NOVA SCOTIA ANGLERS' HANDBOOK

and 2015 Summary of Regulations





Did you know that Conservation Officers have authority to carry side arms, make arrests, lay charges, and seize vehicles, equipment, weapons, and illegal fish & game?

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

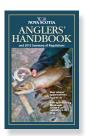


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Please Take Note

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.





ON THE COVER: A beautiful Nova Scotia sea run speckled trout. Photo by Matt Dort.

Message from Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture



Sportfishing in Nova Scotia is an outdoor experience that can be enjoyed by everyone. This industry generates more than \$58 million annually and helps create prosperous rural communities.

Fishing licence sales have increased to more than 70,000 in recent years, a level not seen since the early 90s. This growth has been spurred in part by our extensive trout and salmon stocking efforts and award-winning programs like Learn to Fish and Becoming an Outdoors Woman. Sportfishing Weekends also encourage beginners to try the sport by allowing anglers to fish without a licence. The next two weekends are June 6-7, 2015 and February 13-15, 2016.

As we look for ways to stimulate more economic activity, particularly in rural areas, I see great opportunity in the sportfishery. It is accessible and economical with numerous, uncrowded trout streams, smallmouth bass lakes, and other excellent locations all within reach of major urban centres. The marine recreational fishery offers great promise for world-class Bluefin tuna, shark, resurgent striped bass populations, as well as mackerel and sea trout. All of these unique sportfishing experiences can be promoted to new market segments, including women and visitors.

Opportunities for growth in this industry are contingent upon managing our resources with a clear vision for sustainability. More than ever before, anglers tell us that conservation is paramount. They voluntarily practice catch and release, and limit their harvest to help ensure the fishery will be healthy for future generations.

In 2014, the department invested \$30,000 in five research projects through the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative, which leveraged a total of \$134,000 to support sustainability in this industry. Through licence fees, anglers contributed more than \$323,000 to the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund which supported initiatives such as Adopt-A-Stream, barrier-free fishing piers, and improved boat launches.

We believe there is opportunity for growth and economic benefits while ensuring resources are protected well into the future. In 2015, we will introduce a new sport-fishing strategy that will espouse the principles of conservation, enhancement and promotion. My staff have been preparing an action plan with goals and initiatives to support this strategy. We encourage anglers and citizens to help us through formal public consultation and our website.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned angler, I urge you to please put safety first. Use personal flotation devices when you are on the water, and use common sense. Doing so will help ensure nothing but good experiences as you enjoy some of the best sportfishing in the country.

New for 2015

Please review each Recreational Fishing Area (RFA) for a complete description of the following changes or additions for the 2015 season.

- Baddeck and Middle rivers, Victoria: Extended retention season for brown trout from Oct 1 – Oct 31, bag limit 2 brown trout, barbless artificial fly only.
- Salmon River, Guysborough: Only one trout over 35 cm (13.8 in.) may be retained. Bag limit 3 trout.
- Middle River, Pictou: Open for smallmouth bass retention. Apr 1 - Sep 30, bag limit 25 bass, including Middle River Reservoir.
- South River, Antigonish: Extended season for brown trout from Oct 1 – Oct 31, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly only.

- Special Bass Management Areas: Morris Lake, Halifax and Kemptback Lake, Yarmouth. Apr 1 – Dec 31. Bag limit 3 bass, maximum length 35 cm (13.8 in.), except May 1 - Jun 15 no bass may be retained.
- Conwallis River, Kings: Extended season for brown trout from Oct 1 – Oct 31, catch and release only, barbless artificial fly only.
- 7. Harrison Lake, Cumberland: Open all year, bag limit 2 trout from Oct 1 Mar 31.

Attention Anglers:

In 2015, Nova Scotia will be participating with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and all other provinces and territories to proceed with the ninth Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada which has been conducted every five years since 1975. In past years, a random sample of anglers selected from licence sales records were mailed a questionnaire asking them about their fishing activities, preferences and expenditures related to recreational fishing. This year, selected anglers will receive a letter directing them to a website to complete the anonymous survey. If you get a letter in late 2015 asking to fill out the electronic questionnaire, please participate as your responses will guide the formulation of sportfish policies and programs into the future. A report of the 2010 Sportfishing survey can be found on our website:



A Survey
of the
Sportfishing
Industry in
Nova Scotia



http://novascotia.ca/fish/programs-and-services/ industry-support-services/inland-fisheries/

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.novascotia.ca/fish/ or by contacting the Inland Fisheries Division, (902) 485-5056



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Proposed Changes for 2016

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** East River, Pictou Reduced bag limit for trout. Bag limit 3 trout of which only 1 may exceed 35cm (13.8 in.) Musquodoboit River Changes in season opening. From the mouth of Musquodoboit Harbour to Chapel Island, Open May 1 – Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31. From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 bridge to Chapel Island, Open June 1 – Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31. From a point 300 m downstream from the Highway 7 Bridge, upstream to a point 100 m above Crawfords Bridge, May 1 - Sep 30, artificial fly only. Upstream from a point 100 m above Crawfords Bridge, May 1 -Sep 30, any gear to Aug 31. **KEY** Meaghers Grant Musauodoboit **River Sections** Lower Meaghers Grant Open May 1 - Sep 30 Any gear to Aug 31 Gibraltar Open May 1 - Sep 30 Fly only Crawford's Bridge Open Jun 1 - Sep 30 Saddleback Lake Any gear to Aug 31 357 Quaver Lake Chapel Island Chezzetcool take Head of Jedore Petpeswick Inlet HWY 107 West Jedore Pleasant Point **Bayers Point** Nauffts Point

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@novascotia.ca or visit our website: www.novascotia.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.

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.

SMALLMOUTH (BLACK) BASS

Season: Apr 1 to Oct 31, except for Special Bass Management Areas and selected waters in RFA 2.

Bag limit: 3 fish in Special Bass Management Areas. A maximum length limit of 35cm (13.8in).

Bag limit: 5 fish in RFAs 3, 4, and Kings and Annapolis Counties of RFA 5.
Bag limit: 25 fish in selected waters of RFAs 1, 2, 6, and Hants County.

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.

LAKE WHITEFISH

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

PRIVATE PONDS AND U-FISH OPERATIONS

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

ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The management of 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).

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) 221-7264 or (902) 426-1781.

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 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 that 35 cm (13.8 in) measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. Bag limit: 10 fish.

NOTE:

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

Inland waters: The boundary between Inland and tidal waters is defined under 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.novascotia.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.novascotia.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.

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 dipnetting 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. 2015 fishing licences are valid from the date of issue to March 31, 2016. 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)

- 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.
- 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 Recreational Fishing Areas

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

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Provincial) Inland Fisheries Division

PO Box 700, Pictou, NS BOK 1H0

Phone: (902) 485-5056, Fax: (902) 485-4014

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

Report illegal fishing activities to your local office of the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, the Department of Fisheries and

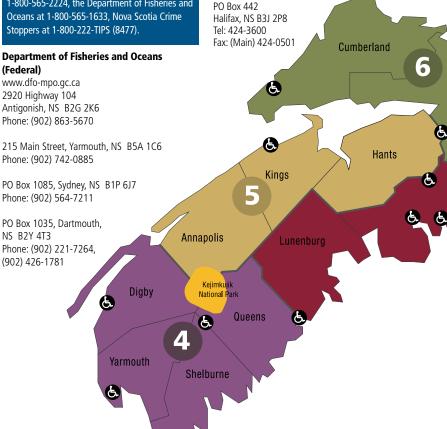
Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Division

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

1894 Barrington Street

Suite 1800

Department of Environment (Head Office) **Barrington Tower**



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







Richmond



NATIONAL PARKS **Cape Breton Highlands National Park** PO Box 158, Cheticamp, NS BOE 1H0

(902) 224-2306

Kejimkujik 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.novascotia.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@novascotia.ca

You helped save our water just by saving money:

The Adopt-A-Stream story so far.

Water. As Nova Scotians, it occupies a special place in our lives and our hearts. Blessed with thousands of kilometres of coastline and countless rivers, lakes and streams, we're never far from our favourite freshwater fishing hole or a day at the beach. There's a reason why Nova Scotia has been called "Canada's Ocean Playground" – it's our love of water and need to be near it.

At the NSLC, water means a lot to us as well. As the number one ingredient in all our products, we believe we have a responsibility to improve Nova Scotia's aquatic health. That's why we partnered with the Nova Scotia Salmon Association five years ago as title sponsor to the NSLC Adopt-A-Stream program. Since the program began, \$500,000 has been raised to restore habitat and fish passage, hire field staff, train community groups and improve water quality across Nova Scotia. We are thrilled to announce the renewal of this partnership for another five years.



We aren't doing it alone. Anglers, through the NS Sportfish Habitat Fund, and community groups across the province are key participants. And by supporting the NSLC Adopt-A-Stream program, you're helping us accomplish great things. Since 2010, we have:

Restored

625,703 m²

Re-established 262 km

Created

427
seasonal field jobs

of fish passage

Protected

56,403 m²

57,611

Here's the best part. You can continue to help improve the quality of our local waterways just by saving money. From March 30th to May 3rd, when you visit your favourite NSLC store, select an Adopt-A-Stream Sale product. Not only will you save money, a donation will be made to the NSLC Adopt-A-Stream program, helping the Nova Scotia Salmon Association to continue their important work.

For more information on the NSLC Adopt-A-Stream program, including featured projects and how you can get involved, visit adoptastream.ca.

Presenting Partners:





Contributors:





FRENCH CROSS







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

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

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 specked 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.

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

LAKE O'LAW BROOK, INVERNESS COUNTY

Upstream from its confluence with the Northeast Margaree River to the outlet of First Lake O'Law. Apr 1 to Aug 31, bag limit three (3) speckled trout, none of which may be 35 cm (13.8 in) total length or longer.

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.

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.

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.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown 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.

Oct 1 to Oct 31, rainbow and brown 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 seasons, 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, (4); waters upstream from Crowdis Bridge in river Deny's Basin; and (5); waters upstream from Mackenzie Brook Bridge near South Side Basin of River Deny's which remain closed to all angling, 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. 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.

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).

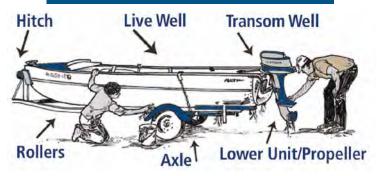
You've taught them all you know about fishing, including wearing their lifejackets.



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'.



WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



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. Under the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, no one is allowed to possess live fish in Nova Scotia unless authorized by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture or release live fish into the waters of the province except under licence by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

LIVE BAIT

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

REPORTING INVASIVES

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

INFORMATION FOR BOATERS

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

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

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 working with the Aboriginal community, angling associations, and provincial and federal enforcement agencies to develop effective strategies. Ongoing outreach and education, risk assessment and research that focusses on documenting the impacts also contribute to reducing the threats.



Nova Scotia Power would like to inform its customers that the water levels in the Cheticamp Reservoir will need to be lowered beginning in early June. The lowering is necessary to perform work on the main dam structure this summer.

This reservoir is an important part of the utility's Wreck Cove hydro system as well as our ongoing commitment to renewable energy in Nova Scotia. This work to upgrade the system will involve lowering the reservoir level which means the canal flowing from the reservoir will become dry. Lower water levels as well as heavy construction activities that will take place will affect access to the area and may impede fishing and recreational water use in the area.

This work begins in early June and will continue throughout the fishing season.

Safety is Nova Scotia Power's top priority. As this work is carried out access to some areas will be restricted. Please remind your neighbours and friends of dangers in this area and respect all warning signs and barriers.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and we will work diligently to complete this important upgrade.











Nova Scotia Sportfishing Weekends

There are two Sportfishing Weekends in Nova Scotia: **June 6-7, 2015** and **February 13-15, 2016.** All Nova Scotians and visitors are encouraged to try fishing as a way to enjoy Nova Scotia's great outdoors.

During these five 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!



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.

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

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/ OR SPECKLED TROUT

Highway bridge, May 15 to Sep 30.

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

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

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. Oct 1 to Oct 31 rainbow and brown 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.

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, only one (1) may be over 35cm (13.8 in), 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. 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. 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 Glengelg on the West Branch, Apr 1 to Apr 14, closed, Apr 15 to Sep 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.

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. 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.

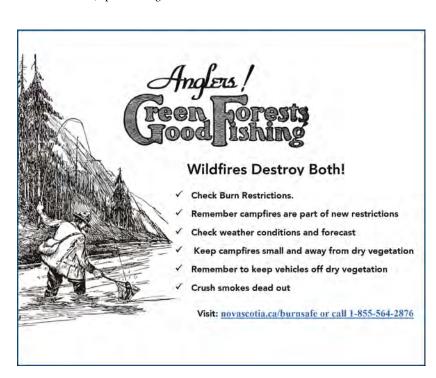
NIGHT FISHING FOR BROWN TROUT

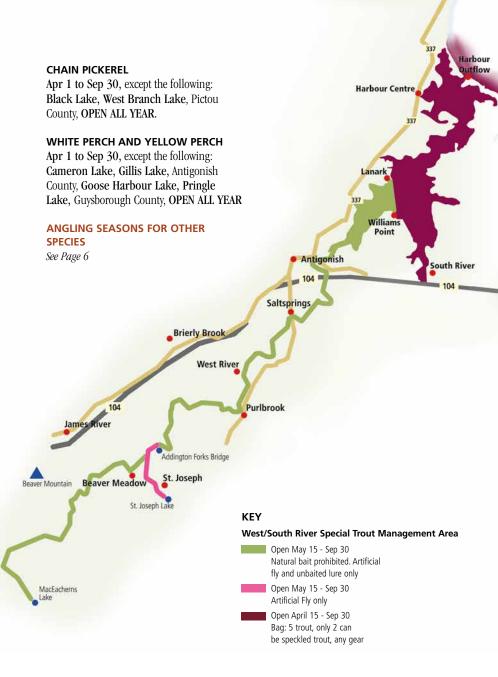
River John, Pictou County, from the West Branch Bridge downstream to the Welsford Bridge near Welsford, not including tributaries, Apr 15 to Aug 31.

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.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

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







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 4909763 to grid reference 374183 4909763 as marked by a fishery officer. Angling season open only from Jul 1 to Sep 30, single hook lure or artificial fly, natural bait is prohibited. Angling season for all species closed before Jul 1 and after Sep 30.

EXTENDED SEASONS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND/OR SPECKLED TROUT

Albro Lake, Lewis Lake and Round Lake at Jerry Lawrence Park, Maynard Lake, Penhorn Lake, First Lake, Cow Bay Pond, 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

Morris Lake, Grand Lake(Shubenacadie), Halifax County, including those portions occuring 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 and Round Lake at Jerry Lawrence Park, Maynard Lake, Penhorn Lake, First Lake, Cow Bay Pond, Halifax County. Sucker Lake, Lunenburg 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.



SPECIAL TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

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

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.

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. 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.

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 only, natural bait is prohibited. Jun 15 to end of all fishing seasons, artificial fly only.

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, Tusket 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 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 Kemptback Lake, 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: Kejimkujik National Park & National Historic Site. A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 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 Ponhook Lake or tributaries, May 26 to the end of all fishing seasons.

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



Excited by the day's first catch.

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 Ponhook Lake), Jun 15 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.





rout Unlimited Canada

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 Tusket River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada. The Tusket 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



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 Lakes (First & Second), and Lake Lamont. These waters include Sullivan Lake, Bennery Lake, Lake Lamont, Topsail Lake, Chain Lakes (First and Second), 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 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.

For more information on Halifax Water's, Source Water Protection Program, please visit http://www.halifax.ca/hrwc/SourceWaterProtection.php#top or call

490-4835

NOVA SCOTIA SPORTFISH HABITAT FUND

In 2014, the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund raised \$323,151 through a \$5.71 levy on fishing licences. A total of \$290,000 was provided to fish habitat restoration projects undertaken by 23 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 117,632 square meters of spawning, rearing, over-wintering, and summer holding habitat for fish. Additionally, fish passage was remediated at over 20 culvert crossings, providing an additional 60 km of habitat to migrating fish, and debris blockage removal on twenty streams was responsible for enhancing fish migration.

In addition to these projects, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association received \$16,000 for the Liming Project on the West River Sheet Harbour, the Ainsle Village Campground received \$10,000 for upgrades to the public launch ramp, the LaHave River Watershed Association received \$1,540 for the restoration of a boat launch at New Germany Lake, and the Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers received \$5,632 replace the Porters Lake Barrier-Free dock.

To learn about the Fund, get an application form for 2015, or view a complete list of project descriptions funded in 2014, 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



Our mission: to restore wild Atlantic salmon

to their native rivers.

Please join. Help make it happen

For details: www.wildsalmonunlimited.com

E-mail: admin@wildsalmonunlimited.com





Invasive chain pickerel pose a threat to native fish.

STAFF PROFILE, INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION, NSFA



Stephen Thibodeau is the Supervisor at Fraser's Mills Fish Hatchery in St. Andrew's, Antigonish County. Stephen graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Aquaculture. After graduation, Stephen was employed for several years by the department as a hatchery technician, where his hard work and dedication was recognized. He began his duties as Hatchery Supervisor in 2012. Steven says he is fortunate to work with such an experienced, hard-working, dedicated staff at Fraser's Mills. He enjoys working with community organizations and welcomes visitors to the newly renovated Visitor Center at Fraser's Mills Hatchery.



CANADA'S AQUATIC SPECIES AT RISK

Canada's *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* was created in 2003 to prevent Canadian wildlife species from becoming extinct. *SARA* includes prohibitions for the protection of 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.

In Nova Scotia, two aquatic endangered species listed and protected under *SARA* include the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon and the Atlantic whitefish. It is important to not catch or retain either of these species.

Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon: This population occupies rivers that empty into the upper Bay of Fundy (see blue area on map). Characteristics that identify differences between Atlantic salmon and trout can be found on page 39.





Atlantic whitefish: The Petite Rivière Watershed in Lunenburg County (red area on map) is home to the only known population of Atlantic whitefish. They range in size up to 25 cm (10 in) and are silvery in colour with scattered black pigmentation, dark-blue or green along the back, white belly and have an adipose fin. There are no spots or obvious upper body markings. Their mouth is smaller and scales along the lateral line are larger than those of a trout or salmon. Atlantic whitefish differ from the more common Lake whitefish by the following features:

- The Jaw on the Atlantic extends to its snout whereas it does not on the Lake whitefish;
- Pectoral fin ray on the Atlantic is shorter than on the Lake whitefish;
- For the same size fish, the scales are smaller on an Atlantic whitefish.

If you catch an Atlantic whitefish, release it immediately in the location of capture with the least amount of harm possible. Please report any sightings of Atlantic whitefish to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

1-800-565-1633 or 902-354-6030

Your information is important for science and recovery efforts!

For more information / Pour obtenir plus de renseignements www.sararegistrv.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 CA | TEGORY | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 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 | 2.22 lbs | 2013 | Sawyer Olmstead | Reiners Pit | Colchester |
| Yellow Perch | 1.20 lbs | 2013 | Ryan Gould | Fish Lake | Halifax |

| SE CATEGORY | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Length x Girth | Year | Angler | Location | County |
| 20 in x 14 in | 2009 | Ian Keefe | Mattatall | Cumberland |
| 16.7 in x 10.3 in | 2009 | Josh MacMillan | West River | Antigonish |
| 15.5 in x 8 in | 2011 | Neil Graham | South River | Antigonish |
| 20 in x 10.5 | 2013 | Alex Graham | South River | Antigonish |
| | Length x Girth 20 in x 14 in 16.7 in x 10.3 in 15.5 in x 8 in | Length x Girth Year 20 in x 14 in 2009 16.7 in x 10.3 in 2009 15.5 in x 8 in 2011 | Length x Girth Year Angler 20 in x 14 in 2009 Ian Keefe 16.7 in x 10.3 in 2009 Josh MacMillan 15.5 in x 8 in 2011 Neil Graham | Length x Girth Year Angler Location 20 in x 14 in 2009 lan Keefe Mattatall 16.7 in x 10.3 in 2009 Josh MacMillan West River 15.5 in x 8 in 2011 Neil Graham South River |

| YOUTH CATCH AI | ND KEEP CATEG | ORY CATEGOR | RY | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| 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 TOURN | NAMENT ANGLING (weight for 5-fish ba | ag limits; all fish released) | |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Weight | Year | Angler | Location | County |
| 19.54 lbs | 2014 | Cody Lohnes/Rob Weagle | Big Mushamush Lake | Lunenburg |
| 17.26 lbs | 2009 | Rob Mailman, Peter Lavender | Mersey River | Queens |
| 15.60 lbs | 2008 | Rod Goodwin, Ian Ross | Ogden, Parr, Petes Lakes | Yarmouth |
| 15.56 lbs | 2003 | Conrad Corporon, Bernard Corporon | Lac d'en Bas | Digby |
| 15.51 lbs | 2005 | Jim Langthorne, Ian Langthorne | Kempt Back Lake | Yarmouth |

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



Annapolis, Hants and Kings Counties

RECREATIONAL FISHING AREA 5

SEASONS

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

Inland and Tidal Waters 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

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

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

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: Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site A National Parks general fishing permit as well as a park entry permit is required to angle in the park. For more information contact the Park Office (See page 13).

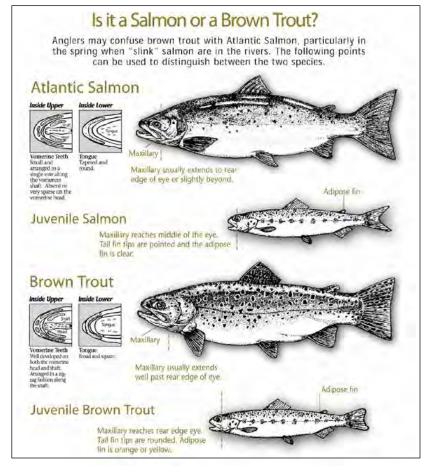
WATERS CLOSED TO ANGLING

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.





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 liveli-hood and survival of the Mi'kmaq by signing Treaties with their Kings. Throughout the seasons the Treaties have remained."

Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. October 1, 1986

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

the objective includes achieving adequate standards of community nutrition and economic well being, without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity or productivity of our native environment.

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

Article 4 of the Treaty of 1752 states in part:

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

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

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

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

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

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq 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



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



Nova Scotia projects funded by the ASCF in 2014 were led by:

 Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation:
 \$12,000
 Habitat Unlimited:
 \$7,500

 Cheticamp River Salmon Association:
 \$10,000
 Pictou County Rivers Association:
 \$8,500

 Cobequid Salmon Association:
 \$5,000
 \$t. Mary's River Association:
 \$25,000

 Dalhousie University:
 \$10,000

ASCF • Conservation Highlights • Nova Scotia



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

Apr 15 - Sep 30, Any gear except May 10 - Jun 10 and after Aug 31



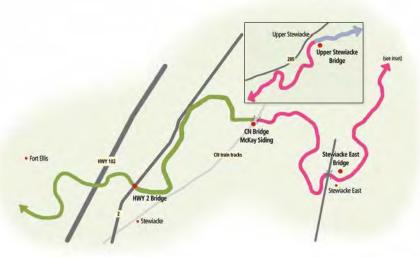
COLCHESTER COUNTY

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

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

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.

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.

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, Harrison 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

Angevine (Dewar) Lake, Cumberland County and Shortts Lake, Colchester County, OPEN ALL YEAR.

ANGLING SEASONS FOR OTHER SPECIES See Page 6



A family enjoying quality time on the river.

Andrew L



2858 AGRICOLA ST. - HALIFAX, NS - B3K 4E7

HE 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 MEMBERSHIP CARD, NEWSLETTER, AS WELL AS THE RIGHT TO ATTEND SEMINARS, TOURNAMENTS, THE ANNUAL MEETING, AND MORE.

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF CASA, OR TO LEARN ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES OR CONTACT US PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

VW.CASA-WEBSITE.COM



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

WINTER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVA SCOTIA

For those who love the outdoors, winter fishing is an ideal recreational sport. Fishing licences for 2015 are valid until Mar 31, 2016. If you anticipate taking part in a winter fishery, please keep your licence and return your completed licence stub at the end of March.

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

SPECKLED TROUT: BAG LIMIT 10 FISH Cape Breton Highlands Special Trout Management Area.

RAINBOW TROUT & BROWN TROUT : BAG LIMIT TWO FISH

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

SPECKLED TROUT AND RAINBOW TROUT

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

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

| County | Lake | Speckled Trout | Rainbow Trout |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Antigonish | Cameron Lake | ✓ | √ |
| Antigonish | Gillis Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Cape Breton | Levers Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Cape Breton | No. 20 Dam (Beacon Street) Pond | ✓ | 1 |
| Colechester | Deyarmont Lake | ✓ | |
| Cumberland | Angevine (Dewars) Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Cumberland | Isaac Lake | ✓ | |
| Cumberland | Harrison Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Digby | Everitts Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Guysborough | Goose Harbour Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Guysborough | Pringle Lake | ✓ | |
| Halifax | Albro Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Halifax | First Lake | ✓ | |
| Halifax | Cow Bay Pond | ✓ | |
| Halifax | Round Lake | 1 | 1 |
| Halifax | Lewis Lake | 1 | 1 |
| Halifax | Maynard Lake | 1 | 1 |
| Halifax | Penhorn Lake | 1 | 1 |
| Hants | Meadow Pond | 1 | 1 |

| County | Lake | Speckled Trout | Rainbow Trout |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Hants | St. Croix Pond | ✓ | |
| Inverness | Petit Lac | ✓ | 1 |
| Kings | Silver Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Kings | Sunken Lake | ✓ | 1 |
| Lunenburg | Sucker Lake | / | 1 |
| Pictou | Gairloch Lake | 1 | 1 |
| Queens | Hidden Hills Lake | / | 1 |
| Queens | Victoria Lake | / | |
| Richmond | Eco Trial Pond (Isle Madame) | 1 | 1 |

CHAIN PICKEREL, WHITE PERCH, AND YELLOW PERCH. The daily bag limit is twenty-five (25) of each species.

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

THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES RESEARCH COOPERATIVE



The freshwater fishery in Nova Scotia has experienced a number of changes associated with habitat loss and exploitation. In response, the Inland Fisheries Division has expanded initiatives related to cold water species, warm water species, 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. 2015 marks the 8th 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 and
- 5) Striped bass tracking assessment in Cape Breton. Partners for these projects ncluded: 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

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).



ova 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





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 Fisheries Enhancement Program. Speckled trout account for most of this effort but Brown trout and searun 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 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 broodstock required to supply eggs for the stocking program. Annual distribution from this hatchery usually exceeds 1,000,000 eggs, fry, parr, yearlings and adult fish.

MCGOWAN LAKE HATCHERY

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

MARGAREE FISH HATCHERY



The historic Margaree hatchery first opened in 1902 and has been supporting the economically and culturally important Atlantic salmon and trout fishery for over a century, as well as attracting visitors, from around the world, to the scenic Margaree Valley. The Province of Nova Scotia has operated this hatchery since 2008; providing approximately 160,000 salmon parr and smolt for the Margaree and other Atlantic salmon rivers and 200,000 trout, for selected lakes on Cape Breton Island.

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.novascotia.ca/fish/

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

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 fish 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 2014, eggs were obtained from wild broodstock collected from Baddeck River, Middle River, Margaree River and West River Antigonish.

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



The Becoming an Outdoors Woman's Program offers

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



This workshop is for you if...

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

Upcoming Workshop

Fall BOW, September 18-20, 2015, Mount Traber Bible Camp, Cooks Brook, Halifax County Winter BOW, February 19-21, 2016, Gaelic College, St. Anns, Cape Breton

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

Inland Fisheries Division Activities

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture



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.

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, 2015 will be year five of a 10 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 Pictou Harbour and Northumberland Strait.

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

East River Creel Survey

The Pictou County Rivers association has requested that the East River be considered as a special trout management area. A tagging and creel survey was conducted to estimate the number in the sea trout population and harvest.

Smallmouth Bass Management

Smallmouth bass continue to be a popular sportfish in Nova Scotia. Management projects for this species focus on assessing lakes for Special Management Regulations, monitoring spawning success and evaluating the that role young of the year size may have on recruitment. It is equally important to develop better access to lakes and evaluate other ways to improve angling for angling for all species.

Tournament Monitoring

Data is collected annually at various smallmouth bass tournaments to monitor changes and trends in population structure,

fish size and condition on several lakes throughout Nova Scotia.

Invasive Species Initiatives

Effective sportfish management in Nova Scotia must also consider the importance of preventing further illegal introductions of aquatic invasive species. The possession of live fish prohibition (see page 20) is a regulation developed to prevent further illegal introductions. We are also developing strategies and initiatives to minimize and better understand the serious impacts invasive species may have on native species such as speckled trout. Ongoing outreach and education, risk assessment and research that focusses on documenting the impacts can also contribute to reducing the threats.

Fish Community Structure

Dr. Linda Campbell, St Mary's University, is evaluating the trophic status of smallmouth bass and chain pickerel to evaluate the impact of these species on native fish communities.

Cannon Lake, Queens County

Investigation into an illegal introduction and subsequent establishment of smallmouth bass in a small lake which flows into waters of Kejimkujik National Park. A project has begun to assess the impacts and reduce the risk to native fish communities.

Jordan River Watershed

Monitoring and angler creel surveys are being used to better understand the distribution and impacts of the invasive chain pickerel.

Sportfish Extension/



Education Nova Scotia's Learn to Fish Program

Staff and volunteers have completed a very busy ninth 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 grades 4 to high school, and consists of two main components: a 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 an outdoor session, consisting of a hands-on sportfishing workshop at a nearby lake or pond. Students learn safety-based casting, baiting the hook, harvesting their catch and release techniques, sportsmanship and to follow leave no trace principles. The Learn to Fish program





L2F(Learn to Fish) is an exciting, hands-on, informative program for grades 5 and older 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 902-485-7028 or visit www.novascotia.ca/fish/

recruits the next generation of stewards of our aquatic resources, by teaching safe and ethical angling skills to youth.

In 2014, L2F was delivered 50 times, reaching over 1800 youth from a variety of different 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 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.

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 2014.

Collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources

We continue to partner with Natural Resources to deliver youth and family fishing programs during National Wildlife Week, and Kids in the Forest Day. We deliver fishing programs to youth and families at some of our parks across the province, including the Fishing Tackle Program which will continue to provide increased access to fishing rods. tackle, licences, sportfishing literature and safety equipment at five of our provincial camping parks: Mira River, Boylston, Dollar Lake, Laurie, and Smiley's. Fishing licences are required at Boylston, Dollar Lake, Laurie, and Smiley's Provincial Parks and may be purchased at the park offices or Natural Resources offices. For more information on the Learn to Fish or any other sportfishing program, contact inland@novascotia.ca or call (902) 485-5056.

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.

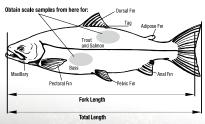
If you catch a tagged fish, please note the tag number, length of fish, date and place of capture.

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 nibblets, pork rind.

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

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

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.

NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION

Regional Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation P.O. Box 396 Chester, Nova Scotia BOJ 1JO 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 soley 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



Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

PO Box 654, Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Tel/Fax: (902) 477-8898 Fax: (902) 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 85 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 | y order Visa Master | Card Card No. | |
| Signature | | Expiry Date | |
| 5.gata.c | | _) | |



Spend 2 days and 3 nights connecting with nature and outdoor professionals.

All you need: Backpack, appropriate clothing/footwear, personal care items, sleeping bag and pad.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Mentor with staff from Departments of Natural Resources, Environment, & Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Gain skills in trip planning and packing for backcountry excursions
- · Practice hands-on science and field work
- · Explore and hike through the Wilderness Area
- Enjoy evening activities and free time by the lake

Request a registration package:

Natural Resources Education Centre PO BOX 100, 12014 Highway 224, Middle Musquodoboit, NS, B0N 1X0

Phone: (902) 384-3420 Email: nrec@novascotia.ca

Program Topics

Trees, Plants, Lichens, Geology, Wetlands, Insects, Protected Areas, Water Quality, Outdoor Skills, Trip Planning and more.

Meet Foresters, Park Planners, Conservation Officers, Geologist, Entomologist, Environmental Educators, Fisheries Techs, and Ecologist.

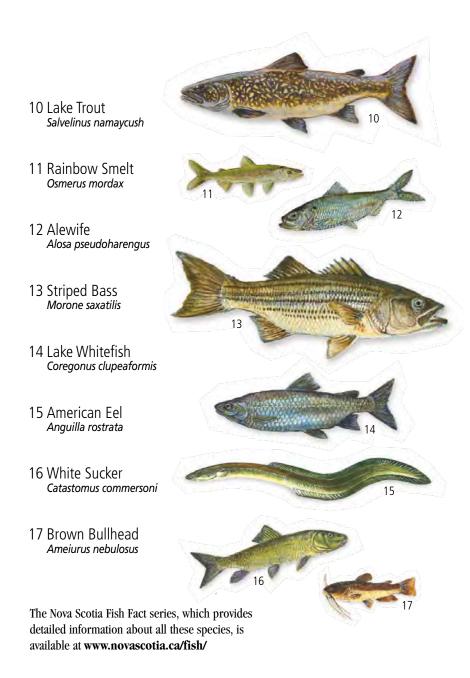


Anglers' Guide to the



Illustrations by Bruce John Wood

Fishes of Nova Scotia



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.

ACAP Cape Breton Albert Bridge Recreation Association **Antigonish Rivers Association Annapolis Fly Fishers** Annapolis Valley Bass Club **Apagtuwag Fisheries COOP Bass River Fire Department Big Brothers Big Sisters** Black River Environmental Committee Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Blue Mountain Fire Departement Boys and Girls Club of Lower Sackville 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 Clean Nova Scotia Cobeguid 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 Habitat Unlimited 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 Mi'kmaw Conservation Group Mulgrave & Area Lakes Enhancement **Project** Mulgrave Recreation Department New Waterford Fish & Game Association Nine Mile River Association



Margaree River salmon broodstock collection

Noel Shore Game Protection
Association
North Colchester River Restoration
Association

Nova Bassmasters Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

Nova Scotia Salmon Association Paqtknek Fisheries Enterprise 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

Shubenacadie Watershed
Environmental Protection Society
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

Bigger Than Ever



The new Super Licence includes Fishing and Small Game Hunting

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

Announcing the 22nd **Licence of a Lifetime Lottery** from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. This year, we will be awarding two (2) lifetime licences to two (2) lucky applicants.

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

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!

| Address: | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---|
| City/Town: | | |
| Postal Code: | Telephone: _ | |
| You may pay by using your – N | M/C □ VISA □ | Cheque (enclosed) ☐ payable to Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters |
| Card number: | | expiry: |

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 licencee is subject to the laws respecting hunting in the same manner as with any hunting licence.
- This licence is not transferrable, and may be cancelled, suspended, or forfeited in accordance with the law
- Incomplete, illegible, or improperly filled out entries will not be accepted, and entrants will not be notified or have fees refunded.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2015 – 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 14th, 2015.
 - * 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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