR.

Lake Egmont, Halifax County. Apr 1 to Sep 30. Banook Lake, Micmac Lake, Red Bridge Pond, Grand Lake (Shubenacadie), Powder Mill Lake, Morris Lake, Russell Lake, Kinsac Lake, Fish Lake (near Oakfield), Bisset Lake, Beaver Bank Lake, Beaver Pond (near Kinsac Lake) and, Halifax County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31 except the following which are OPEN ALL YEAR:

Albro Lake, Lewis Lake and Round Lake at Jerry Lawrence Park, Maynard Lake, Penhorn Lake, First Lake, and Cow Bay Pond, Halifax County. Sucker Lake, Lunenburg County.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See Page 6)

ARTIFICIAL FLY ONLY

Fishing is permitted with artificial flies only in the sections of the following rivers during the times listed. Other methods are permitted during the remainder of the open season. If in doubt as to the extent of these restrictions, please contact the local Federal fishery officer.

HALIFAX COUNTY

Moser River, upstream from the highway bridge at Moser River, not including tributaries, May 26 to end of all fishing seasons.

Sackville River, from a point 50 m below the Shore Drive Bridge, near Bedford, upstream to a point 200 m upstream from the Lucasville Road Bridge, not including tributaries, Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons.

Little Sackville River, from the confluence with the Sackville River upstream to the outlet of Feely Lake, not including tributaries, Jun 1 to the end of all fishing seasons.

West River Sheet Harbour, from the concrete piers located downstream of the Highway 7 Bridge upstream to the Killag River, not including tributaries, May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.

LUNENBURG COUNTY

Gold River, from the highway 3 bridge upstream to the Larder River, not including tributaries, May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

HALIFAX COUNTY

East River Sheet Harbour from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada barrier dam upstream to Malay Falls, including tributaries, closed Apr 1 to Apr 14. East River Sheet Harbour, from the Powerhouse at Ruth Falls downstream 200m, including tributaries, closed Jun 1 to Sep 30. Ingram River, from a point 23 m downstream from the Highway 3 bridge to a point 23 m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR.

Kirby River, from a point 15 m downstream from the Highway 24 bridge to 15 m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, **closed Jun 1** to Sep 30.

West River Sheet Harbour, From the Highway 7 bridge downstream to the foot bridge, Closed to all angling for all species, Jun 15 to July 31.

Lake Echo, Halifax County. From the Highway 7 Bridge to a point 500 Meters downstream.

Closed May 21, 2020 at 6:00am to May 23, 2020 at 6:00.

LUNENBURG COUNTY

Gold River, from a point 200 m upstream from the Highway 3 Bridge upstream to the Larder River, including tributaries, closed Apr 1 to May 14.
Gold River, the Dipping Pool located between the Cable Pool and the Kill Devil Pool, including tributaries, closed May 15 to Aug 15.
Wallace Brook, from Petite Riviere at Crousetown to a point 180 m upstream, including tributaries, closed Apr 1 to Sep 30.



SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

EAST TAYLOR BAY LAKE, HALIFAX COUNTY

Including all lakes and tributaries flowing into East Taylor Bay Lake. Bag Limit two (2) speckled trout, Apr 1 to Aug 31. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

MUSQUODOBOIT RIVER, HALIFAX COUNTY. See map page 28

From the mouth of Musquodoboit Harbour to Chapel Island, Apr 1 to Apr 30, closed to all angling for all species. Open May 1 to Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31.

From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 Bridge to Chapel Island, Apr 1 to May 31, closed to all angling for all species. Open Jun 1 to Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31.

From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 Bridge (including Tom Vaughans Pool), upstream (including Bayer Lake) to a point 100 m above Crawfords Bridge, Apr 1 to Apr 30, closed to all angling for all species. Open May 1 to Sep 30, artificial fly only. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released. From a point 100 m above Crawfords Bridge upstream to the Hwy 224 Bridge in Upper Musquodoboit, Apr 1 to Apr 30, closed to all angling for all species. Open May 1 to Aug 31, any gear.

From the mouth of Musquodoboit Harbour upstream to the Hwy 224 Bridge in Upper Musquodoboit, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

LAHAVE RIVER, LUNENBURG COUNTY See map page 28

LaHave River from Silver Hill Brook upstream to the South end of Wentzells Lake, Apr 1 to May 25, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited. From May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons, artificial fly only. Bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

LaHave River upstream from north end of Wentzells Lake to south end of New Germany Lake, West Branch of the LaHave River to Rhynos Lake, North Branch of the LaHave River upstream from north end of Wentzells Lake to south end of Sherbrooke Lake, Apr 1 to May 25, any gear. May 26 to end of all fishing seasons, artificial fly only. LaHave River from Morgans Falls to a point 90 m downstream Apr 1 to May 25, any gear. May 26 to May 31, artificial fly only. Jun 1 to end of all fishing seasons, closed to all angling for all species.

Bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Note: Does not include lakes and tributaries. Wentzells Lake, Rhyno Lake, Indian Lake, Lake Peter, Lake William and New Germany Lake are not included in Special Trout Management Area.

Pools closed to all angling, Jun 15 to Oct 31, are: Cooks Falls, Veinotes Pool, Oak Run, Bruhms Bridge Pool, Dauphinees Run, Wentzells Eddy, Foot of Wentzells Lake, Cemetery Pool, Fancys Pool, details of pool closures are available from DFO.

PETITE RIVIERE, LUNENBURG COUNTY

From the Highway 331 Bridge upstream to Hebb Lake, not including Fancys Lake or tributaries. Apr 1 to Jun 14, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited. Jun 15 to end of all fishing seasons, artificial fly only. Bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS

The following lakes in Halifax County will be catch and release only: Birch Hill Lake, Blueberry Lake, East Duck Lake, Five Island Lake, Five Island Lake Run, Frederick Lake, Holland Marsh Lake, Hubley Big Lake, Jacket Lake, Lizard Lake, Sheldrake Lake and Woodens River (downstream from the outflow of Hubley Big Lake, including all lakes and tributaries). Single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.



Digby, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 4

SEASONS SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Inland and Tidal Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

First, Second, Third, and Fourth Christopher lakes, Queens County.

Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit two (2) trout. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

Big Meadow Brook, Tusket River, Yarmouth County. Upstream from Highway 203 near East Kemptville, Apr 1 to Sep 30. Catch and release only, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Everitt's Lake, Digby County.

Hidden Hills Lake and **Victoria Lake**, Queens County.

Beaver Dam Lake, Shelburne County.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

Mersey River, Queens County, downstream from Lake Rossignol to the dam at Cowie Falls, Apr 1 to Oct 31.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31, bag limit five (5) bass, except the Special Bass Management Areas and Extended Seasons.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Salmon River Lake, Digby County.
Ten Mile Lake, Little Ten Mile Lake, and the
Mersey River, Queens County.

Kemptback Lake, Ogden, Parr, and Petes Lakes and Lake Vaughan Reservoir, Yarmouth County.

Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35cm (13.8 in.), except from May 1 to Jun 15 no smallmouth bass may be retained.

Night fishing is only permitted during the open season in Salmon River Lake, Ogden, Parr, and Petes lakes and the Mersey River, downstream from Lake Rossignol to the dam at Cowie Falls.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Dec 31. Wentworth Lake, Digby County. Doctors Lake, Lake Milo, Middle Lake and Raynards Lake, Yarmouth County.

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except the following which are OPEN ALL YEAR:

Annis River and Kiack Brook, Yarmouth County, including all lakes and tributaries.

Walls Lake, The Ponds in Port Latour, Bakers Flats on Cape Sable Island, and Lake George, Shelburne County.

Louis Lake, Queens County.

Meteghan River, Digby County, including all lakes and tributaries

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See Page 6)

ARTIFICIAL FLY ONLY

Fishing is permitted with artificial flies only in the sections of the following rivers during the times listed. Other methods are permitted during the remainder of the open season. If in doubt as to the extent of these restrictions, please contact the local Federal fishery officer.

QUEENS COUNTY

Medway River, from the Highway 103 bridge upstream to McGowan Lake, not including Ponhook Lake or tributaries, **May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons**.

Mersey River, from the upstream abutment of the highway bridge on Bridge Street in Milton to the dam at Cowie Falls, May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

DIGBY COUNTY

Salmon River, downstream from the Route 1 Highway Bridge approximately 500 m to a line drawn across the Salmon River from grid reference 726822 4881333 to grid reference 726803 4881420, including tributaries, May 1 to Dec 31.

OUEENS COUNTY

Medway River, from a point 100m downstream from the highway bridge on the Old Westfield Road near Harmony Mills upstream to, but excluding McGowan Lake, including tributaries, Jun 1 to Dec 31.

Medway River, the "Lake Pool", upstream from the highway bridge at highway 210 at Greenfield, to a straight line drawn from grid reference 352032 4903571 to grid reference 352155 4903817 (immediately above the small island at the outlet of Ponhook Lake), Jun 15 to Dec 31.

Medway River, from the highway 210 bridge at Greenfield downstream to the highway 103 bridge, Jun 15 to July 31.

YARMOUTH COUNTY

Tusket River, from the highway bridge crossing the canal at the southern end of Lake Vaughan Reservoir downstream to the powerhouse dam, including tributaries, Apr 1 to Jun 30.

NOTE: Kejimkujik National Park & National Historic Site. A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 12).

NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH HABITAT FUND



In 2019, the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund raised \$287,367 through a \$5.91 levy on fishing licences. A total of \$181,000 was provided to fish habitat restoration projects undertaken by 24 community groups through the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's NSLC Adopt-A-Stream program. These projects were responsible for the restoration of approximately 85,000 square meters of spawning, rearing, over-wintering, and cool water summer refugia habitat for salmon and trout. Habitat connectivity was an important component of several projects and many culverts were assessed, and passage improved for migrating fish. Other work focussed on bank stabilization, protecting riparian habitat by planting trees along rivers and streams. In addition to these projects, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association received \$25,000 for a liming project on the West River Sheet Harbour and \$10,000 for catchment liming by helicopter in the same watershed, the Margaree Salmon Association received \$10,000 to develop a barrier free fishing facility and boat launch at Lake O'Law Provincial Park, Inverness County.

To learn more about the Fund visit our website: http://novascotia.ca/fish/funding-programs/

Set Young Salmon and Trout Free

Note the differences in these fish:

Salmon Parr

- Black spots on back and sides, and a forked tail
- · No markings on fins or tail
- Large eye



Salmon Smolt

- Silvery with black spots on upper sides and cheeks and a forked tail
- Large eye



Brook (Speckled Trout)

- · Tail is nearly square
- · Large fin on back (dorsal) has irregular markings
- There are no black spots, and the eye is smaller
- · Lower fins have a white leading edge

STAFF PROFILE, INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION, NSFA



Darryl Murrant is the Manager of Fisheries Enhancement for the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division. He ensures that the three provincial hatcheries; Fraser's Mills, McGowan Lake and Margaree continue to produce trout and salmon for Nova Scotians to enjoy.

Darryl is a graduate of the Biology program at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. In 1982, he took a student position at the Fraser's Mills Fish Hatchery and became a full-time hatchery technician, a few years later. He was Hatchery Supervisor at Frasers Mills for 19 years and additionally carried out that role for the Margaree Hatchery, for several years, as the facility transitioned to management by the Province. Since 2011, he has been Manager of Fisheries Enhancement, based out of the Inland Fisheries office in Pictou.

Darryl takes great pride in the Provincial hatchery program that he has helped to shape and says he has had the good fortune of working with the many great hatchery staff, across the province, along the way. He and his wife, Darlene, live in Antigonish, where they raised two children. In his spare time, you will often catch Darryl casting a line to uncooperative trout or walking one of the many beautiful trails that rural Nova Scotia has to offer.







Riley and Jacob MacKinnon with their record rainbow trout. Photo: Mitchell MacKinnon

www.FerienhausKanada.de NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH REGISTRY

LIVE RELEASE C	LIVE RELEASE CATEGORY									
Species	Length x G	irth	Year	Angler	Location	County				
Brown Trout	29.0 in X 15	.5 in	2016	Dan Boudreau	River John	Pictou				
Smallmouth Bass	23.0 in x 17.	0 in	2007	Kevin Corkum	Big Mushamush Lak	e Lunenburg				
Speckled Trout	16.0 in x 8.	0 in	2013	Neil Graham	River Denys	Inverness				
Striped Bass	41.0 in x 27.	0 in	2005	Pat Young	Fullers River	Richmond				
CATCH AND KEEP CATEGORY										
Species	Weight		Year	Angler	Location	County				
Brown Trout	18.20 lbs		2007	Charlie LaHey	Mira River	Cape Breton				
Chain Pickerel	6.94 lbs		2016	Christopher Wood	Harris Lake	Yarmouth				
Landlocked Salmon	4.40 lbs		1988	H. Macdonald	Grand Lake	Halifax				
Rainbow Trout	10.20 lbs		2002	Reggie MacLeod	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton				
Smallmouth Bass	4.50 lbs		1990	Robert Hasenack	Kinsac Lake	Halifax				
Speckled Trout	6.75 lbs		1945	Alex Stephens	Blackett's Lake	Cape Breton				
Striped Bass	57.90 lbs		2008	Christian LeVatte	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton				
White Perch	2.22 lbs		2013	Sawyer Olmstead	Reiners Pit	Colchester				
Yellow Perch	1.20 lbs		2013	Ryan Gould	Fish Lake	Halifax				
YOUTH LIVE RELE	ASE CATEG	ORY								
Species	Length x G	irth	Year	r Angler	Location	County				
Brown Trout	20.0 in x 10.	5 in	2013	Alex Graham	South River	Antigonish				
Smallmouth Bass	20.0 in x 14.	0 in	2009	Ian Keefe	Mattatall	Cumberland				
Speckled Trout	16.7 in x 10.	3 in	2009	Josh MacMillan	West River	Antigonish				
Rainbow Trout	23.0 in x 13.	5 in	2020	Riley MacKinnon	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton				
YOUTH CATCH AN	ND KEEP CA	ΓEGO	RY CA	TEGORY						
Species	Weight	Yea	r	Angler	Location	County				
Brown Bullhead	1.08 lbs	2007	7	Alex Cunningham	Raynards Lake	Yarmouth				
Brown Trout	6.69 lbs	2018	3	Matthew Musgrave	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton				
Chain Pickerel	3.99 lbs	2007	7	Marcel Boudreau	Hibbards Lake	Yarmouth				
Rainbow Trout	7.31 lbs	2020)	Jacob MacKinnon	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton				
Speckled Trout	3.40 lbs	2009)	Aidan Doucet	Lochabor Lake	Antigonish				
Yellow Perch	0.76 lbs	2016	<u>.</u>	Sarah Henderson	Mersey River	Queens				
SMALLMOUTH BA	ASS TOURNA	MEN	T ANG	LING (weight for 5-fish	bag limits; all fish rel	eased)				
Weight	Year	Angl	er		Location	County				
19.54 lbs	2014	Cody	Lohne	s, Rob Weagle	Big Mushamush	Lunenburg				
17.26 lbs	2009	Rob I	Mailma	n, Peter Lavender	Mersey River	Queens				
15.60 lbs	2008	Rod (Goodwi	n, Ian Ross	Ogden, Parr, Petes Lak	es Yarmouth				
15.56 lbs	2003	Conra	ad Corp	oron, Bernard Corporon	Lac d'en Bas	Digby				
15.51 lbs	2005	Jim L	.angtho	orne, Ian Langthorne	Kempt Back Lake	Yarmouth				
	Nova Scotia Sportfish Registry PO Box 700 Pictou NS BOK 1H0 Phone: (902) 485-5056 Fax: (902) 485-4014 E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca Website: http://novascotia.ca/fish/									



Annapolis, Hants and Kings Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 5

SEASONS SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Inland and Tidal Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the waters referred to in the listings below.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations do not apply to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified.
All season dates are inclusive

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Rumsey Lake, Annapolis County, May 15 to Oct 31.

Sunken Lake, Kings County, May 15 to Oct 31 and Jan 1 to Mar 31.

Silver Lake near Lakeville, Kings County, Apr 1 to Sep 30 and Jan 1 to Mar 31.

Meadow Pond and St. Croix Pond, Hants County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

Note: not all lakes contain rainbow trout.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT Cornwallis River, Kings County, Apr 1 to Oct 31.



Photo: Matt Dort

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except Special Bass Management Areas and Extended Seasons. Annapolis County, bag limit five (5) bass. Kings County, bag limit five (5) bass. Hants County, bag limit twenty-five (25) bass.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS

Gaspereau Lake, Kings County. Apr 1 to Dec 31.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Black River Lake, Little River Lake, Methals Lake, and Aylesford Lake, Kings County.

Panuke Lake, Hants County.

Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35 cm (13.8 in.) except from May 1 to Jun 15 no smallmouth bass may be retained, night fishing is permitted.

CHAIN PICKEREL WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except in the following which are OPEN ALL YEAR:

Lily Lake (Cogmagun Pond), Hants County. Lake Paul, Lake George, Nicholas Lake, and North River Lake. Kings County.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except in the following which are OPEN ALL YEAR:

Springfield Lake, Annapolis County.

Woodward Sandford Lake, Hants County.

NOTE: Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 12).

WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

KINGS COUNTY

Gaspereau River, from the White Rock power station upstream to the first highway bridge, including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR.

Gaspereau River, White Rock Pond, from a point 152 m downstream from the bridge at White Rock (Deep Hollow Road Bridge), downstream to the first highway bridge upstream from the White Rock Power Station, Open Apr 1 to Sep 30 (Apr 1 to May 1, single hook lure or artificial fly).

Gaspereau River, from a point 152m downstream from the highway bridge at White Rock (Deep Hollow Road Bridge) to point 213m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, CLOSED ALL YEAR.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 6)



Photo: Dave Dewar

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

While there are health benefits to eating fish, there are some species in Nova Scotia that should only be eaten in smaller quantities or not at all if you are at higher risk.

Mercury

There are traces of mercury in certain species of freshwater fish in Nova Scotia. You should limit how much of these fish you eat:

- Brook trou
- · Smallmou h bass
- · Whi e perch
- · Yellow perch
- · Chain pi kerel

Polyclorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

You should not eat fish taken from Five Island Lake or Sheldrake Lake. Fish in these lakes are known to be contaminated with PCBs.

Learn more at

https://novascotia.ca/nse/fishconsumption-advisory.asp



SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

CORNWALLIS RIVER, KINGS COUNTY

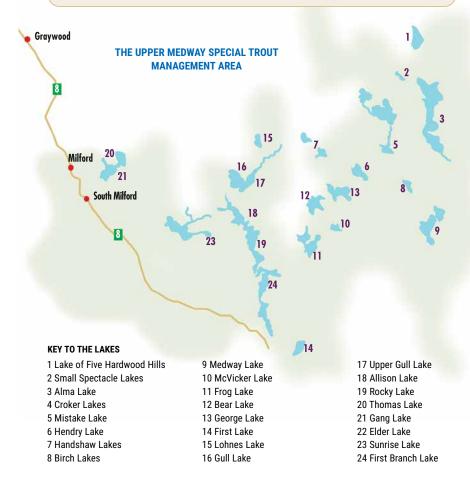
Downstream from the South Bishop Road bridge to the Highway 101 Bridge, Apr 1 to Aug 31, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled) which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all specked trout must be released, bag limit one (1) brown trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, single hook lure or artificial fly.

Entire river Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout only, catch and release, barbless artificial fly only.

THE UPPER MEDWAY SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREA, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY

The following lakes and the waters that connect these lakes within the Upper Medway Lakes Wilderness Area: Lake of Five Hardwood Hills, Small Spectacle Lakes, Alma Lake, Croker Lakes, Mistake Lake, Hendry Lake, Handshaw Lakes, Birch Lakes, Medway Lake, McVicker Lake, Frog Lake, Bear Lake, George Lake, First Lake, Lohnes Lake, Gull Lake, Upper Gull Lake, Allison Lake, Rocky Lake, Thomas Lake, Gang Lake, Elder Lake, Sunrise Lake, First Branch Lake. Apr 1 to Aug 30, Bag limit (2) trout, Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit (2) trout (brown or rainbow), natural bait is prohibited.





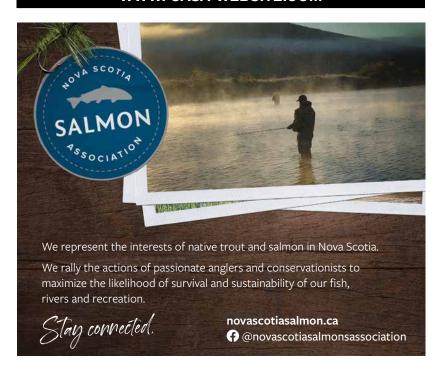
3260 BARRINGTON STREET · HALIFAX, NS · B3K 085

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SMALLMOUTH ANGLERS (CASA) was formed in 1988 to promote the sport of angling, particularly for Smallmouth Bass; to share the friendship, camaraderie, and experience of our fellow anglers; to support and improve those conservation measures that promote quality fisheries; and to extend courtesy and respect to all those who share our waters.

When you join CASA and support those important conservation measures, you will receive a CASA membership card, newsletter, as well as the right to attend seminars, tournaments, the annual meeting, and more.

To become a member of CASA, or to learn about our activities or contact us please visit our website.

WWW. CASA-WEBSITE.COM





Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure and pride that we introduce to you in this insert the Mi'kmaq concept and tradition of NETUKULIMK.

Grand Council of Mi'kmag

The Mi'kmaq Aboriginal people of Nova Scotia have been harvesting animal, fowl, fish and plant life for over 10,000 years. We have managed this harvest within our own communities since time immemorial and continue to do so today. Our past, present and future Mi'kmaq society and economy is based on the use of the natural resources. Conservation and management of these resources have and still are an important part of Mi'kmaq culture. We have an intimate knowledge of the land, waters and natural life in and around Mi'kma'ki, our traditional territory, part of which is present day Nova Scotia.

After European contact some 500 years ago, the Mi'kmaq and the British established formal agreement for a co-existence and friendship relationship through a series of Nation to Nation Treaties.

"When the English began to make their new homes in our land our fore fathers protected the liveli-hood and survival of the Mi'kmaq by signing Treaties with their Kings. Throughout the seasons the Treaties have remained."

Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. October 1, 1986

Today the Mi'kmaq harvest the natural resources through a concept known as Netukulimk. Netukulimk includes the use of the natural bounty, provided by the Creator, for the self-support and well being of the individual and the community at large. Without limiting the meaning of the concept of Netukulimk, the objective includes achieving adequate standards of community

nutrition and economic well being, without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity or productivity of our native environment.

The Constitution of Canada has entrenched Aboriginal and Treaty Rights within the laws of Canada. As a result of this, the courts have upheld the rights contained in the Treaty of 1752 and the underlying Aboriginal right that the Mi'kmaq have to harvest natural resources in Nova Scotia under their traditional authority and quidelines.

Article 4 of the Treaty of 1752 states in part:

"It is agreed that the said Tribe of Indians (Mi'kmaq) shall not be hindered from, but have free liberty of hunting, fishing and fowling as usual..."

On October 1, 1993 the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Honourable John Savage formally proclaimed on behalf of Nova Scotia 'the Government of Nova Scotia recognizes all Treaties which were signed in good faith between the Crown and the Mi'kmaq".

In Nova Scotia there are some 70,000 sportfishermen and some 77,000 sport hunters within the non-native community. The total Aboriginal harvesting community represents ½ of 1 per cent of the total non-native population hunting and fishing today.

We have made our peace and friendship and we have agreed to co-exist and co-share. Today it is time to work together to ensure that all our children will have the same right or privilege to access animal, fowl, fish, and plant life in the future.

For more information about our work and concerns about our natural environment contact:

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Main Office

57 Martin Crescent, PO Box 1590 Truro, NS, B2N 5V3 Tel. 902.895.6385, Toll Free. 1.877.892.2424 Fax. 902.893.1520

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

4102 Shore Road, Eskasoni, NS, B1W 1M4 Tel (902) 379-2163, Fax (902) 379-2250

Native Council of Nova Scotia

129 Truro Heights Road, P.O. Box 1320 Truro, NS, B2N 5N2

Toll Free: 1-800-565-4372, Direct: 902-895-1523

Fax: 902-895-0024







CSC

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

PO Box 654, Halifax, NS B3J 2T3 Tel (902) 477-8898 E-mail:info@nsfah.ca Website: www.nsfah.ca Facebook@ NovaScotiaFederationofAnglersHunters

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is a volunteer, non-profit organization of hunters, anglers, and outdoors people dedicated to conservation and the wise use of our natural resources.

As demands on wildlife increase sports people in Nova Scotia need a solid, firm, and experienced voice to air their concerns. The NSFAH has been that voice since 1930. Your support is needed to assure that quality hunting and angling continue in the future.

To join NSFAH, visit **www.nsfah.ca/membership**/ OR complete the form below and mail to: NSFAH, PO Box654, Halifax NS, B3J 2T3.

Individual membership \$25.00. Family Membership \$35.00 (spouse + children under 18)

(Security Code) Signature:

Membership Application (Photocopy and mail)



Colchester and Cumberland Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 6

SEASONS SPECKLED (BROOK) TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.
Inland Waters - Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the waters referred to in the listings below.
Sep 1 to Sep 30, no speckled trout may be retained, and natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except in waters with extended seasons for trout.

NOTE: The following regulations **do not apply** to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

COLCHESTER COUNTY

The following waters are open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

French River, downstream from the 246 Highway Bridge at Oliver.

Waugh's River, downstream from the 256 Highway Bridge at The Falls.

The following waters are open May 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to May 15.

Chiganois River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge at Belmont, including tributaries. **Debert River**, downstream from the CN Railway bridge, including tributaries.

Economy River, downstream from the confluence with Callaghan Brook, including tributaries.

Folly River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge, including tributaries.

Great Village River, downstream from the confluence with Spencers Brook, including tributaries.

North River, downstream from the confluence of the West Branch North River, including tributaries. Portapique River, downstream from the confluence with Matheson Brook, including tributaries.

Salmon River, downstream from the confluence with Greenfield Brook, including tributaries.

KEY

Stewiacke River Sections Apr 15 - Aug 31, any gear except May 10 - Jun 10 and Sep 1 - Sep 30, single hook lure or fly only Unner Stewiacke May 10 - Jul 15, single hook lure or fly only Jul 16 - Sep 30 fly only Apr 1 - Aug 31, any gear Sep 1 - Sep 30, natural bait prohibited CN Bridge McKay Siding Fort Ellis Stewiacke East HWY 2 Reide Stewiacke

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

STEWIACKE RIVER, COLCHESTER COUNTY see map page 44

Downstream from the CN railway bridge near McKay Siding, Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species.

Apr 15 to May 9 and Jun 11 to Aug 31, any gear permitted.

May 10 to Jun 10, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait prohibited.

Upstream from the CN railway bridge near McKay Siding to the highway bridge farthest upstream in Upper Stewiacke, not including tributaries, Apr 1 to May 9, closed to all angling for all species. May 10 to Jul 15, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

Jul 16 to Aug 31, artificial fly only.

May 10 to Aug 31, Bag limit one (1) trout which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or rainbow) which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Upstream from the highway bridge farthest upstream in Upper Stewiacke,

Apr 1 to Aug 31, any gear permitted.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

Night angling for brown trout is permitted from the Lansdowne bridge downstream to the bridge in Stewiacke East during the open season.

MACCAN RIVER, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the highway 2 bridge at Southampton, Apr 1 to May 14, catch and release only, artificial fly only. May 15 to Aug 15, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, any gear permitted. Aug 16 to Sep 30, catch and release only, artificial fly only.

RIVER PHILIP. CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the Mountain Road Bridge (Spencers Bridge) in the Community of River Phillip. Apr 1 to May 14, catch and release only, artificial fly only.

May 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length, any gear permitted.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow), only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Night angling for brown trout is permitted upstream from the Mountain Road Bridge (Spencers Bridge) not including tributaries, **May 15 to Aug 31**.

WALLACE RIVER, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge at Wentworth Center, Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed to all angling for all species. Apr 15 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) trout, only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released, bag limit three (3) trout (brown or rainbow) only one (1) may be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Shinimicas River, downstream from the No. 6 Highway bridge, including tributaries, open Apr 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to Apr 14.

River Hebert, downstream from the bridge near the tree nursery in the Chignecto Game Sanctuary, including tributaries, open May 15 to Sep 30, closed to all angling for all species Apr 1 to May 14.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Angevine (Dewars) Lake, Harrison Lake, and Isaac Lake, Cumberland County.

Deyarmont Lake, Colchester County.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: Apr 1 to Sep 30, bag limit twenty-five (25) bass. Angevine Lake, Big Lake, and Mattatall Lake, Cumberland County.

Round Lake, Colchester County.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

Shortt's Lake, Colchester County, Apr 1 to Dec 31, bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35cm (13.8 in.), except from May 1 to Jun 15 no smallmouth bass may be retained.

CHAIN PICKEREL

Apr 1 to Sep 30. Bag limit: 100 fish. except the following: Shortt's Lake, Colchester County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except in the following: Smiths Lakes and Long Lake, Cumberland County, Jan 1 to Sep 30. Angevine (Dewar) Lake, Harrison Lake, and Issac

Angevine (Dewar) Lake, Harrison Lake, and Issac Lake, Cumberland County, OPEN ALL YEAR. Shortt's Lake, Colchester County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See Page 6)



CANADA'S AQUATIC SPECIES AT RISK

Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA), created in 2003 to prevent Canadian wildlife species from becoming extinct, includes prohibitions that make it illegal to kill, harm, harass, capture or take a species listed as endangered or threatened under SARA or to destroy their critical habitat. Fines up to \$1,000,000 are possible for offences.

In Nova Scotia, the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon and the Atlantic whitefish are listed as endangered and protected under SARA. It is important that anglers do not target catch or retain either of these species.

Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon:

This population occupies rivers that empty into the upper Bay of Fundy (blue area on map). The main characteristic identifying the difference between an Atlantic salmon and a Brown trout are shown below. Other difference are found on pages 35 and 61.



Brown Trout (mouth extends beyond eye)
Illustrations by: J. O. Pennanen/Atlantic Salmon Federation®

Atlantic whitefish: The Petite Rivière Watershed in Lunenburg County (red area on map) is home to the only known population of Atlantic whitefish. Atlantic whitefish differ from the more common Lake whitefish in that the Atlantic whitefish jaw extends to its snout, has a smaller pectoral fin ray and smaller scales than the Lake whitefish.

Please report any sightings of Atlantic whitefish to Fisheries and Oceans Canada at 902-354-6030.



Atlantic whitefish

If you catch an Atlantic whitefish or Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon, release it immediately in the location of capture with the least amount of harm possible.

TO REPORT A FISHING VIOLATION, CALL 1-800-565-1633; OR, REPORT ANONYMOUSLY TO NS CRIME STOPPERS AT 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

For more information / Pour obtenir plus de renseignements www.sararegistry.gc.ca or www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/



WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVA SCOTIA

For those who love the outdoors, winter fishing is an ideal recreational sport. **Fishing licences for 2020 are valid until Mar 31, 2021.** If you anticipate taking part in a winter fishery, please keep your licence and return your completed licence stub at the end of March.

Season: Jan 1-Mar 31. Anglers are reminded that the following waters are open for angling in the winter regardless of ice cover; please check ice thickness before venturing out to fish. Waters open for trout are also open for perch species.

SPECKLED TROUT: BAG LIMIT 10 FISH

Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area.

RAINBOW TROUT & BROWN TROUT: BAG LIMIT TWO FISH

The tidal waters of the Bras d'Or Lakes, NOT INCLUDING: (1) waters of the Baddeck River upstream from the Hwy 105 bridge; (2) Northeast (inside) of the East Bay Sandbar; and (3) waters upstream from Black River bridge in Dundee; (4) waters upstream from Crowdis Bridge in River Deny's Basin; and (5) waters upstream from MacKenzie Brook bridge near South Side Basin of River Deny's, which remain closed to all angling. Waters inside the Boom Channel including River Denys and all of River Denys Basin are closed to trout angling from Jan 1 to Mar 31.



Our mission: to restore wild Atlantic salmon

to their native rivers.

Please join. Help make it happen

For details: www.wildsalmonunlimited.com

E-mail: wildsalmonunlimited@gmail.com



SPECKLED TROUT AND RAINBOW TROUT

The daily bag limit for speckled and rainbow trout is two (2) fish.

County	Lake	Speckled Trout	Rainbow Trout
Antigonish	Cameron Lake	1	1
Antigonish	Gillis Lake	1	1
Cape Breton	Levers Lake	1	1
Cape Breton	No. 20 Dam (Beacon Street) Pond	1	1
Colechester	Deyarmont Lake	1	
Cumberland	Angevine (Dewars) Lake	1	1
Cumberland	Isaac Lake	1	
Cumberland	Harrison Lake	1	/
Digby	Everitts Lake	1	1
Guysborough	Goose Harbour Lake	/	1
Guysborough	McKeen Lake	/	
Guysborough	Pringle Lake	/	
Halifax	Albro Lake	/	/
Halifax	First Lake	/	
Halifax	Cow Bay Pond	1	
Halifax	Round Lake	/	/
Halifax	Lewis Lake	/	1
Halifax	Maynard Lake	/	/
Halifax	Penhorn Lake	/	/
Hants	Meadow Pond	/	
Hants	St. Croix Pond	/	
Inverness	Petit Lac	1	/
Kings	Silver Lake	1	/
Kings	Sunken Lake	1	1
Lunenburg	Sucker Lake	1	1
Lunenburg	Hutt Lake	1	
Lunenburg	Beck Lake	1	
Pictou	Gairloch Lake	✓	1
Pictou	Dryden Lake	1	
Queens	Hidden Hills Lake	/	/
Queens	Victoria Lake	/	
Richmond	Eco Trial Pond (Isle Madame)	/	/
Shelburne	Beaver Dam Lake	/	1
Victoria	Dalem (Round) Lake	/	
Victoria	Grants Pond	✓	

SMALLMOUTH BASS, CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH, AND YELLOW PERCH

The daily bag limit for Smallmouth Bass varies by RFA. The daily bag limit for Chain Pickerel is one hundred (100). The daily bag limit for White Perch and Yellow Perch is twenty-five (25).

NOTE: The daily bag limit for smallmouth bass is the same as during the summer season. Please refer to the bag limits listed in each RFA.

White and yellow perch may be harvested (25 fish, each species, per day) in all waters open to winter angling for trout.

County	Lake	Chain Pickerel	White Perch	Yellow Perch
Annapolis	Springfield Lake		1	1
Colchester	Shortts Lake	1	1	1
Cumberland	Long Lake		1	1
Cumberland	Smiths Lake		1	1
Digby	Meteghan River, including all lakes and tributaries	1	1	1
Halifax	Morris Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Russel Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Grand Lake (Shubenacadie)	1	1	1
Halifax	Fish Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Bissett Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Powder Mill Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Micmac Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Red Bridge Pond	1	1	1
Halifax	Beaver Bank Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Beaver Pond (near Kinsac Lake)	1	1	1
Halifax	Kinsac Lake	1	1	1
Halifax	Lake Egmont	1	1	1
Hants	Lily Lake (Cogamun Pond)	1	1	1
Hants	Woodward Sanford Lake		1	1
Kings	Lake George	1	1	1
Kings	Nicholas Lake	1	1	1
Kings	North River Lake	1	1	1
Kings	Lake Paul	1	1	1
Pictou	Black Lake	1	1	1
Pictou	West Branch Lake	1	1	1
Queens	Louis Lake	1	1	1
Shelburne	Walls Lake	1	1	1
Shelburne	Lake George	1	1	1
Shelburne	Ponds in Port LaTour and Bakers Flats,	/	/	/
v	Cape Sable Island			
Yarmouth	Annis River	/	/	/
Yarmouth	Kiack Brook (Near Belleville South), including all lakes and tributaries	1	1	1

www.FerienhausKanada.de THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES RESEARCH COOPERATIVE

The freshwater fishery in Nova Scotia has experienced several changes associated with habitat loss, exploitation, and negative impacts of aquatic invasive species. In response, the Inland Fisheries Division has expanded research initiatives related to fish ecology, water quality, habitat, fisheries management, and Atlantic salmon enhancement by creating the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC). 2020 marks the 13th consecutive year that fisheries management initiatives were supported by the FFRC. Reports of previous FFRC projects are available on https://novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing/resource-management/

Genetic origins of brook trout in Nova Scotia

The purpose of this project, spearheaded by Dr. S. Baillie (DFO & Dalhousie University), is to identify the genetic origins of wild and hatchery brook trout in Nova Scotia to better understand their interactions in our watersheds. Genetics from samples collected across Nova Scotia will be compared to the rest of the species' native range (from the Carolinas through Labrador, including Ontario and Quebec) and are expected to shed light on interbreeding among wild and stocked brook trout-

Food web changes due to chain pickerel in Sydney River watershed

Dr. L. Campbell (St. Mary's University) is continuing an assessment of how food web structure is influenced by invasive species with a focus on the Sydney River system, Cape Breton. Work to date has shown a shift towards cannibalism as chain pickerel deplete their forage base. Of particular concern is how these invasive predators impact the native fish community structure and ultimately the endangered yellow lampmussel.

Identifying cold-water refugia in Southern Uplands rivers

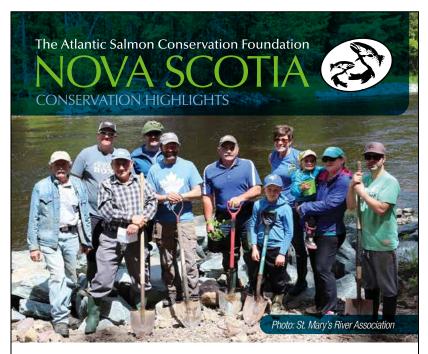
Dr. E. Halfyard (Nova Scotia Salmon Association) will be developing a GIS-based tool to identify cold-water refugia (i.e. groundwater seeps and cold-water tributaries) which are critically important to the survival of Atlantic salmon and brook trout during summer months. This tool will help identify areas essential to salmonid conservation in a changing climate. The project is a part of a larger study to evaluate the impacts of lime dosing and water quality on salmonid recovery in the West River of Sheet Harbour.

Response of trout and salmon to restoration initiatives

This is an experiment headed up by K. Hunter (St. Francis Xavier University), in collaboration with Adopt A Stream, to examine long term changes of stream habitat and fish populations before and after restoration work. 2020 marks the ninth year of this study where habitat evaluations and electrofishing are performed annually on control (natural state) and restored sites in several streams around Antigonish County. This project will provide valuable insight into the changes associated habitat restoration and future considerations to improve degraded habitat.

Impact of invasive species on salmonids in LaHave River

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, under the direction of B. Nodding, is undertaking a project to evaluate the impact of chain pickerel and smallmouth bass on Atlantic salmon and brook trout in the LaHave River system. The project will employ a variety of methods to evaluate behavioural patterns, population size, and diet composition of the invasive species to determine their impacts on native salmonids with an emphasis on the Atlantic salmon smolt run. This study will provide quantitative insight into the effects of invasive species on our native salmon and trout.



The ASCF is a non-profit organization established through a grant from the Government of Canada. Income generated by this trust fund supports projects and activities contributing to conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat.

The Foundation helps achieve healthy and sustainable wild Atlantic salmon stocks in Atlantic Canada and Québec through active working partnerships among volunteer conservation groups, Indigenous organizations, governments, and others. In 2019, we thank Canadian National Railway for a contribution of \$20,000 to a river restoration project in Nova Scotia. Sackville Rivers Association was the recipient group. CN Rail has donated \$60,000 total to ASCF projects; Québec received a portion in 2018, Nova Scotia in 2019, and New Brunswick in 2020.

Nova Scotia projects funded by the ASCF in 2019 were led by:

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation \$15,000 Margaree Salmon Association \$17,000 Cheticamp River Salmon Association \$12,000 Nova Scotia Salmon Association \$21,100 Clean Annapolis River Project Society \$5,875 Sackville Rivers Association \$20,000 Dalhousie University \$55,500 St. Mary's River Association \$27,500

For more information, including details of these projects, please visit our website:

www.salmonconservation.ca

Inland Fisheries Division Activities Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Inland Fisheries Hatchery Stocking Programs

Growing fish and delivering smiles is the mission of the Provincial fish hatcheries. The smiles could be on a seasoned angler, cradling an Atlantic salmon in the Margaree River, a grade 5 Learn to Fish student, catching their first pan-sized brookie, or an urban angler with a silver rainbow trout. The Province operates three hatcheries; Fraser's Mills Hatchery, in Antigonish Co., Margaree Hatchery, in Inverness Co. and McGowan Lake Hatchery in Queens Co.. Stocking initiatives are probably the most visible and popular of Inland Fisheries' management activities.

Beginning in late March, approximately 200 lakes are stocked with Speckled (Brook) trout and Rainbow trout as part of our Spring Recreational Trout Stocking Program, Trout are generally of catchable size, and in addition to providing angling opportunities, serve to reduce pressure on vulnerable wild stocks. Many provincial and municipal parks are located on lakes which are stocked: as are many barrierfree fishing facilities. Last spring, more than 50 derbies received trout from Fraser's Mills. Margaree and McGowan Lake hatcheries. These social events are cherished by many organizers and communities as a means of introducing youngsters to the enjoyment and comradery that angling provides. The hatcheries supplied trout for 70 Learn to Fish events, providing kids the opportunity to take up a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime. An additional 200 lakes are stocked each fall, usually after the angling season closes, as part of our Fall Fisheries Enhancement Program. Speckled trout account for most of this effort but Brown trout and sea-run Atlantic salmon populations are also enhanced at this time of year. The hatcheries also provide Rainbow and Speckled trout to 22 lakes in late fall to support the provinces winter trout fishery.



FRASER'S MILLS HATCHERY

Built in 1928 as part of the Government of Canada's hatchery system, Fraser's Mills has essentially been rebuilt since the Province of Nova Scotia took over its operation, in 1982. The site has outdoor raceways and circular ponds as well as hatchery buildings. Four species of salmonids are grown at this hatchery; Speckled (Brook) trout, Brown trout, Rainbow trout and sea-run Atlantic salmon. It is the primary trout broodstock (adult parent fish) facility in Nova Scotia; and is an excellent place to view the thousands of broodstock required to supply eggs for the stocking program. Annual distribution from this hatchery usually exceeds 1,000,000 eggs, fry, parr, yearlings and adult fish.



MCGOWAN LAKE HATCHERY

The McGowan Lake Hatchery, built in 1987, has helped to ensure the future of speckled trout fishing in western Nova Scotia, a region with many acid-stressed lakes and streams. This hatchery utilizes a unique water treatment facility to counteract the acidic nature (low pH) of the McGowan Lake water

supply and an oxygen generation and injection system to rear nearly 1,000,000 Speckled trout which are released annually as fry. fall fingerlings and yearlings.



MARGAREE FISH HATCHERY

The historic Margaree hatchery first opened in 1902 and has been supporting the economically and culturally important Atlantic salmon and trout fishery for over a century, as well as attracting visitors, from around the world, to the scenic Margaree Valley. The Province of Nova Scotia has operated this hatchery since 2008; providing approximately 250,000 salmon parr and smolt for the Margaree and other Atlantic salmon rivers and 250,000 trout, for selected lakes on Cape Breton Island.

ATLANTIC SALMON ENHANCEMENT **PROGRAM**

The cultural and economic importance of the Atlantic salmon fishery is recognized by the Province of Nova Scotia. The Inland Fisheries Division's Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program was developed in 2006. This program involves on-going consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other stakeholders around the Province. The objective of the program is to provide increased opportunities to angle Atlantic salmon. The rivers selected have salmon populations which are relatively stable but could benefit from additional enhancement. The Department relies heavily on the assistance from volunteer groups (NSSA affiliates, river associations, watershed stewardship organizations, etc.) to provide help with broodstock collection, stocking juvenile salmon and to provide local traditional knowledge.

Since the first broodstock collections of 2006. ten rivers have had their populations enhanced with fry, parr or smolt from the Fraser's Mills or Margaree fish hatcheries. The rivers are: Baddeck River, Graham's River (Inverness Co.), Mabou River, Margaree River, Middle River (Cape Breton), River Philip, St. Francis Harbour River, West River (Antigonish), West River (Pictou), and Waugh's River. Hatchery enhancement is a critical factor in maintaining an open catch and release fall season on the Baddeck and Middle Rivers. In the fall of 2019, eggs were obtained from wild broodstock collected from Baddeck River, Middle River, Margaree River, Mabou River and West River Antigonish. In West River Sheet Harbour, in the fall of 2019, a small number of adult salmon, reared from wild-caught smolt, by Dalhousie

University (Truro), were released, as part of a larger project, attempting to restore the river's wild Atlantic salmon population.

For information on any of the above programs, including weekly stocking updates during the spring season, visit our website: www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing or contact Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division at (902) 485-5056.

All of our hatcheries have visitor interpretation centres which are open to the public. These provide an opportunity to learn more about the hatchery operations and other aspects of recreational angling in Nova Scotia, Schools and other groups can call to arrange a tour, view photographs, posters, artifacts and displays on a variety of subjects.

You may contact our hatcheries at the telephone number below:

Fraser's Mills Fish Hatchery Antigonish Co., NS (902) 783-2926

McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery Queens Co., NS (902) 682-2576

Margaree Fish Hatchery Inverness Co., NS (902) 248-2845

Sportfish Resource Management

Trout Management

In the face of threats such as climate change and the rapid spread of invasive species, a major focus of the Management Unit is the stewardship of wild speckled trout populations across the province to ensure preservation of Nova Scotia's angling heritage. Our staff frequently collaborate with external research groups and community organizations, some partially funded through the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative, to undertake various initiatives that advance speckled trout science and inform our management decisions. Our projects often utilize the expertise of angler organizations and benefit from numerous volunteers contributing their local knowledge.

Evaluation of Special Trout Management Areas

STMAs are essential tools in the stewardship of wild speckled trout. Various regulations implemented in STMAs across the province are designed to promote sustainable use of highly productive systems and the creation of trophy fisheries. To evaluate the effectiveness of regulation changes, our staff use various techniques to quantify angler activity, harvest levels, and most importantly the response of the trout populations. Angler surveys performed before and after implementation of STMAs in River Denys, Cape Breton and South River, Antigonish, indicate that average length of catches increased from 30 to 33 cm (RD) and 28 to 39 cm (SR) fork length over the past 10-15 years. Monitoring of STMAs will continue and results can be found on our website.

Barneys River Sea Run Brown Trout Study

In 2019, the second year of a two-year study was completed in Pictou County. A mark and recapture tagging program was used to estimate the sea run brown trout population, as well as aid in harvest and exploitation estimates. A creel survey on Barneys River, French River and Sutherlands River was used to estimate angler effort on major systems flowing into Merigomish Harbour. A follow up netting survey provided the recapture data used in the population estimate, and

an indication of growth, timing of upstream migration associated with temperature and flow conditions, and a general overview of the trout species composition of the system.

Strategic Plan for Trout Management

A new five-year plan will include a review and an update of management strategies that are used to improve the trout fishery. Other strategic plans and recent literature will be reviewed in the process of developing a new plan for trout management in Nova Scotia.

Genetics of Speckled trout

The Division has been working with Dr. Danielle Ruzzante, Dalhousie University, to evaluate a new strategy to estimate the number in a fish population that is based on genetic samples collected over a five-year period. The results of this project could be significant and applicable to commercial fisheries as well as other sport fisheries.

Smallmouth Bass Management

Nova Scotia is divided into two management zones for Smallmouth Bass. In the western zone, where decades of acidification and warming temperatures have resulted in major losses of salmonid habitat, management projects for this species focus on assessing regulations, evaluating changes in populations over time, population estimates and lake ecology. In the eastern zone, where the number of illegal introductions are low and high quality salmonid habitat is abundant, we are working on control and removal within selected systems.

Tournament Monitoring

Data are collected annually at various smallmouth bass tournaments to monitor changes and trends in population structure, fish size and condition on several lakes throughout Nova Scotia. The Department continues to work cooperatively with organized smallmouth bass organizations throughout Nova Scotia. The Department continues to work cooperatively with

organized smallmouth bass organizations throughout Nova Scotia.

Invasive Species Initiatives

Effective sportfish management must also consider the importance of preventing further illegal introductions of aquatic invasive species. We are working with the Aboriginal community, angling associations, and provincial and federal enforcement agencies to develop effective strategies. Ongoing outreach and education, risk assessment and research focusses on documenting and understanding the impacts of invasive species on native fish communities.

Documenting the Spread

Smallmouth bass and chain pickerel have large impacts to the trout resource and the natural integrity of freshwater systems in Nova Scotia. They not only impact the fish community structure, but all species that use the impacted systems. The spread of smallmouth bass and chain pickerel is occurring at a rapid rate and more resources are required to confirm their presence in new habitats. Most of this spread occurs from illegal introductions and migration and colonization of new habitats. It may take years for invasive species to establish a population and for anglers to catch and report to NSDFA and for confirmation to take place. NSDFA plans to continue to monitor and confirm the presence of the spread of smallmouth bass, chain pickerel and other aquatic invasive species threats.

Chain Pickerel Database

This invasive species is known to be a voracious predator, but little is known about their biology in Nova Scotia. Data continues to be added to this long-term database from specimens collected throughout the province.

Cannon Lake, Queens County

Smallmouth bass were illegally introduced and have subsequently established a population in Cannon Lake which directly flows into the waters of Kejimkujik National Park. This Is the fourth year of this project which is designed to assess the impacts and reduce the risk to native fish communities through the control smallmouth bass abundance

Piper Lake, Pictou County

Smallmouth bass were discovered in the headwaters of the Saint Mary's River watershed during the summer of 2019. A rapid response plan was initiated to triage their presence or absence in the rest of the system and contain the invasion. Given the historical cultural and ecological significance of the St. Mary's system and the small nature of the Piper Lake, a containment and removal plan is being developed to ensure smallmouth bass do not spread to the over 100 lakes in the rest of the watershed.

Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council (RFAC)

The RFAC is a way for you to participate in the fisheries management process. Inland Fisheries staff travel to each of the Recreational Fishing Areas in the fall to update the public on our yearly activities and to receive feedback from you, the angling community. This is a unique opportunity to discuss your questions, comments, and concerns about the recreational fishery in Nova Scotia with those charged with managing it for all of us. For more information please contact inland@novascotia.ca or check out our website for minutes from past meetings.



Sportfish Extension/Education

Nova Scotia's Learn to Fish Program

Learn to Fish (L2F) was delivered across the province during the Spring of 2019 in 82 different sessions. From one end of the province to the other, 1,987 kids participated in hands-on lessons on the basics of angling in Nova Scotia waters. Coordinated by provincial staff, community organizations, schools and volunteers, the Learn to Fish program recruits the next generation of stewards of our aquatic resources, by teaching safe and ethical angling skills to youth.

L2F is designed for youth grades 4 to high school and consists of two main components: A classroom presentation to learn species identification, habitat, conservation, ethics and respect; A hands-on fishing session to teach youth safety, casting, baiting the hook, catch

and release techniques, how to appropriately harvest a fish, and sportsmanship. Each fishing session is stocked by our provincial hatcheries, so that most youth get a chance to feel that tug on the line!

The L2F program has received tremendous support from the people of Nova Scotia and the angling community. Each year more organizations become trained to deliver the Learn 2 Fish program. This addition is increasing the program's capacity and allowing more children the opportunity to have fun fishing.

We wish to thank all the angling associations, volunteers, teachers, staff and sponsors who assisted in numerous ways. Your contribution is greatly appreciated by youth who gained a lifelong skill and passion.



The Becoming an Outdoors Woman's Program offers

- A 3-day workshop designed for women, 18 years and older
- Classes introduce participants to a variety of fishing, hunting and other outdoor experiences
- Instructors willing to share their knowledge and passion in a fun and nurturing environment



This workshop is for you if...

- You are a beginner and want to try something new but don't know how to get started
- You know how to do some activities and would like to improve on these or try others
- You are looking for fun and fellowship in the great outdoors

Upcoming Workshop:

Fall BOW, September 18-20, 2020, Brigadoon Village, South Alton, Kings County

If you would like more information, please contact us at: bownovascotia@gmail.com or visit us on-line www.bownovascotia.com

Tagged Fish

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada tag fish throughout the province as part of their management programs.

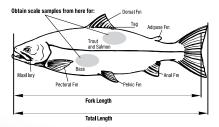
If you catch a tagged fish, please note the tag number, length of fish, date and place of capture.

A sample of scales (taken from the area just behind and below the top or dorsal fin), the fork length of the fish (from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail), and the weight of the fish are useful measurements to understand growth rates (see diagram below). Although some of this information is impossible to obtain if the fish is released, the Department would still like to hear from you. For trout and smallmouth bass, please

contact the Inland Fisheries office in Pictou at the address on page 12. They will tell you the history of the fish including where and when it was tagged.

Please report tags found on Atlantic salmon by returning the tags to the address printed on them

OBTAINING SCALES AND MEASURING LENGTH



LAKE INVENTORY PROGRAM

The Lake Inventory Program produces detailed information sheets on various lakes throughout the province. These information sheets contain a bathymetric (depth) map as well as data on water quality, stocking and fish species present. With information sheets currently available for over 1000 lakes, innovative GIS technologies are also now being utilized to expand the analysis capabilities on provincial waters, enhance data accuracy and provide a modern cartographic product.

Bathymetric maps for many popular lakes and an index of

information sheets are available, online at:

www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing

Information sheets are available, free of charge, by writing to:

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries Aquaculture Attention: Information Officer

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS BOK 1H0 Tel: (902) 485-5056 E-mail: inland@novascotia.ca

Definitions

ANGLING - fishing with a line to which one or more hooks are attached and that is held in the hand or attached to a rod that is held in the hand or closely attended.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES - an aquatic organisms that, when or if introduced into Canadian fisheries waters, has or is likely to have harmful consequences to fish or fish habitat or the use of fish.

ARTIFICIAL FLY - a single hook or double hook or two single hooks dressed with materials likely to attract fish, and to which no weight, spinning device, or natural bait is attached.

FLY FISHING - angling by the use of an artificial fly or flies that are attached to a line or to a leader that is attached to a line.

HOOK - a single, double, or treble hook with or without barbs on one shank or shaft.

CIRCLE HOOK - type of fish hook which is sharply curved back in a circular shape.

JIGGING - fishing by manipulating one or more hooks so as to pierce a fish in any part of its body instead of luring the fish to take the hook or hooks into its mouth

NATURAL BAIT - any form of bait in its natural form. Natural bait includes, but is not limited to: worms, minnows, corn nibblets, pork rind.

NON-RESIDENT - anyone who is not a resident of Nova Scotia.

PROVINCIAL WATERS - waters upon any shore or land, or on, or in any lake, river, stream or watercourse, wholly or partially within the province, or over which the province has authority to legislate with respect to fishing within the province.

RESIDENT - anyone who permanently or ordinarily lives in Nova Scotia for the last 2 months. A resident also includes officers of the diplomatic or consular service of any foreign country stationed in Nova Scotia and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Canadian Armed Forces stationed or born in Nova Scotia. Anyone born in the Province of Nova Scotia who owns real property in the province is considered a resident.

SPORTFISH - Atlantic salmon, landlocked salmon, trout, and smallmouth bass.

TOTAL LENGTH - The length of a fish measured from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail.

SINGLE HOOK LURE - a lure with only one hook attached – see above definition for hook.







Pour a lot



Stir in the water with a stick or shovel



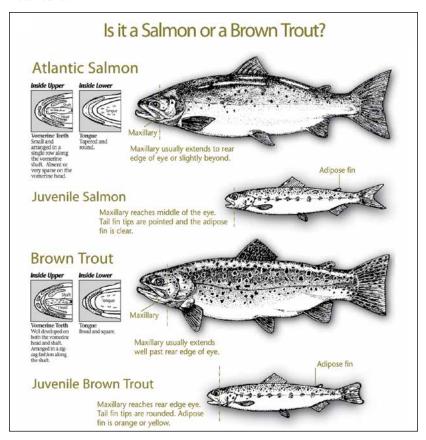
Add water and stir until the ash is cold to the touch



March 15 - October 15 campfires are not allowed between 8am-2pm. Check the daily burn restrictions at novascotia.ca/burnsafe or 1 855 564 2876 Abide by local municipal bylaws. To learn more visit novascotia.ca/campsafe



Photo: Matt Dort



Community Group Partnerships

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following Community Partners for their continued support with our fieldwork projects, stocking strategies, education programs, sportfishing derbies and tournaments.

ACAP Cape Breton

Albert Bridge Recreation Association

Antigonish Rivers Association

Annapolis Fly Fishers

Annapolis Valley Bass Club

Apagtuwag Fisheries COOP

Bass River Fire Department

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Black River Environmental Committee

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation

Blue Mountain Fire Departement

Boys and Girls Club of Lower Sackville

Bronzeback Bassers

Canadian Association of Smallmouth

Anglers

Cape Breton Anglers Association

Cape Breton Wildlife Association

Cheticamp River Salmon Association

Children's Wish Foundation

Clean Annapolis River Project

Clean Nova Scotia

Cobequid Salmon Association

Cumberland County River Enhancement

Association

Dartmouth North Community Centre

Digby East Fish and Game Association

East Shelburne County River Association

Enfield Volunteer Fire Department

Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Service

4-H Tatamagouche

Friends of Cornwallis River

Guysborough Fish & Game Association

Habitant River Trout Association

Halifax Wildlife Association

Hants County Wildlife Association

Hants West Wildlife Association

Highland Sport Club

HRM Community, Culture & Economic

Development

Inverness Ground Search & Rescue

Inverness Middlewood Fire Dept

Inverness South Anglers Association

Kings County Wildlife Association

LaHave River Watershed Enhancement

Foundation

LaHave Salmon Association

Lake Ainslie & Margaree River Heritage

Association

Lakeside Smallmouth Bass Club

Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development

Association

Lunenburg Wildlife Association

Mabou & District Community Development

Association

Margaree & District Fire Dept

Margaree Salmon Association

Maitland and District Volunteer Fire Dept.

Medway River Salmon Association

Middle River Watershed Development

Association

Mi'kmaw Conservation Group

Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement Project

Mulgrave Recreation Department

Municipality of District of Cumberland



Municipality of District of Lunenburg Municipality of District of Mt. Marys New Waterford Fish & Game Association Nine Mile River Association North Colchester River Restoration Association Nova Bassmasters Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Nova Scotia Guide Association Nova Scotia Salmon Association Orenda Canoe Club Pagtknek Fisheries Enterprise Petite Riviere Association Pictou County Rivers Association Pictou Lions Club Pleasant Bay Fire Department Port Morien Wildlife Association Potlotek Fisheries Queens County Fish & Game Association Responsible Bass Anglers of Nova Scotia

Richmond Wildlife Association

Rockingstone Heights School

Salmon River Salmon Association South Shore Volunteer Fire Department Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search & Rescue Shelburne County Fish & Game Association Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental **Protection Society** South Shore Wildlife Association South Shore Bassmasters St. Mary's River Association Stewards of River Denys Watershed Association Town of Amherst Town of Mulgrave Trout Unlimited Two Rivers Wildlife Park Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources Tusket River Environmental Protection Association Westchester Volunteer Fire Department Wildlife Habitat Advocates

Sackville Rivers Association





The Super Licence includes Fishing and Small Game & Deer Hunting

You could spend the rest of your life fishing and hunting all over Nova Scotia—Free!

Announcing the **2020 Licence of a Lifetime Lottery** from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. This year, we will be awarding two (2) lifetime licences to two (2) lucky applicants.

That's right, you could hunt and fish from Sydney to Yarmouth, from Amherst to Canso – all over the province, every year, for the rest of your life. And best of all, you'll never have to buy another Fishing*, Small Game** or Deer‡ hunting licence.

Again this year you can buy a ticket as a gift for a friend or relative by entering their name in the "Gift for" section of the ticket **at the time of purchase.**

PRICES FOR 2020 TICKETS: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

It's easy to enter: just copy and complete the attached form and mail it along with your entry fee To **NSFAH, PO Box 654, Halifax NS, B3J 2T3.** We will fill out your tickets and send you the stubs. Enter as often as you like, and good luck!

Please send me # Tickets.

Address:	
ity/Town: Postal Code	
Telephone:	Wildlife Resources Card #
A Gift for:	Phone number:
You may pay by – Cheque (en	closed) payable to Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Credit Card No:	expiry: cvv:

Rules

- Open to Nova Scotia residents only.
- Entry forms are to be completely filled out in ink or typed.
- The licencee is subject to the laws respecting hunting in the same manner as with any hunting licence.
- This licence is not transferrable, and may be cancelled, suspended, or forfeited in accordance with the law.
- Incomplete, illegible, or improperly filled out entries will not be accepted, and entrants will not be notified or have fees refunded.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than

- December 1st, 2020 entries postmarked after December 1st, 2020 will be included in next year's draw.
- All entry fees are non-refundable do not send cash
- Make cheque or money order payable to: Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, P.O. Box 654, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2T3.
- Draw date is December 8th, 2020.
- * Not including salmon—sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- ** Not including migratory birds
- ‡ The Deer and Small Game Licences are sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Lands & Forestry.