



NOVA SCOTIA

ANGLERS' HANDBOOK

and 2014 Summary of Regulations



**New winter
opportunities**

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**Free Sportfishing
Weekends**

June 7-8, 2014

February 14-15, 2015

**Inland Fisheries
Division Activities**

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Out here, we are the law



Did you know that Conservation Officers have authority to carry side arms, make arrests, lay charges, and seize vehicles, weapons, and illegal fish & game? We also have the power to enforce the Criminal Code of Canada, Liquor Control Act, Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, and more.

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

**To report an illegal activity, call us at
1-800-565-2224**



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On the Cover:
Darryl Murrant on
the Baddeck River
Photo by Megan Mahon



PLEASE TAKE NOTE

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of the anglers of Nova Scotia. It 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.

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITIES

Report illegal fishing activities to your local office of the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at 1-800-565-1633, Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Message from Keith Cowell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture



Sportfishing is one of many outdoor experiences that Nova Scotia offers and can be enjoyed by all ages. The Province's freshwater fishing spots offer an opportunity to see our wild areas. For many anglers exploring what is around the next bend or visiting a new fishing spot for the first time is an important part of the adventure. Whether it's an angler picking up a rod for the first time or an accomplished fisher returning to a favourite lake or river, more people are enjoying the outdoors through recreational fishing. Fishing licence sales have increased to more than 70,000 in recent years, a level not seen since the early nineties. Our extensive trout and salmon stocking efforts and award-winning programs like Learn to Fish and Becoming an Outdoors Woman have helped this increase. The sportfishing industry generates over \$58 million in direct expenditures much of which occurs in rural areas generating much needed jobs and wealth.

One of the benefits of increasing numbers of anglers is the financial support fishing licence sales provide to the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund. Last year anglers contributed over \$332,000 to the fund which provides money for programs such as Adopt-A-Stream and barrier-free access projects. Dozens of volunteer angling groups access these programs each year to improve and restore fish habitat and angler access with projects such as boat launches and barrier-free fishing piers. The new Live Fish Possession Regulations put in place in 2013 designed to curb the spread of aquatic invasive species has been well received by anglers and enforcement authorities alike. Nova Scotia has set the standard in Canada for legislation to address the problem of invasive species while preserving traditional angling opportunities. For most anglers this regulation means you must decide to release your fish upon capture or harvest it according to bag limits for the species.

Maintaining the ability to provide scientific advice to support fisheries management decisions in a small Department is challenging. In 2013, five projects were funded under the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative which leveraged a total of \$133,000 from an investment of \$30,000. Department staff work with researchers from four Nova Scotia universities, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and several NGO's to supervise projects designed to provide answers to current fisheries management questions.

Anyone wanting to find out what the sport has to offer should take part in a sportfishing weekend, happening June 7 and 8, 2014 and February 14 and 15, 2015. Anglers may fish without a licence only on those weekends. I encourage anyone who is searching for a perfect outdoor activity for family togetherness to take advantage of this great opportunity. We are fortunate to live in a place where there are many opportunities to fish. Few things in life offer both calm and exhilaration like sportfishing, but please put safety first. I especially urge those on the water to use personal flotation devices.

All the best for an enjoyable and safe fishing experience in Nova Scotia.

New for 2014

Please review each Recreational Fishing Area (RFA) for a complete description of the following changes or additions for the 2014 season.

1. Big Meadow Brook, Tusket River: New Special Trout Management Area, catch and release, artificial fly or single hook lure only.
2. Maccan River: Downstream from the highway 2 bridge at Southampton, Apr 1 to May 14, catch and release, artificial fly only. May 15 to Aug 15, bag limit reduced to 2 trout per day, any gear. Aug 16 to Sep 30, artificial fly only, catch and release only.
3. River Philip: From Mountain Road Bridge downstream, Apr 1 - May 14, artificial fly only, catch and release only, May 15 - Aug 31, any gear, bag limit 2 trout.
4. Special Bass Management Areas: Aylesford Lake, Kings County and Vaughn Lake, Yarmouth County.
5. Salmon River, Guysborough: Oct 1 - 31, brown trout, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly only.
6. Guysborough River: Upper boundary of the Special Management Area moved upstream to the bridge at West Interval.
7. Tracadie River: Delayed opening of the inland water season to Apr 15 from the highway 4 bridge in Monastery to a point 400 m downstream.
8. South River Antigonish: Special Trout Management Area extended to the outflow of Antigonish Harbour; bag limit for speckled trout reduced to 2 trout.
9. Winter fishery: Many freshwater lakes with extended seasons for rainbow trout are now open for speckled trout. Cow Bay Pond, Halifax County and Isaac Lake, Cumberland County are open for retention of speckled trout. Long Lake and Smith Lake, Cumberland County are open for retention of perch. Beaver Bank Lake, Beaver Pond, and Lake Egmont, Halifax County, Nicholas Lake and North River Lake, Kings County are open for retention of chain pickerel, white and yellow perch.

LIVE FISH POSSESSION REGULATIONS

Regulations developed under the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act prohibit the possession of live fish in Nova Scotia. These regulations help protect native fish species against the unauthorized introduction of invasive fish into provincial waters by providing an enforceable law that directly targets this illegal activity.

In most cases, the possession of live fish is prohibited. Existing activities and angling traditions where the legitimate possession of live fish is practised, such as using live bait, catch-and-release tournaments and stocking for educational programs are permitted to continue. However, activities such as keeping live fish on a stringer, in a live well or bucket are no longer permitted under these new regulations.

The Province works with the Aboriginal community, angling associations, and provincial and federal enforcement agencies and committees to develop effective strategies against illegal introductions of aquatic invasive species. This regulation is essential as impacts from illegal introductions represent a high risk to native fish populations.

For further information please visit our website or contact the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (see page 12).



Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas have been used to improve angling opportunities for both smallmouth bass and trout. Recent and past studies have indicated that brook trout production is limited in Nova Scotia and a change in the provincial trout resource has occurred. Overfishing is one of the main factors believed to be responsible for declines in fisheries in some areas. Other factors include habitat loss and competition with aquatic invasive species such as smallmouth bass and chain pickerel. New regulations in Special Management Areas may affect bag limit, season length, length limit of fish retained, and gear type.

Ongoing 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. In Nova Scotia, ongoing monitoring is required to assess the impact of new regulations on trout and bass fisheries.

Interest in Special Management Areas (SMAs) has increased in Nova Scotia. Anglers have identified potential locations for SMAs through the Recreational Fishery Advisory Council process. Anglers who are interested in SMAs are encouraged to participate in the Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils.

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

You've taught them all you know about fishing,
including wearing their lifejackets.



Fishing is a wonderful sport; an activity you and the kids can enjoy. They look up to you for information and guidance on something you can share together. You've got them hooked on fishing. The Canadian Safe Boating Council thanks you for getting them 'Hooked on Lifejackets'.



Hooked on
Lifejackets



Proposed Changes for 2015

The following regulation changes have been forwarded for consideration and were initiated by anglers and sportfishing organizations through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils (RFAC's).

Location	Proposed Change
Salmon River Guysborough	Reduce the bag limit and add a minimum length limit for trout.
Upper Medway and Mersey rivers	Reduce bag limit for trout on waters formerly owned lands of Bowater–Mersey Inc. and in RFA 4 and RFA 5 includes regions of the upper Medway River and Mersey River.
Baddeck and Middle rivers	Extend retention season for brown trout to match rainbow season from Oct 1-31, bag limit 2 trout, barbless artificial fly only.
Harrison Lake	Remove special trout management regulations and open for winter fishery for trout.
East River Pictou	Reduce the bag limit for trout.
Barneys River	Delay the opening to 15 May downstream from a point located 50m upstream from the Red Banks tidal pool.
Cornwallis River	Extend angling season for brown trout from Oct 1 - 31, catch and release, barbless artificial fly only.
Middle River Pictou	Open for smallmouth bass retention.
Trout Brook, Inverness County	Upstream from Highway 395, catch and release only, artificial fly only.
Special Bass Management Areas	Banook, Micmac, Morris and Porters lakes, Halifax County, West Horseshoe Lake, Shelburne County, Ponthook and Molega lakes, Queens County and Kemptback Lake, Yarmouth County. Apr 1 to Dec 31. Bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35cm (13.8 in.) except from May 1 to Jun 15 no smallmouth bass may be retained.

If you are interested in any of the above listed areas, have others that you believe should be included as Special Management Areas or would benefit from regulation changes, please contact the Inland Fisheries Division to find out about the next Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council meeting in your area. The purpose of the RFAC is to advise the public of fisheries management issues. Contact the Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, PO Box 700, Pictou, Nova Scotia, B0K 1H0, phone (902) 485-5056, email inland@gov.ns.ca or visit our website: www.gov.ns.ca/fish/

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.

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.

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

Season: Apr 1 to Sep 30

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

EXCEPTIONS:

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

LANDLOCKED SALMON CLOSED ALL YEAR.

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

Goose Harbour Lake, Guysborough County, OPEN ALL YEAR.
Lake Charles, Lake Williams, Lake

Thomas, Fletchers Lake, Shubenacadie Grand Lake, Little Grand Lake, Scraggy Lake, Lake Charlotte, Halifax County, Apr 1 to Sep 30.

Bag limit: 2 fish. Minimum size limit, not less than 35 cm (13.8 in.), measured from the end of the nose to the fork of the tail (see diagram page 56). All salmon over 63 cm (24.8 in.) must be released. It is no longer required to tag landlocked salmon between 48cm and 63cm.

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

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

ATLANTIC SALMON

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

For changes to angling seasons, please contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) at (902) 426-5433 or (902) 426-1781.

LAKE WHITEFISH

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

SMALLMOUTH (BLACK) BASS

Season: Apr 1 to Oct 31, except for closures listed under Recreational Fishing Areas (RFAs) 1, 2, 3, and 6.

Bag limit: 5 fish in RFAs 3, 4, and Kings and Annapolis counties of RFA 5.

Bag limit: 25 fish in selected lakes of RFAs 1, 2, 6, and Hants County.

SHAD

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. **Bag limit: 5 fish.**

STRIPED BASS

The tidal and non-tidal waters of the Northumberland Strait from the New Brunswick border to Cape North. Season, size limits and bag limits to be provided from DFO.

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. **Bag limit: 1 fish**, with a minimum size limit, not less than 68 cm (26.8 inches) overall length, measured from the tip of nose to the tip of tail. Tidal waters open all year, except closed Apr 1 to Jun 30 on the Annapolis River from Hebbs Landing near the confluence of Ray Brook (grid reference 0313214 4964708, map 21A/14). The open season for striped bass in inland waters corresponds to the open season for sportfish (salmon, trout, and smallmouth bass) in those waters.

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.

GASPEREAU

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. **Bag limit: 20 fish.**

SMELT

Tidal waters open Aug 1 to May 31(closed Jun 1 to Jul 31).

Apr 1 to Jun 15, Kennetcook River, Meander River, Herbert River, St. Croix River and Avon River, Hants County, dip netting

CANADA'S ONLINE TACKLE SHOP
Margaree River
<http://mrffstackle.com>
Fly Fishing Specialists
Products For Fly Fishers By Fly Fishers

permitted except closed Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Other areas, dip-netting permitted except closed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. **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. **Bag limit: 10 fish.**

NOTE:

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

Inland waters: The boundary between Inland and tidal waters is defined under Section 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.gov.ns.ca/fish/. For the locations of other inland water boundaries not on the list, please consult the local office of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

General Regulations

GUIDES

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

FISHING METHODS AND EQUIPMENT

No one is allowed to:

- possess fish that were caught by any person while fishing for recreational purposes or sport purposes and that have been skinned, cut, packed or otherwise dealt with in such a manner that (1) the species cannot be readily determined; (b) the number of fish cannot be readily determined; (c) where weight is used to

determine catch limits, the weight of the fish cannot be readily determined; and (d) where size limits are applicable, the size of the fish cannot be readily determined.

- possess live fish of any species except under circumstances outlined in Section 81 of the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act <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 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 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 65).

- fish in any watercourse while swimming or skin diving.
- fish within 23 m (26 yds) downstream of any fish ladder.

TRESPASSING

As a resident of the province you have the right to go on foot along the banks of any river, stream or lake and upon and across any uncultivated lands and Crown lands to lawfully fish with rod and line in these rivers, streams or lakes; you also have the right to use a boat or canoe on or across any river, stream or lake. (The Angling Act)

SPECIAL NOTES

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

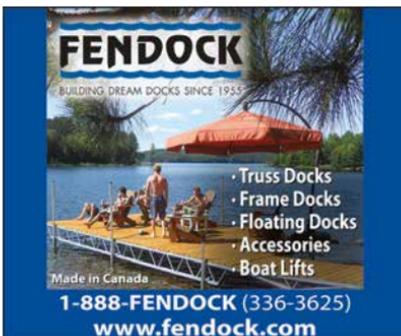
ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The management of sea going (anadromous) Atlantic salmon, striped bass, eel, shad, sturgeon, gaspereau, Atlantic whitefish and smelt is the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. 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 Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. (see page 12).

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:

- 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. Other Angling seasons and Bag limits (pages 6-7) for more information. The boundaries of tidal waters are defined by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and are listed on the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture website. Check each Recreational Fishing Area for tidal water closures.
- No licence is required to fish in legally constructed private ponds or U-fish operations (commercially licenced aquaculture operations), nor do seasons or bag limits apply. Permission to fish must be obtained from the owner.
- Residents 65 years of age and older may purchase a General Fishing Licence at a reduced rate (see Fees below).
- No licence is required for recreational dip-netting of smelt or gaspereau. Seasons and bag limits are still in effect.
- Residents and non-residents under the age of 16 years do not require a licence except for salmon. For further information, see the Summary of Salmon Fishing Regulations.



Lost licences can be replaced at your local Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources office at a cost of \$5.75. 2014 fishing licences are valid from the date of issue to March 31, 2015. Extended fishing seasons are being developed in some areas. If you anticipate taking part in a winter fishery, please keep your licence and return your completed licence stub at the end of March.

If you are required to possess a licence and/or tags, you must carry them with you while fishing.

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 13. It is an offence not to have your signature and address on a licence.

Fees (15 % HST included)

NOTE: Included in the fees for all fishing licences (except seniors licences) is a \$5.71 surcharge for the projects funded under the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund. (see page 34 for details)

1. General Fishing Licences are available from all district offices of the Department of Natural Resources and from vendors authorized to issue fishing licences.
 - Resident \$26.73
 - Resident (Senior) \$6.57 (65 years & older)
 - Non-resident (Seasonal) \$61.73
 - Non-resident (7- day) \$33.72
 - 1-Day (resident and non-resident) \$12.71
 - Licences for qualified disabled persons are available free of charge. Contact any district offices of the Department of Natural Resources (8:30 am–4:30 pm, Mon–Fri) for information about how to apply.

2. Salmon Fishing Licences are available from all district offices of the Department of Natural Resources (8:30 am–4:30 pm, Mon.–Fri.) and selected vendors as well as from provincial camping parks (7 days a week)

- Resident Salmon Fishing Licence (16 years and older) \$40.73
- Resident Salmon Fishing Licence (under 16 years) \$12.28

- Non-resident Salmon Fishing Licence (seasonal) \$152.75 Non-resident (7- day) Salmon Fishing Licence \$61.73

Residents 13 years of age and under have the option of either purchasing their own salmon licence and tags or fishing under the supervision of a person who has a valid salmon licence and tags. For those persons fishing under supervision, any grilse caught and retained must be tagged with the supervising person's tag.

Licence Stubs – Return for a chance to win prizes

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. Valuable prizes are awarded to randomly selected anglers who return their licence stubs after the last day fished.



Nova Scotia Sportfishing Weekends

There are two Sportfishing Weekends in Nova Scotia: **June 7-8, 2014** and **February 14-15, 2015**. All Nova Scotians and visitors are encouraged to try fishing as a way to enjoy Nova Scotia's great outdoors.

During these four days, residents and non-residents may fish without a general licence. However, if you fish for Atlantic salmon, you need a salmon fishing licence. Please keep in mind that bag limits and all other sportfishing regulations will still apply.

Get out for the fishing!

Nova Scotia Recreational Fishing Areas

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

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Provincial) Inland Fisheries Division

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
Phone: (902) 485-5056, Fax: (902) 485-4014
www.gov.ns.ca/fish/
E-mail: inland@gov.ns.ca

Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Division

PO Box 698, Halifax, NS B3J 2T9
(902) 424-5254
www.gov.ns.ca/natr

Department of Environment (Head Office)

Barrington Tower
1894 Barrington Street
Suite 1800
PO Box 442
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8
Tel: 424-3600
Fax: (Main) 424-0501

Report illegal fishing activities to your local office of the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at 1-800-565-1633, Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

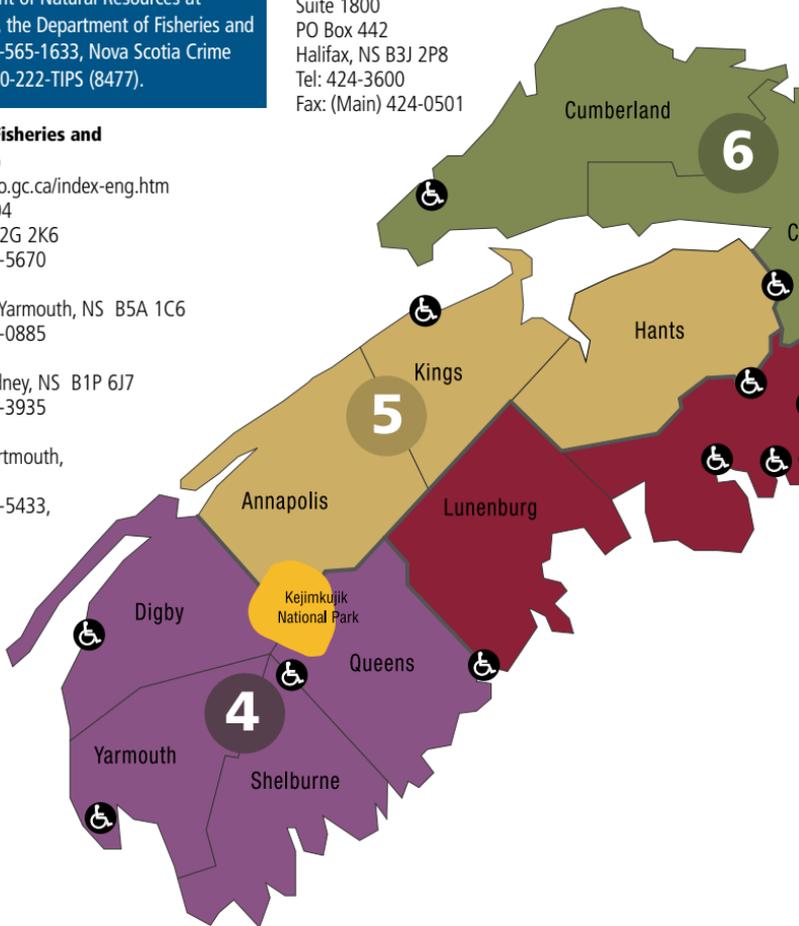
Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Federal)

www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm
2920 Highway 104
Antigonish, NS B2G 2K6
Phone: (902) 863-5670

215 Main Street, Yarmouth, NS B5A 1C6
Phone: (902) 742-0885

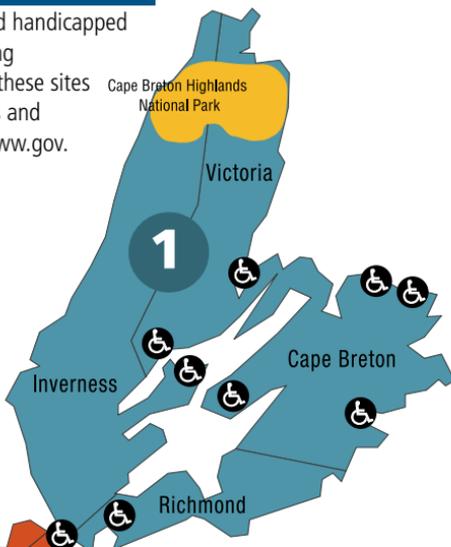
PO Box 1085, Sydney, NS B1P 6J7
Phone: (902) 564-3935

PO Box 1035, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4T3
Phone: (902) 426-5433,
(902) 426-1781



BARRIER FREE SPORT FISHING SITES

Barrier Free sites provide elderly and handicapped anglers access to various sportfishing opportunities. To learn more about these sites contact the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture or visit our website www.gov.ns.ca/fish/



NATIONAL PARKS

Cape Breton Highlands National Park
PO Box 158, Cheticamp, NS BOE 1H0
(902) 224-2306

Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site
PO Box 236, Maitland Bridge, NS BOT 1B0
(902) 682-2770

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:

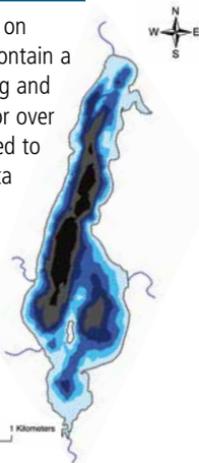
www.gov.ns.ca/fish/

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

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries Aquaculture
Attention: Information Officer

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS BOK 1H0

Tel: (902) 485-5056 E-mail: inland@gov.ns.ca





NSLC adopt **\$100,000 in Change** a stream

2013 marked another successful year for the NSLC **Adopt-A-Stream** program. The partnership between the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation and the *Nova Scotia Salmon Association* is making lasting change in the communities and the river systems they care for. This past year, the NSLC's annual pledge of \$100,000 helped provide hands-on training, technical support, and project funding for community groups that restore and protect their local waterways.

Nova Scotia anglers also contributed significantly to projects through the *Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund*. Stream habitat restoration, improved fish passage through culvert assessments, remediation and blockage removals are making our rivers and streams more liveable for Atlantic salmon, trout and other aquatic species.

In 2013 NSLC Adopt-A-Stream:

- **Restored 67,732 m² of degraded stream habitat and further improved 43,900 m²**
- **Planted 2,225 streamside trees**
- **Trained 22 community groups in restoration methods**
- **Re-established 88.5 km of fish passage**
- **Created 72 seasonal field jobs**
- **Involved 360 volunteers who gave 7,318 hours of their time**



Our community group partners this year were:

- ACAP Cape Breton
- Antigonish Rivers Association
- Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
- Cheticamp River Salmon Association
- Clean Annapolis River Project
- Clean Nova Scotia
- Cobequid Salmon Association
- Cornwallis Headwaters Society
- Friends of the Pugwash Estuary
- Habitat Unlimited
- Inverness South Anglers Committee
- LaHave River Salmon Association
- Margaree Salmon Association
- North Colchester River Restoration Association
- Paqtnkek Fisheries Enterprise
- Pictou County Rivers Association
- Sackville Rivers Association
- Salmon River Salmon Association
- Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society
- St. Mary's River Association
- Tusket River Environmental Protection Association

NSLC
adopt
a stream

For more information visit
adoptastream.ca

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association would also like to acknowledge advisory and technical support from:

- NS Fisheries and Aquaculture - Inland Division
- NS Environment
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Presenting Partners:

NSLC



Contributors:

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Cape Breton, Inverness, Richmond and Victoria Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 1

SEASONS

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

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.

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

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

NOTE: The opening dates for the following rivers and
the waters closed to angling do not apply to the lakes
and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All
season dates are inclusive.

CAPE BRETON COUNTY

The following Lakes and Rivers are open
Apr 15 to Sep 30.

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 Lakes and Rivers are open
Apr 15 to Sep 30.

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

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

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

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

RICHMOND COUNTY

The following Lakes and Rivers are open
Apr 15 to Sep 30.

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. Rorys Pond and St.
Esprit Lake.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Ingonish River, downstream to the Cabot
Trail Highway bridge, including tributaries,
Apr 15 to Sep 30.

North River, upstream from the tidal
pool to a point at the benches marked
by a fishery officer, including tributaries,
May 15 to Sep 30, artificial fly only.

Waters upstream from benches marked
by a fisheries officer including tributaries,
CLOSED ALL YEAR.

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 including the Gallant River upstream from its confluence with the Margaree River to the highway bridge on the East Margaree Road.

Apr 15 to Sep 30, bag limit five (5) trout, only one speckled trout may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

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.

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

Upstream from the bridges at Big Intervale on the Northeast Margaree River, **CLOSED ALL YEAR.**

LAKE O'LAKE 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) speckled trout, none of which may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, natural bait is prohibited, all speckled trout must be released.

RIVER DENYS, INVERNESS COUNTY

River Denys, 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.

May 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) speckled trout, only one speckled trout may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

Sep 1 to Sep 30, natural bait is prohibited, all speckled trout must be released.

NORTH ASPY RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the Bay St. Lawrence highway bridge to the Cape Breton Highlands Park boundary. **Apr 15 to Sep 30.**

Jun 1 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly only, natural bait is prohibited.

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

BADDECK RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the 105 Highway bridge including the North Branch Baddeck River and Canes Pond, excluding tributaries.

May 15 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, bag limit five (5) trout, only one speckled trout may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

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

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

contd. on page 18

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND SPECKLED TROUT

Petite Lac, Inverness County, **OPEN ALL YEAR.**

Levers Lake, # 20 Dam Pond, Cape Breton County, **OPEN ALL YEAR.**

Eco-Trail Pond, Isle Madame, Richmond County, **OPEN ALL YEAR.** The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, **Oct 1 to Mar 31.**

contd. on page 19

MIDDLE RIVER, VICTORIA COUNTY

Upstream from the Highway 105 Bridge to the Cabot Trail Highway Bridge near Finlayson, including tributaries except Indian Brook, **May 15 to Sep 30**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, **bag limit five (5) trout**, only one speckled trout may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

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

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow trout only, barbless artificial fly only, **bag limit of two (2) trout**.

Upstream from the Cabot Trail Highway Bridge near Findlayson, including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**

TROUT BROOK, INVERNESS COUNTY

Apr 1 to Sep 30, downstream 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 Ainsle, artificial fly only. Upstream waters including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**.

GRAND RIVER, RICHMOND COUNTY:

Bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled) total length 35 cm (13.8 in) or longer. All speckled trout must be released **Sep 1 to Sep 30**.

From the highway bridge at Grand River upstream to the highway bridge at the head of Loch Lomond (including **Black River Pond**), not including tributaries, **April 15 to May 31**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, **Jun 1 to end of all fishing season**, artificial fly only. 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), **April 15 to Sep 30**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

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** and **Canes Pond**, not including tributaries to those rivers. **Barachois River**, not including tributaries. **Indian Brook**, downstream from the confluence of the east and west branches, not including tributaries.

Ingonish River, not including tributaries. **North River**, downstream from a point at the benches marked by a fishery officer, not including tributaries. **Middle River**, including tributaries.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND BROWN TROUT

The tidal waters of the Bras d'Or Lakes: **OPEN ALL YEAR ANY GEAR. 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, which remain closed to all angling, 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 Apr 30. St. Patrick's Channel, St. Andrews Channel, and Sydney River (between the dam and a line drawn between Point Edward and Liscomb Point), **OPEN ALL YEAR.**

For areas open all year, the bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, Oct 1 to Mar 31. Minimum size limit for rainbow trout is 35cm (13.8 in) in the Bras d'Or Lakes, **ALL YEAR.**

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT

Baddeck River, Middle River, Victoria County. May 15 to Oct 31. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, Oct 1 to Oct 31, barbless artificial fly only.

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.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR except the following: Blacketts Lake, Cape Breton County. Lake Ainslie, Inverness County. **Apr 1 to Oct 31.** Bag limit (25) bass.



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ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See Page 6)

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



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

LIVE POSSESSION AND ILLEGAL INTRODUCTIONS

The intentional or accidental introduction of fish or other aquatic organisms from one lake or stream to another can negatively affect local fish populations through competition, disease, or genetic changes. No one is allowed to possess live fish or release live fish into the waters of the province, except under a licence issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

LIVE BAIT

Unwanted fish species can be accidentally spread by releasing unused live bait and threaten 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 smallmouth bass, brown bullhead, white perch, yellow perch, goldfish, chain pickerel, or any fish not taken from provincial waters.

REPORTING INVASIVES

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

INFORMATION FOR BOATERS

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

- Inspect 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.
- Drain water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land immediately before leaving the waterbody.
- Wash out or dry your boots, waders, boat, tackle, trailer, and other boating equipment to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch.
- 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), or dry your boat and equipment in the sun for at least 5 days before transporting them to another body of water.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Domestic brush burning.

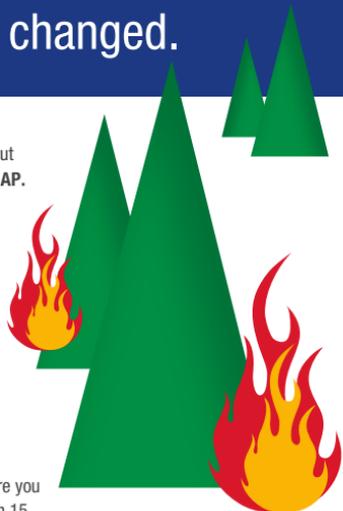
The rules and dates have changed.

Winter is always the safest time to burn outside. But during wildfire-risk season, **March 15 – October 15**, you can easily find out if it's safe by checking the new online **BURNING RESTRICTIONS MAP**. It's updated daily to tell you where burning is:



Please note: Check municipal bylaws first.

You no longer need a permit to burn—you must check online before you burn. Campfires included. Wildfire-risk season now starts on March 15.



Find out if it's safe to burn today at novascotia.ca/burnsafe Or call 1-855-564-2876 (BURN)



Leonard Forsyth



Bras d'Or Lakes steelhead trout.



Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 2

SEASONS

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

Tidal Waters - Apr 15 to Sep 30.

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

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

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

ANTIGONISH COUNTY

Brierly Brook, downstream from the bridge on the Schoolhouse Road, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Pomquet River, downstream from the 104 Highway bridge, Apr 15 to Sep 30. Oct 1 to Oct 31, brown trout only, barbless artificial fly only, catch and release only.

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Country Harbour River, downstream from the highway bridge on the Borneo Road, including Country Harbour Lake to a point 300 m downstream of the Iron Bridge, May 15 to Sep 30.

Ecum Secum River, downstream from the outlet of Judd's Pool near New Chester, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Liscomb River, downstream from the outlet of Big Stillwater Lake, Apr 15 to Sep 30. Artificial fly only, from a point 70 m upstream from the highway bridge at Liscomb Mills upstream to a point 23 m downstream from the entrance to the fish ladder, not including tributaries, Jun 1 to Sep 30.

PICTOU COUNTY

Barneys River, the Middle Branch Barneys River downstream from the 104 Highway Bridge at Barneys River Station (not including the East Branch Barneys river which flows through Marshy Hope), and the West Branch Barneys River downstream from the wooden Bridge near Avondale Station (grid reference 555954 5051231), April 15 to Sep 30.

East River, downstream from the highway bridge in Springville to a line drawn from Dunbar Point to Pine Point, May 15 to Sep 30.

French River, downstream from the confluence of the East and West branches, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

River John, downstream from the confluence of the East and West branches including the Salmon Hole, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

Sutherlands River, downstream from Park Falls, Apr 15 to Sep 30.

West River, downstream from the 104 Highway bridge, May 15 to Sep 30.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/ OR SPECKLED TROUT

Note: Pringle Lake contains no rainbow trout.

Cameron Lake, Gillis Lake, Antigonish County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

South River, Antigonish County, Oct 1 to Oct 31, Rainbow trout only, barbless artificial fly only.

Gairloch Lake, Pictou County, Goose Harbour Lake and Pringle Lake, Guysborough County, OPEN ALL YEAR. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

SOUTH RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY

South River, downstream from the bridge that marks the outlet of Loch Katrine (South River Lake) to a point 400 m downstream from the railway trestle in Antigonish Harbour. **Apr 15 to Oct 31.** Downstream from the 104 Highway Bridge to the Williams Point boundary of the West River Management Area (see page 24) to the outflow of Antigonish Harbour, **bag limit 5 trout, only 2 of which can be speckled trout, Apr 15 to Sep 30.** All speckled trout must be released, natural bait prohibited, **Sep 1 to Sep 30.**

Oct 1 to Oct 31 rainbow trout only, barbless artificial fly only, **bag limit of two (2) trout.** From the dam immediately upstream from Fraser's Mill Fish Hatchery downstream to the bridge over the Old Pinevale Road, **CLOSED ALL YEAR.**

GUYSBOROUGH (MILFORD HAVEN) RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Downstream from the bridge at West Interval to the Highway 16 bridge near Boylston, **May 15 to Sep 30.** **Bag Limit three (3) trout.** **Sep 1 to Sep 30,** all speckled trout must be released, natural bait prohibited.

SALMON RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

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

May 15 to Sep 30, bag limit three (3) trout on the entire river, 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, natural bait prohibited.

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.

May 15 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, **bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled)** which must be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer. **Sep 1 to Sep 30,** all speckled trout must be released. **Oct 1 to Oct 31,** rainbow trout only, artificial fly only, **bag limit two (2) trout.** **Oct 1 to Oct 31,** brown trout, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly.

TRACADIE RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY

From the highway 4 bridge at Monastery to a point located 400m downstream, marked by a Fishery Officer, **Apr 1 to Apr 14,** closed to all angling.

ST. MARY'S RIVER, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Upstream from the highway bridge at Sherbrooke to the 347 Bridge near Aspen on the East Branch, St. Marys and to the highway Bridge at Glenelg on the West Branch, **Apr 1 to Apr 14,** closed, **Apr 15 to Sept 30,** artificial fly only.

Upstream from the 347 Bridge near Aspen on the East Branch, St. Marys to the Guysborough County boundary and from the highway bridge at Glenelg on the West Branch, St. Marys to South Brook near Trafalgar: **May 26 to Oct 1,** artificial fly only.

cont'd. on page 24

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.

WEST RIVER, ANTIGONISH COUNTY. *See map page 25*

Bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled) total length 35 cm (13.8 in) or longer. All speckled trout must be released Sep 1 to Sep 30.

The **Beaver River**, downstream from the outlet of MacEacherns Lake, including the **Cameron Lakes** to its confluence with the Ohio River, and the **West River**, downstream from the Bridge at Addington Forks to a line drawn true North from grid reference 583545 5054009 at Williams Point to the opposite shore, **May 15 to Sep 30**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. The **Ohio River**, downstream from the bridge at the outlet of St. Joseph Lake to the Bridge on the West River at Addington Forks, **May 15 to Sep 30**, artificial fly only.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

River John, Pictou County, from the West Branch Bridge downstream to the Welsford Bridge near Welsford, not including tributaries, **Apr 15 to Aug 31**.

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**.



Georgie Devoe with a sea run Speckled trout from River Denys.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR except the following:
Lansdowne Lake and Middle River Reservoir, downstream from a point 200m below the Highway 4 Bridge to the Middle River Dam in Granton, Pictou County, Apr 1 to Oct 31. Bag limit (25) bass.

CHAIN PICKEREL

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the following:
Black Lake, West Branch Lake, Pictou County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Sep 30, except the following:
Cameron Lake, Gillis Lake, Antigonish County, OPEN ALL YEAR
Middle River Reservoir, Pictou County, Apr 1 to Oct 31.



ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES

See Page 6



Halifax and Lunenburg Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 3

SEASONS

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

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

Tidal waters of Halifax County (West of Halifax Harbour) and Lunenburg County, Apr 1 to Sep 30.

Inland waters of RFA 3 - 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.

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 490973 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. Angling season for all species closed before Jul 1 and after Sep 30.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Note: First Lake and Cow Bay Pond contain no rainbow trout.

Albro Lake, Lewis Lake and Round Lake at Jerry Lawrence Park, Maynard Lake, Penhorn Lake, First Lake, Cow Bay Pond, Halifax County. **OPEN ALL YEAR.** Halifax County, Sucker Lake, Lunenburg County, **OPEN ALL YEAR.** The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

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

Halifax County, east of Highway 102 and its junction with Highway 118 and its junction with Highway 111, **CLOSED ALL YEAR**, except the following lakes: Bissett, Charles, Egmont, Loon, Micmac, Miller, Morris, Porters and Russell.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

TROPHY FISHERY

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

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31 except the following: Micmac Lake, Red Bridge Pond, Grand Lake (Shubenacadie), Powder Mill Lake, Morris Lake, Russell Lake, Kinsac Lake, Fish Lake (near Oakfield), and Bisset Lake, Beaver Bank Lake, Beaver Pond (near Kinsac Lake) and Lake Egmont, Halifax County, **OPEN ALL YEAR.**

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31 except the following: Albro Lake, Lewis Lake, Penhorn lake, Maynard Lake, Halifax County, **OPEN ALL YEAR.**

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See Page 6)

ARTIFICIAL FLY ONLY

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

HALIFAX COUNTY

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.**

Moser River, upstream from the highway bridge at Moser River, not including tributaries, **May 26 to 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.**

Note: The following closures and regulations in special management areas do not apply to the lakes and tributaries of those rivers unless specified. All season dates are inclusive.

WATERS CLOSED TO ANGLING

HALIFAX COUNTY

East River, Sheet Harbour from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans barrier dam upstream to Malay Falls, including tributaries, **Closed Apr 1 to Apr 14.**

East River, Sheet Harbour, from the Powerhouse at Ruth Falls downstream 200m, including tributaries, **Closed Jun 1 to Sep 30.**

Ingram River, from a point 23 m downstream from the Highway 3 bridge to a point 23 m upstream from that bridge, including tributaries, **CLOSED ALL YEAR.**

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

West River Sheet Harbour, upstream from the Killag Road bridge, **Closed Jun 1 to Sep 30.**

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.**

KEY

LaHave River Sections

- Morgan Falls to a point 90m downstream Apr 1 to May 31
- █ Single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited Apr 1 to May 25
3 speckled trout bag limit, none may be over 35cm Apr 1 to Aug 31
- █ Artificial fly only May 26 to end of all fishing seasons



KEY

Musquodoboit River Sections

- █ Open Apr 1 - Sep 30
Any gear to Aug 31
- █ Open May 15 - Sep 30
Fly only
- █ Open Jun 1 - Sep 30
Any gear to Aug 31
- █ Open Apr 15 - Sep 30
Any gear to Aug 31



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.**

LAHAVE RIVER, LUNENBURG COUNTY *See map page 28*

LaHave River from Morgan Falls to a point 90 m downstream, **Apr 1 to May 31.**

From Silver Hill Brook, (located 825 m downstream from the CN railway Bridge) upstream to the South end of Wentzells Lake not including tributaries, **bag limit (3) speckled trout**, none of which may be over 35 cm, from **Apr 1 to Aug 31.**

Apr 1 to May 25, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.

From Silver Hill Brook upstream to New Germany Lake (not including Wentzells Lake); upstream to Sherbrooke Lake on the North Branch LaHave River; and upstream to Rhyno Lake on the West LaHave River;

May 26 to end of all fishing seasons, artificial fly only.

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

Pools closed to all angling, **Jun 15 to Oct 31**, include: 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.

MUSQUODOBOIT RIVER, HALIFAX COUNTY. *See map page 28*

Bag limit two (2) speckled trout on the entire river (not including tributaries) upstream from a line drawn across the mouth of Musquodoboit Harbour from Bayers Point to Nauffts Point. From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 bridge to Chapel Island, including tributaries. **Jun 1 to Aug 31**, any gear type. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, natural bait is prohibited, speckled trout must be released. From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 bridge upstream (including Bayers Lake) to a point 100 m upstream from the first Highway 357 Bridge (Crawford's Bridge), **May 15 to Sep 30**, artificial fly only. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released.

PETITE RIVIERE, LUNENBURG COUNTY

From the Highway 331 Bridge upstream to **Hebb Lake**, not including tributaries.

Apr 1 to Jun 14, **bag limit two (2) trout**, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. **Jun 15 to end of all fishing seasons**, artificial fly only. **Sep 1 to Sep 30**, all speckled trout must be released.

CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS

The following lakes in Halifax County will be catch and release only:

Birch Hill Lake, Blueberry Lake, East Duck Lake, Five Island Lake, Five Island Lake Run, Frederick Lake, Holland Marsh Lake, Hubley Big Lake, Jacket Lake, Lizard Lake and Sheldrake Lake and **Woodens River** (downstream from the outflow of Hubley Big Lake, including all lakes and tributaries). Single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited.



Digby, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 4

SEASONS

SPECKLED TROUT, BROWN TROUT, AND RAINBOW TROUT

Inland and Tidal Waters of RFA 4 - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the following and the waters referred to in the *Waters Closed to Angling* section.

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. All season dates are inclusive.

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

First, Second, Third and Fourth, Christopher Lakes, Queens County. Bag limit two (2) speckled trout.

Big Meadow Brook, Tusketer River
Upstream from highway 203 near East Kemptville, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, no speckled trout may be retained.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Note: Victoria Lake not stocked with rainbow trout.

Everitts Lake, Digby County,

OPEN ALL YEAR.

Hidden Hills Lake and Victoria Lake, Queens County, **OPEN ALL YEAR.** The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

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.

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

TROPHY FISHERY

Ten Mile Lake, Little Ten Mile Lake, and the Mersey River, Queens County
Salmon River Lake, Digby County
Ogden, Parr, and Petes Lakes and Vaughn Lake, Yarmouth County
Apr 1 to Dec 31. Bag limit three (3) bass, maximum length 35cm (13.8 in.) except from May 1 to Jun 15 no smallmouth bass may be retained. Night fishing is 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.

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except the following: Annis River, Kiack Brook, Yarmouth County, including all lakes and tributaries, Walls Lake, The Ponds in Port Latour, Bakers Flats on Cape Sable Island, Shelburne County, and Lake George, Shelburne County,

Louis Lake, Queens County and Meteghan River, Digby County, including all lakes and tributaries, **OPEN ALL YEAR.**

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES (See Page 6)

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 13).

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 Pohnook 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 ANGLING

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 at Harmony 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 Pohnook Lake), **Jun 19 to Dec 31,** From the highway 210 bridge at Greenfield downstream to the highway 103 bridge, **Jun 15 to Aug 15.**

YARMOUTH COUNTY

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

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Speckled trout.



Visit www.nspower.ca/watersafety for more information.

Be Water Smart. Stay Safe.

Dams can open and release water at any time, any day of the year. Suddenly, calm water can turn into rapids with a powerful undertow. The water's edge is not safe either. Water levels can rise very quickly and could easily sweep you into the river.

Hydro systems are not safe for recreational use at any time of year. Exercise caution when fishing, boating, and swimming, and stay away from dams.

When fishing or boating:

- Plan your trip ahead of time and identify any water hazards including dams.
- Avoid areas that are upstream and downstream from dams and hydro facilities. These areas have strong undertows.
- Be alert of your surroundings; take note of water levels on rocks to help you judge if they are changing.
- Avoid the water's edge around hydro systems and dams.
- Remind your family and friends of the dangers around dams.



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A catch of white perch by Caleb Marshall.

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CASA

Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers
P.O. Box 2051, Fall River, Nova Scotia, B2T 1K6

The Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers (CASA) was formed in 1988 to promote the sport of angling, particularly for smallmouth bass; to share the friendship, camaraderie, and experience of our fellow anglers; to support and improve those conservation measures that promote quality fisheries; and to extend courtesy and respect to all who share our waters. When you join CASA and support these important conservation measures, you will receive a CASA crest, membership card, and newsletter, as well as the right to attend seminars, tournaments, the annual meeting, and more.

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

www.casa-website.com

NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH HABITAT FUND

In 2013, the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund raised \$332,368 through a \$5.71 levy on fishing licences. A total of \$290,000 was provided to fish habitat restoration projects undertaken by 21 community groups through the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt-A-Stream program (see pages 14, 15 for a list of community groups). These projects were responsible for the restoration of 112,000 square meters of spawning, rearing, over wintering, and summer holding habitat for fish. Additionally, fish passage was remediated at 20 culvert crossings, approximately 90 km of habitat made accessible to migrating fish, and debris blockage removal on twenty streams was responsible for enhancing migration in 300 km of streams.

In addition to these projects, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association received \$15,000 for the Liming Project on the West River Sheet Harbour, the Medway River Salmon Association received \$10,000 for liming the brooks in the Medway River, the South Shore Bassmasters received \$3,600 for launch ramp repairs at Ponhook Lake, the Spencers Island Community Association received \$5,000 to extend the boat launch at Spencers Island, and the Antigonish Rivers Association received \$4,650 to create an access road, and boat launch at Camerons Lake (pictured here).

To learn about the Fund, get an application form for 2014, or view a complete list of project descriptions funded in 2013, visit our website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish>. Applications received by March 31 will be considered for the current calendar year.



Set Young Salmon and Trout Free

Note the differences in these fish:

Salmon Parr

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



Salmon Smolt

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



Brook (Speckled Trout)

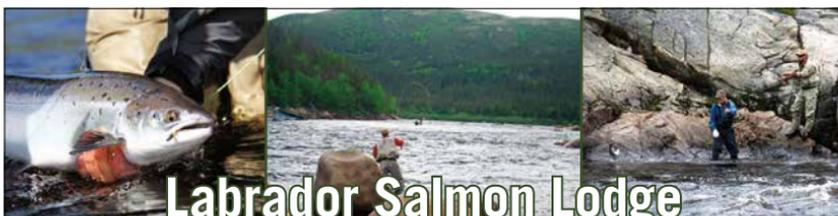
- Tail is nearly square
- Large fin on back (dorsal) has irregular markings
- There are no black spots, and the eye is smaller
- Lower fins have a white leading edge



STAFF PROFILE, INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION, NSFA



Marielle Turner is a fisheries technician at McGowan Lake Hatchery in Caledonia, Queens County. She graduated from St. FX with a B.Sc. in Biology and Aquatic Resources in 2007. She was previously employed with the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation as project coordinator doing research on American eels. McGowan Lake Hatchery rears speckled trout which are then distributed throughout the western part of the province in the spring and fall. The tasks of a fisheries technician are always changing throughout the seasons and this variety is what makes the job interesting and so enjoyable. Marielle has been with Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture since 2010.



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SPECIES AT RISK ACT

The Species at Risk Act (SARA), in force since 2003, was created to prevent wildlife species in Canada from becoming extinct. SARA includes prohibitions for the protection of the species listed under the Act and their habitat. It is an offence to kill, harm, harass, capture or take a species listed as endangered or threatened under SARA or to destroy their critical habitat.

Two endangered aquatic species currently listed and protected under SARA include the Atlantic whitefish and the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon. Recovery teams, with members from government, First Nations and other Aboriginal Organizations, private/corporate sectors and/or conservation groups are working together to save the few remaining populations of these species in part through the development of Recovery Strategies and Action Plans. Recovery documents for species at risk can be found on the SARA Public Registry: www.sararegistry.gc.ca/

It is important to not confuse Atlantic whitefish with lake whitefish. Atlantic whitefish are found in the Petite Rivière watershed, Lunenburg County. They generally range in size up to 25 cm (10 in). They are silvery in colour; scattered over with black pigment; dark-blue or green on back; white belly and large lateral line scales. They have no spots or obvious upper body markings. Their mouth is smaller than a trout's or salmon's. The Atlantic whitefish is similar in appearance to lake whitefish which are widespread in Nova Scotia. If you capture an Atlantic whitefish, please release it immediately in the location of capture, with least amount of harm possible. Please report any sightings of Atlantic whitefish to Fisheries and Oceans Canada by calling 902 354 6030.

There are a few ways to tell Atlantic whitefish apart from lake whitefish:

- Atlantic's jaw extends to its snout. Lake's jaw does not extend to its snout.
- Pectoral fin ray on the Atlantic is shorter than on the Lake
- For two fish of the same size, the scales are smaller on an Atlantic



Atlantic whitefish

For more information on these species, or other species at risk, please visit these websites: www.sararegistry.gc.ca/ or www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/

NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH REGISTRY



Official Records for Large Fish Caught in Nova Scotia

LIVE RELEASE CATEGORY

Species	Length x Girth	Year	Angler	Location	County
Smallmouth Bass	23 in x 17 in	2007	Kevin Corkum	Big Mushamush Lake	Lunenburg
Striped Bass	41 in x 27 in	2005	Pat Young	Fullers River	Richmond
Brown Trout	21.5 in x 11.4 in	2009	Pat Young	Mira River	Cape Breton
Speckled Trout	16 in x 8 in	2013	Neil Graham	River Denys	Inverness

CATCH AND KEEP CATEGORY

Species	Weight	Year	Angler	Location	County
Speckled Trout	6.75 lbs	1945	Alex Stephens	Blackett's Lake	Cape Breton
Rainbow Trout	10.2 lbs	2002	Reggie MacLeod	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
Brown Trout	18.4 lbs	2007	Charlie LaHey	Mira River	Cape Breton
Smallmouth Bass	4.5 lbs	1990	Robert Hasenack	Kinsac Lake	Halifax
Chain Pickerel	6.75 lbs	2009	Alain Lemay	Grand Lake	Halifax
Landlocked Salmon	4.4 lbs	1988	H. MacDonald	Grand Lake	Halifax
Striped Bass	57.9 lbs	2008	Christian LeVatte	Bras d'Or Lake	Cape Breton
White Perch	2.08 lbs	2006	Billy Garrison	Northwest Lake	Colchester
Yellow Perch	1.20 lbs	2013	Ryan Gould	Fish Lake	Halifax

YOUTH LIVE RELEASE CATEGORY

Species	Length x Girth	Year	Angler	Location	County
Smallmouth Bass	20 in x 14 in	2009	Ian Keefe	Mattatall	Cumberland
Speckled Trout	16.7 in x 10.3 in	2009	Josh MacMillan	West River	Antigonish
Rainbow Trout	15.5 in x 8 in	2011	Neil Graham	South River	Antigonish
Brown Trout	20 in x 10.5	2013	Alex Graham	South River	Antigonish

YOUTH CATCH AND KEEP CATEGORY

Species	Weight	Year	Angler	Location	County
Yellow Perch	0.63 lbs	2004	Gregory Burrill	Mink Lake	Shelburne
Chain Pickerel	3.99 lbs	2007	Marcel Boudreau	Hibbards Lake	Yarmouth
Speckled Trout	3.40 lbs	2009	Aidan Doucet	Lochaber Lake	Antigonish
Brown Bullhead	1.08 lbs	2007	Alex Cunningham	Raynards Lake	Yarmouth
Rainbow Trout	2.62 lbs	2007	Rhyley Bowen	Stewart Lake	Antigonish
Brown Trout	4 lbs	2011	Georgina Marshall	River John	Pictou

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
14.92 lbs	2004	George Watkins, Steve Watkins	Ogden, Parr, Petes Lakes	Yarmouth

Nova Scotia Sportfish Registry PO Box 700 Pictou NS B0K 1H0 Phone: (902) 485-5056
 Fax: (902) 485-4014 E-mail: inland@gov.ns.ca Website: <http://novascotia.ca/fish/>



Annapolis, Hants and Kings Counties

5

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 5

SEASONS

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

Inland and Tidal Waters of RFA 5 - Apr 1 to Sep 30 except the following and the waters referred to in the *Waters Closed to Angling* section.

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.

SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

CORNWALLIS RIVER, KINGS COUNTY

Downstream from the South Bishop Road Bridge to the Highway 101 Bridge, Apr 1 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled) which must be 35 cm (13.8 in.) total length or longer, night fishing permitted. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

EXTENDED SEASONS RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

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

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

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

Meadow Pond and St Croix Pond, Kings County, OPEN ALL YEAR. Note: not all lakes contain rainbow trout.

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

SMALLMOUTH BASS

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

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

TROPHY FISHERY

Black River Lake, Little River Lake, Methals Lake, Aylesford Lake, Kings County Panuke Lake, Hants County

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

CHAIN PICKEREL WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except in the following: Lily Lake (Cogmagun Pond), Hants County. Lake Paul and Lake George, Nicholas Lake and North River Lake, Kings County
OPEN ALL YEAR.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Oct 31, except in the following: Springfield Lake, Annapolis County. OPEN ALL YEAR.

Woodward Sandford Lake and Lily Lake, Hants County. OPEN ALL YEAR.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER

SPECIES See page 6

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 13).

WATERS CLOSED TO ANGLING

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

KINGS COUNTY

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

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, **Apr 1 to May 1**, single hook lure or artificial fly.

Is it a Salmon or a Brown Trout?

Anglers may confuse brown trout with Atlantic Salmon, particularly in the spring when "slink" salmon are in the rivers. The following points can be used to distinguish between the two species.

Atlantic Salmon

Inside Upper

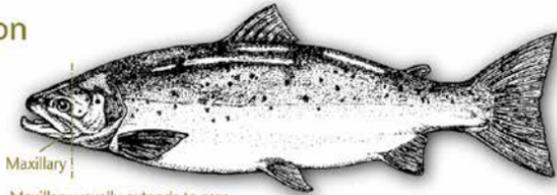


Vomerine Teeth
Small and arranged in a single row along the vomerine shaft. Absent or very sparse on the vomerine head.

Inside Lower



Tongue
Tapered and round.

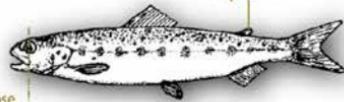


Maxillary

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.



Adipose fin

Brown Trout

Inside Upper

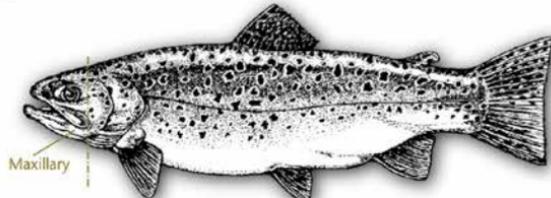


Vomerine Teeth
Well developed on both the vomerine head and shaft. Arranged in a zig-zag fashion along the shaft.

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.



Adipose fin



Dear Friends:

As Grand Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation, it is with great pleasure and pride that I introduce to you in this insert, the Mi'kmaq concept and tradition of **NETUKULIMK**.

Pasimay Silipay
Kji-saqmaw wjit 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 limit-

ing 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
PO Box 1590, 57 Martin Crescent
Truro, Nova Scotia, B2N 5V3
Tel (902) 895-6385 Fax (902) 893-1520

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
PO Box 8096, Eskasoni, NS, B1W 1C2
Tel (902) 379-2163 Fax (902) 379-2250

Native Council of Nova Scotia
PO Box 1320
Truro, NS, B2N 5N2
Toll-free 1-800-565-4372 Fax (902) 895-0024



NO FISHING

Halifax Water wishes to inform the public that **FISHING IS NOT PERMITTED** in or on any of the lakes and/or water courses located within the watersheds of Pockwock Lake, Bennery Lake, Chain Lake, and Lake Lamont. These waters include Sullivan Lake, Bennery Lake, Lake Lamont, Topsail Lake, Chain Lake, Pockwock Lake, Bottle Lake, Island Lake, Lacey Mill Lake and all tributaries that flow into these waters that fall within the provincially designated protected watersheds. **These lakes and tributaries form part of the public water supply for Dartmouth, Halifax, Bedford-Sackville, Halifax Stanfield International Airport, Aerotech Industrial Business Park, and the Lakeside Timberlea areas. Anyone found fishing in these waters will be prosecuted.**

In addition, fishing is **RESTRICTED** in Lake Major, Long Lake, East Lake, Spider Lake and all tributaries that fall within the Lake Major watershed. These watersheds are located within the East Region of the Halifax Regional Municipality with the following restrictions:

- No person shall fish at any time from a vessel on Long Lake.
- No person shall fish from the shoreline or bank of Long Lake within one hundred (100) metres of the intake for the water supply for the community of North Preston.
- No person shall fish from a vessel or from the shoreline or bank of Lake Major within one hundred (100) metres of the intake for the water supply for the Dartmouth area.

These lakes form part of the public water supply for Dartmouth, Cole Harbour, Eastern Passage, and North Preston.

In addition, no unauthorized use of all motorized vehicles, including off highway vehicles as defined in the Nova Scotia Off-Highway Vehicles Act R.S. c. 323, are permitted within the above mentioned watersheds, including posted lands owned by Halifax Water. Anyone not conforming to these regulations will be prosecuted.

Anyone not conforming to these regulations will be prosecuted.

490-4835



Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

PO Box 654, Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Tel/Fax: (902) 477-8898 Fax: 444-3883

E-mail: tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca Website: www.nsfah.ca

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

As demand on wildlife increases, sports people in Nova Scotia need a solid, firm, and experienced voice to air their concerns.

The NSFA&H has been that voice for over 84 years. Your support is needed to assure that quality hunting and fishing continue in the future. To join the NSFA&H, complete and mail the coupon with \$20.00 to the above address. Family membership \$30.00. Donations are accepted, and receipts for charitable donations can be provided.

Membership Application (Photocopy and mail)

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Cheque or money order Visa MasterCard Card No. _____

Signature _____ Expiry Date _____



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.

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 in waters with extended seasons for trout.

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

KEY

Stewiacke River Sections

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>█ Apr 15 - Sep 30,
Any gear except
May 10 - Jun 10
and after Aug 31</p> | <p>█ May 10 - Jul 15,
Single hook lure or
fly only and Jul 16 -
Sep 30 fly only</p> |
| <p>█ Apr 1 - Sep 30,
Any gear to Aug 31</p> | |

COLCHESTER COUNTY

Chiganois River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge at Belmont, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

Debert River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

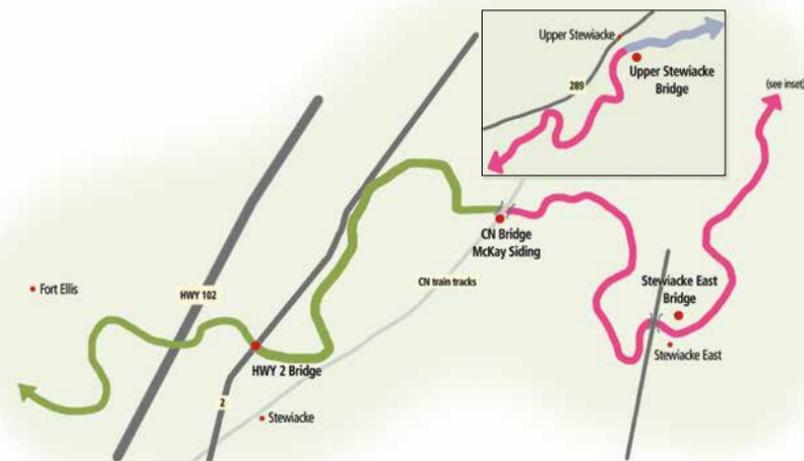
Economy River, downstream from the confluence with Callaghan Brook, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

Folly River, downstream from the CN Railway bridge, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

French River, downstream from the 246 Highway Bridge at Oliver, **Apr 15 to Sep 30**.

Great Village River, downstream from the confluence with Spencers Brook, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

North River, downstream from the confluence the West Branch North River, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.



SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

HARRISON LAKE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Apr 1 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited, **bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled)** 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

MACCAN RIVER, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the highway 2 bridge at Southampton, Apr 1 to May 14, catch and release, artificial fly only. May 15 to Aug 15, **bag limit 2 trout per day**, any gear permitted. Aug 16 to Sep 30, artificial fly only, catch and release only.

RIVER PHILIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Downstream from the Mountain Road Bridge (Spencers Bridge) in the Community of River Phillip. Apr 1 to May 14, artificial fly only, catch and release only. May 15 to Aug 31, **bag limit 2 trout**, any gear permitted. Sep 1 to Sep 30, natural bait prohibited, all speckled trout must be released. Night angling for brown trout is permitted upstream from the Mountain Road Bridge (Spencers Bridge) not including tributaries, May 15 to Aug 31.

STEWIACKE RIVER, COLCHESTER COUNTY *see map page 42*

Downstream from the CN railway bridge near McKay Siding, Apr 15 to Sep 30, any gear permitted except May 10 to Jun 10 single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait prohibited. Sep 1 to Sep 30, natural bait prohibited, all speckled trout must be released.

Upstream from the CN railway bridge near McKay Siding to the highway bridge farthest upstream in Upper Stewiacke, not including tributaries, May 10 to Jul 15, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. Jul 16 to Sep 30, artificial fly only. **Bag limit one (1) trout (either brown or speckled)** total length 35 cm (13.8 in) or longer. Sep 1 to Sep 30, all speckled trout must be released.

Upstream from the highway bridge farthest upstream in Upper Stewiacke, Apr 1 to Sep 30, any gear permitted except from Sep 1 to Sep 30, natural bait prohibited, all speckled trout must be released.

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

Portapique River, downstream from the confluence with Matheson Brook, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

Salmon River, downstream from the confluence with Greenfield Brook, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

Waugh's River, downstream from the 256 Highway Bridge at The Falls, **Apr 15 to Sep 30**.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

River Hebert, downstream from the bridge near the tree nursery in the Chignecto Game Sanctuary, including tributaries, **May 15 to Sep 30**.

Shinimicas River, downstream from the No. 6 Highway bridge, including tributaries, **Apr 15 to Sep 30**.

Wallace River, downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge at Wentworth Center, **Apr 15 to Sep 30**.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Angevine (Dewars) Lake, Issac Lake, Cumberland County, Deyarmont Lake, Colchester County, **OPEN ALL YEAR**. The bag limit is reduced to two (2) trout, either species or combined, Oct 1 to Mar 31.

Note: Not all Lakes have rainbow trout.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CLOSED ALL YEAR, except the following: Angevine Lake, Big Lake, Mattatall Lake, Cumberland County, Apr 1 to Oct 31. Round Lake, Colchester County, Apr 1 to Oct 31. Bag limit (25) twenty-five bass.

CHAIN PICKEREL

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

SPECIAL BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS

TROPHY FISHERY

Shortts Lake, Colchester 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.

WHITE PERCH AND YELLOW PERCH

Apr 1 to Sep 30 except in the following: Smith Lake and Long Lake, Cumberland County, Jan 1 to Mar 31.

Angevine (Dewar) Lake, Cumberland County and

Shortts Lake, Colchester County, **OPEN ALL YEAR**.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES See Page 6



Bras d'Or Lakes at sunrise.

Megan Mahon

WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVA SCOTIA



For those who love the outdoors, winter fishing is an ideal recreational sport. Fishing licences for 2014 are valid until Mar 31, 2015. 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 trout
Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area.

RAINBOW TROUT & BROWN TROUT :
Bag limit 2 trout, either species or combined.

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, 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.

RAINBOW TROUT AND BROOK TROUT:
Bag limit 2 trout, either species or combined.

Antigonish County: Cameron Lake and Gillis Lake

Cumberland County: Angevine (Dewars) Lake

Cape Breton County: Levers Lake and No. 20 Dam (Beacon Street) Pond

Digby County: Everitts Lake

Guysborough County: Goose Harbour Lake

Hants County: Meadow Pond

Halifax Regional Municipality: Albro

Lake, Round Lake, Lewis Lake, Maynard Lake and Penhorn Lake

Inverness County: Petit Lac

Kings County: Silver Lake, Sunken Lake,

Lunenburg County: Sucker Lake

Pictou County: Gairloch Lake

Queens County: Hidden Hills Lake

Richmond County: Eco Trail Pond on Isle Madame

BROOK TROUT: Bag limit 2 trout.

Colchester County: Deyarmont Lake

Cumberland County: Isaac Lake

Guysborough County: Pringle Lake

Halifax Regional Municipality: First Lake, Cow Bay Pond

Hants County: St. Croix Pond

Queens County: Victoria Lake

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE AND YELLOW PERCH: bag limit 25 per species

Colchester County: Shortts Lake

Digby County: Meteghan River, including all lakes and tributaries

Halifax Regional Municipality: Morris Lake,

contd. on page 46

Russell Lake, Grand Lake (Shubenacadie), Fish Lake, Bissett Lake, Powder Mill Lake, Micmac Lake, Red Bridge Pond, Beaver Bank Lake, Beaver Pond (near Kinsac Lake), Lake Egmont and Kinsac Lake
Hants County: Lily Lake (Cogamun Pond)
Kings County: Lake George, Nicholas Lake, North River Lake and Lake Paul
Pictou County: Black Lake and West Branch Lake
Queens County: Louis Lake
Shelburne County: Walls Lake, Lake

George, The Ponds in Port LaTour and Bakers Flats on Cape Sable Island
Yarmouth County: Annis River and Kiack Brook (near Belleville South), including all lakes and tributaries

WHITE AND YELLOW PERCH:

Bag limit 25 per species

Annapolis County: Springfield Lake

Cumberland County: Long Lake and Smiths Lake

Hants County: Woodward Sanford Lake



Neil Graham with speckled trout.

THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES RESEARCH COOPERATIVE



The freshwater fishery in Nova Scotia has experienced a number of changes associated with habitat loss and exploitation and impacts from invasive species. In response, the Inland Fisheries Division has expanded initiatives, fisheries management, and Atlantic salmon enhancement by creating the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC). The objective of the FFRC is to augment current initiatives designed to assess and improve Nova Scotia's sport fishery. 2014 marks the 7th consecutive year that fisheries management initiatives were supported, in part, by the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC). Five projects received support from the

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture through the FFRC. These included:

- 1) Freshwater fish parasite distribution.
- 2) Impact of habitat improvement structures on fish populations.
- 3) Impacts of Invasive species on fish populations.
- 4) Assessment of speckled trout genetics.
- 5) Striped bass tracking assessment in Cape Breton.

Partners for these projects included: Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University, Acadia University, Saint Francis Xavier University, Fisheries and Oceans, Nova Scotia Adopt A Stream, and Nova Scotia Salmon Association.

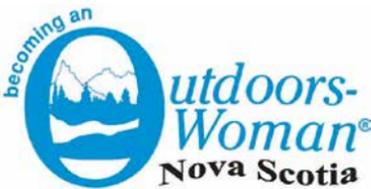
RBANS

Responsible Bass Anglers of Nova Scotia

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

PO Box 20034, Bridgewater, NS B4V 3W3



The Becoming an Outdoors Woman's Program offers

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

This workshop is for you if...

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

Upcoming Workshop

Fall BOW, September 12-14, 2014 Mount Traber Bible Camp, Cooks Brook, Halifax County

If you would like more information, please call (902) 662-5068,
e-mail: bowns@gov.ns.ca or visit us on-line www.novascotia.ca/natr/outdoor

NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION

Regional Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation

P.O. Box 396 Chester, Nova Scotia B0J 1J0

E-mail: nssasalmon@gmail.com

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association is a regional council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and acts on behalf of Atlantic salmon and trout in advocating conservation and wise management.

The association is supported by an individual membership and affiliate associations. Together, our collective conservation efforts have been invaluable in promoting public awareness, education, and in-river enhancement projects.

In an effort to support the ongoing conservation activities of our affiliate associations, the board readily accepts donations to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association. All funds received are solely directed towards financing activities to promote the conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Nova Scotia.

For further information on the association and the activities of our affiliates, to become a member or to donate to the Nova Scotia Salmon Association please contact us at the address provided or visit our website.

Check the NSSA website for further information.

Website: www.nssalmon.ca

Fish Consumption Advisory

MERCURY

Traces of mercury have been detected in certain species of freshwater sportfish. The Nova Scotia departments of Health, Environment and Fisheries and Aquaculture advise people to limit consumption of these freshwater sportfish.

Rainbow trout have levels of contaminants below the Health Canada Guidelines and are safe to eat. Brook trout and white perch under 25 cm (9.8 in.) in length are also safe to eat. Consumption of brook trout and white perch larger than 25 cm should be limited to one meal once every week. Consumption of other freshwater sports fish should be limited to one meal every two weeks. Children under eight, pregnant women, and nursing mothers should consume only rainbow trout, white perch, and brook trout less than 25 cm (9.8 in.) in length.

For further information contact the Nova Scotia Department of Environment at (902) 424-2553.

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS)

Recent sampling of fish from the Five Island Lake watershed continues to show PCBs in a number of fish species.

Scientific research suggests that over a number of years, eating a steady diet of contaminated fish may be harmful to human health. Trout caught in two lakes showed levels of PCBs in edible tissue above the acceptable guidelines established by Health Canada. As a precaution the Nova Scotia Department of Health is advising the public not to eat fish taken from Five Island and Sheldrake Lakes.

This advisory may be revised as new or additional data becomes available.

For further information contact the Nova Scotia Department of Environment at (902) 424-7773.

Catch and release regulations are in place on Five Island, Sheldrake and other lakes in this area (see Recreational Fishing Area 3).

Inland Fisheries Hatchery Stocking Programs

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

Beginning in late March, approximately 200 lakes are stocked with speckled (brook) trout and rainbow trout as part of our Spring Recreational Trout Stocking Program. Trout are generally 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. Last spring, more than 50 derbies received trout from Fraser's Mills, Margaree and McGowan Lake hatcheries. These social events are cherished by many organizers and communities as a means of introducing youngsters to the enjoyment and comradery that angling can provide. The hatcheries were able to supply trout for 60 Learn to Fish events, providing kids with an opportunity to take up a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime. An additional 200 lakes are stocked each fall, usually after the angling season closes, as part of our fall 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 20 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



John Boudreau Memorial Kids Fishing derby, Maugers Pond.



circular ponds as well as hatchery buildings. Four species of salmonids are grown at this hatchery; speckled (brook) trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and sea-run Atlantic salmon. It is the primary trout broodstock (adult parent fish) facility in Nova Scotia; and is an excellent place to view the thousands of broodstock required to supply eggs for the stocking program. Annual distribution from this hatchery usually exceeds 1,000,000 eggs, fry, parr, yearlings and adult fish.

MCGOWAN LAKE HATCHERY

The McGowan Lake Hatchery, built in 1987, has helped to ensure the future of speckled trout fishing in western Nova Scotia, a region with many acid-stressed lakes and streams. This hatchery utilizes a unique water treatment facility to counteract the acidic nature (low pH) of the McGowan Lake water supply and an oxygen generation and injection system to rear nearly 1,000,000 Speckled trout which are released annually as fry, fall fingerlings and yearlings.

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

FOR WEEKLY SPRING STOCKING UPDATES OR A COMPLETE LIST OF STOCKED LAKES PLEASE VISIT:
www.gov.ns.ca/fish/



MARGAREE FISH HATCHERY



The historic Margaree hatchery first opened in 1902 and has been supporting the economically and culturally important 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 150,000 salmon parr and smolt, and 100,000 trout, primarily for the Margaree and other selected rivers and lakes on Cape Breton Island.

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

Inland Fisheries Division Activities

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture



Amy Ryan, researcher.

Cold Water Sportfish Management

The focus of Coldwater Sportfish Management is native speckled trout. Our staff contributed to a number of initiatives and some were partially funded through the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative.

Lake Inventory Program

Geographic Information System (GIS) equipment is being used to evaluate habitats and produce detailed bathymetric maps of popular sport fishing lakes. Evaluations of habitat quality and fish populations will be used to gauge the potential for improvement to angling under various management strategies.

Response of trout and salmon to restoration initiatives

Eight sites were electrofished to determine population densities of trout and salmon in several streams in Antigonish County. This year, 2014 will be year four of a ten year study with Kris Hunter, Saint Francis

Xavier University, to determine the impact of common habitat restoration techniques on fish populations.

Striped Bass Project

Colin Buhariwalla and Dr. Mike Dadswell, are using acoustic tags to track striped bass. This study will provide valuable insight on the migratory habits and biology of striped bass in Cape Breton.

Fish Parasites

Dr. David Cone, St Mary's University, is mapping the distribution of fish parasites in lakes and rivers in Nova Scotia. The intent is to ultimately gain a better understanding of the health and status of Nova Scotia's fish populations.

Genetics of Speckled trout

Dr. Danielle Rizzante, Dalhousie University, is evaluating genetic differences in speckled trout in small streams in North Mountain, Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia.

Reproductive contribution of speckled trout

Age and size at maturity of speckled trout were evaluated in small cool water streams in Nova Scotia.

Cornwallis River Creel Survey

As a follow up from last years live trapping project an angler creel survey was conducted to assess angler effort and harvest of brown trout and speckled trout.

East River Creel Survey

The Pictou County Rivers association has requested that the East River be considered as a special trout management area. A creel survey was conducted as a precursor to a more intensive study planned for spring of 2014.

Invasive Species Management

Preventing further illegal introductions of smallmouth bass, chain pickerel and other aquatic invasive species continues to be a high priority for our Department. We are developing strategies and initiatives to prevent and minimize the serious impacts these species can have on native fish communities. Current regulations prohibit the possession of live fish in an effort to prevent further illegal introductions. Ongoing outreach and education, risk assessment and research that focus on documenting the impacts also contribute to reducing the threats.

Smallmouth Bass Management

Smallmouth bass continue to be a popular sportfish in Nova Scotia. Management projects for this species focus on evaluating lakes for Trophy Bass Management Regulations, assessing the role nesting success and young of the year size may have on recruitment and developing better access to lakes for angling. Effective management of established bass populations in Nova Scotia must also consider the importance of preventing further illegal introductions and minimizing negative impacts to native species such as speckled trout.

Impacts of invasive species on native fish species in lakes

Dr. Linda Campbell, St Mary's University, is evaluating the trophic status of smallmouth bass to evaluate the potential impact of invasive species on native fish populations and biomagnification of mercury in food webs.

Sportfish Extension/ Education Nova Scotia's



Learn to Fish Program

Staff and volunteers have completed a

very busy eighth year of delivering the L2F program throughout the province. Students,



youth groups and educators enjoyed the hands-on classroom component and were very excited to apply their knowledge in the outdoor fishing workshop.

L2F is geared towards youth aged 8-12 and consists of two main components: the classroom presentation, consisting of an introduction to freshwater sportfish in Nova Scotia, conservation education of freshwater resources, habitat characteristics, angling equipment (how to assemble a fishing rod and attach tackle), safety, ethics, respect, importance of healthy living and outdoor recreation; and the outdoor presentation lesson, consisting of a hands-on sportfishing workshop at a nearby lake or pond. Students learn safety-based casting, baiting the hook, retention and catch-&-release techniques, sportsmanship and follow leave no trace principles. The Learn to Fish program recruits the next generation of stewards of our aquatic resources, by teaching safe and ethical angling skills to youth.

The L2F program has been busy reaching older youth; with more interest coming from physical education teachers, and high school science educators. L2F aligns very well with physically active living classes and exploratory science classes.

In 2013, L2F was delivered 62 times, reaching over 1960 youth from a variety of different



L2F(Learn to Fish) is an exciting, hands-on, informative program for youth ages 8-12 focusing on fisheries science, recreation, healthy outdoor living and an appreciation for Nova Scotia's aquatic environment.



Kids learn in class:

- Freshwater sportfish identification
- Fish habitat, what fish eat, ageing fish
- How to assemble a fishing rod, terminal tackle, knot tying, safety, ethics, respect
- Importance of healthy living and outdoor recreation



Kids learn at the water:

- Safety –based casting and baiting the hook
- Retention and catch-n-release techniques
- Sportsmanship and follow “leave no trace” principles

For more information, please contact 485-5056 or visit www.gov.ns.ca/fish/

backgrounds. The majority of the programs were presented in schools but some were done with Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guides, the IWK Hospital, First Nations and youth at recreation day camps.

The L2F program has received tremendous support from the people of Nova Scotia and the angling community. We wish to thank the Hants West Wildlife Association, Mr. Mark Weare of First Cast Radio Show, Richmond Wildlife Association, Port Morien Wildlife

Association, Halifax Wildlife Association, Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Shakespeare, Shimano, Berkley, Pure Fishing, and the teachers, community groups and volunteers who helped get these young anglers out and fishing in 2013.

Youth Fishing Collaboration with Department of Natural Resources

We partnered with Natural Resources to deliver youth and family fishing programs during National Wildlife Week, and Kids in the Forest Day. We also delivered fishing programs to youth and families at some of our parks across the province. We developed a Fishing Tackle Program at six camping parks (Mira River, Boylston, Dollar Lake, Laurie, Smiley's and Ellenwood). We will continue to partner with DNR on youth and family fishing initiatives in the future. For more information on the Learn to Fish program, contact inland@gov.ns.ca or call (902) 485-5056.



L2F Hants County.

Fishing Tackle Program

The NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has partnered with NS



L2F Cumberland County.

Department of Natural Resources to offer access to fishing rods, tackle, licences, sportfishing literature and safety equipment at six of our provincial camping parks: Mira River, Boylston, Dollar Lake, Laurie, Smiley's and Ellenwood Lake. Fishing licences are required at Boylston, Dollar Lake, Laurie, Smiley's and Ellenwood Lake Provincial Parks and may be purchased at the park offices or Natural Resources offices.

Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program

The cultural and economic importance of the Atlantic salmon fishery is recognized by the Province of Nova Scotia. The Inland Fisheries Division's Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program was developed in 2006. This program involves on-going consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other stakeholders around the Province. The objective of the program is to provide increased opportunities to angle Atlantic salmon. The rivers selected have salmon populations which are relatively stable but could benefit from additional enhancement. The Department relies heavily on the assistance from volunteer groups

(NSSA affiliates, River Associations, watershed stewardship organizations etc.) to provide help with broodstock collection, stocking juvenile salmon and 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 hatcheries. The rivers are: Baddeck River, Middle River (Cape Breton), Margaree River, Mabou River, West River (Pictou), River Philip, St. Francis Harbour River, and Waugh's River. Hatchery enhancement is a critical factor in maintaining an open catch and release fall season on the Baddeck and Middle Rivers. In the fall of 2013, eggs were obtained from wild broodstock collected from Baddeck River, Mabou River, Middle River, Margaree River and Waugh's River.

For information on any of the above programs, visit our website: www.gov.ns.ca/fish/ or contact Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division at (902) 485-5056.



Releasing Atlantic salmon fry.

Tagged Fish

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

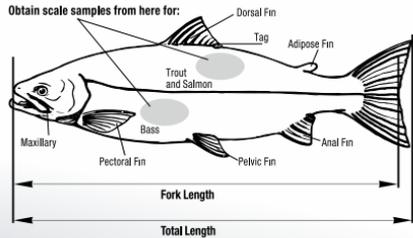
If you catch a tagged fish, please note the tag number, length of fish, date and place of capture.

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 departments would still like to hear from you. For trout and smallmouth bass, please contact the Inland Fisheries office in Pictou

at the address on page 12. They will tell you the history of the fish including where and when it was tagged.

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

OBTAINING SCALES AND MEASURING LENGTH



Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation



Conservation Highlights: Nova Scotia

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF) is a non-profit organization established through a one-time grant of \$30 million 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 Quebec through active working partnerships among volunteer conservation groups, Aboriginal organizations, governments, and others.

Visit our website:

www.salmonconservation.ca

Photo: Cheticamp River Salmon Association



Nova Scotia projects funded by the ASCF in 2013 were led by:

Bluenose Coastal Action

Foundation: \$5,000

Cheticamp River Salmon

Association: \$5,000

Cobequid Salmon Association: \$7,500

Habitat Unlimited: \$8,400

Sackville Rivers Association: \$5,000

St. Mary's River Association: \$6,000

Inverness South Anglers

Committee: \$7,700

North Colchester River Restoration

Association: \$5,000

Pictou County Rivers

Association: \$7,400



Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas

Protecting Our Wilderness Tradition

Nova Scotia's wilderness areas protect some of our best wild spaces. Here we can enjoy the special experience of sport fishing in a wilderness setting.

Do your part this fishing season to help protect these wild spaces for future generations. Information on planning for new wilderness areas, nature reserves and parks is available, including how you can provide input and get involved.

For more information on the Protected Areas Program, or for a copy of the Keep It Wild brochure, providing guidelines for low impact travel and camping, visit your local Nova Scotia Environment or Natural Resources office, call:

(902) 424-2117, or visit www.gov.ns.ca/nse/protectedareas



T r o u t U n l i m i t e d C a n a d a

***Join Trout Unlimited
Canada and be part of
the solution!***

Trout Unlimited Canada is the nation's leading conservation organization promoting the wise use and conservation of our coldwater resources.



In Nova Scotia TUC sponsors local chapters, such as the Tuskent River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada. The Tuskent River TUC Chapter is heavily involved in the Big Meadow Brook project and, with the financial sponsorship of Trout Unlimited Canada, runs the Province's newly refreshed River Watch program.

If you want to help preserve our coldwater fish and trout fishing heritage, why not have a look at what we're up to at: <http://www.riverwatchns.ca>

Anglers' Guide to the



1

1 Speckled Trout
Salvelinus fontinalis



2

2 Atlantic Salmon
Salmo salar



4

4 White Perch
Morone americana



3

3 Rainbow Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss



5

5 American Shad
Alosa sapidissima



6

6 Chain Pickerel
Esox niger



7

7 Smallmouth Bass
Micropterus dolomieu



8

8 Brown Trout
Salmo trutta



9

9 Yellow Perch
Perca flavescens

Illustrations by Bruce John Wood

Fishes of Nova Scotia

10 Lake Trout

Salvelinus namaycush



10

11 Rainbow Smelt

Osmerus mordax



11

12 Alewife

Alosa pseudoharengus



12

13 Striped Bass

Morone saxatilis



13

14 Lake Whitefish

Coregonus clupeaformis



14

15 American Eel

Anguilla rostrata



15

16 White Sucker

Catostomus commersoni



16

17 Brown Bullhead

Ameiurus nebulosus



17

The Nova Scotia Fish Fact series, which provides detailed information about all these species, is available at www.gov.ns.ca/fish/

Community Group Partnerships

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

Albert Bridge Recreation Association
Antigonish Rivers Association
Annapolis Fly Fishers
Annapolis Valley Bass Club
Apaqtuwaq Fisheries COOP
Bass River Fire Department
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Black River Environmental Committee
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
Blue Mountain Fire Department
Boys and Girls Club of Lower Sackville
Bras d'Or Wildlife Association
Bronzeback Bassers
Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers
Cape Breton Anglers Association
Cape Breton Wildlife Association
Cheticamp River Salmon Association
Clean Annapolis River Project
Cobequid Salmon Association
Cumberland County River Enhancement Association
Dartmouth North Community Centre
Digby East Fish and Game Association
East Shelburne County River Association
Enfield Volunteer Fire Department
Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Service
4-H Tatamagouche
Friends of Cornwallis River
Guysborough Fish & Game Association

Habitant River Trout Association
Halifax Metro Transit
Halifax Wildlife Association
Hants County Wildlife Association
Hants West Wildlife Association
Highland Sport Club
HRM Community, Culture & Economic Development
Inverness South Anglers Association
Kings County Wildlife Association
LaHave River Watershed Enhancement Foundation
LaHave Salmon Association
Lake Ainslie & Margaree River Heritage Association
Lakeside Smallmouth Bass Club
Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development Association
Lunenburg Wildlife Association
Mabou & District Community Development Association
Margaree Salmon Association
Medway River Salmon Association
Middle River Watershed Development Association
Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement Project
Mulgrave Recreation Department
New Waterford Fish & Game Association
Nine Mile River Association



Broodstock collection on the Baddeck River.

Noel Shore Game Protection Association
North Colchester River Restoration Association
Nova Bassmasters
Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters
Nova Scotia Salmon Association
Petite Riviere Association
Pictou County Rivers Association
Port Morien Wildlife Association
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
South Shore Wildlife Association
South Shore Bassmasters
Springhill Police Services
St. Mary's River Association
Stewards of River Denys Watershed Association
Strait Area Fish & Game Association
Town of Amherst
Trout Unlimited
Two Rivers Wildlife Park
Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
Tusket River Environmental Protection Association
Westchester Volunteer Fire Department
Wildlife Habitat Advocates

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It's easy to enter: just copy and complete the attached form and mail it along with your entry fee. We will fill out your tickets and send you the stubs. Enter as often as you like, and good luck!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

You may pay by using your – M/C VISA Cheque (enclosed) payable to Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Card number: _____ expiry: _____

Signature: _____

One Entry – \$2.00 3 Entries – \$5.00 6 Entries – \$10.00 12 Entries – \$20.00

Rules

- Applicants must be 16 years or older to enter.
- 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 November 30, 2014 – entries postmarked after November 30 will be included in next year's draw.
- All entry fees are non-refundable – do not send cash make cheque or money order payable to: Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, P.O. Box 654, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2T3.
- Draw date is December 15th, 2014.
- * 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 Natural Resources.



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