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# ANGLERS' HANDBOOK

and 2022 Summary of Regulations



FISH NOVA  SCOTIA

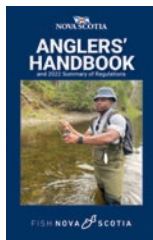
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## Please Take Note

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: Jermal Mansfield casting a fly to trout on his favorite North Shore river.  
Photo by: Sheumais Macleod

## Message from Honourable Steve Craig, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Sportfishing is a popular and healthy outdoor activity. In Nova Scotia, over 79,000 Fishing Licences were sold last year. This is among the highest participation rate in decades. We hope to continue this trend as more Nova Scotians discover sportfishing.

The last two years have been challenging because of COVID-19, however, the implementation of an online licensing system has been well received. We continue to make improvements to this system and online reporting. This season, I am pleased to be able to offer this service to anglers with disabilities.

Annually, sportfishing generates over \$66 million for the provincial economy. We are excited to showcase sportfishing opportunities with the Fish Nova Scotia initiative and continue to work with fishing guides, accommodations, and tourism associations to create unique Nova Scotia experiences. Nova Scotia has so much to offer to both residents and travelers. There is something for everyone, from families looking for healthy outdoor activities, to experienced anglers looking for that fish of a lifetime. Nova Scotia has a tremendous diversity of freshwater sportfishing including Brook Trout, Atlantic Salmon, Smallmouth Bass, White Perch and more, as well as marine opportunities for Atlantic Mackerel, Striped Bass, and Bluefin Tuna. Sportfishing provides anglers a chance to explore our beautiful province from one end to the other and experience our world class hospitality.

Aquatic invasive species continue to impact native species such as Brook Trout. Illegally introducing fish is a serious offence, negatively affects biodiversity, and can permanently devastate native fish populations. My Department will continue to be adaptive and innovative to reduce the impact of aquatic invasive species.

By contributing to the Sportfishing Habitat Fund, anglers have supported the restoration of over 1 million square metres of fish habitat through the Adopt a Stream Program and have contributed to important work being done to mitigate the impacts of acidification.

I want to acknowledge the exceptional volunteer organizations throughout our province. They have helped with program delivery and contributed to many enhancement and fisheries management projects. Your contributions are appreciated and truly make a difference.

The Resource Management section and our three provincial fish hatcheries are committed to our goals of conservation, industry growth and engaging stakeholders through a consultative approach. This balances modern science and the societal values of the sportfishing community to ensure future generations will benefit from a sustainable and vibrant sportfishing industry.

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 the water and check the conditions before heading out.

I hope you enjoy the season and create many memories.

## COVID-19

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**Nova Scotians should follow current social distancing guidelines when fishing to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This means limiting your contact with other people, staying 2 metres (6 feet) away from them, adhering to group gathering limits and other restrictions issued by Public Health.**

**This information is provided as general guidance. Stay informed by visiting [novascotia.ca/coronavirus](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus) for the most up-to-date information before you go fishing.**

## Special Management Areas

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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 20 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](https://www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing) or by contacting the Inland Fisheries Division, (902) 485-5056**

## Regulation Changes

The regulation changes for 2022 are primarily focused on standardizing and presenting a consistent approach to fisheries management. Included in this year's changes are:

Location, County	Changes or additions
<b>Williams Lake, Halifax County</b>	Open all year.

## Proposed Regulation Changes

The following regulation changes are being reviewed. Proposals have been submitted by anglers and sportfishing organizations through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils (RFACs) or at the advice of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture staff. See page 20 for more info on RFACs.

Location, County	Changes or additions	
<b>Musquodoboit River, Halifax Co.</b>	Changes to Special Trout Management Area – Upstream boundary and gear type.	Musquodoboit River Watershed Society
<b>Wallace River, Cumberland Co.</b>	Changes to Species Trout Management Area – Extend upstream boundaries on East, Main and West branches.	Cumberland Rivers Association
<b>River Inhabitants, Richmond Co.</b>	Extended season for brown trout (Oct 1 to Oct 31), single barbless fly, only.	Big Ridge River Committee
<b>Ingram Brook, Inverness Co.</b>	Special Trout Management Area – Big Interval Road to the confluence with the Margaree River.	Department
<b>Guysborough (Milford Haven) River, Guysborough Co.</b>	Extended season for brown trout (Oct 1 to Oct 31), single barbless fly, only.	Antigonish Rivers Association
<b>Western Nova Scotia</b>	Bag limit reduced to three (3) and mandatory release for smallmouth bass over 35 cm (13.8 in).	Responsible Bass Anglers of Nova Scotia

For more information on any of the regulation changes or proposed regulation changes, please contact the Inland Fisheries Division at 902-485-5056 or [inland@novascotia.ca](mailto:inland@novascotia.ca)

## Catch & Release

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Photo: Mark Dort

**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.**

- 1) 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 retrieve 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.
- 6) 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.



# Nova Scotia's Conservation Officer Service

## Our Vision

The responsible use of fish, wildlife, natural environments and other resources for today and the future

## Our Mission

To conserve, protect and promote our fish, wildlife, natural environments and other resources through safety, education and law enforcement

Call 1-800-565-2224 to report illegal activity  
[novascotia.ca/nse/conservation-enforcement](http://novascotia.ca/nse/conservation-enforcement)





## 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, 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 Brook Trout, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout species.

#### **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.**

### **LAKE (GREY) TROUT**

**Season: Apr 1 to Sep 30**

**CATCH AND RELEASE, only.**

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.

### **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, Mill Lake and Cox Flowage**, 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 67). 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, **Bag limit: 100 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 21).

### 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.

### ATLANTIC SALMON

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

### WARM WATER PROTOCOL

Please visit the following link [www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/recreational-fisheries](http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/recreational-fisheries) 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 Margaree River angling seasons, please contact the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at 902-224-2017.

### 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/en/recreational-fisheries](http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/recreational-fisheries) Recreational-Fisheries or search by keywords: "DFO Gulf Region recreational fisheries."

### STRIPED BASS 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 in) overall length, not more than 150 cm (59.1 in) 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, NS, 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.

The **Shubenacadie River** in the area of Indian School Road remains **CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING**. Contact DFO for details.

### 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.**



Photo: Scotty Sherin

## 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 Campbellton, 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.

## EEL

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 than 35 cm (13.8 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. **Maritime Region bag limit: 10 fish. Gulf Region bag limit: 5 fish.**

**NOTE:** Special provisions and winter seasons may be in place for trout, smallmouth bass, 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/](http://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.



# Licence of a Lifetime

**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 **2022 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. A great stocking stuffer for Christmas.**

**PRICES FOR 2022 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.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Resources Card # \_\_\_\_\_

A Gift for: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

You may pay by – Cheque (enclosed) payable to Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ cvv: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Security Code)

## Rules

- Open to Nova Scotia residents only.
- Entry forms are to be completely filled out in ink or typed.
- The licensee 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 Dec 6, 2022 – entries postmarked after Dec 6, 2022 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 Jan 17, 2023.
- \* 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.

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

# NOVA SCOTIA

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



*Photo: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation*

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.

Nova Scotia projects funded by the ASCF in 2021 were led by:

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation	\$14,000	LaHave River Salmon Association	\$5,000
Cheticamp River Salmon Association	\$13,000	Margaree Salmon Association	\$10,000
Clean Annapolis River Project Society	\$10,000	Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council	\$11,947
Inverness South Anglers Association	\$18,000	Nova Scotia Salmon Association	\$39,966
		St. Mary's River Association	\$15,000

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

[www.salmonconservation.ca](http://www.salmonconservation.ca)

# General Regulations

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## 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 (a) 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 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 52).
- fish within 23 m (26 yds) downstream of any fish ladder or leap.





## GUIDES

Non-residents do not need a guide to fish in Nova Scotia. However, guided fishing trips can significantly increase your angling experience. Consider hiring a professional guide for your next trip.

## 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 licensed 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.



Photo: Matt Warner



# Wild, native fish thriving in Nova Scotia waters.

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association represents the interests of native trout and Atlantic Salmon in Nova Scotia.

We rally the actions of passionate anglers and conservationists to ensure the survival and sustainability of our native fish, rivers and recreation.

**We need your voice. Join us for free today.**

[NSsalmon.ca](http://NSsalmon.ca)


 [@novascotiasalmonassociation](https://www.facebook.com/novascotiasalmonassociation)



Photo: Tim Myers

## 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 7-10), 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, 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. 2022 fishing licences are valid from the date of issue to March 31, 2023.
- 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 21.
- 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.

## Reporting

**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.

**To complete your licence stub online:**  
<https://beta.novascotia.ca/general-fishing-licence-report-card-sportfishing>

# 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, particularly smallmouth bass and chain pickerel, 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.



Photo: Matt Szeto

### REPORT INVASIVES

Report illegal introductions or sightings of introduced species by calling 902-485-5056 or email

[inland@novascotia.ca](mailto:inland@novascotia.ca) or call 1-888-435-4040 or email [XMARinvasive@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:XMARinvasive@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

If possible please provide a date, location and picture.



Photo: Government of Nova Scotia

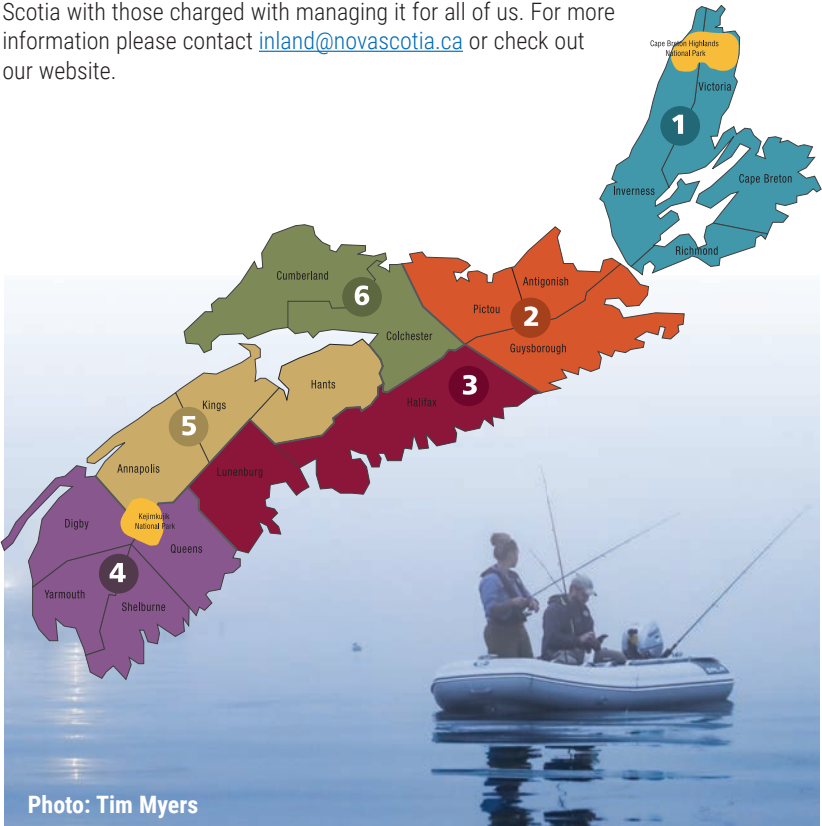


# Nova Scotia Recreational Fishing Areas

To allow management on a regional basis, the province is divided into six Recreational Fishing Areas (RFA's) currently determined by County boundaries. Sportfishing regulations in Kejimikujik and Cape Breton Highlands national parks is the responsibility of Parks Canada.

## Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council (RFAC)

The RFAC is a way for you to participate in the fisheries management process. Inland Fisheries staff host meetings for each of the Recreational Fishing Areas, usually 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](mailto:inland@novascotia.ca) or check out our website.



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).

## Important Addresses, Phone Numbers and Websites

### **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/](http://www.novascotia.ca/fish/)

E-mail: [inland@novascotia.ca](mailto:inland@novascotia.ca)

### **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/recreational-recreative/maritimes/index-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/recreational-recreative/maritimes/index-eng.html)

### **Maritimes Region Conservation and Protection Detachments**

[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/contact/regions/maritimes-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/contact/regions/maritimes-eng.html)

### **Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site**

PO Box 236, Maitland Bridge,

NS B0T 1B0

(902) 682-2770

### **Department of Environment (Head Office)**

Barrington Tower, 1894 Barrington Street

Suite 1800, PO Box 442,

Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Phone: (902) 424-3600

Fax: (Main) (902) 424-0501

### **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

[www.inter.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries](http://www.inter.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries)

### **Gulf Region**

#### **Conservation and Protection**

#### **Detachments**

Antigonish Phone: (902) 863-1142

Cheticamp Phone: (902) 224-2017

Pictou Phone: (902) 485-5413

### **Cape Breton Highlands National Park**

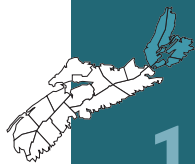
PO Box 158,

Cheticamp, NS B0E 1H0

(902) 224-2306



Photo: Tim Myers



## 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.

#### LANDLOCKED SALMON

**Apr 15 to Sep 30.** Gabarus Lake, Cape Breton County.

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

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#### 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**.

**Belfry 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 24).

**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 21).

**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 35 cm (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 7)



Photo: Colin Murrant



## 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'LAU 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.**

*contd. on page 25*

### 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.

*contd. on page 26*

### 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.**

*contd. on page 27*



## KEY

### Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area

OPEN ALL YEAR

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

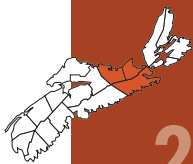


### CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS

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, Peters Brook and Cains 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**.



## 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.

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

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#### **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 300m 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.

**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.

## WATERS CLOSED TO ALL ANGLING FOR ALL SPECIES

The following waters are closed to all angling due to the recent introduction of Smallmouth Bass:

**Piper Lake**, Pictou County, **Dobson Lake**, Guysborough County.

## ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 7)

## 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 Review Glenelg and Melrose Lakes 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.

*contd. on page 30*

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.

*contd. on page 31*



### **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.

### **SOUTH RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY** *See map page 32*

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**.

*contd. on page 32*

## KEY

### West/South River Special Trout Management Area

- █ Open May 15 - Sep 30  
Natural bait prohibited. Artificial fly and unbaited lure only
- █ Open May 15 - Sep 30  
Artificial Fly only
- █ Open Apr 15 - Aug 31  
Bag: bag three (3) trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in)
- █ Sep 1 - Sep 30  
Bag: bag three (3) brown or rainbow trout, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), natural bait prohibited
- █ Open Apr 15 - Oct 31



## WEST RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY

The **Ohio River**, downstream from the bridge at the outlet of St. Joseph Lake, and the **Beaver River**, downstream from the outlet of MacEacherns Lake (excluding Cameron Lakes), to the bridge on the West River at Addington Forks, **Apr 1 to May 14**, closed to all angling for all species. **May 15 to Sep 30**, artificial fly only. **Bag limit one (1) trout** which must be greater than 35 cm (13.8 in) total length.

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. **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.

# Restoring our Rivers

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt A Stream program provides funding, training, and technical expertise to support local community groups, river associations, Mi'kmaw communities, and Indigenous organizations restoring and protecting our waterways.

**adopt**  
a stream



Photo credit: Coastal Action

Visit [nssalmon.ca](http://nssalmon.ca) & [adoptastream.ca](http://adoptastream.ca)



# 3

## Halifax and Lunenburg Counties

### RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 3

#### SEASONS

##### **SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN 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 natural bait is prohibited in all waters for all trout species, including Special Trout Management Areas, except for waters with extended seasons for trout.

##### **LAKE (GREY) TROUT**

**Apr 1 to Sep 30.** All lake (grey) trout must be released. **Bag limit zero (0) lake trout.**

##### **LANDLOCKED SALMON**

**Apr 1 to Sep 30.**

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

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#### **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, Williams Lake**, 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

**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), Halifax County, **OPEN ALL YEAR**.

## WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

The season corresponds with the open season for smallmouth bass or trout. In areas with extended seasons, perch may

also be retained. **Bag Limit, twenty-five (25) fish**.

## ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See Page 7)

## 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 200 m, 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**.

### **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**.



Photo: Tim Myers



## 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

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.

*contd. on page 38*



## KEY

### LaHave River Sections

- Morgan Falls
- █ Single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited Apr 1 to May 25
- █ Artificial fly only May 26 to end of all fishing seasons
- █ Lakes not included in Special Management Area



## LAHAVE RIVER, LUNENBURG COUNTY

**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, Texas 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.

*contd. on page 39*

## 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 are 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.

# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

## A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO FRESHWATER AND MARINE HABITAT

### HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

#### INFORMATION FOR ANGLERS AND BOATERS

Invasive species are non-native plants and animals that may spread rapidly and cause harm. They pose a significant threat to biodiversity and are costly to manage and control once established. Prevention of new introductions is the highest priority.

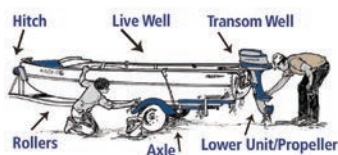
Some aquatic species can survive more than two weeks out of water. Adopting the following recommendations will help reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species.

- **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.

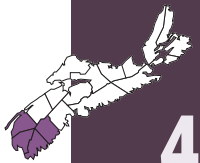
- **DRY** your boots, waders, boat, tackle, trailer, and other boating equipment in the sun for 5 days (recommended) to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch.



### WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



**Nova Scotia**  
**invasive**  
Species Council



# 4

## 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**.  
**Everitts 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 35 cm (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 SEASON 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.

## 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.**

## QUEENS 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.**

## ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 7)

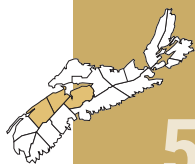
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**NOTE:** *Kejimikujik National Park & National Historic Site.* A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 21).

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Photo: Tim Myers



# 5

## 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.

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

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#### **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**, 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**.

### **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**.

### **SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS**

**Black River Lake, Little River Lake, Methals Lake, and Aylesford Lake Aylesford Lake (including Loon 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.

### **EXTENDED SEASONS FOR SMALLMOUTH BASS**

**Gaspereau Lake**, Kings County.

**Apr 1 to Dec 31.**

### **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.

## 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 speckled 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, 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.**

### THE UPPER MEDWAY SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREA

Graywood

Milford

South Milford

### KEY TO THE LAKES

- 1 Lake of Five Hardwood Hills
- 2 Small Spectacle Lakes
- 3 Alma Lake
- 4 Croker Lakes
- 5 Mistake Lake
- 6 Hendry Lake
- 7 Handshaw Lakes
- 8 Birch Lakes

- 9 Medway Lake
- 10 McVicker Lake
- 11 Frog Lake
- 12 Bear Lake
- 13 George Lake
- 14 First Lake
- 15 Lohnes Lake
- 16 Gull Lake

- 17 Upper Gull Lake
- 18 Allison Lake
- 19 Rocky Lake
- 20 Thomas Lake
- 21 Gang Lake
- 22 Elder Lake
- 23 Sunrise Lake
- 24 First Branch Lake

**NOTE:** *Kejimikujik 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 21).

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

## ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 7)

### KEY

Gaspereau River

■ Closed all year

■ Open Apr 1 to Sep 30 (Apr 1 to May 1, single hook lure or artificial fly).







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Trout Unlimited CANADA  
  
Truite illimitée CANADA



### **Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters**

PO Box 654, Halifax, NS B3J 2T3 Tel (902) 477-8898

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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 complete the form below and mail to: NSFAH, PO Box 654, Halifax NS, B3J 2T3.

Individual membership \$20.00. Family Membership \$30.00 (spouse + children under 18)

#### **Membership Application (Photocopy and mail)**

Name

Address

Postal Code

Send Cheque payable to NSFAH,

Credit Card No.  Expiry Date: Month:  Year:

CSC  (Security Code) Signature:



## 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.

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

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#### **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.

**Wagh'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.

#### **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**.  
**Pugwash River**, Apr 1 to Sept 30

#### **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 Lake**, Cumberland County,  
**OPEN ALL YEAR.**  
**Shortt's Lake**, Colchester County, **OPEN**  
**ALL YEAR.**

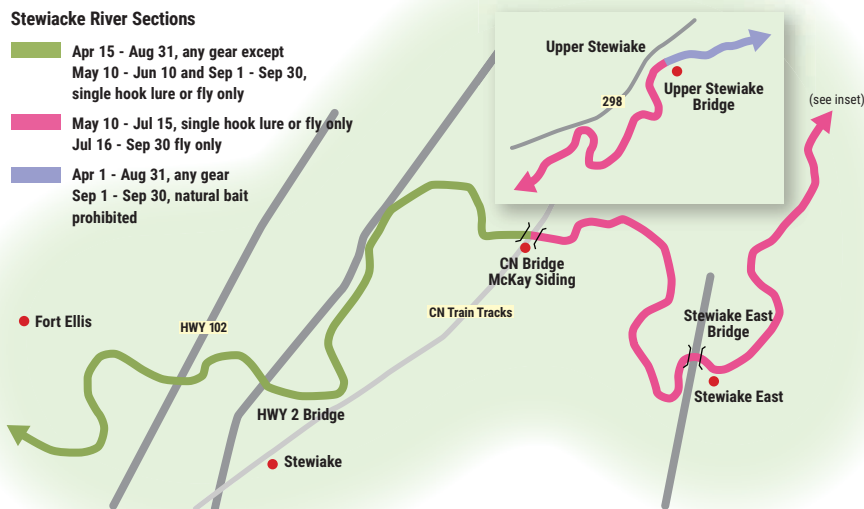
## ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

(See page 7)

## 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
- █ 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



## SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

### STEWIACKE RIVER, COLCHESTER COUNTY

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.**

contd. on page 48

### STEWIACKE RIVER, CONTINUED

**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.

# 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 52 and 70.

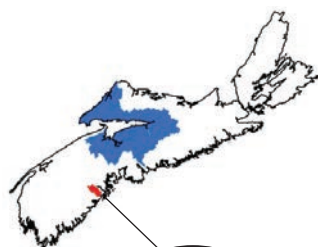


Atlantic Salmon



Brown Trout (mouth extends beyond eye)

Illustrations by: J. O. Pennanen/Atlantic Salmon Federation©



Atlantic whitefish

**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.**

**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](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca) or [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/)

Canada



#### 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'kmaq

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 livelihood 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 guidelines.

#### **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 1/2 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





## NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH HABITAT FUND

In 2021, the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund raised \$299,025 through a \$5.91 levy on fishing licences. A total of \$238,000 was provided to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt-A-Stream Program which funded fish habitat restoration projects undertaken by community and First Nation groups throughout the province. Since the inception of the program, projects like these have



restored more than 1.2 million square meters of spawning, rearing, over-wintering, and cool water summer refugia habitat for salmon and trout. Habitat connectivity continues to be an important component of several projects to improve passage for migrating fish. Other work focussed on bank stabilization to reduce sedimentation and protecting and restoring riparian habitat by planting trees along rivers and streams.

In addition to these projects, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association received \$15,000 for a liming project on the West River Sheet Harbour and \$25,000 for catchment liming by helicopter in the same watershed, the Port Morien Wildlife Association received \$6,200 for the refurbishment of a barrier free sportfishing facility at New Waterford Park, River Ryan in Cape Breton County and the Antigonish Rivers Association received \$19,825 for the installation of a Barrier-Free floating dock and fishing platform at Cameron Lake, Antigonish 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

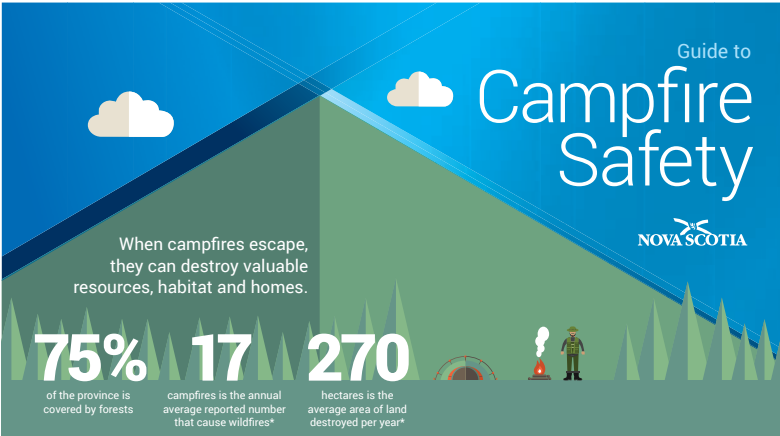
- Silvery with black spots on upper sides and cheeks and a forked tail
- Large eye



### 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





# Guide to Campfire Safety

NOVA SCOTIA

When campfires escape, they can destroy valuable resources, habitat and homes.

**75%**

of the province is covered by forests

**17**

campfires is the annual average reported number that cause wildfires\*

**270**

hectares is the average area of land destroyed per year\*

## Building

### Choose a safe site

**STEP ONE:**



**Is burning allowed?**  
Check the daily burn restrictions at [novascotia.ca/burnsafe](https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe) or 1 855 564 2876






Use a fire pit if available or build on bare rock, soil/sand

Keep a 3 metre clearance around and above your fire

Prepare the site by scraping the ground down to bare soil (1m radius)

## Burning

### Doing it safely

Campfires should be less than 0.5m high x 0.5m wide. Small hot fires are easier to cook over and put out. Use fire starters, kindling and dry wood.






Never leave your campfire unattended

Keep a pail of water and a shovel nearby

Watch children and pets around fire

If it's windy, do not have a campfire

## Extinguishing

### Cold to the touch means you're done

Always put out your campfire before leaving the area. Your fire is out when the ash doesn't hiss, no smoke comes from the ashes and the remnants are cold to the touch.





Pour a lot of water on it

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](https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe) or 1 855 564 2876. Abide by local municipal bylaws. To learn more visit [novascotia.ca/campsafe](https://novascotia.ca/campsafe)

\*Reported Nova Scotia average.

## NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH REGISTRY

### LIVE RELEASE CATEGORY

Species	Length x Girth	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 17.5 in	2021	Tyler Nickerson	Salmon Lake	Yarmouth
Speckled Trout	16.0 in x 8.0 in	2013	Neil Graham	River Denys	Inverness
Striped Bass	51.5 in x 28.5 in	2020	Skyler Jeddore	Gull Cove	Cape Breton

### CATCH AND KEEP CATEGORY

Species	Weight	Year	Angler	Location	County
Rainbow Trout	11.33 lbs	2021	Dylon Turnbull	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
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
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 RELEASE CATEGORY

Species	Length x Girth	Year	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 AND KEEP CATEGORY CATEGORY

Species	Weight	Year	Angler	Location	County
Brown Bullhead	1.08 lbs	2007	Alex Cunningham	Raynards Lake	Yarmouth
Brown Trout	6.69 lbs	2018	Matthew Musgrave	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
Chain Pickerel	3.99 lbs	2007	Marcel Boudreau	Hibbards Lake	Yarmouth
Rainbow Trout	8.38 lbs	1993	Katie Wareham	McAskills Brook	Cape Breton
Speckled Trout	3.40 lbs	2009	Aidan Doucet	Lochabor Lake	Antigonish
Yellow Perch	0.76 lbs	2016	Sarah Henderson	Mersey River	Queens

### SMALLMOUTH BASS TOURNAMENT ANGLING (weight for 5-fish bag limits; all fish released)

Weight	Year	Angler	Location	County
17.26 lbs	2009	Rob Mailman, Peter Lavender	Mersey River	Queens
15.60 lbs	2008	Rod Goodwin, Ian Ross	Ogden, Parr, Petes Lakes	Yarmouth
15.56 lbs	2003	Conrad Corporon, Bernard Corporon	Lac d'en Bas	Digby
15.51 lbs	2005	Jim Langthorne, Ian Langthorne	Kempt Back Lake	Yarmouth

**Nova Scotia Sportfish Registry PO Box 700 Pictou NS B0K 1H0 Phone: (902) 485-5056**

**Fax: (902) 485-4014 E-mail: [inland@novascotia.ca](mailto:inland@novascotia.ca) Website: <http://novascotia.ca/fish/>**



Photo: Matt Szeto

## WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVA SCOTIA

For those who love the outdoors, winter fishing is an ideal recreational sport.

**Fishing licences for 2022 are valid until Mar 31, 2023.** 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.**

## WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

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

## WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

### 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		✓	✓
Colchester	Shortts Lake	✓	✓	✓
Cumberland	Long Lake		✓	✓
Cumberland	Smiths Lake		✓	✓
Digby	Meteghan River, including all lakes and tributaries	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Morris Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Russel Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Grand Lake (Shubenacadie)	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Fish Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Bissett Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Powder Mill Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Micmac Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Red Bridge Pond	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Beaver Bank Lake	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Beaver Pond (near Kinsac Lake)	✓	✓	✓
Halifax	Kinsac Lake	✓	✓	✓
Hants	Lily Lake (Cogamun Pond)	✓	✓	✓
Hants	Woodward Sanford Lake		✓	✓
Kings	Lake George	✓	✓	✓
Kings	Nicholas Lake	✓	✓	✓
Kings	North River Lake	✓	✓	✓
Kings	Lake Paul	✓	✓	✓
Queens	Louis Lake	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	Walls Lake	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	Lake George	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	Ponds in Port LaTour and Bakers Flats, Cape Sable Island	✓	✓	✓
Yarmouth	Annis River	✓	✓	✓
Yarmouth	Kiack Brook (Near Belleville South), including all lakes and tributaries	✓	✓	✓



## THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES RESEARCH COOPERATIVE

The freshwater fishery in Nova Scotia has experienced 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). 2022 marks the 15th consecutive year that fisheries management initiatives supported by the FFRC. Reports of previous FFRC projects are available on <https://novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing/resource-management/>

### **Response of Trout and Salmon to Restoration Initiatives**

Kris Hunter (St. Francis Xavier University, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Hunter Environmental Services), in collaboration with Adopt A Stream and DFO, has completed an eleven year study on stream habitat and fish populations before and after instream restoration work. This project will provide valuable insight into the changes associated with habitat restoration and future considerations to improve degraded habitat.

### **Biology of Lake Trout in Sherbrooke Lake**

Lake trout, unlike brook trout, are only known to be present in a handful of lakes in Nova Scotia. This study is a follow up to the review of historical evidence to assess if lake trout populations are of wild origin in Nova Scotia (Dr. Samuel Andrews and Matt Warner, Canadian Rivers Institute, University of New Brunswick). Dr Michael Stokesbury and Matt Warner (Acadia University) are evaluating the lake trout population in Sherbrooke Lake, Lunenburg County. Lake trout prefer cooler water compared to brook trout. Thermal habitat usage by lake trout will be measured with the aid of temperature/depth sensing acoustic tags and lake habitat mapping. In addition, how reliant the lake trout population is on marine derived nutrients (i.e., gaspereau and smelt) will determine if barriers to fish passage have been a key factor in the loss of native lake trout in Nova Scotia Lakes.

### **Lake Trout Population Study & Support for Mercury Food Web Analysis in Sherbrooke Lake**

In a joint venture with researchers studying lake trout in Sherbrook Lake and invasive species in the LaHave River, Brooke Nodding (Coastal Action Foundation) and Kaylee MacLeod (St. Mary's University) will evaluate the size structure and indices to assess the number in the lake trout population. Anglers have reported that sea lamprey, a blood predator are impacting the lake trout population. Evidence of predatory attacks from sea lamprey appear as scarring and abrasions on lake trout. This proposed work will assist with the mercury evaluation in fish tissue described below.

### **Mercury Bioaccumulation in Chain Pickerel in the LaHave River Watershed**

Dr Linda Campbell and Kaylee MacLeod (St. Mary's University) will assess the trophodynamics and mercury bioaccumulation within fish of Sherbrooke Lake and Wentzells Lake, in the LaHave River Watershed. The methods will include stable isotope analysis to evaluate mercury (Hg) accumulation and assess food web structure and trophodynamics in the lake and river system. This study will focus on invasive chain pickerel and smallmouth bass. These data will compare with the human consumption guidelines laid out by Health Canada to assess both environmental and human risks.

## STAFF PROFILE, INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION, NSFA



Jason LeBlanc is the Director of the Inland Fisheries Division which has the responsibility to manage, promote, support and grow the sportfishery of the province. Based out of Pictou, he oversees both the Resource Management (science, regulations, and outreach) and Enhancement (hatchery stocking) sections of the Division.

Jason received a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, where he focussed on limnology and aquatic ecology. He began his fisheries career working on Atlantic Salmon and Gaspereau and in 1996 took a Fisheries Technician position with the Division working on fish habitat and outreach initiatives. He worked as a Fisheries Biologist for the next 14 years, primarily focusing on Smallmouth Bass management, spawning behaviour, species interactions and aquatic invasive species. Before becoming Director, Jason was the Manager of the Resource Management Section for the last 7 years, leading a team of professionals dedicated to the effective management and conservation of Nova Scotia's sportfishery. He has also represented the Department at various levels of government on a wide range of fisheries topics and has been a long-time contributor to the National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee.

As an angler himself, Jason takes pride in building and maintaining relationships with sportfishing organizations and other anglers and colleagues throughout the province and acknowledges the significant contributions they make. He says he feels excited for the opportunity to lead the Division and continue to work along side so many wonderful people in the sportfishing industry. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Hazel Glen, Pictou County, where they raised one son, now in university. In his spare time, Jason enjoys chasing Brookies, hiking, travel and occasionally getting back to his Cape Breton roots.

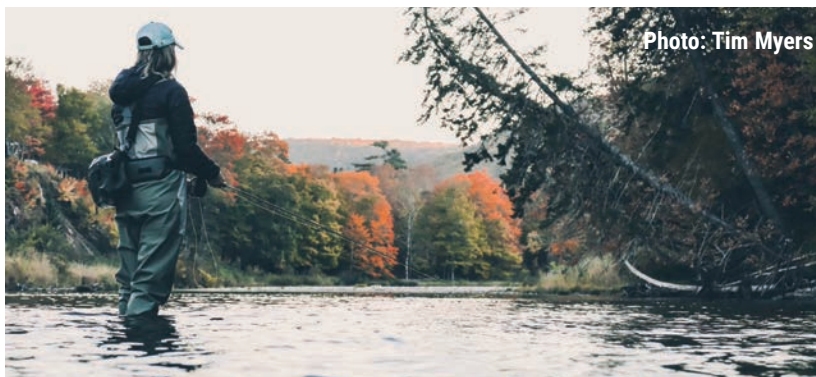


Photo: Tim Myers

# 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 or 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 barrier-free fishing facilities. Typically, more than 50 derbies receive trout from our Provincial hatcheries. Last spring, due to concerns regarding COVID-19, no permits for trout derbies were issued. These social events are cherished by many organizers and communities as a means of introducing youngsters to the enjoyment and comradery that angling provides. Similarly, all Learn-to-Fish (L2F) events were cancelled in 2021.

L2F usually hosts around 70 events, providing kids the opportunity to take up a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime. Despite the 2021 cancellations, most lakes were stocked, and anglers were able to get out and enjoy themselves while keeping a safe distance from one another. An additional 175 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. This 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. Each year, close to 1,000,000 Speckled trout eggs are incubated here and later released as fry, fall fingerlings, yearlings, and adult fish.



### **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 help with broodstock collection, stocking juvenile salmon and to provide local traditional knowledge.

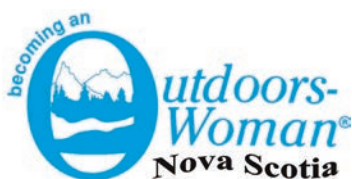
Since the first broodstock collections of 2006, eight rivers have had their populations enhanced with fry, parr or smolt from the Fraser's Mills or Margaree fish hatcheries. The rivers are: Baddeck River, Graham's River (Inverness Co.), Mabou River, Margaree River, Middle River (Cape Breton), River Philip, St. Francis Harbour River, West River (Antigonish), West River (Pictou), and Waugh's River. Hatchery enhancement is an important consideration in maintaining an open catch and release fall season on the Baddeck and Middle Rivers. In the fall

of 2021, eggs were obtained from wild broodstock collected from Baddeck River, Margaree River, Middle River, Waughs River and West River Antigonish. In West River Sheet Harbour, in the fall of 2021, 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, visit our website: [www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing](http://www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing) or contact Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division at (902) 485-5056.**

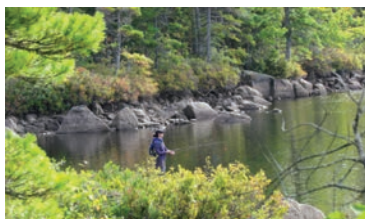


**FRASER'S MILLS HATCHERY**



**The Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshops offer:**

- 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 who are willing to share their knowledge and passion in a fun and comfortable 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, with like-minded people

**If you would like more information, please contact us at: [bownovascotia@gmail.com](mailto:bownovascotia@gmail.com) or visit us online [www.bownovascotia.com](http://www.bownovascotia.com)**



All 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. Please note: The opening of the hatchery sites and visitor centers may be affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

**FOR WEEKLY SPRING STOCKING UPDATES OR A COMPLETE LIST OF STOCKED LAKES PLEASE VISIT:**

[www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing](http://www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing)

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

## OUR MISSION: TO RESTORE SALMON TO THEIR NATIVE RIVERS

PLEASE JOIN - HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN

 [WWW.WILDSALMONUNLIMITED.COM](http://WWW.WILDSALMONUNLIMITED.COM)  
 [WILDSALMONUNLIMITED@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WILDSALMONUNLIMITED@GMAIL.COM)





# Sportfish Resource Management

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## Trout Management

In the face of threats such as climate change and the rapid spread of invasive species, a major focus of the Resource 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 and conservation 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 their effectiveness, our staff use various techniques to quantify angler activity, harvest levels, and the response of the trout populations to regulation changes. Angler surveys performed before and after implementation of STMAs in River Denys, Cape Breton and South River, Antigonish, indicate that the quality of the fishery has improved. Long term monitoring of sea trout fisheries will be continued to evaluate the importance of natural variability and harvest.

## Smallmouth Bass Management

Nova Scotia is divided into two management zones for smallmouth bass. In the western zone, where populations currently exist, smallmouth bass contributes to the sportfishery of the province. Management projects for this species focus on assessing regulations, evaluating changes in populations over time, population estimates and lake ecology. In the eastern zone, high quality salmonid habitat remains abundant, and we continue to work on control and eradication projects in several watersheds. Our goal in both management zones is to ensure smallmouth bass do not negatively affect vulnerable species and no further Illegal Introductions occur.

## Tournament Monitoring

Smallmouth bass tournaments are required to submit catch and participation data to Inland Fisheries. Data is collected to monitor changes and trends in population structure, fish size, and the effectiveness of management measures throughout Nova Scotia. The Department continues to work cooperatively with smallmouth bass organizations throughout Nova Scotia to develop the fishery.

## 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 native fish communities, but also threaten biodiversity. 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, migration, and colonization of new habitats. It may take years for invasive species to establish a population and for anglers to catch and report a new occurrence. The Department will continue to monitor and confirm the spread of invasive species throughout the province.

### **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.

### **Piper Lake Smallmouth Bass Eradication Project**

In July 2019, smallmouth bass were detected in Piper Lake, Pictou County during routine invasive species checks. Immediately, staff worked to ensure bass could not migrate downstream where they could threaten the entire St. Mary's River watershed. In total, more than 520 smallmouth bass have been removed from Piper Lake. In 2021, Inland

Fisheries staff collected post treatment data to be certain that smallmouth bass did not survive the treatment, and to gauge the impact on non target species. No fish were found in the lake; however, staff were pleasantly surprised to find that the impact on other aquatic life has been minimal. Aquatic invertebrates and amphibians were present in the lake in good numbers and several native fish species were observed immediately below the barrier. Inland Fisheries will continue to monitor the natural recolonization of native fish species for several years.

### **Responding to an Illegal Introduction of Smallmouth Bass in Dobsons Lake**

The spread of aquatic invasive species, such as smallmouth bass and chain pickerel, have caused the permanent loss of brook trout fisheries in freshwater systems. Smallmouth bass and chain pickerel impact over thirty percent of the freshwater lake habitats in Nova Scotia. This growing threat justified a shift of resources used to support assessments of trout fisheries and trout populations. Smallmouth bass were confirmed in Dobsons Lake, Cole Harbour River, Guysborough County. In response to this illegal introduction, specially designed barriers were installed to protect productive trout lakes that are located downstream from Dobsons Lake. Limited competition from the few fish species present in the Cole Harbour system is a main reason why trout thrive and a main reason why smallmouth bass are a major threat. Department staff with interested community members continue efforts to remove smallmouth bass and determine the extent of the spread. An option to eradicate smallmouth bass from this system is being considered.

## Growing the Nova Scotia Sportfishing Industry

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is committed to helping promote and grow our sportfishing industry. The Fish Nova Scotia identity has solidified its presence in the community and on social media channels. Facebook and Instagram have allowed us to connect with Nova Scotia's angling community as well as showcase all the species and fishing experiences we have to offer.

We love sharing our world-class angling opportunities with non-residents from around the world and encourage Nova Scotians to take advantage of some of the unique outdoor experiences in our own back yard.

Work continues with the Nova Scotian Guides Service, a sub committee of the Nova Scotia Guides Association, to offer the Fishing Guide Professionalization Program to individuals interested in joining the Fish Nova Scotia network. There are 70 guides across the province who have completed the weekend workshop which includes training in photography, social media, Food Handling, cultural sensitivity, guiding etiquette and Treaty Rights education. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this exciting initiative.

The Sportfish Development Officer was able to participate in organized events to help support the efforts being made to increase the number of women fly fishing. We were also able to participate in Soldier On angling events which help with the recovery of ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans. Congratulations to the organizers for hosting professional and engaging opportunities for more people to experience fly fishing.

## Indigenous Learning Day for Fishing Guides and Anglers

Inland staff proudly worked with the Nova Scotia Guides Service and L'nu affairs to organize the first annual Indigenous Learning Day for fishing guides and anglers. Several guest speakers and Mi'kmaq knowledge keepers shared their stories, experiences, and expertise on all kinds of important topics including the work being done by conservation groups, Netukulimk and Treaty Education. Wela'lin to each participant and presenter.

## Learn to Fish Program

Coordinated by provincial staff, community organizations, schools, and volunteers, the Learn to Fish Program (L2F) recruits the next generation of stewards of our aquatic resources, by teaching safe and ethical angling skills to youth.

L2F in schools and Community L2F events were not possible during the 2021 season because of COVID-19 restrictions. L2F and other sportfishing programs will return once it is safe to gather. We wish to thank the many teachers, volunteers, community organizations and the angling community for your patience and continued support.



Photo: Sabrina Wolthers

## 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 21. 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

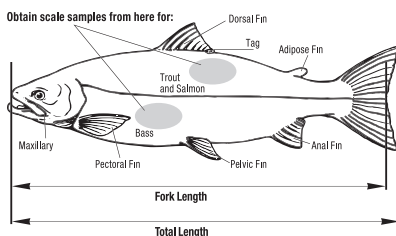


Photo: Kyle Denny

## Definitions

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**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.



Photo: Tim Myers



**We are a provincial group of recreational smallmouth bass anglers whose mission is to promote all freshwater fishery resources and support smallmouth angling opportunities.**

**[www.rbans.ca](http://www.rbans.ca)**

**19 Hampton Court Bridgewater, NS. B4V 8W6**

## 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 trout
- Smallmouth bass
- White perch
- Yellow perch
- Chain pickerel

### Polychlorinated 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/fish-consumption-advisory.asp>





## 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](http://www.novascotia.ca/fish/sportfishing)

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

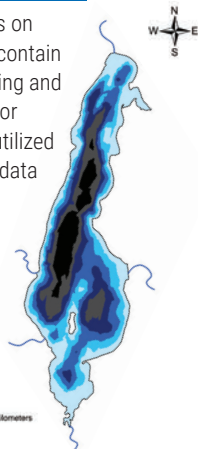
**Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries Aquaculture**

**Attention: Information Officer**

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

Tel: (902) 485-5056 E-mail: [inland@novascotia.ca](mailto:inland@novascotia.ca)

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers



## Is it a Salmon or a Brown Trout?

### Atlantic Salmon

Inside Upper



**Vomerine Teeth**  
Small and arranged in a single row along the vomerine shaft. Absent or very sparse on the vomerine head.

Inside Lower



**Tongue**  
Tapered and round.



**Maxillary**  
Maxillary usually extends to rear edge of eye or slightly beyond.

### Juvenile Salmon

Maxillary reaches middle of the eye.  
Tail fin tips are pointed and the adipose fin is clear.



### Brown Trout

Inside Upper



**Vomerine Teeth**  
Well developed on both the vomerine head and shaft. Arranged in a zig-zag fashion along the shaft.

Inside Lower



**Tongue**  
Broad and square.



**Maxillary**  
Maxillary usually extends well past rear edge of eye.

### Juvenile Brown Trout

Maxillary reaches rear edge eye.  
Tail fin tips are rounded. Adipose fin is orange or yellow.



## 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	Habitant River Trout Association
Albert Bridge Recreation Association	Halifax Wildlife Association
Antigonish Rivers Association	Hants County Wildlife Association
Annapolis Fly Fishers	Hants West Wildlife Association
Annapolis Valley Bass Club	Highland Sport Club
Apaqtuwaq Fisheries COOP	HRM Community, Culture & Economic Development
Bass River Fire Department	Inverness Ground Search & Rescue
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Inverness Middlewood Fire Dept
Black River Environmental Committee	Inverness South Anglers Association
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation	Kings County Wildlife Association
Blue Mountain Fire Departement	LaHave River Watershed Enhancement Foundation
Boys and Girls Club of Lower Sackville	LaHave Salmon Association
Bronzeback Bassers	Lake Ainslie & Margaree River Heritage Association
Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers	Lakeside Smallmouth Bass Club
Cape Breton Anglers Association	Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development Association
Cape Breton Wildlife Association	Lunenburg Wildlife Association
Cheticamp River Salmon Association	Mabou & District Community Development Association
Children's Wish Foundation	Margaree & District Fire Dept
Clean Annapolis River Project	Margaree Salmon Association
Clean Nova Scotia	Maitland and District Volunteer Fire Dept.
Cobequid Salmon Association	Medway River Salmon Association
Cumberland County River Enhancement Association	Middle River Watershed Development Association
Dartmouth North Community Centre	Mi'kmaw Conservation Group
Digby East Fish and Game Association	Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement Project
East Shelburne County River Association	Mulgrave Recreation Department
Enfield Volunteer Fire Department	Municipality of District of Cumberland
Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Service	
4-H Tatamagouche	
Friends of Cornwallis River	
Guysborough Fish & Game Association	



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  
 Paqtkek 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

Sackville Rivers Association  
 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